

400 GAMES OF YI WEI - ANNOTATED

Chess Notes 2025



120

□ Wei,Yi

■ Wang,Hao

China (ch-rapid) 137/153

[Abramovic,Bosko]

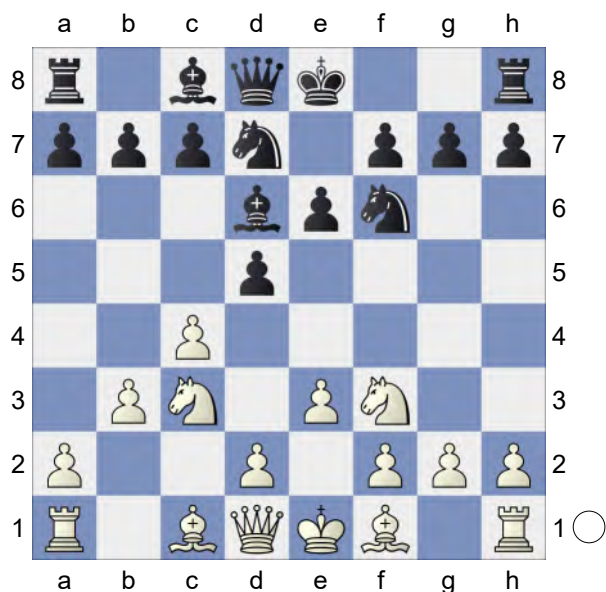
D45

2734

2710

2018

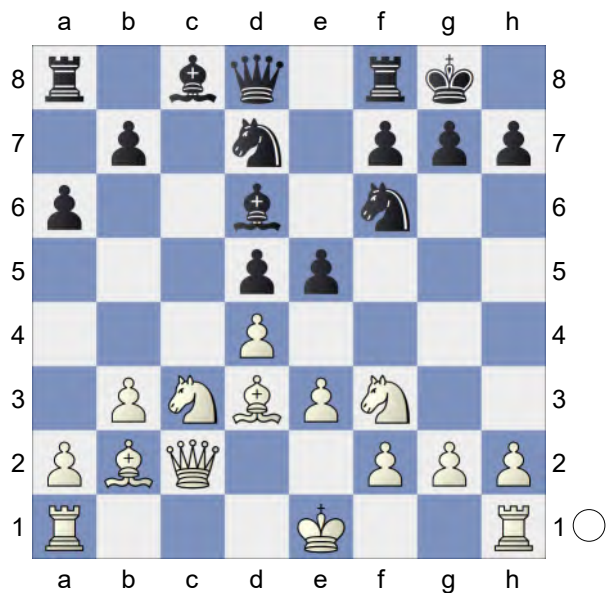
1.Nf3 d5 2.e3 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3
Nbd7 5.b3 Bd6



6.Bb2 c6 7.Qc2 a6 8.d4 0-0 9.Bd3
e5

[9...Re8 - 12/557]

10.cxd5 cxd5

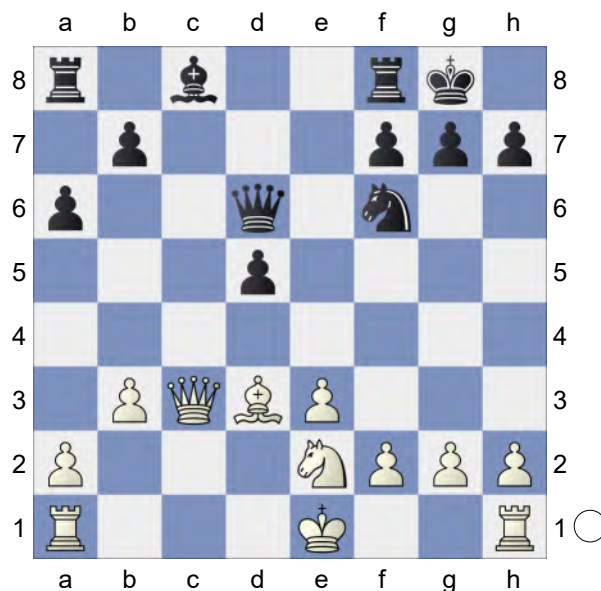


11.dxe5 Nxe5 12.Nxe5 Bxe5 13.Ne2
Qd6

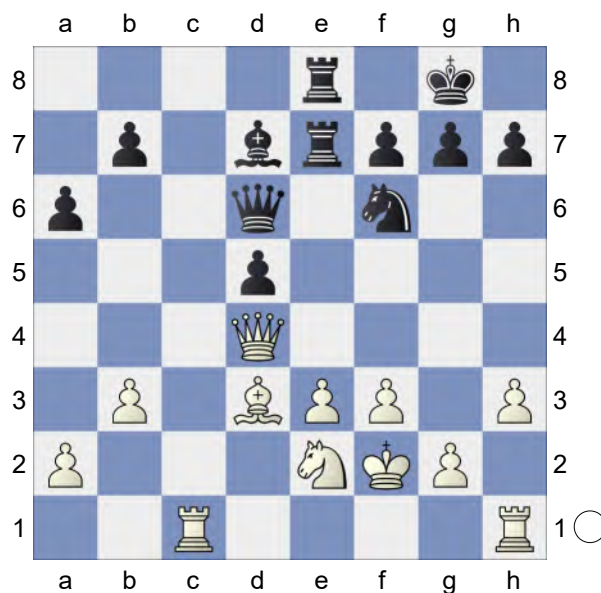
[13...Qa5+ 14.Bc3 Bxc3+ 15.Qxc3
Qxc3+ 16.Nxc3±]

14.Bxe5 Qxe5 15.Qc3 Qd6N

[15...Qxc3+ 16.Nxc3 Be6 17.Rc1±]

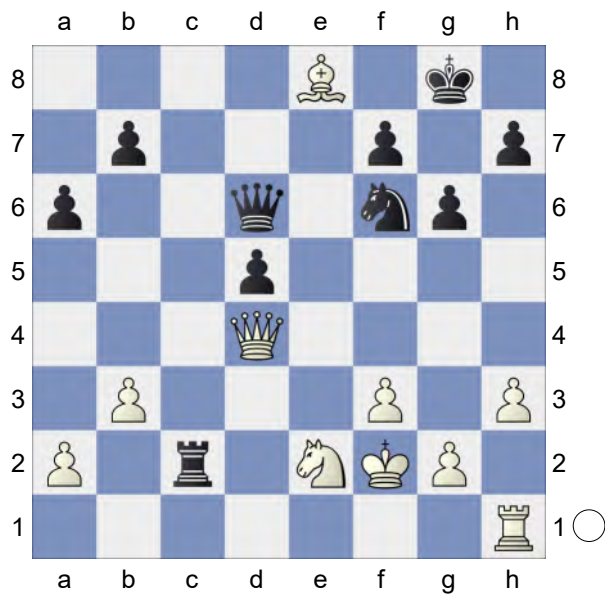


16.f3 Bd7 17.Kf2 Rfe8 18.Qd4 Rac8
19.h3 Re7 20.Rac1 Rce8

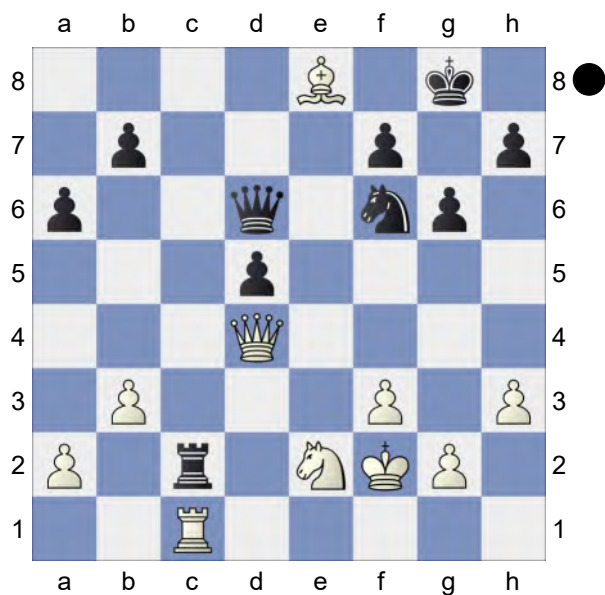


21.Rc3 g6 22.Bb1 Bb5 23.Bd3 Rxe3
24.Bxb5 Rxc3 25.Bxe8 Rc2

(Diagram)



26.Rc1 Diagram



26...Rxa2?

[26...Rxc1! 27.Bxf7+ Kxf7 28.Nxc1 a5=]

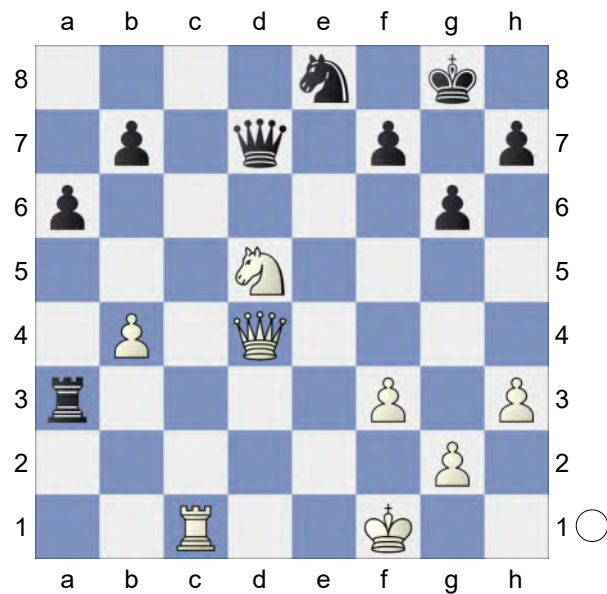
27.Kf1! Nxe8 28.Nc3 Ra5

[28...Ra3 29.Nxd5 f6 30.Re1 Kf7±]

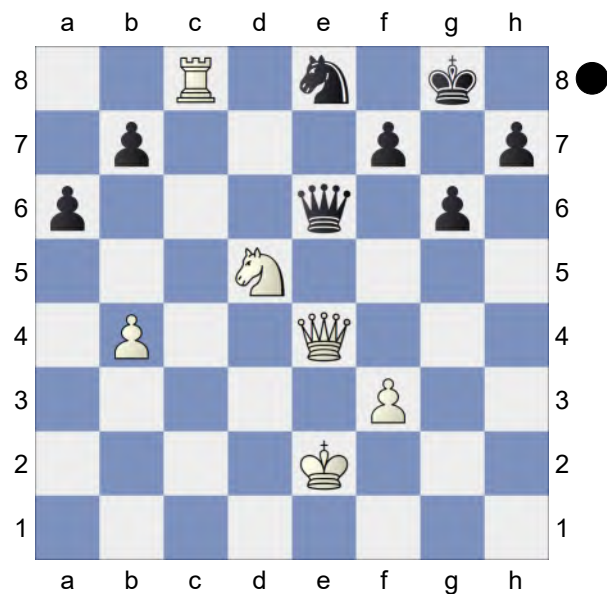
29.b4 Ra3 30.Nxd5 Qd7? Diagram

[30...f6 31.Re1 Kf7 32.Qc4 Qc6 33.Qe4 Qd7 34.Kg1±]

(Diagram)



31.Rc8!+- Rxf3+ 32.gxf3 Qxh3+ 33.Ke2 Qe6+ 34.Qe4



1-0

274

□ Wei, Yi

■ Rapport, Richard

Yancheng (m/3) 131/46

[Abramovic, Bosko]

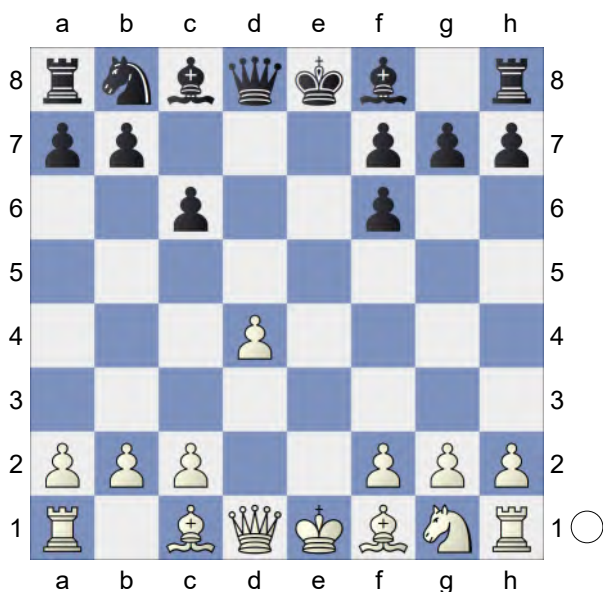
B15

2707

2717

2016

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4
Nf6 5.Nxf6+ exf6



Moulthun Ly: 'A solid approach where Black is happy to fight for equalisation rather than seek any active counterplay. Rapport was clearly fighting for the initiative with the Black pieces in most of his games but in this time he was happy to take a quieter approach.' 6.c3 Bf5 Moulthun Ly: '!?' '!?' '!?' Moulthun Ly: 'Taking control of this useful diagonal right away. Yet this move is not seen very often. Black has done well recently with it with a number of lower rated played holding draws against much stronger opposition.'

[6...Bd6 is far more common and seen a number of times already in the archives.]

7.Bd3 Moulthun Ly: 'Neutralising the bishops is something Black is happy to

do and the resulting position gives little for White.'

[7.Ne2 Moulthun Ly: '!' '!' '!' Moulthun Ly: 'Has a very positive score for White in the database. Seeking to target the bishop and render it useless on this diagonal.' Bd6 8.Ng3

A) 8...Qe7+!? I think this is the most accurate way to continue.

A1) 9.Be2 Bg4 10.Be3 Bxe2 11.Qxe2 0-0 (11...g6 Might also be possible to remove Nf5 as an option.) 12.Nf5 (12.0-0 g6=) 12...Qe6 13.Qf3 Re8 14.0-0 g6 15.Nxd6 Qxd6= Black should have enough to hold the position from here.;

A2) 9.Be3 Bg6 10.Bd3 Nd7 11.0-0 0-0 12.Re1 Rfe8 When Topalov was unable to prove an advantage and had to be satisfied with a draw in the game: Topalov, V (2813)-Miladinovic, I (2547) Novi Sad 2009;

B) 8...Bg6 Moulthun Ly: 'The simple retreat can lead to problems later.'

B1) 9.Be2 I like this simple move better.

B1a) 9...0-0 10.0-0 f5 (10...c5 11.f4 f5 12.d5 Nd7 13.c4 b5 14.b3 bxc4 15.bxc4± With the passed pawn and Black's bishop shut out, there is no doubt White is clearly better.) 11.f4 (11.Bd3 f4 12.Nf5 Bxf5 13.Bxf5 g6 14.Bd3 Nd7 15.Qf3 Qf6 16.b4 Is still okay for Black.) 11...c5 Would transpose.;

B1b) 9...Bxg3 Not a move you would first consider but the

alternative is to possibly play for the light-squared bishop out of the game. 10.hxg3 0-0 11.0-0 Re8 12.Re1 Nd7 13.Bf4 Nb6 With Black managing to hold in Djukic,N (2534) -Miladinovic,I (2545) Kragujevac SRB 2016 although it is clearly no fun to play.;

B2) 9.Bc4 0-0 10.0-0 Re8 (10...Nd7 11.f4 Nb6 12.Bb3 f5 13.Qf3 Re8 14.Bd2 Bc7 15.Rae1 Rxe1 16.Rxe1 Nd5 17.Bc2 Qd7 And Black managed to coordinate his pieces and go on to win the game: Alsina Leal, D (2531)-Salgado Lopez,I (2615) Linares 2015) 11.f4± - 44/160]

[7.Qf3 - 51/(138)]

[7.Bf4 Bd6 8.Bxd6 Qxd6 9.Bd3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 0-0 Proved to be enough for Black to hold in the game: Vovk,A (2638)-Houska,J (2387) Fagernes NOR 2016]

[7.Bc4 Doesn't look dangerous. Bd6 8.Ne2 0-0 9.0-0 Nd7 10.Ng3 Bxg3! 11.fxg3 Be4 Keeping the bishop on this strong central outpost should ensure a balanced game. 12.g4 Nb6 13.Bb3 Qd7 14.Bf4 Rae8 15.h3 Bd5 16.Bc2 Be4 17.Bb3 Bd5 18.Bc2 A draw was now agreed in Sedlak,N (2571)-Miladinovic,I (2556) Sarajevo 2013]

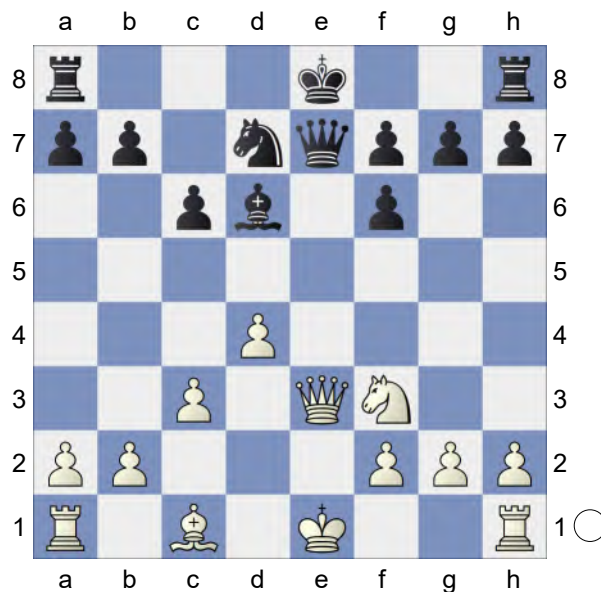
7...Bxd3 8.Qxd3 Bd6 9.Qe3+
Moulthun Ly: 'Offering to trade off queens and play the middlegame with the Black king in the centre. However this is no issue as Rapport demonstrates since the endgame is harmless for Black.'

[9.Nf3 0-0 10.0-0 If White chooses

to keep the queens onboard then I quite like the development of pieces chosen in the following game: Na6 11.Rd1 Qd7 12.h3 Rad8 13.c4 Rfe8 14.Be3 Bf8 15.Rac1 Nc5 16.Qc2 Ne4 Saw the knight jump right into a key central outpost in Petrov,N (2436)-Bublei,P (2354) Moscow 2015]

9...Qe7 10.Nf3N Moulthun Ly: 'Abramovic,Bosko: "N" [10.Ne2]

10...Nd7



11.Qxe7+ Kxe7 Moulthun Ly: 'Keeping the bishop on the more active square. The king also prefers to be in the centre with the queens off.' **12.Be3?! Moulthun Ly: 'Abramovic,Bosko: "?!"'**

[12.c4!? Moulthun Ly: 'Abramovic, Bosko: "!?"'

A) 12...Rhe8 13.0-0 f5 (13...Kf8=) 14.Bd2 Kf8=;

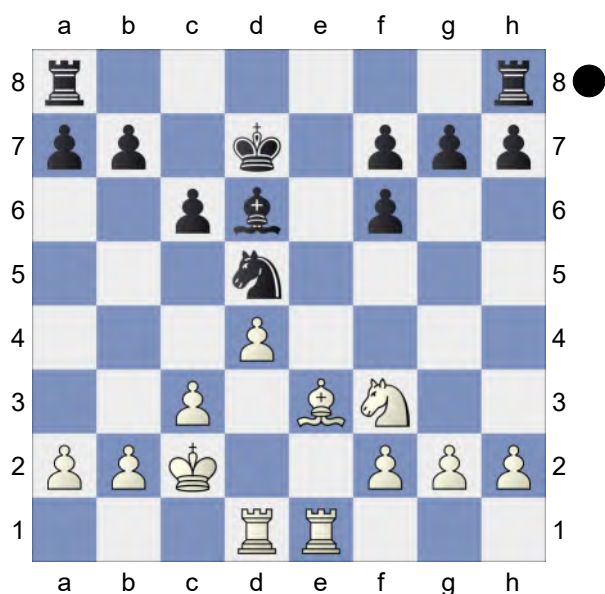
B) 12...b5! 13.b3 (13.c5 Bc7 14.0-0 Nf8 15.Bd2 Ne6 16.a4 Rhd8± Xd4 Moulthun Ly: ' Xd4') 13...bxc4 14.bxc4 c5=]

12...Nb6! Moulthun Ly: 'Abramovic, Bosko: "!" 13.0-0-0 Kd7 14.Rhe1

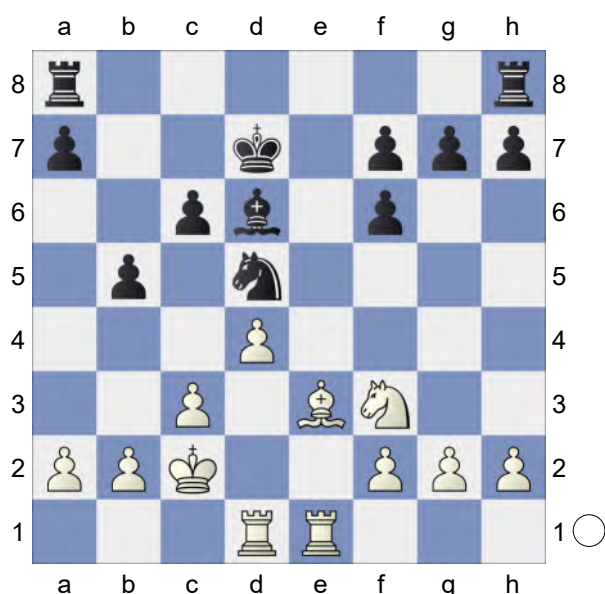
[14.Ne5+!? Ke6 (14...fxe5 15.dxe5 Nd5 16.exd6 Nxe3 17.fxe3 Rae8=) 15.Nd3 Nd5 16.Bd2 b5=]

14...Nd5 15.Kc2?! Diagram

[15.c4 Moulthun Ly: 'Is his last chance to play it.' Nxe3 16.fxe3 f5= (16...Rhe8 17.e4 Kc7 Should be holdable for Black.)]



Moulthun Ly: 'Abramovic,Bosko: '?''
Abramovic,Bosko: 'Diagram [#]' **15...b5!**



Moulthun Ly: 'Securing the knight without any problems.' Moulthun Ly:

'Securing the knight without any problems. Abramovic,Bosko: '?' **16.Bc1 a5 17.g3 a4** Moulthun Ly: 'A typical way to securing the piece on ...d5 is to place all the pawns on light squares. It also prevents b3 since it will be dangerous to open the a-file.' **18.a3?! Moulthun Ly: 'Abramovic,Bosko: '?'**

[18.h3 a3!? 19.b3 b4 20.c4 Nc3 21.Rd3 Nxa2 (21...Rhe8 22.Rxe8 Kxe8 23.Bd2 Nxa2 24.c5 Bc7 25.Re3+ Kd7 26.Re1= Δ Ra1 Moulthun Ly: ' Δ Ra1') 22.Bd2 Rhe8 23.Ra1 Nc3 24.Bxc3 bxc3 25.c5 Bc7 26.Kxc3∞]

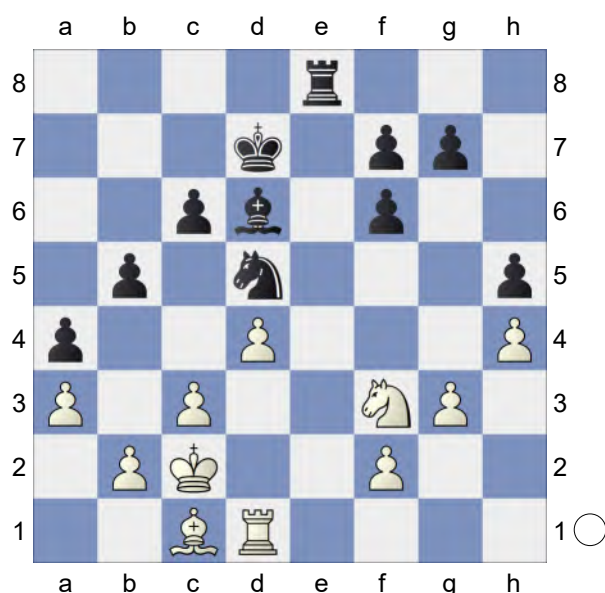
18...h5 19.h4?! Moulthun Ly: 'Abramovic,Bosko: '?'

[Δ19.Kd3 g5 (19...Rhe8 20.Rxe8 Rxe8 21.Re1 Rxe1 22.Nxe1=) 20.h3=]

19...Rhe8 20.Rxe8?! Moulthun Ly: 'Abramovic,Bosko: '?'

[Δ20.Kd3]

20...Rxe8

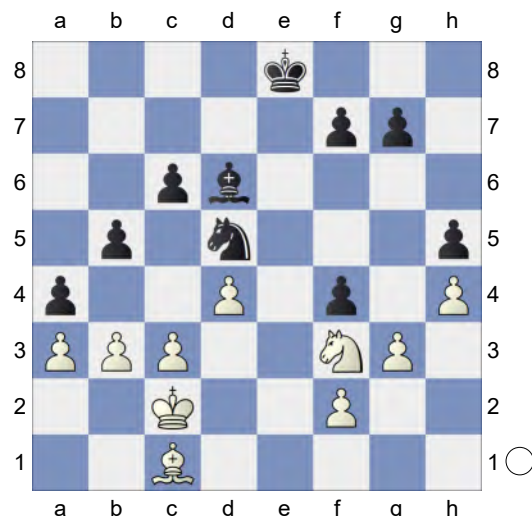


21.Re1 f5? Moulthun Ly: 'Abramovic,Bosko: '?'

[21...Rxe1! 22.Nxe1 Ke6 23.Kd3 Kf5 24.Ke2 Kg4 25.Nf3 f5†]

22.Rxe8 Kxe8 23.b3 Nb6?! Moulthun Ly: 'Abramovic,Bosko: '?!'

[23...f4! Diagram



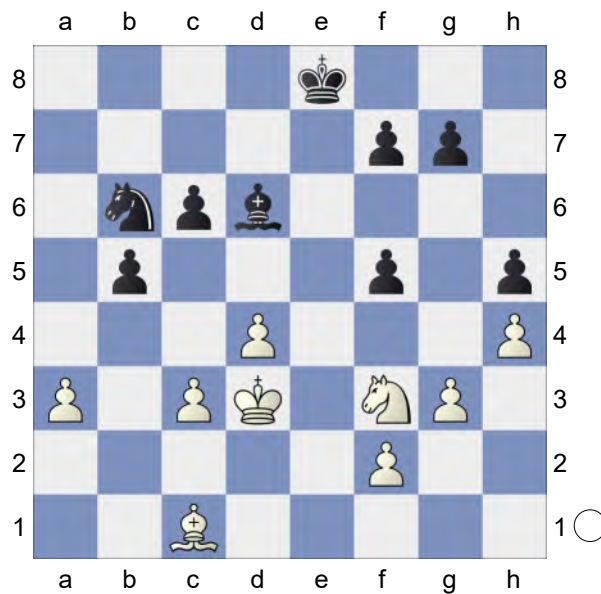
Moulthun Ly: '!? '!? '!? Moulthun Ly: 'is an interesting try to fight for more.' Moulthun Ly: 'is an interesting try to fight for more. Abramovic,Bosko: '!' Abramovic,Bosko: 'Diagram [#]'

A) 24.c4 axb3+ 25.Kxb3 bxc4+ 26.Kxc4 fxg3 27.fxg3 f6! (27...Bxg3 28.Kc5≠) 28.a4 Bxg3≠;

B) 24.gxf4 Nxf4 25.Bxf4 (25.bxa4 bxa4≠ Black aims to create a passed wing pawn and have the better chances.) 25...Bxf4≠]

24.bxa4 Nxa4 25.Kd3 Nb6

(Diagram)



26.Nd2 Moulthun Ly: 'Slowly Black is starting to get the better position and White needs to be careful he doesn't drift too much.' **26...Bc7**

[26...f4? 27.Ne4≠]

[26...Kd7 27.f4 Ke6 28.c4=]

27.f4! Moulthun Ly: 'Abramovic,Bosko: '!'

[27.c4 f4!]

27...Kd7 28.Nf1

[28.c4? Nxc4 29.Nxc4 bxc4+ 30.Kxc4 Ba5+ Δ Be1 Moulthun Ly: 'Δ Be1']

28...Nc8

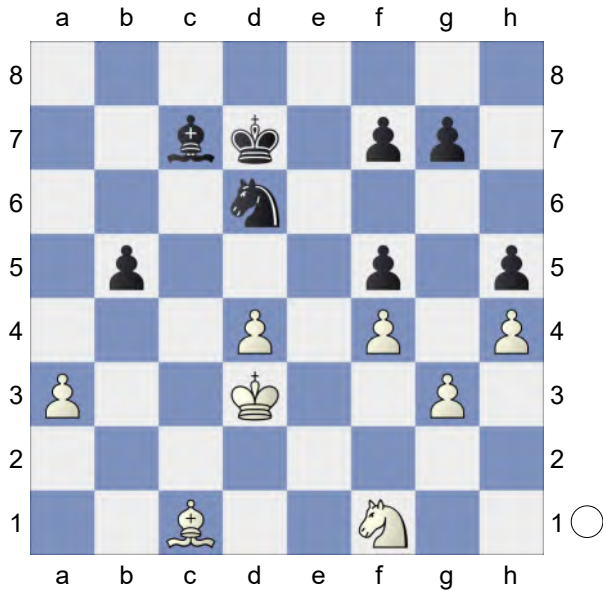
[28...g6 29.Ne3 Bd8 30.Bd2 Be7 31.Bc1 c5 32.c4! cxd4 33.Kxd4 Nxc4 34.Nxc4 bxc4 35.Kxc4 Kc6 36.Kd3 (36.a4 Bc5≠) 36...Bc5 37.Be3 Bxa3 38.Bf2 Kd5 39.Be1 Bc5 40.Ke2 Ke4 41.Ba5 g5!? 42.hxg5 h4 43.gxh4 Kxf4 44.h5 Kxg5 45.Kf3 Kxh5 46.Bc3=]

29.c4 Nd6 30.cxb5

[30.c5 Ne4 31.Bd2 Nf2+ 32.Ke3 Ng4+ 33.Kd3 Ke6≠]

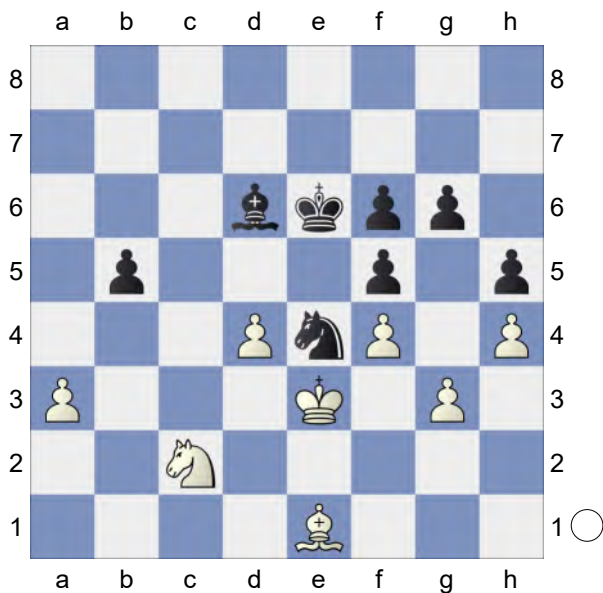
30...cxb5

(Diagram)

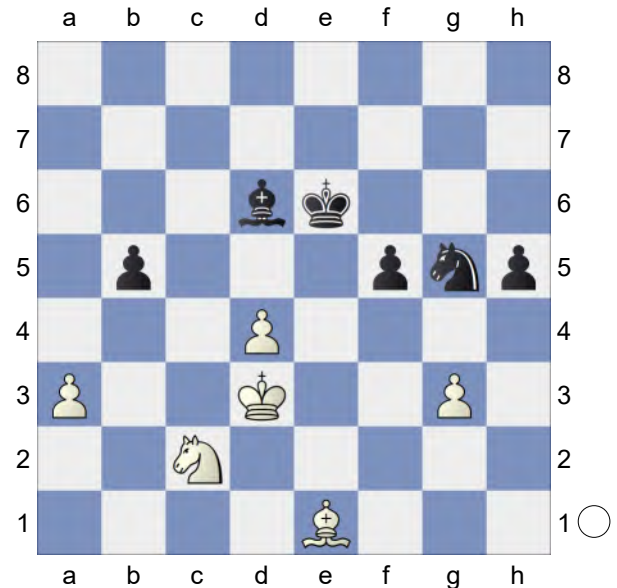


Moulthun Ly: 'is starting to become dangerously passive for White.' **31.Bd2 Ne4** Moulthun Ly: '!' '!' '!' **32.Be1 g6 33.Ne3 Bd6 34.Nc2 Ke6** Moulthun Ly: 'All of the White pieces are tied down but finding a breakthrough will be difficult.' **35.Ke3 f6**

[35...Kd5 36.Kd3 Be7 37.Ne3+ Kc6 38.Bb4 Bxb4 39.axb4 Nxg3 40.d5+ Kd6 41.Nc2 Kxd5 42.Nd4 Ne4 43.Nxb5 Nf2+ 44.Ke3 Ng4+ 45.Kd3=]



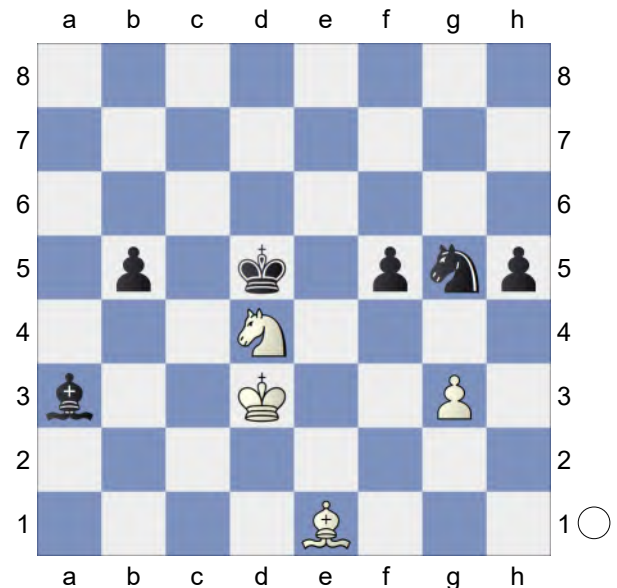
36.Kd3 g5 37.hxg5 fxg5 38.fxg5 Nxg5 Diagram



Moulthun Ly: 'Abramovic, Bosko: 'Diagram [#]' **39.d5+!** Moulthun Ly: 'Abramovic, Bosko: '!'

[39.Ke3 Kd5 40.Kd3 Ne4 41.Ne3+ Ke6 42.g4 hxg4 43.Nxg4 Bxa3]

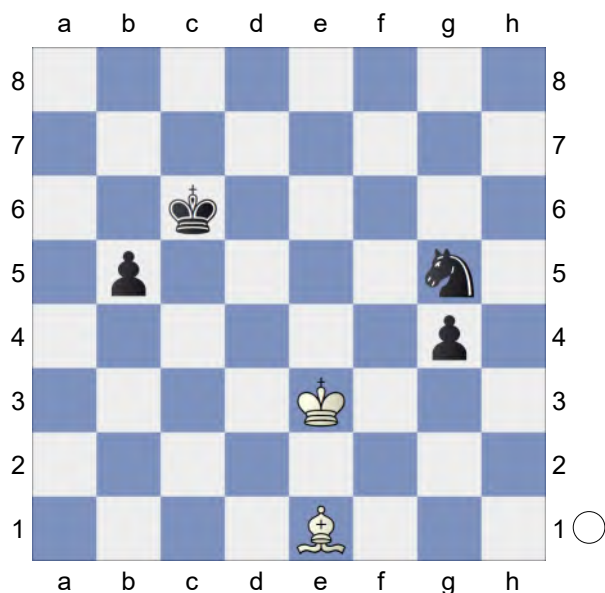
39...Kxd5 40.Nd4 Bxa3



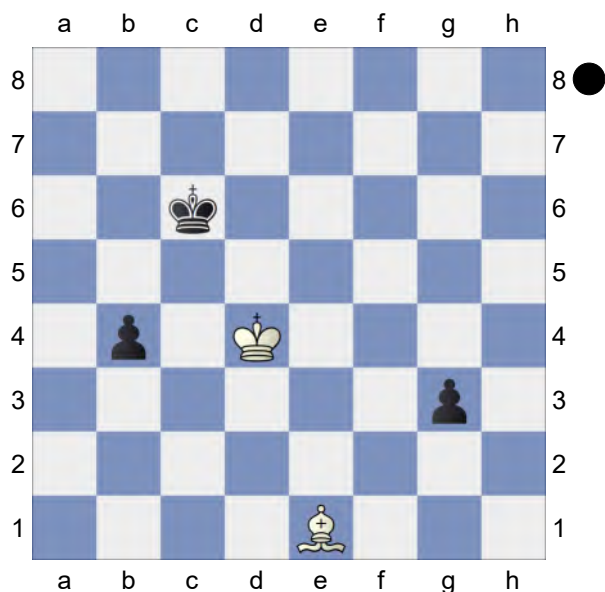
41.Nxf5 Moulthun Ly: 'Whether this is winning for Black is not clear since White always has the option of giving black a piece.'

[41.Nxb5=]

41...Bb2 42.Ne3+ Kc6 43.Ke2
 [43.g4=]
43...Bd4 44.g4 Bxe3 45.Kxe3 hxg4



46.Kf4 Nf3 47.Bb4 Ne5
 [47...Kd5 48.Kxg4 Nd4=]
48.Kxe5 g3 49.Be1! Moulthun Ly:
 'Abramovic,Bosko: "!" 49...b4 50.Kd4



Moulthun Ly: 'The line with 6... Bf5 is not seen often but I believe it's a better way to fight for equality than 6...Bd6 since it will force some pieces off if White tries to develop with Bd3. The critical replay in my opinion is 7.Ne2 trying to target

the bishop but the accurate 7...Qe7+ should be enough to give Black a reasonable game. All in all, this line is a solid choose if are happy to play to equalise but doesn't give much chances to get any active play.'

1/2-1/2

121

□ Wei,Yi

■ Bacrot,Etienne

China - ROW (m/1-rapid) 136/5

[Abramovic,Bosko]

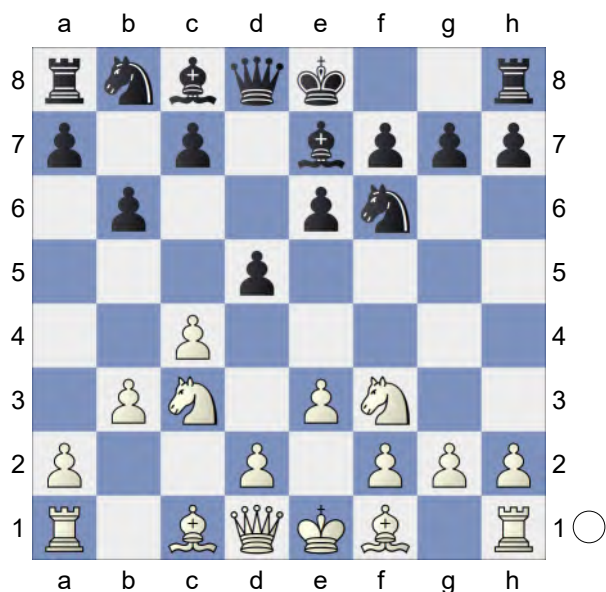
A14

2734

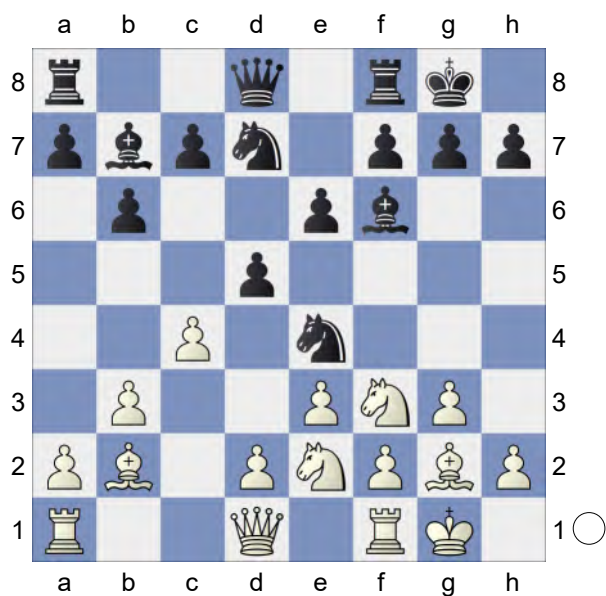
2718

2018

1.Nf3 d5 2.e3 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3
Be7 5.b3 b6



6.Bb2 0-0 7.g3 Bb7 8.Bg2 Nbd7
9.0-0 Ne4 10.Ne2 Bf6
[10...a5 - 44/11]



11.d4 c5 12.cxd5

[12.Nf4!? Kasparov,Garry]

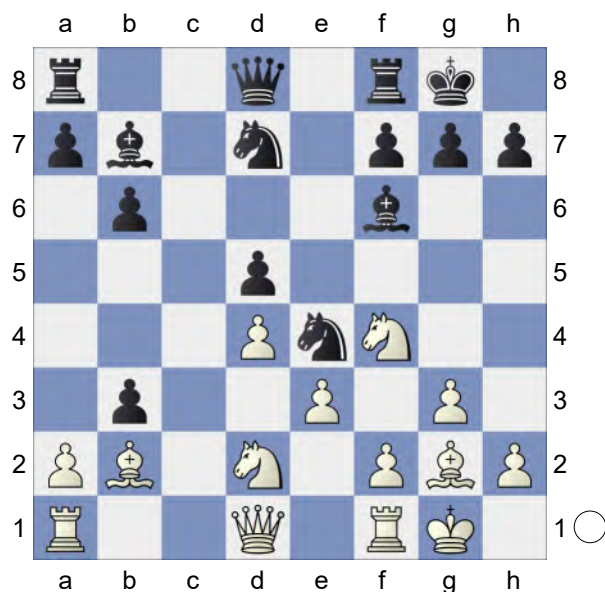
12...exd5 13.Nf4 c4?!N

[13...g6 14.Qe2 cxd4 15.Bxd4 Ndc5
16.Qb2±]

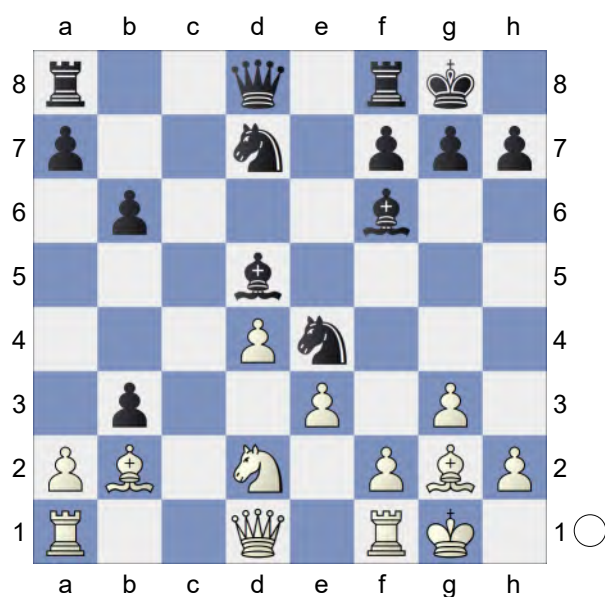
14.Nd2 cxb3 Diagram

[14...c3 15.Nxe4 cxb2 (15...dxe4
16.Bxc3±) 16.Nxf6+ Nxf6 17.Rb1±]

[14...Nxd2 15.Qxd2± Xd5]



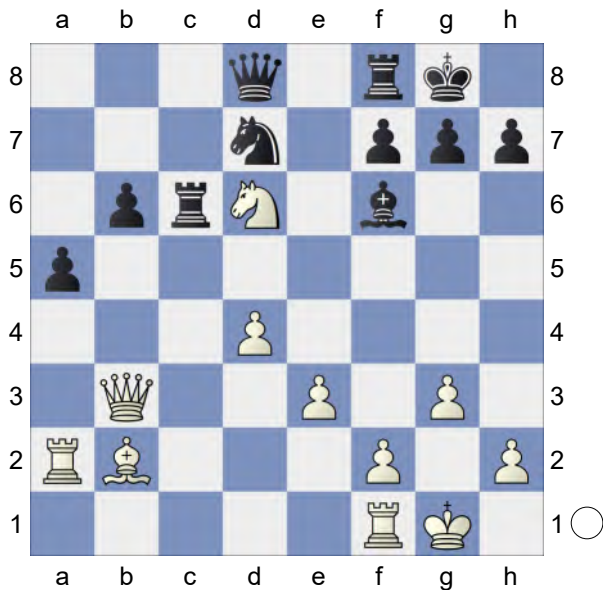
15.Nxd5! Bxd5



16.Bxe4

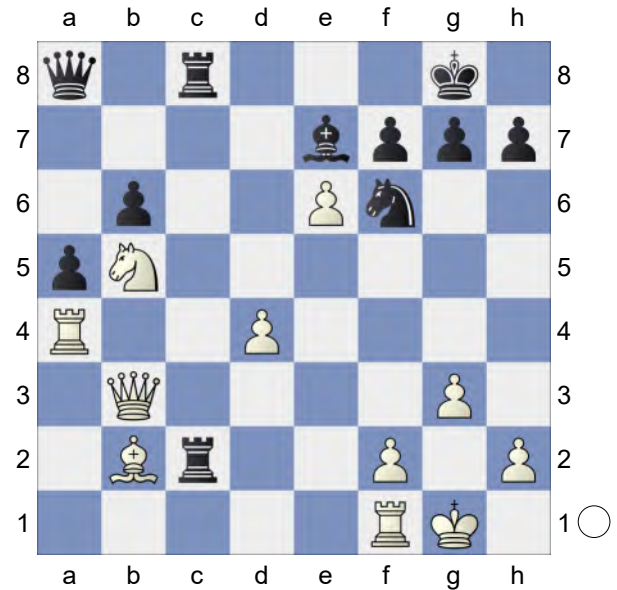
[16.Nxe4 bxa2 17.Qh5 Bc4

(17...Be6 18.Ba3±) 18.Rfc1 b5
 19.Ba3 Be7 20.Bxe7 Qxe7
 21.Nd2±]
16...Bxe4 17.Nxe4 bxa2 18.Rxa2 a5
19.Qb3
 [19.Nc3±]
19...Rc8?!
 [19...Be7 20.Rd1±]
20.Nd6 Rc6

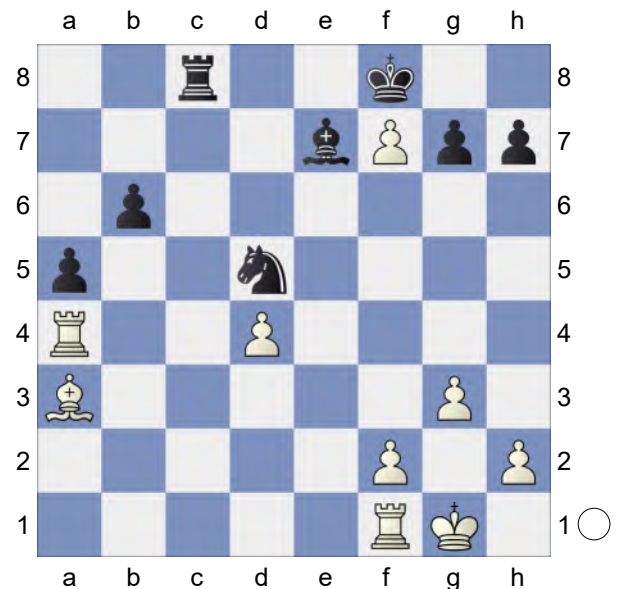


21.Nb5± Qa8 22.e4
 [22.Ba3 Rfc8 (22...Re8 23.Nd6 Rf8
 24.Qa4±) 23.e4±]
22...Rfc8 23.e5 Be7 24.Ra4
 [24.Ba3!? Bxa3 25.Rxa3 Nf8
 26.Nd6 R8c7 27.Qf3±]
24...Rc2? 25.e6!+- Nf6

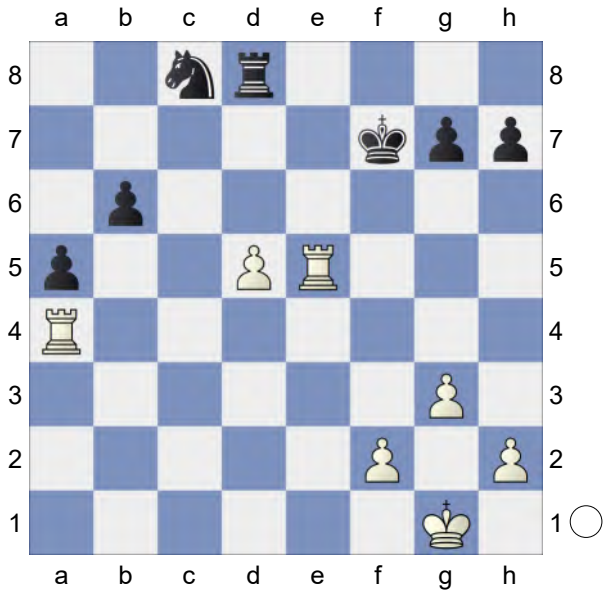
(Diagram)



26.exf7+ Kf8 27.Ba3! Qe4
 [27...Nd5 28.Re1 Bxa3 29.Qxa3+
 Kxf7 30.Nd6+-]
28.Nd6 Qd5 29.Qxd5 Nxd5 30.Nxc8
Rxc8



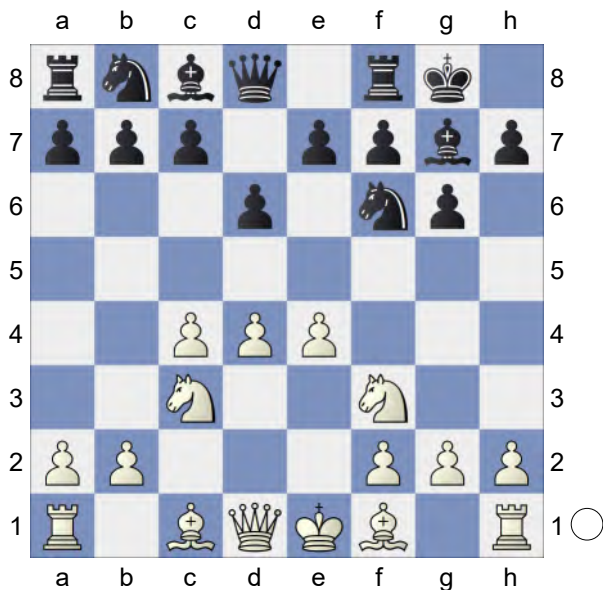
31.Re1 Kxf7 32.Re5?
 [32...Bxe7 Nxe7 33.Kg2+-]
32...Rd8?
 [32...Nc3! 33.Rxe7+ Kf6 34.Rxa5
 bxa5 35.Ra7±]
33.Bxe7 Nxe7 34.d5 Nc8
 [34...Rxd5 35.Rf4+ Ke8 36.Re6+-]



1-0

297 **E90**
 □ **Wei, Yi** **2706**
 ■ **Adhiban, Baskaran** **2653**
 Tata Steel-A 79th (9) 24.01.2017
 [Adhiban, Baskaran]

Wei Yi was having a really solid event and hence I was eager to beat him, but judging by how the game went... I wasn't even close to achieving what I wanted :). Adhiban, B: 'Wei Yi was having a really solid event and hence I was eager to beat him, but judging by how the game went... I wasn't even close to achieving what I wanted :). ' **1.Nf3** Adhiban, B A pleasant surprise. **1...Nf6** **2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.d4 0-0 5.e4 d6**



6.h3 During our prep for the game I had asked my friend Vishnu what to do against 1.d4? He replied, "He doesn't play d4 against guys who play the KID" :). **6...Na6 7.Be3 c6 8.Rc1 Nc7** Deviating from his game against Zhao.

[8...e5 Adhiban, B 9.d5

A) 9...cxd5 10.cxd5 Ne8 11.g4 Kh8 12.Be2 (12.Bd3±; 12.Rg1!±) 12...f5 13.gxf5 gxf5 14.exf5 Bxf5

15.Ng5 Qe7 16.Bg4 Bh6 17.h4 Bg6 18.Bh5 Bf5 19.Bg4 Bg6 20.Ne6 Bxe3 21.fxe3 Nepomniach tchi, I (2751)-Adhiban, B (2677) Tbilisi 2017 Rg8±;

B) 9...Nc5 10.Nd2 a5 11.Be2 and although Black's ♘c5 is better, than on c7, this is not a particularly good version of the Makogonov: Bd7 (11...Nfd7 12.g4 a4 13.h4 Qa5 14.h5 Rb8 15.Kf1 Nb6 16.g5 Qb4 17.Rc2 Bd7 18.Kg2 a3 19.b3 cxd5 20.Nxd5 Nxd5 21.cxd5 b5 22.Rh4 Rbc8 23.hxg6 hxg6 ½-½ (44) Wei, Y (2732)-Tomashevsky, E (2705) chess.com INT 2020 24.Nf3±) 12.b3 Ne8 13.0-0 f5 14.Re1 b6 15.a3 f4 16.Bxc5 bxc5 17.Bg4 Bf6 18.Bxd7 Qxd7 19.Qg4 Qxg4 20.hxg4± Delgado Ramirez, N (2123)-Rain, R (2240) email 2017]

9.Be2

[I wonder why Wei Yi rejected 9.Bd3!? which was probably best. b5 (The lesser evil is 9...e5 10.d5 But what is the knight doing on c7? :)) 10.cxb5 cxb5 (10...Nxb5 11.Na4±) 11.0-0 b4 12.Ne2 Ba6 13.Ng3 Adhiban, B: ' ↑' with a clearly superior position.]

9...b5

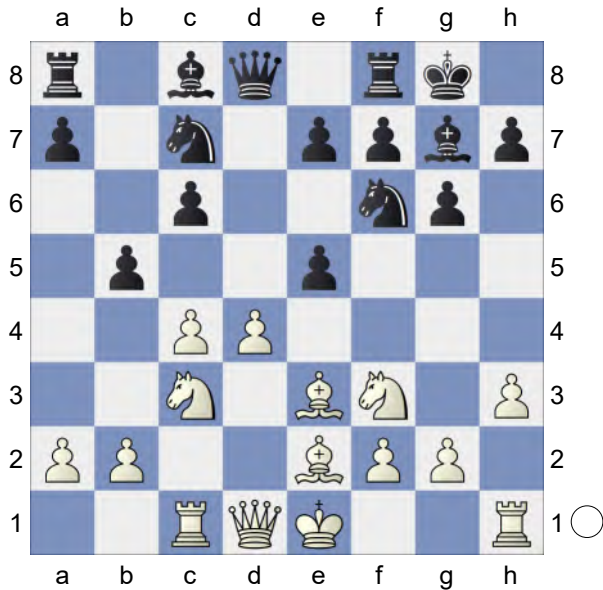
[9...e5 10.d5±]

10.e5

[10.cxb5 Nxb5! The point! Black should be able to equalise here since White has to waste another tempo to defend the e4-pawn. (10...cxb5 is bad due to 11.Bd3 Bb7 12.0-0 b4 13.Ne2 Nxe4 14.Qc2+-)]

10...dxe5

(Diagram)



11.dxe5 I was happy to see this, as I wasn't sure how to react against dxe5 .

[There was the stronger and more principled 11.Nxe5 Adhiban,B: '△' bxc4 (More passive but possibly more chances of equalising were offered by 11...Bb7!? 12.0-0 bxc4 13.Bxc4 Nfd5 14.Nxd5 Nxd5 15.Qb3! Rb8 16.Bxd5 cxd5 17.Qa4± and the light-squared bishop feels totally out of place.)

A) 12.Bxc4 Ncd5 13.0-0 (13.Nxc6 Nxe3 14.fxe3 Qd6 15.Ne5 Nd7! 16.Nxd7 Qg3+ is a nice line) 13...Qd6 looked decent for Black. (13...Nxe3 14.fxe3±);

B) 12.Nxc6! Qd6 13.Bf3 Bd7 14.Ne5 Ncd5 15.Nxc4 Adhiban,B: '±' and White has won the pawn under favourable circumstances.]

11...Nd7 12.cxb5 cxb5 13.0-0

[13.Nxb5 Nxb5 14.Bxb5 Qa5+-+]

13...Bb7

[13...Nxe5 14.Nxe5 Bxe5 15.Bf3! I missed this idea when I went for ... b5.]

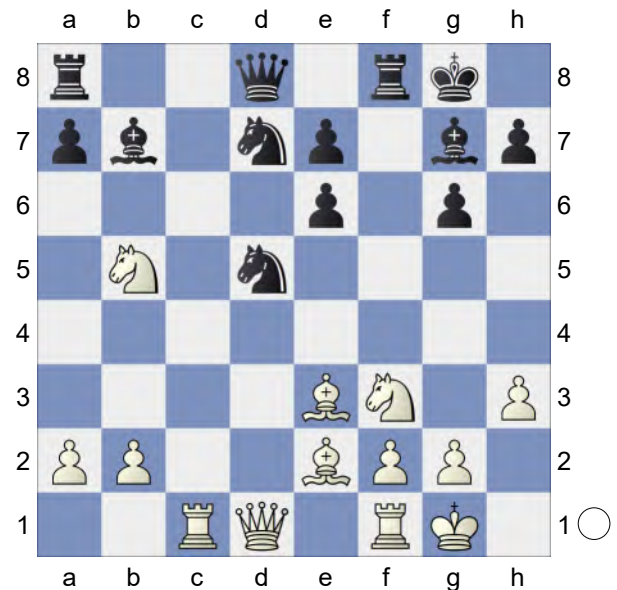
[13...b4 14.Nd5±]

14.Nxb5 Nd5!? Too stubborn.

[14...Nxb5 15.Bxb5 Nxe5 16.Nxe5 Bxe5 and I would have probably made a less impressive draw but... 4hrs earlier and without suffering, but where is the fun in that :)?]

15.e6! Although I saw this I decided to allow it. Bravery or stupidity? **15...fxe6**

[15...Nxe3 16.fxe3 Nb6 (16...fxe6 17.Nc7+-) 17.exf7+ Rxf7 18.Nc7 Rc8 19.Qxd8+ Rxd8 20.Ne6 Rd6 21.Nxg7 Kxg7 22.Rfd1±]



16.Qb3!± A strong move after which I also have to worry about discovered attack's on the b7-bishop. Adhiban,B: 'A strong move after which I also have to worry about discovered attacks on the b7-bishop.'

[16.Ng5 Nxe3 17.fxe3 Qb6! and Black takes over the initiative.]

16...Ne5!? Exchanging some pieces and reducing the pressure. **17.Nxe5 Bxe5 18.Bg4 Kh8! 19.Bd4 Bf6**

[19...Qb8 20.Bxe5+ Qxe5 21.Rce1 Qb8 (21...Qg5 22.Nd4! Nf4 23.Nxe6 Nxe6 24.Qxb7 with a hopeless position for Black.) 22.Rxe6+-]

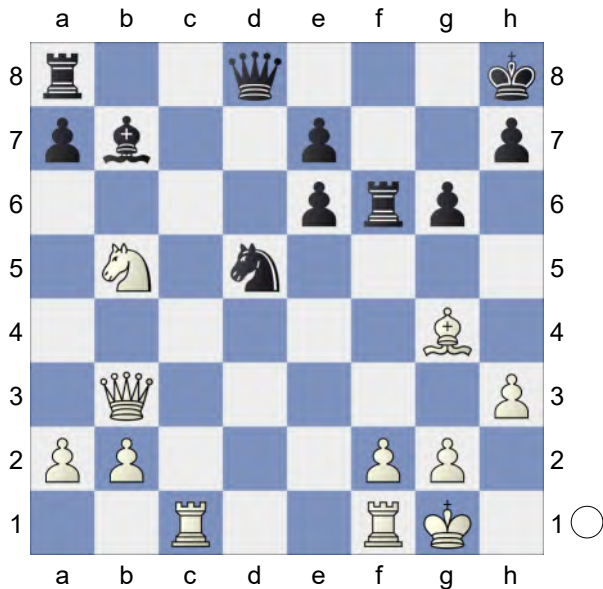
20.Bxf6+

[20.Bxe6? Nf4!]

[20.Rfd1± just keeping the status quo was much better.]

20...Rxf6

[20...exf6 21.Nc7]

**21.Nc7! Rb8**

[21...Nxc7 22.Qxb7 Nd5 23.Rfe1±]

22.Nxe6 Qg8!? What else?

[22...Qd6 was my original intention but unfortunately allows the stunning Adhiban,B: 'was my original intention but unfortunately it allows the stunning' 23.Qxb7!]

23.Nc5

[During the game I was more concerned about 23.Nc7! But luckily I have Nf4! (23...Nxc7 24.Qxg8+ Kxg8 25.Rxc7 looked uninspiring.) 24.Qxg8+ Kxg8 25.g3 h5 with counterplay.]

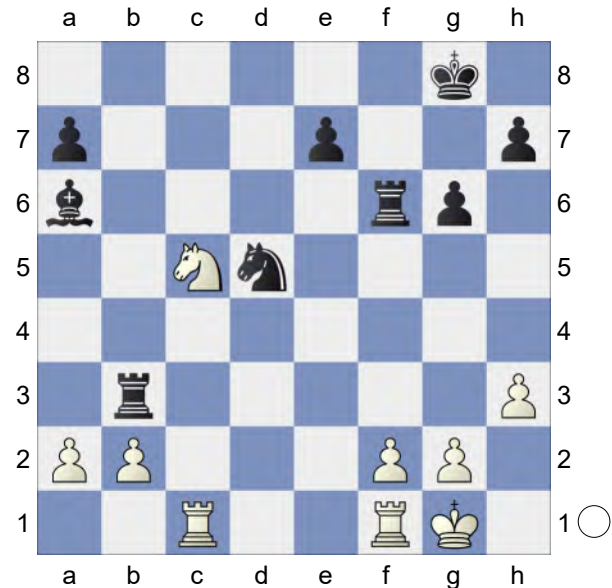
23...Ba6 24.Be6! Rxb3

[24...Rxe6 25.Qxd5±]

25.Bxg8 Kxg8

[25...Bxf1 26.Bxd5 (26.Nxb3 Bxg2 27.Rc8 Nb6 with equality.) 26...Rxb2 27.Rxf1 Rb5 28.Rc1 Rf5 29.Ne6!]

Again this nasty motif, winning.]

**26.Nxb3**

[26.axb3!? was stronger: Bxf1 27.Kxf1 Compared to the game the white knight will be more active here.]

26...Bxf1 27.Kxf1 Nb4 28.Rc7

[28.Rc8+! Adhiban,B: 'tr to 28.♖c8+.' Kf7 29.Nc1 was a nice defence and again I would face an uphill struggle to save this.]

28...Nd3

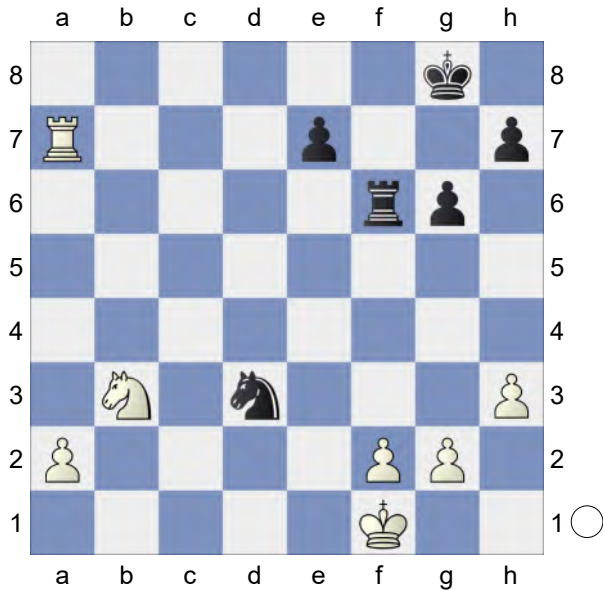
[28...Ra6 allows 29.a3 Nd3 30.Nc5 with a better endgame with good winning chances.]

29.Rd7

[29.Rc2! offered the best chances. Nb4 30.Rc8+ tr to 28.♖c8+.]

29...Nxb2 30.Rxa7 Nd3

(Diagram)



31.f3

[31.Kg1!? Kf7 Black has decent chances to save this.]

31...Re6 32.Kg1 Nf4

[32...Re1+! 33.Kh2 Re2 was the natural intention but I decided against it for some reason. 34.Nd4 (34.Rd7 Nf4 35.Rd2) 34...Rb2 with sufficient play to hold the balance.]

33.Rd7 Ne2+

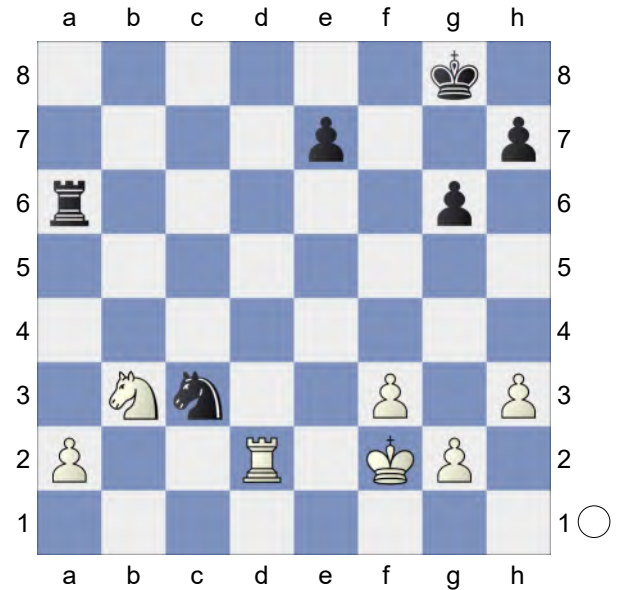
[33...Re2 34.Rd2±]

34.Kf2

[34.Kh2 Ra6 going for the a2-pawn.]

34...Nc3 35.Rd2 Ra6

(Diagram)



36.Nc1 Kf7 Somehow I have managed to tie up White's forces a bit.

[36...Ra3 was my first intention. 37.Rd3!]

37.Ke3 Ke6

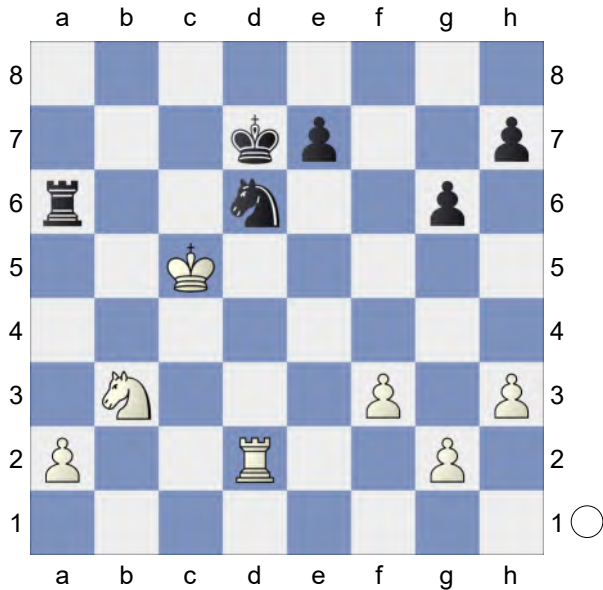
[37...Ra4!? was stronger, not allowing the activation of the king.]

38.Kd4! Nb5+!?

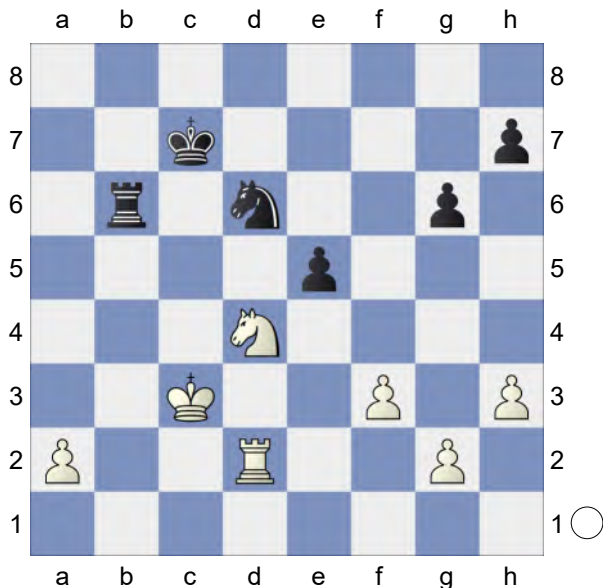
[38...Nd5 was the original plan but it started to feel uncomfortable after 39.Nd3!? Ra4+ 40.Kc5 White is very active in addition to the extra a-pawn.]

39.Kc5 Nd6 40.Nb3 White is very active hence his chances look really good. **40...Kd7**

(Diagram)

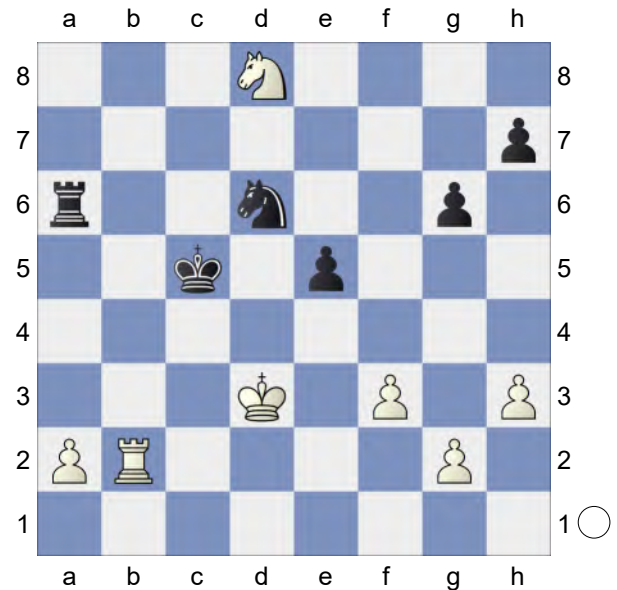


41.Kb4 Rb6+ 42.Kc3 Rc6+ 43.Kb2
 [Maybe a stronger move was 43.Kd3!? keeping the king active.]
43...Kc7 44.Nd4! A nice trick which I underestimated. **44...Rb6+**
 [44...Nc4+ 45.Kc3 Nxd2+ 46.Nxc6+-]
45.Kc3 e5



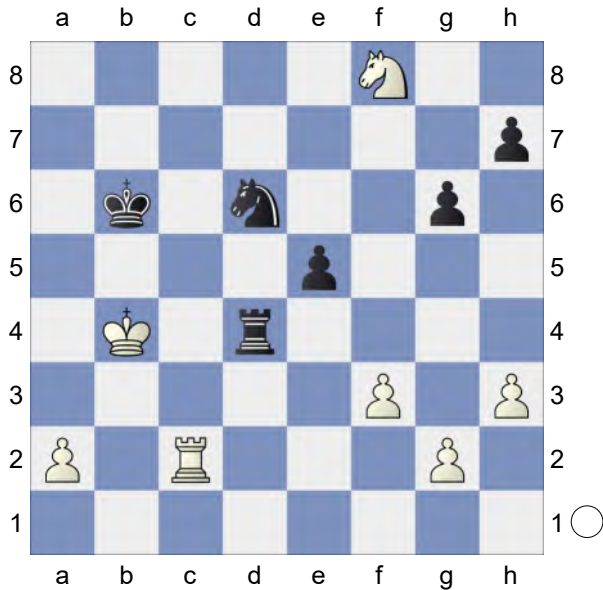
Using the king and rook placement to create the new threat of e4. **46.Ne6+ Kc6 47.Kd3**
 [47.Re2 Kd5 and the king looks active on d5.]

47...Ra6! Activating the rook and preparing to annoy the king with a rook check on a3. **48.Rc2+ Kb6 49.Nd8 Kb5!** Now the knight is little bit silly on d8. **50.Rb2+ Kc5**



51.Ne6+ Kc6 52.Rc2+ Kb6 53.Kc3! Ra3+?! A loss of concentration, I forgot about White's reply.
 [53...e4 54.fxe4 Nxe4+ 55.Kb4±]
54.Kb4 I had completely overlooked this move.
 [I was expecting 54.Kb2 Re3 with good play.]
54...Rd3 55.Nf8
 [55.Nd8 Rd4+ 56.Kb3 Nf5! A nice trick to prevent ♖c6+.]
55...Rd4+

(Diagram)



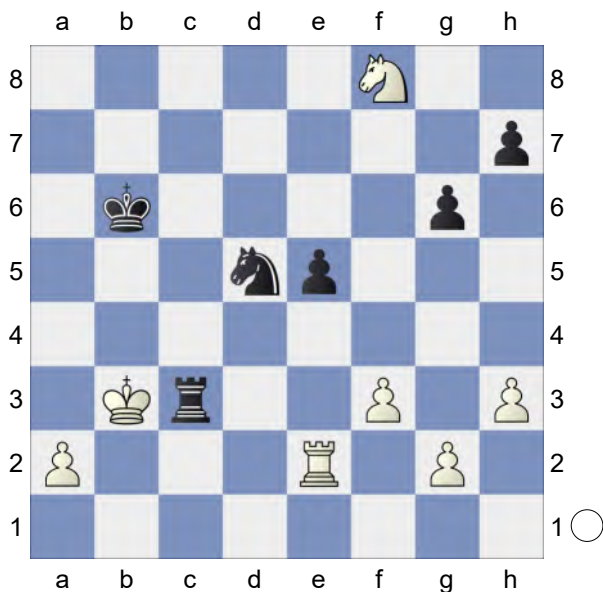
56.Kb3 Nf5! 57.Kc3

[57.Nxh7 Rh4! At first this slipped my mind. (57...Rd7 doesn't work due to 58.Nf6 Rf7 59.Nd5+)]

[57.Re2 Rd8! and Black survives. 58.Ne6 Re8 59.g4 (59.Rxe5?! Nd4+) 59...Rxe6 60.gxf5 gxf5 with a draw.]

57...Ne3! 58.Re2 Nd5+ 59.Kc2

Here I had to make a difficult decision again. **59...Rc4+ 60.Kb3 Rc3+!**



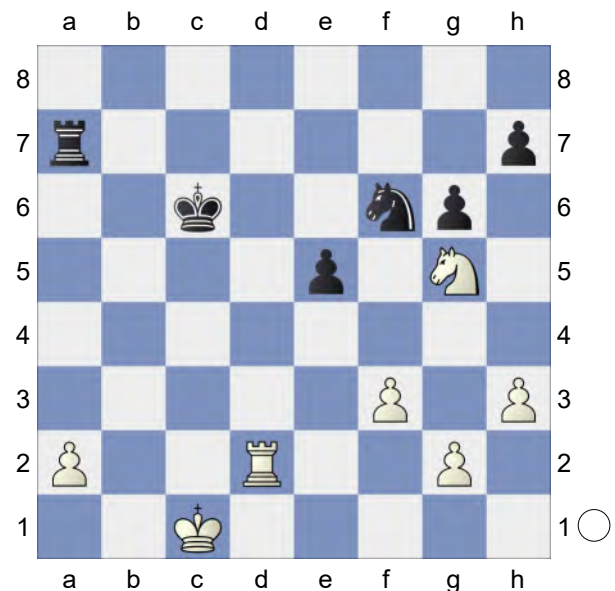
61.Kb2 Rc7 62.Rd2

[62.Ne6 Re7 63.Rxe5 Nf4! 64.Nc5

Rxe5 65.Nd7+ Kb5 66.Nxe5 Nxg2 with a probable draw.]

62...Rb7! I had to foresee this when I played 59... ♖c4+, because otherwise the whole line doesn't work! Now the knight on f8 starts to feel bit ashamed about itself. **63.Ne6 Kc6+ 64.Kc1 Ra7!** Moving the rook out of the danger zone and keeping the pressure. **65.Ng5 Nf6!?**

[65...Kc5 66.Ne4+ Kc4 looked funny but probably also possible. Adhiban, B: 'looked funny but was probably also possible.' 67.Rc2+ Kd4 68.Nd6 Ke3 and White doesn't have much advantage left.]



Fighting for the e4-square. **66.Re2?!**

[66.Kb2! would still keep good chances to win.]

66...Kd5

[66...h6! would have shortened the suffering. 67.Ne4 (67.Ne6?! Kd6 68.Nf8 Rg7 and the knight will meet its master soon :).) 67...Nxe4 68.fxe4 Ra4 with equality.]

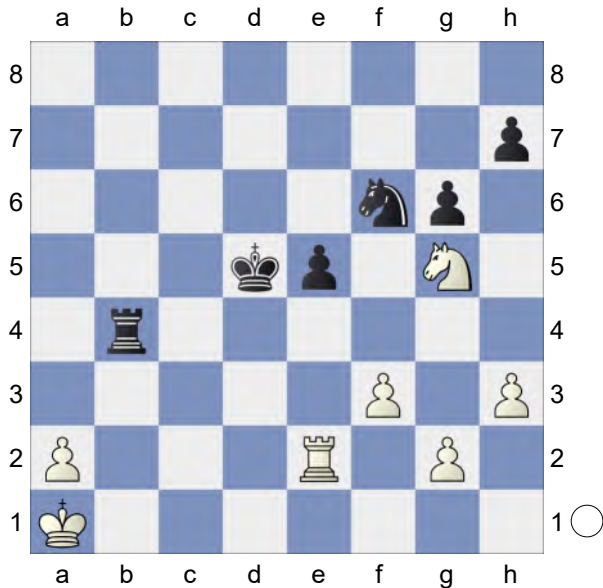
67.Kb2 Rb7+ 68.Kc2

[A stronger try was 68.Kc3 Rc7+ 69.Kd3 Ra7 70.Rd2! Borrowing the

same trick which I used :).h6
71.Ke3+ Kc6 72.Ne6 g5 Black can
fight on.]

68...Ra7 69.Kb2 Rb7+ 70.Ka1 Rb4

[A better move was 70...Kd4!?
The king occupies a commanding
position.]



71.a3

[71.Ne4 Nxe4 72.Rxe4 Rxe4
73.fxe4+ Kxe4 74.a4 (74.Kb2 Kd3
75.Kc1 Ke2) 74...Kd3 Suddenly I am
playing for a win.]

[71.Rb2! was a good attempt Rd4
72.Kb1 e4! 73.fxe4+ Nxe4 74.Nxh7
Kc4 Though Black's active pieces
should compensate for the pawn
deficit.]

71...Rd4 Not allowing ♖d2+.

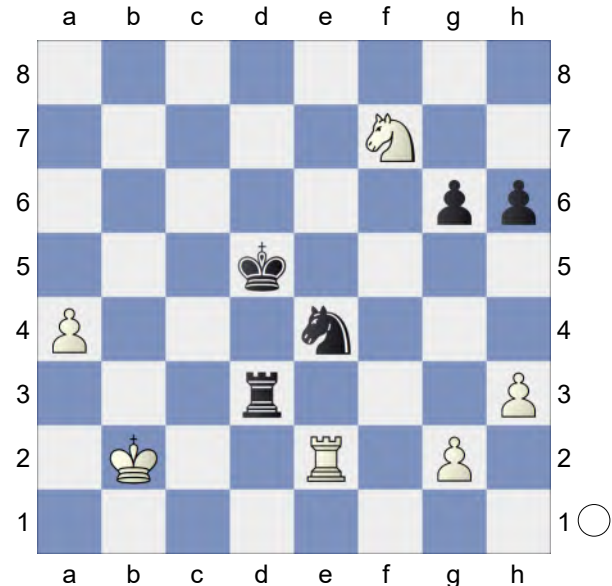
[71...Rb3 72.Rd2+!]

**72.Kb2 Rd3 73.a4 h6!? I figured it was
time to liquidate a bit, also because the
a-pawn was starting to make me
uncomfortable. 74.Nf7 e4 75.fxe4+**

[75.a5 was the last chance e3 76.a6
Nd7 77.a7 Nb6 78.Rc2 Rd4 79.Nd8
Ra4 80.Nc6 e2! 81.Ne7+ Kd4
82.Rxe2 Rxa7 83.Nc6+ Kd3 84.Re6

Rb7! Yes this trick again! 85.Ne5+
Kd2 and Black holds the balance
thanks to his activity.]

75...Nxe4



76.Nxh6 Rd4! Looked stronger than ...
♞c5.

[My main intention was 76...Nc5
77.a5 Rb3+ 78.Kc2 Ra3 is maybe
also possible.]

77.a5 Ra4

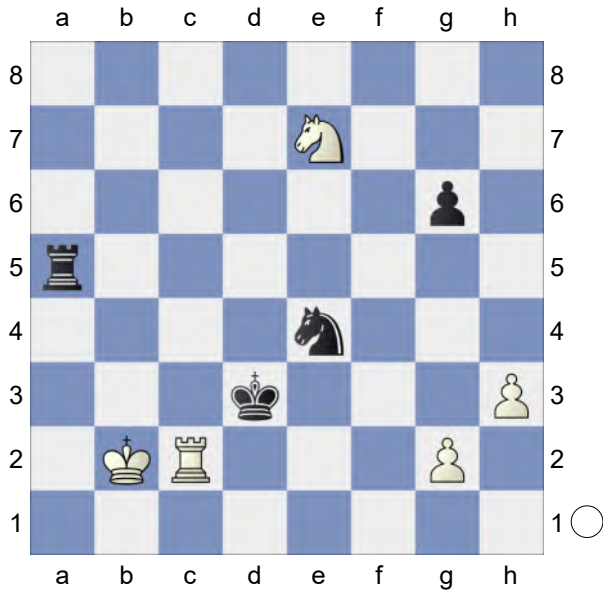
[77...Rb4+! was the easier way out.
78.Ka3 Rb5 winning the pawn.]

78.Ng8 Kd4! 79.Ne7 Kd3 80.Rc2

[80.Re1 Rxa5 81.Nxg6 Rb5+
82.Kc1 Rc5+ 83.Kb2 Rb5+=]

80...Rxa5

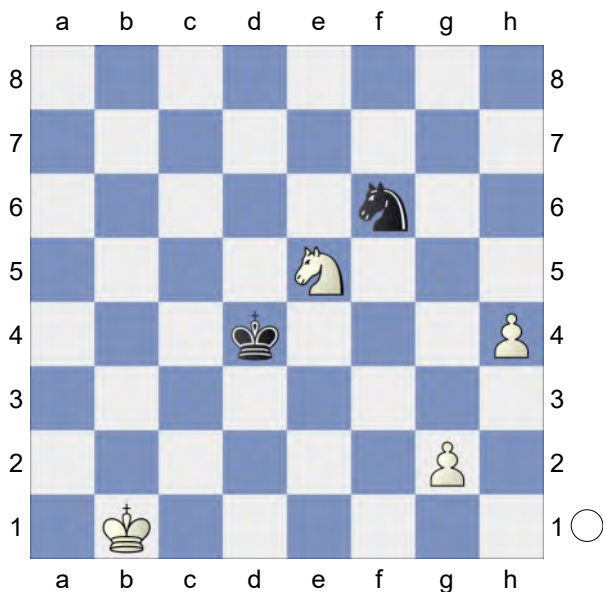
(Diagram)



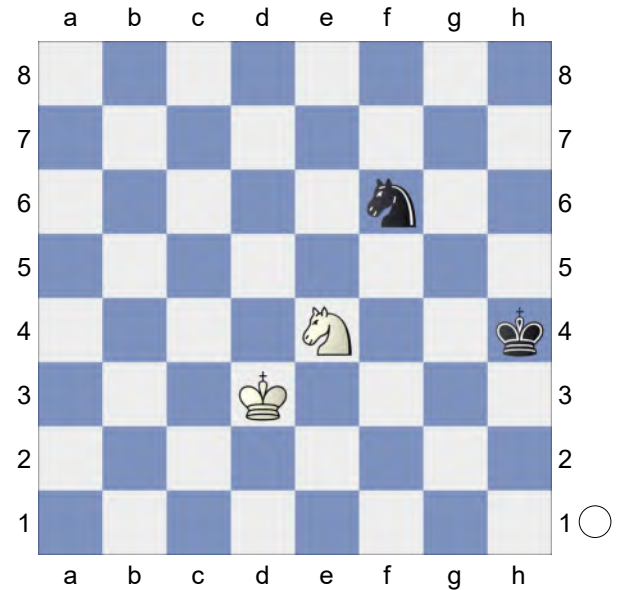
81.Nxg6 Ra2+! I calculated that I can stop the pawns in time (also I really didn't have any other option :)) **82.Kxa2 Kxc2 83.h4 Nf6!** The black king and the knight will easily mop up the pawns as the white king is stranded on the other wing. **84.Ne5 Kc3**

[84...Kd2 85.g4 Ke3 86.g5
I thought I wasn't in time but after Nh5
Black holds.]

85.Kb1 Kd4



86.Nf3+ Ke3 87.Kc2 Kf2 88.Kd3 Kxg2 89.Nd2 Kg3 90.Ne4+ Kxh4



Finally managing to save a completely lost position after a mammoth struggle! Thanks to this save, I kept my plus score intact.

1/2-1/2

327

□ Bu,Xiangzhi

■ Wei,Yi

5th Hainan Danzhou GM (6) 01.07.2014

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

E60

2693

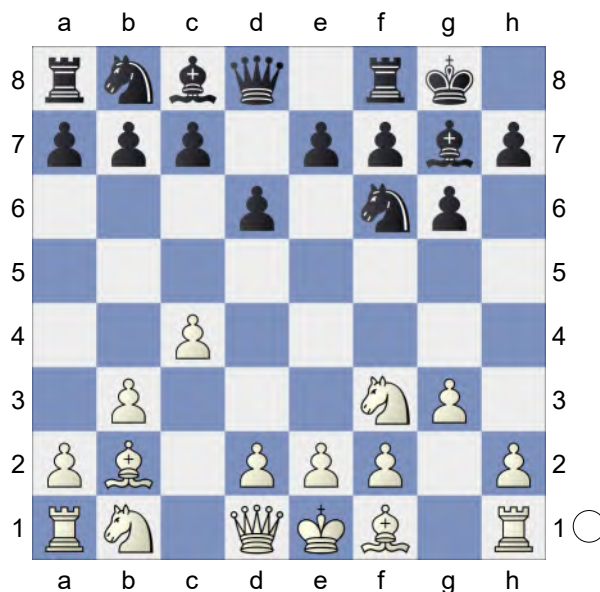
2634

Bu seems to know his countrymen very well as he scored an amazing 4,5/5 score with the white pieces. In the current game against the probably strongest/ youngest GM in the world, Wei Yi, who is just 15 years old, Bu chooses a very solid opening and enters a slightly better endgame, which doesn't seem to be so serious at first, but slowly but surely he outplays his opponent which makes Wei Yi panic and lose the game on the spot at some point. Bu seems to know his countrymen very well as he scored an amazing 4,5/5 score with the white pieces. In the current game against the probably strongest/ youngest GM in the world, Wei Yi, who is just 15 years old, Bu chooses a very solid opening and enters a slightly better endgame, which doesn't seem to be so serious at first, but slowly but surely he outplays his opponent which makes Wei Yi panic and lose the game on the spot at some point. **1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6**

The best Chinese players usually choose the Slav or KID. **3.b3** Well, not the most aggressive opening choice. Bu's strategy was probably just to play a chess game without going too deep into the theoretical lines. Well, not the most aggressive opening choice. Bu's strategy was probably just to play a chess game without going too deep into the theoretical lines. **3...Bg7 4.Bb2 0-0 5.g3**

A double fianchetto opening is actually more tricky than it looks like,

how to react now for Black?! A double fianchetto opening is actually more tricky than it looks like, how to react now for Black?! **5...d6**



is a possible reply, but I don't think it's the strongest one. To me the best reaction seems to be 5...c5 followed by Nc6 and d5. I think White should have no advantage there. In case of 5...c6, with the idea of playing d5 next, White could get a small advantage by playing d3 (not d4) and then Nbd2. is a possible reply, but I don't think it's the strongest one. To me the best reaction seems to be 5...c5 followed by Nc6 and d5. I think White should have no advantage there. In case of 5...c6, with the idea of playing d5 next, White could get a small advantage by playing d3 (not d4) and then Nbd2. **6.d4** was probably played against the e5 move. was probably played against the e5 move. **6...c5** is another possible move, but I think one more time Black is not playing the most principled. is another possible move, but I think one more time Black is not playing the most principled.

[6...e5!? !? seems to be the right way

of playing to me, so in case of White's 7.dxe5 Black always has Ng4 or Nfd7, so there is no reason to be afraid of it. The next black move could be Nbd7, with an interesting position. seems to be the right way of playing to me, so in case of White's 7.dxe5 Black always has Ng4 or Nfd7, so there is no reason to be afraid of it. The next black move could be Nbd7, with an interesting position.]

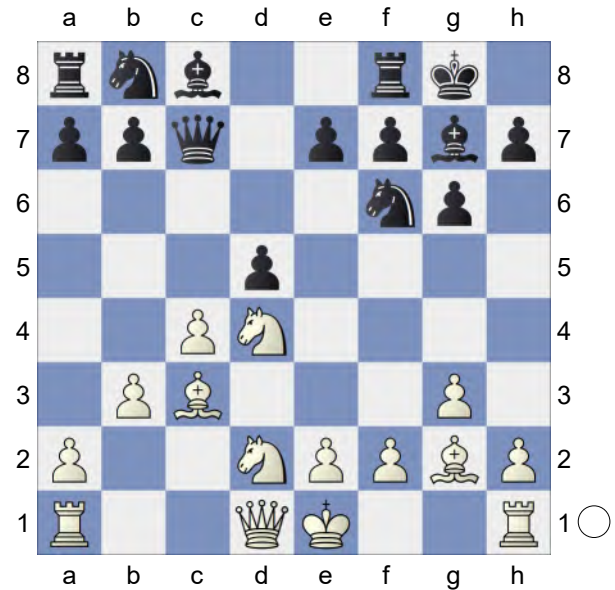
7.Bg2 **DIAGRAM** **7...Qa5+**

Quite a creative move. Black is provoking the white bishop to c3 to have the d5 idea, but on the other hand maybe it is too creative because the black queen is not going to have the best position on c7. Quite a creative move. Black is provoking the white bishop to c3 to have the d5 idea, but on the other hand maybe it is too creative because the black queen is not going to have the best position on c7. **8.Bc3**

[8.Nbd2 Ne4 looks more promising for Black. looks more promising for Black.]

8...Qc7 **9.Nbd2** Black wanted to play Ne4. **9...cxd4** Now we can see Black's idea. Now we can see Black's idea. **10.Nxd4 d5**

(Diagram)



If we look at the position from a logical point of view, Black lost a tempo with playing d6 and then d5 and the queen on c7 is only going to stand under attack, so I think White's position should be better here. If we look at the position from a logical point of view, Black lost a tempo with playing d6 and then d5 and the queen on c7 is only going to stand under attack, so I think White's position should be better here. **11.0-0** Bu continues with logical moves. White should never be afraid of e5 because of Nb5. Bu continues with logical moves. White should never be afraid of e5 because of Nb5. **11...Rd8** **12.Rc1** **Qd7** A cool move by Black in what is already quite a difficult position. It is not easy to find a way to develop the pieces. A cool move by Black in what is already quite a difficult position. It is not easy to find a way to develop the pieces.

[12...dxc4 was losing on the spot: 13.Nxc4 e5 14.Ba5]

13.Nc2 Black already threatened to play e5 and it seems like the white knight has to move from d4, so Bu decides to play Nc2 with the future idea of playing Ne3-

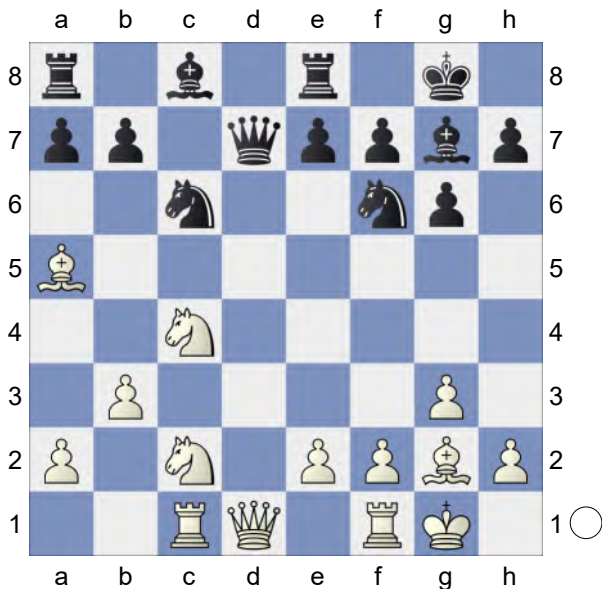
Nd5, which is quite logical. Black already threatened to play e5 and it seems like the white knight has to move from d4, so Bu decides to play Nc2 with the future idea of playing Ne3-Nd5, which is quite logical.

[Also possible was 13.N4f3 and White would take the e5 square under control, which would make the g2 bishop even stronger. and White would take the e5 square under control, which would make the g2 bishop even stronger.]

13...dxc4 **DIAGRAM** **14.Ba5!**
! Very strong play!

[After the peaceful 14.Nxc4 Nc6 Black should be fine because of the bad position of the white knight on c2. Black should be fine because of the bad position of the white knight on c2.]

14...Re8 **15.Nxc4** Now the black rook is much more passively placed on e8.
15...Nc6



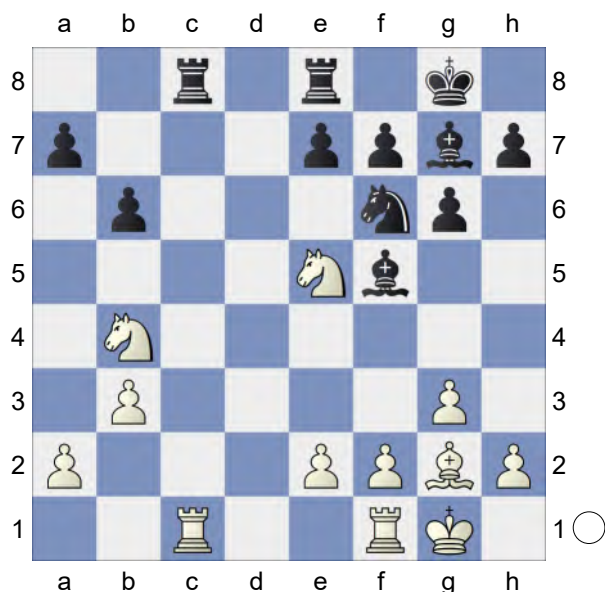
16.Nb4 I guess Bu planned this move when he played 13.Nc2. It looks quite strange to give up the bishop, but on the other hand the white knight and the

bishop on g2 give White a clear initiative. The black bishop on g7 is somehow out of the game. I guess Bu planned this move when he played 13.Nc2. It looks quite strange to give up the bishop, but on the other hand the white knight and the bishop on g2 give White a clear initiative. The black bishop on g7 is somehow out of the game. **16...Nxa5** Black has to take on a5. **17.Qxd7**

[Of course not 17.Nxa5? ? Qb5!!]
17...Bxd7 To play 17...Nxd7? is of course not an option. **18.Nxa5** **b6!** ! The only move after which Black is not losing the b7 pawn. **19.Nc4** White is transferring his knight over e5 to c6.

[After 19.Nac6 a5 20.Nd3 Rac8 Black keeps on fighting for equality.]
19...Rac8 **20.Ne5** The position almost looks like a draw, but White still keeps putting pressure, so Black needs to continue being very accurate. The position almost looks like a draw, but White still keeps putting pressure, so Black needs to continue being very accurate. **20...Bf5**

[It seems like the best way to fight was 20...Bb5 Of course White has different options too, but let us take a look at the most logical one: Of course White has different options too, but let us take a look at the most logical one: **21.Bc6** **Bxc6** **22.Nexc6** **Rc7** Black is very passive but also very solid. Black is very passive but also very solid. **23.Na6** **Rb7** **24.Rfd1** **e6** Of course White is still better, but it is very hard to prove that there are realistic chances for a win here. Of course White is still better, but it is very hard to prove that there are realistic chances for a win here.]



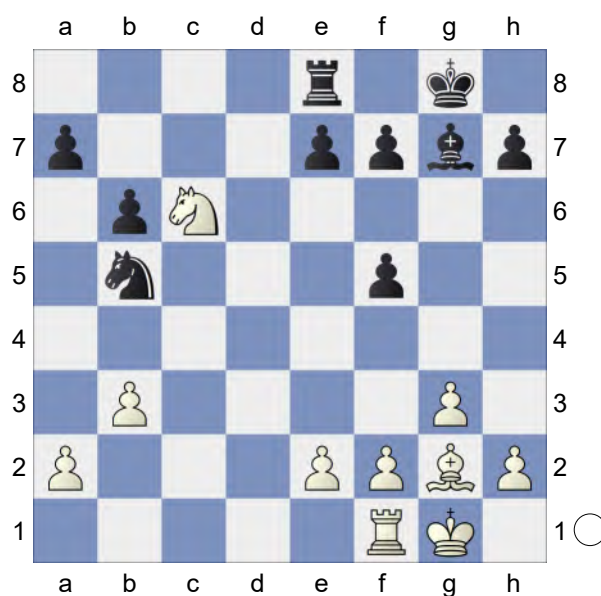
Maybe after this little inaccuracy Black is already finding himself in a bad position. Maybe after this little inaccuracy Black is already finding himself in a bad position. **21.Nbc6!** ! Another very strong move by White. The idea is to win the control over the c-file. Another very strong move by White. The idea is to win the control over the c-file. **21...Rc7 22.Nd4** Attacking both the f5 bishop and the c7 rook. **DIAGRAM** Attacking both the f5 bishop and the c7 rook. **DIAGRAM 22...Nd5?!** ?! Once again Black doesn't take his best chance.

[After 22...Rxc1 23.Rxc1 Be4 24.Ndc6 White has a solid advantage.]

[The right way to defend seems to be 22...Rec8! 23.Rxc7 Rxc7 24.Nxf5 gxf5 25.Rd1 h6 and of course White is better here, but Black's chances for a draw are not that bad. In case White tried to win material with and of course White is better here, but Black's chances for a draw are not that bad. In case White tried to win material with 26.Rd8+ Kh7 27.Nxf7?

? Black could even take over the game with Black could even take over the game with Rc1+ 28.Bf1 Ne4 as the position is already totally unclear.]

23.Nxf5 gxf5 24.Rxc7 Nxc7 25.Nc6 After some forced exchanges, we are entering a position where White has a huge advantage. Not only the knight on c6 guarantees White a small plus, but the black knight from c7 doesn't have any good squares either and White just wants to enter with his rook to d7 by playing Rd1-Rd7. Black's position is on the verge of being lost. After some forced exchanges, we are entering a position where White has a huge advantage. Not only the knight on c6 guarantees White a small plus, but the black knight from c7 doesn't have any good squares either and White just wants to enter with his rook to d7 by playing Rd1-Rd7. Black's position is on the verge of being lost. **25...Nb5**



26.Rd1 Of course not letting Black play Nd4. **26...Bf6 27.a4** Another nice move by White. It is clear that Black's only option is to somehow get an opposite

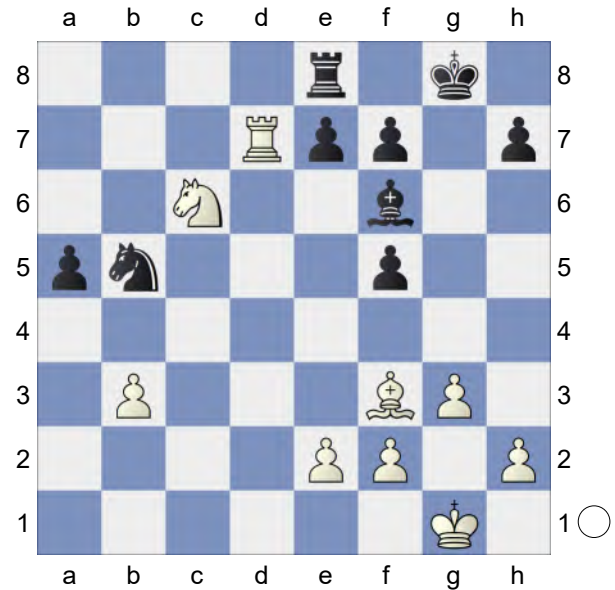
colored bishop endgame with a pawn down and try to save it. By playing a4 White doesn't give Black any hope for it. Another nice move by White. It is clear that Black's only option is to somehow get an opposite colored bishop endgame with a pawn down and try to save it. By playing a4 White doesn't give Black any hope for it. **27...Nc3** **DIAGRAM** **28.Rd7** **a5** Black continues defending passively.

[Black should have tried 28...Nxe2+ 29.Kf1 Nc3 30.Rxa7 and of course White's position is close to winning, but maybe Black could hope for some tricks with moves like e5, followed by e4 with some practical chances. In case Black just waited, White is just going to play b4-a5 and the a-pawn is going to be very hard to stop. and of course White's position is close to winning, but maybe Black could hope for some tricks with moves like e5, followed by e4 with some practical chances. In case Black just waited, White is just going to play b4-a5 and the a-pawn is going to be very hard to stop.]

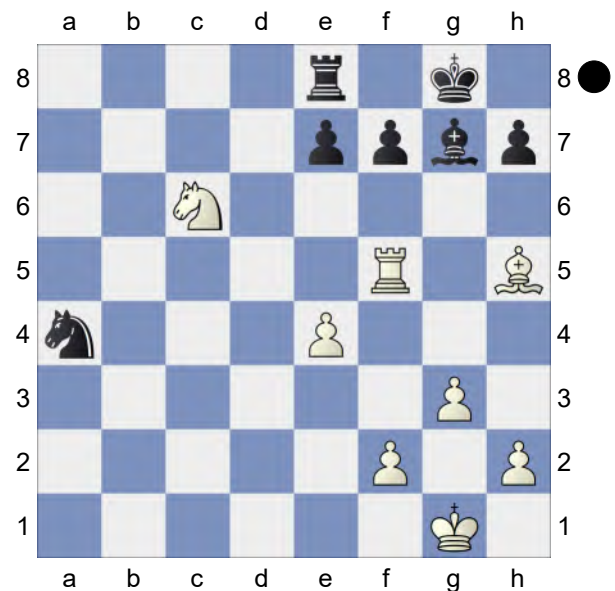
29.Bf3! ! Solid and strong. White also keeps the Bh5 idea in mind. Solid and strong. White also keeps the Bh5 idea in mind. **29...b5?! ?!** Black panicks and after this move the game is lost. Black panicks and after this move the game is lost.

[To a very bad, but still a fighting position would lead 29...e5 30.Bh5 Rf8 and there doesn't seem to be a forced win for White, although Black's position is just horrible. and there doesn't seem to be a forced win for White, although Black's position is just horrible.]

30.axb5 Nxb5



31.Rd5 Now White just ends up a pawn up. **31...Nc3** **32.Rxf5 a4** It is too late for exchanges... **33.bxa4 Nxa4** **DIAGRAM** **34.e4!** ! Accurate until the end. Black can't stop White from playing e5 and Bh5 next. It is game over. Accurate until the end. Black can't stop White from playing e5 and Bh5 next. It is game over. **34...Bg7** **35.Bh5**



A very clean positional win by Bu, showing great domination of the bishop+knight, which is quite typical for Catalan structures where White often

has a strong bishop on the a8-h1 diagonal. A nice game to learn from! A very clean positional win by Bu, showing great domination of the bishop+knight, which is quite typical for Catalan structures where White often has a strong bishop on the a8-h1 diagonal. A nice game to learn from!

1-0

173

□ Svidler, Peter

■ Wei, Yi

Game 7 Baku (5.5)

[Arnaudov]

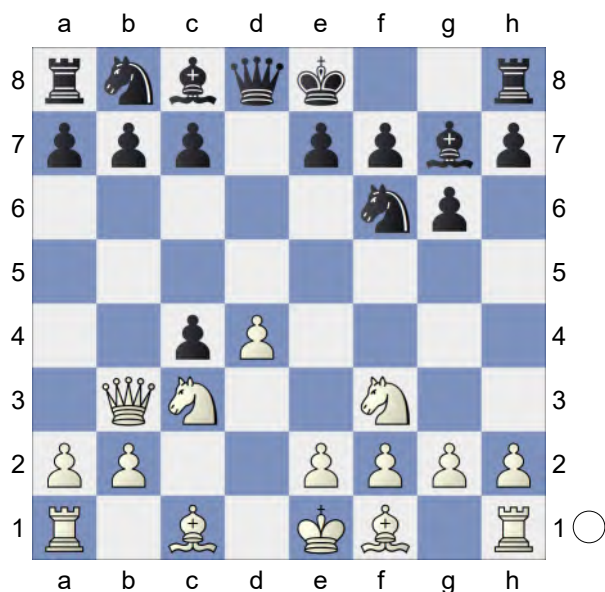
D97

2727

2734

25.09.2015

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3
Bg7 5.Qb3 dxc4



6.Qxc4 0-0 7.e4 Be6 This provocative move became popular recently, mainly because of two great Black wins by Giri and Svidler back in 2012. Black's idea is to provoke d4-d5 and then to attack white's center with c7-c6 and e7-e6.

8.Qb5 Loyal to our concept, I will offer you a not so popular move, but Svidler's choice for White. When Peter plays something in Grunfeld regardless the colour, then this move should be considered seriously.

[8.d5 This is the most popular move, but it only supports Black's idea. Bc8 It seems that Black lost a tempo, but now c6 or e6 is coming. Then the maneuver Ne8-d6 gives Black a pleasant game. (8...Bg4?? We are already familiar with this

mistake. I will give you the following example to see how even 2600 players can blunder. 9.e5 Bxf3 10.exf6 exf6 11.gxf3 And despite the fact that the game was about 50+ moves, Black simply can resign here. 1-0 (59) Cori Tello, D (2413)-Muzychuk, A (2606) Istanbul 2012) 9.Be2 c6 10.0-0 cxd5 11.exd5 Nbd7 12.Rd1 Ne8 13.Bg5 h6 14.Bf4 Nd6 Black has a solid position. 0-1 (34) Andonovski, L (2274)-Safarli, E (2616) Eilat 2012]

8...Bd7 As usual, Black does not want to defend b7-pawn. 9.Qb3

[9.Qc5!? b6 10.Qg5 c5 11.dxc5 Bc6 12.Qh4 bxc5 13.Be2 e6 14.Bg5 h6 15.Bxh6 Nxe4 16.Qf4 Nxc3 With an excellent position for Black. From this game starts the popularity of 7.î Pe6 0-1 (50) Morozovich, A (2770)-Giri, A (2696) Biel 2012]

[9.Qxb7? Such a move should not even cross our mind. Bc6 10.Qb3 Nxe4 and White should start to think about equality.]

9...c5

[9...Nc6]

10.d5 We have no choice now.

[10.dxc5!? Bc6 Is just very comfortable for Black.]

10...Qb6

[10...b5 11.e5

A) 11...Ng4 12.Bf4

A1) 12...Qb6 This was tried recently. The threat is î ...f2 followed by c4 13.Qc2 Bf5

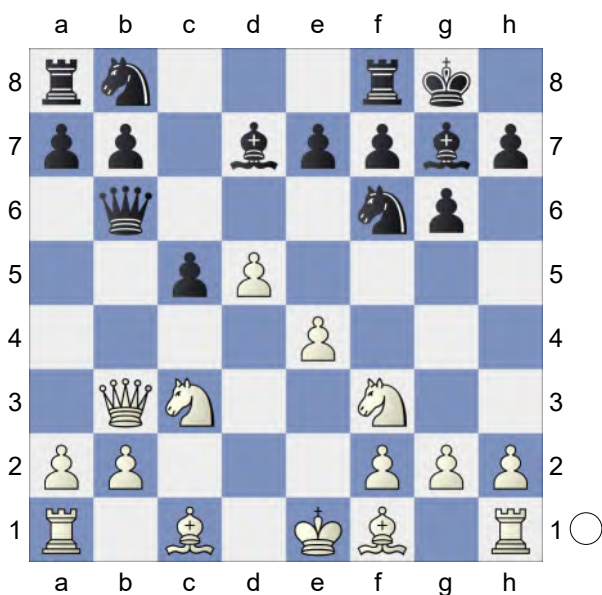
A1a) 14.Bd3?! Bxd3 15.Qxd3 Nd7 16.Qe2 Qb8?! (16...b4! 17.Na4 Qc7 Gives Black a good game.) 17.0-0 b4 18.Ne4 Ngxe5 19.Nxc5 Nxf3+ 20.Qxf3= 1/2 (70)

Checa,N (2362)-Mikhalevski,V (2526) Rockville 2015;

A1b) 14.Qe2!N Black's pieces seem active, but there are not concrete threats and he will be attacked and doomed to a passive position soon. 14...f6 15.e6 All Black's pieces on the king side seem strange, Nd4 is coming. c4 16.Qd2± b4 is always well met by: 17.Nd1±;

A2) 12...Qc7 This move was offered in a late comment after Svidler's game, but there after: 13.Nxb5 Bxb5 14.Bxb5 Nxe5 15.0-0± White is simply better because of the better pawn structure and more active pieces.;

B) 11...c4 12.Qd1 Ng4 13.Bf4 Qb6 14.Qe2 b4 15.Nd1 With a clear advantage. 1-0 (36) Baron,T (2513)-Vucinic,G (2343) Skopje 2014]



After this White is simply better. **11.Bc4** I like Svidler's approach, he first

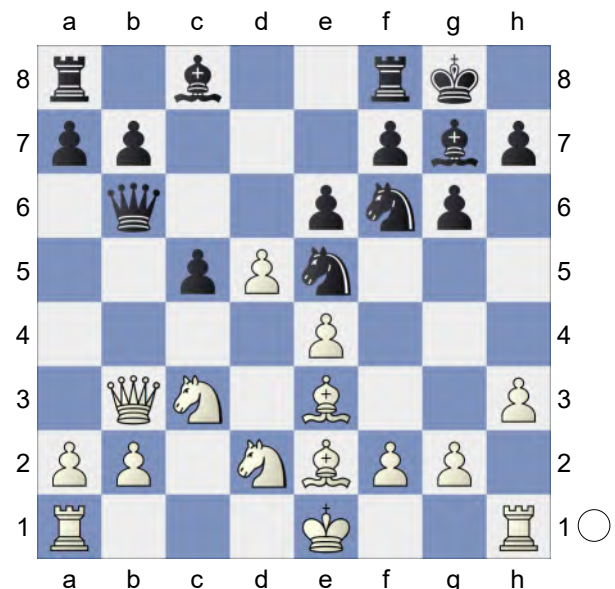
develops his pieces and then starts to take some concrete actions.

[11.e5 This is first line of my engine, but there is no need to enter into some complications in a strategically better position. Ne8 12.Bf4]

11...Bg4 12.Be3 Nbd7

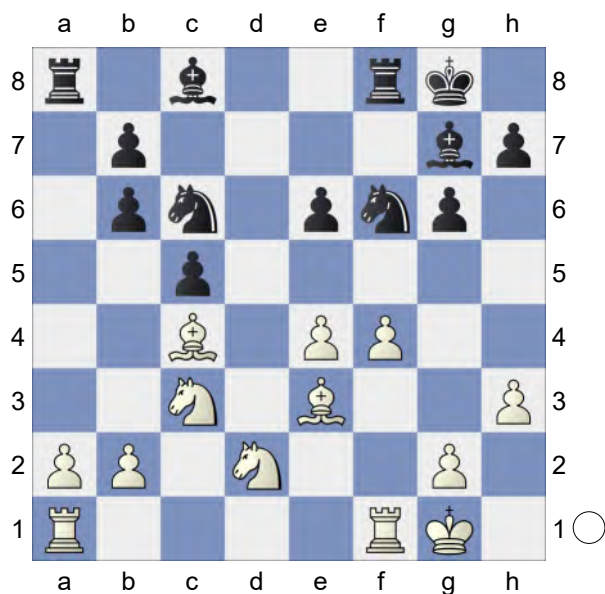
[12...Bxf3!? Maybe the best chance 13.gxf3 Nbd7 14.Qxb6 axb6 15.Bb5 White has a long-lasting advantage in the endgame.]

13.Nd2 Suddenly Black's bishop is in trouble and White manages to develop his pieces perfectly. **13...Ne5 14.h3 Bc8 15.Be2±** White has an enormous advantage: f4-e5 is coming. Because the game was at rapid chess, we shouldn't judge very harsh the Russian grandmaster that somewhere in the game he even find himself in a difficult situation. The objective evaluation of the opening is that Black has big difficulties and he should try b5, which also not equalize but at least give some practical chances. I left the rest of the game without comments, because it is irrelevant for our topic. **15...e6**

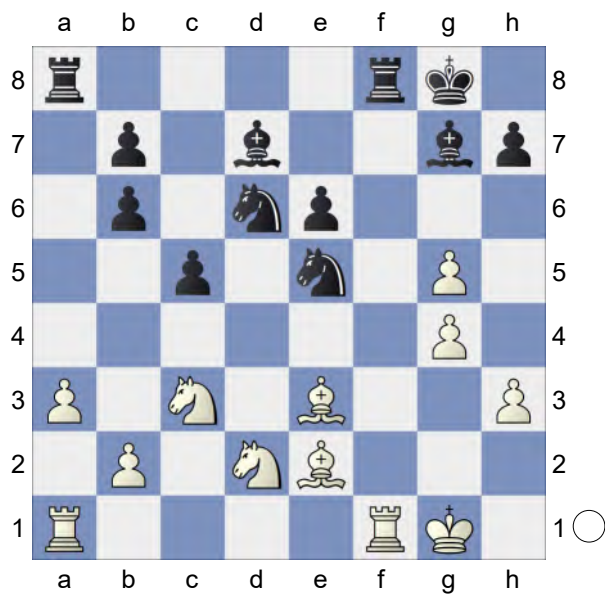


16.Qxb6 axb6 17.f4 Ned7 18.dxe6

fxe6 19.Bc4 Nb8 20.0-0 Nc6

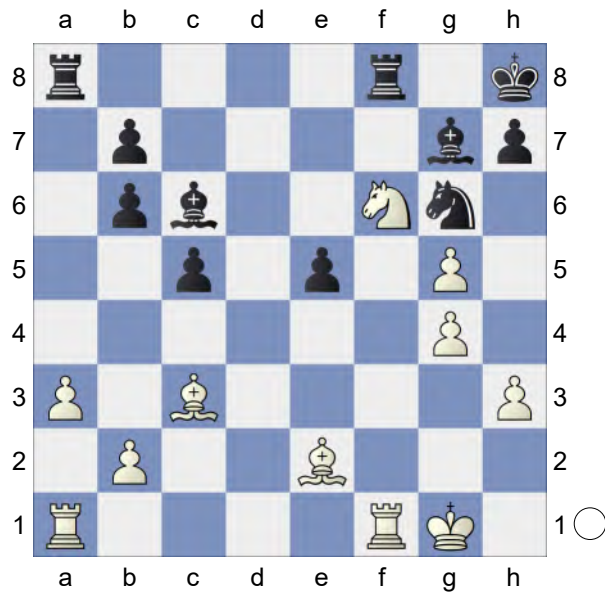


**21.e5 Ne8 22.a3 g5 23.fxg5 Nxe5
24.Be2 Nd6 25.g4 Bd7**

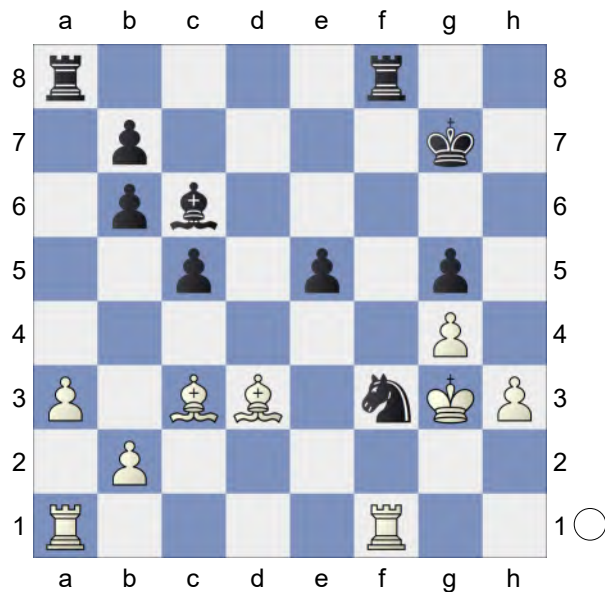


**26.Nce4 Nxe4 27.Nxe4 Bc6 28.Nf6+
Kh8 29.Bd2 Ng6 30.Bc3 e5**

(Diagram)

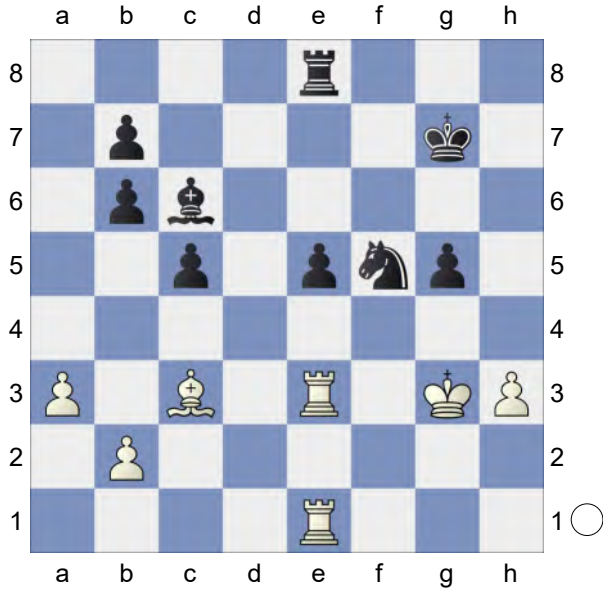


**31.Kh2 h6 32.Nh5 hxc5 33.Bd3 Nh4
34.Nxc7 Nf3+ 35.Kg3 Kxc7**

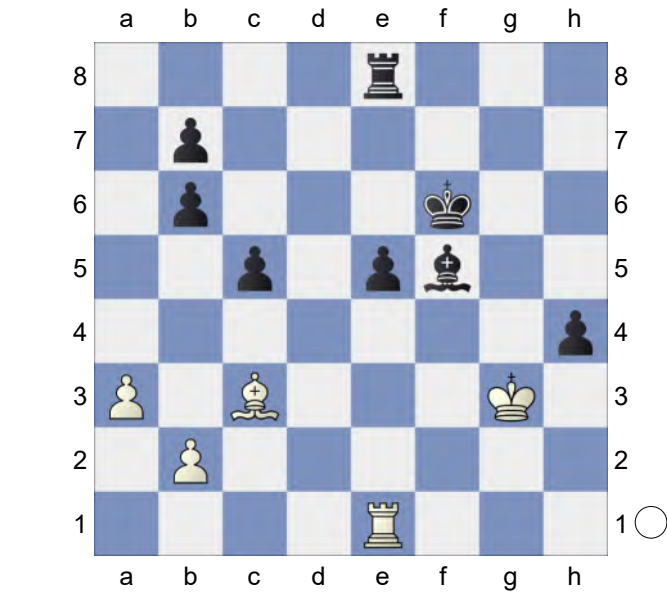
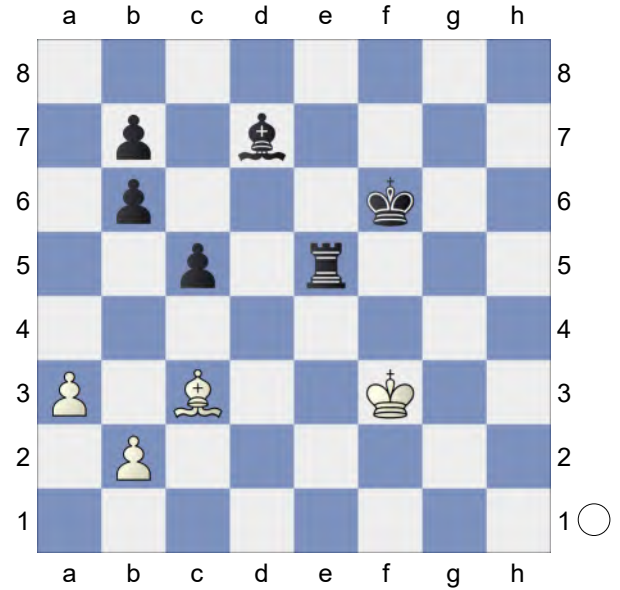


**36.Bf5 Nd4 37.Rae1 Rae8 38.Re3
Rf7 39.Rfe1 Rxf5 40.gxf5 Nxf5+**

(Diagram)



41.Kg4 Nxe3+ 42.Rxe3 Kf6 43.Re1 Bd7+ 44.Kg3 Bf5 45.h4 gxh4+ 1/2-1/2



46.Kxh4 Bd3 47.Kg4 Bf5+ 48.Kf3 Bd7 49.Rxe5 Rxe5

(Diagram)

46

□ Yu, Yangyi

■ Wei, Yi

(m/1) 142/(155)

[Arsovic, Goran]

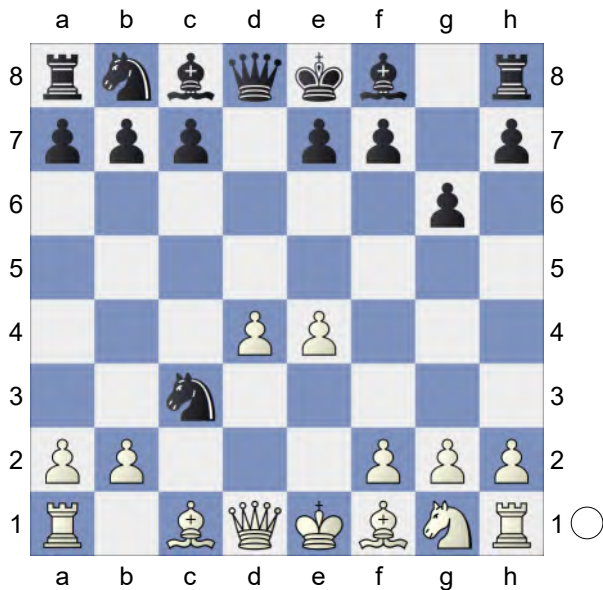
D85

2763

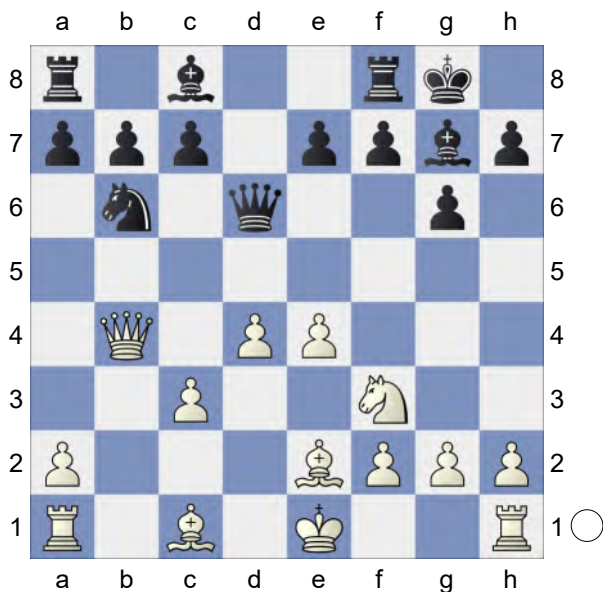
2721

2019

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5
Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3



6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Qa4+ Nd7 8.Nf3 0-0 *
9.Be2 Nb6 10.Qb4 Qd6



11.0-0 Bd7N

[11...Bg4 - 134/153]

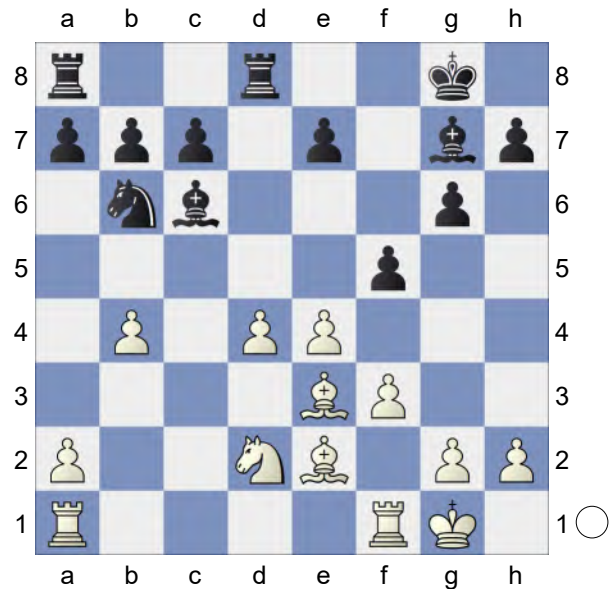
[11...Qxb4]

12.Be3 Qxb4 13.cxb4 Bc6 14.Nd2
[14.d5 Ba4! 15.Rac1 c6 16.dxc6
Bxc6 17.Nd2 Rfc8]

14...f5

[14...Ba4! ?]

15.f3 Rfd8

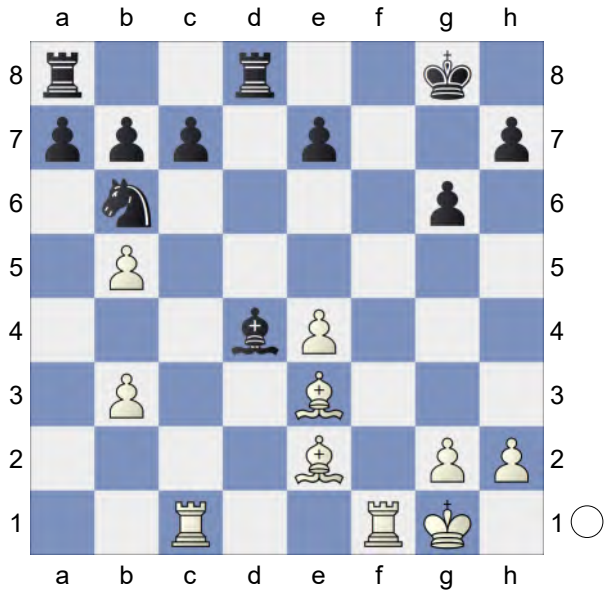


16.b5 Be8 17.Nb3 Bf7

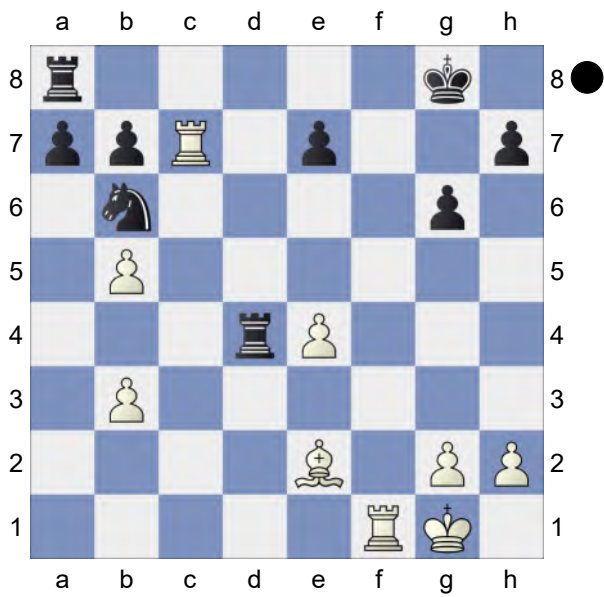
[17...c6! 18.bxc6 Bxc6 19.d5
(19.e5 Nd5 20.Bd2 b6=) 19...Bxd5
(19...Bd7) 20.exd5 Bxa1 21.Rxa1
Nxd5 22.Bg5 Rac8]

18.Rac1 fxe4 19.fxe4 Bxb3 20.axb3
Bxd4

(Diagram)



21.Bxd4 Rxd4 22.Rxc7



240

□ Wei,Yi

■ Yu,Yangyi

Khanty-Mansiysk (m/4-rapid) 142/170

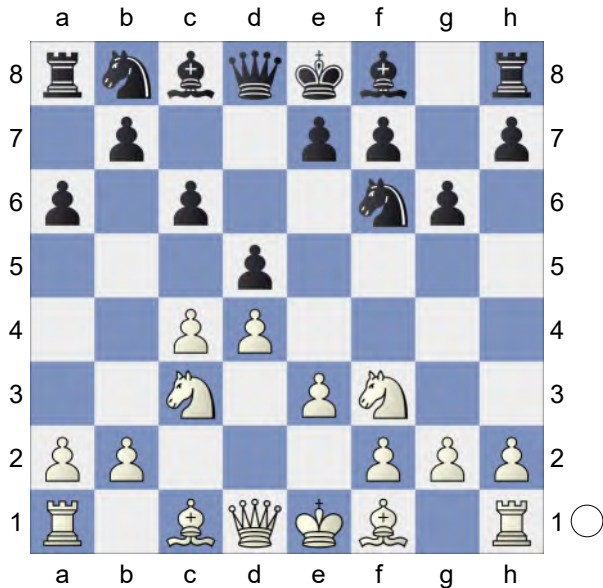
[Arsovic,Goran]

D94

2721

2763

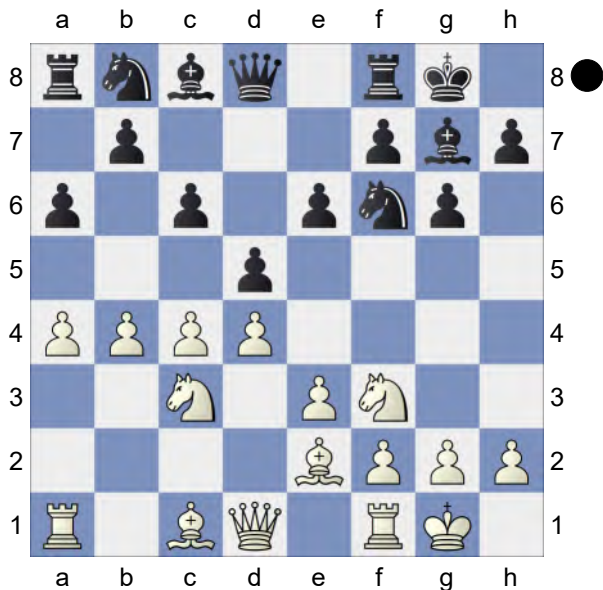
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 a6
5.e3 g6



6.Be2 Bg7 7.0-0 0-0 8.a4 e6

[8...Bg4 - 115/163]

9.b4 Diagram



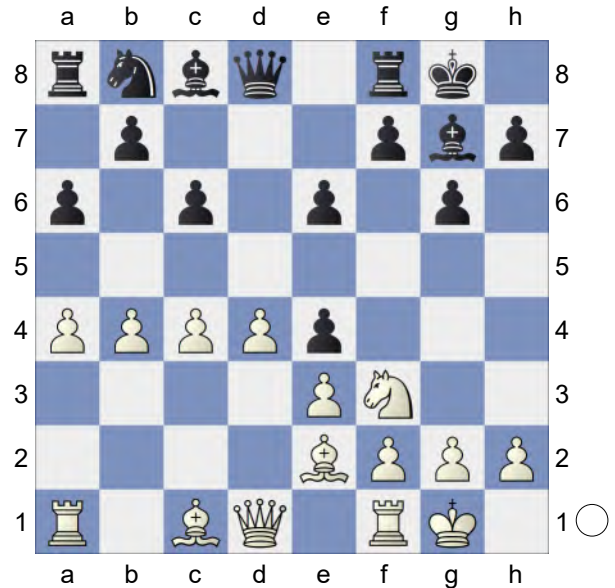
9...Ne4N

[9...Nbd7]

10.Nxe4

[10.Qc2 Nxc3 11.Qxc3 Nd7 12.Bb2
Re8 13.Rfd1±]

10...dxe4



11.Nd2 f5

[11...e5 12.Nb3 exd4 (12...Qg5
13.Qc2 Bf5 14.Bb2 Nd7 15.Rfd1±)
13.exd4 Qe7 14.Be3 f5 15.Qd2±]

12.c5

[12.Bb2 Nd7 13.Nb3 Nf6 14.Qc2
Qe7 15.Rfd1±]

12...Nd7 13.Nc4 Nf6 14.f3 Bd7

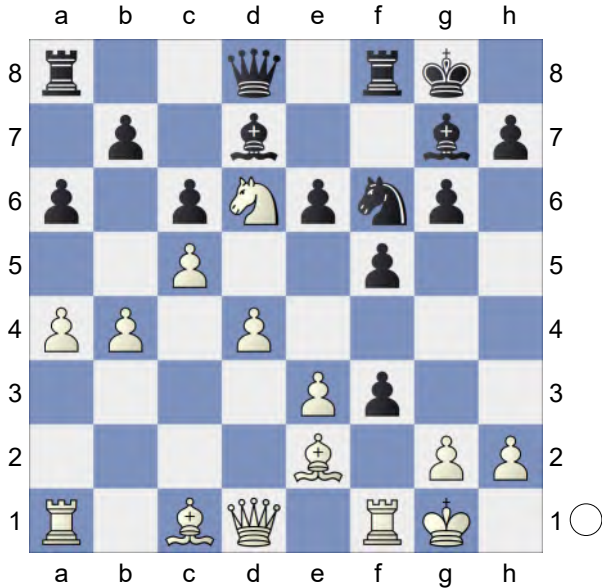
[14...exf3 15.Bxf3 Nd5 16.Qb3 Bd7
17.g3±]

15.Nd6

[15.fxe4 Nxe4 16.Bd3 Nc3 17.Qd2
Nd5 18.Bb2 Bf6 19.Rae1±]

15...exf3

(Diagram)



16.Bxf3 Qc7 17.Qb3 Kh8 18.Bd2 g5
19.g3

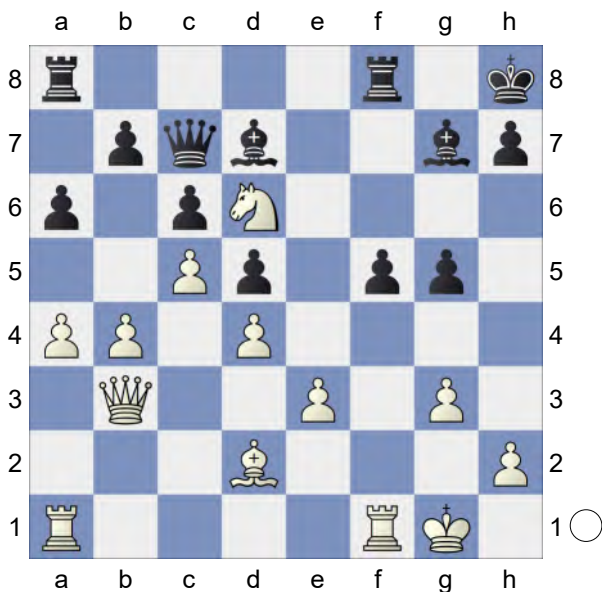
[19.b5 axb5 20.axb5 Qb8 21.g3±]

19...Nd5 20.Bxd5

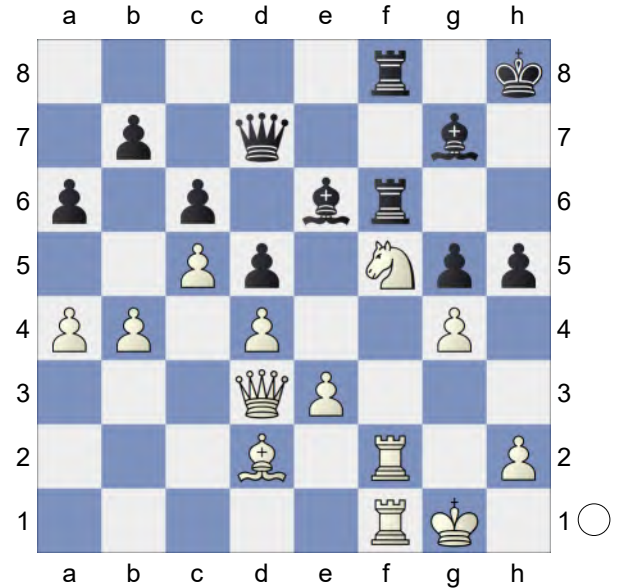
[20.Qd3! Be8 21.e4 fxe4 22.Bxe4 h6 23.Rae1±]

20...exd5

[20...cxd5 21.Rac1 Bf6 22.b5 axb5 23.axb5 Be7 24.Nxb7! Qxb7 25.c6 Bxc6 26.Rxc6±]



21.Qd3 Be6 22.Rf2 Rf6 23.Raf1 Raf8
24.Nxf5 Qd7 25.g4 h5



26.h3 Kg8 27.e4?

[27.Kg2 Bxf5 28.Rxf5 Rxf5 29.Rxf5±]

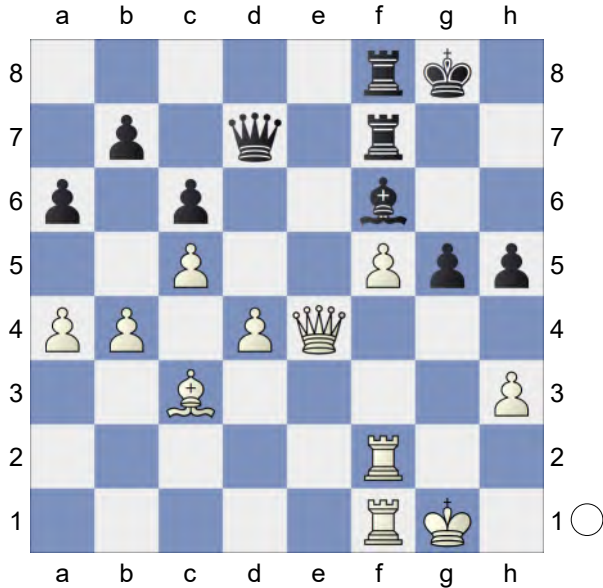
27...dxe4

[27...hgx4! 28.hgx4 dxe4 29.Qxe4 Bxf5 30.gxf5 (30.Rxf5 Rxf5 31.Rxf5 Rxf5 32.gxf5 Bxd4+ 33.Kg2 Bf6 34.Be3 Kg7=) 30...R6f7 31.Bc3 Re8 32.Qd3 Bf6±]

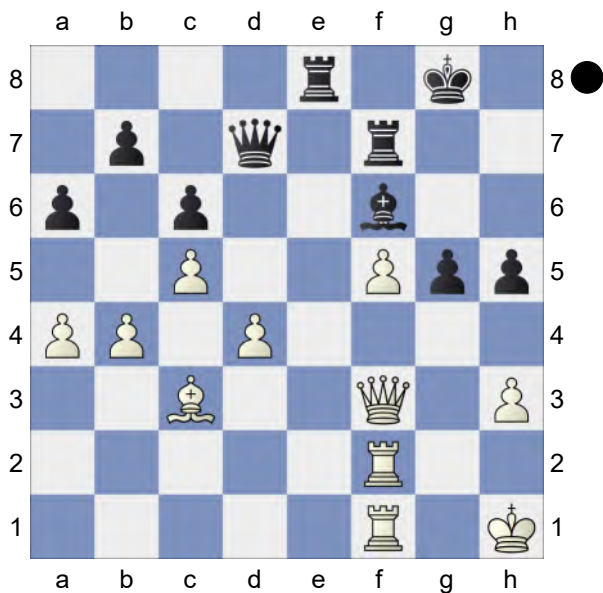
28.Qxe4 Bxf5 29.gxf5 R6f7 30.Bc3 Bf6

[30...Re8! 31.Qf3 g4! 32.hgx4 Bxd4 33.Bxd4 Qxd4 34.g5 Re3 35.Qf4 Qxf4 36.Rxf4 Rg3+ 37.Kh2 Rxd5=]

(Diagram)



31.Kh1 Re8 32.Qf3 Diagram



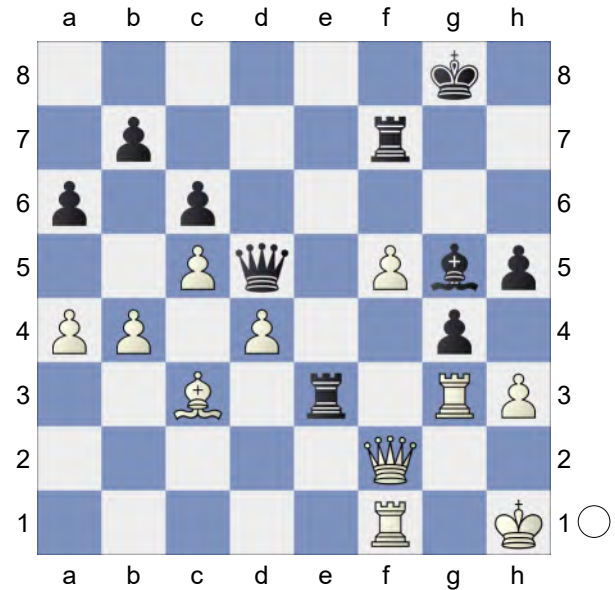
32...g4! 33.Rg2?!

[33.hxg4 hxg4 34.Qxg4+ Rg7
35.Qf3 (35.Qf4 Qd5+ 36.Qf3 Re4↑)
35...Bxd4 36.Bxd4 Qxd4 37.Rg2
Rxc2 38.Qxc2+ Kf8 39.f6 Qe4
40.Rd1 Qh4+ 41.Kg1 Re1+ 42.Rxe1
Qxe1+ 43.Kh2 Qh4+ 44.Kg1 Qxf6=]

33...Bg5 34.Qf2?

[34.hxg4 Re3 35.gxh5! Rxf3
36.Rxc5+ Rg7 37.Rxc7+ Qxc7
38.Rxf3 Qg4 39.Re3 Qxf5 40.Kg2
Qxh5=]

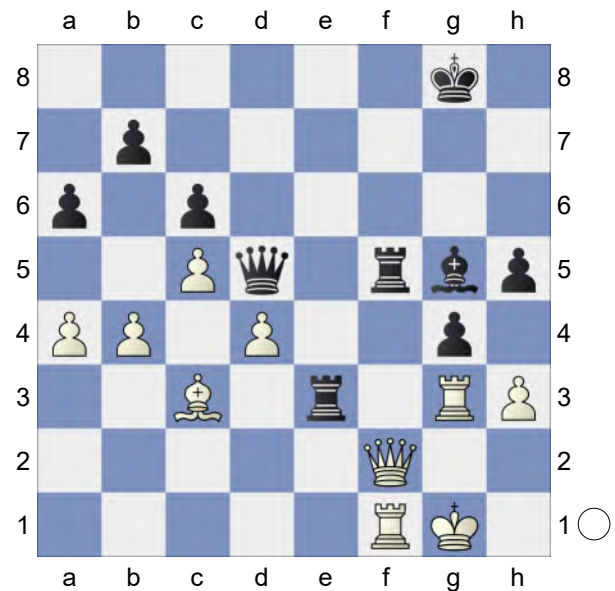
34...Re3+ 35.Rg3 Qd5+



36.Kg1

[36.Kh2 Rxf5 37.Qxf5 Re2+ 38.Qf2
Rxf2+ 39.Rxf2 Bh4-+]

36...Rxf5!



0-1

199

□ Wei, Yi

■ Xu, Yinglun

City 132/100

[Arsovic, Goran]

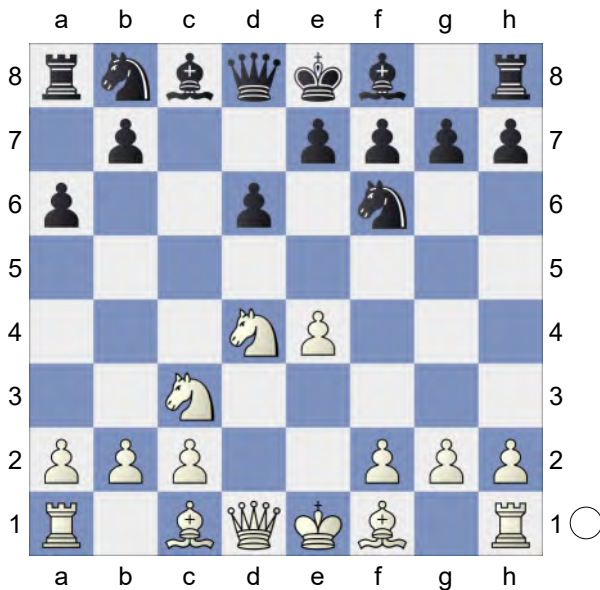
B94

2725

2540

2017

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6



6.Bg5 Nbd7 7.Bc4 Qb6 8.0-0

Roiz,M: 'This is one of most aggressive ways of handling the position - White gives up an important pawn.' This is one of most aggressive ways of handling the position - White gives up an important pawn. Arsovic,Goran: 'Roiz,M: 'This is one of most aggressive ways of handling the position - White gives up an important pawn.' '8...Qxb2' Roiz,M: 'Accepting the challenge. This consistent continuation is new to our PGN Archive.' Accepting the challenge. This consistent continuation is new to our PGN Archive. Arsovic,Goran: 'Roiz, M: 'Accepting the challenge. This consistent continuation is new to our PGN Archive.'"

[8...e6?! is dubious. It was covered in

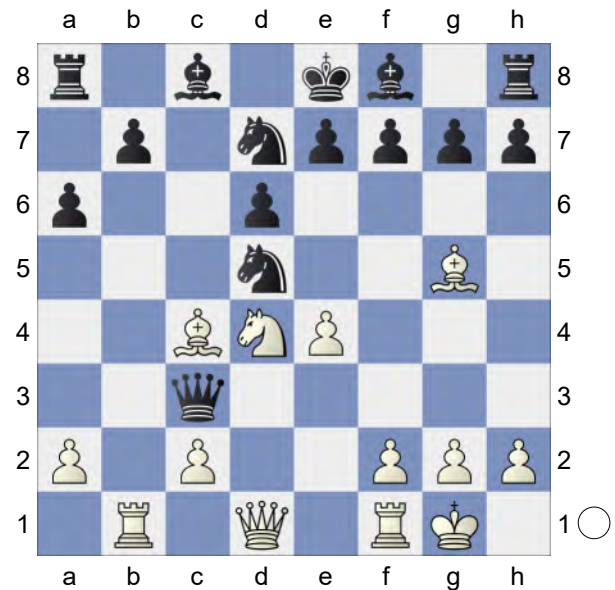
Zhigalko,A (2584)-Ziaziulkina,N (2429) Minsk BLR 2015 [Roiz,M]]

[Another respectable option here is: 8...Qc5 Adhiban,B (2610)-Swiercz,D (2617) Biel 2014 [Roiz,M]]

9.Nd5 Nxd5 10.Rb1

[10.Bxd5 usually leads to a transposition, since after Qc3 White has nothing better than]

10...Qc3



11.Bxd5 Roiz,M: 'This is the critical position of the opening. Now Black is at a crossroads.' This is the critical position of the opening. Now Black is at a crossroads. Arsovic,Goran: 'Roiz,M: 'This is the critical position of the opening. Now Black is at a crossroads.'"

11...Qc7 Roiz,M: '?!' '?!' '?!' '?!' '?!' Roiz, M: 'This is the most common continuation, but 2 other possibilities look much better. Indeed, Black is moving his queen again and again without good reason' This is the most common continuation, but 2 other possibilities look much better. Indeed, Black is moving his queen again and again without good reason! Arsovic, Goran: 'Roiz,M: '?!' Roiz,M: 'This is the

most common continuation, but 2 other possibilities look much better. Indeed, Black is moving his queen again and again without good reason!" n!

[11...g6!? was seen only once before, and it looks perfectly playable at the moment: 12.Rb3 Qa5! (12...Qc7? 13.Qa1! Rg8 was seen in Azarov,S - Xu,Y Moscow RUS 2016 Now White could have developed a decisive attack by means of 14.Rf3! Ne5 15.Rc3 Qd8 16.Qb2 Bg7 17.Qb3 Rf8 18.Bxb7 Rb8 19.Rxc8 Rxc8 20.Bxa6+-) 13.Qf3 (13.Qa1 Bg7 14.Nc6 Bxa1 15.Nxa5 Bf6 16.Bxf6 Nxf6 17.Bxb7 Bxb7 18.Rxb7 Rc8=) 13...Ne5 14.Qe3 (14.Qe2 Bg7 15.Bxb7 Bxb7 16.Rxb7 0-0 17.Bxe7 Rfc8=) 14...h6 15.Bh4 Bg7 16.Bxb7 Bxb7 17.Rxb7 0-0 18.Bxe7 Rfe8 with sufficient play for a pawn.]

[The most natural 11...e6 12.Bxb7 Bxb7 13.Rxb7 Nc5 looks somewhat scary to the human eye, but the activity of White's rook hardly bothers Black here: 14.Rb6 Nxe4 (14...h6!? looks even safer: 15.Bf4 Be7 16.Bxd6 Bxd6 17.Rxd6 0-0= , and Black is absolutely fine.) 15.Be3 Be7 16.Qg4 Nf6 17.Qxg7 Rg8 18.Qh6 Rg4! (Inferior is the previously played 18...Rg6?! 19.Qh3 Qc4 20.Rfb1↑ Sheng,J - Preotu,R Rockville USA 2016) 19.Rb3 (19.Rd1 Rc8 20.Rb7 Rc4 21.Rb8+ Kd7 22.Rb7+ Ke8=) 19...Qc4 20.c3 Rc8 21.Rfb1 Qd3 22.Rb7 e5 23.Nf3 Rgc4≠ , and the Ke8 is quite safe.]

12.f4 Roiz,M: '!' '!' '!' '!' '!' Roiz,M: 'The most precise.'The most precise. Arsovic, Goran: 'Roiz,M: '!' Roiz,M: 'The most precise.'"

[A spectacular queen sac took place

in the following game: 12.Qh5 g6 13.Qf3 e6 14.Qxf7+ Kxf7 15.Nxe6 Qa5 (If Black isn't satisfied with a draw, it is possible to enter into a complicated endgame after 15...Qc6!? 16.Nd8+ Kg7 17.Nxc6 bxc6 18.Bxc6 Ra7 19.Be3 Rc7 20.Bxd7 Bxd7 21.Bd4+ Kg8 22.Rb8 Bc8 23.Bxh8 Kxh8≠) 16.Nd8+ Kg7 17.Ne6+ Kf7 Barrientos,S - Mareco,S San Salvador ESA 2016]

[12.Re1 can lead to the text after e6 (However, Black has some alternatives such as 12...h6!? 13.Bh4 g6≠)]

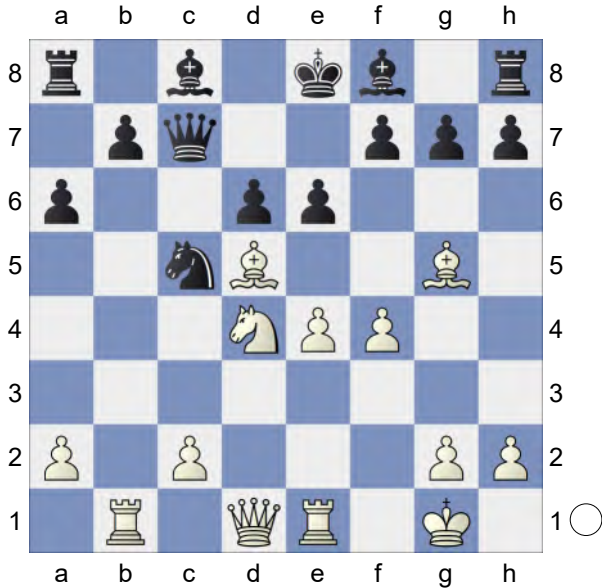
12...e6 13.Re1 Nc5N Diagram

[13...Nf6 - 124/79 Roiz,M: 'was checked in a few games before. I can hardly recommend this way either: Arsovic,Goran: '- 124/79' 14.Bxf6 gxf6 15.f5! e5 (After 15...exd5 16.exd5+ Kd8 17.Qh5 Bg7 18.Rb3± Black is almost paralysed.) 16.Ne2 h5 We have been following Kobo,O - Mammadzada,G Pardubice CZE 2015. Now the simple 17.Rb3! h4 18.Qd3 offers White a powerful attack.]

[After 13...Ne5 14.Bxe6 fxe6 15.fxe5 dxe5 16.Nb3 Bd6 17.Rf1 Rf8 18.Qg4↑ Black is also in some trouble.]

[Perhaps the best way was: 13...exd5 14.exd5+ Ne5 15.Qh5 g6 16.Qh4 Bg7 17.fxe5 dxe5 18.Bf6 0-0 19.Rxe5 Qc5 20.Bxg7 Kxg7 21.Qf2± White is better due to his strong central pawns, but there is nothing drastic.]

(Diagram)



Roiz,M: '?!' '?!' '?!' '?!' '?!' Roiz,M: 'This is an unsuccessful innovation, but Black was already in big danger.' 'This is an unsuccessful innovation, but Black was already in big danger. Arsovic, Goran: 'N' Arsovic, Goran: 'Diagram [#]' Roiz,M: '?!' Roiz,M: 'This is an unsuccessful innovation, but Black was already in big danger.'" Roiz,M: 'This is an unsuccessful innovation, but Black was already in big danger. Arsovic, Goran: 'N' Arsovic, Goran: 'Diagram [#]' **14.f5!** Roiz,M: 'Arsovic, Goran: '!' **14...Be7** Roiz,M: '?' '?' '?' '?' '?' Roiz,M: 'A decisive attack.' 'A decisive attack. Arsovic, Goran: 'Roiz,M: '?' Roiz,M: 'A decisive attack.'"'

[14...e5 Roiz,M: 'was the lesser evil:' 'was the lesser evil: Arsovic, Goran: 'Roiz,M: 'was the lesser evil:'" **15.Qh5!** Roiz,M: 'Arsovic, Goran: '!' g6 (15...exd4? 16.e5 dxe5 17.Rxe5+-) 16.fxc6 (16.Qh4 Bg7±) 16...fxg6 17.Qf3

A) 17...exd4 18.e5+-;

B) 17...Bg7 18.Nf5! Rf8
(18...gxf5 19.Qh5+ Kf8
20.exf5+-) 19.Nxg7+ Qxg7

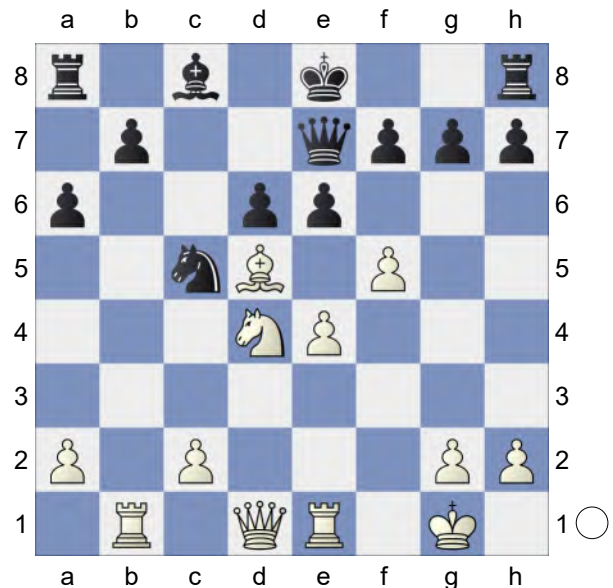
20.Qe3±;

C) 17...Be7 18.Qf7+ Kd8 19.Nf3 Bxg5 20.Nxg5 Qe7 21.Qxe7+ Kxe7 22.Rf1 h6 23.Rf7+ Kd8 24.Nh7±]

[Roiz,M: 'In case of' 'In case of Arsovic, Goran: 'Roiz,M: 'In case of'" 14...h6 15.Bh4 (15.Qh5?! g6! 16.fxc6 fxc6 17.Qxg6+ Qf7 18.Qxf7+ Kxf7 19.Rf1+ Kg6 20.Bf6 Bg7∞) 15...g5 16.fxc6 fxc6 17.Qg4 h5 (17...g5 18.e5! Black hardly can stop the attack either. For instance, gxh4 19.Bxe6 Kd8 20.Bxc8 Rxc8 21.exd6 Bxd6 22.Qxh4+ Kd7 23.Qg4+ Kd8 24.Nf5+-) 18.Qxg6+ (18.Qg3 Qg7 19.Rbd1↑) 18...Qf7 19.Qxf7+ Kxf7 20.Bb3±]

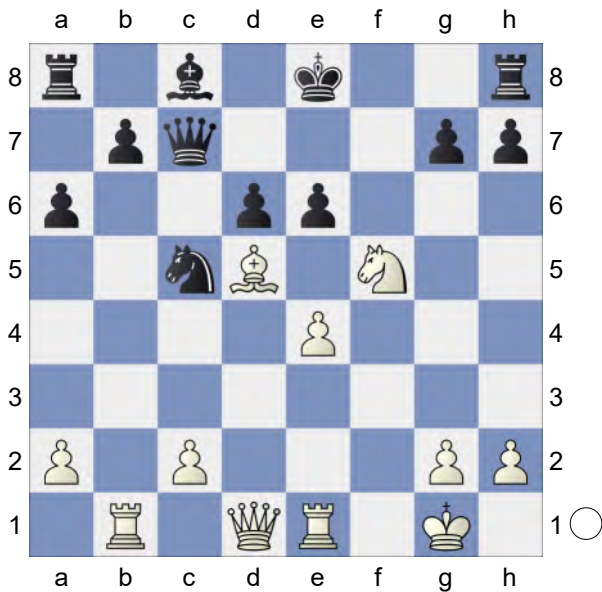
15.Bxe7 Qxe7

[Or 15...Kxe7 16.Qg4 g6 17.fxe6 fxe6 18.e5 dxe5 19.Qg5+ Ke8 20.Rxe5+-]



16.fxe6 fxe6 17.Nf5! Roiz,M: 'Black has no time to complete development!' 'Black has no time to complete development! Arsovic, Goran: 'Roiz,M: 'Black has no time to complete

development!" 17...Qc7 Diagram

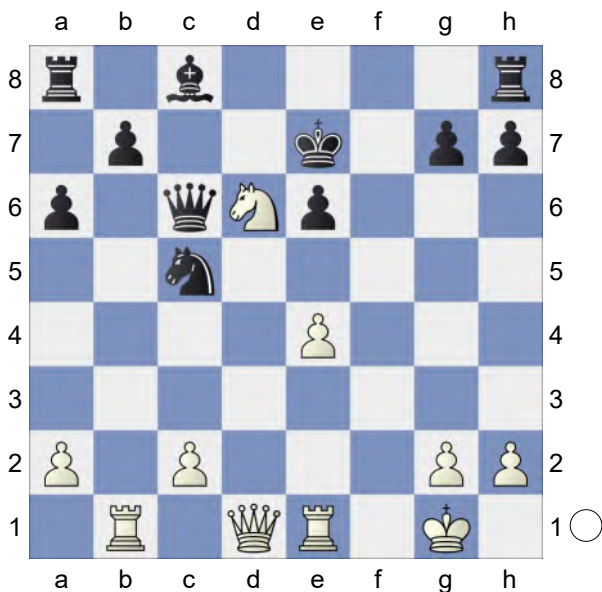


Roiz,M: 'Arsovic,Goran: 'Diagram [#]'
18.Bc6+!+- Roiz,M: '!' '!' '!' '!' '!' Roiz,M:
 'White's play is very natural and strong.
 "White's play is very natural and strong.
 Arsovic,Goran: '+-!' Arsovic,Goran: 'Roiz,
 M: '!' Roiz,M: 'White's play is very
 natural and strong.'" **18...Qxc6**

[18...Kd8 19.Nxd6 Qxc6 20.Nf7+
 Kc7 21.Nxh8+-]

[18...bxc6 19.Nxd6+ Ke7 20.Qg4+-]

19.Nxd6+ Ke7 Diagram



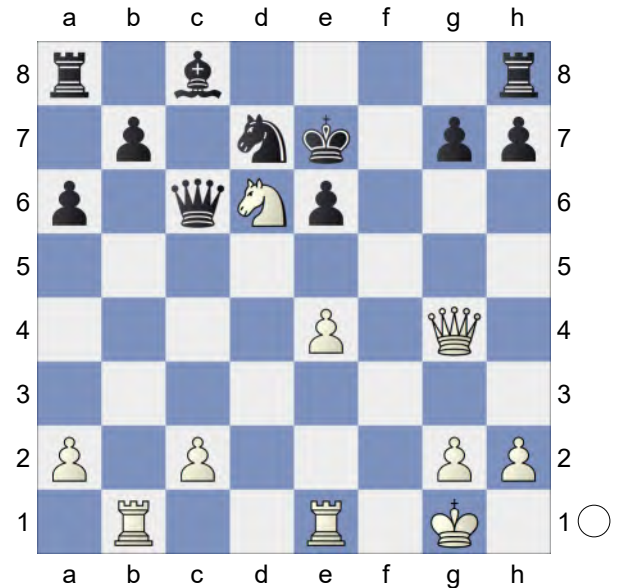
Roiz,M: 'Arsovic,Goran: 'Diagram [#]'

20.Qg4!

[20.Qd4? e5! 21.Qxe5+ Ne6
 22.Nf5+ Kf7 23.Nd6+ Ke7=]

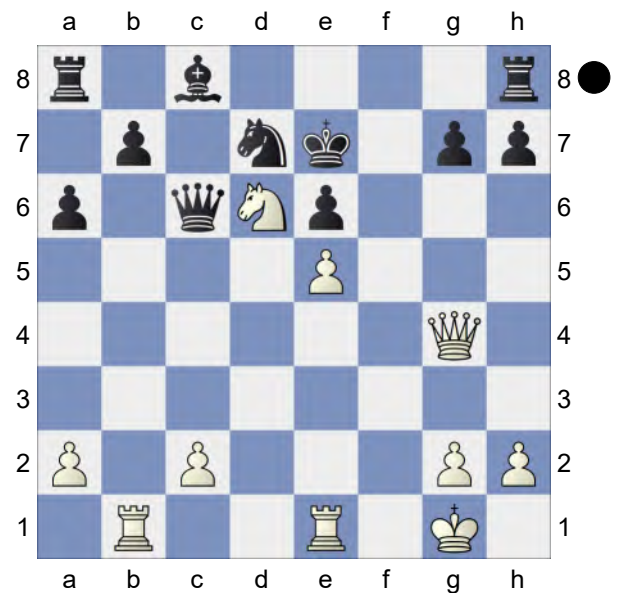
20...Nd7

[20...Qxd6 21.Qxg7+ Ke8 22.Qxh8+
 Qf8 23.Qe5 Nd7 24.Qxe6+ Kd8
 25.e5+-]



21.e5

[21.e5 Qc5+ (21...Kd8 22.Nf7+ Kc7
 23.Nxh8+-) 22.Kh1 Nxe5 23.Qxg7+
 Kxd6 24.Rxe5 Qxe5 25.Rd1+-]



Roiz,M: 'The resignation comes on time - the lack of harmony makes Black's position completely hopeless.'"The resignation comes on time - the lack of harmony makes Black's position completely hopeless. Arsovic,Goran: 'Roiz,M: 'The resignation comes on time - the lack of harmony makes Black's position completely hopeless.'"

1-0

462

□ Wei,Yi

■ Xiu,Deshun

Danzhou 118/76

[Arsovic,Goran]

B90

2530

2534

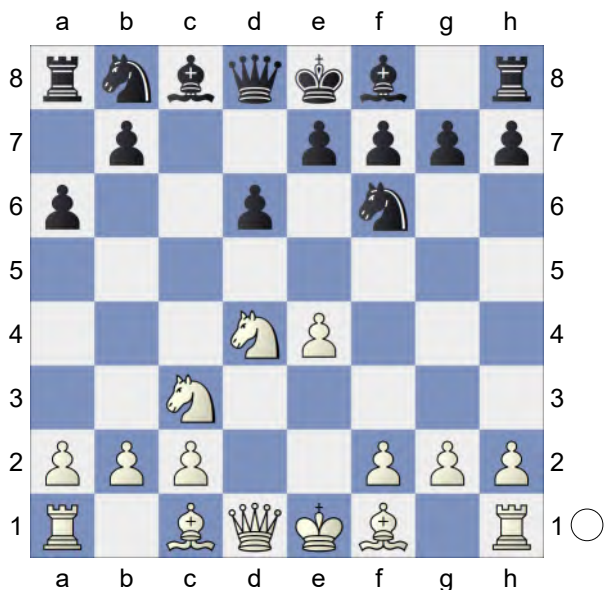
2013

1.e4

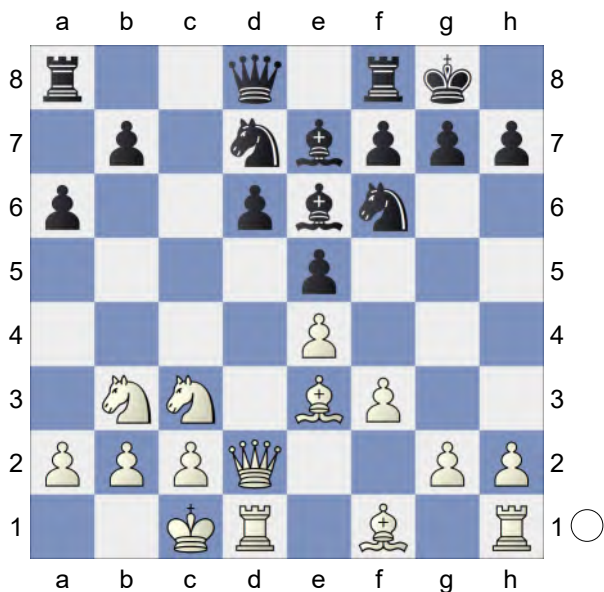
Arsovic,G Arsovic,G: 'Arsovic,

Goran' 1...c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4

4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6

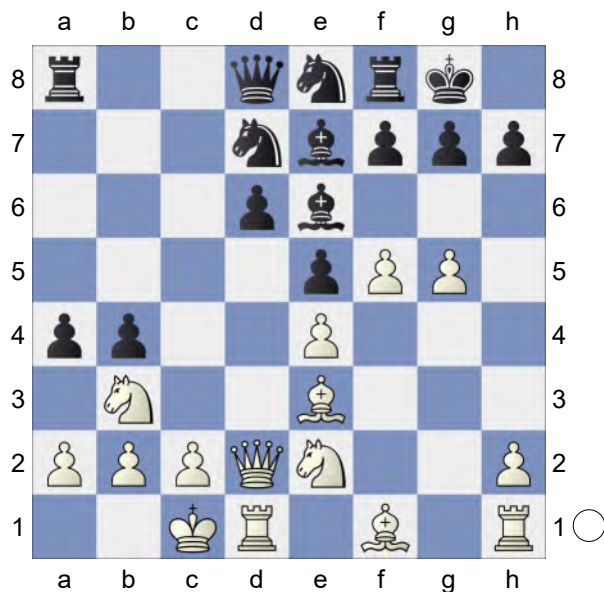


6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.f3 Be6 9.Qd2
0-0 10.0-0-0 Nbd7

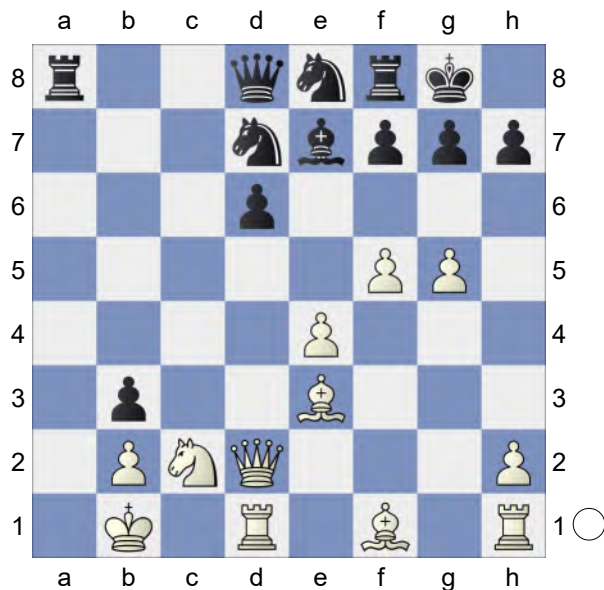


11.g4 b5 12.g5 b4 13.Ne2 Ne8 14.f4

a5 15.f5 a4



16.Nbd4 exd4 17.Nxd4 b3 18.Kb1
bxc2+ 19.Nxc2 Bb3 20.axb3 axb3

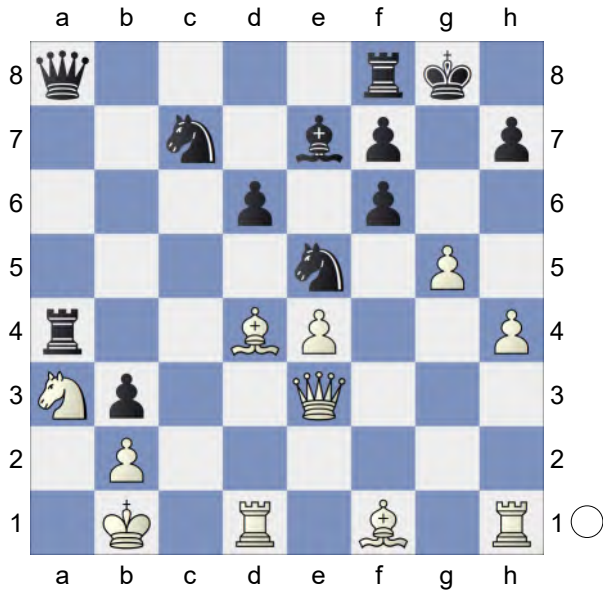


21.Na3 Ne5 22.h4 Ra4 23.Bd4

[23.Rh3 Ü 117/(76)]

23...Qa8 24.Qe3 Nc7 25.f6 gxf6

(Diagram)

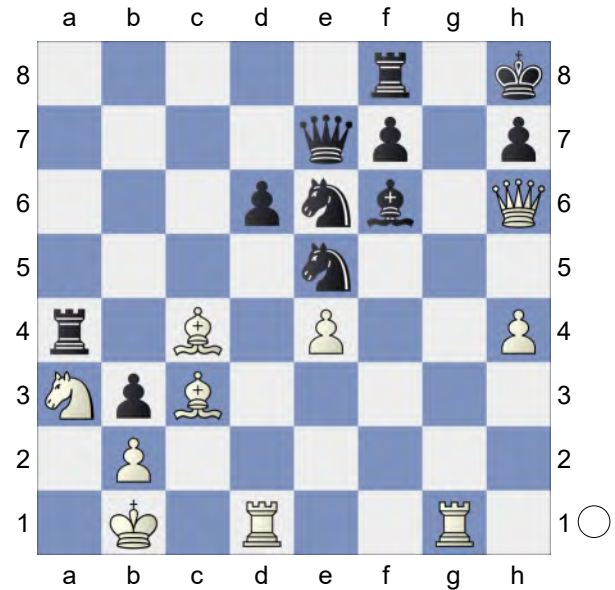


26.gxf6 Bxf6 27.Rg1+ Kh8 28.Qh6 Qd8 29.Bc4

[29.Bb6 Qe7! (29...Ng6?!) 30.Bxc7 Ng6 31.Bxd6 (31.h5? Rxa3 32.bxa3 Qe5-+) 31...Qxe4+ 32.Rd3 (32.Bd3 Qd4 33.Qc1 Qxd6 34.Bxg6 Qb8 35.Qh6 Rxh4 36.Bh5 Bxb2 37.Qg5 Rh2 38.Bxf7 Bc3 39.Rd3 h6 40.Qe3 Qe5 41.Rxc3 Qxe3 42.Rxe3 Rxf7=) 32...Re8 33.Rgg3 (33.h5? Rd4 34.hxg6 fxg6 35.Qd2 Rxd6 36.Be2 g5+) 33...Qe1+ 34.Qc1 Qxc1+ 35.Kxc1 Re1+ 36.Rd1 Bxb2+ 37.Kxb2 Rxd1 38.Bd3 Rxh4 39.Kxb3=]

29...Ne6 30.Bc3 Qe7

(Diagram)



31.Rxd6N

[31.Bd5]

31...Rg8 32.Rdd1 Bg7 33.Bxe5?!

[33.Rxg7! Nxg7 34.Bxb3 Rxe4 35.Nb5 Nf5 (35...Rxh4? 36.Qd6 Ng6 37.Qxe7 Nxe7 38.Nd6±; 35...Ng4 36.Qc6 Re3 37.Nd6 Nh6 38.Bc2 Rd8 39.Ba5 Rb8±) 36.Qc6!]

A) 36...Re3 37.Rf1 Ng7 38.Qh6 Rxc3 39.Nxc3 Ne6 (39...Qb4 40.Bc2 f5 41.Bxf5 Nxf5 42.Qf6+ Ng7 43.Qxe5±) 40.Ne4±;

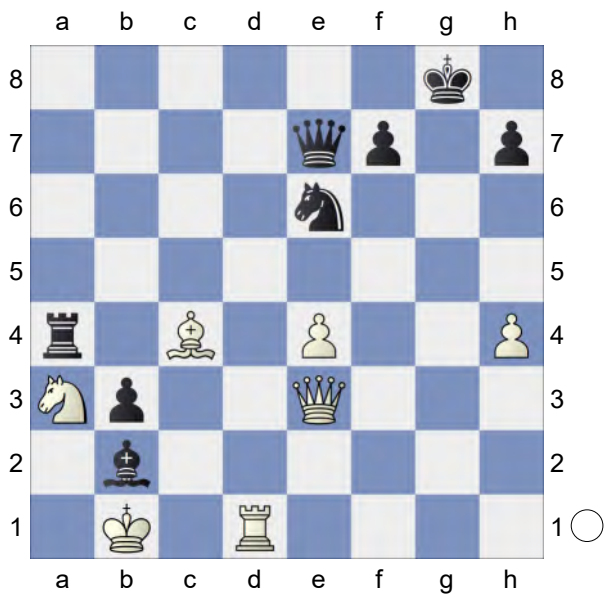
B) 36...Reg4 37.Qc7 (37.Qd7 Qxd7 38.Bxe5+ f6 39.Bxf6+ Qg7 40.Bxg7+ Kxg7 41.Rd7+ Kh6 42.Bxg8 Rxg8=) 37...Qxc7 38.Nxc7 f6 39.Bxg8 Kxg8 40.Nd5 Nd7 41.Bxf6 Kf7 42.Bd8±]

33...Bxe5 34.Rxg8+ Kxg8 35.Qe3?

[35.Rg1+ Kh8 (35...Bg7 36.Qe3 Rxa3 37.Rxg7+ Kxg7 38.Qg3+ Kf8 39.bxa3∞) 36.Qc1 Ra8+]

35...Bxb2!

(Diagram)



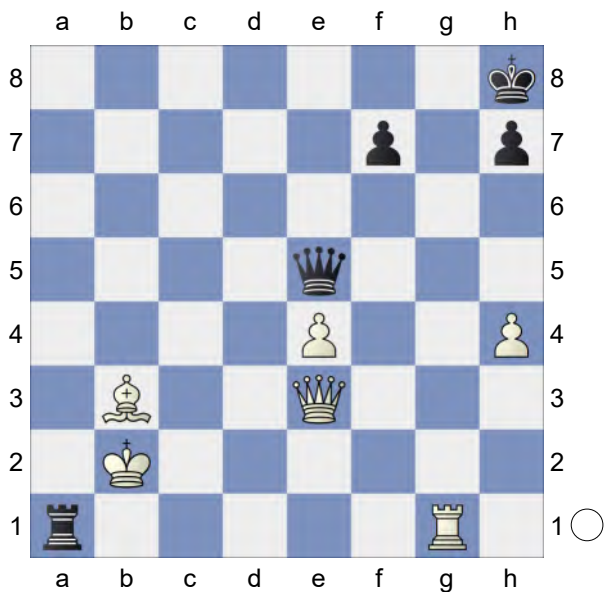
36.Bxe6 Rxa3 37.Rg1+?!

[37.Bxb3 Bg7 38.h5 (38.Qf3 Ra8 $\neq$) 38...Ra8 $\neq$]

37...Kh8 38.Bxb3 Ra1+-+ 39.Kc2

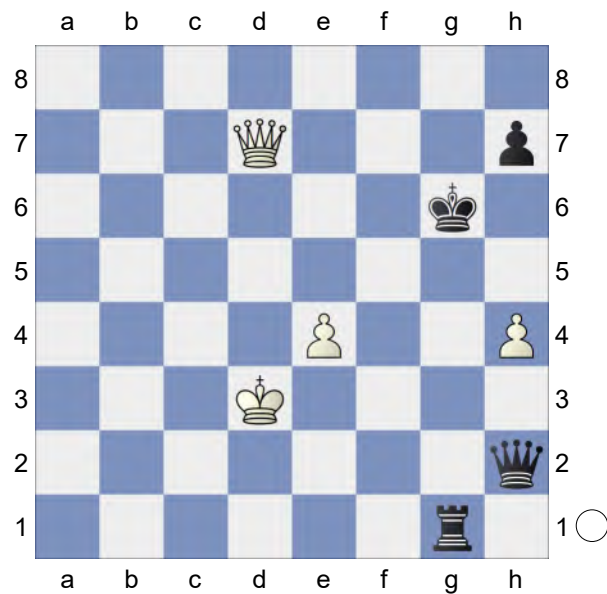
[39.Kxb2 Qe5+ 40.Kc2 Qh2+
Ü 39.♔c2]

39...Qc7+ 40.Kxb2 Qe5+

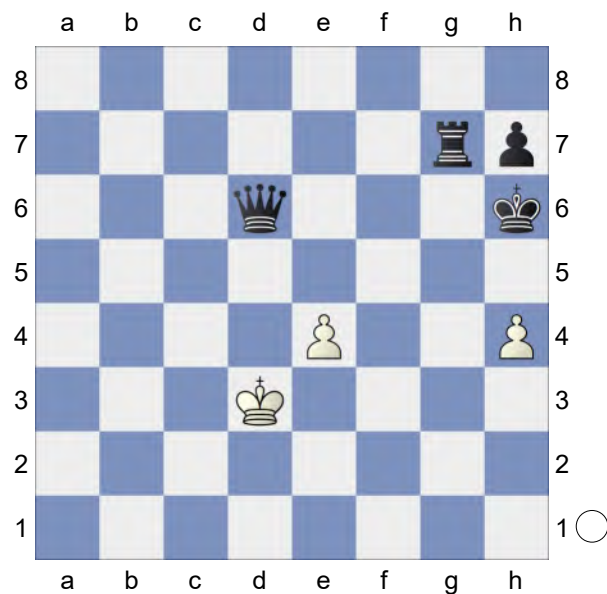


**41.Kc2 Qh2+ Arsovic,G: 'Arsovic,
Goran: 'Ü 39. ♔c2" 42.Kd3 Rxc1
43.Qd4+ Kg8 44.Bxf7+ Kxf7 45.Qd7+
Kg6**

(Diagram)



**46.Qe6+ Kh5 47.Qf5+ Kh6 48.Qf8+
Rg7 49.Qd6+ Qxd6+**



0-1

252

□ Wei, Yi

■ Volokitin, Andrei

(ol) 131/(89)

[Arsovic, Goran]

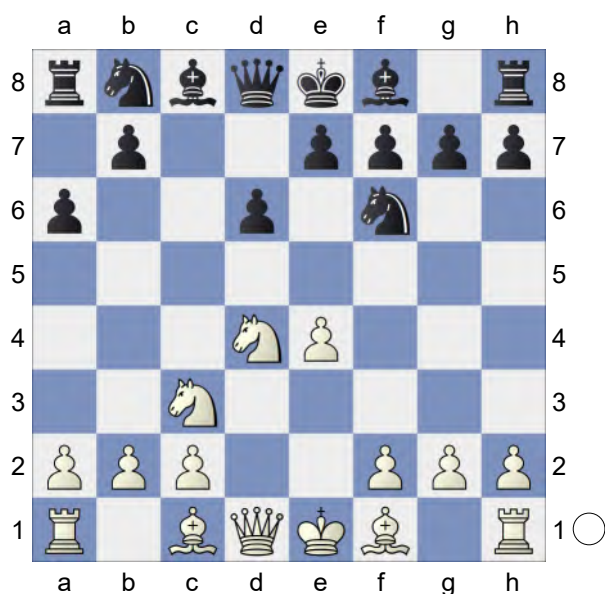
B97

2717

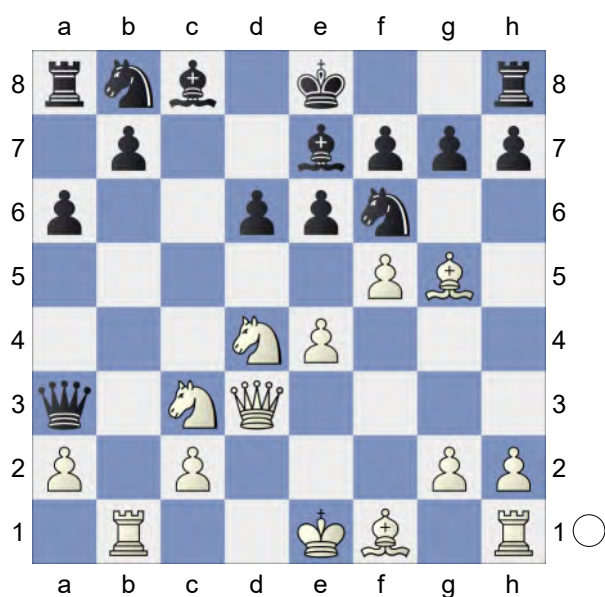
2647

2016

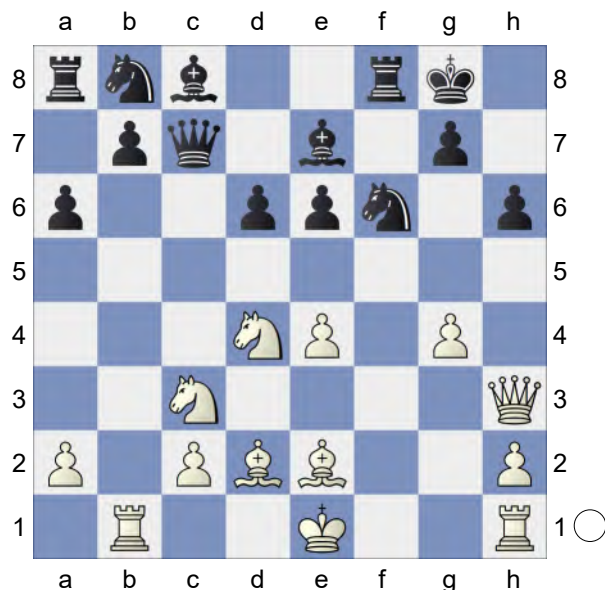
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6



6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Qb6 8.Qd3 Qxb2
9.Rb1 Qa3 10.f5 Be7



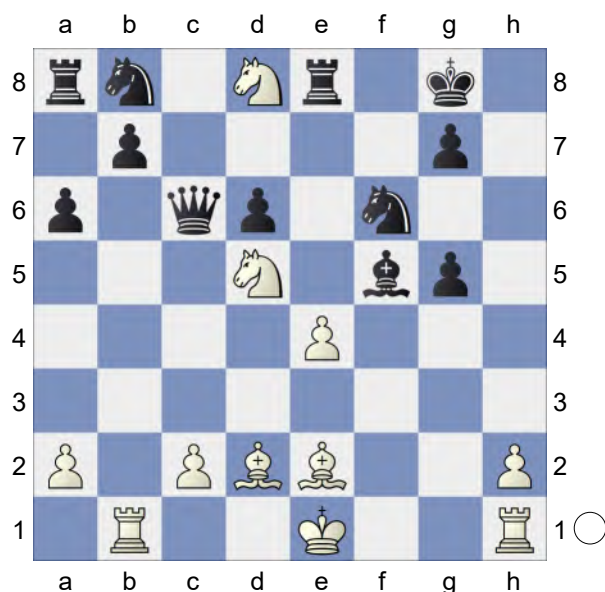
11.fxe6 fxe6 12.Be2 Qa5 13.Bd2 Qc7
14.g4 h6 15.Qh3 0-0



16.g5 hxg5 17.Nxe6 Qc6 * 18.Qf5
Re8

[18...Nxe4 - 119/75]

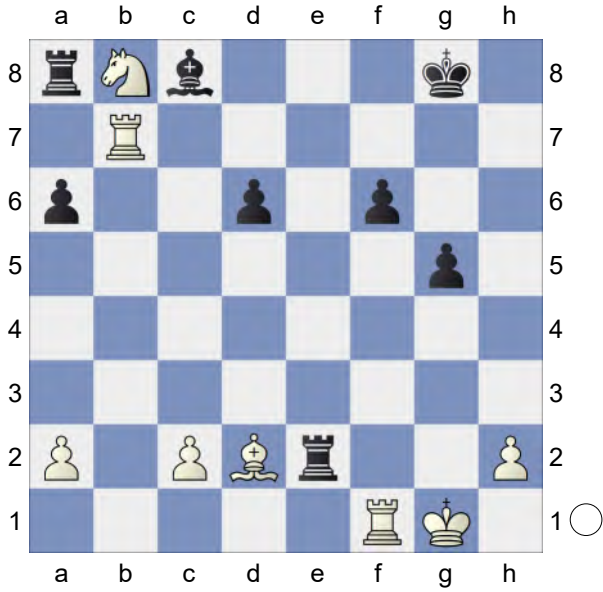
19.Nd5 Bd8 20.Nxd8 Bxf5



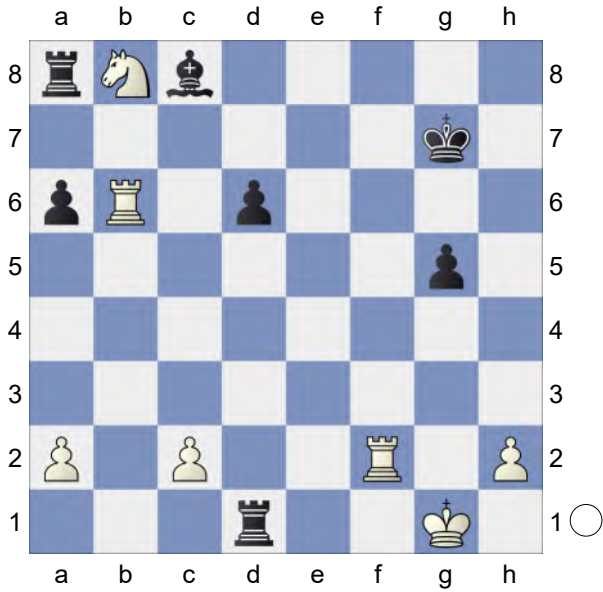
21.Nxf6+ gxf6 22.Nxc6 Rxe4
23.Nxb8N

[23.Nd4 Rxd4 24.Rf1 Bg4 25.Bxg4
Rxg4 26.Rxb7 Nc6 27.Rxf6 Ne5=]
23...Bg4= 24.0-0 Rxe2 25.Rxb7 Bc8

(Diagram)

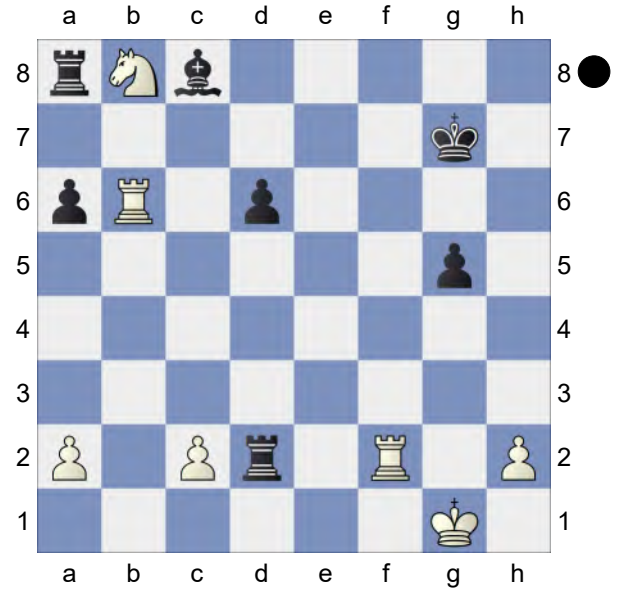


26.Rb6 Rxd2 27.Rxf6 Kg7 28.Rf2
Rd1+ 29.Rf1 Rd2 30.Rf2 Rd1+



31.Rf1 Rd2 32.Rf2

(Diagram)



1/2-1/2

146

□ Wei,Yi

■ Sandipan,Chanda

Chengdu 132/103

[Arsovic,Goran]

B97

2732

2575

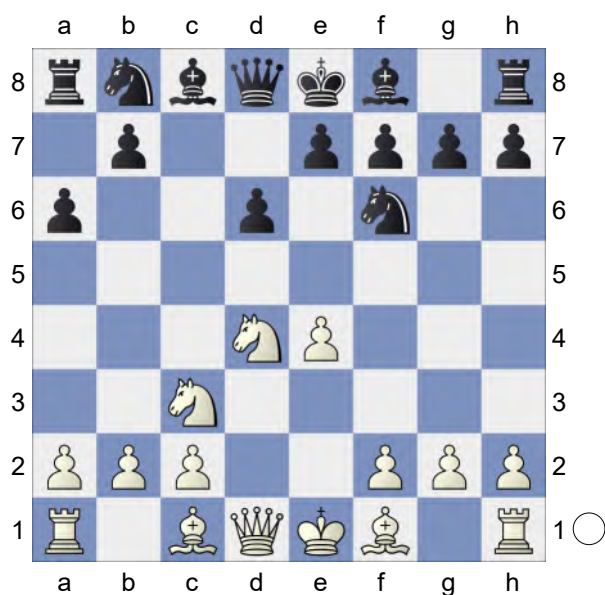
2017

1.e4 Roiz,M Roiz,M Roiz,M Roiz,M:

'Arsovic,Goran Arsovic,Goran: 'Roiz,M'

1...c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4

Nf6 5.Nc3 a6



6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Qb6 8.Qd2 Qxb2

9.Rb1 Qa3 10.f5 Be7!? Diagram

[10...Nc6 Roiz,M Roiz,M: 'Arsovic,

Goran: 'Roiz,M' 11.fxe6 fxe6

12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.e5 (13.Be2

, as covered in Ivanchuk,V (2748)-

Carlsen,M (2813) Nice 2010

[Richard Palliser] and Ivanchuk,V

(2748)-Grischuk,A (2756) Dagomys

2010 [Richard Palliser] doesn't pose

Black serious problems, but

definitely requires some knowledge.)

13...dxe5 14.Bxf6 gxf6 15.Ne4

This sharp position was checked in

hundreds of games! Now Black is at a

crossroads: The most common

A) Or 15...Be7 16.Be2 h5 17.Rf1

(The alternative - 17.Rb3 Qa4

18.Nxf6+ Bxf6 19.c4 is known

since 1977. Black has a wide

choice of defensive possibilities,

but safest seems c5 20.0-0 Qd7

21.Qxd7+ Bxd7 22.Rxf6 h4

23.Re3 Ke7 24.Rf2 Rab8=

Rogulj,B - Stean,M Smederevska

Palanka 1980) 17...f5 18.Rf3 Qxa2

19.Rfb3 Qa4 20.Nd6+ Bxd6

21.Qxd6 Qa5+ 22.Kf1 Ra7!

(22...Kf7? was seen in Thinius,M

(2353) -Kersten,U (2323) Bad

Zwesten 2006 [Tony Kosten])

23.Rb6 Qd5 24.Qb8 Qd7=

Lupulescu,C - Parligras,M Baile

Olanesti 2013;

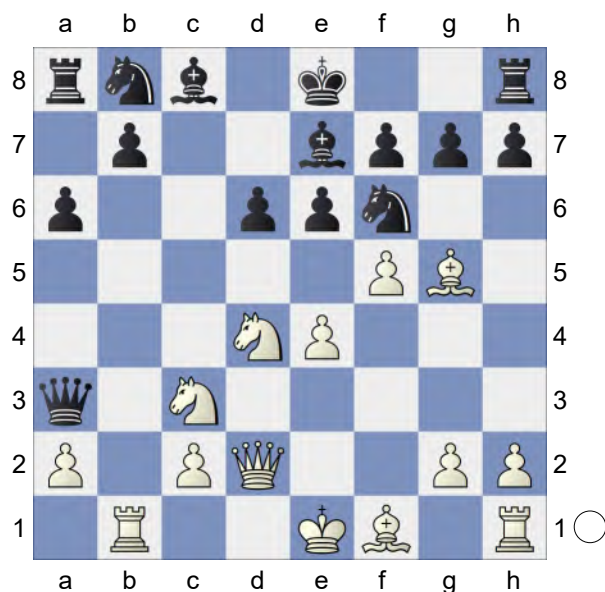
B) 15...Qxa2 16.Rd1 Be7 17.Be2

0-0 18.0-0 Ra7 19.Rf3

was analysed in detail in Grischuk,

A (2733)-Anand,V (2791) Linares

2009 [Richard Palliser]]



Roiz,M: 'This natural move wasn't seen

in our PGN Archive, and wasn't even

mentioned in our notes!'This natural

move wasn't seen in our PGN Archive,

and wasn't even mentioned in our notes!

Arsovic, Goran: 'Diagram [#] Roiz, M: 'This natural move wasn't seen in our PGN Archive, and wasn't even mentioned in our notes!'" Diagram 

11.fxe6 Bxe6 Roiz, M: '!' '!' '!' Roiz, M: 'I was surprised to discover that this continuation was only seen once before. 'I was surprised to discover that this continuation was only seen once before. Arsovic, Goran: 'Roiz, M: '!' Roiz, M: 'I was surprised to discover that this continuation was only seen once before. '" ' "

[11...fxe6?! Roiz, M: '?' '?' '?' Roiz, M: 'is much more popular, but it simply bad:' is much more popular, but it simply bad: Arsovic, Goran: '?'! Arsovic, Goran: 'Roiz, M: '?' Roiz, M: 'is much more popular, but it simply bad:' " 12.Bc4± - 4/577 Roiz, M: 'Arsovic, Goran: ' ±' Arsovic, Goran: ' - 4/577" d5 Roiz, M Roiz, M: 'Arsovic, Goran: 'Roiz, M' 13.exd5 Qc5 14.Bb3 exd5 15.0-0 Nc6 16.Be3± Zenklusen, R - Patuzzo, F Switzerland 2001]

12.Nxe6 fxe6 13.Bc4 Roiz, M: 'Exchanging the opponent's light-squared bishop is a big achievement for White, but it doesn't secure full control over the light squares!' 'Exchanging the opponent's light-squared bishop is a big achievement for White, but it doesn't secure full control over the light squares! Arsovic, Goran: 'Roiz, M: 'Exchanging the opponent's light-squared bishop is a big achievement for White, but it doesn't secure full control over the light squares!'" **13...Nbd7** Roiz, M: '!' '!' '!' Roiz, M: 'This innovation is a clear improvement' This innovation is a clear improvement Arsovic, Goran: 'Roiz, M: '!' Roiz, M: 'This innovation is a

clear improvement'" ' "

[Over 13...0-0? Roiz, M Roiz, M: 'Arsovic, Goran: 'Roiz, M' 14.Bxe6+ Kh8 Zakharova, V - Kuteneva, G Novokuznetsk 2013 15.Rxb7 Nc6 16.Be3! Rae8 (16...d5 17.Rb3 Qd6 18.exd5 Qe5 19.0-0±) 17.0-0 Na5 18.Nb1 Qa4 19.Rb4 Qc6 20.Nc3± , keeping the heavy extra pawn.]

14.Bxe6 Nc5 Roiz, M: 'Quite a rare case where both kings are in the centre!' 'Quite a rare case where both kings are in the centre! Arsovic, Goran: 'Roiz, M: 'Quite a rare case where both kings are in the centre!' " **15.Bf5** Roiz, M: '!' '?' '!' '?' Roiz, M: 'This retreat is connected with attacking ambitions - Wei Yi doesn't mind sacrificing the bishop' This retreat is connected with attacking ambitions - Wei Yi doesn't mind sacrificing the bishop. Arsovic, Goran: 'Roiz, M: '!' '?' Roiz, M: 'This retreat is connected with attacking ambitions - Wei Yi doesn't mind sacrificing the bishop.' " p.' "

[Roiz, M: 'I've also examined the following alternatives:' 'I've also examined the following alternatives: Arsovic, Goran: 'Roiz, M: 'I've also examined the following alternatives:' " 15.Bb3 Rc8

A) 16.Bxf6 Roiz, M: 'Arsovic, Goran' Bxf6 17.Nd5 Nxb3 18.Nxf6+ gxf6 19.Rxb3 Qc5 (19...Qxa2) 20.Rf1 0-0 21.Rxb7 Rf7 22.Rxf7 Kxf7 23.Kd1 Ke7 24.g3 (24.Qd3 Rb8 25.g3 Rb1+ 26.Ke2 Qh5+=) 24...Qc4 25.Qf2 Ke8=;

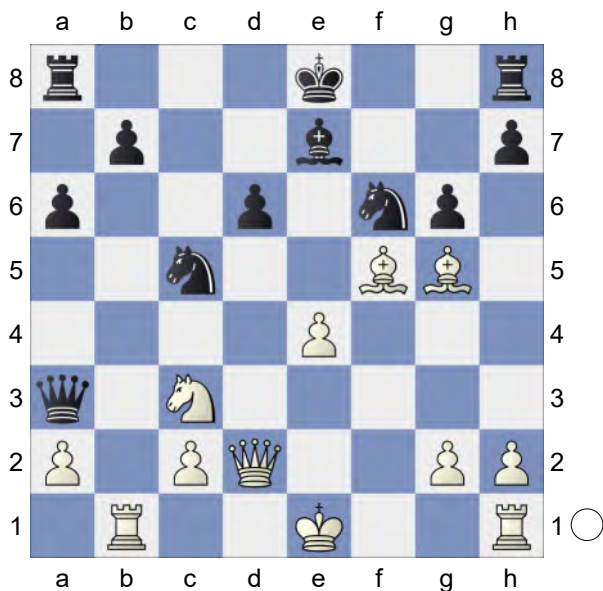
B) 16.0-0 Nxb3 17.Rxb3 Qc5+ 18.Be3 Qc4 19.Rf4 Roiz, M: 'Arsovic, Goran' (19.Nd5 Roiz, M Roiz, M: 'Arsovic, Goran: 'Roiz, M' Nxd5 20.exd5 Bf6 21.Bg5 0-0=) 19...Nh5! 20.Rf3

Nf6=]

[and 15.Bc4 Roiz,M Roiz,M: 'Arsovic,
Goran: 'Roiz,M' Rc8 16.0-0 Ncd7
17.Rf5 Rxc4 18.Rb3 Rxc3 19.Rxc3
Qxa2 20.Rc8+ Bd8 21.Qxd6 Qa1+
22.Rf1 Qe5= In both cases Black's
position seems safe.]

15...g6!

[15...0-0? Roiz,M Roiz,M: 'Arsovic,
Goran: 'Roiz,M' 16.0-0 Rae8
17.Nd5±]

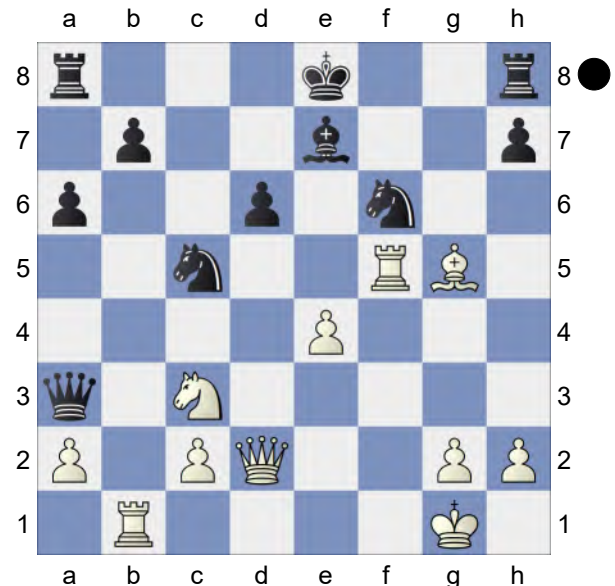


Roiz,M: 'Arsovic,Goran: '!' **16.0-0**
Roiz,M: '!' '!' '!' Roiz,M: 'A brave
decisio'A brave decision. Arsovic,Goran:
'Roiz,M: '!' Roiz,M: 'A brave decision.'
n.'

[Roiz,M: 'In case of'In case of Arsovic,
Goran: 'Roiz,M: 'In case of'" 16.Bh3
Ncxe4 17.Nxe4 Nxe4 18.Qd4 Qc3+
19.Qxc3 Nxc3 20.Bxe7 Kxe7
(20...Nxb1? Roiz,M: 'Arsovic,Goran'
21.Bf6 Rf8 22.Bb2±) 21.Rxb7+ Kf6
22.0-0+ Kg5∞ Roiz,M: '=' '=' '=' Roiz,
M: 'Black would be able to neutralize
the temporary activity of White's
pieces.'"Black would be able to
neutralize the temporary activity of

White's pieces. Arsovic,Goran: ' ∞'
Arsovic,Goran: 'Roiz,M: '=' Roiz,M:
'Black would be able to neutralize
the temporary activity of White's
pieces.'"]

16...gxf5 17.Rxf5 Diagram



Roiz,M: 'Arsovic,Goran: 'Diagram [#]'
Diagram **17...Rf8!** Roiz,M: 'Arsovic,
Goran: '!"

[17...Nfxe4? Roiz,M: 'Arsovic,Goran'
18.Nxe4 Nxe4 19.Qd4 0-0-0
20.Qxe4+-]

[17...0-0-0 Roiz,M: 'Arsovic,Goran'
18.Bxf6 Bxf6 19.Rxf6 Rhe8
20.Qd4±]

18.Bxf6 Bxf6

[18...Rxf6? (Roiz,M) Wei Yi's idea
would be fully justified after Roiz,M:
'Wei Yi's idea would be fully justified
after Arsovic,Goran: '(Roiz,M) Wei Yi's
idea would be fully justified after'
19.Nd5 Rxf5 20.exf5 Bd8 21.Qe2+
Kd7 22.f6+-]

19.Nd5 0-0-0 Roiz,M: 'Chanda
reasonably gives up the extra piece in
order to remove the king from the centre.
"Chanda reasonably gives up the extra
piece in order to remove the king from

the centre. Arsovic, Goran: 'Roiz, M: 'Chanda reasonably gives up the extra piece in order to remove the king from the centre.'"

[Possible was also 19...Qxa2
Roiz, M Roiz, M: 'Arsovic, Goran: 'Roiz, M'
20.Re1 (20.Rbf1 0-0-0 21.Qb4 Kb8 22.Nxf6 Qxc2=) 20...Qb2 21.Qf4 0-0-0 22.Nxf6 Rf7=]

20.Rxf6N Roiz, M: 'Arsovic, Goran: 'N'

[Roiz, M: 'After' After Arsovic, Goran: 'Roiz, M: 'After'' 20.Nxf6 Nxe4 21.Qd4 Nxf6 22.Qa7 Rde8! Roiz, M: 'Arsovic, Goran: '!' 23.Qxb7+ Kd8

A) 24.Qb6+ Ke7 Roiz, M: 'Arsovic, Goran' (24...Kd7= (Roiz, M) White would have nothing better than forcing a draw by perpetual. Roiz, M: 'White would have nothing better than forcing a draw by perpetual. Arsovic, Goran: '(Roiz, M) White would have nothing better than forcing a draw by perpetual.')
25.Qd4 Nd7 26.Qh4+ Rf6 27.Re1+ Kd8 28.Rxe8+ Kxe8 29.Rxf6 Nxf6 30.Qxf6 Qe3+ 31.Qf2 Qc1+=;

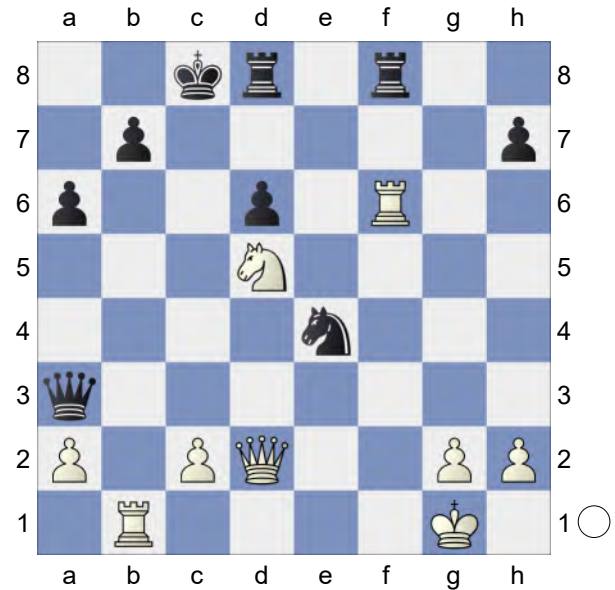
B) 24.Qa7 Roiz, M: 'Arsovic, Goran' 24...Nd7 25.Qa8+ Ke7 26.Qe4+

B1) 26...Ne5?? 27.Rxe5+ dxe5 28.Qxh7+ Kd6 29.Rd1+ Ke6 30.Qd7+ Kf6 31.Rd6+ Kg5 32.Qg7+ Kf4 33.Qh6+ Ke4 34.Qh7+ Rf5 35.Qb7+ Ke3 (35...Kf4 36.g3+ Ke3 37.Rd3+-) 36.Rd3+-;

B2) 26...Kd8 27.Qa8+=]

20...Nxe4=

[20...Rxf6!? Roiz, M Roiz, M: 'Arsovic, Goran: 'Roiz, M' 21.Nxf6 Qxa2 22.Re1 Qf7=]



21.Ne7+

[21.Nb6+ Roiz, M: 'Arsovic, Goran' Kc7 22.Nd5+ Kc8=]

21...Kb8

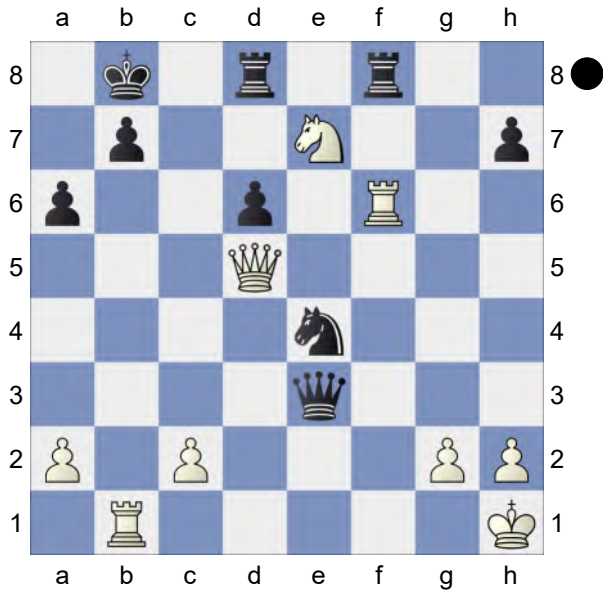
[There was also nothing wrong with 21...Kc7 Roiz, M Roiz, M: 'Arsovic, Goran: 'Roiz, M' 22.Qd5 Qc5+ 23.Qxc5+ dxc5 24.Nd5+ Kb8=]

22.Qd5 Qe3+

[22...Qc5+ Roiz, M: 'Arsovic, Goran' 23.Qxc5 dxc5 24.Rh6 Rd2 25.Rxh7 Nc3 26.Nc6+ Kc8 27.Na7+ Kd8 28.Nc6+ Kc8=]

23.Kh1 Diagram

(Diagram)

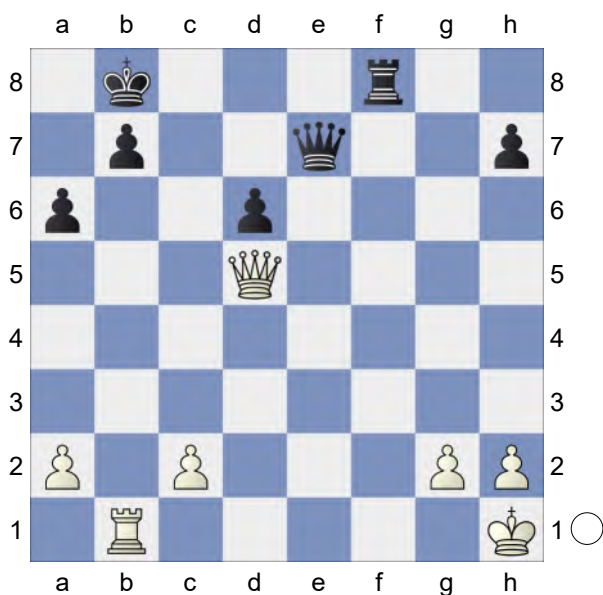


Roiz,M: 'Arsovic,Goran: 'Diagram [#]'
 Diagram  23...Nf2+!= Roiz,M: 'Arsovic,
 Goran: '!=' 24.Rxf2

[24.Kg1 Roiz,M: 'Arsovic,Goran'
 Nd1+-+]

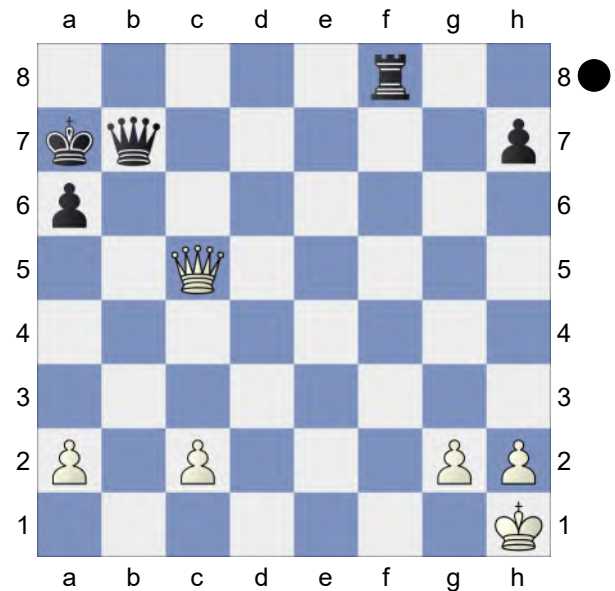
24...Qxe7 Roiz,M: '=' '=' '=' Roiz,M: 'The
 position has significantly simplified.'The
 position has significantly simplified.
 Arsovic,Goran: 'Roiz,M: '=' Roiz,M: 'The
 position has significantly simplified.'" '

25.Rxf8 Rxf8



26.Rxb7+! Roiz,M: 'Forcing a draw.
 "Forcing a draw. Arsovic,Goran: '!'

Arsovic,Goran: 'Roiz,M: 'Forcing a draw.
 "' 26...Qxb7 27.Qxd6+ Ka7 28.Qc5+
 Qb6 29.Qe7+ Qb7 30.Qc5+



1/2-1/2

115

□ Wei, Yi

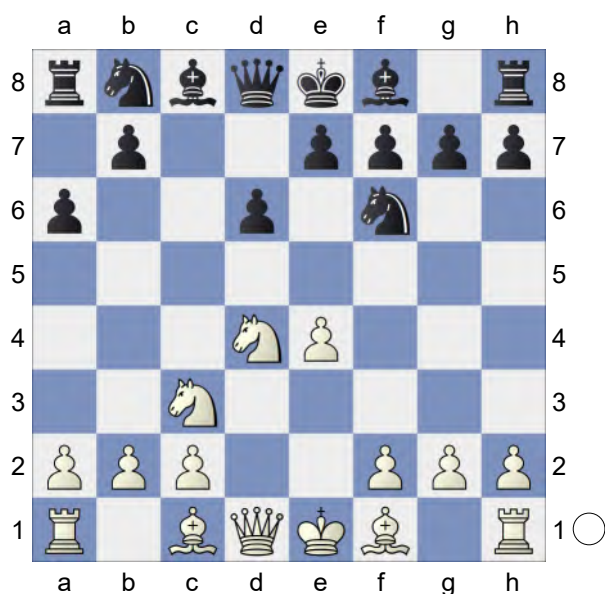
■ Nepomniachtchi, Ian

(m/3-rapid) 140/96

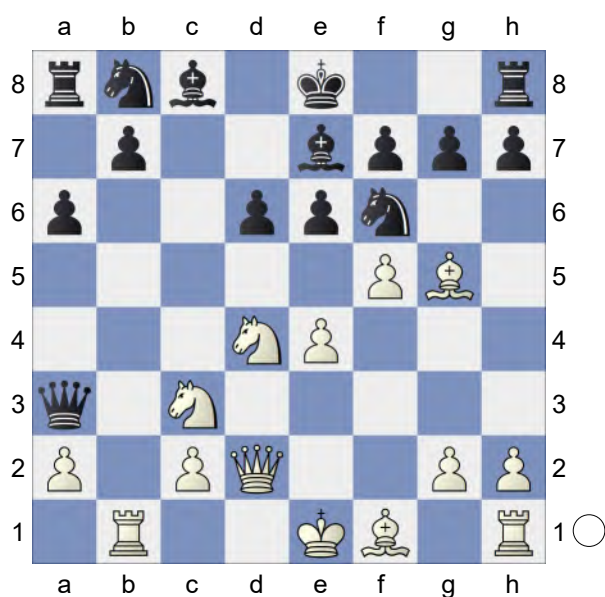
[Arsovic, Goran]

B97**2736****2773****2019**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6

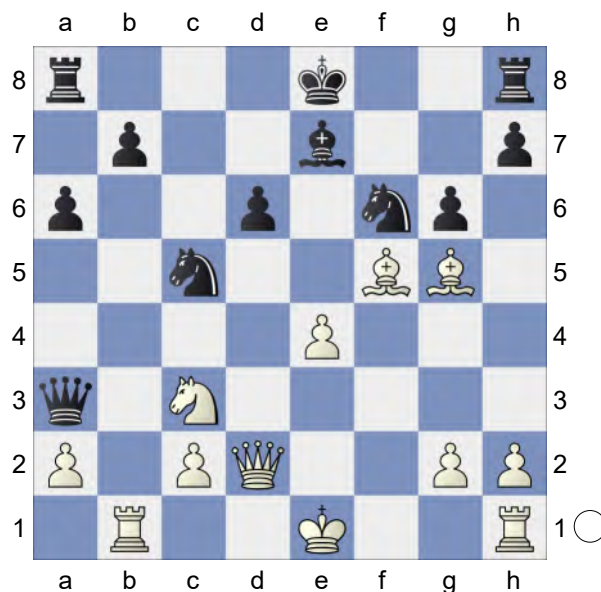


6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Qb6 8.Qd2 Qxb2 9.Rb1 Qa3 10.f5 Be7



11.fxe6 Bxe6 12.Nxe6 fxe6 13.Bc4 Nbd7 14.Bxe6 Nc5 15.Bf5

[RR15.Bb3 Rc8 16.0-0 Nxb3 17.Rxb3 Qc5+ 18.Be3 Qc4 19.Rf4 Nh5! 20.Rf3 Nf6= Perunovic, Milos]

15...g6**16.Bh3**

[16.0-0 gxf5 17.Rxf5 Rf8 18.Bxf6 Bxf6 19.Nd5 0-0-0 20.Rxf6 (20.Nxf6 Nxe4 21.Qd4 Nxf6 22.Qa7 Rde8 23.Qxb7+ Kd8 24.Qb6+ Kd7 25.Qb7+=) 20...Nxe4= - 132/103]

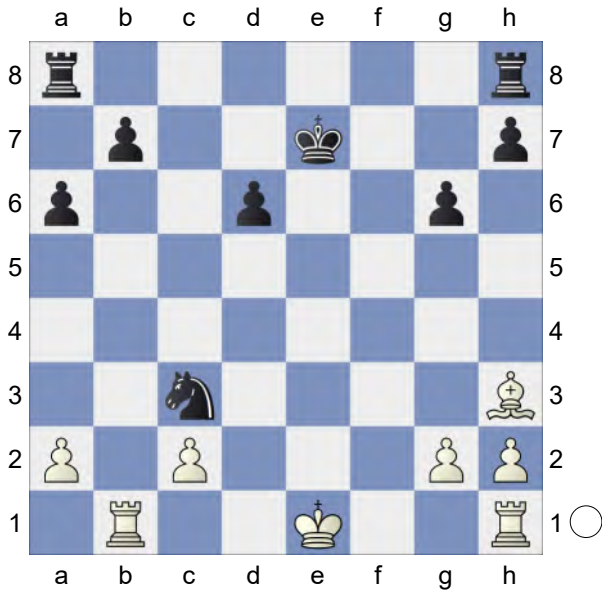
16...Nfxe4

[RR16...Ncxe4 17.Nxe4 Nxe4 18.Qd4 Qc3+ 19.Qxc3 Nxc3 20.Bxe7 Kxe7 (20...Nxb1?! 21.Bf6 Rf8 22.Bb2±) 21.Rxb7+ Kf6 22.0-0+ Kg5 23.g3↑ Perunovic, Milos]

17.Nxe4 Nxe4 18.Qd4 Qc3+ 19.Qxc3 Nxc3 20.Bxe7 Kxe7

[20...Nxb1?! 21.Bf6 Rf8 22.Bb2±]

(Diagram)



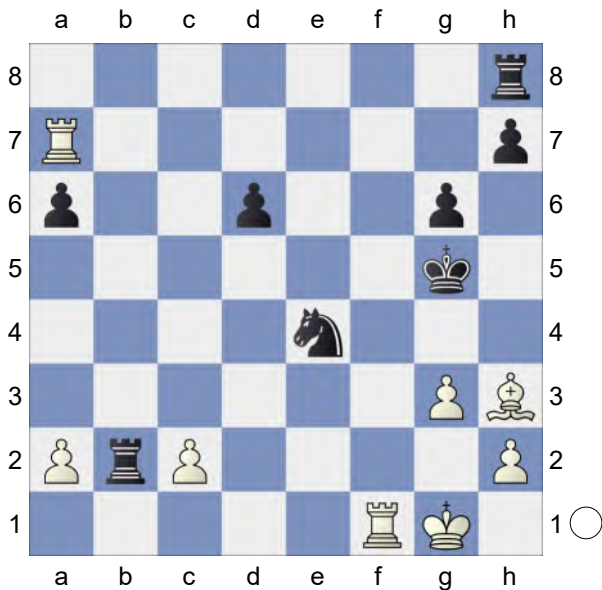
21.Rb3

[21.Rxb7+ Kf6 22.0-0+ Kg5 23.g3↑]

21...Ne4 22.Rxb7+ Kf6 23.0-0+ Kg5

24.g3 Rab8 25.Ra7 Rb2N

[25...Nc5 26.Bg2 h5 27.h4+ Kh6
28.Rd1 Rb6=]



26.Bg2 d5 27.h4+

[27.Rd7 Kh6 28.Rxd5

**A) 28...Nc3 29.Rd7 Ne2+ 30.Kh1
Rxc2 31.Rff7 Rc1+ (31...Rxa2?
32.Bf3 a5 33.Rfe7 Nc3 34.h4+-)
32.Bf1 Nc3 33.h4±;**

**B) 28...Re8 29.Re1 Rxc2 30.Ra5
Re6 31.Bxe4 Rc4 32.Kg2 Rcxe4
33.Rxe4 Rxe4 34.Rxa6 Re2+
35.Kg1 Kg5=]**

27...Kg4 28.Kh2 Diagram

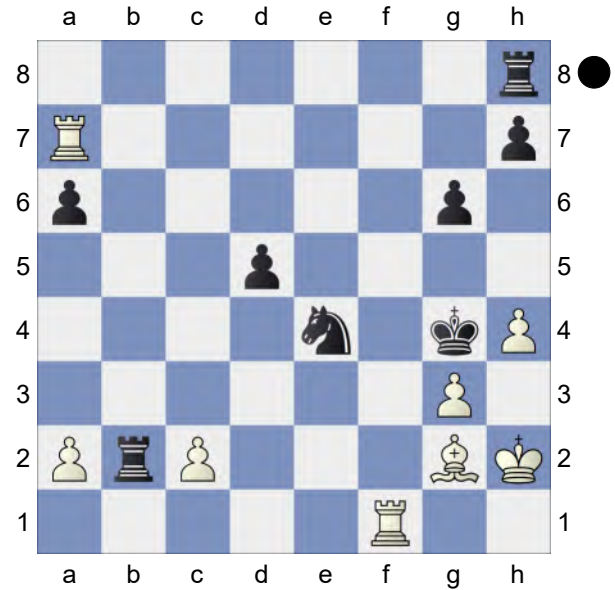
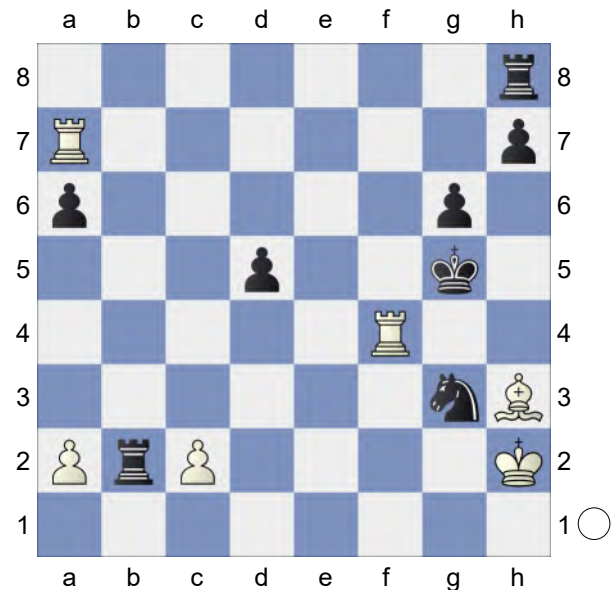


Diagram [#] 28...Nxc3?!

[28...Rxc2! 29.Rf4+ Kh5 30.Kh3
(30.Rd7 Kh6 31.Rxd5 Re8 32.g4
Re7=) 30...Nf2+ 31.Kh2 Ne4=]

29.Bh3+! Kxh4 30.Rf4+ Kg5

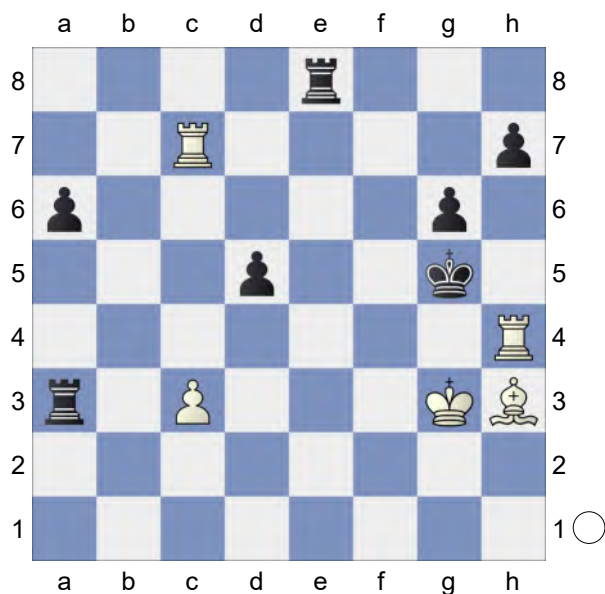


31.Kxg3± Rxa2 32.Rg4+

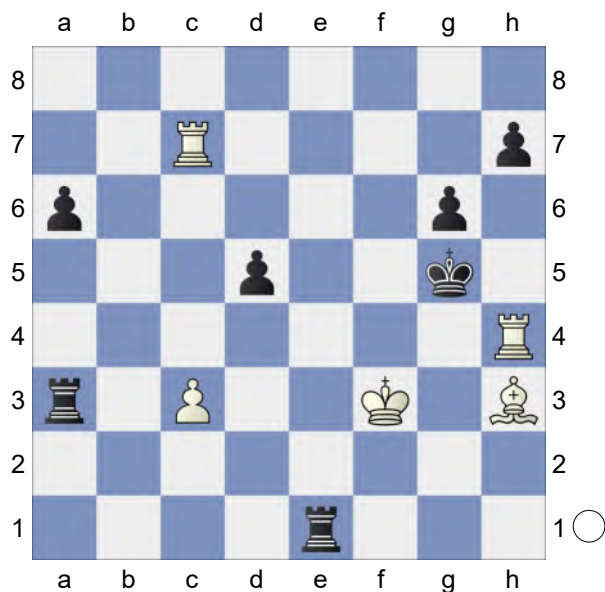
[32.Rf2 Re8 33.Bf1 Re3+ 34.Kg2]

32...Kh6 33.Rc7 Ra3+ 34.c3 Re8

35.Rh4+ Kg5



36.Rg4+ Kh6 37.Kf3 Re1 38.Rh4+ Kg5 39.Rg4+ Kh6 40.Rh4+ Kg5



41.Rd4 Re5 42.Rc5

[42.Rg4+ Kf6 43.Rc6+ Kg7 44.Rd4]

42...h5 43.Bd7 h4?! Diagram

[43...a5 44.Bc6 Ra1 45.Bxd5±]

(Diagram)

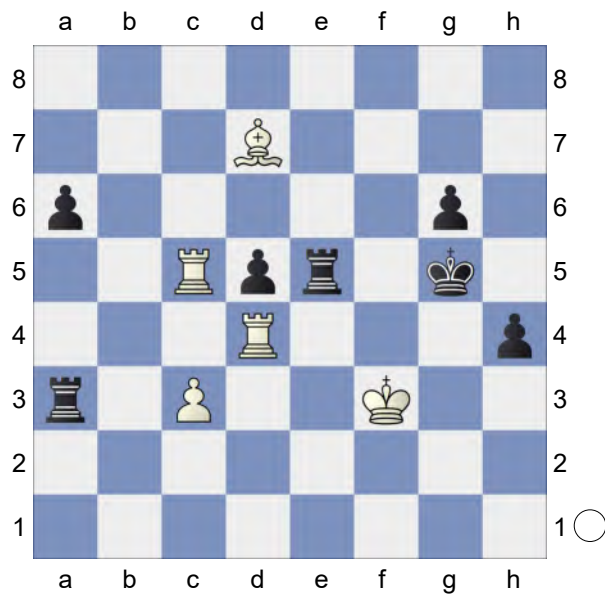
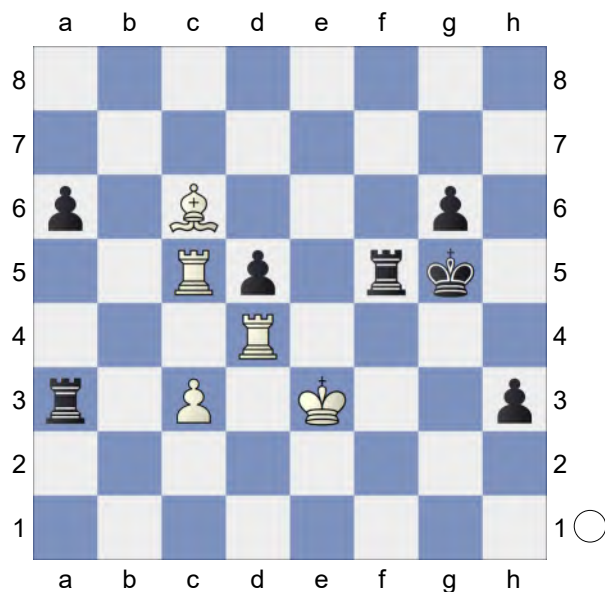


Diagram [#] 44.Bc6?!

[44.Rg4+! Kf6 45.Rxh4±]

44...Rf5+ 45.Ke3 h3



46.Rdxd5

[46.Bxd5 h2 47.Rd1 Kh4 48.Rc4+ Kg3 49.Be4 Rh5 50.Rc6 g5∞]

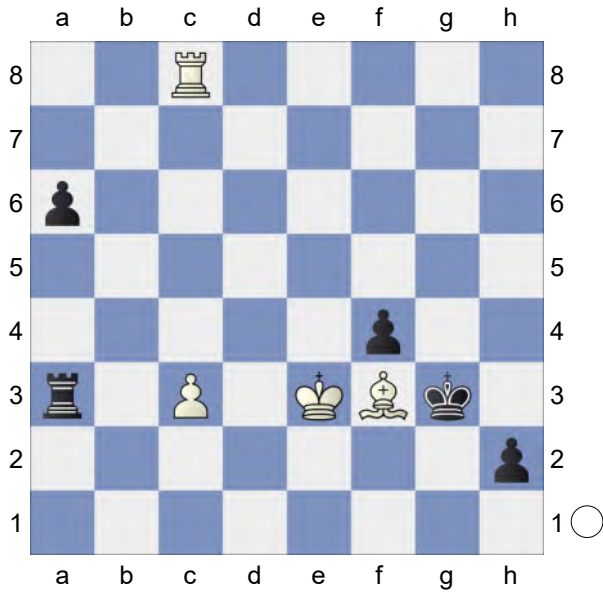
46...h2= 47.Rxf5+ gxf5 48.Be4 Kh4

49.Bf3 Kg3 50.Rc8

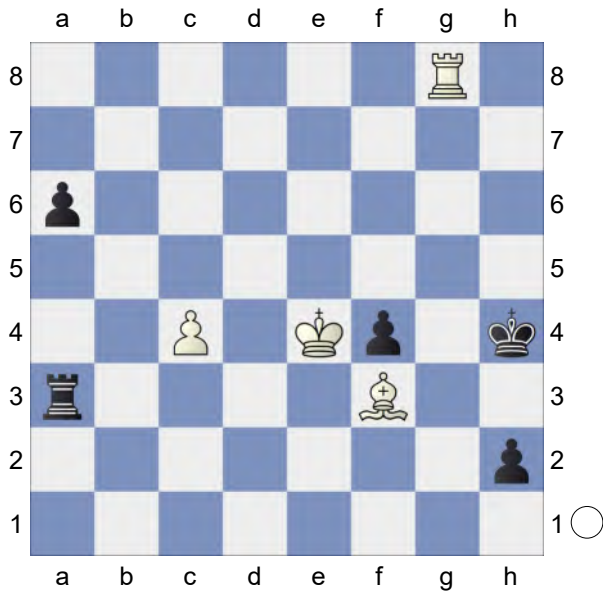
[50.Rxf5 Rxc3+ 51.Ke2 Rc2+ 52.Ke3 Rc3+=]

50...f4+

(Diagram)

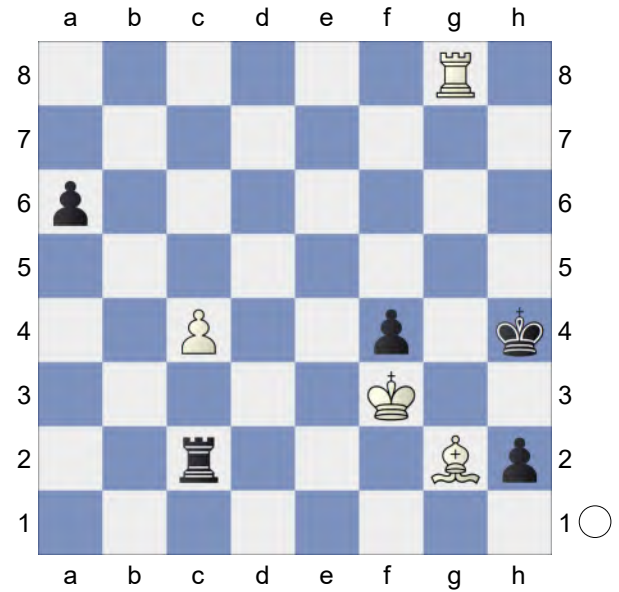


51.Ke4 Ra4+! 52.c4 Ra3 53.Rg8+ Kh4 54.Rh8+ Kg3 55.Rg8+ Kh4

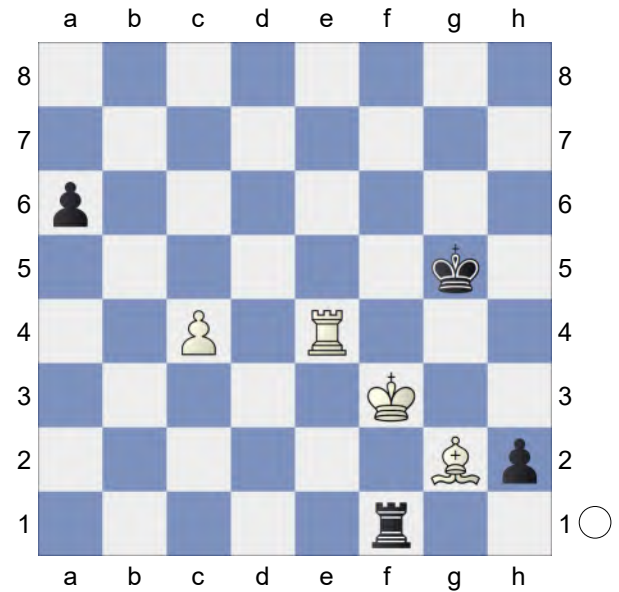


56.Bh1 Ra1 57.Rh8+ Kg3 58.Rg8+ Kh4 59.Bg2 Ra2
 [Δ59...Rc1 60.Kxf4 Rxc4+ 61.Ke3 Rc3+]
60.Kf3 Rc2

(Diagram)

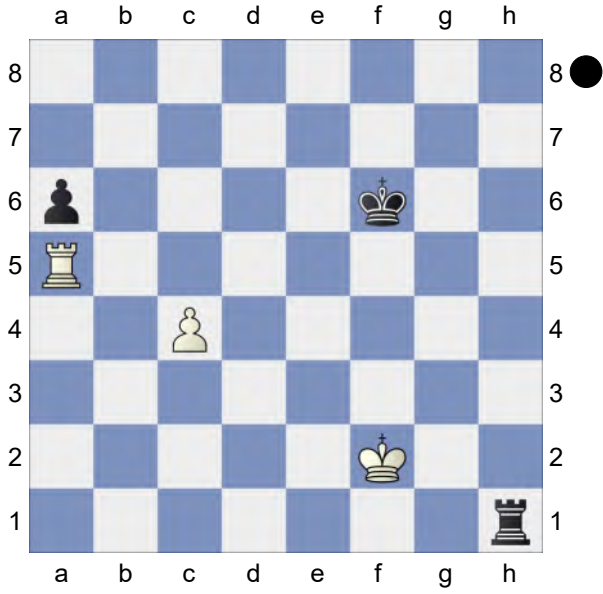


61.Rg4+ Kh5 62.Rxf4 Rc1 63.Ke3 Kg5 64.Re4 Rg1 65.Kf3 Rf1+



66.Ke2 Rg1 67.Kf2 h1Q 68.Bxh1 Rxh1 69.Re5+ Kf6 70.Ra5

(Diagram)



1/2-1/2

267

□ Wei, Yi

■ Lu, Shanglei

Shenzhen (rapid) 130/(89)

[Arsovic, Goran]

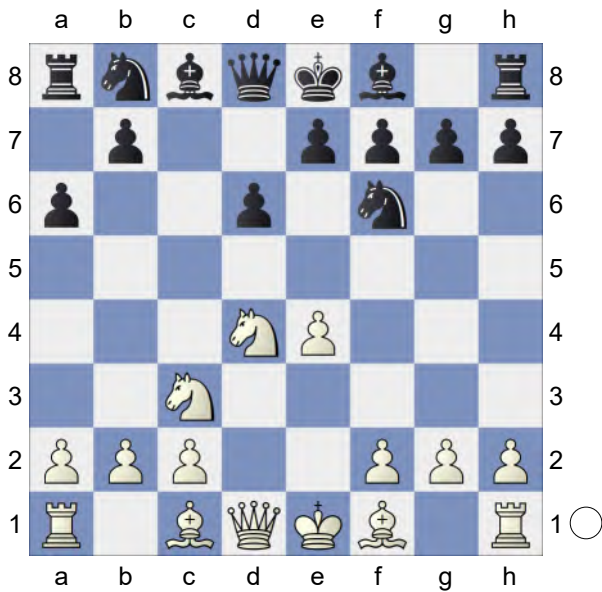
B97

2709

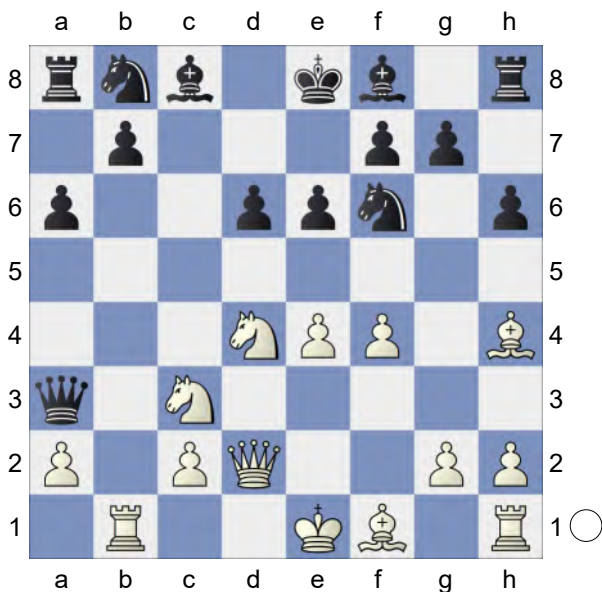
2607

2016

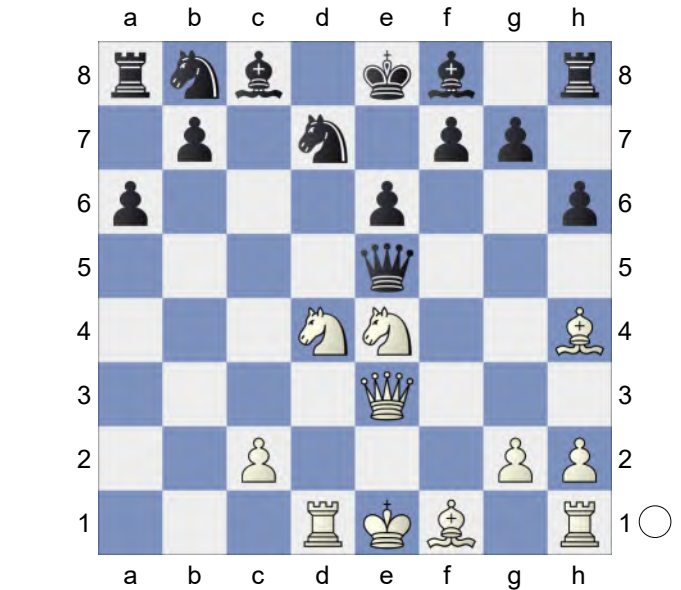
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6



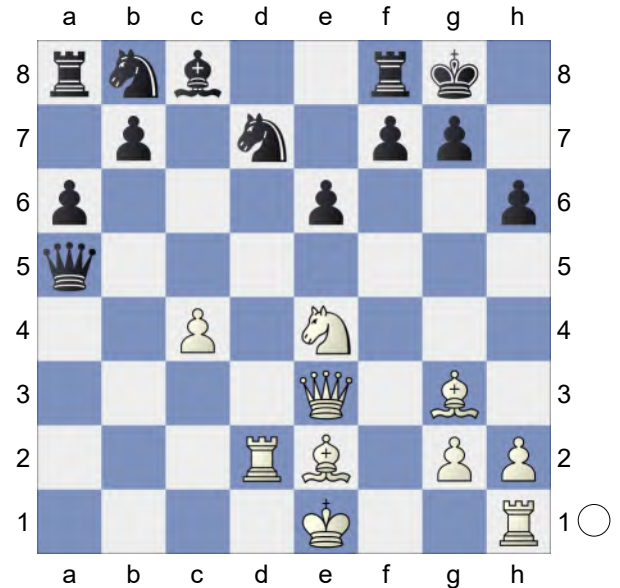
6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 h6 8.Bh4 Qb6 9.Qd2
Qxb2 10.Rb1 Qa3



11.e5 dxe5 12.fxe5 Nfd7 13.Ne4
Qxa2 14.Rd1 Qd5 15.Qe3 Qxe5



16.Be2 Bc5 17.Bg3 Qd5 18.c4 Bxd4
19.Rxd4 Qa5+ 20.Rd2 0-0



21.Bd6 f5 22.Bxf8 Nxf8 23.Nd6 Nbd7
* 24.Kf2N

[24.g4 - 129/94]

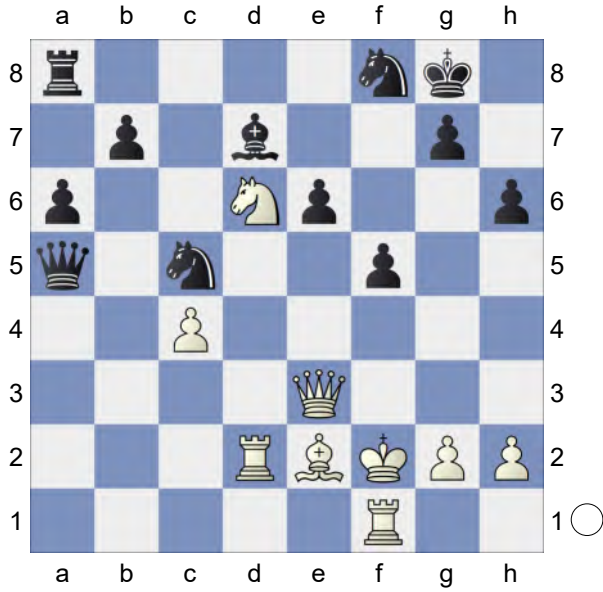
24...Nc5 25.Rf1?!

[25.Rhd1 Bd7 26.Nxb7 Ne4+!
27.Qxe4 Qxd2 28.Rxd2 fxe4 29.Nc5
Ra7♣]

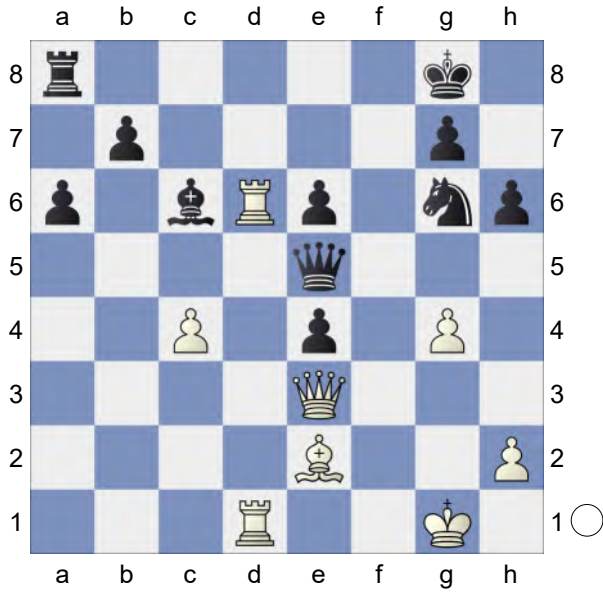
[25.Bf3 Rb8 26.g4 fxg4 27.Bxg4
Bd7 28.Rf1 Bc6♘]

25...Bd7

(Diagram)



26.Kg1 Bc6 27.g4 Ne4 28.Nxe4 fxe4
29.Rd6 Qe5 30.Rfd1 Ng6 ♭



105

□ Wei,Yi

■ Lu,Shanglei

Changsha 141/86

[Arsovic,Goran]

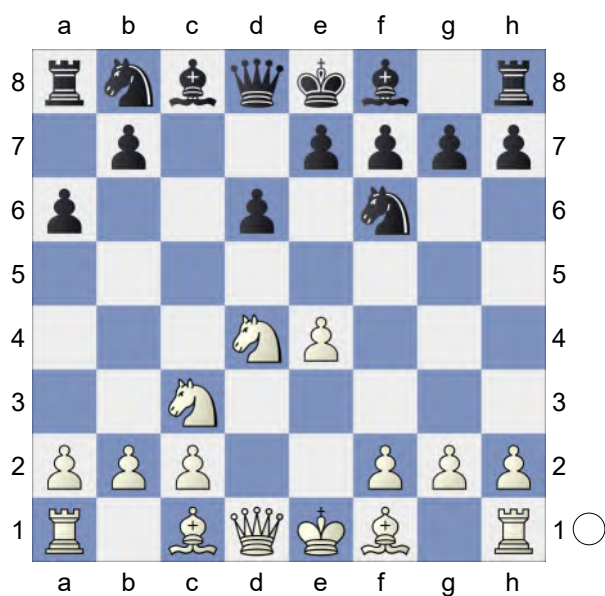
B96

2737

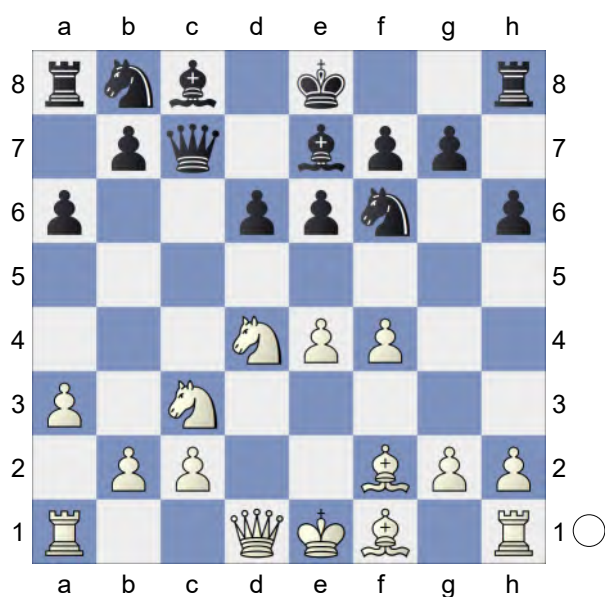
2619

2019

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6

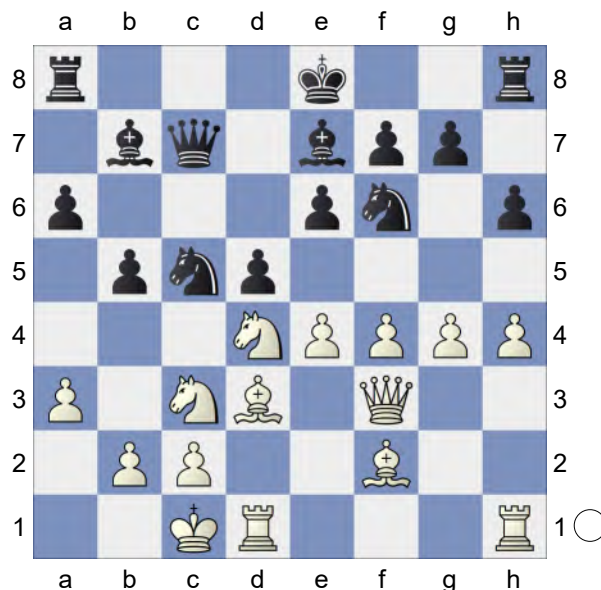


6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 h6 8.Bh4 Qb6 9.a3
Be7 10.Bf2 Qc7

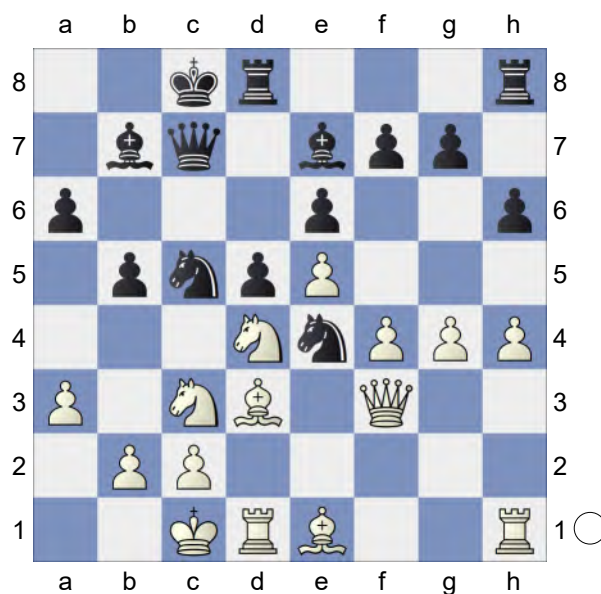


11.Qf3 Nbd7 12.0-0-0 b5 13.g4 Bb7
14.h4 Nc5 15.Bd3 d5

[15...h5 - 134/84]



16.e5 Nfe4 17.Be1 0-0-0 Diagram



18.Kb1N

[18.Qe3]

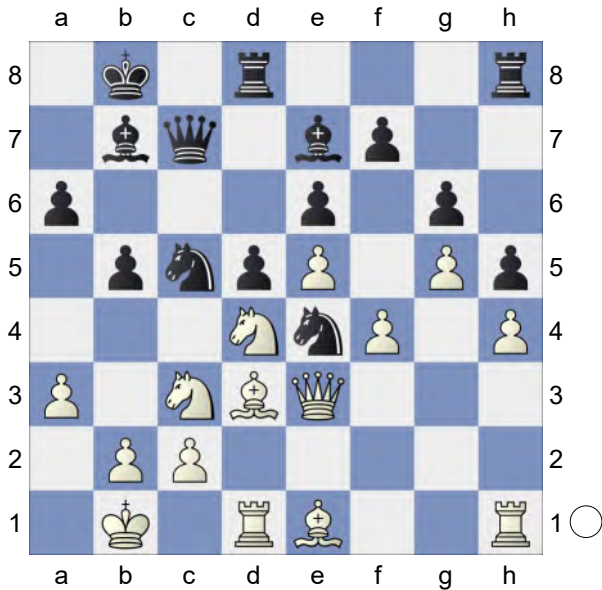
18...Kb8

[18...f6 19.exf6 Bxf6 20.Qe3
(20.Bxe4 dxe4 21.Qe3 e5 22.fxe5
Bxe5 23.Rf1±) 20...e5 21.fxe5 Bxe5
22.Rf1±]

19.Qe3 h5

[19...Rc8 20.h5 Rhe8]

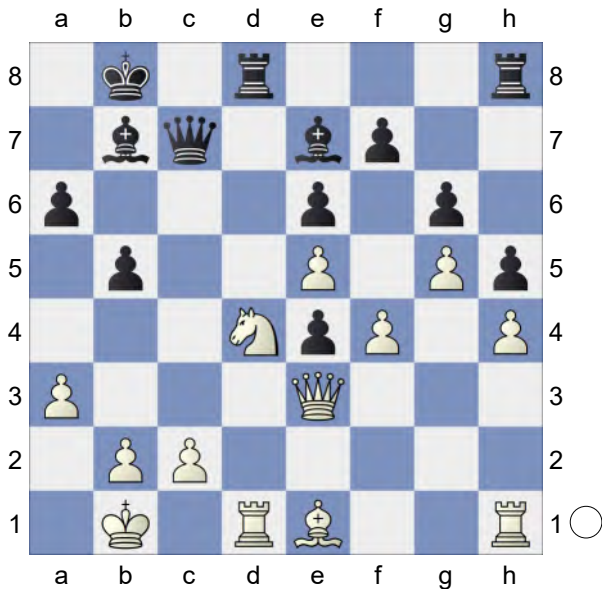
20.g5 g6



21.Bxe4 Nxe4

[21...dxe4 22.Bf2 Na4 23.Nxa4
bxa4 24.Ne2 Bc6 25.Nc3±]

22.Nxe4 dxe4 Diagram



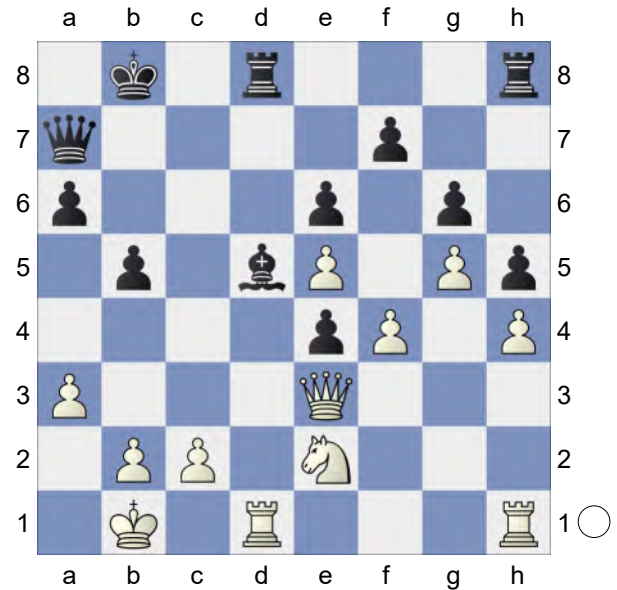
23.Bb4! Bd5

[23...Bxb4 24.axb4 Bd5 25.b3 Rc8
26.Kb2 Rhd8 27.Ra1 Qb6 28.c3±]

24.Bxe7 Qxe7 25.Ne2! Qa7

[25...Rc8 26.Nc3 Rhd8 27.Rd4±]

(Diagram)



26.Rd4

[26.Qxa7+ Kxa7 27.Nc3 Kb6
28.Rhe1 a5 29.Kc1 Bc6 30.Nxe4
Rxd1+ 31.Kxd1 Bxe4 32.Rxe4 Rd8+
33.Ke2 Kc5±]

26...Rd7

[26...Bc4 27.Rhd1 Rxd4 28.Nxd4
Bd5 29.c3±]

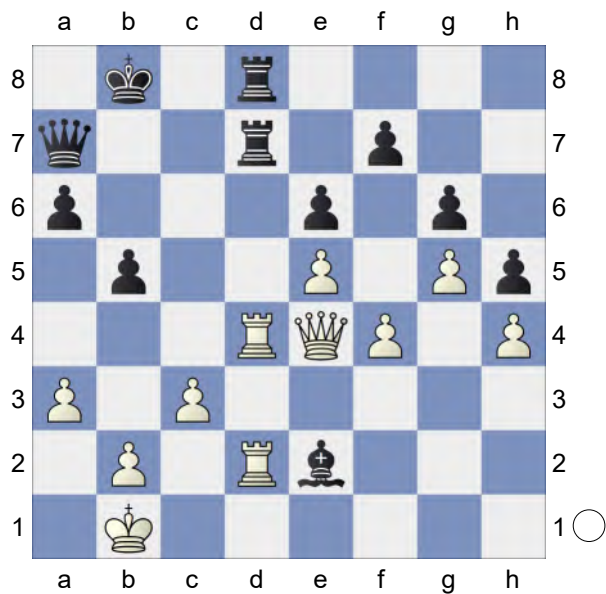
27.Rhd1 Rhd8 28.c3 Bb3 29.R1d2

[29.Rxd7! Rxd7 30.Qxa7+ Rxa7
31.Rd6 (31.Rd8+ Kc7 32.Rd4 Bd5
33.Ng3 e3 34.Kc2±) 31...Bc4
32.Nd4±]

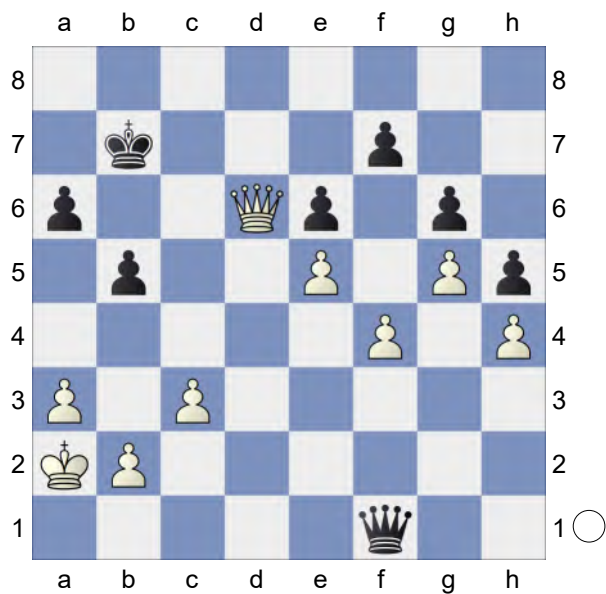
29...Bc4 30.Qxe4± Bxe2

[30...Bd5 31.Qe3 Qb7 32.Ng3±]

(Diagram)



31.Rxd7 Rxd7 32.Qxe2 Rxd2
33.Qxd2 Qg1+ 34.Ka2 Qf1 35.Qd6+
Kb7

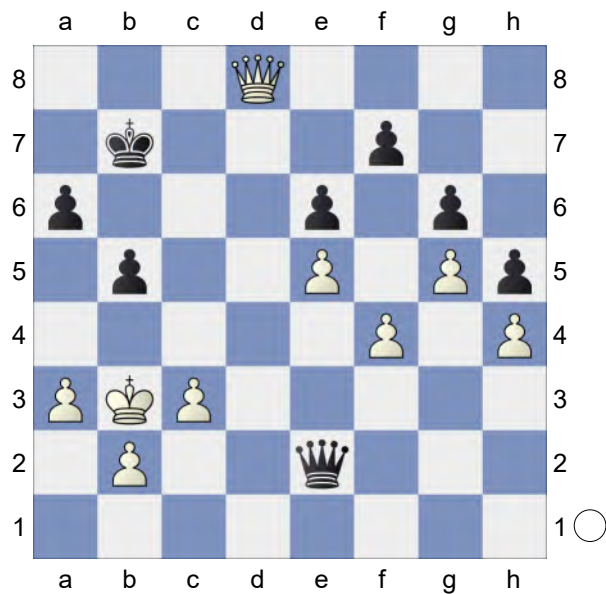


36.Qd7+ Kb6 37.Qd4+ Kb7 38.Kb3+-
Qe2

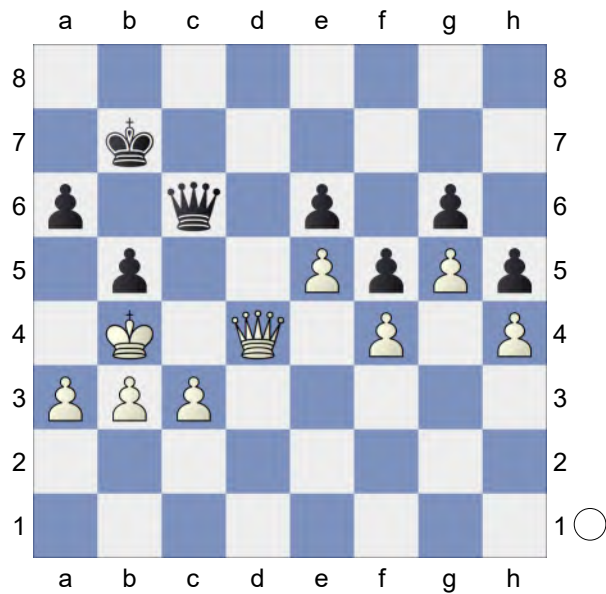
[38...a5 39.a4 bxa4+ 40.Kxa4 Qa1+
41.Kb3+-]

39.Qd7+ Kb6 40.Qd8+ Kb7

(Diagram)



41.Qd4 Qf3 42.Qd7+ Kb6 43.Qd4+
Kb7 44.Kb4 Qc6 45.b3 f5



1-0

395

□ Wei, Yi

■ Lu, Shanglei

121/71 Chiva

[Arsovic, Goran]

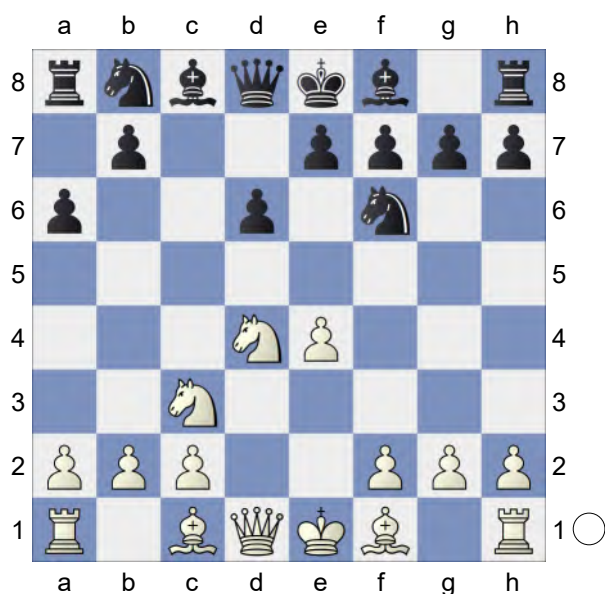
B90

2629

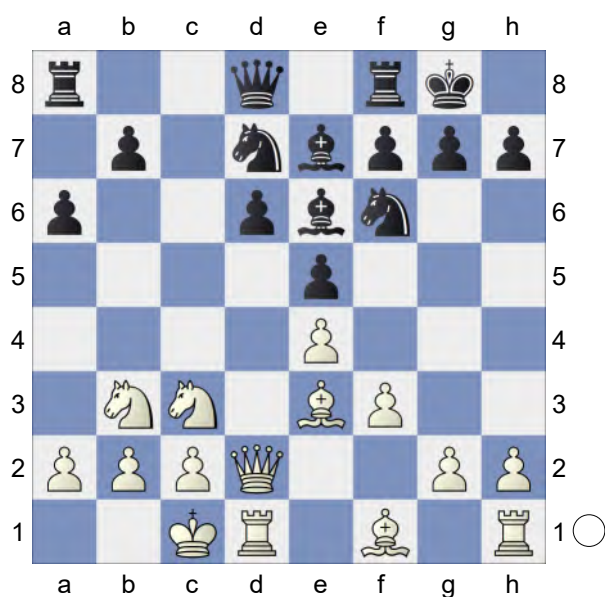
2556

2014

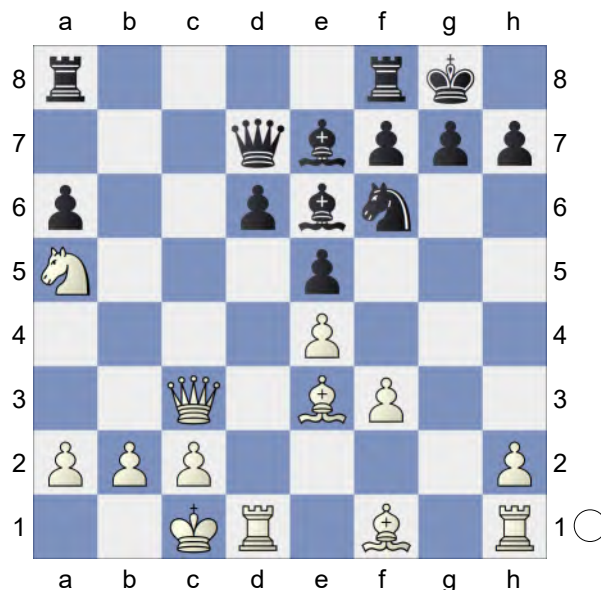
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6



6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.f3 Be7 9.Qd2
0-0 10.0-0-0 Nbd7



11.g4 b5 12.g5 b4 13.gxf6 bxc3
14.Qxc3 Nxf6 15.Na5 Qd7



16.Nc6 Rfc8 17.Nxe7+ Qxe7 18.Qa5
Qb7 19.Rxd6!N

[19.Rg1]

[19.Bd3]

19...Nxe4 20.Rd3?!

[20.Rxe6! fxe6 21.Qxe5 Nf6

22.Qxe6+ (22.Rg1 Qc7 23.Qxe6+ Kh8

24.Bd3 Qxh2∞) 22...Kh8∞

23.Qf5→ Re8 (23...Rd8 24.Bd3

Rab8 25.b3±) 24.Bd2 Rab8 25.b3

(25.Bc3 Re1+! 26.Bxe1 Qxb2+

27.Kd1 Qb1+ 28.Kd2 Qb4+ 29.c3

Rd8+ 30.Kc2 Qa4+ 31.Kb2 Rb8+

32.Kc1 Qa3+ 33.Kd1 Qa4+

34.Kc1=) 25...Nd5 26.Bd3±]

20...Nd6?!

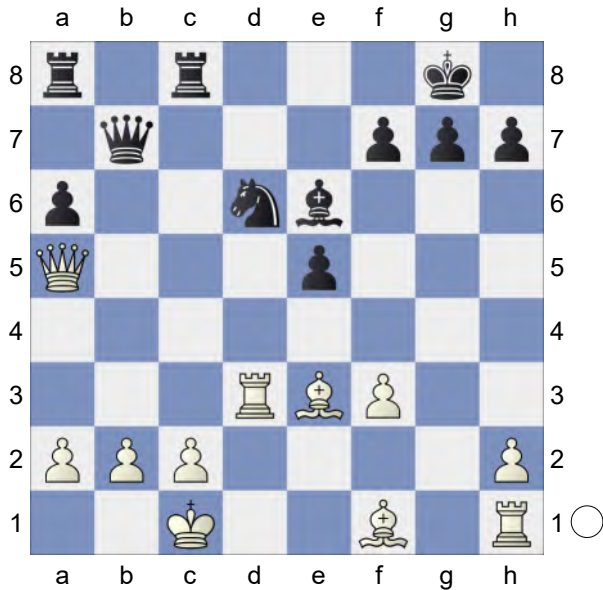
[20...Qc6 21.c3 Nd6 22.Qxe5 Nc4

23.Qg5 (23.Qe4 Qb5 24.b3 Qa5

25.bxc4 Rab8 26.Rg1 g6)

23...Nxe3 24.Rxe3 Bxa2]

(Diagram)

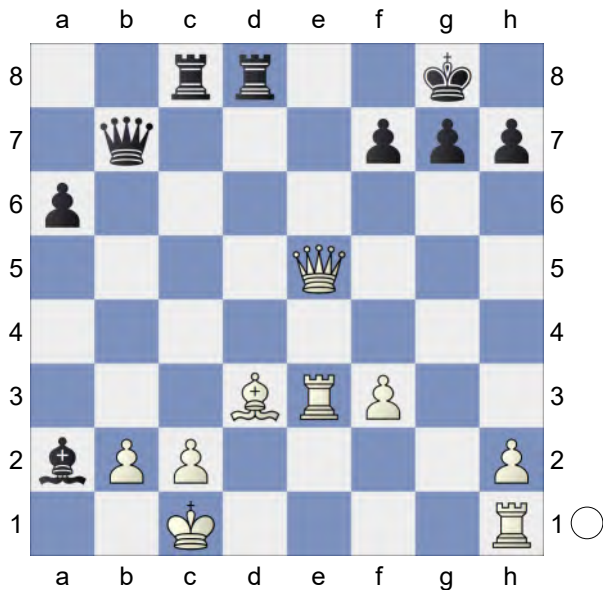


21.Qxe5 Nc4 22.Qd4 Nxe3 23.Rxe3 Rd8?!

[23...Bxa2 24.Bh3 Rd8 25.Rhe1 h6 26.Qe5∞]

24.Qe5 Rac8 25.Bd3 Bxa2?!

[25...g6 26.Kb1 Qb6 27.Rhe1±]

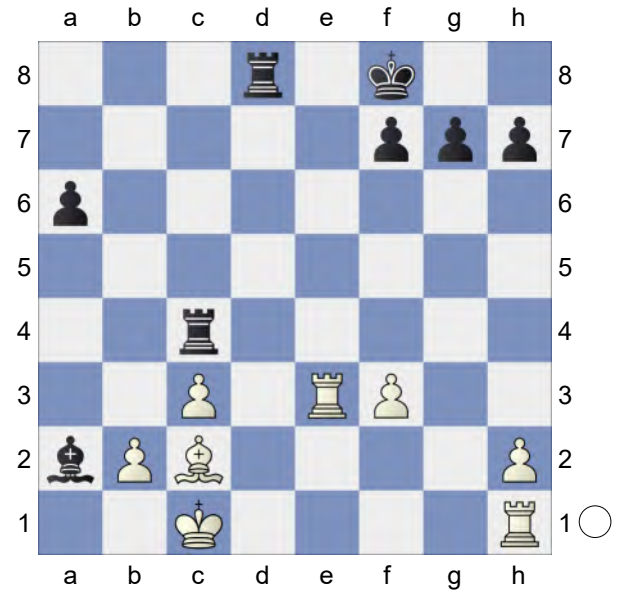


26.Bf5! Qb4

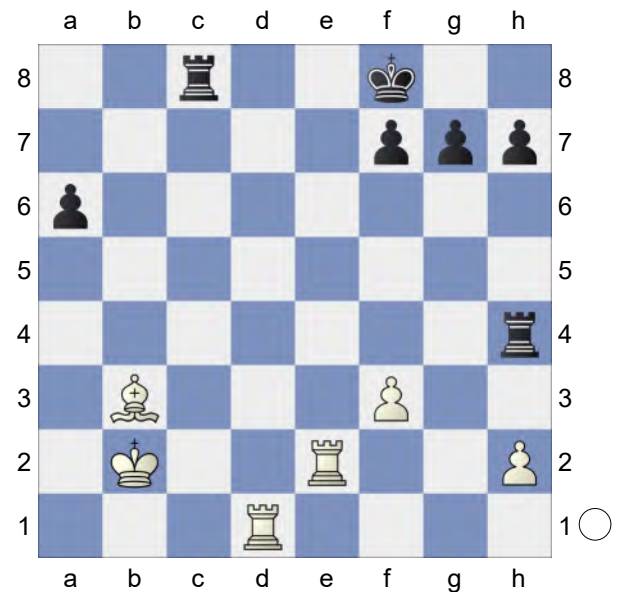
[26...Rb8 27.b3 g6 28.Be4 Qb6 29.Rc3±]

27.c3 Rc4 28.Bc2! Qc5 29.Qe8+- Qf8 30.Qxf8+ Kxf8

(Diagram)

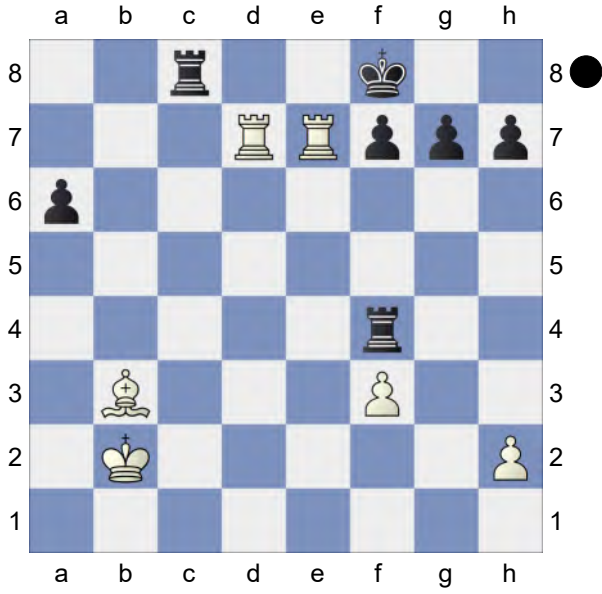


31.b3 Rh4 32.Re2 Bxb3 33.Bxb3 Rd3 34.Rd1 Rxc3+ 35.Kb2 Rc8



36.Rd7 Rf4 37.Ree7

(Diagram)



1-0

312

□ Wei,Yi

■ Liu,Yan

130/(89) China

[Arsovic,Goran]

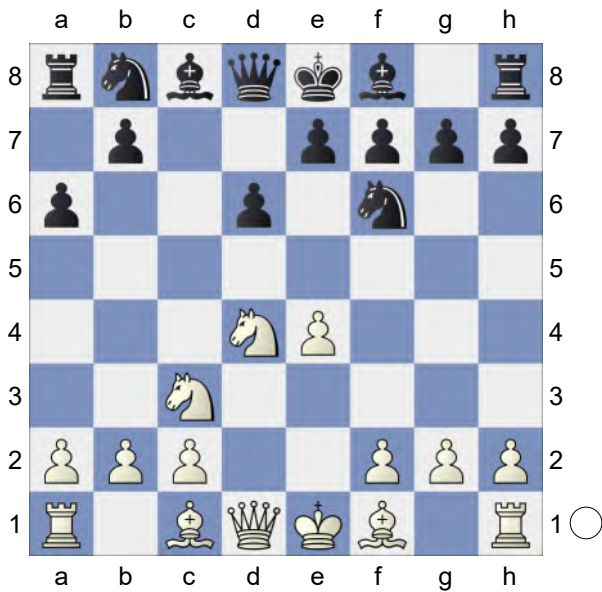
B97

2700

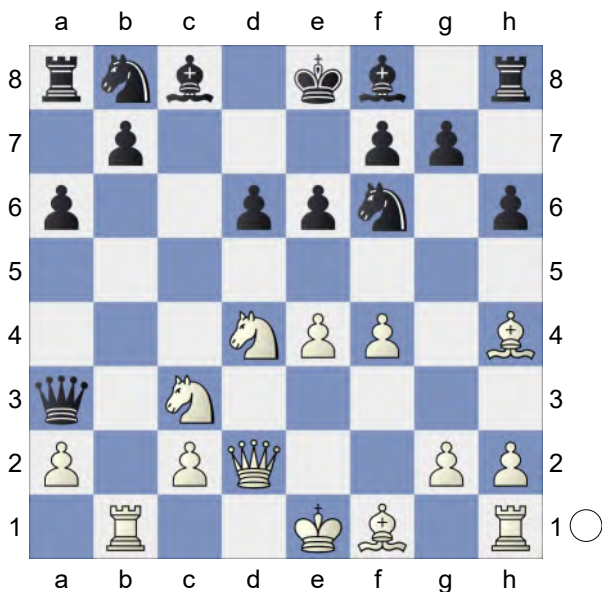
2413

2016

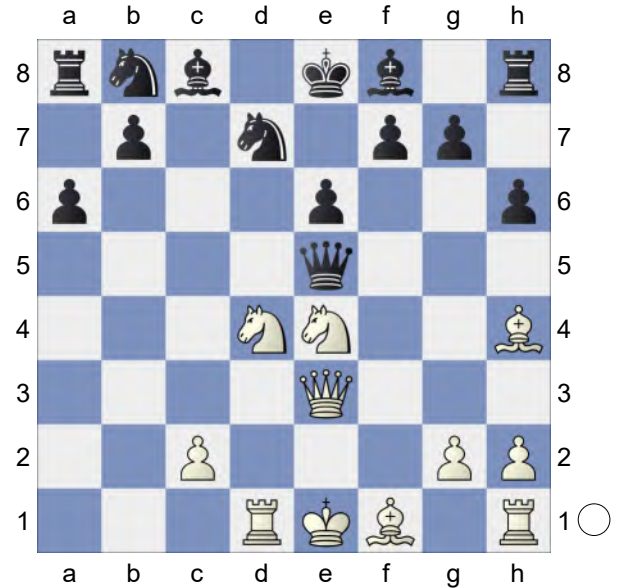
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6



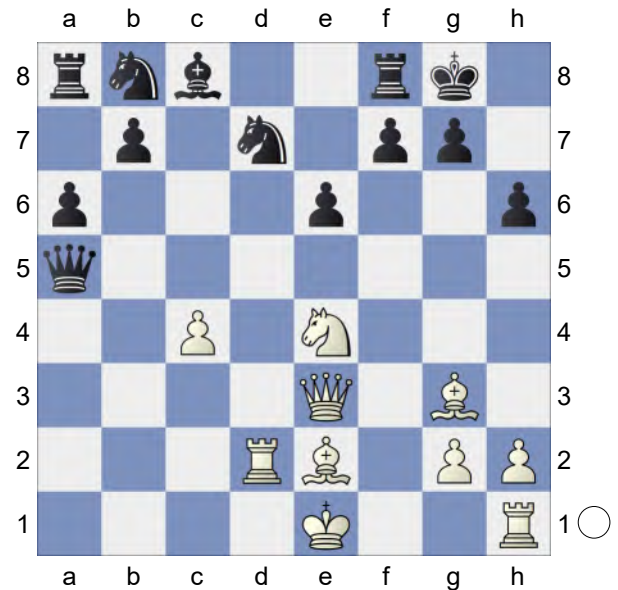
6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 h6 8.Bh4 Qb6 9.Qd2
Qxb2 10.Rb1 Qa3



11.e5 dxe5 12.fxe5 Nfd7 13.Ne4
Qxa2 14.Rd1 Qd5 15.Qe3 Qxe5



16.Be2 Bc5 17.Bg3 Qd5 18.c4 Bxd4
19.Rxd4 Qa5+ 20.Rd2 0-0

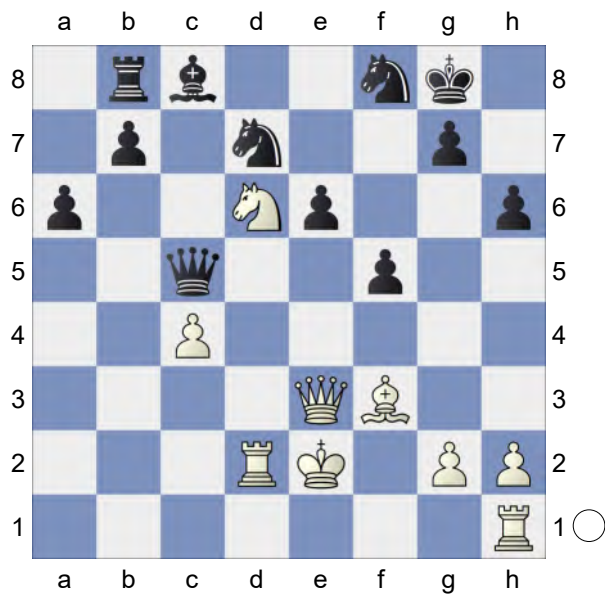


21.Bd6 f5 22.Bxf8 Nxf8 23.Nd6 Nbd7
24.Bf3N *

[24.Kf2 - 130/(89)]

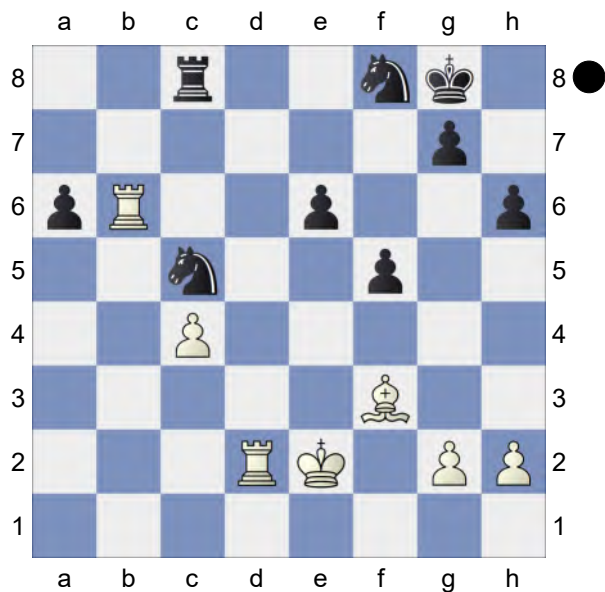
24...Qc5 25.Ke2 Rb8

(Diagram)



**26.Rb1 b6 27.Qxc5 Nxc5 28.Nxc8
Rxc8 29.Rxb6**

[29.Rxb6 Nfd7! 30.Rc6 (30.Rbd6
Rc7 $\cong$) 30...Rxc6 31.Bxc6 Ne5
32.Rd8+ Kf7 33.Bf3 Ke7 34.Rg8
g5 $\cong$]



198

□ Wei,Yi

■ Karthikeyan,Murali

Liaocheng 131/56

[Arsovic,Goran]

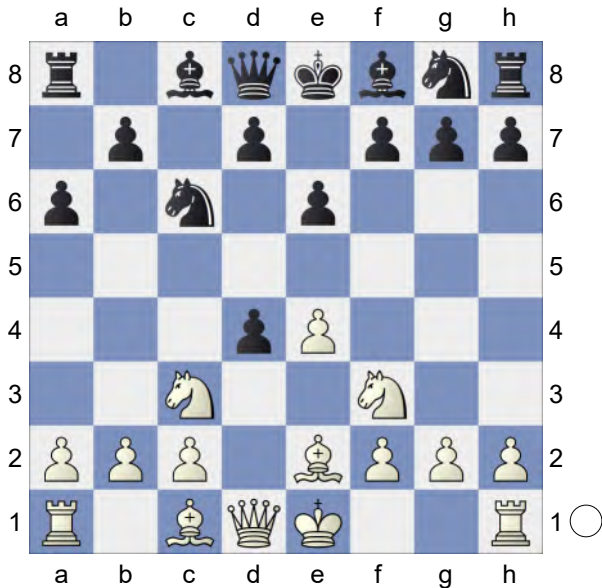
B49

2725

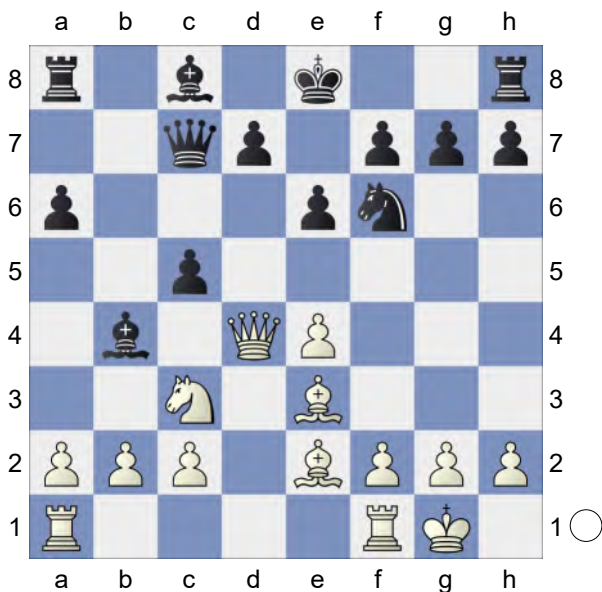
2578

2017

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.Nc3 a6 4.Be2
Nc6 5.d4 cxd4



6.Nxd4 Qc7 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Be3 Bb4
9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.Qd4 c5



11.Qc4 0-0

[11...Bb7 - 68/(151)]

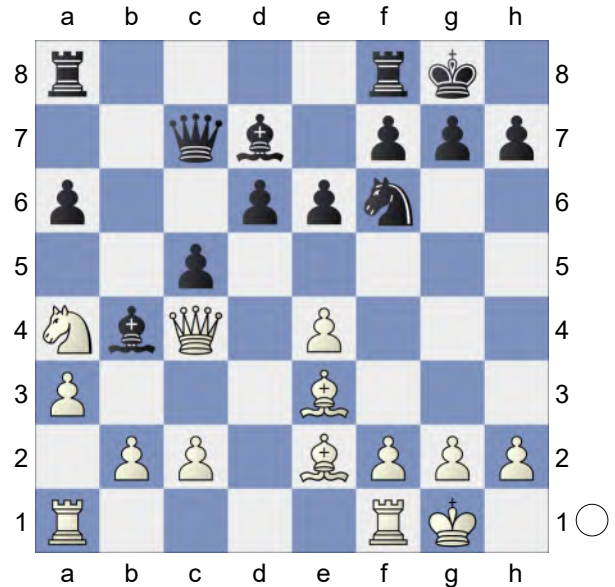
12.Na4 d6 13.a3N

[13.e5]

[13.c3]

13...Bd7?! Diagram

[13...Ba5 14.e5 dxe5 15.Qxc5 Nd5
16.Qxc7 Bxc7 17.Bd2±]



14.e5!

[14.axb4 Bb5 15.Qa2 Bxe2 16.Rfe1
Bb5 17.Nc3 Bc6 18.bxc5 Nxe4
19.Nxe4 Bxe4 20.b4±]

14...Bb5

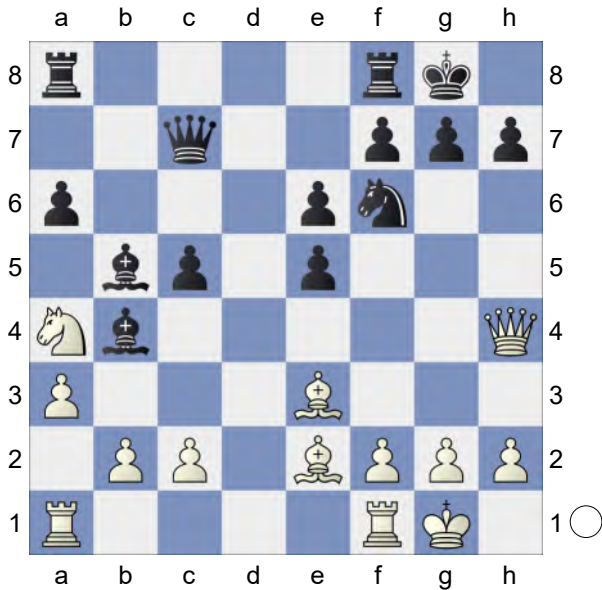
[14...dxe5? 15.axb4 Bb5 16.Qxc5
(16.Qh4 - 14...Bb5) 16...Qxc5
17.Nxc5 Bxe2 18.Rfe1 Bb5
19.b3+-]

15.Qh4 dxe5

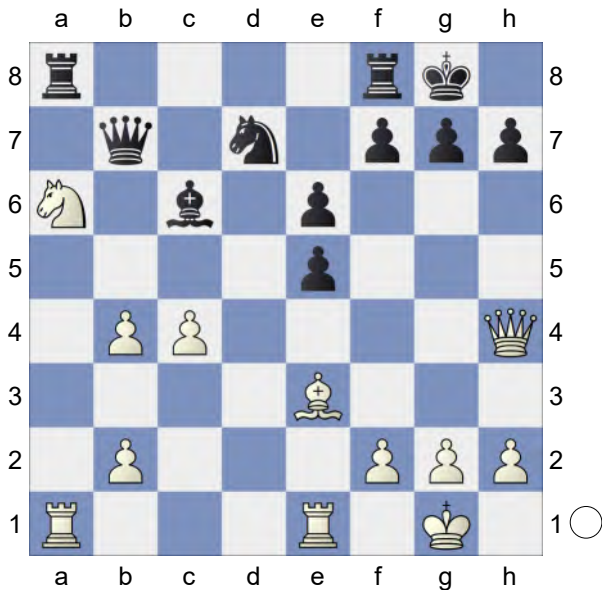
[15...Bxe2? 16.exf6 Qd8 17.axb4+-
Bxf1 18.Kxf1+-]

[15...Nd5 16.exd6 Qxd6 17.axb4
Nxe3 (17...Bxe2 18.Bxc5 Qd8
19.Qxd8 Rfxd8 20.Rfc1+-) 18.fxe3
Bxe2 19.Rf2 Bb5 20.bxc5±]

(Diagram)



16.axb4 Bxe2 17.Rfe1 Bb5 18.Nxc5±
Nd7 19.c4 Bc6 20.Nxa6 Qb7 Diagram



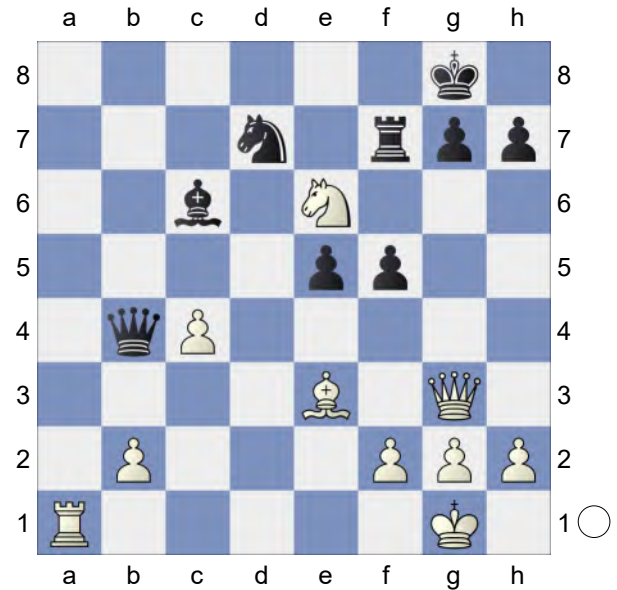
21.Qg3! f5 22.Nc5! Qxb4 23.Nxe6
Rf7 24.Rxa8+?!]

[24.Bh6! f4 25.Qg5 Rxa1 26.Rxa1
 Qxb2 27.Rf1+-]

24...Bxa8 25.Ra1 Bc6?

[25...Be4 26.Bh6 Qxb2 27.Rf1 Qb6
 (27...g6 28.Ng5±) 28.Nxg7 Qxh6
 29.Nxf5+ Qg6 30.Qxg6+ hxg6
 31.Nh6+ Kf8 32.Nxf7 Kxf7 33.f3±]

(Diagram)



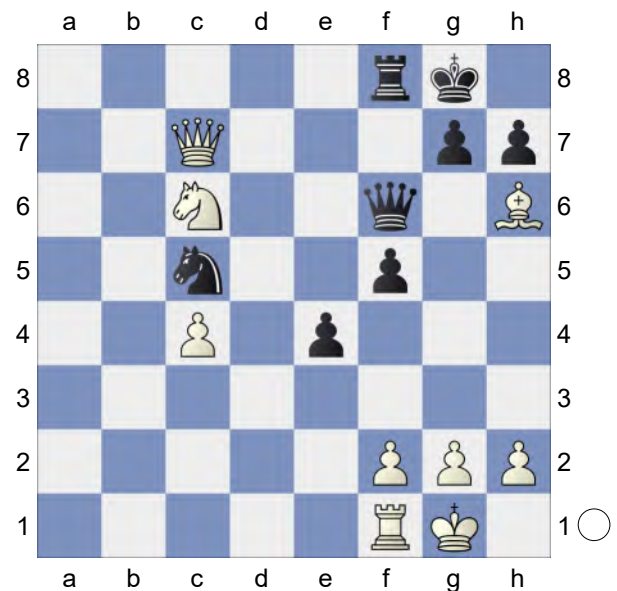
26.Bh6! Qxb2

[26...g6 27.Nd8+-]

27.Rf1!+- e4 28.Nd8 Rf8

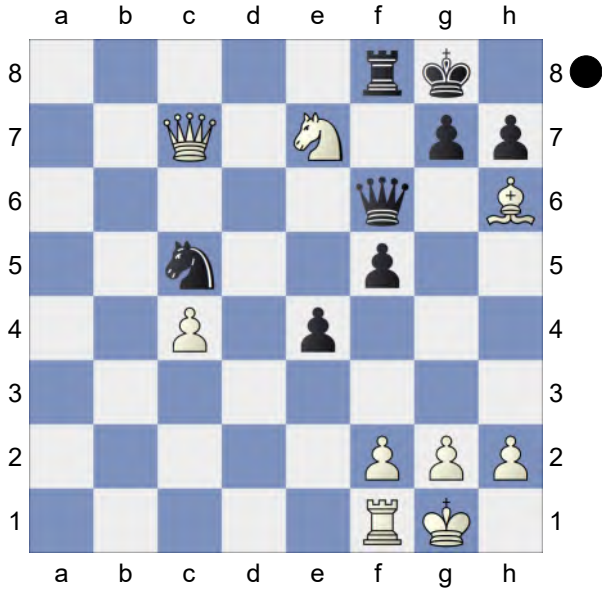
[28...f4 29.Qg5 e3 30.Nxf7 exf2+
 (30...e2 31.Re1 Qc3 32.Qxg7+
 Qxg7 33.Bxg7 Kxf7 34.Bc3+-)
 31.Rxf2 Qa1+ 32.Rf1 Qd4+
 33.Kh1+-]

29.Nxc6 Qf6 30.Qc7 Nc5



31.Ne7+

(Diagram)



1-0

139

□ Wei, Yi

■ Giri, Anish

chess.com (Int.-rapid) 147/79

[Arsovic, Goran]

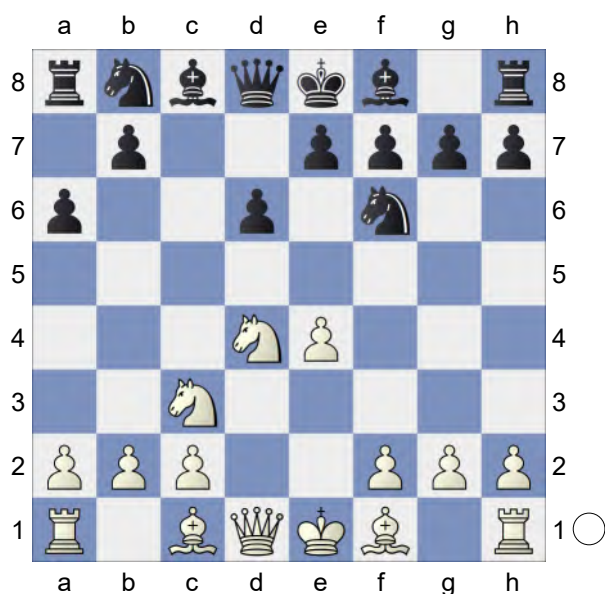
B90

2732

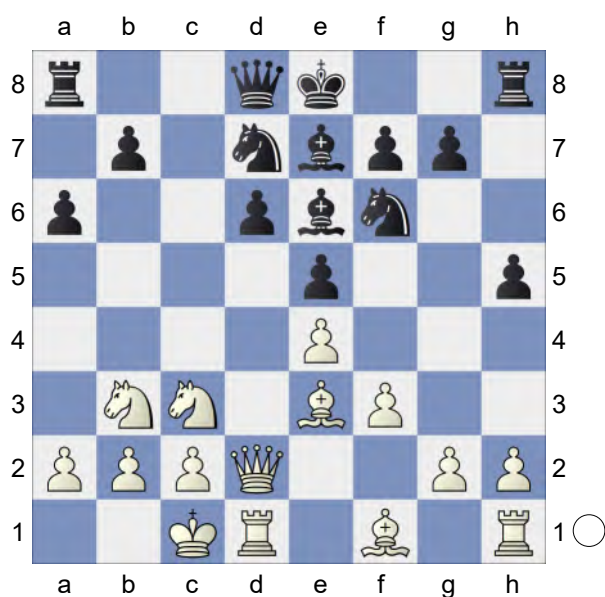
2764

2020

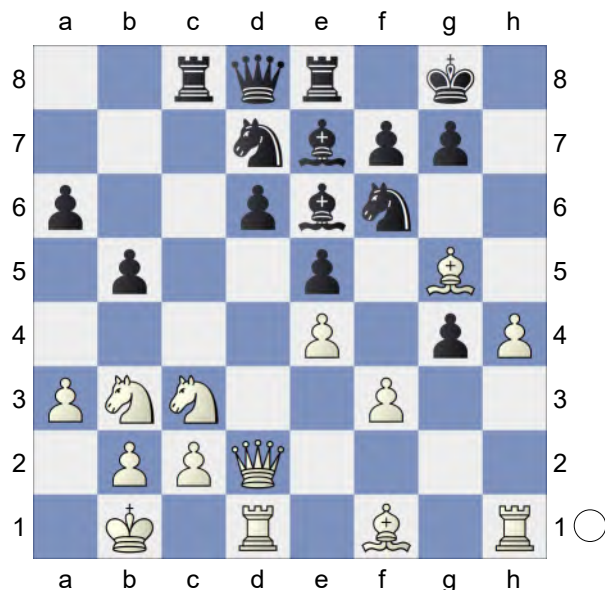
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6



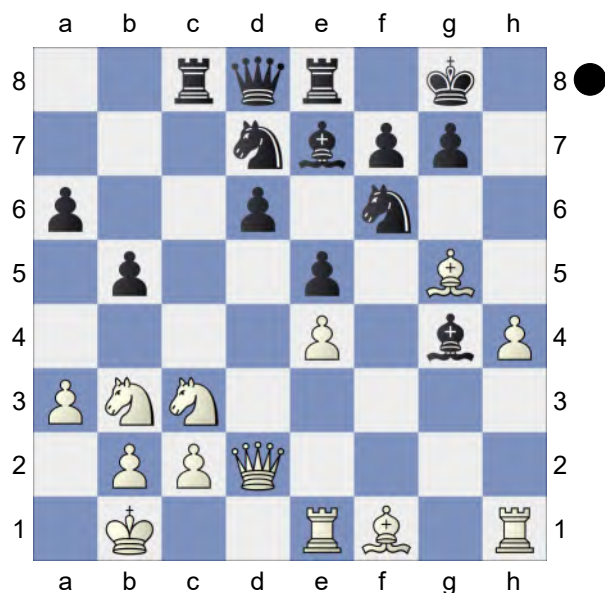
6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.f3 Be6 9.Qd2
h5 10.0-0-0 Nbd7



11.Kb1 Rc8 12.h4 b5 13.a3 0-0
14.Bg5 Re8 15.g4 hxg4



16.fxg4 Bxg4 17.Re1 Diagram



17...d5!N

[17...Nb6 18.Rg1 Be6=]

18.Nxd5

[18.exd5 b4 19.axb4 Bxb4 20.Bxa6
Rb8

A) 21.Be2 Bf5 (21...Bxe2
22.Rxe2 Qb6=) 22.Rhf1 Bh7;

B) 21.Rhg1 Qb6 22.Bd3 Rec8
(22...e4 23.Be3! Bxc3 24.Qxc3
Nxd5 25.Bxb6 Nxc3+ 26.bxc3
exd3 27.Rxe8+ Rxe8 28.Rxg4
dxc2+ 29.Kxc2 Nxb6=) 23.Bxf6

(23.Bh6 g6 $\bar{7}$) 23...Nxf6 24.Rg3
Bxc3 25.bxc3 Qd6 $\bar{7}$]

18...Nxd5 19.exd5

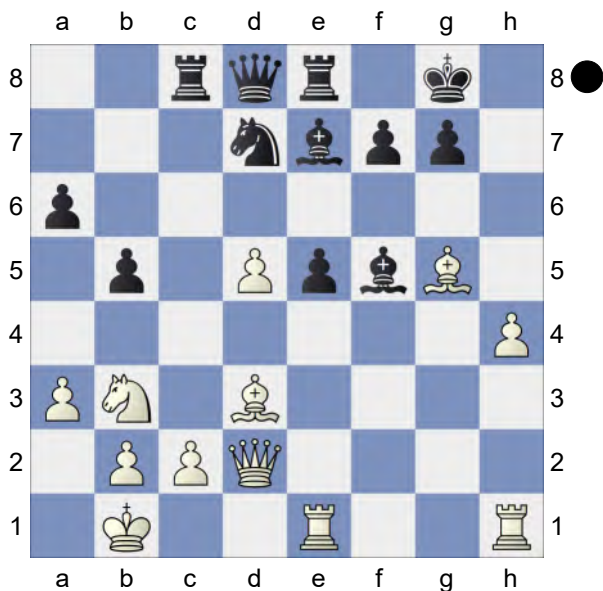
[19.Qxd5 Bxg5 (19...Be6 20.Qd3
Nf6 21.Qf3 Nh7 22.Bxe7 Qxe7 ∞)
20.hxg5 Nf8 (20...Qxg5 21.Bh3 ∞)
21.Qd3 Qxd3 22.Bxd3 Ng6 ∞]

19...Bf5 20.Bd3 Diagram

[20.Bxe7 Rxe7 21.Rc1 Nb6 22.Qg5
Qd7 (22...Bh7 23.Bh3 f6 24.Qg3
f5 ∞) 23.Rg1 f6! 24.Qxf6 Nxd5
25.Qxa6 Rxc2! 26.Rxc2 Bxc2+
27.Kxc2 Qf5+ 28.Bd3

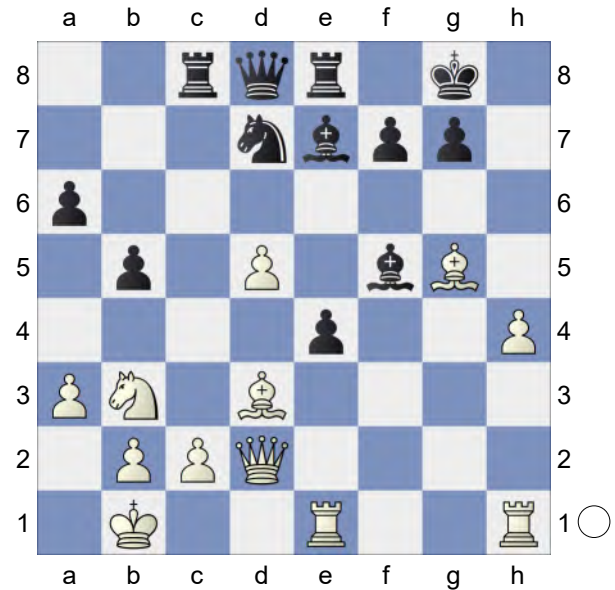
A) 28...e4 29.Bxb5 Qf2+ 30.Nd2
Ne3+ (30...Qxg1? 31.Qa8+ Kh7
32.Qxd5+-) 31.Kb3 Qxg1 32.Qd6
Qd1+ 33.Ka2 Rf7 34.Bc6 Rf6
35.Qd7 Rxc6 36.Qxc6 Qxd2
37.Qe8+=;

B) 28...Rc7+ 29.Kb1 Qxd3+
30.Ka2 Nc3+ 31.Ka1 Ne2
32.Qa8+ Kh7 33.Qe8 Nxc1
34.Qh5+ Kg8 35.Qe8+=]



20...e4!

(Diagram)



21.Nd4

[21.Bxe4 Bxg5 22.hxg5 Rxe4
23.Ref1 Rxc2 24.Qxc2 Rf4 25.Qxf5
Rxf5 26.Rxf5 g6 27.Rf4 Qxg5
28.Rd4 Qe3 $\bar{7}$]

[21.Rxe4 Bxe4 22.Bxe4 Nb6
23.Qd3 Qd6 $\bar{7}$]

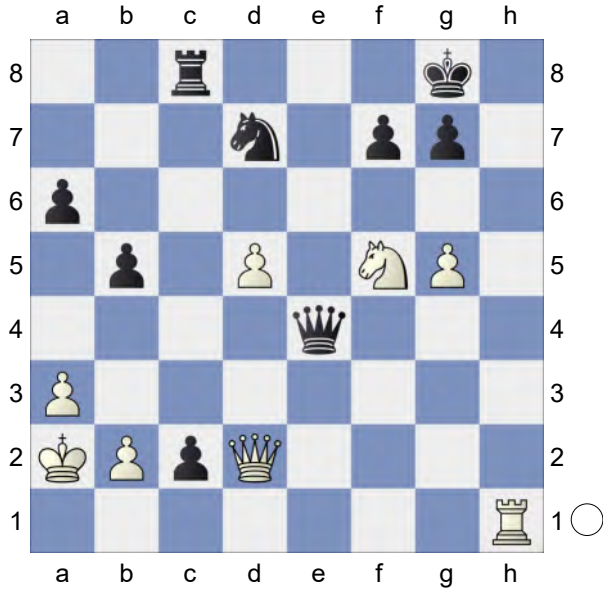
21...Bxg5 22.hxg5 exd3 23.Rxe8+

[23.Nxf5 Rxe1+ 24.Rxe1 dxc2+
25.Ka2 g6 26.Nd6 c1Q 27.Rxc1
Rxc1 28.Qxc1 Ne5 29.Qc5 Qxg5
30.Qc7 Kg7 ∞]

23...Qxe8 24.Nxf5 dxc2+ 25.Ka2 Qe4 Diagram

[25...c1Q 26.Rxc1 Rxc1 27.Qxc1
Qe5 28.Qc8+ Nf8 29.d6 Qd5+
30.Kb1 Qd1+=]

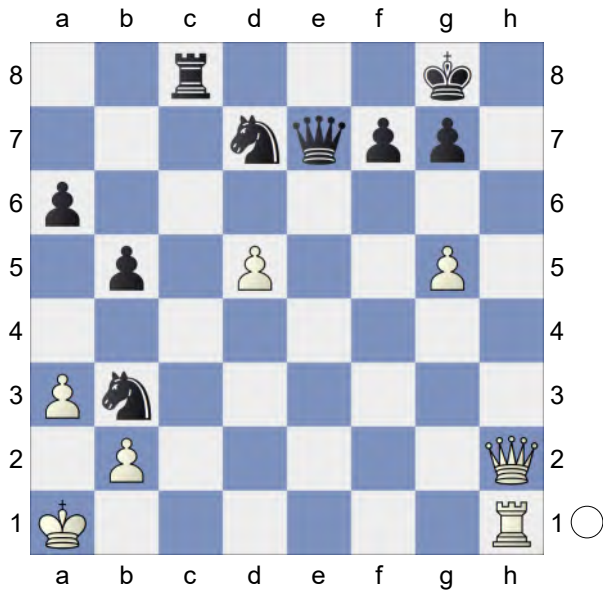
(Diagram)



26.Ne7+! Qxe7 27.Qh2 c1N+!=
28.Ka1

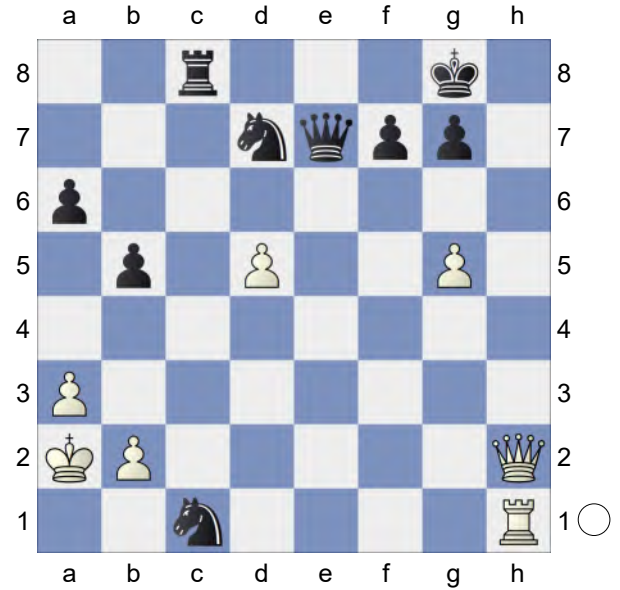
[28.Kb1? Qe4+ 29.Ka1 Qxh1
 30.Qxh1 Nc5+]

28...Nb3+ 29.Ka2 Nc1+ 30.Ka1 Nb3+



31.Ka2 Nc1+

(Diagram)



1/2-1/2

142

□ Wei,Yi

■ Dastan,Batuhan Muhammed

ProChessLeague (Int.-rapid) 144/(61)

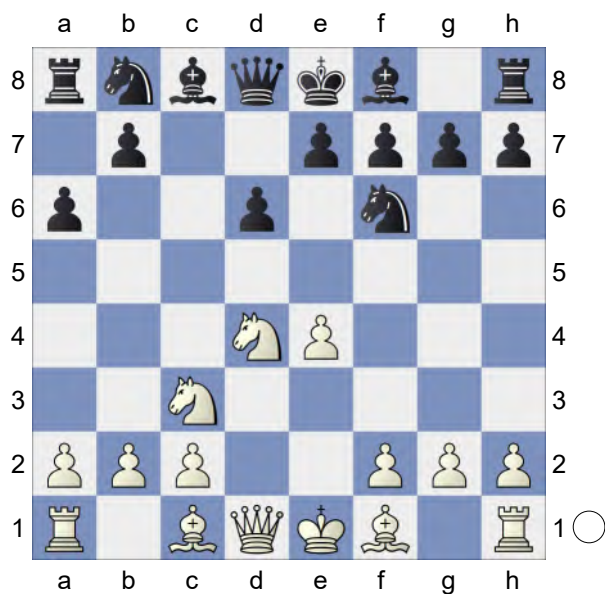
[Arsovic,Goran]

B90

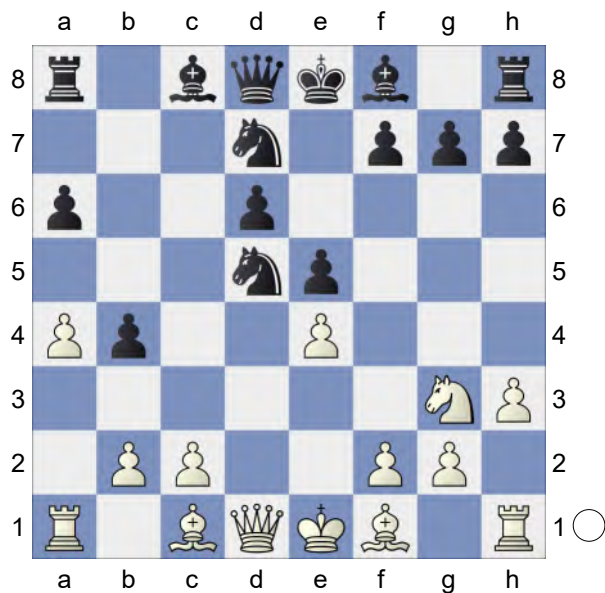
2732

2572

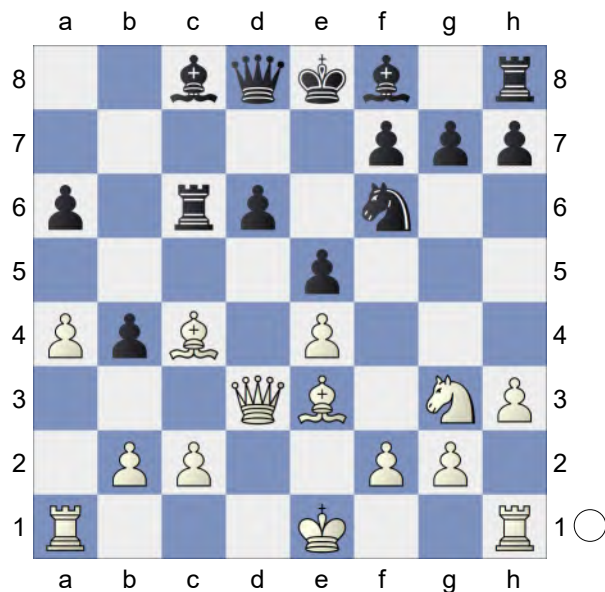
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6



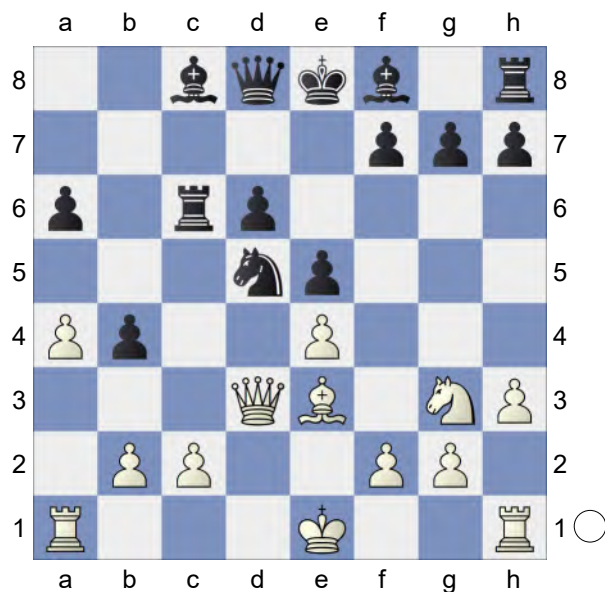
6.h3 e5 7.Nde2 b5 8.Ng3 Nbd7 9.a4
* 9...b4 10.Nd5 Nxd5?!
[10...Bb7 - 131/(76)]



11.Qxd5 Ra7 12.Be3 Rc7 13.Bc4 Nf6
14.Qd3 Rc6 Diagram



15.Bd5! Nxd5

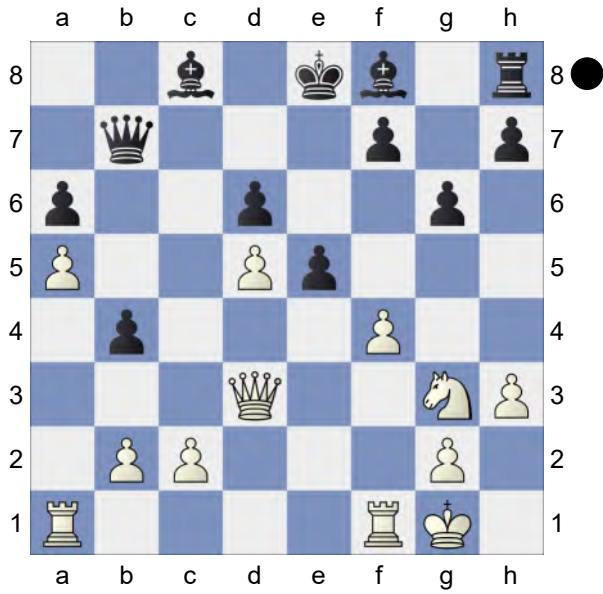


16.exd5 Rb6N

[16...Rc7]

17.Bxb6 Qxb6 18.a5 Qb7 19.0-0 g6
20.f4+-

(Diagram)



264

□ Wei, Yi

■ Dao, Thien Hai

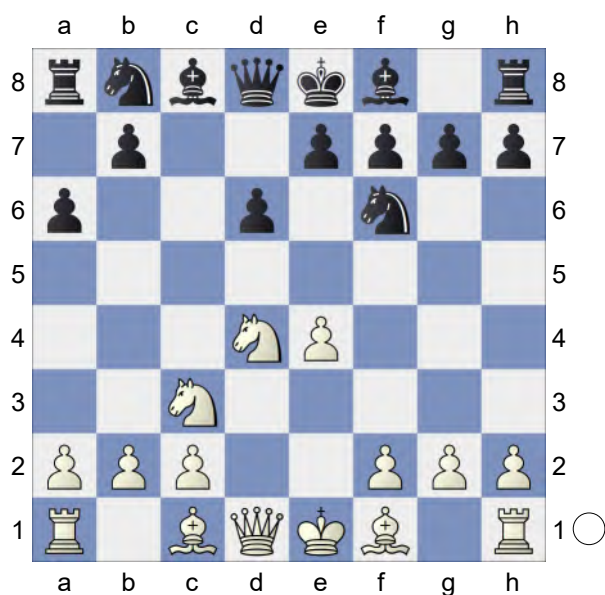
128/(85) Abu Dhabi

[Arsovic, Goran]

B96**2714****2481**

2016

Wei Yi had a bad chess start in 2016, but still he continues his good run against the Najdorf. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6



6.Bg5 The most aggressive line. **6...e6**
7.f4 Nbd7

[7...Qb6 Going for the poisoned pawn is also very dangerous. Here are a few important recent games: 8.Qd2 Qxb2 9.Rb1 Qa3 10.e5 h6 11.Bh4 dxe5 12.fxe5 g5 13.exf6 gxh4 One of the key positions of the 6.Bg5 Najdorf. You better play this line with a good computer, big work and great memory! 14.Be2 Qa5 (14...e5 !? is a very interesting novelty which I saw live: 15.Nd5 exd4 16.Nc7+ Kd8 17.Nxa8 Nd7 with a crazy position. Lampert-Ragger Grenke Open 2016) 15.0-0 Nd7 16.Rbd1 h3 17.g3 Bb4 18.Qe3 Bxc3 19.Nxe6 Qe5

? The strong Ukrainian grandmaster could not cope with the opening problems over the board but later found the saving line: (19...fxe6 ! 20.Qxe6+ Kd8 21.Qe7+ Kc7 22.Qd6+ Kd8 23.f7 Bg7 24.f8Q+ Rxf8 25.Rxf8+ Bxf8 26.Qxf8+ Kc7 27.Qd6+ Kd8 28.Bg4 Qb5 ! 29.Qf8+ Kc7 and a draw was soon agreed in Zeng-Areshchenko 2015.) 20.Nc7+ Kf8 21.Qxe5 Bxe5 22.Nxa8 Nxf6 23.Nb6 Kg7 24.Nxc8 Rxc8 25.Rf5 and White converted his material advantage in Wei Yi-Areshchenko 2015.]

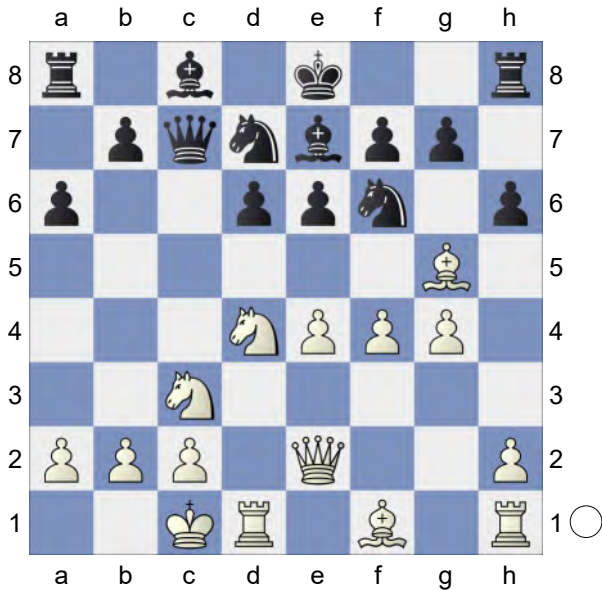
8.Qe2 This might seem like an odd move but the f1 bishop doesn't necessarily move on the f1-a6 diagonal and the game will show that it is sometimes useful to have the queen in front of Black's king.

[8.Qf3 is an important alternative.]

8...Qc7 9.0-0-0 Be7 10.g4 DIAGRAM 10...h6

[10...b5 11.a3 0-0 (11...Bb7 is the main theoretical move.) 12.Bh4 Rb8 13.g5 Ne8 14.f5 Nc5 15.f6 Bd8 16.e5 with an unclear but visually very dangerous position to play as Black. Wei Yi- Vachier Lagrave 2015]

(Diagram)



11.Bh4 g5 ?! This typical idea doesn't really work in this position. **12.fxg5** *
12...Nh7?! ?

[12...hxg5 is much better than the game even if after 13.Bxg5 b5 14.a3 Ne5 ± this important square for the knight doesn't fully compensate the pawn deficit. 15.h4 !? (15.Rg1 !?)]

13.Bg3 !

[13.Nf5 - 29/400]

13...hxg5 DIAGRAM

[13...Bxg5+ 14.Kb1 Ne5 15.h4± (15.Nf3 ! ± An important typical move to fight for e5.)]

14.Nf5! ! Black probably didn't really know the opening as this strong refutation has already been played. Now he goes for a logical but wrong continuation in a very difficult position.

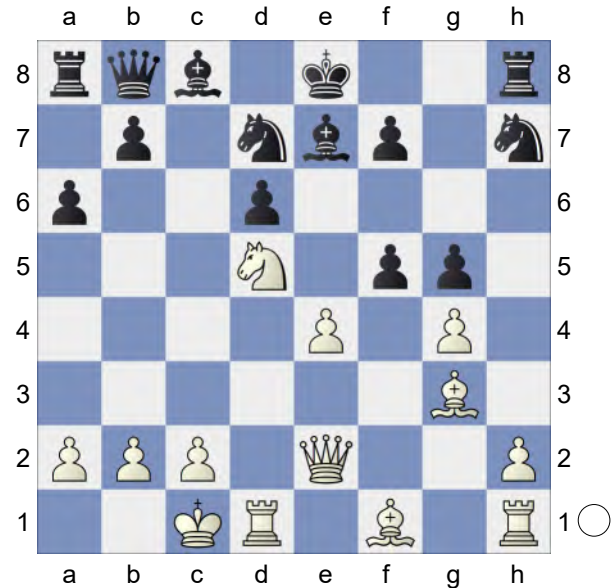
14...exf5

[14...Ne5 looks more solid but Black can't really defend without the important dark-squared bishop, for example: 15.Nxe7 Qxe7 16.h4 Bd7 17.hxg5 0-0-0 18.Qf2 ! ± and the queen invades on a7 or b6.]

15.Nd5 Qb8N

[15...Qd8 could simply be met by

16.exf5 Ndf6 17.Nxf6+ Nxf6
 18.Rxd6 Bd7 19.Rxf6 Kf8 20.Bd6
 ! + [-]



16.exf5 Ne5 17.Nxe7 Kxe7 DIAGRAM
18.Rxd6!+- ! The crushing move.
18...Qxd6 19.Bxe5 Qd5 20.Bg2 Qxa2

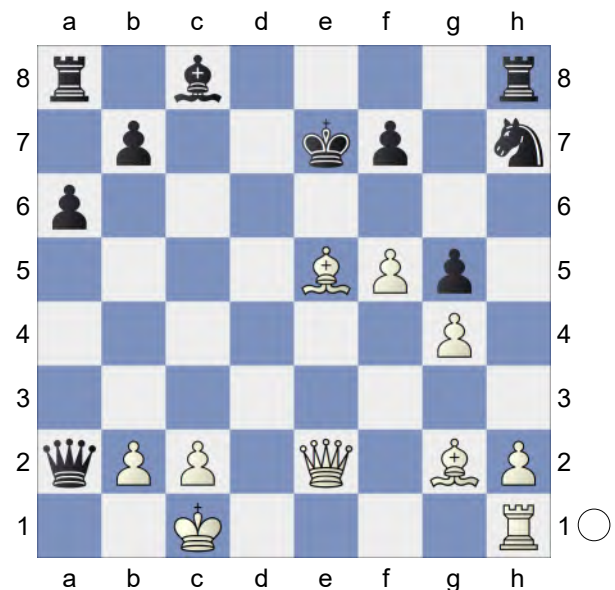
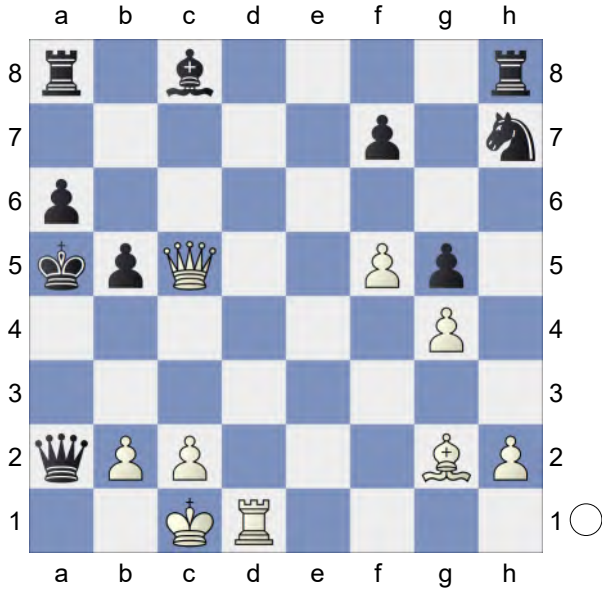
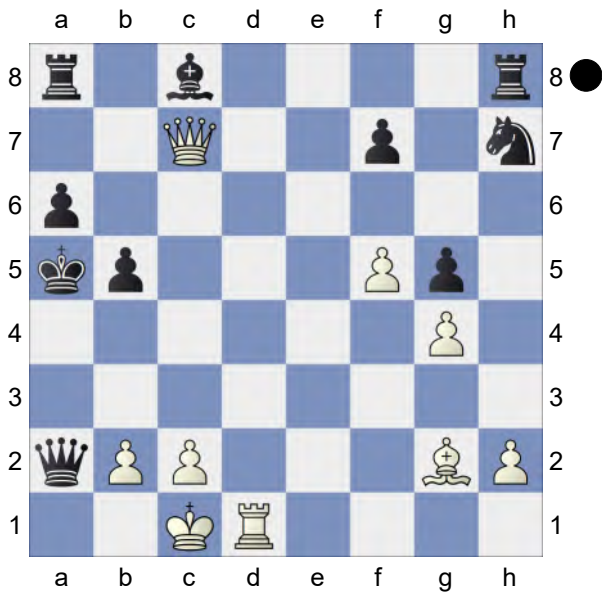


DIAGRAM 21.Bd6+ ! White had many wins and chose the most forceful one. It is simply a long forced mating variation!
21...Kxd6 22.Rd1+ Kc7 23.Qe5+ Kb6
24.Qd4+ Ka5 25.Qc5+ b5
 (Diagram)



26.Qc7+



Mate is coming soon. An easy but nice attacking game.

1-0

472

□ Wei,Yi

■ Cheparinov,Ivan

117/(76) Reykjavik

[Arsovic,Goran]

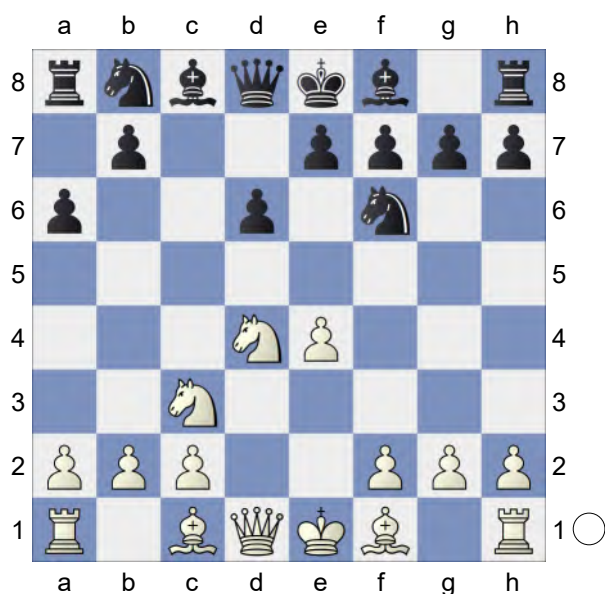
B90

2501

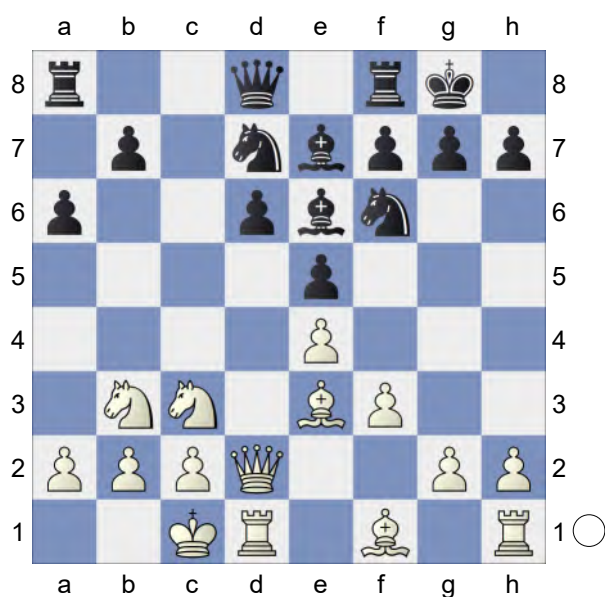
2709

2013

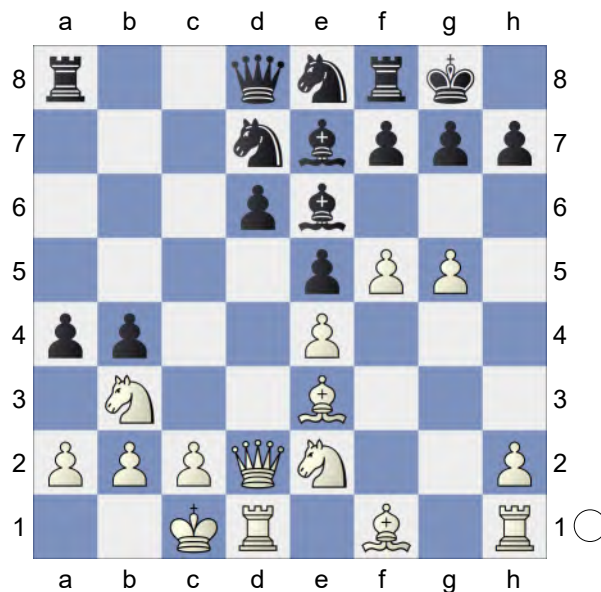
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6



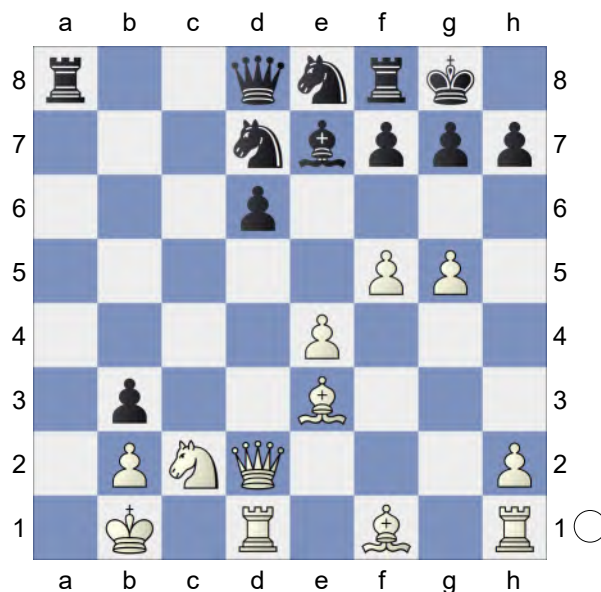
6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.f3 Be6 9.Qd2
0-0 10.0-0-0 Nbd7



11.g4 b5 12.g5 b4 13.Ne2 Ne8 14.f4
a5 15.f5 * 15...a4

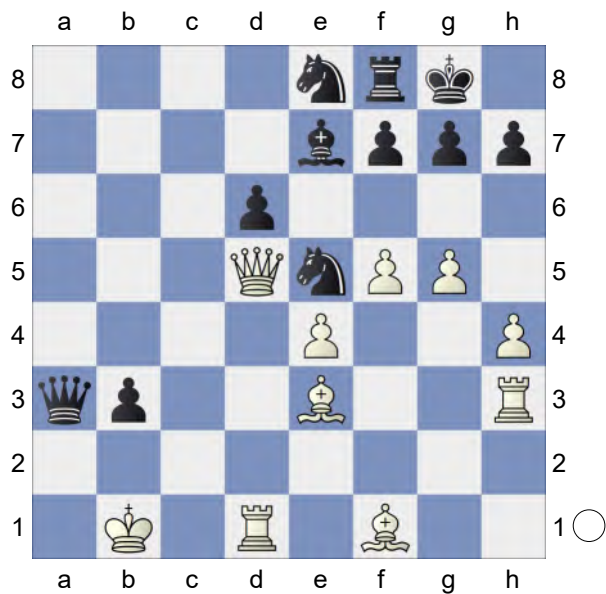


16.Nbd4 exd4 17.Nxd4 b3 18.Kb1
bxc2+ 19.Nxc2 Bb3 20.axb3 axb3

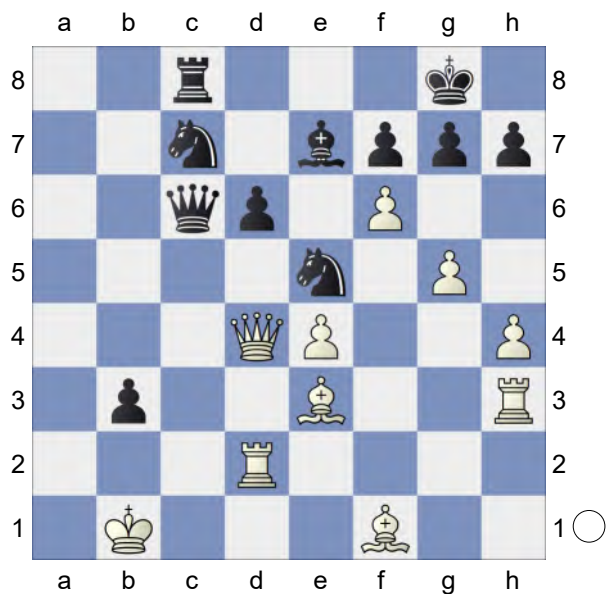


21.Na3 Ne5 22.h4 Ra4 23.Rh3 Qa8
[23...Rxe4 Ü 100/(169)]
24.Qd5 Rxa3! 25.bxa3 Qxa3

(Diagram)

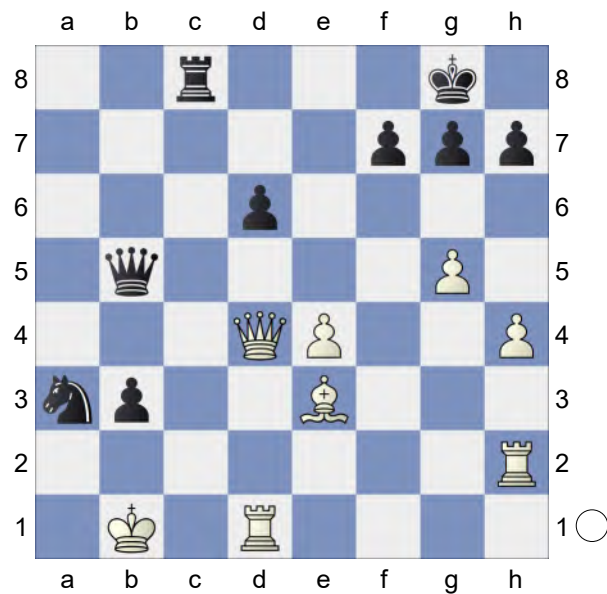


**26.Rd2 Nc7 27.Qb7 Qa5 28.Qb6 Qc3
29.Qd4 Qc6 30.f6 Rc8**

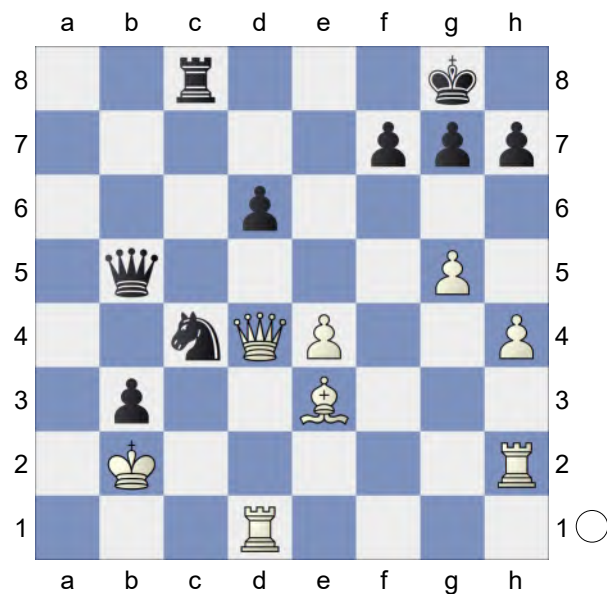


**31.fxe7 Nb5 32.e8Q+ Qxe8 33.Bxb5
Qxb5 34.Rhh2N
[34.Rf2]
34...Nc4 35.Rd1 Na3+**

(Diagram)



**36.Kb2 Nc4+ 37.Kb1 Na3+ 38.Kb2
Nc4+**



1/2-1/2

147

□ Wei, Yi

■ Chanda, Sandipan

Chengdu 132/103

[Arsovic, Goran]

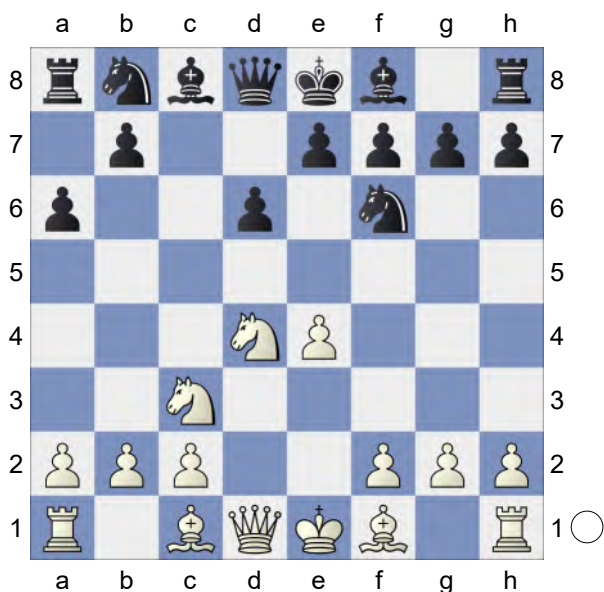
B97

2732

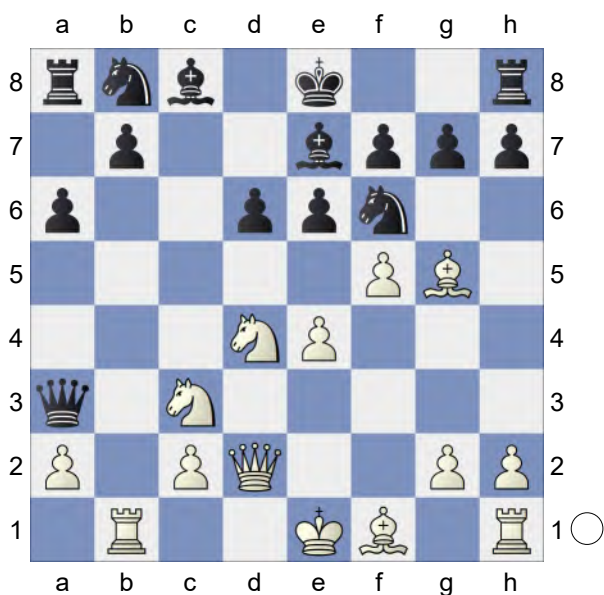
2575

2017

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6



6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Qb6 8.Qd2 Qxb2
9.Rb1 Qa3 10.f5 Be7!? Diagram



11.fxe6 Bxe6

[11...fxe6?! 12.Bc4± - 4/577]

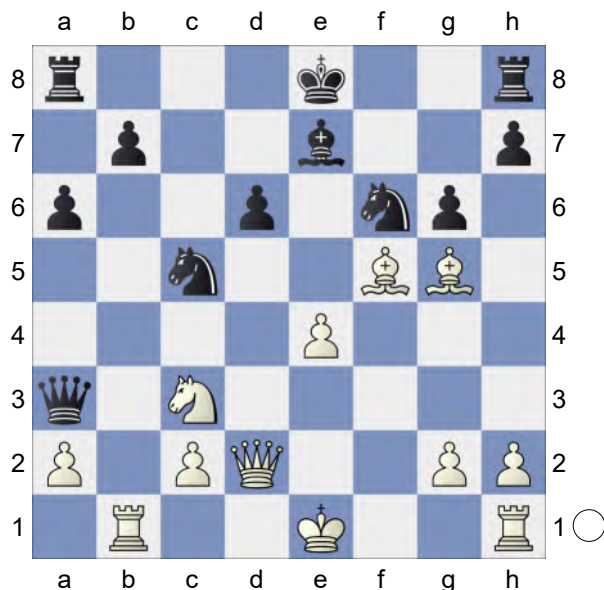
12.Nxe6 fxe6 13.Bc4 Nbd7 14.Bxe6
Nc5 15.Bf5

[15.Bb3 Rc8

A) 16.Bxf6 Bxf6 17.Nd5 Nxb3
18.Nxf6+ gxf6 19.Rxb3 Qc5
(19...Qxa2) 20.Rf1 0-0 21.Rxb7
Rf7 22.Rxf7 Kxf7 23.Kd1 Ke7
24.g3 (24.Qd3 Rb8 25.g3 Rb1+
26.Ke2 Qh5+=) 24...Qc4 25.Qf2
Ke8=;

B) 16.0-0 Nxb3 17.Rxb3 Qc5+
18.Be3 Qc4 19.Rf4 Nh5! 20.Rf3
Nf6=]

15...g6!

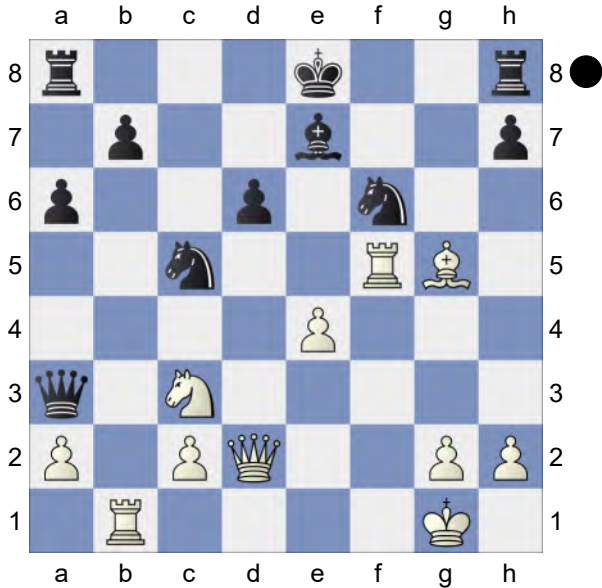


16.0-0

[16.Bh3 Ncxe4 17.Nxe4 Nxe4
18.Qd4 Qc3+ 19.Qxc3 Nxc3
20.Bxe7 Kxe7 (20...Nxb1? 21.Bf6
Rf8 22.Bb2±) 21.Rxb7+ Kf6 22.0-0+
Kg5∞]

16...gxf5 17.Rxf5 Diagram

(Diagram)

**17...Rf8!**

[17...Nfxe4? 18.Nxe4 Nxe4 19.Qd4 0-0-0 20.Qxe4+-]

[17...0-0-0 18.Bxf6 Bxf6 19.Rxf6 Rhe8 20.Qd4±]

18.Bxf6 Bxf6 19.Nd5 0-0-0 20.Rxf6N

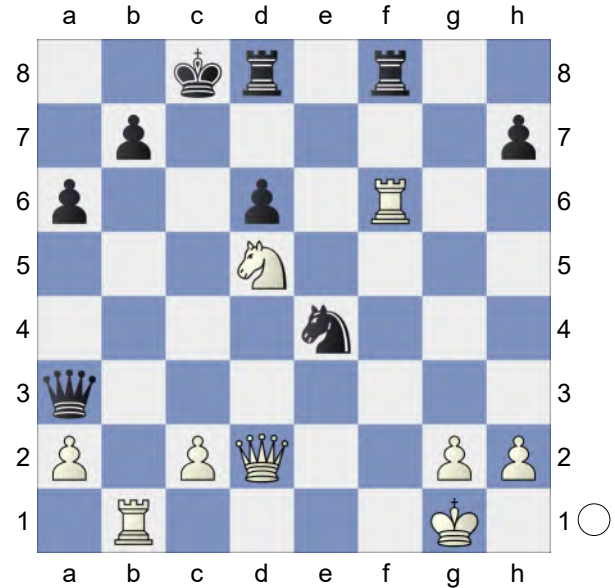
[20.Nxf6 Nxe4 21.Qd4 Nxf6 22.Qa7 Rde8! 23.Qxb7+ Kd8 24.Qa7 (24.Qb6+ Ke7 25.Qd4 Nd7 26.Qh4+ Rf6 27.Re1+ Kd8 28.Rxe8+ Kxe8 29.Rxf6 Nxf6 30.Qxf6 Qe3+ 31.Qf2 Qc1+=) 24...Nd7 25.Qa8+ Ke7 26.Qe4+

A) 26...Ne5?? 27.Rxe5+ dxe5
28.Qxh7+ Kd6 29.Rd1+ Ke6
30.Qd7+ Kf6 31.Rd6+ Kg5
32.Qg7+ Kf4 33.Qh6+ Ke4
34.Qh7+ Rf5 35.Qb7+ Ke3
(35...Kf4 36.g3+ Ke3 37.Rd3+-)
36.Rd3+-;

B) 26...Kd8 27.Qa8+=]

20...Nxe4

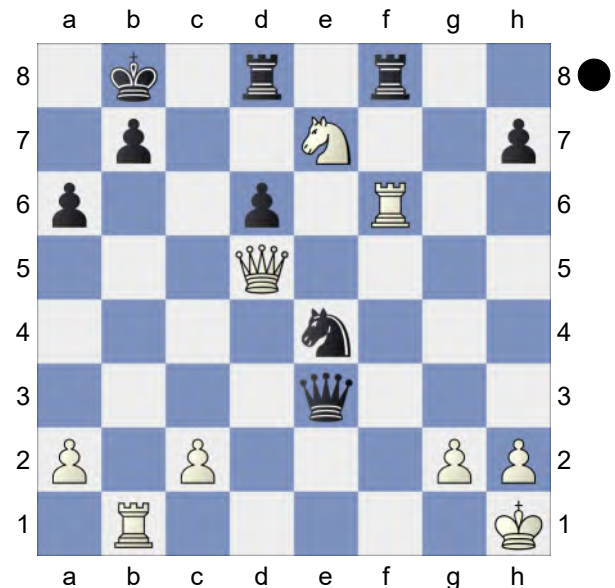
(Diagram)

**21.Ne7+**

[21.Nb6+ Kc7 22.Nd5+ Kc8=]

21...Kb8 22.Qd5 Qe3+

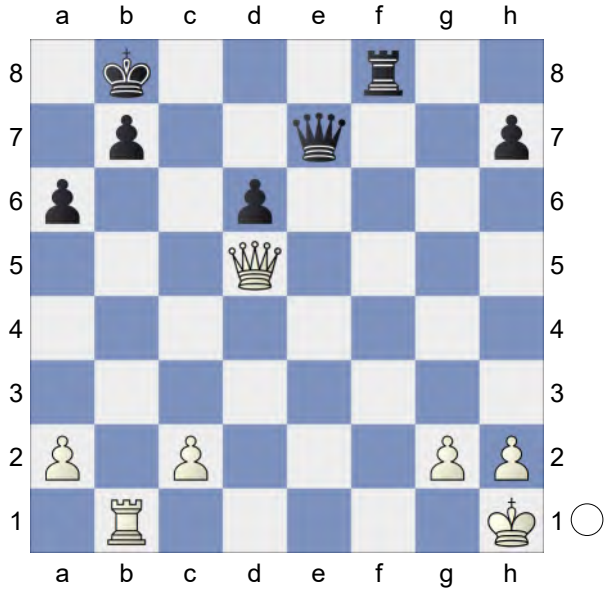
[22...Qc5+ 23.Qxc5 dxc5 24.Rh6 Rd2 25.Rxh7 Nc3 26.Nc6+ Kc8 27.Na7+ Kd8 28.Nc6+ Kc8=]

23.Kh1 Diagram**23...Nf2+!= 24.Rxf2**

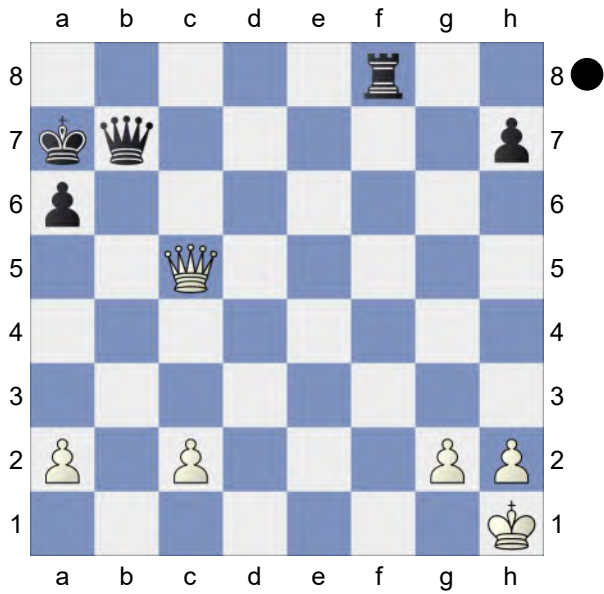
[24.Kg1 Nd1+-]

24...Qxe7 25.Rxf8 Rxf8

(Diagram)



26.Rxb7+! Qxb7 27.Qxd6+ Ka7
28.Qc5+ Qb6 29.Qe7+ Qb7 30.Qc5+



1/2-1/2

457

□ Tran, Tuan Minh

■ Wei, Yi

Chengdu 133/155

[Arsovic, Goran]

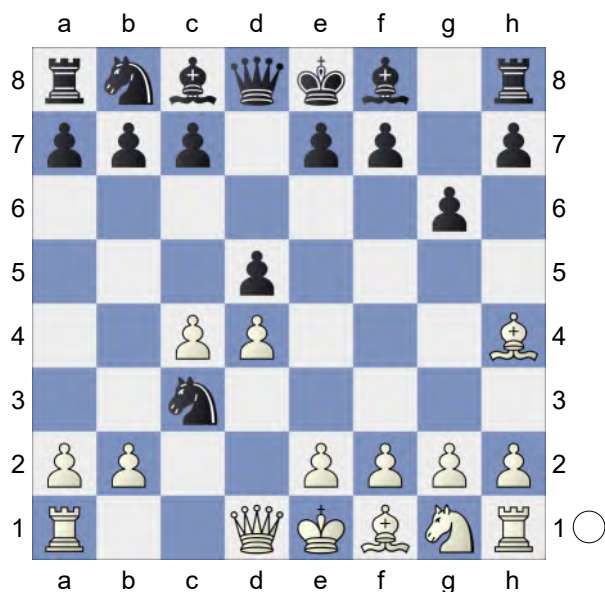
D91

2537

2732

2017

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bg5
Ne4 5.Bh4 Nxc3



6.bxc3 dxc4 7.e3 Be6 8.Nf3

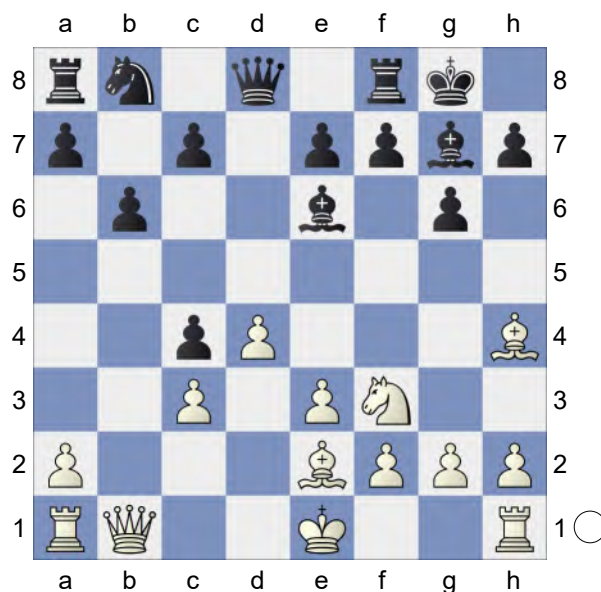
Glenn Flear: 'Once White plays Nf3 the game transposes from D80 to D91.'

8...Bg7 9.Qb1 b6 10.Be2

[The main line with 10.Ng5 has scored well for White, but I don't think this is because of the opening: Bd5 11.e4 h6 12.exd5 (for 12.Nh3 see Pantsulaia, L - Elsness, F Khanty Mansiysk Olympiad 2010, where White won, but you'll find a clear improvement for Black suggested by yours truly in the archives) 12...hxg5 13.Qb5+ Qd7 14.Qxd7+ Nxd7 15.Bxg5 b5 16.a4 b4! 17.Rc1 bxc3 18.Rxc3 Rb8 Radjabov, T - Van Wely, L Spanish league 2016, gave Black a decent game.]

[White regains the c-pawn with 10.Nd2 but it's not that challenging: c5 11.Bxc4 Bxc4 12.Nxc4 Qd5 13.Qb5+ Nc6 14.0-0 0-0= 15.Nd2 Rac8 16.Nb3 Qe4 17.Bg3 cxd4 18.cxd4 e5 Batchimeg, T - Muzychuk, A Gibraltar 2017, with promising counterplay.]

10...0-0



11.0-0 c5 12.Rd1 Qc7

[12...Nd7 - 107/154]

13.Qb2N Glenn Flear: 'Arsovic, Goran: 'N''

[Glenn Flear: 'A couple of other options are worthy of note:' 13.a4 Bd5 14.a5 cxd4 15.Nxd4 Qb7 (I quite like Black's set-up where it's useful to be gaining a tempo due to the threat against g2) 16.axb6 axb6 17.Rxa8 Qxa8 18.f3 (White could instead regain the pawn with 18.Bxe7 Re8 19.Bd6 Bxg2 20.Bxc4 with murky play) 18...Qa3! 19.Nb5?! (19.Be1 would have been a better try) 19...Qc5 20.Bf2 Bc6 21.Nd4 Ba4! (playing for more than equality) 22.Rd2 Bh6 Bogner, S - Salem, A Kemer 2009, and there wasn't

enough compensation.]

[Glenn Flear: 'After' 13.Bg3 Qc8?!
(I think that Black should go for
13...Qc6! with the point that the knight
leap 14.Ne5 can be met by Bxe5
15.dxe5 Qa4) 14.d5 Bg4 15.Qe4
Re8 16.Qxc4 Sapozhnikov, R - Banik,
S Arlington 2014, White had regained
his pawn with interest in the form of
superior pieces and a better presence
in the centre.]

[13.d5 Bf5 14.Qb2 (14.e4 Bg4∞)
14...Bd3 15.Bxd3 cxd3 16.Rxd3 c4
17.Rdd1 Qc5 18.a4 Nd7∞]

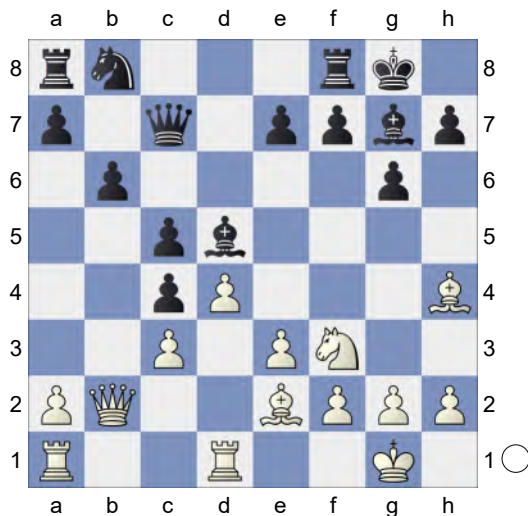
13...Re8?! Glenn Flear: '?' '?' '?' '?'

Glenn Flear: 'This 'natural' developing
move leads to all sorts of problems.'

Glenn Flear: 'This 'natural' developing
move leads to all sorts of problems.'

Arsovic, Goran: '?!'

[Glenn Flear: 'I prefer giving the pawn
back with' 13...Bd5! Diagram



Glenn Flear: 'Arsovic, Goran: '!''
Arsovic, Goran: 'Diagram [#]'

A) 14.a4

A1) 14...Nd7!? 15.Bxe7
(15.dxc5 e6 16.cxb6 axb6∞)
15...Rfe8 16.Bg5 Qb7 17.Bf4
Rac8∞;

A2) 14...e6 15.Bg3 Qc6∞;

B) 14.dxc5

B1) 14...Qxc5 15.Bxe7 Qxe7
16.Rxd5 Nd7 17.Bxc4 Rac8
18.Rad1 Nf6 19.Re5 Qc7
20.Bb3 Rfd8! (20...Qxc3?
21.Qxc3 Rxc3 22.Re7±);

B2) 14...e6 15.cxb6 (15.Bg3
Qxc5 16.e4 Bxe4 17.Bd6 Qc6
18.Bxf8 Bxf8) 15...axb6

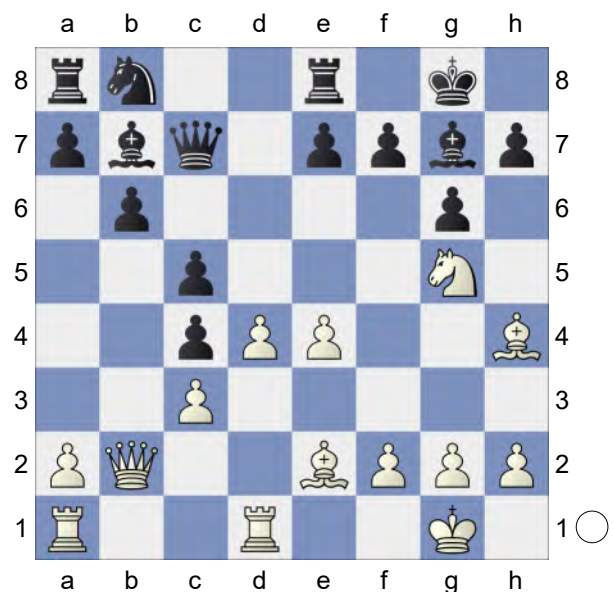
Glenn Flear: 'with chances for
both sides.' 16.Nd4 Qc5±]

[I'm less keen on 13...cxd4?! as after
14.Nxd4!? the knight is annoying e.g.
Bc8 15.Nb5 and White has a strong
initiative.]

14.Ng5 Glenn Flear: 'Time for action!'

14...Bd5 15.e4 Bb7

[15...h6 16.exd5 (16.Bg3 Qc8
17.exd5 hxg5 18.Rac1 Qa6 19.dxc5
bxc5 20.Qd2±) 16...hxg5 17.Bxg5
Nd7 18.Rac1±]



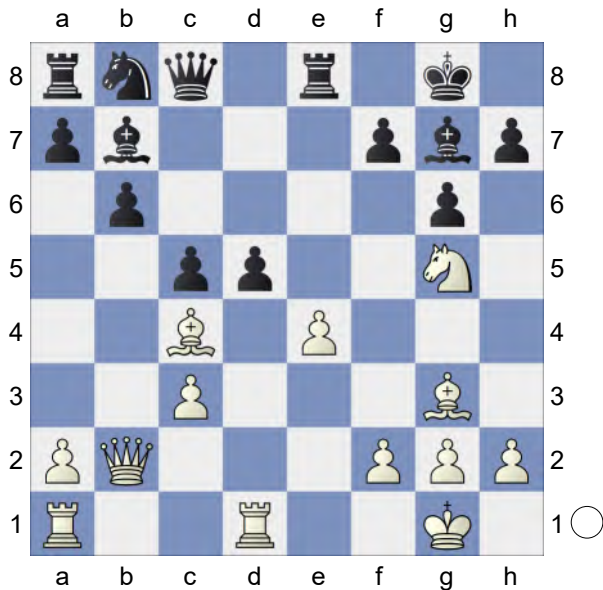
16.Bg3 Qc8

[16...e5 is asking for trouble due to
17.Bxc4]

17.Bxc4 Glenn Flear: 'The recapture on
c4 is possible because of the threats
against f7, a clear downside of 13...Re8.'

17...e6 18.d5! Glenn Flear: 'Arsovic, Goran: '!' **18...exd5** Diagram

[The weakness of f7 again comes to the fore after 18...h6? 19.dxe6!]



Glenn Flear: 'Arsovic, Goran: 'Diagram [#]' **19.Rxd5!** Glenn Flear: 'Wei Yi is being made to suffer for his Achilles' heel.'

[19.Bxd5?! Bxd5 20.exd5 Nd7 21.Qc2 Nf6 22.c4 h6 23.Nf3 Ne4 24.Rac1 Qf5∞]

19...Ba6 Glenn Flear: 'The only move, as otherwise the threats along the a2-g8 diagonal are too strong.' **20.Bb3**

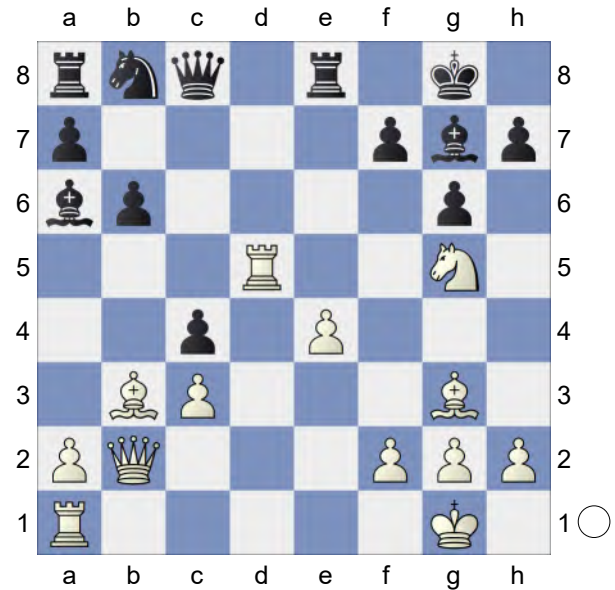
[20.Qb3!? Bxc4 (20...h6? 21.Nxf7±) 21.Qxc4

A) 21...Qa6 22.Qb3 c4 23.Qd1 Qc8 (23...h6? 24.Nxf7 Kxf7 25.Rf5+! gxf5 26.Qd5+ Kf8 27.Bd6+ Re7 28.Qxa8+-) 24.e5±;

B) 21...Nc6 22.Rad1 (22.Nxf7? Na5 23.Qd3 Kxf7+-) 22...Re7 23.f4 h6 24.Nf3±]

20...c4

(Diagram)



21.Ba4 Glenn Flear: 'Black has avoided any immediate disaster, but White's lead in development combined with active pieces still gives him a hard time.'

21...Nc6

[21...Rf8 22.e5 Bb7 23.Rd6±]

22.e5?!

[Glenn Flear: 'A more logical continuation would be' 22.Rad1! Glenn Flear: 'with the idea that' h6 Glenn Flear: 'can be met by' 23.Rd7!± Δ Rc7 Δ Rc7 Glenn Flear: '!' '!' '!' '!' Glenn Flear: 'Arsovic, Goran: ' ±!' Arsovic, Goran: ' Δ Rc7" b5 24.Rc7 with some advantage.]

22...Bb7 23.f4 Nb4? Glenn Flear: 'Wei Yi gives up a pawn. This might not have been an 'oversight', as he may well have been trying to offer the pawn as 'bait', to hope to get potential winning chances. Anyway, this move definitely wasn't a good idea as White can indeed safely grab the pawn and thrive!'

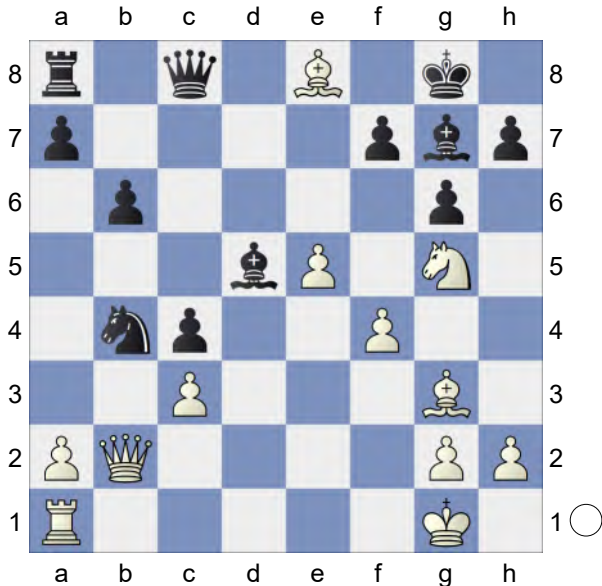
[Glenn Flear: 'Solid would be' 23...Rd8 24.Rxd8+ Nxd8 Glenn Flear: '= ' '= ' '= ' '= Glenn Flear: 'when Black's worries would be behind him.' 25.Rd1 h6 26.Nf3 Ne6 27.Bd7 Qc5+ 28.Nd4

(28.Bf2 Qe7=) 28...Nxd4 29.Rxd4
Rd8=]

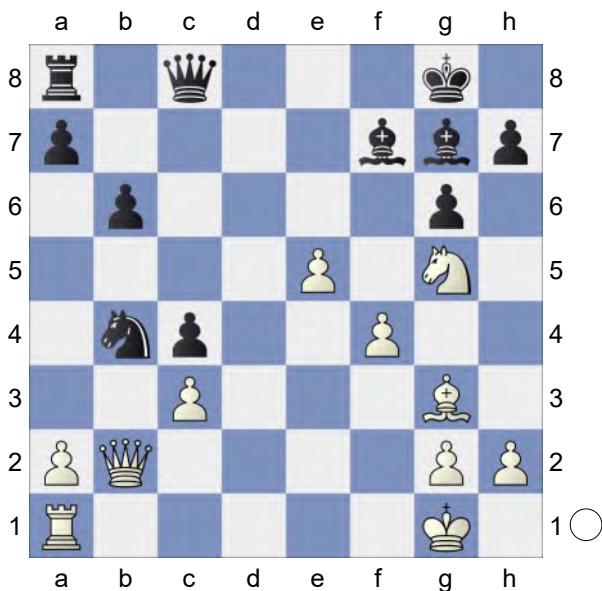
24.Bxe8! Glenn Flear: 'Arsovic,Goran: '!'

[24.Qxb4? Bxd5 25.Bxe8 Qxe8
26.Rd1 Rd8=]

24...Bxd5 Diagram



Glenn Flear: 'Arsovic,Goran: 'Diagram
[#]' **25.Bxf7+!** Glenn Flear: 'An obvious
desperado.' **25...Bxf7**



26.Qxb4 Bf8 27.Qb2± Glenn Flear:
'Arsovic,Goran: '±'

[27.Qb5!?]

27...Bd5 28.Rd1 Qc6?! Glenn Flear:

'Arsovic,Goran: '?!'

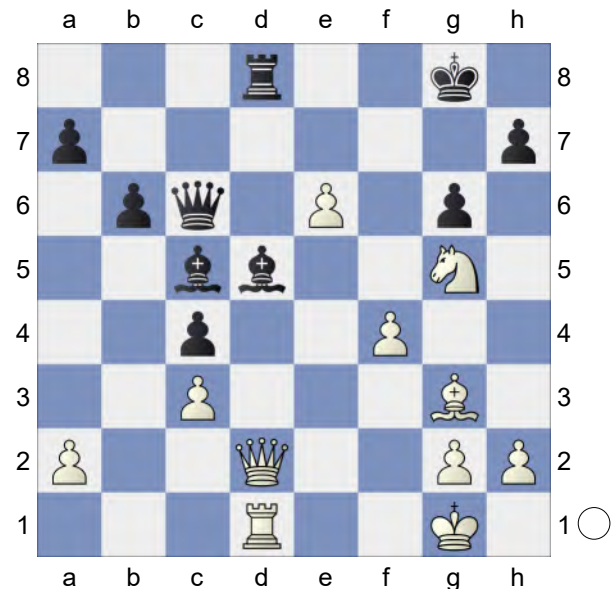
[28...Bb7 29.Qe2 Qc6 30.Nf3 b5
31.Nd4±]

29.Qd2! Glenn Flear: 'Arsovic,Goran: '!'

29...Rd8?! Glenn Flear: 'Black has built
up his forces as well as he can, and
would be doing OK if White didn't have
his big e-pawn. But after...' Glenn Flear:
'Black has built up his forces as well as
he can, and would be doing OK if White
didn't have his big e-pawn. But after...
Arsovic,Goran: '?!'

[29...h6 30.Qxd5+ Qxd5 31.Rxd5
hgx5 32.fgx5+-]

30.e6!+- Glenn Flear: '! '!' '!' '!' Glenn
Flear: 'Arsovic,Goran: '+-!' **30...Bc5+**



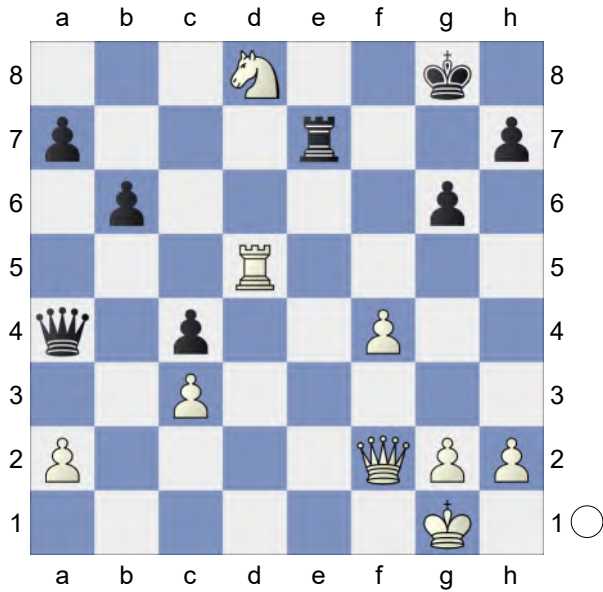
31.Bf2 Glenn Flear: '! '!' '!' '!' Glenn
Flear: '...the threat of Nf7 is crushing.'

31...Rd6 32.Nf7 Rxe6 33.Nd8
Glenn Flear: 'Most of Black's pieces are
hanging.'

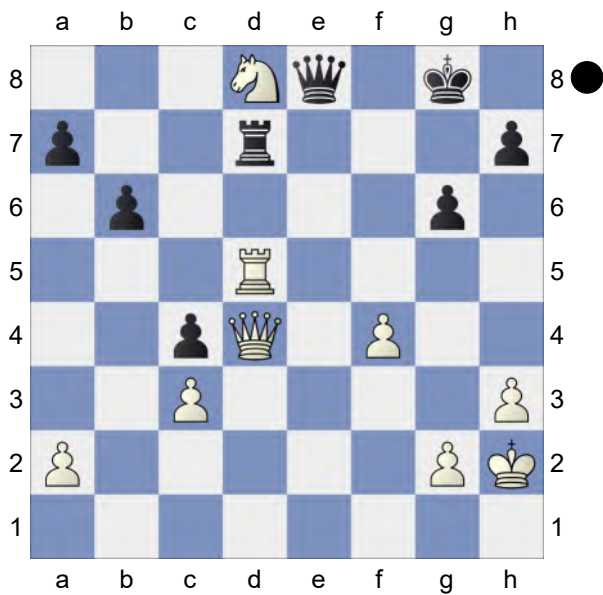
[33.Ne5 Bxf2+ 34.Qxf2 Qb7 35.Qd4
Bxg2 36.Qd8+ Kg7 37.Rd7+-]

33...Bxf2+ 34.Qxf2 Qa4 35.Rxd5 Re7

(Diagram)



36.h3 Qe8 37.Kh2 Rd7 38.Qd4



Glenn Flear: 'The knight is saved, so all Black can do is shake his head and resign.'

1-0

118

Topalov, Veselin

Wei, Yi

chess.com (Int.-rapid) 147/77

[Arsovic, Goran]

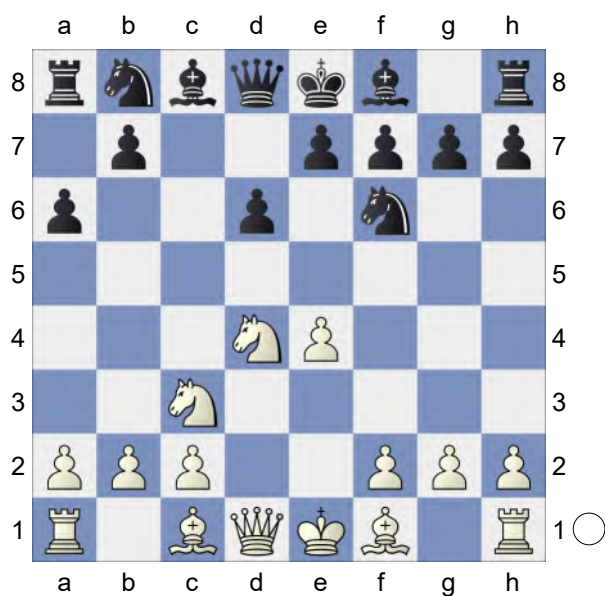
B90

2735

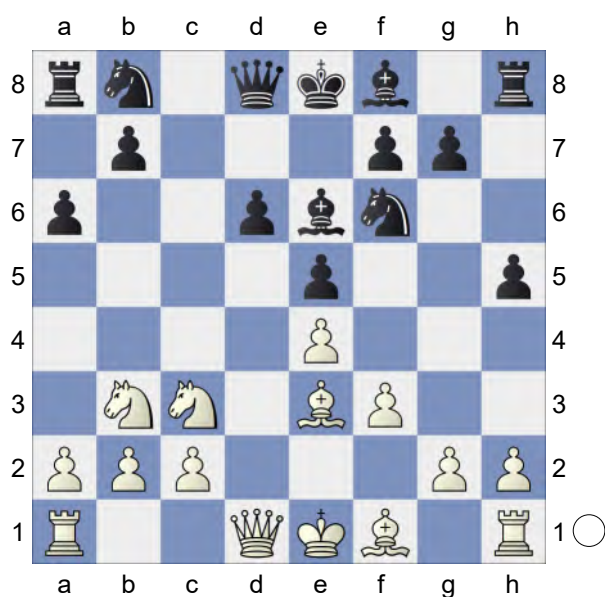
2732

2020

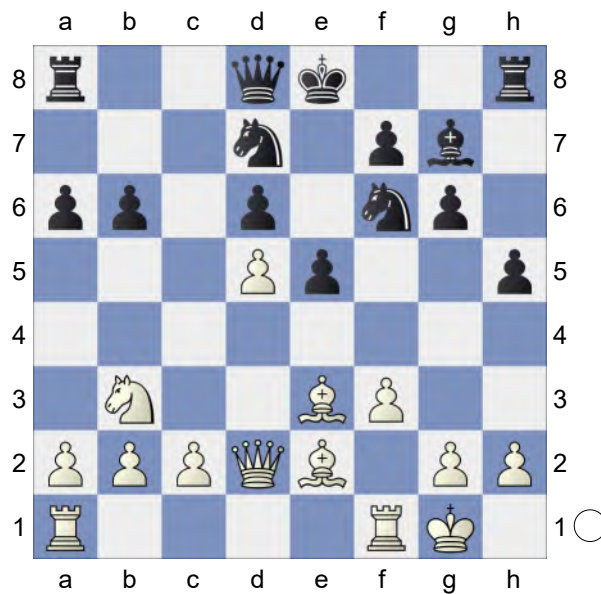
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6



6.Be3 Ng4 7.Bc1 Nf6 8.f3 e5 9.Nb3
Be6 10.Be3 h5



11.Nd5 Bxd5 12.exd5 Nbd7 13.Qd2
g6 14.Be2 Bg7 15.0-0 b6

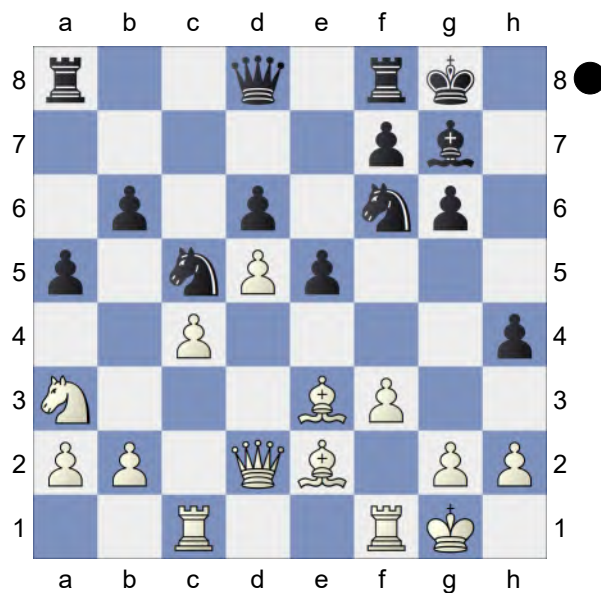


16.c4 0-0 17.Rac1 a5

[17...Re8 - 140/83]

18.Na1 Nc5 19.Nc2 h4 20.Na3

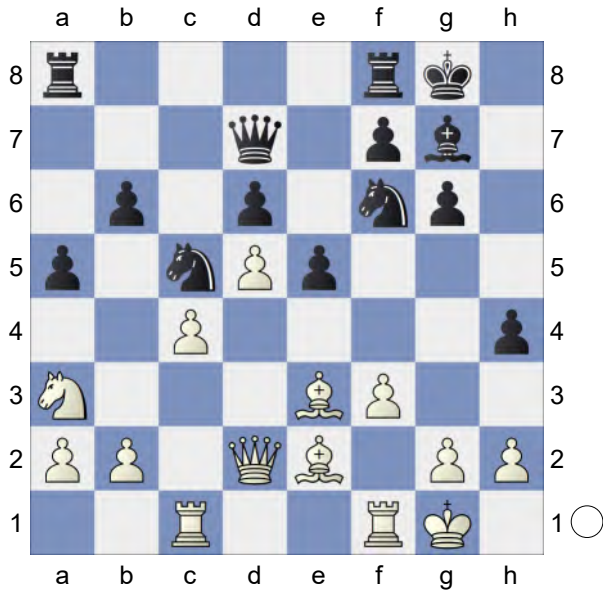
Diagram



20...Qd7N

[20...Nh5 - 147/(77)]

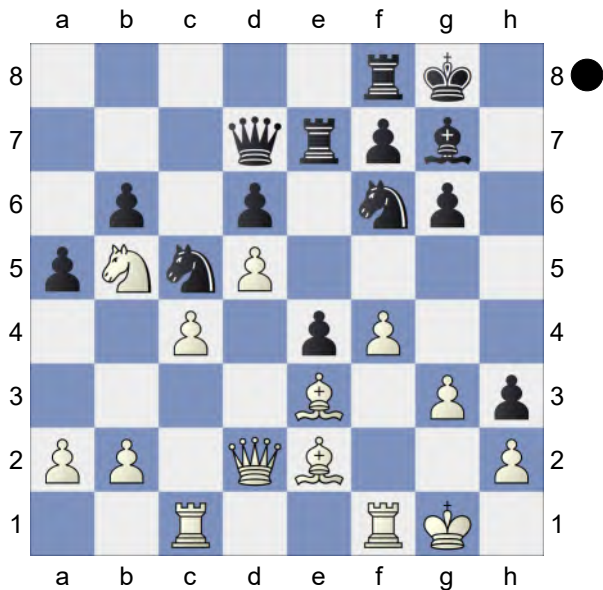
(Diagram)



21.Nb5 Rae8 22.Rfe1 e4 23.f4 Re7 24.Rf1

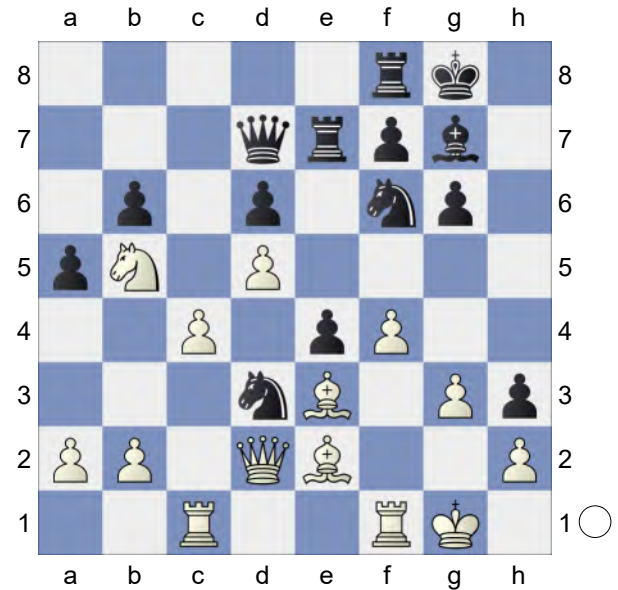
[24.h3 Ne8 (24...Nh5 25.Bxh5 gxh5 26.Qf2! Nd3 27.Qxh4±) 25.b3 f5 26.Nd4±]

24...h3 25.g3 Diagram



25...Nd3!

(Diagram)



26.Bxd3 exd3 27.Qxd3 Ng4

[27...Rfe8 28.Bxb6 (28.Bd4 Ng4 - 27...Ng4) 28...Ng4 - 27...Ng4]

28.Bd4

[28.Bxb6 Rfe8 29.Rc2 Ne3 (29...Re1 30.Rd2 Qe7 31.Bf2 Re2±) 30.Bxe3 Rxe3

A) 31.Qd2 R8e4 32.Qf2 (32.Qxa5? Re2±) 32...Qe7↑;

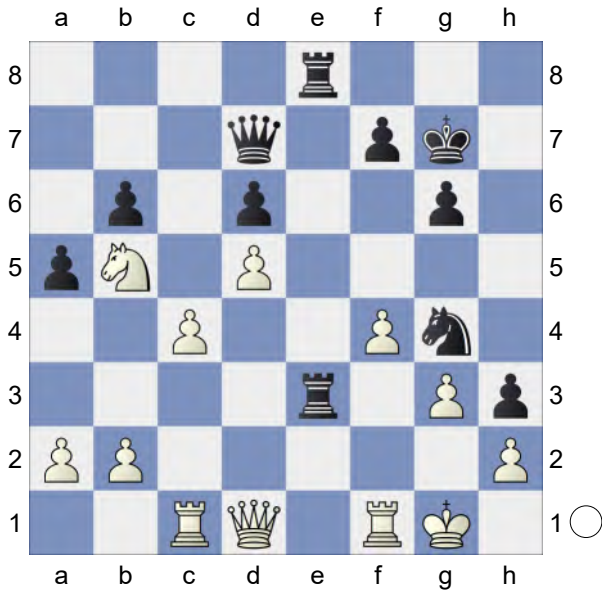
B) 31.Qd1 f5 32.Rcf2 R8e4 33.b3 a4±]

28...Rfe8 29.Bxg7 Re3

[29...Kxg7 30.f5 Re2 31.Qd4+ Ne5 32.fxg6 (32.f6+? Kg8 33.Nc3 Rg2+ 34.Kh1 Ng4-+) 32...fxg6 33.Rce1 Qg4 34.Rxe2 Qxe2 35.Rf2 (35.Qf2? Ng4-+) 35...Qe1+ 36.Rf1 Qe2=]

30.Qd1□ Kxg7

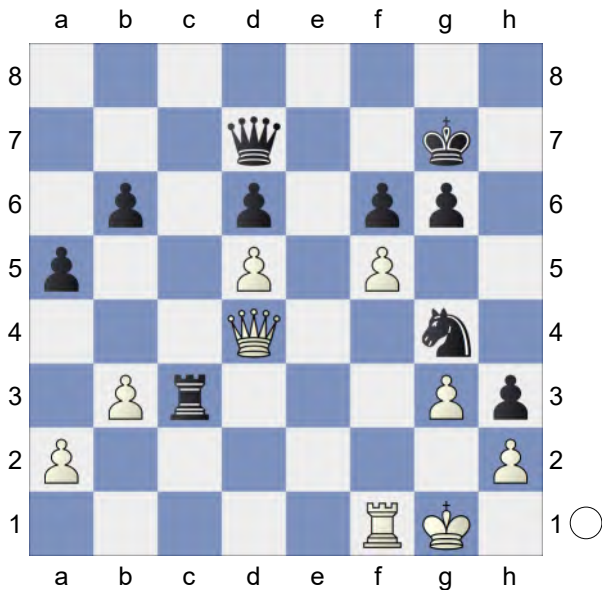
(Diagram)



31.f5 R8e4 32.Nc3 Rxc4

[32...Qe7!? 33.fxg6 (33.Nxe4? Qxe4 34.Rc2 gxf5 $\neq$) 33...fxg6 34.Nxe4 Qxe4 35.Rc2 Rd3 36.Qe1 Re3 37.Qd1=]

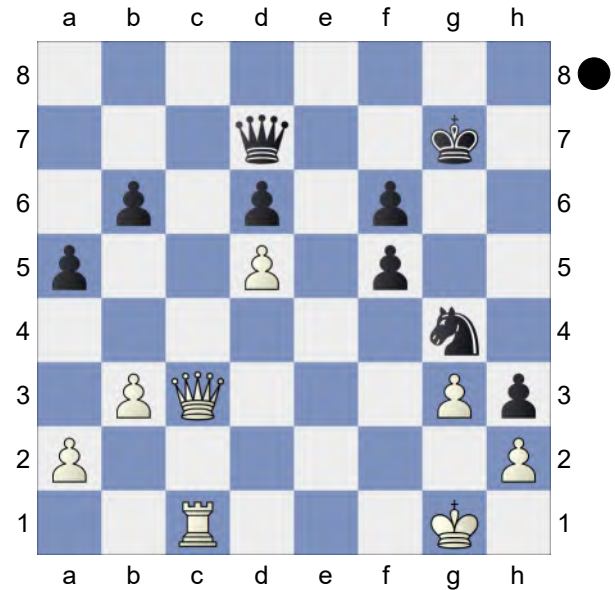
33.b3 Rxc3 34.Rxc3 Rxc3 35.Qd4+ f6!



36.Qxc3 gxf5= 37.Rc1 Diagram

[37.Rf4 Qe7=]

(Diagram)



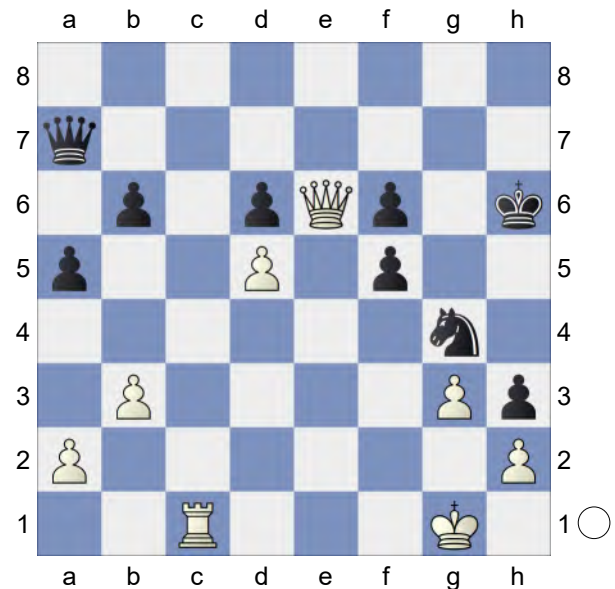
37...Kg6?

[37...Qe8! 38.Qe1 Ne5 39.Rc7+ Kg6 40.Qe2 b5 41.Kf1 Qb8

A) 42.Rc6 Qa7 43.Qf2 (43.Rxd6? Qd4+) 43...Nxc6 (43...Qb8=) 44.dxc6 Qc7 45.Qc2 Kf7=;

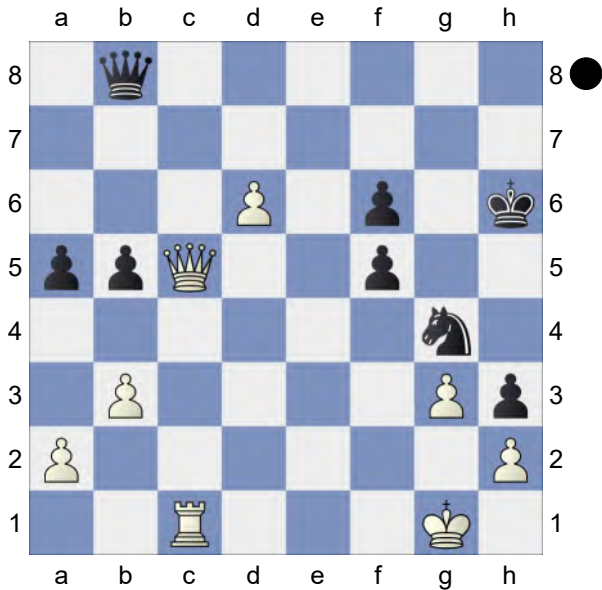
B) 42.Rc1 Qb6=]

38.Qc8 Qe7 39.Qg8+ Kh6 40.Qe6 Qa7



41.Qxd6 b5+ 42.Qc5 Qb8 43.d6? Diagram

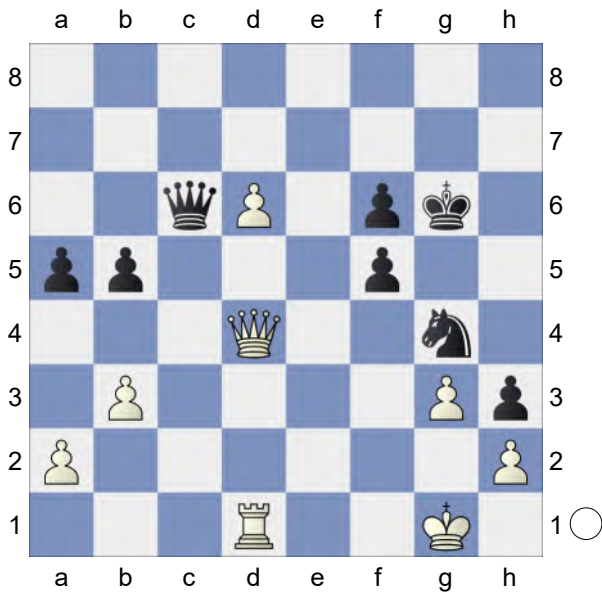
[43.Re1 Ne5 44.Re2 Kg6 45.Kf1+-]



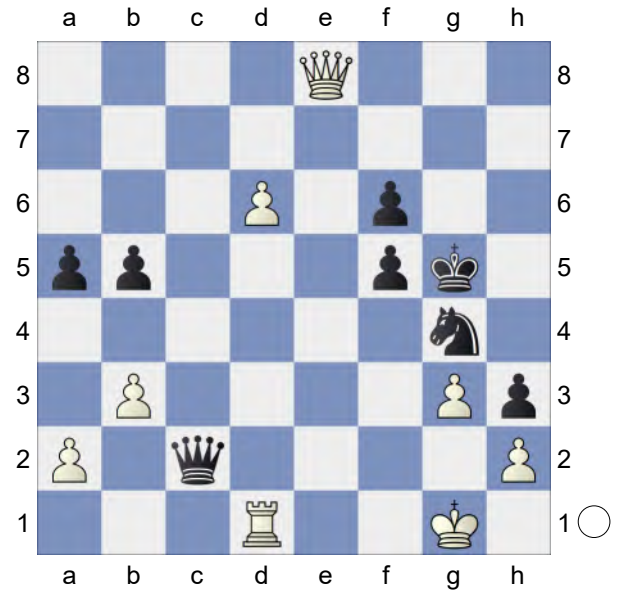
43...Qe8! 44.Rd1 Kg6

[44...Qe2? 45.Qc1+ Kg6 46.Qd2+-]
 [44...Qe4 45.Qc1+ Kg6 46.Qd2 Ne5
 47.Rf1 Nd3 48.d7 (48.Rf4 Nxf4
 49.gxf4 Qb1+ 50.Kf2 Qh1 51.d7
 Qxh2+ 52.Ke3 Qg1+ 53.Kf3 Qg4+
 54.Ke3 Qg1+ 55.Kd3 h2 56.d8Q
 h1Q 57.Qg8+ Kh6 58.Qh8+ Kg6=)
 48...Qd4+ 49.Kh1 Qe4+=]

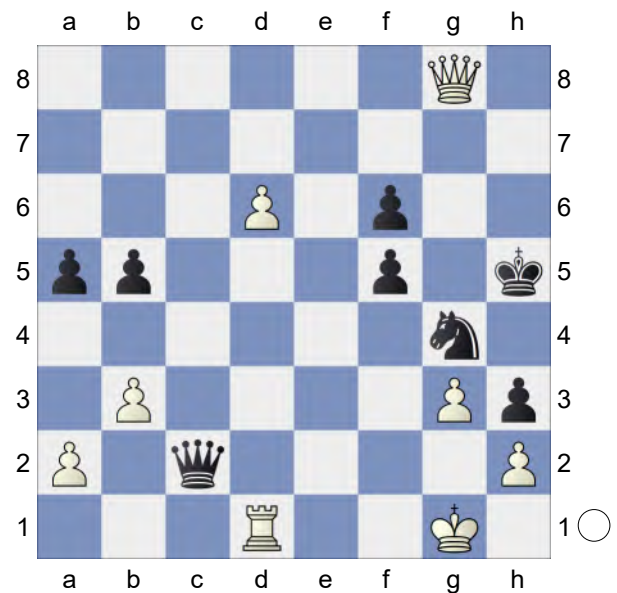
45.Qd4 Qc6=



**46.Qd5 Qc2 47.Qg8+ Kh5 48.Qe8+
 Kg5 49.Qg8+ Kh5 50.Qe8+ Kg5
 (Diagram)**



51.Qg8+ Kh5



$\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$

15

□ Topalov, Veselin

■ Wei, Yi

124/149 Gibraltar

[Arsovic, Goran]

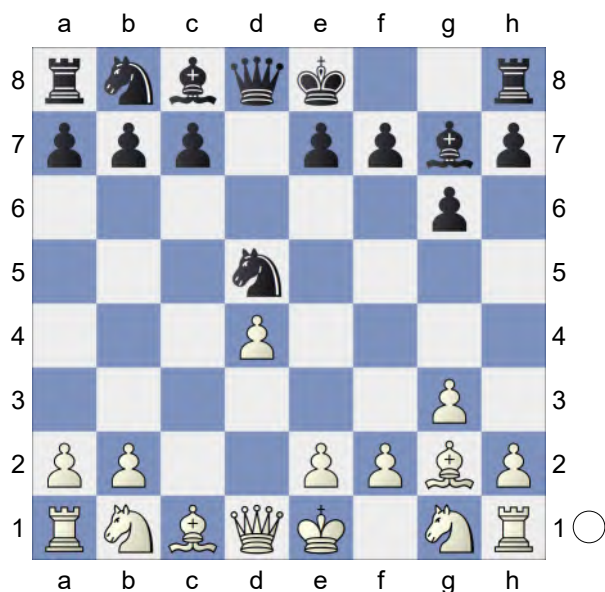
D76

2800

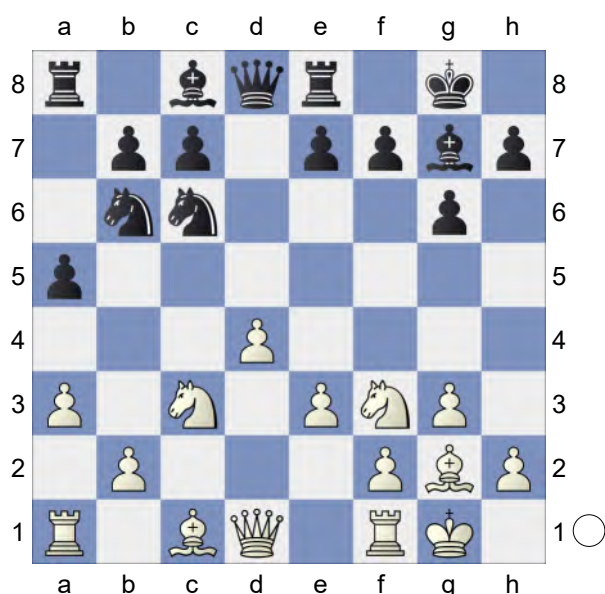
2675

2015

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 d5
5.cxd5 Nxd5



6.Nf3 Nb6 7.Nc3 Nc6 8.e3 0-0 9.0-0
Re8 10.a3 a5



11.Ne1

[11.d5 - 118/(142)]

11...Be6

[11...e5 12.d5 Nb8 13.e4±]

12.Nd3 Bc4 13.Nc5! Bxf1 14.Qxf1!?N

[14.Nxb7 Qc8 15.Bxc6 Bh3 16.Nc5
Rd8 17.Qe2 e5! (17...Rd6)

A) 18.dxe5 Bxe5 19.Bxa8 Qxa8
20.e4 Bxc3 21.bxc3

A1) 21...Na4 22.Be3 (22.Nxa4
Qxe4!-+) 22...Qc6 23.Rd1
Re8±;

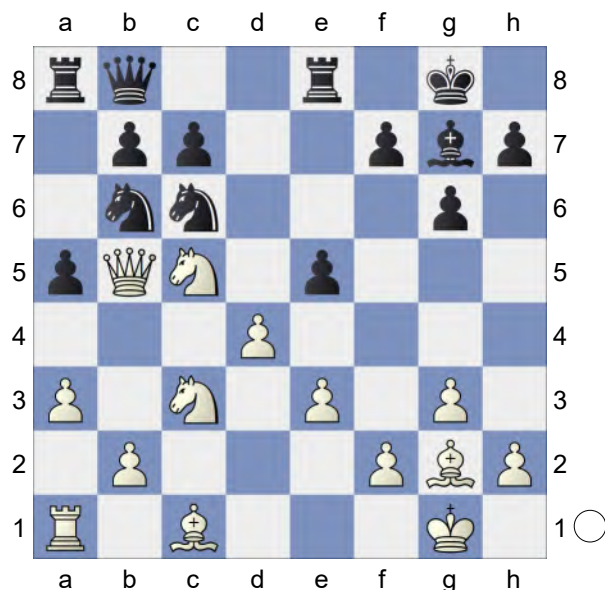
A2) 21...Qc6;

B) 18.d5 e4 19.N3xe4 Ra7∞
(19...Nxd5 20.Bxa8 Qxa8 21.f3
Qc6±)]

14...Qb8 15.Qb5

[15.Nxb7 Qxb7 16.Qb5 Nxd4!
17.exd4 Qa6 18.Bxa8 Rxa8
19.Qxa6 Rxa6 20.Be3 e5=]

15...e5!

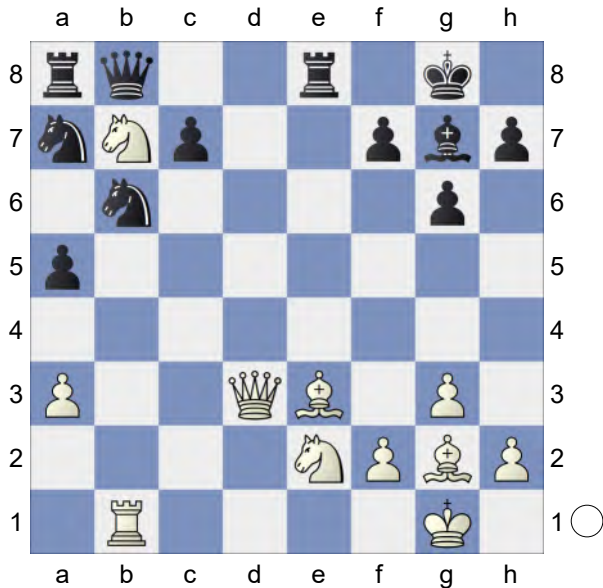


16.Nxb7 exd4! 17.Ne2?!

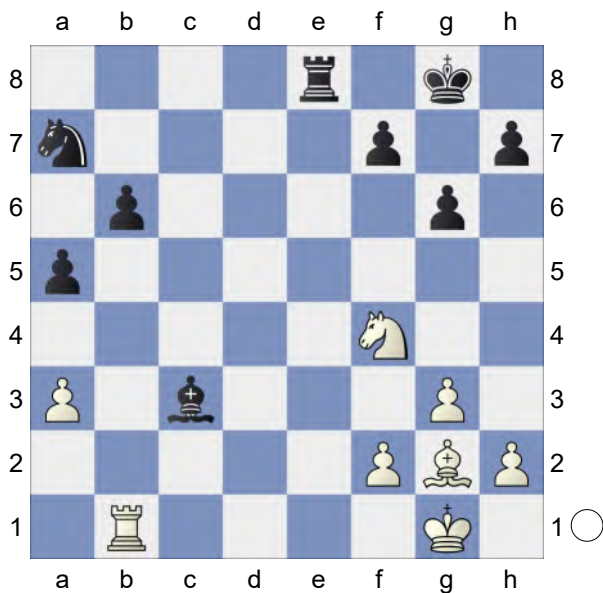
[17.Bxc6 dxc3 18.Bxe8 Qxe8
19.Qxe8+ Rxe8 20.bxc3 Nc4
21.Rb1 (21.a4 Rb8 22.Nc5 Rd8±;
21.Nc5 Bf8 22.Nb3 a4 23.Nd2 Nxd2
24.Bxd2 Rb8±) 21...Rb8 22.Rb5 a4
23.Nd6 Rxb5 24.Nxb5 Bf8 25.Kf1
c6 26.Na7 Nxa3 27.Nxc6=]

17...Na7

[17...d3!?]
18.Qd3 dxe3 19.Bxe3 Bxb2
 [19...c6!?]
 [19...Na4! 20.Nxa5 (20.Qc2?! c6
 21.Qxa4 Qxb7) 20...Nxb2 21.Qc2
 Nb5 22.Nc6 Rxa3! 23.Nxb8 Rxa1+
 24.Bf1 Rxb8]
20.Rb1 Bg7

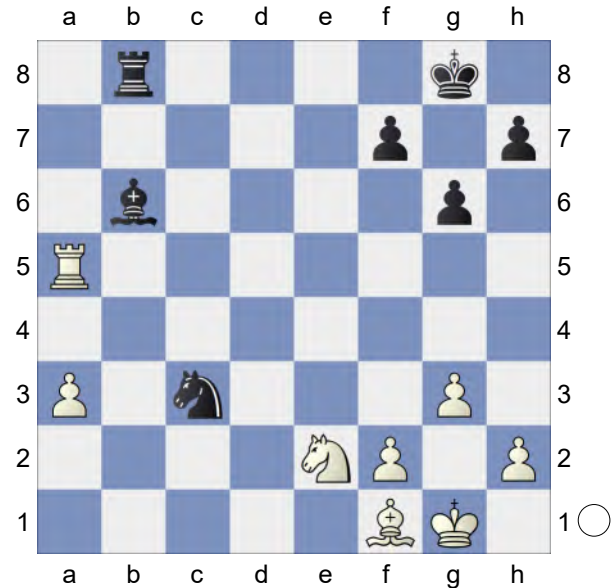


21.Nf4 Qc8 22.Bxb6 cxb6 23.Nd6
Qc3 24.Qxc3
 [24.Nxe8 Qxd3 25.Nxd3 Rxe8
 26.Rxb6 Rd8=]
24...Bxc3 25.Nxe8 Rxe8

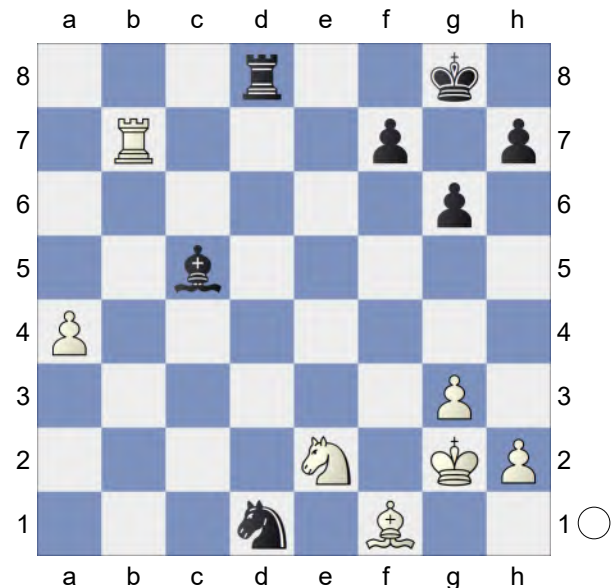


26.Rxb6= Bd4

[26...Nc8 27.Rc6 Bb2=]
27.Ra6 Nb5 28.Rxa5 Nc3 29.Bf1 Rb8
30.Ne2 Bb6

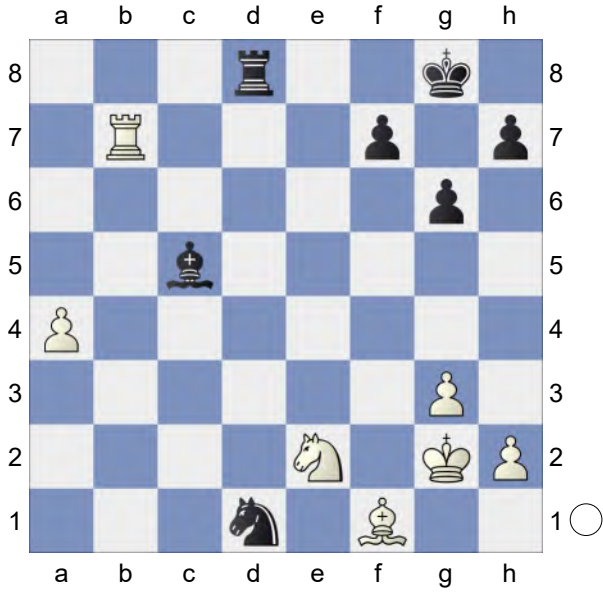


31.Re5 Nd1 32.Kg2 Bxf2 33.a4 Ba7
34.Rb5 Rd8 35.Rb7 Bc5



36.Rb5 Ba7 37.Rb7 Bc5

(Diagram)



1/2-1/2

477

□ Tari,Aryan

■ Wei,Yi

122/59 Pune

[Arsovic,Goran]

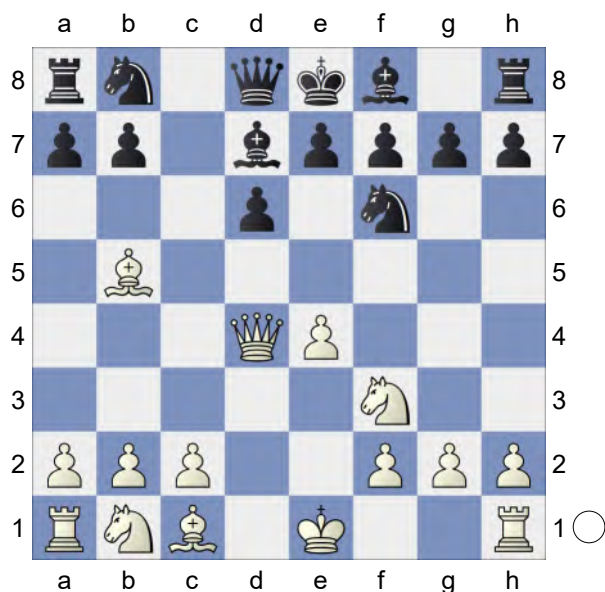
B53

2450

2641

2014

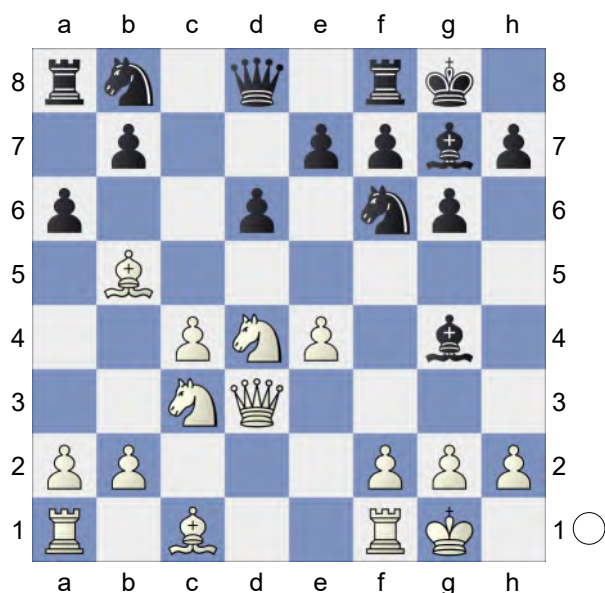
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4
Nf6 5.Bb5+ Bd7



6.c4 g6 7.0-0 Bg7 8.Nc3 0-0 9.Qd3
Bg4

[9...a6 - 118/61]

10.Nd4 a6



11.Ba4 Nbd7 12.Bxd7 Nxd7 13.b3
Nc5 14.Qe3 f5!N

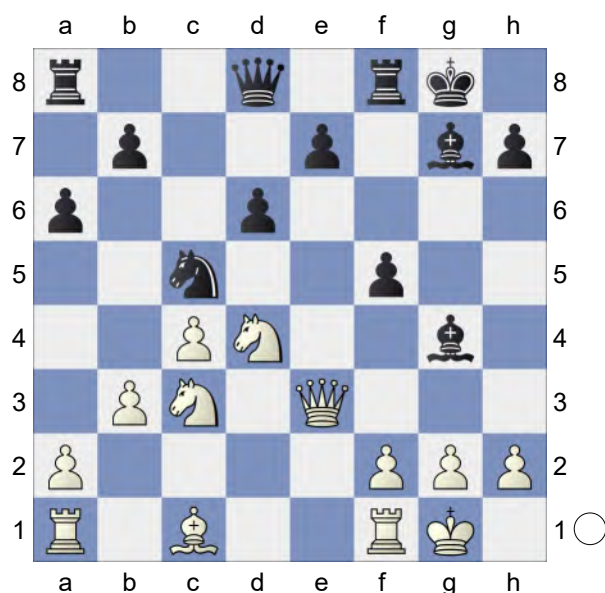
[14...Bd7]

15.exf5

[15.h3 f4 (15...Bh5!? 16.exf5 gxf5
17.b4 f4 18.Qd2 e5 19.Nb3 Ne6∞)
16.Qd2 e5 (16...Bd7=) 17.Nc2
Be6∞]

15...gxf5

[15...Bxf5 16.Nxf5 Rxf5 17.Bb2±]

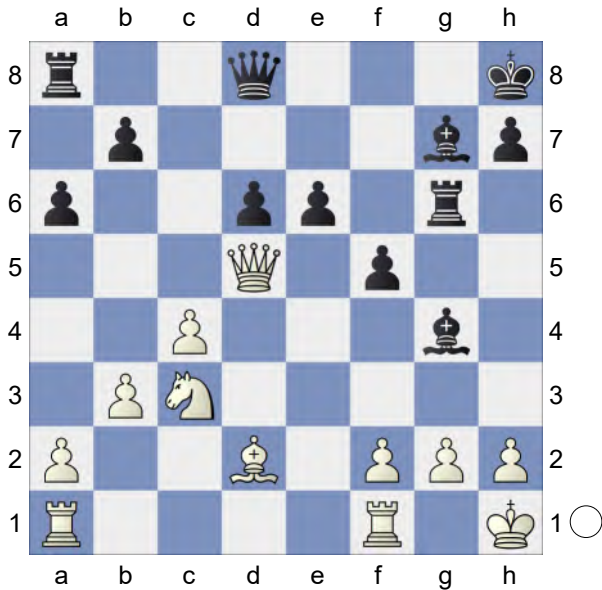


16.Ne6

[16.h3 f4 (16...e5 17.Ne6 Nxe6
18.hxg4 fxg4 19.Qe4 Qh4 20.Be3
Rf7∞) 17.Qd2 Bh5 18.b4 e5 19.Nb3
Ne6∞]

16...Nxe6 17.Qxe6+ Kh8 18.Bd2 Rf6!
19.Qd5 Rg6 20.Kh1 e6!

(Diagram)

**21.Qxb7**

[21.Qd3 Be5 (21...Qh4!?) 22.f4 (22.f3? Qh4! 23.f4 Rh6 24.h3 Rg8 25.Kh2 Bxh3 26.gxh3 Rhg6 27.Rf3 Rg2+ 28.Kh1 R8g3-+; 22.Rae1 f4↑) 22...Bg7 (22...Bf6 23.Rae1 Qd7) 23.Be3 Rh6 24.Bf2 e5 25.Qd2 Qe8∞]

21...Bd4 22.Rae1 Rg7 23.Qc6 Rc8! 24.Qa4?

[24.Qxa6 Ra7 (24...Ra8 25.Qc6 Rc8 26.Qa6=) 25.Qb5 Rb8 (25...Ra5?! 26.Bg5 Qc7 27.Nd5 Qa7 28.Qb4±) 26.f3 (26.Qc6? Rb6-+) 26...Rxb5 (26...Bh3 27.Re2 Rg7 28.gxh3 Rxb5 29.Nxb5 Qh4 30.Nxd4 Qxd4∞; 26...Bh5 27.Rxe6 Rxb5 28.Nxb5 Rxa2 29.Rxd6 Qxd6 30.Nxd6 Rxd2 31.Nxf5∞) 27.Nxb5 Rxa2 28.Nxd4 Rxd2 29.Nxe6 Qa8 30.Nf4 Bh3 31.Nxh3 Qa2 32.Re8+=]

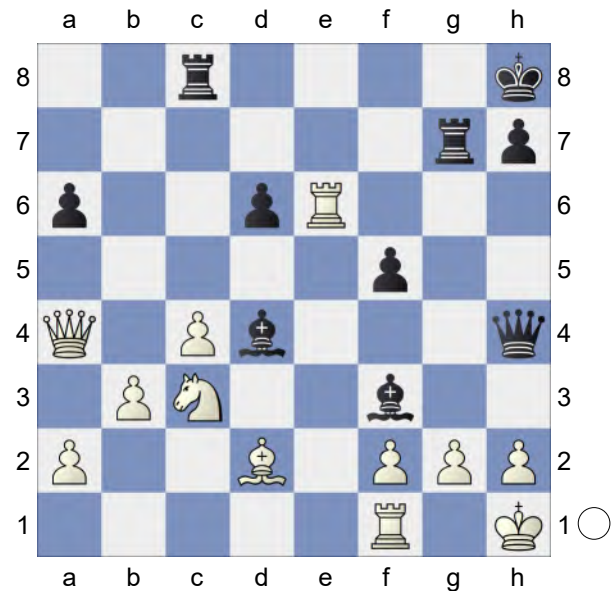
24...Qh4!-+ 25.Rxe6

[25.Qxa6 Rcg8

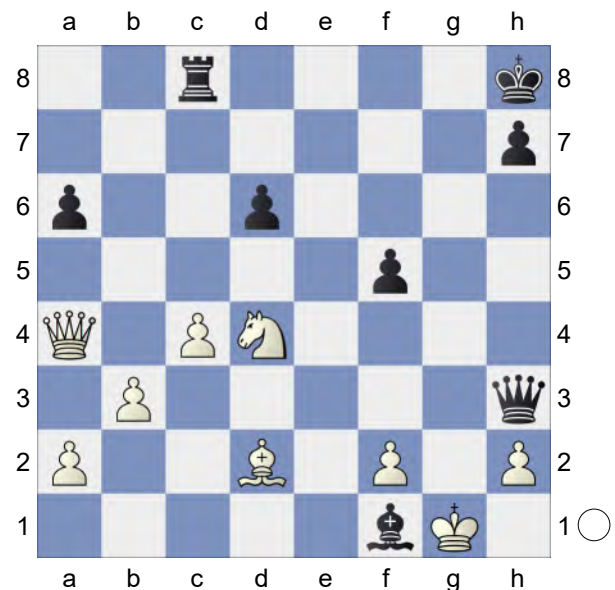
A) 26.Bf4? Bf3! 27.Bg3 (27.gxf3 Qxf4-+) 27...Bxf2! (27...f4-+) 28.Rxf2 Rxc3-+;

B) 26.Qc6 Bh5! 27.g3 (27.Re3

f4 28.Rh3 Qxh3! 29.gxh3 d5-+) 27...d5-+]

25...Bf3!**26.Re8+ Rg8 27.Rxc8 Bxg2+ 28.Kg1 Rxc8 29.Ne2 Bxf1**

[29...Bf3-+]

30.Nxd4 Qh3**0-1**

180

□ Svidler, Peter

■ Wei, Yi

Baku (m/3-rapid) 127/168

[Arsovic, Goran]

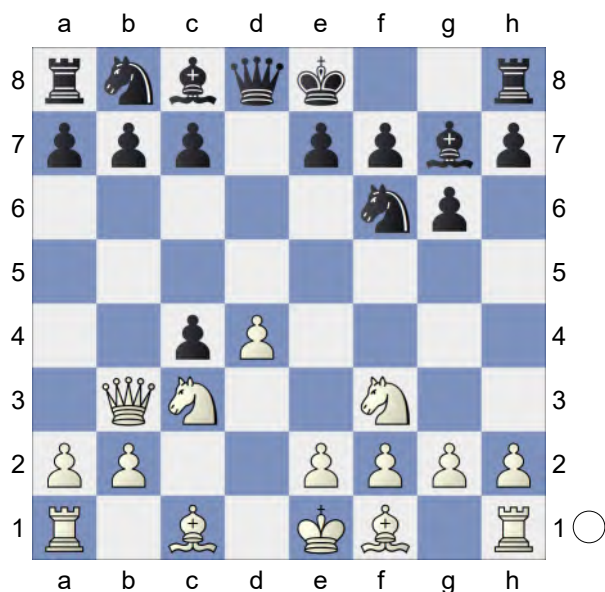
D97

2727

2734

2015

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3
Bg7 5.Qb3 dxc4



6.Qxc4 0-0 7.e4 Be6 8.Qd3 c5 9.d5
Bg4

[9...Bc8 - 115/164]

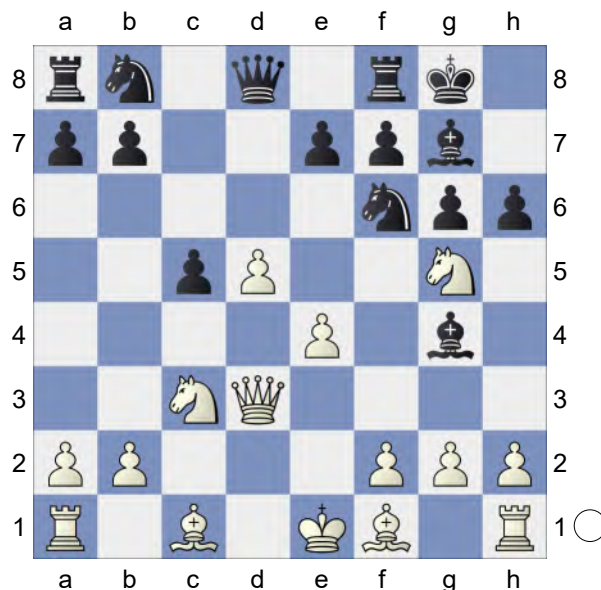
10.Ng5N

[10.Be2]

[10.Be3]

10...h6

(Diagram)



11.h3 Bc8 12.Nf3 e6 13.dxe6

[13.d6 Nc6 14.Bf4 b6 15.Be2
Bb7∞]

13...Bxe6 14.Be3 Qe7

[14...Qb6 15.Qb5 Nbd7 16.Qxb6
axb6 17.Bb5 Rfd8∞]

[Δ14...Qc7

A) 15.Rd1 Nc6

A1) 16.Bxc5 Rfd8 17.Bd6 Qb6

18.Qb5 Bxa2! 19.Qxb6

(19.Nxa2? Nxe4-+) 19...axb6♣;

A2) 16.Qd6 Qb6! (16...Qxd6

- 14... ♔e7) 17.Rd2 Rfe8 18.Bd3

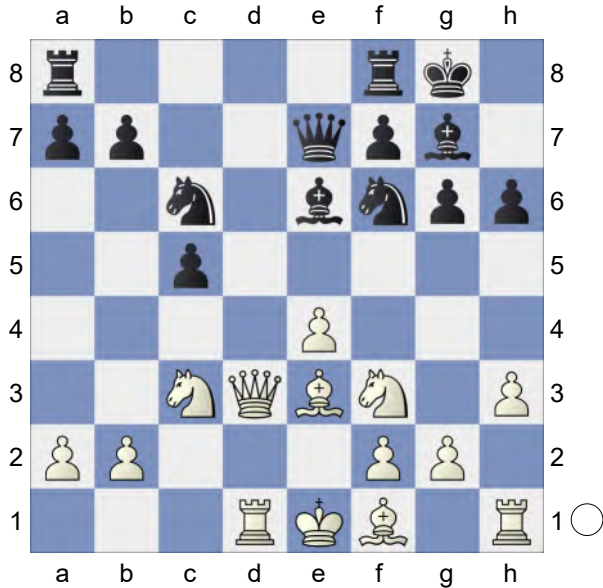
Bf8 (18...Nd7≠) 19.Qf4 Nh5

20.Qh2 Rad8♣;

B) 15.Be2 Rd8 16.Qb5 Nbd7∞]

15.Rd1 Nc6

(Diagram)



16.Qd6 Qxd6 17.Rxd6 c4

[17...Rfc8!? 18.Rd2 (18.Bxc5? Bf8 19.Rxe6 fxe6 20.Be3 Nd7) 18...b6 19.Ba6 Rc7 20.Nd5 Nxd5 21.exd5 Bxd5 22.Rxd5 Nb4 23.Bc4 Nxd5 24.Bxd5 Rd8 25.Bc4 Bxb2]
 [17...Rfd8 18.Bxc5 Nd7 (18...Rxd6 19.Bxd6 Rd8 20.Bc7 Rc8) 21.Bd6) 19.Be3 Nb6]

18.Rxe6!?

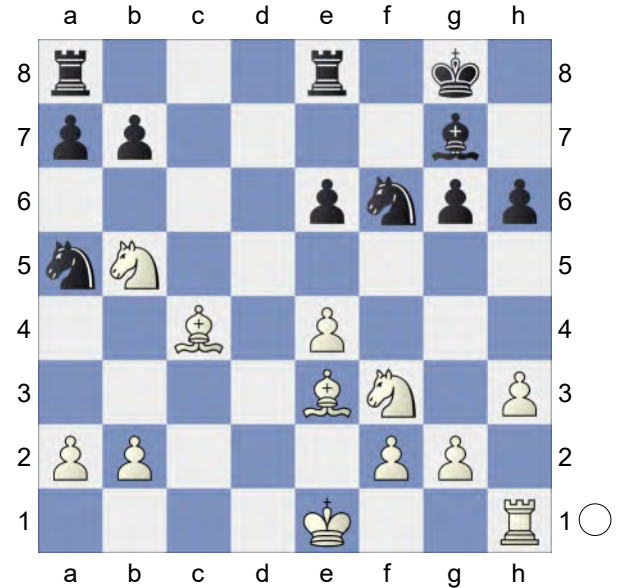
[18.Nd4 Nxd4 19.Rxd4 Rfd8=]

18...fxe6 19.Bxc4 Rfe8

[19...Kf7! 20.Nb5 Ne8 21.Ke2 a6 22.Nbd4 Nxd4+ 23.Nxd4 Bxd4 24.Bxd4 Nd6 25.Bd3 Rac8 26.h4]

20.Nb5 Na5

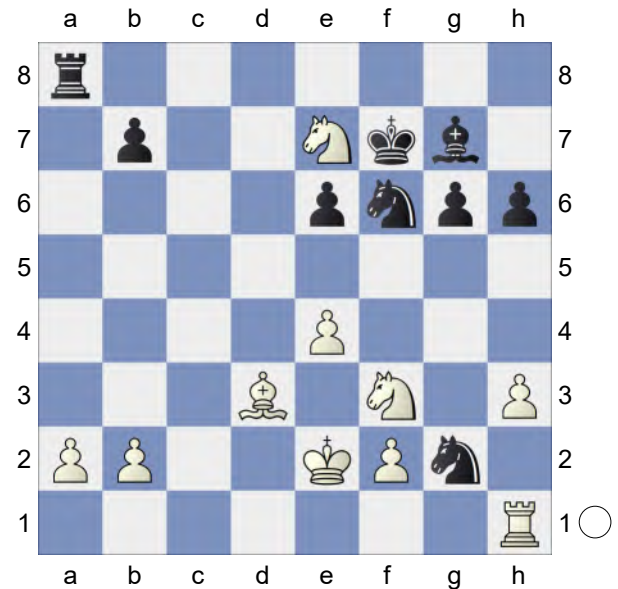
(Diagram)



21.Bd3 Rec8 22.Ke2 Nc4

[22...Nc6 23.Rd1 e5 24.Bc4+ Kh7 25.Nd6 Rc7 26.Nb5 Rcc8=]

23.Nxa7 Nxe3 24.Nxc8 Nxg2 25.Ne7+ Kf7 Diagram

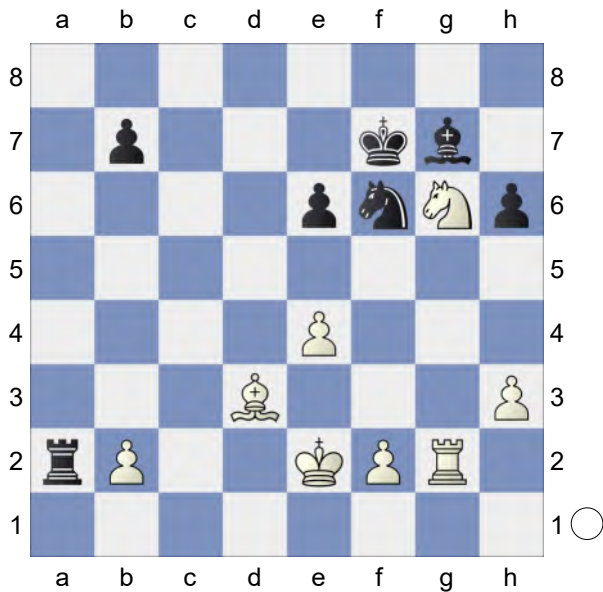


26.Nxg6! Kxg6 27.Rg1 Rxa2?!

[27...Nd7 28.Rxg2+ Kf7 29.Bc4 Bxb2 30.Rg1]

28.Rxg2+ Kf7 29.Ne5+ Kf8 30.Ng6+ Kf7

(Diagram)



31.Nf4 Rxb2+

[31...b5 32.Ke3 (32.Kf3 Nd7 33.Bxb5 Ne5+ 34.Ke3 Bf6±; 32.Nxe6 Nh5! 33.Nd8+ Ke8 34.Ke3 Kxd8 35.Be2 Bxb2 36.Bxh5 Ra3+ 37.Ke2 Be5=) 32...Ne8 33.b3 Rb2 34.Bxb5 Rxb3+ 35.Bd3±]

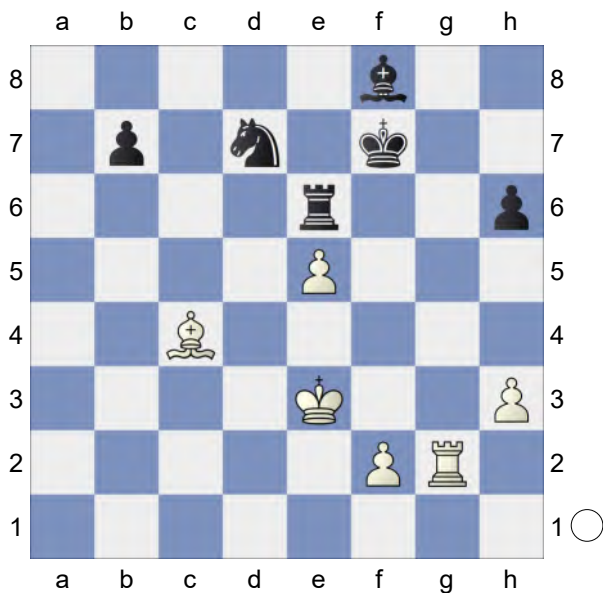
32.Ke3 Bf8 33.Bc4 Rb6 34.Nxe6

[34.Nd3 Rb1 35.f4 Ke7 36.Ne5±]

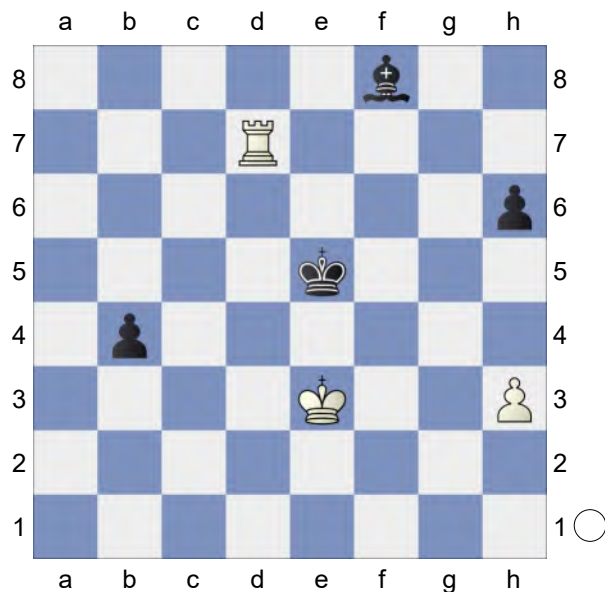
34...Rxe6 35.e5

[35.f4 Ke7 36.Bxe6 Kxe6 37.Kd4 Nd7 38.Rc2±]

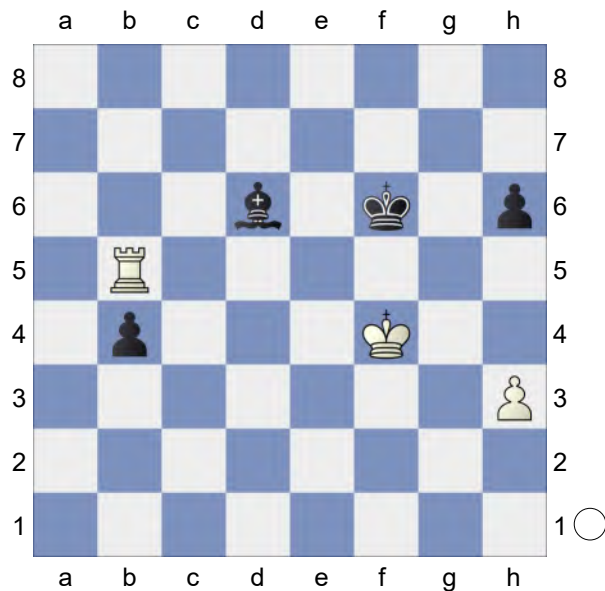
35...Nd7



36.f4 b5! 37.Bxe6+ Kxe6 38.Rd2 b4 39.f5+ Kxf5 40.Rxd7 Kxe5

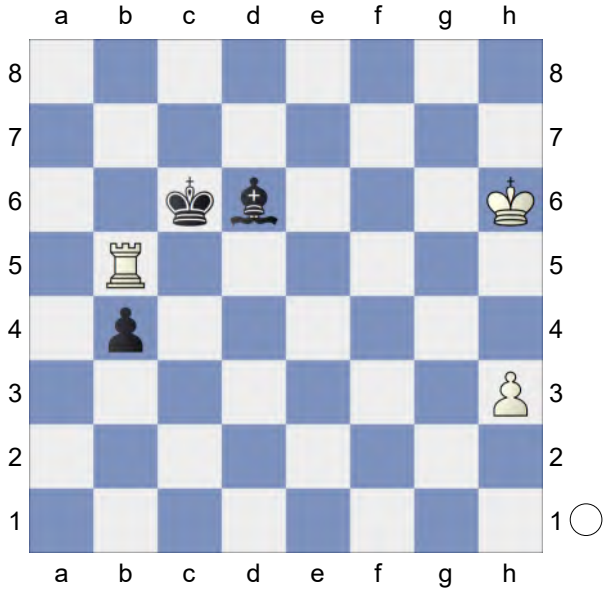


[♖ 2/i] 41.Kd3 Kf6 42.Rd5 Ke6 43.Rb5 Kf6 44.Ke4 Be7 45.Kf4 Bd6+

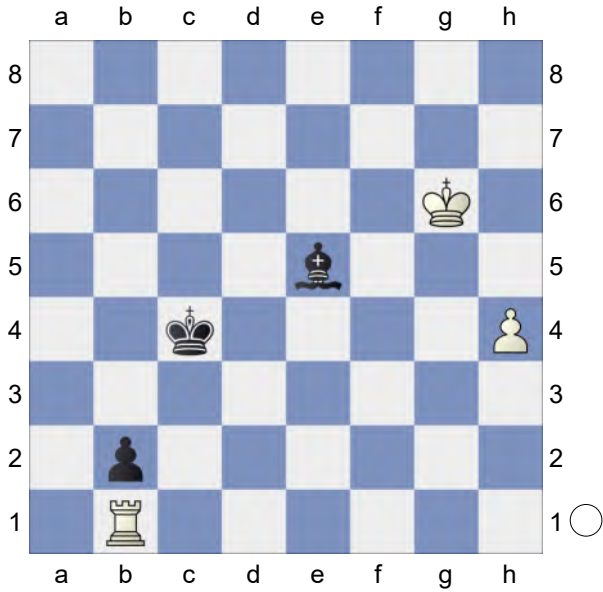


46.Ke4 Be7 47.Kf4 Bd6+ 48.Kg4 Ke6 49.Kh5 Kd7= 50.Kxh6 Kc6

(Diagram)

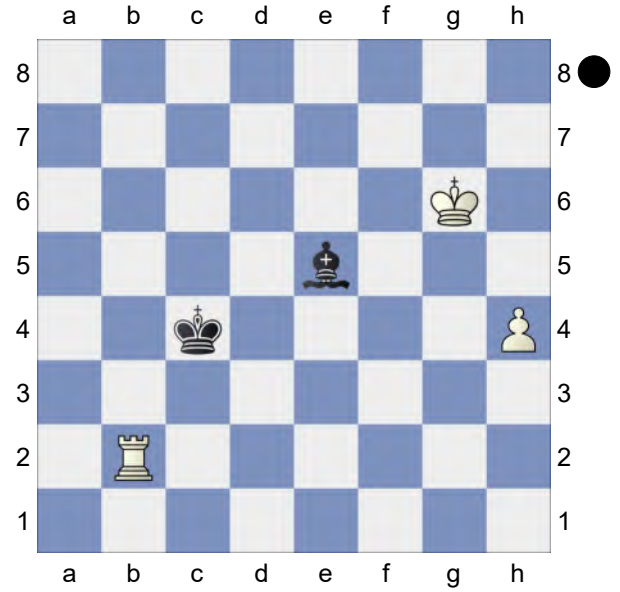


51.Rf5 b3 52.Rf1 Kc5 53.h4 b2 54.Rb1 Be5 55.Kg6 Kc4 $\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$



56.Rxb2

(Diagram)



341

□ Sevian, Samuel

■ Wei, Yi

chess24.com (Int.-m/2-rapid) 153/(104)

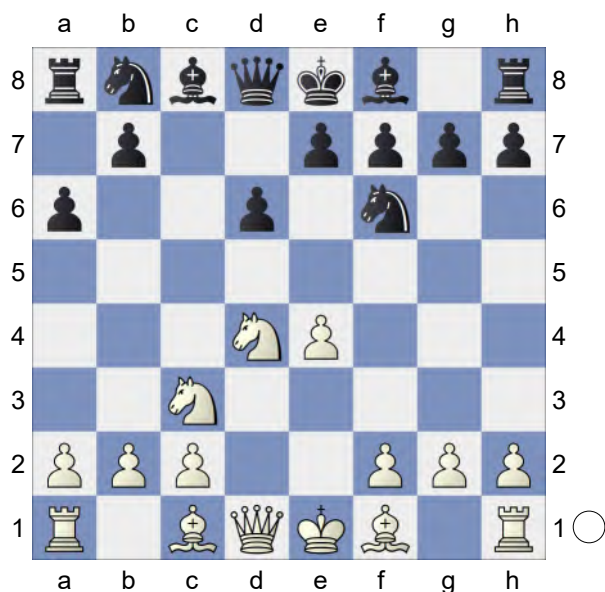
[Arsovic, Goran]

B92

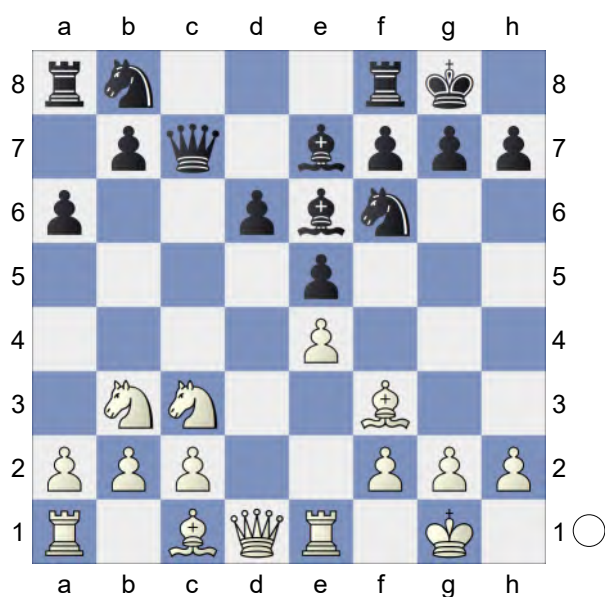
2684

2727

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6

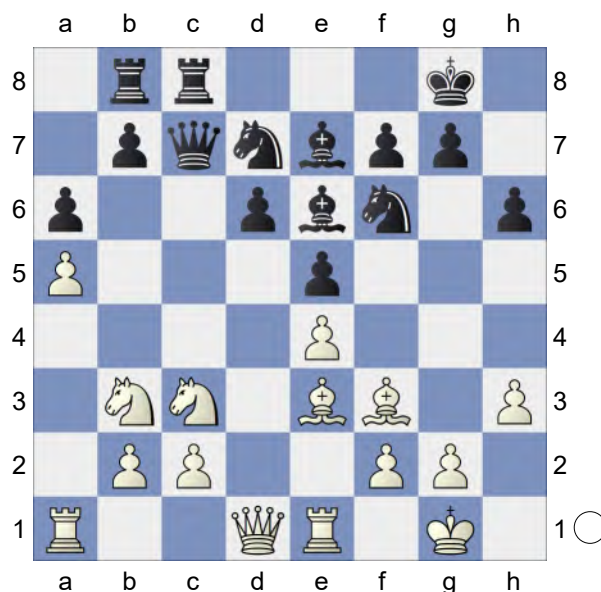


6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Re1
Be6 10.Bf3 Qc7



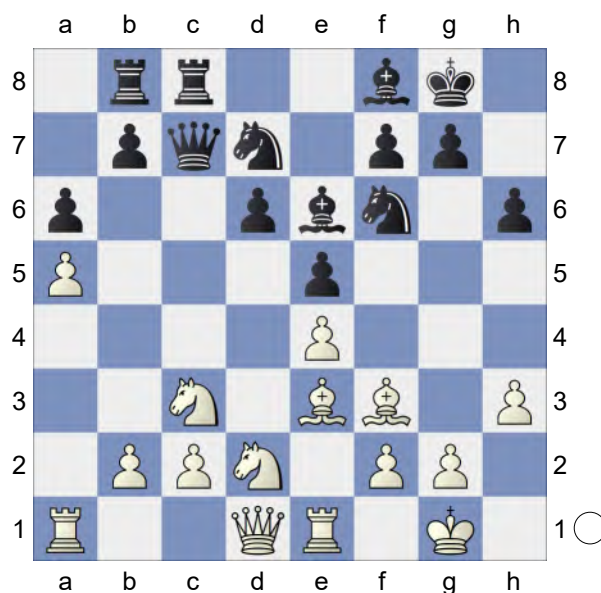
11.a4 Nbd7 12.a5 Rfc8 13.Be3 h6
14.h3 Rab8 Diagram

[14...b5 - 110/(125)]



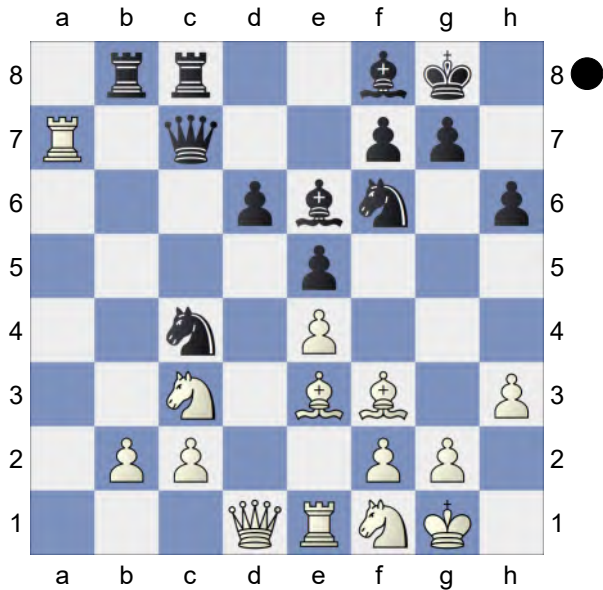
15.Nd2 * 15...Bf8N

[15...Bd8! - 153/104]



16.Nf1 b5 17.axb6 Nxb6 18.Rxa6
Nc4 19.Ra7 Diagram

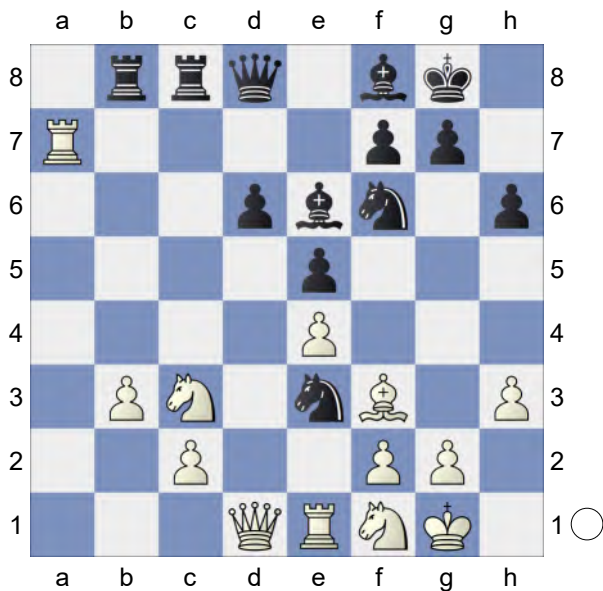
(Diagram)



19...Qd8?!

[19...Rb7 20.Rxb7 Qxb7 21.b3 Qb4
22.Nd5 Bxd5 23.exd5 Nxe3
24.Nxe3±]

20.b3 Nxe3

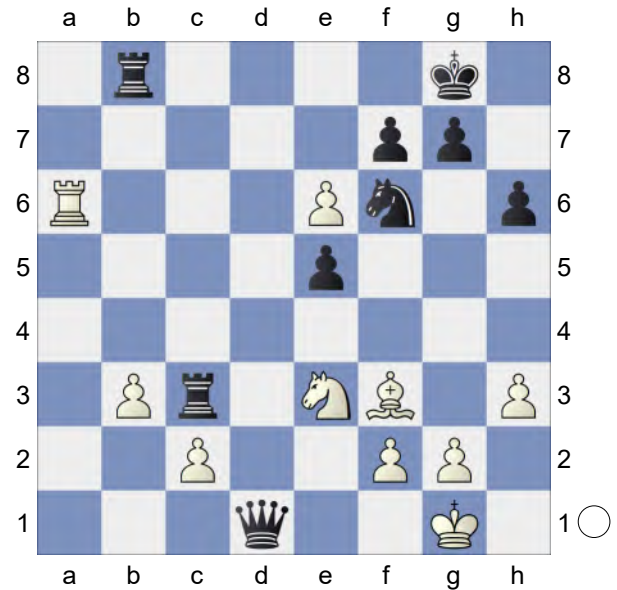


21.Rxe3 d5 22.exd5

[22.Nxd5 Bxd5 23.exd5 Bc5
24.Ra1±]

**22...Bc5 23.Ra6 Bxe3 24.Nxe3 Rxc3
25.dxe6 Qxd1+**

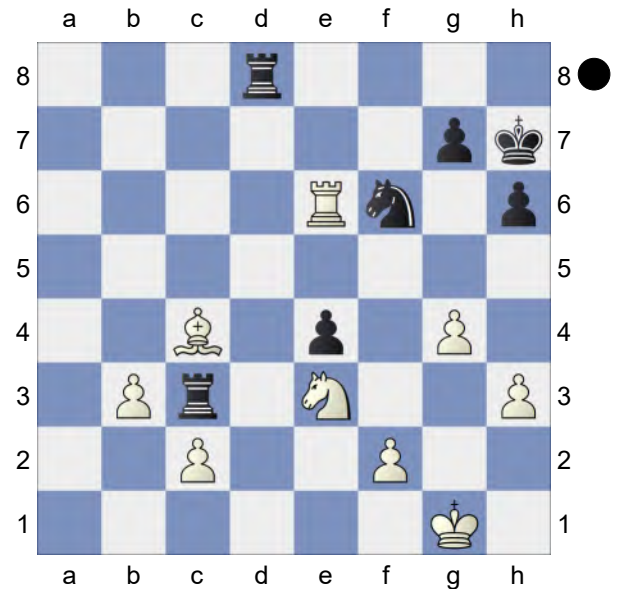
(Diagram)



26.Bxd1 Rd8?!

[26...fxe6 27.Rxe6±]

**27.Be2 fxe6 28.Rxe6 e4 29.Bc4 Kh7
30.g4+-**



342

□ Sevian, Samuel

■ Wei, Yi

chess24.com (Int.-m/5-blitz) 153/104

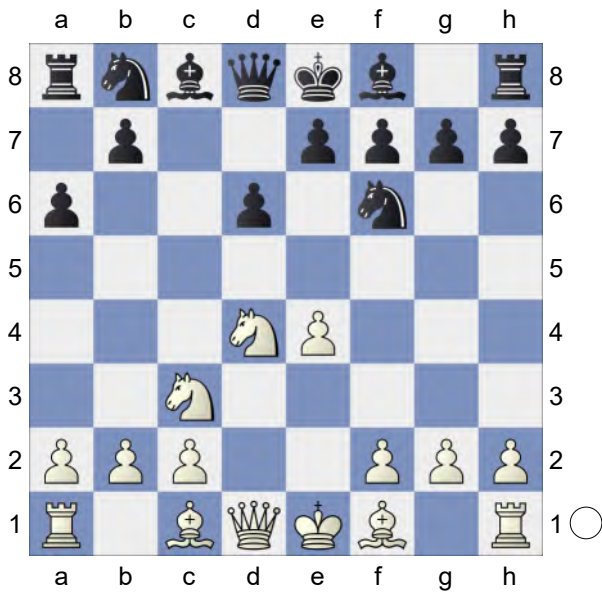
[Arsovic, Goran]

B92

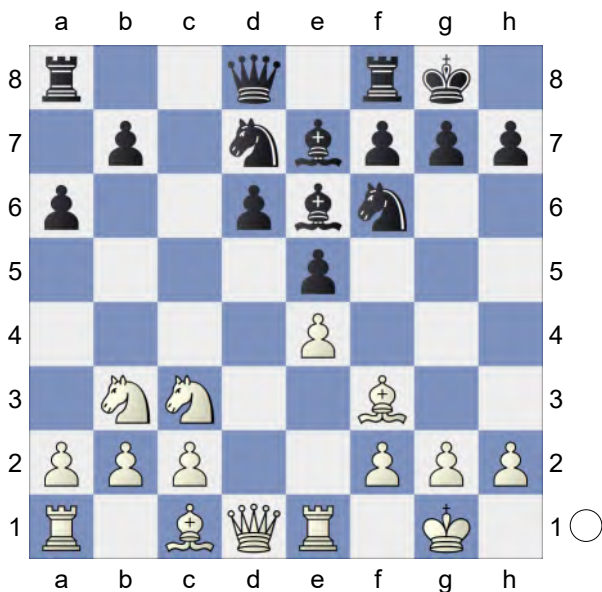
2684

2727

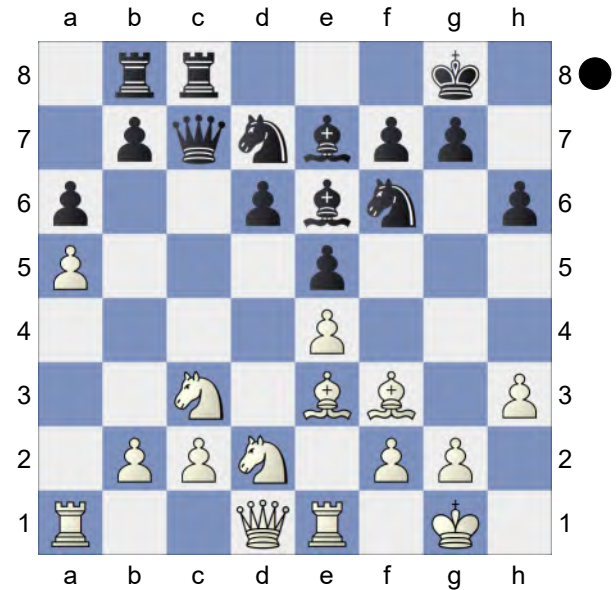
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6



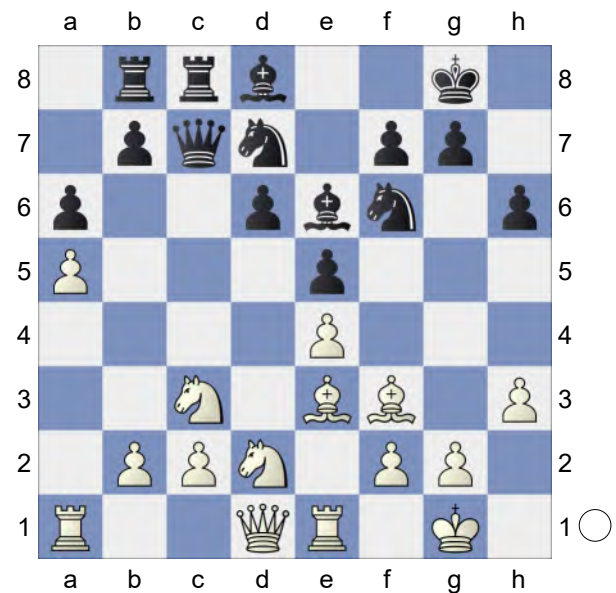
6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Re1
Be6 10.Bf3 Nbd7



11.a4 Qc7 12.a5 Rfc8 13.Be3 h6
14.h3 Rab8 15.Nd2 Diagram



15...Bd8!



16.Re2N

[16.Nf1 b5 17.axb6 Nxb6 18.Bc1
Qd7 (18...a5 19.Rxa5 Nc4 20.Ra2
Nxb2 21.Rxb2 Qxc3 22.Rxb8 Rxb8
23.Qxd6 Bc7 24.Qd1 Qc6 25.Ne3
Rd8 26.Qe2 Nxe4=) 19.Ne3
(19.Re2 Qc6 20.Ne3 Nc4 21.Nxc4
Bxc4 22.Rd2 Bc7∞) 19...Nc4 20.Na4
Ba5 21.Re2 Nxe3 22.Rxe3 Qc6=]

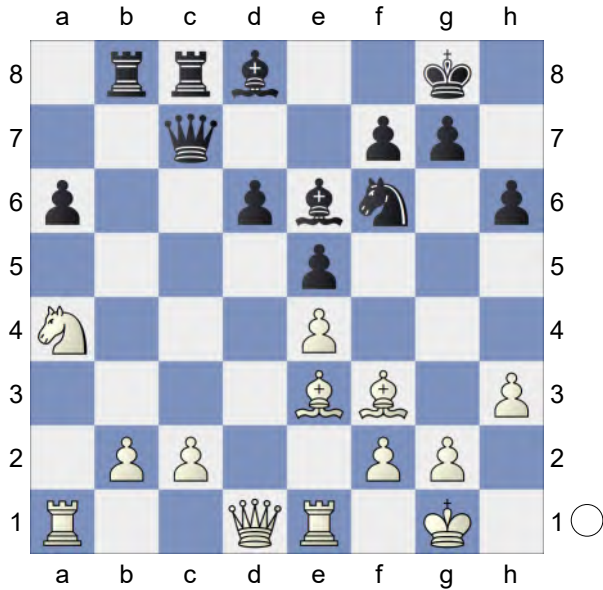
16...b5 17.axb6 Nxb6 18.Re1 Nc4

[18...Nbd7!? 19.Nb3 a5 20.Be2
Rb4= (20...Qc6!?)]

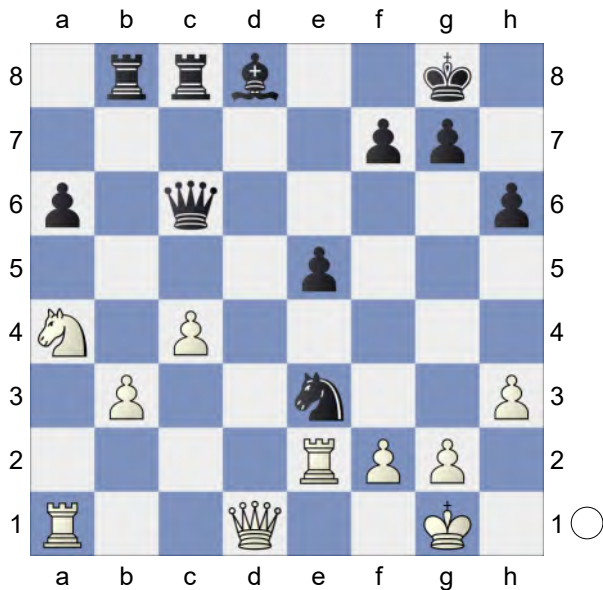
19.Nxc4 Bxc4 20.Na4

[20.b3 Be6 21.Bd2 a5 22.Ra2 Qc6
23.Na4 Qb7 24.Qe2 Bd7∞]

20...Be6

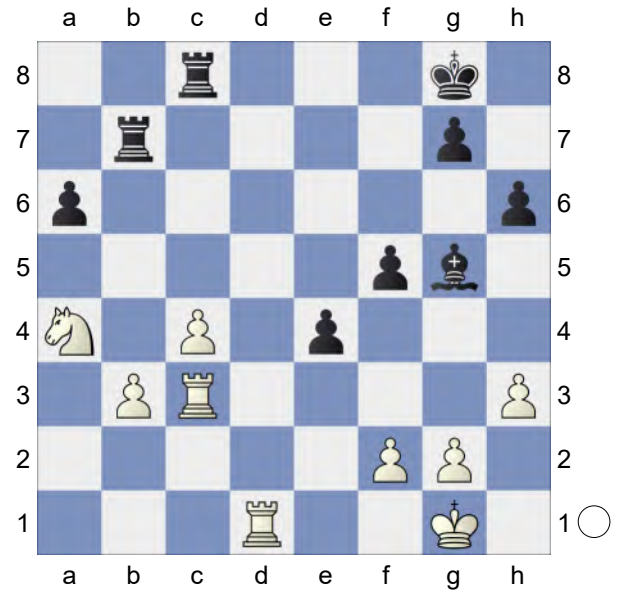


**21.Re2 Qc6 22.b3 d5 23.exd5 Bxd5
24.Bxd5 Nxd5 25.c4 Nxe3**

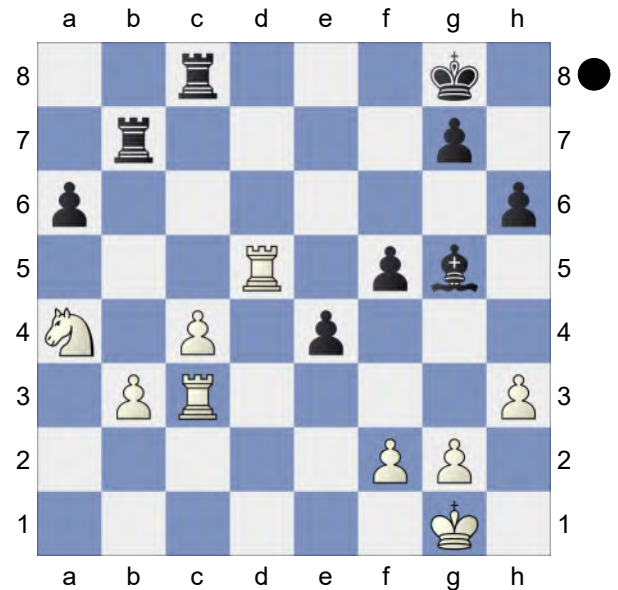


**26.Rxe3 Qb7= 27.Qf3 Bg5 28.Qxb7
Rxb7 29.Rc3 e4 30.Rd1 f5**

(Diagram)



**31.Rd5 Bf6 32.Re3 Bg5 33.Rc3 Bf6
34.Re3 Bg5 35.Rc3**



1/2-1/2

345

□ Sasikiran,Krishnan

■ Wei,Yi

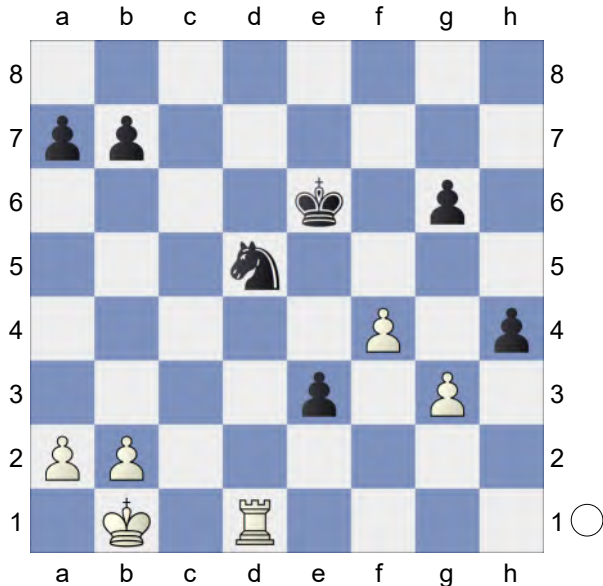
R 1/j Hyderabad

[Arsovic,Goran]

2682

2706

2015



1.Kc2!

[1.gxh4? e2 2.Re1 Nxf4 3.Kc2 Kf5
4.Kd2 Ke4-+ 5.b4 Kf3 6.a4 Kf2
7.b5 b6 8.Rh1 Ng2 0 : 1 Sasikiran,
Krishnan 2682 - Wei,Yi 2706,
Hyderabad 2015]

1...hxg3

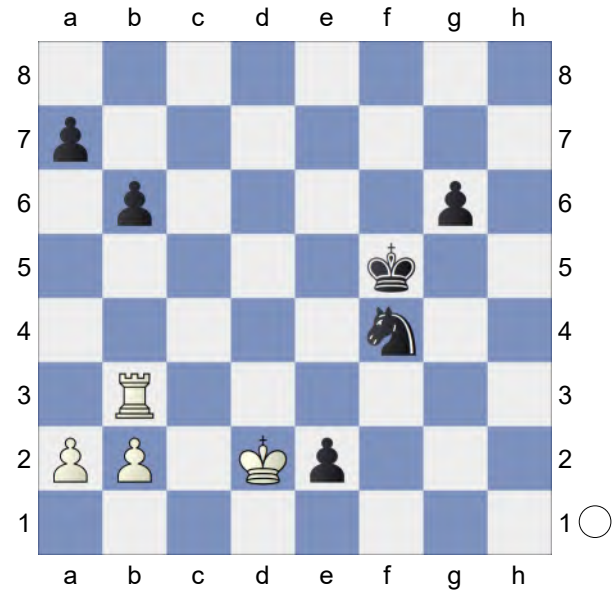
[1...e2 2.Rg1 h3 (2...hxg3
- 1...hg3) 3.Kd2 Kf5 4.Kxe2 Kg4
5.Kf2 h2 6.Rd1 Kh3 7.Kf3 Nf6
8.Rc1 Ng4=]

**2.Rg1 e2 3.Kd2 Nxf4 4.Rxg3 Kf5
5.Rb3**

[5.Re3=]

5...b6

(Diagram)

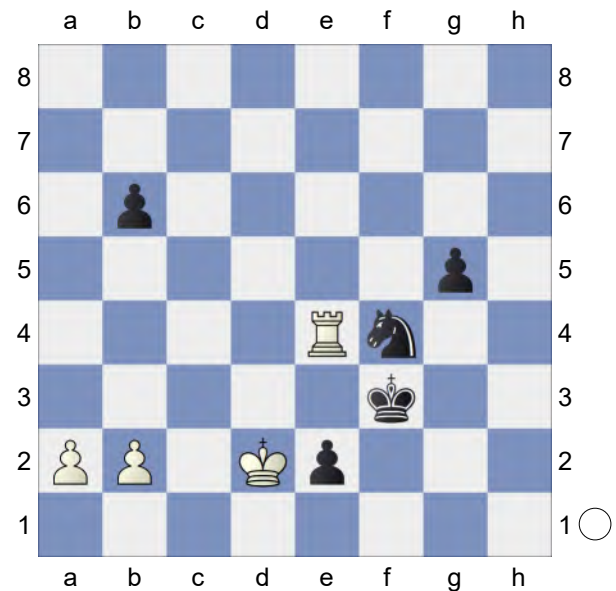


6.Ra3 Ke4 7.Rxa7 Kf3 8.Re7 g5

9.Re3+ Kf2 10.Re4

[10.a4 g4 11.Re4 Kf3 12.Re3+
Kf2=]

10...Kf3=



50

□ Rapport, Richard

■ Wei, Yi

chess.com (Int.-rapid) 147/147

[Arsovic, Goran]

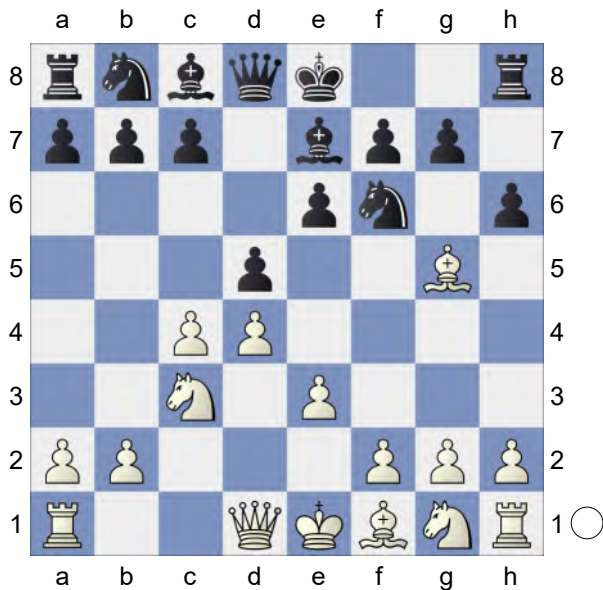
D55

2759

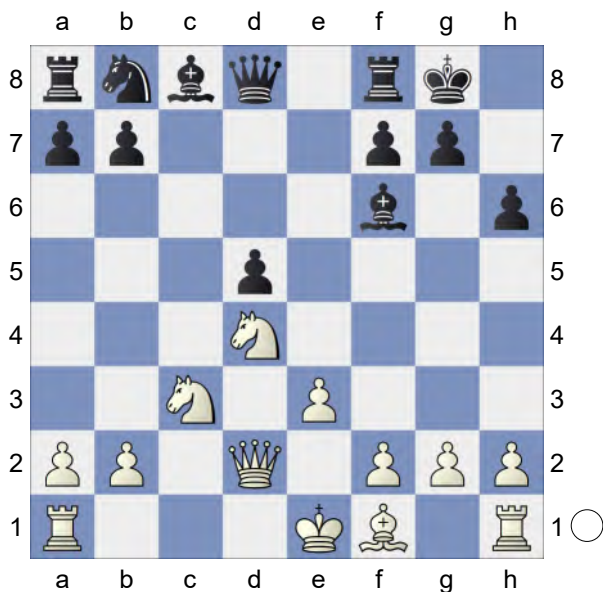
2732

2020

1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 Nf6 4.Bg5
Be7 5.e3 h6

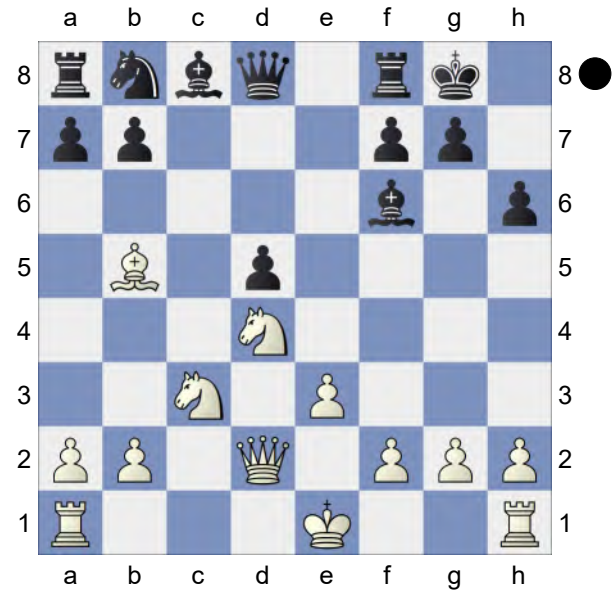


6.Bxf6 Bxf6 7.Nf3 0-0 8.Qd2 c5
9.cxd5 cxd4 10.Nxd4 exd5



11.Bb5 Diagram

(Diagram)



11...Nc6!N

[11...Qd6 - 124/144]

12.Bxc6

[12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Bxc6 Rb8 14.0-0
(14.Bxd5 Ba6=) 14...d4 15.exd4
(15.Nd5 dxe3 16.Qxe3 a6 17.Qf4
Rxb2 18.Nxf6+ Qxf6 19.Qxf6 gxf6=)
15...Qxd4 16.Qxd4 Bxd4 17.Rad1
Bf6 18.Rd2 Be6=]

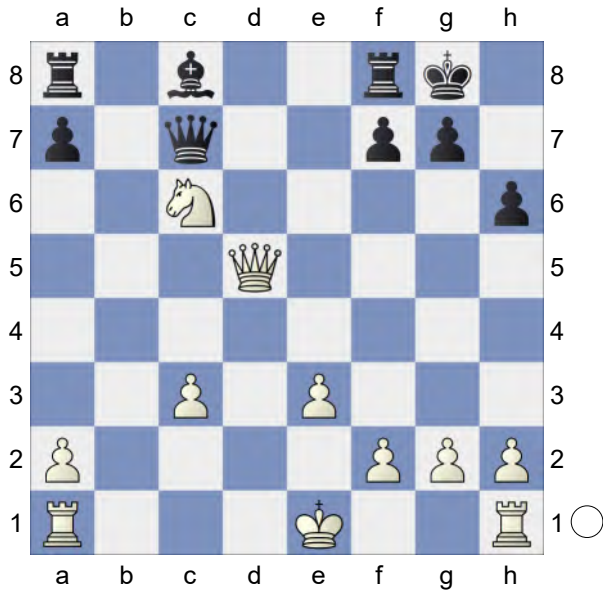
12...bxc6 13.Nxc6 Qd6 14.Qxd5

[14.Nd4 Ba6 15.f3 Rfe8 16.Kf2
Rac8 17.Rad1 Bg5 18.f4 Bh4+
19.g3 Bd8 20.Rhe1 Ba5=]

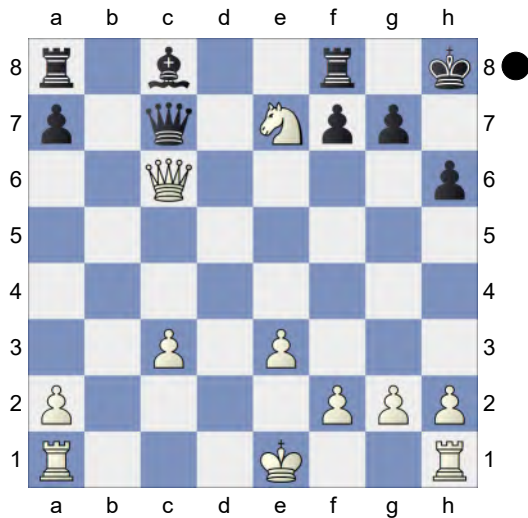
14...Bxc3+ 15.bxc3 Qc7!

[15...Qxd5?! 16.Ne7+ Kh7 17.Nxd5
Bb7 18.0-0-0±]

(Diagram)

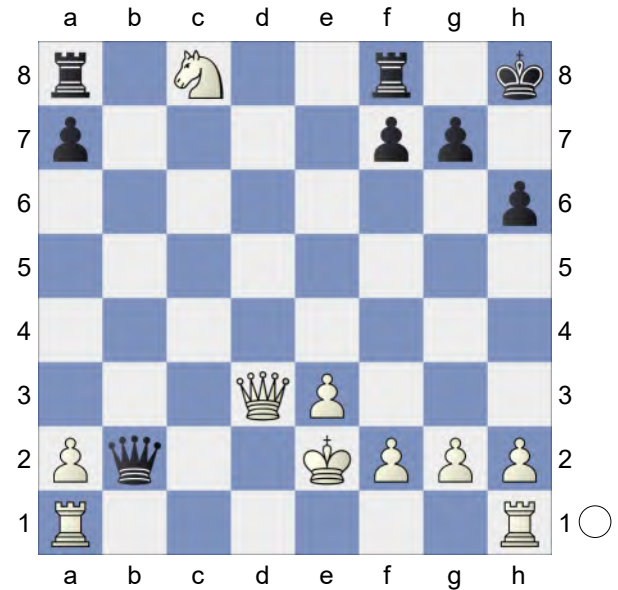


16.Ne7+ Kh8 17.Nxc8
[17.Qc6 **Diagram**

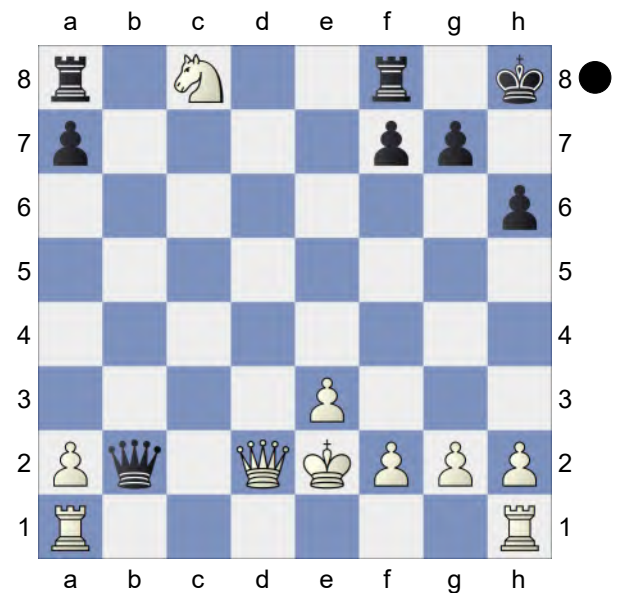


Qe5! (17...Qxc6 18.Nxc6 Bb7
19.Nd4 Bxg2 20.Rg1 Bd5 21.Kd2±)
18.0-0 Bh3! 19.gxh3 Qxe7 20.Rfd1
Rac8 21.Qd7 Qg5+ 22.Qg4 Qe5
23.Rd4 Rxc3=]
17...Qxc3+ 18.Ke2 Qb2+= 19.Qd2
Qb5+ 20.Qd3 Qb2+

(Diagram)



21.Qd2 Qb5+ 22.Qd3 Qb2+ 23.Qd2



1/2-1/2

329

□ Matlakov, Maxim

■ Wei, Yi

Ningbo 125/153

[Arsovic, Goran]

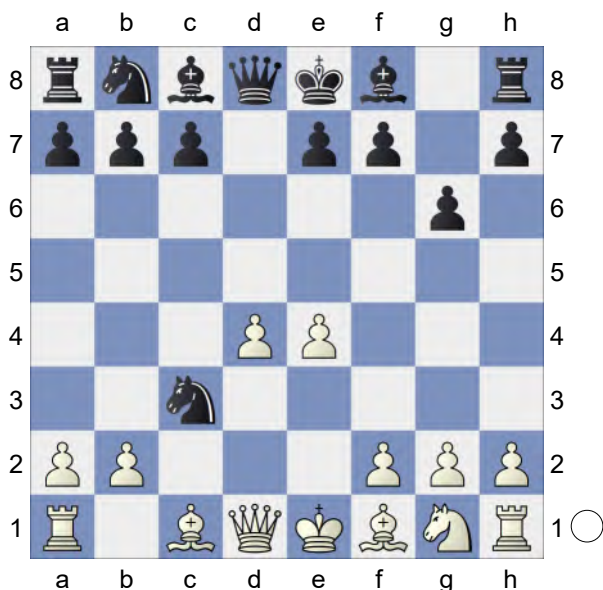
D85

2691

2724

2015

We will see another great game by Matlakov, where he crushes the lately so strong playing Wei Yi. After the opening White manages to quickly put a lot of pressure on Black's position and later on to totally dominate the game, even making Black resign in a position with equal material. A very nice game to watch. Enjoy! **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5** This time the game enters the very main Gruenfeld. **4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3**



6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Qa4+ This is a relatively rare line, the very main being 7.Nf3. **7...Qd7** The main idea of 7.Qa4 is to avoid the c5 push for a couple of moves, which White needs to complete his development. **8.Bb5** Glenn Flear: '!?'. Glenn Flear: 'The latest trend. Now Black can't avoid playing ...c6. The first game that I've found was played by Paul

Eggers in Seattle 1989, but it never caught on, that is until the last few months.' Glenn Flear: '!?'. Glenn Flear: 'The latest trend. Now Black can't avoid playing ...c6. The first game that I've found was played by Paul Eggers in Seattle 1989, but it never caught on, that is until the last few months.' Of course not exchanging the queens! If the queens are gone from the board, Black usually has an excellent endgame.

8...c6 9.Be2

[A new twist is placing the bishop on d3 from where it protects the e4-pawn:

9.Bd3 0-0 10.Ne2 c5 11.Qxd7 Nxd7

A) 12.Bg5 cxd4 13.cxd4 e5 14.d5 Nc5 15.Bc2 Bd7 16.Kd2 (16.Be7 is safely met by Rfc8) 16...Rfc8 17.Rhc1 b5 Pilvett, D-Laclau, D Andorra 2015, with comfortable equality for Black.;

B) 12.Be3 Rd8 13.Rd1 b6 14.f3 Bb7 15.Kf2 Rac8 16.h4 e5!? (Black has a wide choice, both 16...h6; and 16...h5 coming into consideration) 17.d5 c4 18.Bc2 Bf8 Anton Guijarro, D-Gabuzyan, H Martuni 2015, with an acceptable game for Black.]

9...0-0 Black wants to play c5. **10.Qa3** Glenn Flear: '!' Glenn Flear: 'This shuffle, slowing down ...c5, was introduced by Lysyj.' Glenn Flear: '!' Glenn Flear: 'This shuffle, slowing down ...c5, was introduced by Lysyj.' and White is preventing it.

[Black has more or less solved his opening problems after the main alternative 10.Nf3 e.g. c5

A) 11.Qa3 (too late to worry Black here) cxd4 12.cxd4 Nc6 13.Be3 Nxd4 (13...Qg4!?) 14.Bxd4 Bxd4 15.Rd1 e5= 16.0-0 (16.Nxe5 Qc7

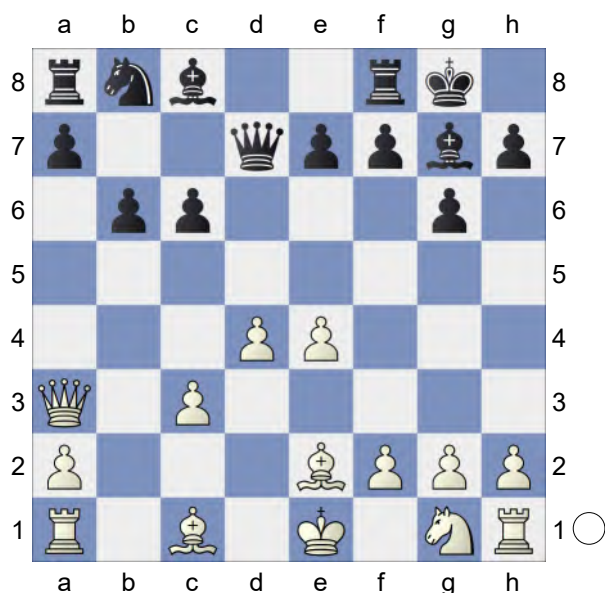
17.Rxd4 Qxe5) 16...Re8 17.Rd2 Qe7 18.Qxe7 Rxe7 19.Nxd4 exd4 20.Rxd4 Be6 0.5-0.5 Riazantsev, A-Grigoriants, S St.Petersburg rapid 2015.;

B) otherwise 11.Qxd7 has been played, but the bishop may be better placed on d3 (see above) if White intends trading queens: Bxd7 12.Rb1 b6 13.Bb2 e6 14.0-0 Bc6 15.Bd3 (losing a tempo?) Rd8 16.Rfe1 Nd7= Cech, P-Pribyl, J Prague 1990.;

C) 11.Bb5 (is sharpest) 11...Qg4 12.0-0 cxd4 13.Ba3 Nc6! 14.cxd4 Qxe4 15.Rfe1 Qd5 16.Bc4 Qa5 Ivanisevic, I-Giri, A Al-Ain 2012, and Black was fine.]

10...b6

[I'm not so sure about 10...Qd6!? 11.f4 (ambitious) c5 12.e5 Qc7 13.Be3 cxd4 14.cxd4 Be6 15.Bf3 Qd7 16.Ne2 Nc6 17.Kf2 Bd5 Lysyj, I-Ragger, M Warsaw rapid 2013. Black has lost a couple of tempi with his queen, but on the plus side has organized a light-square blockade.]



Yet again preparing the c5 push. **11.Nf3** **DIAGRAM 11...Bb7** Maybe Wei Yi didn't choose the best move order.

[Similar is 11...c5 which could transpose. The following encounter, however, went its own way: 12.0-0 (12.d5 e6 Here we have a position which is close to the game but in a much better version for Black.) 12...cxd4 13.cxd4 Bb7 and I believe the position is a very fighting one, but should be close to equal. 14.Qe3 (one disadvantage of ...cxd4 is that it allows this defensive switch) Nc6 15.Bb2 Rfd8 16.Rfd1 Na5 17.Rab1 e6 18.h4 Moiseenko, A-Bok, B Biel 2015, and now instead of the loosening f5?! (the calm 18...Rac8 19.h5 Nc4 should be OK for Black.)]

12.0-0 c5 So Black finally pushes c5, but White has an excellent counter measure up his sleeve... **13.d5** ! Perfect play! The black bishop on b7 is getting blocked now and the knight from b8 is having serious trouble getting into the game. **13...e6** Diagram

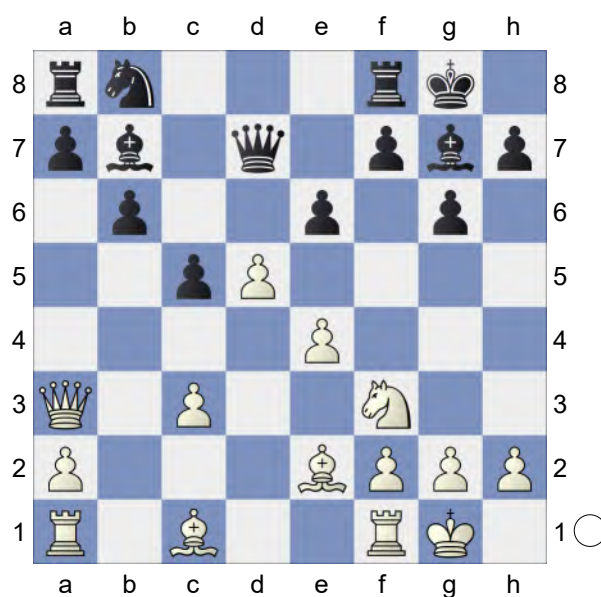


Diagram Diagram [#] **14.Be3!N**
Glenn Flear: 'New.' Glenn Flear: 'New.'

Another good move, preparing to play Rad1, bringing the last piece into the action.

[Glenn Flear: 'In an earlier game, Wei Yi was able to capture on d5 after' 14.Rd1 - 125/(153) - 125/(153) - 125/(153) Glenn Flear: 'i.e.' exd5 15.exd5 Bxd5! (the unfortunate position of the queen's rook stops White being able to profit from the pin) 16.Bc4 Bxc4 17.Rxd7 Nxd7 Lysyj, I-Wei Yi, Chinese league 2015, with at least enough compensation for the queen.]

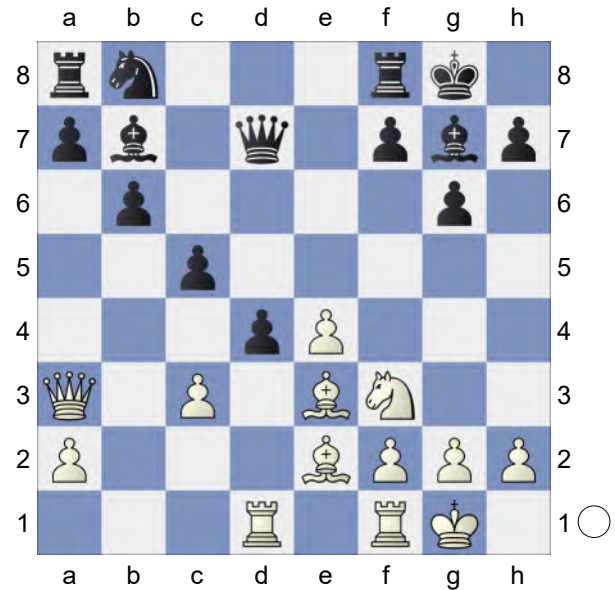
14...exd5 Black doesn't have anything better. **15.Rad1** Glenn Flear: 'Having the queen's rook on d1 avoids any problems along the long dark-squared diagonal.' Glenn Flear: 'Having the queen's rook on d1 avoids any problems along the long dark-squared diagonal.'

DIAGRAM 15...d4?!

[Glenn Flear: 'The natural-looking alternative' 15...Nc6 Glenn Flear: '!' Glenn Flear: 'is better, when the plausible sequence' 16.exd5 Ne7 17.c4 (17.Qb3 Nf5 18.Bf4 Nd6 gives Black a solid enough position.) 17...Nf5 18.Bf4±]

[15...Qd6 16.exd5 Nd7 and this quite typical position should be evaluated as minimally better for White.]

(Diagram)



Glenn Flear: '?' Glenn Flear: 'I suspect that this is just wrong. As a rule, opening up the centre with lagging development is fraught with danger.' Glenn Flear: '?' Glenn Flear: 'I suspect that this is just wrong. As a rule, opening up the centre with lagging development is fraught with danger.' ?!

In my opinion this is at least a very risky decision. **16.cxd4 Bxe4**

[16...cxd4?! 17.Bxd4 Qc7 (17...Bxd4 18.Nxd4 Bxe4 19.Nb5±) 18.Bxg7 Kxg7 19.Rc1 Qf4 20.Qc3+ Kg8 21.Ne5!± Δ ♘g4 Δ ♘g4 Δ Ng4] [16...Qe7 17.dxc5 Nd7 18.Bb5! Nf6 (18...Nxc5?! 19.Rd7±) 19.Bd4±]

17.dxc5 Now that the center is fully opened it is extremely important that White's development is much better than Black's one, so White has some time to create a few threats- and this is what Matlakov is going to do... **17...Qb7** This is probably the best position for the black queen. **18.Rfe1** Glenn Flear: 'White is fully deployed, whereas Black isn't.' Glenn Flear: 'White is fully deployed, whereas Black isn't.' ! A silent but very unpleasant move for Black!

White does not hurry to force things immediately, but is threatening to play Ng5 now, after which Bxg2 will not be possible any longer because of f3, and the rook on e1 could often be a useful piece.

[18.Rd6 was another nice possibility.]

18...Nd7 The knight is finally out.

DIAGRAM

[18...Bd5 19.Qd3 Be4 20.Qc4±]

19.Ba6 ! Another great move by White to destabilize the position of the black pieces. **19...Qc7** Diagram

[If 19...Qc6 then 20.Rd6 comes with a gain of time. Qc7 21.c6 and White is clearly better.]

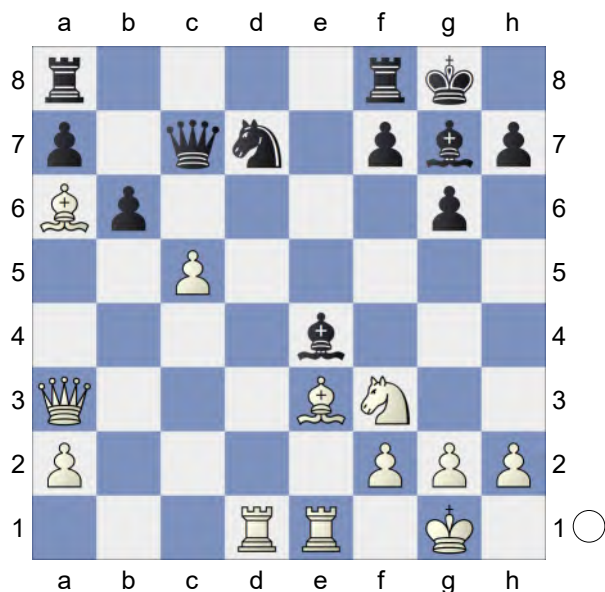


Diagram Diagram [#] **20.Bb5!**

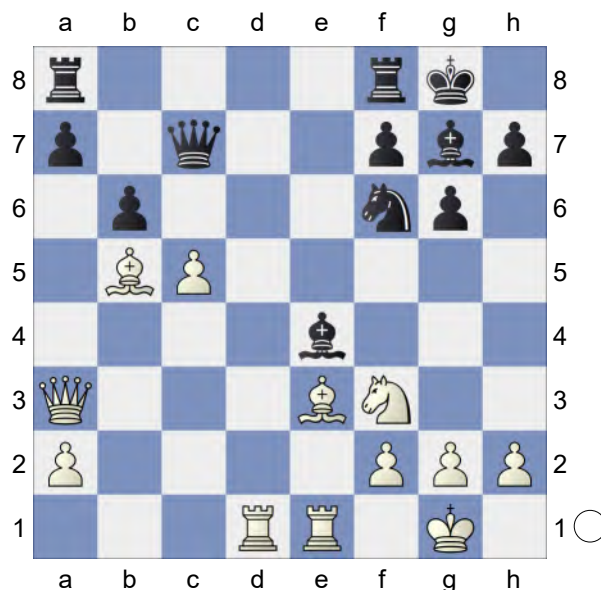
Glenn Flear: 'Apart from the attack on the d7-knight, the bishop on e4 is also loose.' Glenn Flear: 'Apart from the attack on the d7-knight, the bishop on e4 is also loose.' Using the fact that Black can't take the c5 pawn. **20...Nf6?!**

[20...Ne5 21.Nxe5 Bxe5 22.Rd7! Bxh2+ 23.Kh1 Qe5 24.Bd4 Bxg2+ 25.Kxg2 Qxe1 26.Kxh2±]

[20...Nxc5 ? loses a piece after

21.Bxc5 bxc5 22.Rxe4]

[20...Bf5 21.c6 but here White is also clearly better after a6 22.Ba4 b5 23.cxd7 bxa4 24.Rd2 and the d7 pawn gives White a big plus.]



21.Bd4 Black is suddenly in big trouble!

21...Bf5 What else to do?! To play 21... Bxf3 22. Qxf3 and give White the bishop pair and a strong c-pawn is a very unpleasant option...

[21...Rad8 22.Be5 Qb7 23.Rxd8 Rxd8 24.Qb2 Qe7 25.Bc3 bxc5 26.Nd2+-]

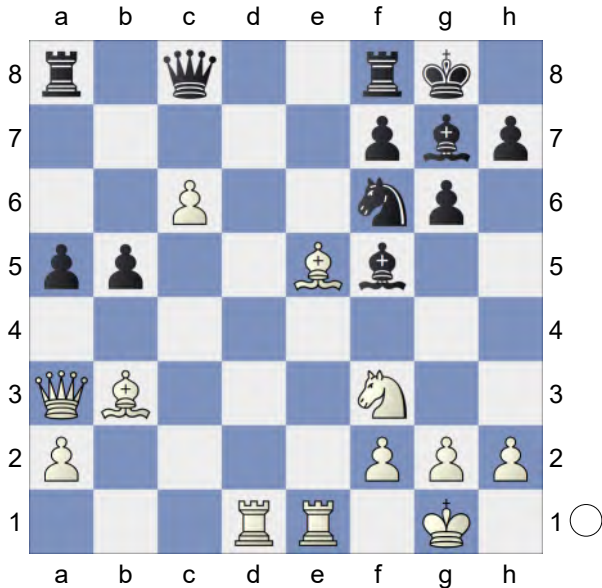
22.c6+- Glenn Flear: '!' Glenn Flear: 'Such an advance can only be good when one has the clearly superior pieces.' ' Glenn Flear: '!' Glenn Flear: 'Such an advance can only be good when one has the clearly superior pieces.' It is very nice to see how the white pieces are dominating the center. **22...a6**

[After 22...Rfe8 White still replies 23.Be5]

23.Be5 A nice "zwischenzug" which allows White not to worry about the c6 pawn. **23...Qc8**

[23...axb5 24.Qxa8+-]

24.Ba4 b5 25.Bb3 DIAGRAM 25...a5
 [25...Qxc6?? drops material after
 26.Rd6 and the f6 knight is gone.]

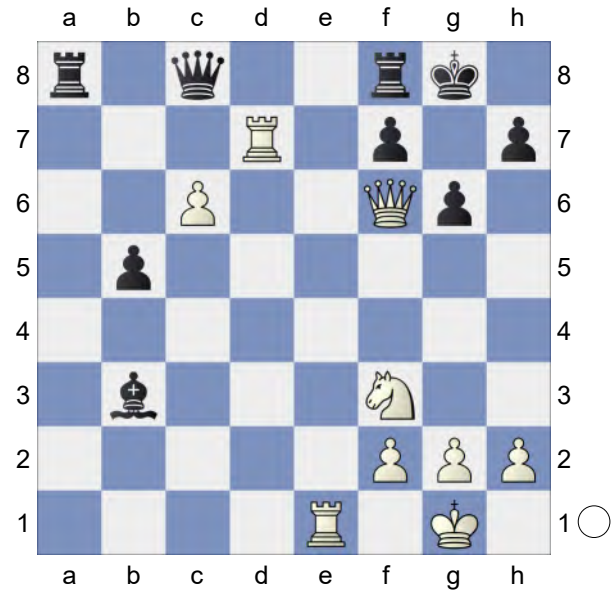


Wei Yi is still hoping to escape by creating some threats on the queenside.
26.Qb2 ! Another safe and strong move by White! **26...a4**

[Following 26...Nh5 would lead to a total domination of the white pieces: 27.Bxg7 Nxc7 28.Re7 a4 29.Bd5 with a winning position for White. Be6 30.Bxe6 Nxe6 31.Ne5 the pressure is too strong.]

27.Bxf6 Bxf6 28.Qxf6 axb3 29.axb3 Bc2 Black is equalizing the material, but not saving the game. The white queen and knight make for an excellent combination to mate the black king...
30.Rd7 Bxb3

(Diagram)



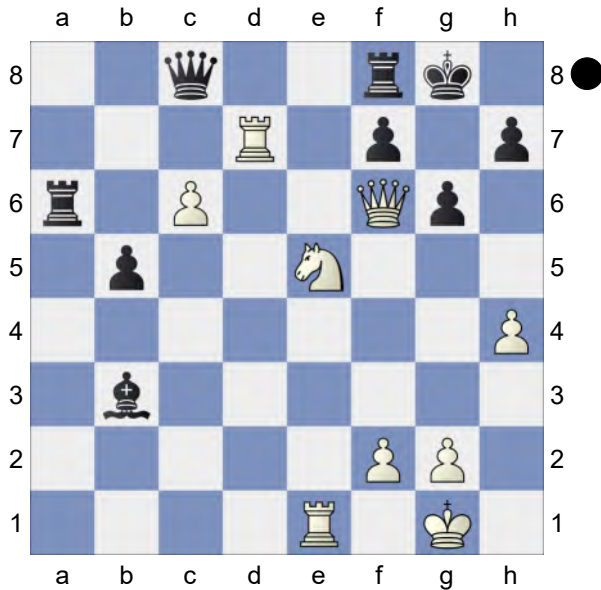
Glenn Flear: 'Material is equal, but not the relative security of the kings.' Glenn Flear: 'Material is equal, but not the relative security of the kings.' **DIAGRAM 31.h4** Glenn Flear: '!' Glenn Flear: '!' Maxim shows no mercy. The simple threat of playing h5-h6 is deadly.

31...Ra6
 [31...h5 32.Ree7+-]

32.Ne5

[Glenn Flear: 'After' 32.Ne5 Glenn Flear: 'if Black decided to play on with' Glenn Flear: 'if Black decided to play on with' The c6 pawn is saved and Black is completely paralyzed. A really beautiful positional win by White and another example of how dangerous it is to play without the center and with a worse development, wpecially when the position is very opened. Qe8 (32...h5? loses on the spot to 33.Nxc6) Glenn Flear: 'then' 33.Re7 Qc8 34.Nd7 Qxc6 (34...Rd8 35.Qc3 with decisive threats.) 35.Qb2+-]

(Diagram)



The c6 pawn is saved and Black is completely paralyzed. A really beautiful positional win by White and another example of how dangerous it is to play without the center and with a worse development, especially when the position is very opened.

1-0

330

□ Lysyj,Igor

■ Wei,Yi

125/(153) Chiva

[Arsovic,Goran]

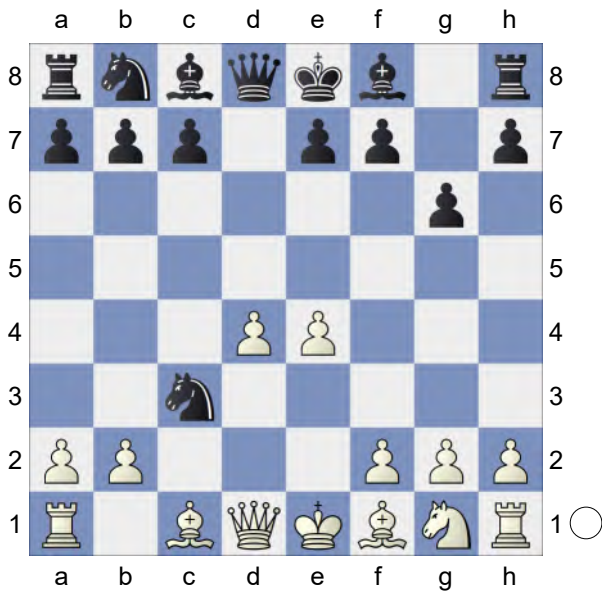
D85

2691

2706

2015

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5
Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3



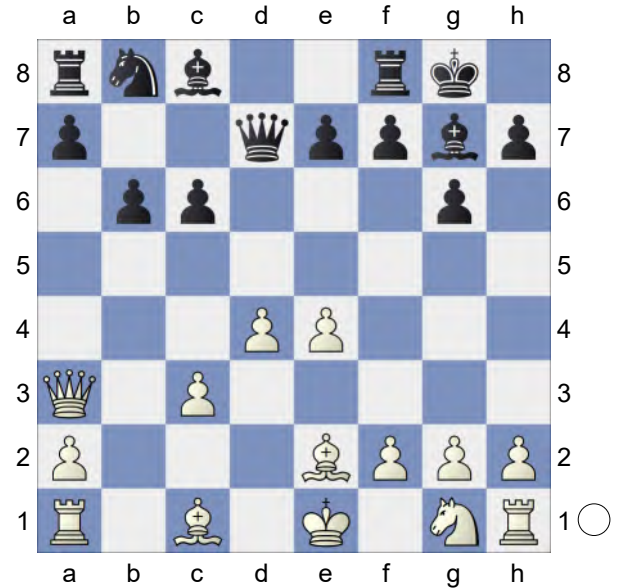
6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Qa4+ Qd7 8.Bb5

[8.Qa3 - 123/155]

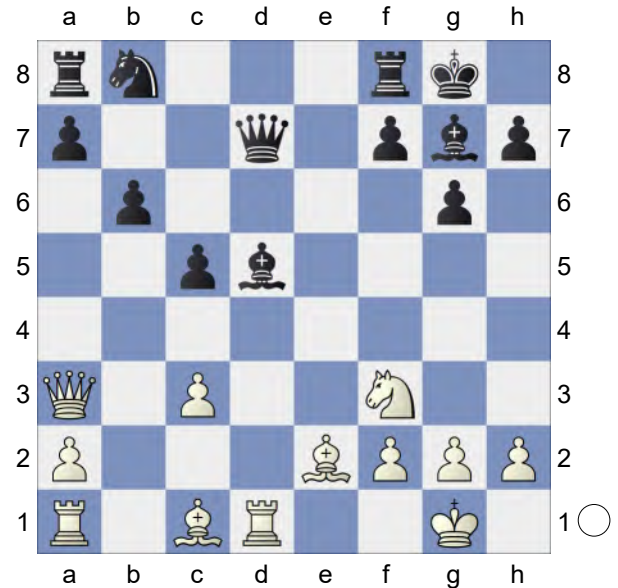
8...c6 9.Be2 0-0 10.Qa3 b6N

[10...Qd6]

(Diagram)

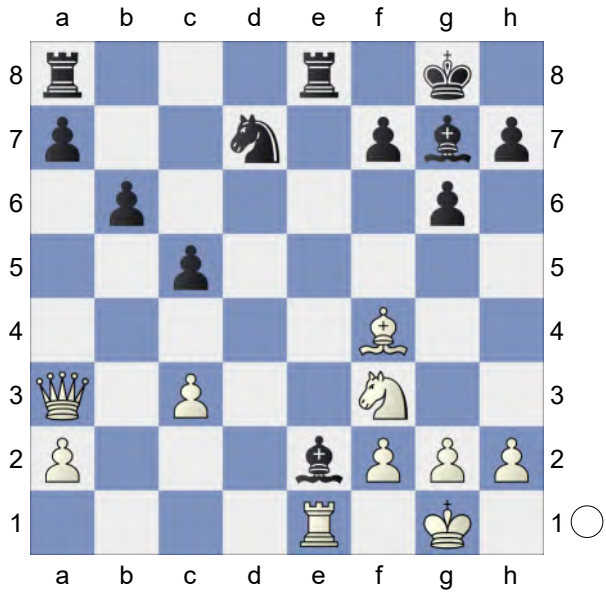


11.Nf3 c5 12.0-0 Bb7 13.d5 e6 *
14.Rd1 exd5 15.exd5 Bxd5



16.Bc4 Bxc4 17.Rxd7 Nxd7 18.Bf4
Be2 19.Re1 Rfe8

(Diagram)



453

□ Kovalev, Vladislav

■ Wei, Yi

125/(56) Pune

[Arsovic, Goran]

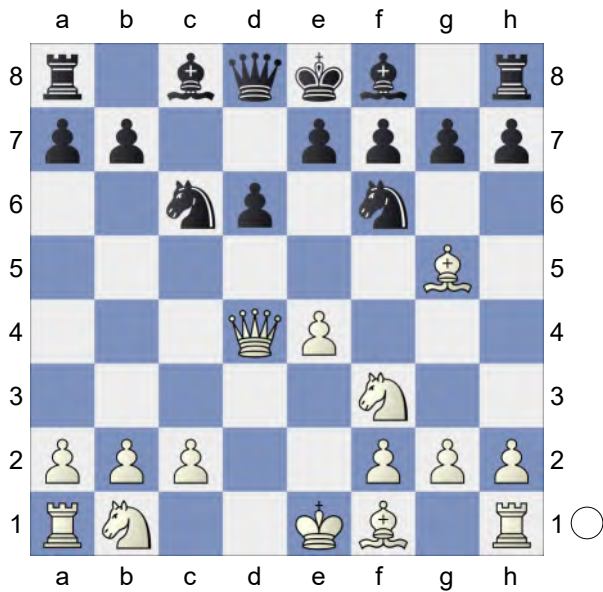
B53

2548

2641

2014

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4
Nf6 5.Bg5 Nc6



6.Bb5 Bd7 7.Qd3 Ng4

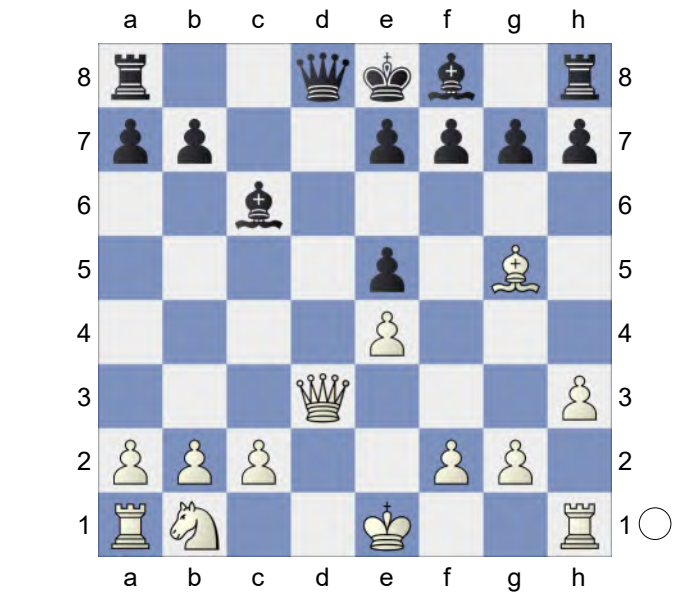
[7...e6 - 112/(116)]

8.Bxc6N

[8.Nc3]

8...Bxc6 9.h3 Ne5 10.Nxe5 dxe5

(Diagram)



11.Qxd8+ Rxd8 12.Nd2 b6 13.a4 f6

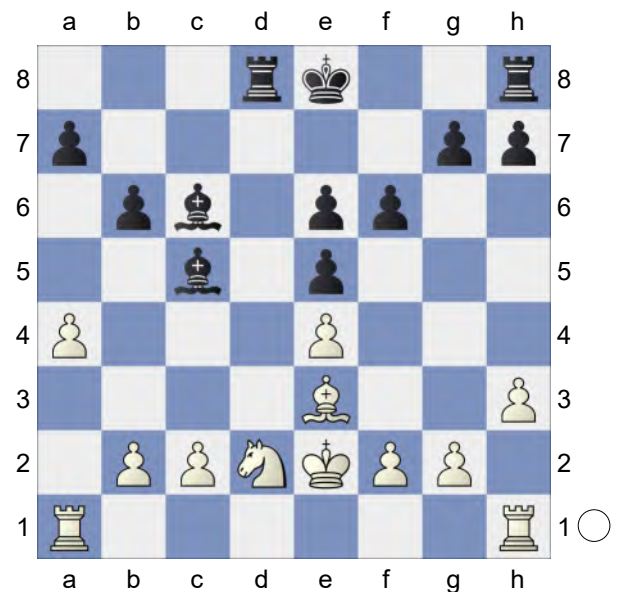
[13...Rd7!?=]

14.Be3 e6 15.Ke2

[15.a5 bxa5 16.Rxa5 (16.Bxa7
a4 $\bar{f}$) 16...Bxe4 17.Nxe4 Bb4+
18.Bd2 Rxd2 19.Nxd2 Bxa5
20.Ke2 ∞]

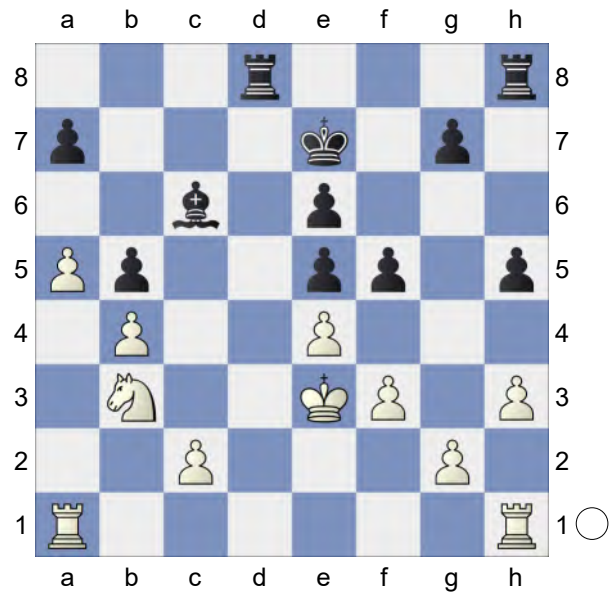
15...Bc5?!

[15...Rd7 16.f3 (16.a5 b5) 16...Be7
17.Rhd1 Kf7=]

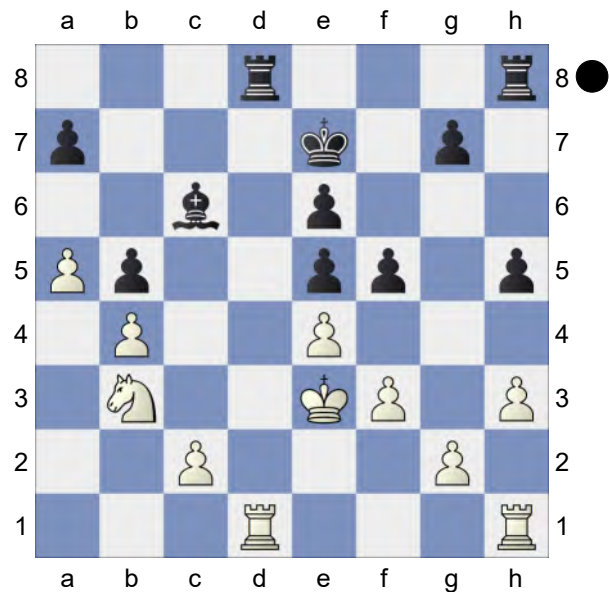


16.a5 Bxe3 17.Kxe3 b5 18.b4 Ke7

19.Nb3 f5 20.f3 h5



21.Rad1±



367

□ Fedoseev, Vladimir

■ Wei, Yi

Ningbo 125/156

[Arsovic, Goran]

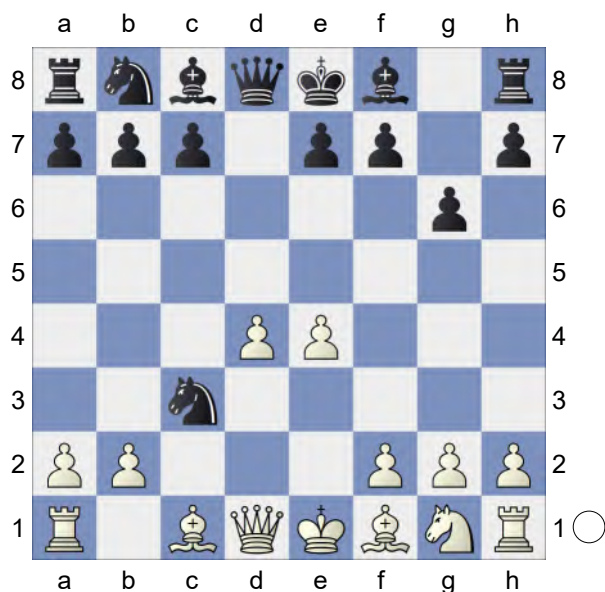
D87

2664

2724

2015

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5
Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3



6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bc4 c5 8.Ne2 0-0
9.Be3 Nc6 10.Rc1 Glenn Flear: 'The
second most popular move, but perhaps
the most tricky.'

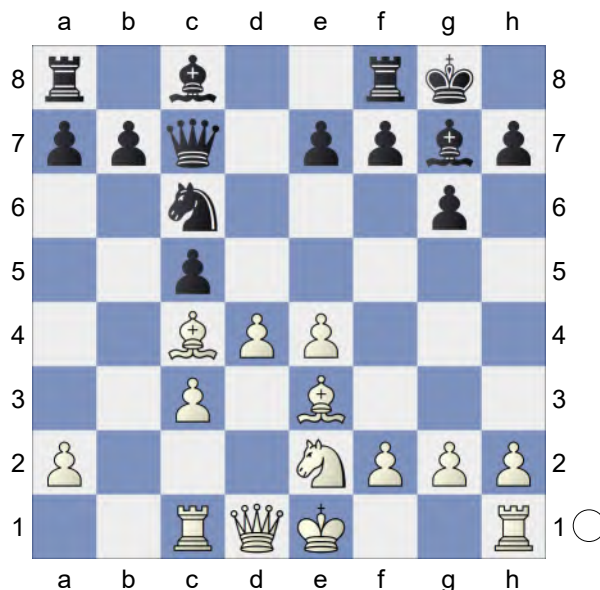
[10.0-0 is another story altogether.]

[The immediate 10.h4 can be met by
cxd4 11.cxd4 Qa5+ 12.Kf1 Qa3
13.Bb3 Na5 14.h5 Bd7 Williams, S-
Howell, D British league 2006, with
double-edged play.]

10...Qc7

[Otherwise 10...cxd4 11.cxd4 Qa5+
12.Kf1 Qa3 13.Rc3 Qd6 14.h4 h5
15.f3 was played in Hawkins, J-
Gormally, D Liverpool 2008, see the
archives.]

(Diagram)



11.h4 Glenn Flear: '!?' '!?'

[More ambitious than returning to the
main line with 11.0-0]

11...Rd8

[11...Qa5 - 117/159]

[Getting the queenside in motion with
the direct 11...b5 seems playable:

12.Bd3 Rd8

A) 13.0-0 c4 14.Bb1 e6
(14...Rb8! 15.h5 b4
yields counterplay) 15.h5 Bb7

16.Qe1 Rac8 Lorenzo de la Riva, L-
Boix Moreno, D Barcelona 2015,
Black's play has been somewhat
'routine', and now 17.e5
creates some pressure.;

B) 13.Qd2 Ne5!? 14.dxe5 c4
15.Nd4 cxd3 16.f4 Qc4!
Quintiliano Pinto, R-Cori Tello, D
Manaus 2013, and Black was
better.]

12.h5 b5

[Alternatively 12...e6 13.hxg6 hxg6
14.Bg5 Rd7 15.Bb3 Qa5 16.d5
exd5 17.Bxd5 c4 18.Nf4 Ne5
Gordievsky, D-Khatoev, E Loo 2015,
is OK according to the engines, but
that powerful bishop on d5 surely

offers White good practical chances.]

13.Bd5N

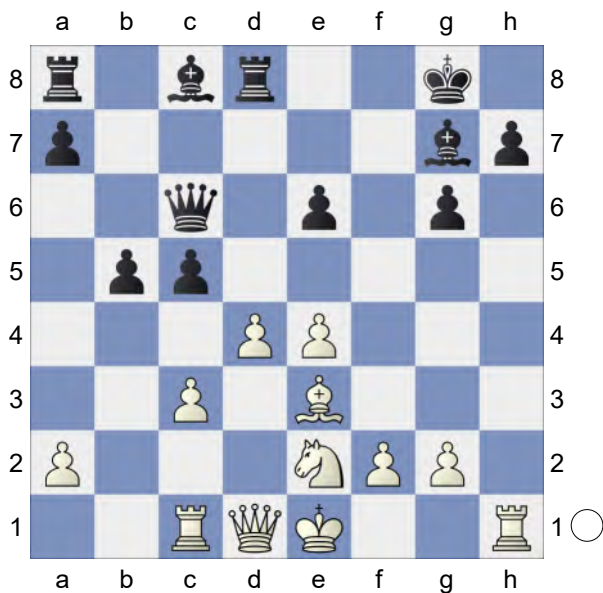
[Glenn Flear: 'Varying from a relatively old game which continued' 13.Bb3 Bb7 14.hxg6 hxg6 15.f3 a5!? (I suggest 15...c4! 16.Bc2 b4! as this creates some action on the left-hand side of the board, thus distracting White from fueling-up his kingside attack) 16.a4 cxd4 17.cxd4 Qb6 Kaufhold, T-Khodadadi, F Germany 1992, which was playable, but perhaps not fully equal. However, note that on move 15 Black can probably improve.]

13...e6 Glenn Flear: 'I personally prefer Wei Yi's approach (compare to the note to move 12). Eliminate the bishop and all should be in order!' **14.Bxc6 Qxc6**

15.hxg6 Glenn Flear: 'Now Black has a difficult choice, which is known from many other analogous positions.'

15...fxg6

[Recapturing with 15...hxg6 keeps the pawns more compact, but the h-file is then more difficult to protect.]



Glenn Flear: '!?' '!?' **16.f3 a5 17.Kf2 Ba6** Diagram

[17...Ra7 (to defend along the seventh rank) looks like a reasonable alternative.]

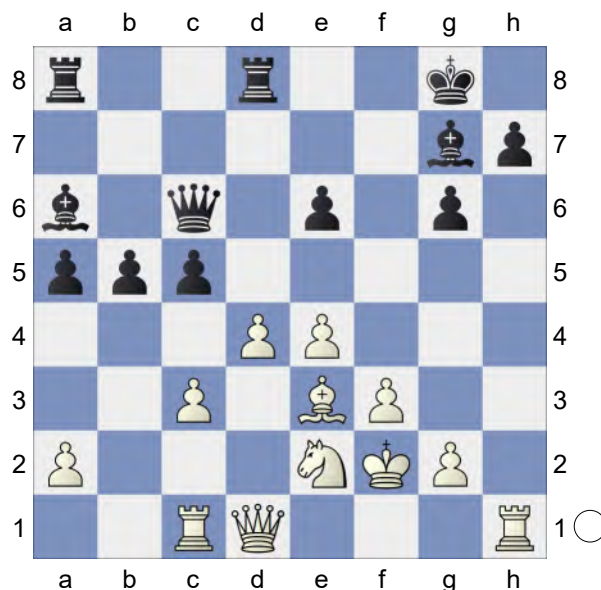


Diagram  **18.Qg1!**

[18.Nf4 Qe8 19.Qb3 c4 20.Qa3 Bb7 (20...e5 21.dxe5 Qxe5 22.Rcd1±) 21.Qb2 Bc6∞]

18...b4

[18...Qc7 19.Bf4 e5 20.Be3 Bf6 21.d5±]

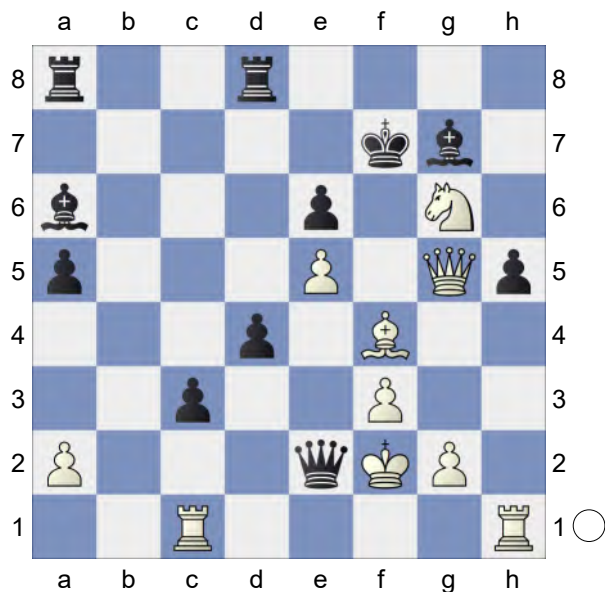
19.Qh2

[After 19.cxb4? the Chinese star no doubt intended Bxe2! and White's king will be more of a problem than Black's.]

19...h5 20.Nf4 Qe8

[After 20...bxc3 21.Nxg6 Qb5 White has 22.d5!! Qe2+ 23.Kg3 Qxe3 24.Qxh5 and Black has no defence! I wonder if the players saw this at the time.]

(Diagram)



26.Kg3 Glenn Flear: '?' '?'

[26.Kg1 was apparently the lesser evil, but g3 is the more active square.]

26...Rd7 Diagram

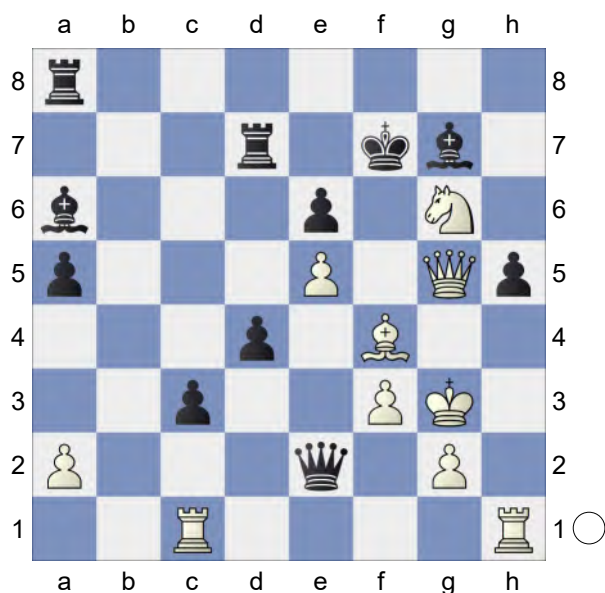


Diagram **27.Rxh5?**

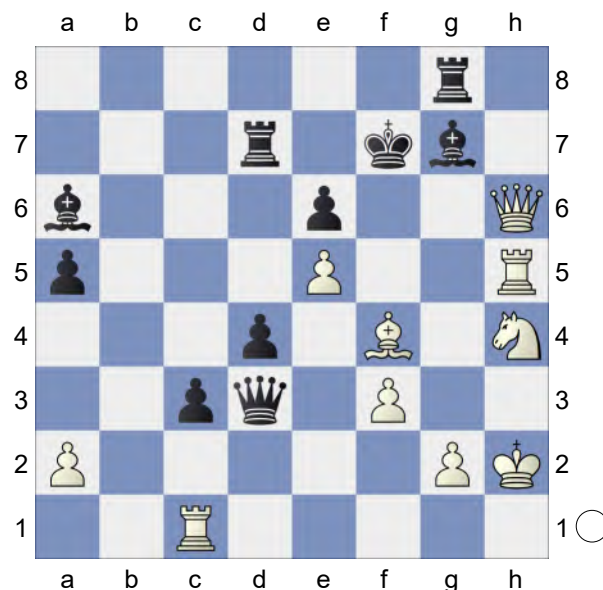
[27.Qxh5 Bd3= 28.Nh4+

A) 28...Kg8 29.Ng6 Kf7=
(29...Rb7 30.Rhe1 Qxa2
31.Bg5∞);

B) 28...Kf8 29.Rce1 Qc2 30.Rc1
(30.Bg5 Rb8 (Δ Rb2) (Δ Bb2)
31.Rc1 Qe2 32.Rce1=) 30...Qxa2

31.Ng6+ Kf7 32.Nh4+=]

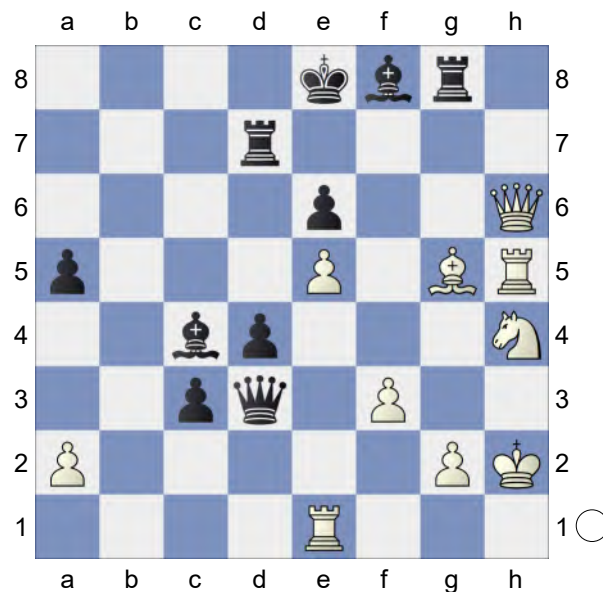
27...Qd3 Glenn Flear: '!' '!' **28.Nh4 Rg8**
Glenn Flear: 'Winning a key tempo due to the line-up down the g-file. Now we see why g3 wasn't such a great choice for the king.' **29.Kh2 Bh8 30.Qh6 Bg7**



31.Qg5 Bc4+ Glenn Flear: '!' '!' **32.Re1 Bf8!**

Glenn Flear: 'With the e6-pawn defended Black can hide his king on e8.'

33.Qf6+ Ke8 34.Bg5 Be7 35.Qh6 Bf8



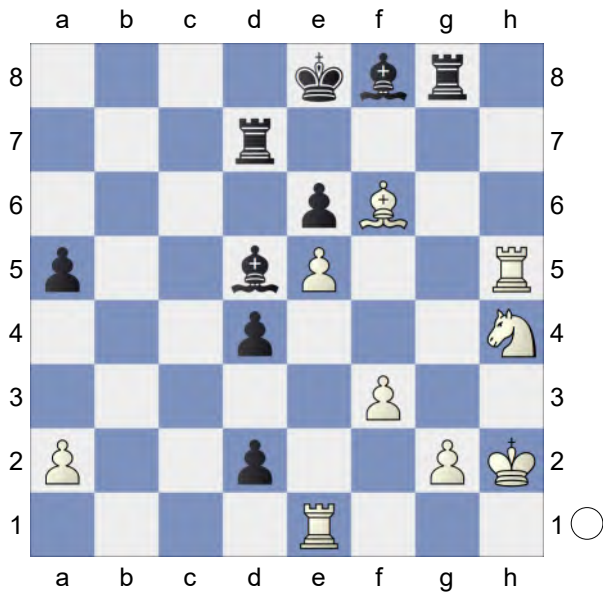
36.Qf6 Be7

[36...c2 37.Rc1 Be7-+]

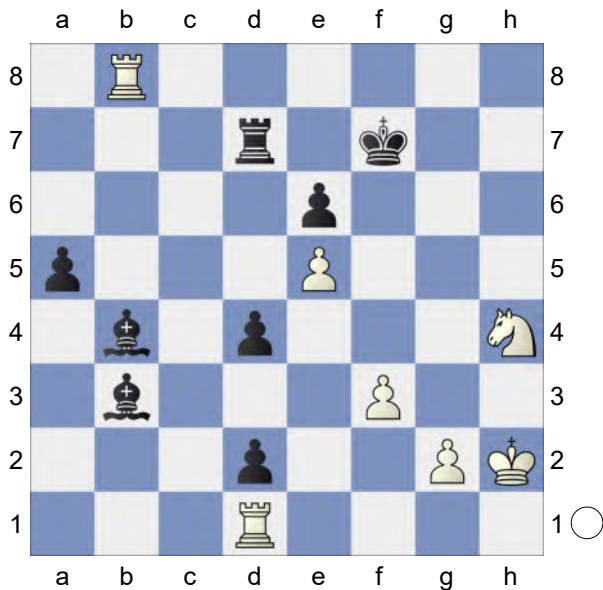
37.Qh6 Bd5

[Houdini's favourite is 37...c2]

38.Bf6 Bf8 39.Qf4 Qd2 40.Qxd2 cxd2

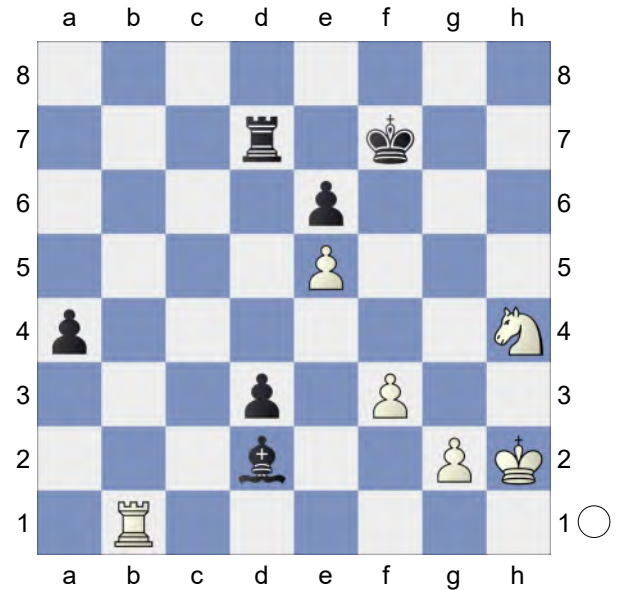


41.Rd1 Bb4 Glenn Flear: 'White's attack has come to nothing and it's just a question of finding the right moment to resign.' **42.Bg5 Rxc5! 43.Rxc5 Bxa2 44.Rg8+ Kf7 45.Rb8 Bb3**



46.Rxd2 Bxd2 47.Rxb3 d3 48.Rb1 a4

(Diagram)



and the relentless advance of the pawns decides the issue.

0-1

368

□ Fedoseev, Vladimir

■ Wei, Yi

Ningbo 125/156

[Arsovic, Goran]

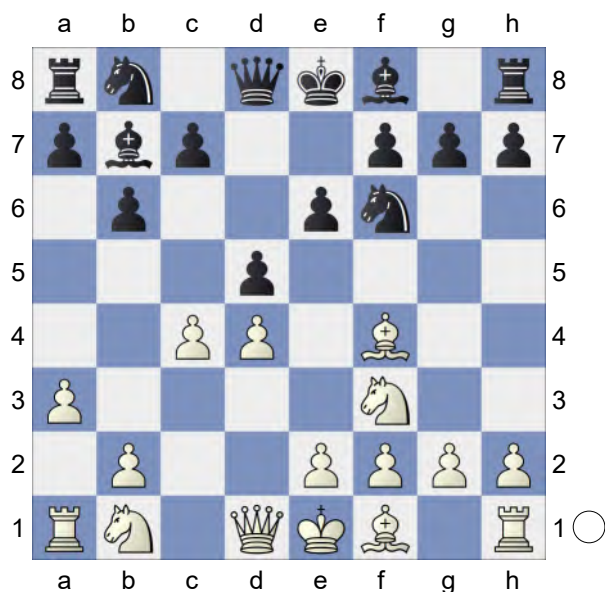
E12

2664

2724

2015

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.a3 Bb7
5.Bf4 d5



6.cxd5

[6.Nc3]

6...exd5 7.Nc3 Bd6 8.Bxd6

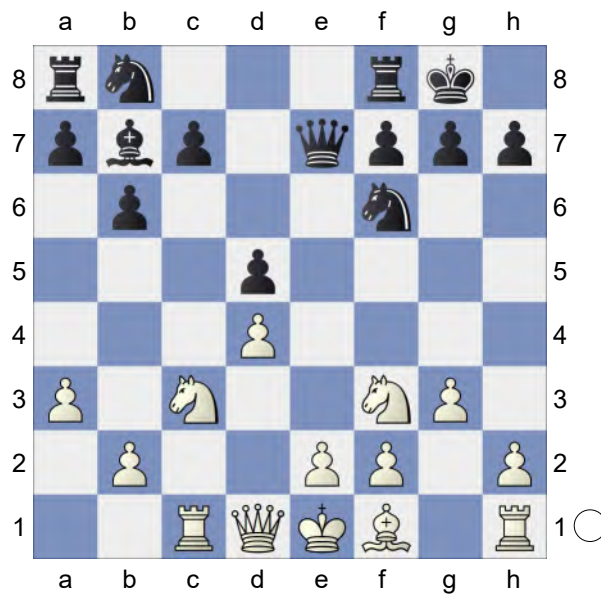
[8.Bg3 0-0 9.e3 c5 10.Be2 Bxg3
11.hxg3 Nbd7]

8...Qxd6 9.Rc1 Qe7

[9...a6]

10.g3 Glenn Flear: 'The second most
popular move, but perhaps the most
tricky.' 10...0-0

(Diagram)



11.Bg2 Glenn Flear: '!?' 11...Nbd7

[11...c5]

12.0-0 c5 13.e3N

[13.Re1]

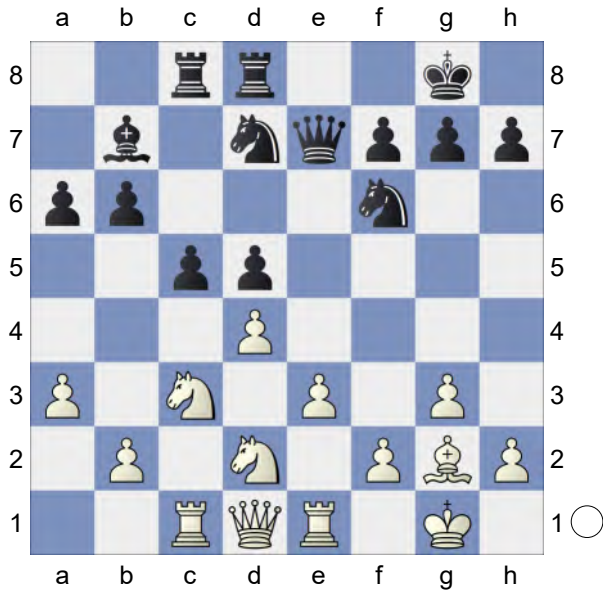
13...a6 Glenn Flear: 'I personally prefer
Wei Yi's approach (compare to the note
to move 12). Eliminate the bishop and
all should be in order!' 14.Nd2 Rfd8

15.Re1 Glenn Flear: 'Now Black has a
difficult choice, which is known from
many other analogous positions.'

15...Rac8

[15...Ne4 16.Ndxe4 dxe4 17.Qc2 f5
18.Red1 Rac8 19.Bh3 g6 20.Bf1]

(Diagram)



Glenn Flear: '!'? 16.e4 dxe4

[16...cxd4 17.Nxd5

A) 17...Bxd5 18.exd5 (18.Rxc8 Rxc8 19.exd5 Qc5 20.Nb3 Qc2 21.Nxd4 Qxb2 22.Nc6 Kf8) 18...Rxc1 19.Qxc1 Qc5 20.Nb3 Qxc1 21.Rxc1;

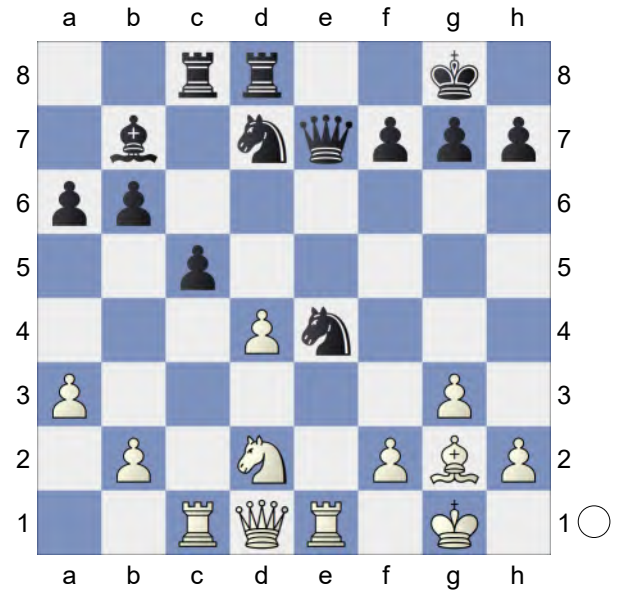
B) 17...Nxd5 18.Rxc8 Rxc8 19.exd5 Qf8 20.Nf1

B1) 20...Qc5 21.b4 Qd6 (21...Qc3 22.Re7 Rd8 23.Qh5 g6 24.Qh4) 22.Qxd4;

B2) 20...Nf6 21.Qxd4 Qc5 22.Qxc5 Rxc5 23.Ne3]

17.Ncxe4 Nxe4 [Diagram](#)

(Diagram)



[Diagram](#) 18.Nxe4! Bxe4

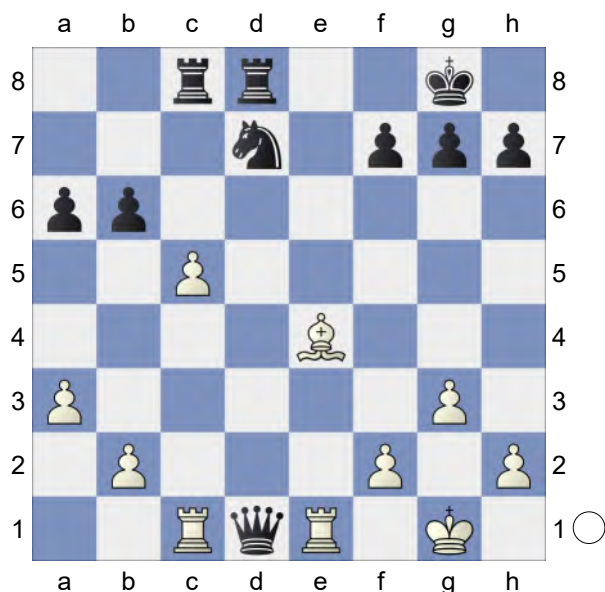
[18...Qf8 19.d5 Re8 20.Bh3 f5 21.Rc3 Rcd8 22.Ng5 Rxe1+ 23.Qxe1 Qf6 24.Ne6 Re8 25.Bg2]

19.Bxe4 Qd6

[19...Qf6 20.Qd3 (20.dxc5 Nxc5 21.Qe2 Nxe4 22.Rxc8 Rxc8 23.Qxe4 g6) 20...cxd4 (20...b5 21.dxc5 Nxc5 22.Bxh7+ Kh8 23.Qf5; 20...Rb8 21.dxc5 Nxc5 22.Bxh7+ Kh8 23.Qf5) 21.Rxc8 Rxc8 22.Bf5 Qd6 23.Bxh7+ Kf8 (23...Kh8 24.Qxa6 Rc5 25.Be4) 24.Qxa6 Rd8 25.Bb1]

20.dxc5 Qxd1

(Diagram)



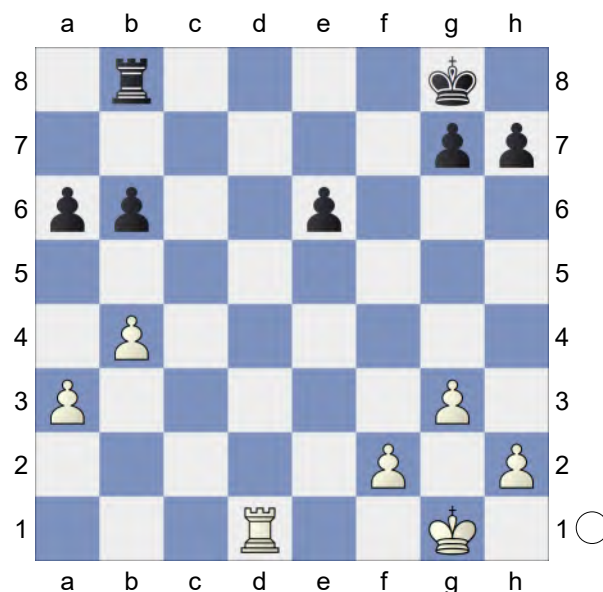
Glenn Flear: 'There is great tension across the board and it's hard to judge who is better.' **21.Rexd1** Glenn Flear: '!' **21...Nxc5** **22.Bf5** Glenn Flear: '!?' **22...Rb8** **23.b4** **Ne6** **24.Bxe6?** Glenn Flear: '??' **24...Rxd1+?** [24...fxe6

A) 25.h4 Kf8 (25...a5 26.Re1 axb4 27.axb4 Rd6 28.Re4) 26.Rxd8+ (26.Re1 Ke7 27.Rc7+ Rd7 28.Rc6 Rd6) 26...Rxd8 27.Rc6 Rd3 28.Rxe6 Rxa3 29.Rxb6 Kf7 30.h5 h6 (30...Ra4 31.h6 g5 32.Kf1) 31.Kg2 Ra4 32.f3 a5 33.bxa5 (33.b5 Rb4 34.g4 a4 35.Kg3 a3 36.Ra6 Rxb5 37.Rxa3 Rb6) 33...Rxa5 34.g4 Ra4;

B) 25.Rxd8+ Rxd8 26.Rc6 Rd3 27.a4 Ra3 28.Rxe6 Rxa4 29.Rxb6 a5 30.b5 Rb4 31.Rb8+ Kf7 32.b6 a4 33.Rb7+ Kf6 34.Ra7 Rxb6 35.Rxa4 Rc6;

C) 25.Re1 Rd6 26.Rc7 Rf8 27.Ra7 Rd2 28.Rf1 (28.f4 Rc8) 28...a5 29.bxa5 bxa5 30.Rxa5 Ra2]

25.Rxd1 fxe6



26.Rd6 Glenn Flear: '?' **26...Kf7** Diagram

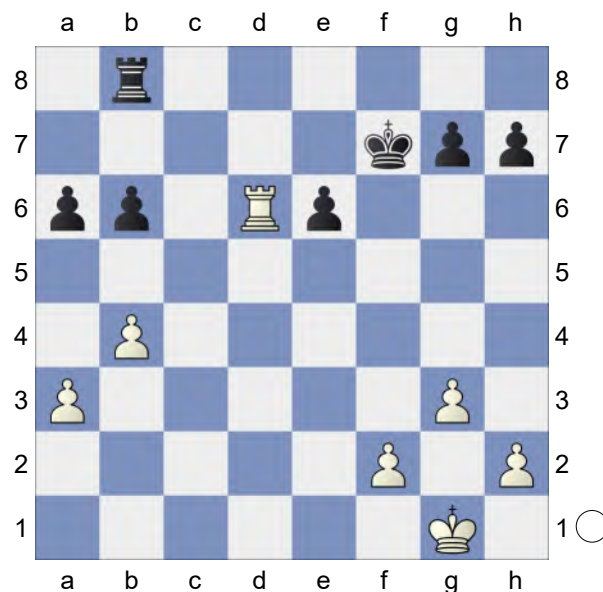


Diagram **27.Rd7+?** Kf6 Glenn Flear: '!' **28.Ra7** a5 Glenn Flear: 'Winning a key tempo due to the line-up down the g-file. Now we see why g3 wasn't such a great choice for the king.'

[28...b5 29.Rxa6 g5± 30.Ra5 (30.Rc6 Ra8 31.Rc5 Rxa3 32.Rxb5 Lorenzo de la Riva, L-Boix Moreno, D Barcelona 2015, Black's play has been somewhat 'routine', and now g4 creates some pressure. 33.Rb8! Rb3

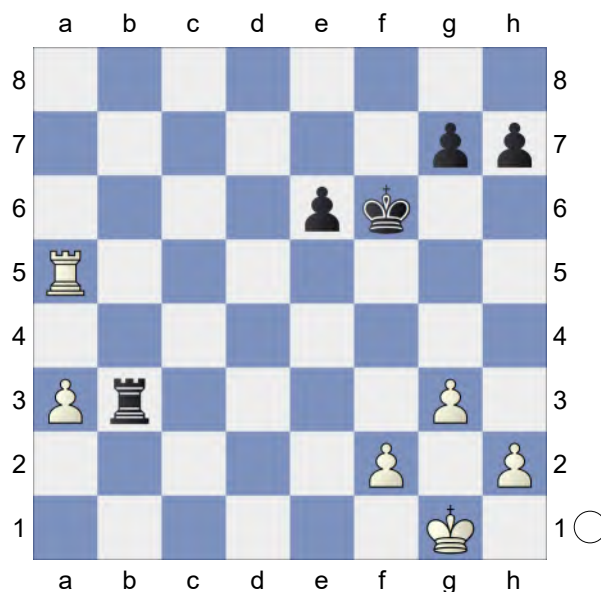
34.b5 yields counterplay More ambitious than returning to the main line with Ke5 Otherwise 35.b6 Kd6 36.b7 Rb5 37.Kg2 h5 38.h3 Kd7 39.Rh8 Rxb7 was played in Hawkins, J-Gormally, D Liverpool 2008, see the archives. 40.Rxh5 is another story altogether. The immediate gxh3+ can be met by 41.Kxh3 Rb2 42.Rh7+ Ke8 43.f4 Rb4 44.Rh5 Kf7 45.Kg4 Williams, S-Howell, D British league 2006, with double-edged play. Kf6 46.Ra5 Rb3 47.Kh4 Rb4 48.Ra6 Rc4 49.Kg4 Rb4 50.Ra5 Rc4 51.Kh5 Rb4) 30...g4

A) 31.Kf1! as this creates some action on the left-hand side of the board, thus distracting White from fueling-up his kingside attack Alternatively e5 32.Ke2 h5 33.Ke3 Kf5 34.a4 bxa4 35.Rxa4 Rb6 36.Kd3 Rb8 37.Kc4 Rc8+ Gordievsky, D-Khatoev, E Loo 2015, is OK according to the engines, but that powerful bishop on d5 surely offers White good practical chances. 38.Kb3 - 117/159 (38.Kb5 Rc2) Getting the queenside in motion with the direct 38...Ke4 seems playable: 39.b5+ Kf3 40.Ra2 e4!? 41.Rb2 Kg2 42.b6 Kxh2 43.b7 Rb8! Quintiliano Pinto, R-Cori Tello, D Manaus 2013, and Black was better. 44.Kc4;

B) 31.Kg2 e5 (31...h5 32.h4 gxh3+ 33.Kxh3 Kf6 34.f4 Rb7 35.Kh4 Rb8 (to defend along the seventh rank) looks like a reasonable alternative. Recapturing with 36.Ra6 keeps the pawns more compact, but the h-file is then more difficult to protect. Kf6 37.Ra7 Kg6

38.Re7 Rb6 39.Re8!? Ra6 40.Rg8+ Kf6 41.Rg5 Kaufhold, T-Khodadadi, F Germany 1992, which was playable, but perhaps not fully equal. However, note that on move 15 Black can probably improve. I suggest Rxa3! 42.Rxh5)]

29.bxa5 bxa5 30.Rxa5 Rb3



31.a4 Ra3+- Glenn Flear: '!' 32.Ra8 g5! Glenn Flear: 'With the e6-pawn defended Black can hide his king on e8.'

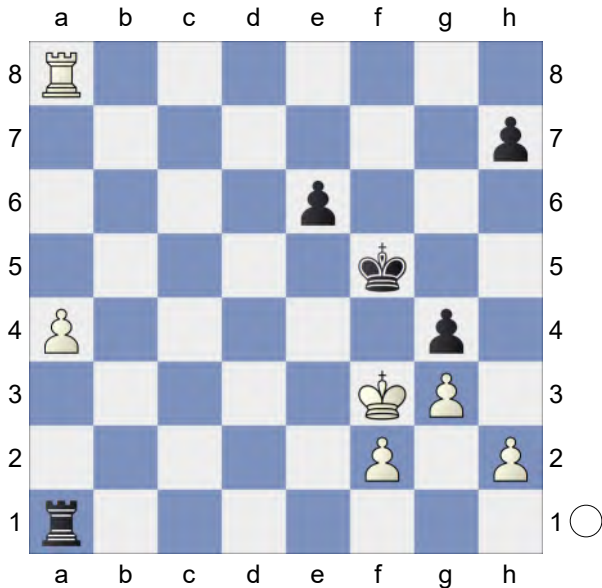
[32...Ra1+ 33.Kg2+- Kf5 or

A) 34.h4 g6 White has (34...e5! and White's king will be more of a problem than Black's. 35.a5 e4 36.a6) 35.a5!! e5 36.a6 e4 37.a7 and Black has no defence! I wonder if the players saw this at the time. After Kg4? the Chinese star no doubt intended;

B) 34.a5 g5! (34...e5? 35.a6 e4 36.a7+- Glenn Flear: 'Fedoseev perhaps saw that' Kg6 Glenn Flear: '!' Glenn Flear: 'could be met by' 37.f4 Glenn Flear: '!' Glenn Flear: 'but then the complications following' Ra2+ Glenn Flear: '!' 38.Kf1 e3± 39.g4 Rf2+!

seem to be better for White. 40.Ke1 Ra2 41.h3 Kh6 42.h4 Kg6+- 43.f5+ Kh6 44.g5+ Kh5! 45.f6 Kg6 46.h5+ Kf7+- After 47.fxg7) 35.a6 g4 36.a7 Ke5! and White's attack still gives him the advantage]

33.Kf1 Ra1+ 34.Ke2 Kf5 35.Kf3 g4+

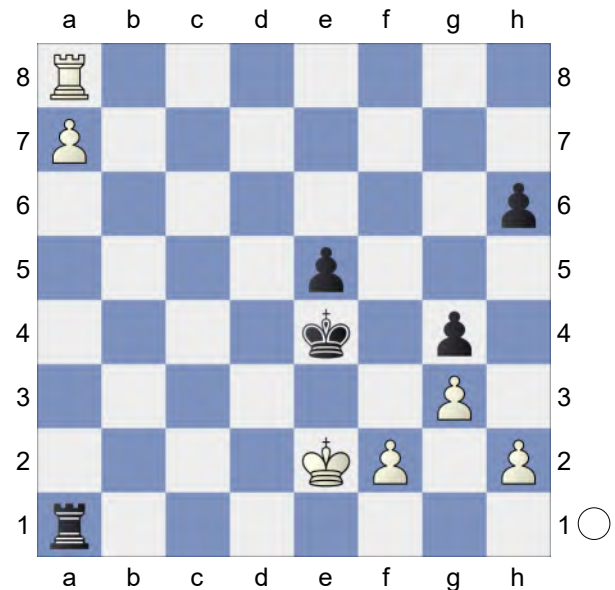


36.Ke3 e5 37.a5 Ra3+ 38.Ke2 Ke4 39.a6 Ra1

[39...Ra2+= 40.Kf1 (40.Ke1 Glenn Flear: '!?' Kf3! 41.a7 Kg2+-) 40...Kf3 41.Rf8+= Ke4 42.Rf6 Kd4 (42...h5 43.h4 gxh3 44.Kg1+- Glenn Flear: 'This is the type of position where computers show their superiority over even strong grandmasters. The following variations would have been so hard to calculate at the time, so errors don't come as a surprise. It seems that White is on top after' Kd4 Glenn Flear: '!' Glenn Flear: 'as the following computer lines demonstrate:' 45.Kh2 e4 46.Kxh3 e3 47.fxe3+ Ke5 48.Rh6 Kf5 49.Rxh5+ Kg6 50.Rb5 Rxa6 51.Kg4 Re6 52.Kf4 Rf6+ 53.Ke4 Rf8± 54.g4 Rf1

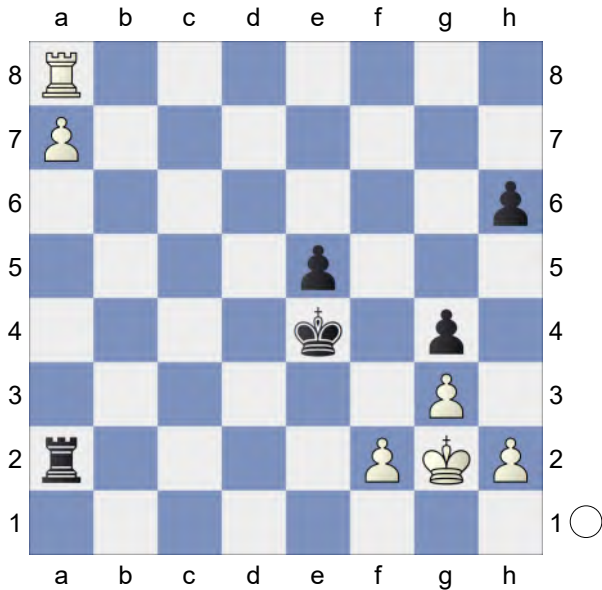
55.Rb8 Ra1 56.Kf4 Rf1+ 57.Ke5 Re1 58.e4± Ra1 59.Rc8+- Re1 60.Kd5 Kf6 61.Rc4) 43.Rh6∞ Ra1+ was apparently the lesser evil, but g3 is the more active square. Glenn Flear: 'Correct is' 44.Kg2 Kd5 45.Rxh7 Rxa6 46.Rg7 Glenn Flear: 'and Black crashes through (first!).' Ra4 47.Rg6 Rb4 48.h4 gxh3+ 49.Kxh3 Rb3 50.Kg4+- e4 51.Rf6 Ke5 52.Rf8 Ke6 53.Kh5 Rb1 54.g4!-+]

40.a7 h6

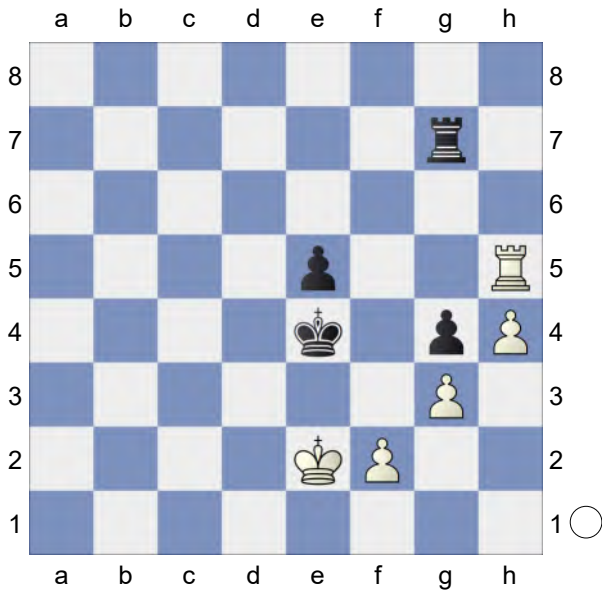


41.Kd2 Ra2+ Glenn Flear: 'White's attack has come to nothing and it's just a question of finding the right moment to resign.' 42.Ke1 Ra1+! 43.Ke2 Ra2+ 44.Kf1 Ra1+ 45.Kg2 Ra2

(Diagram)

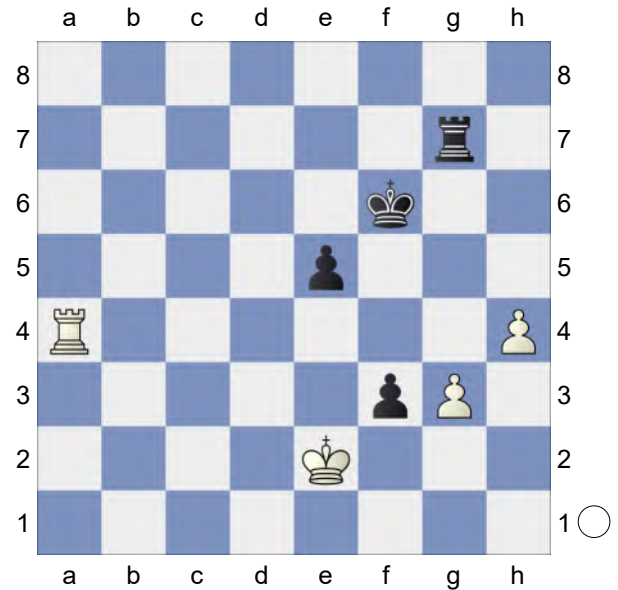


46.h4 h5 47.Rh8 Rxa7 48.Rxh5 Rg7
and the relentless advance of the pawns
decides the issue. Houdini's favourite is
49.Kf1 Rg8 50.Ke2 Rg7+

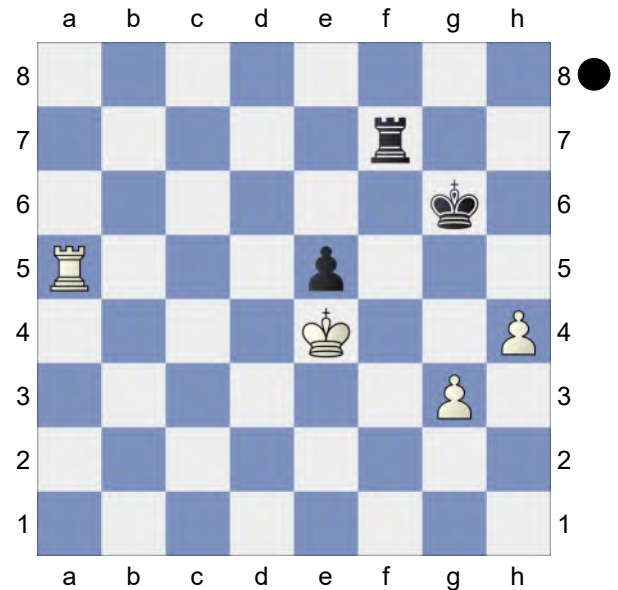


51.Rh8 Kf5= 52.Rf8+ Ke6 53.f3 Ke7
54.Ra8 Kf6 55.Ra4 gxf3+

(Diagram)



56.Kxf3= Rf7 57.Ke4 (Δ Rb2) (Δ ♖b2)
57...Kg6 58.Ra5



0-1

401

□ Anton Guijarro, David

■ Wei, Yi

Leon (m/1-rapid) 126/147

[Arsovic, Goran]

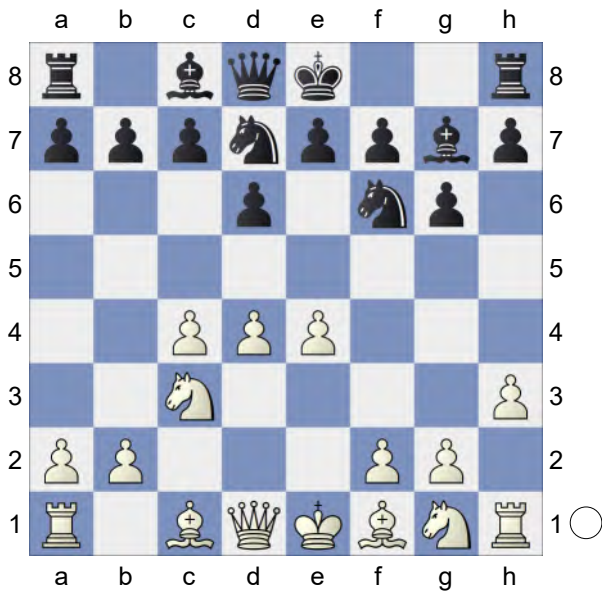
E71

2626

2721

2015

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6
5.h3 Nbd7
[5...0-0]



6.Be3

[6.Nf3]

6...e5 7.d5 Nc5 8.Qc2 a5 9.g4 N c6

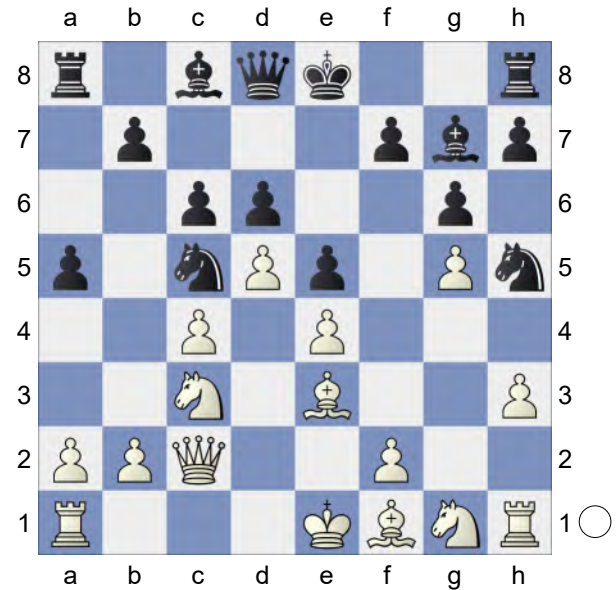
[9...0-0 10.0-0-0]

10.g5

[10.Nf3 cxd5 11.cxd5 0-0 12.Be2
Ne8= 13.g5 f5 - 121/(158) 14.gxf6
Nxf6]

10...Nh5

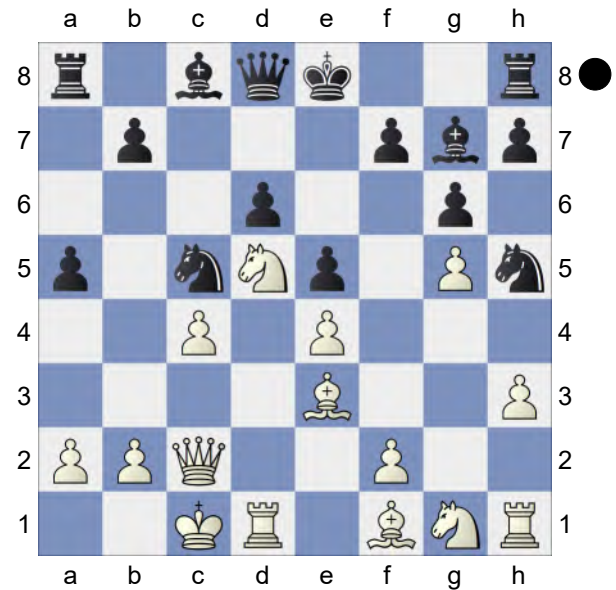
(Diagram)



11.0-0-0 cxd5

[11...0-0]

12.Nxd5 Diagram



12...0-0! 13.Bxc5?! dxc5! 14.h4

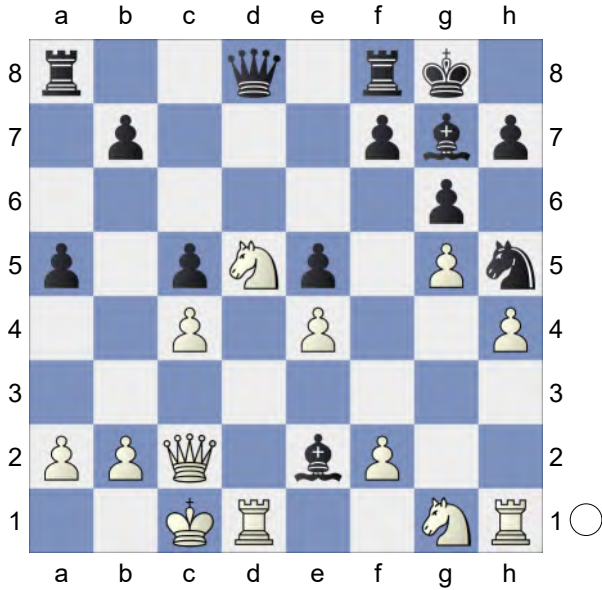
[14.Nf6+ Bxf6 15.Rxd8 Bxd8]

14...Bg4

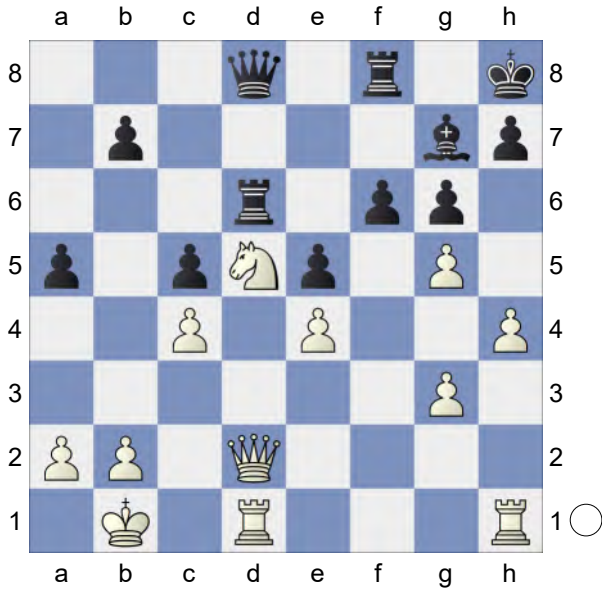
[14...Kh8]

15.Be2 Bxe2

(Diagram)

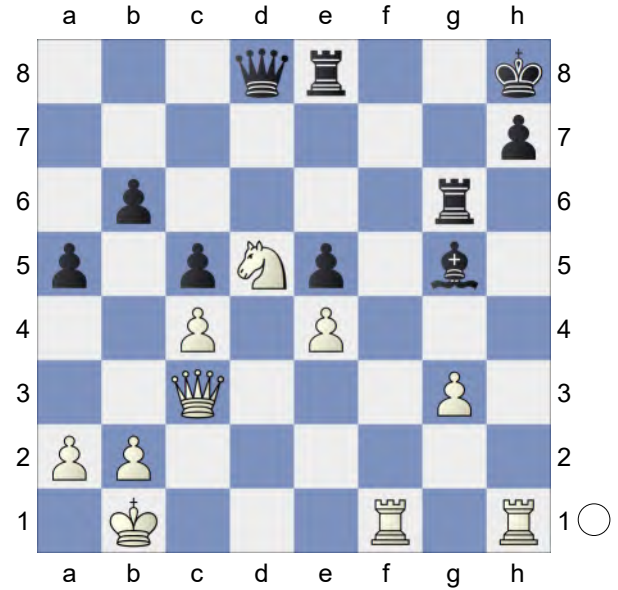


16.Nxe2 Ra6 17.Ng3
 [17.Nf6+ Bxf6 18.Rxd8= Bxd8
 19.Rd1]
17...Nxg3 18.fxg3 Kh8! 19.Qd2 f6
20.Kb1 Rd6

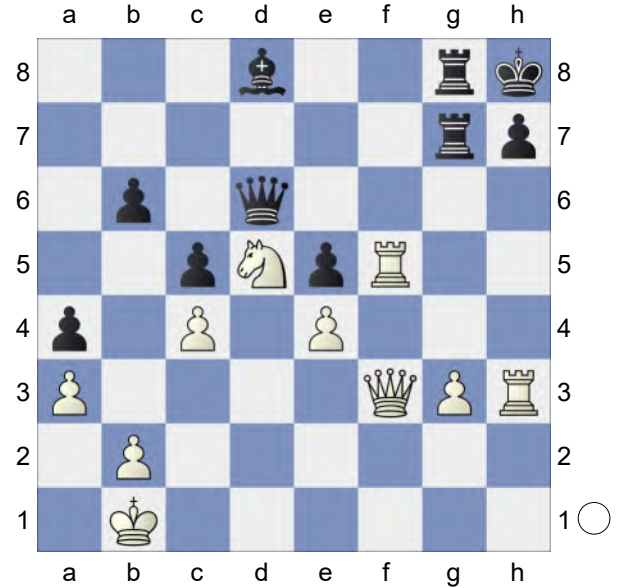


21.gxf6 Bxf6 22.h5 Bg5
 [22...g5 23.Qe3]
23.Qc3 Re8 24.hxg6 Rxg6 25.Rdf1
b6
 [25...Qd7 26.Rf5]

(Diagram)

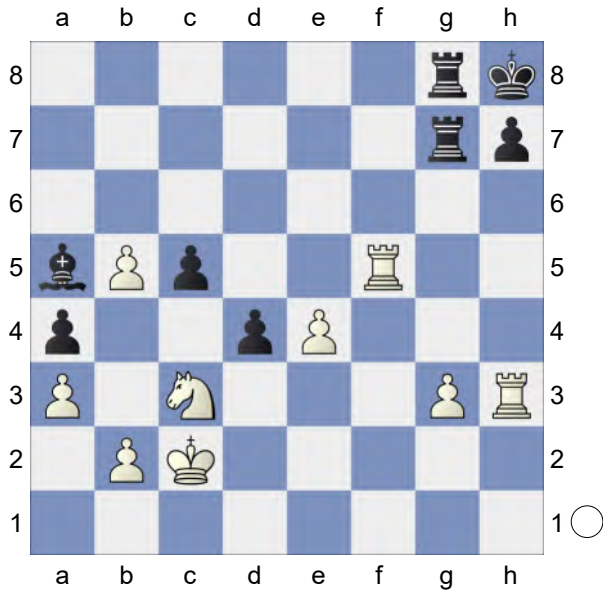


26.Rf7 Rg7 27.Qf3 Reg8+ 28.Rf5
Qd6 29.Rh3 a4 30.a3 Bd8



31.Kc2 b5 32.cxb5 Qd7 33.Nc3
 [33.b6]
33...Ba5 34.Qd3 Qd4 35.Qxd4 exd4

(Diagram)



36.Nxa4 c4 37.b6 Be1 38.Nc5

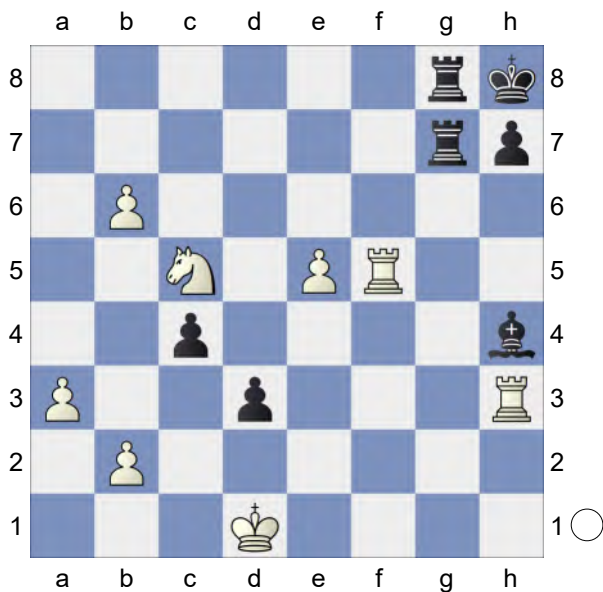
[38.b3 d3+ 39.Kd1]

38...d3+ 39.Kd1 Bxg3 40.e5

[40.b7! Bd6]

40...Bh4

[40...Rb8 41.b7]

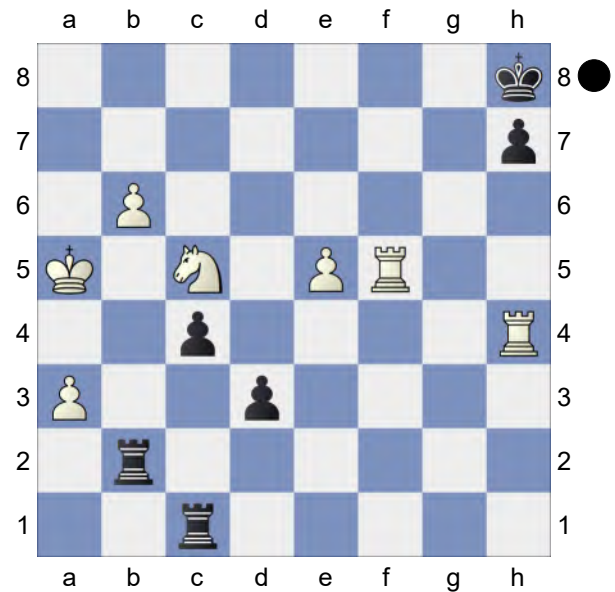


41.Rxh4+ Rg1+ 42.Kd2 R8g2+

43.Kc3 Rc1+!? 44.Kb4 Rxb2+

[44...d2 45.Rf8+ Rg8 (45...Kg7 46.Ne6+ Kg6 47.Rf6#) 46.Rxg8+ Kxg8 47.b7 d1Q 48.b8Q+ Kf7 49.Rf4+]

45.Ka5



0-1

397

□ Anton Guijarro, David

■ Wei, Yi

Leon (m/1-rapid) 126/147

[Arsovic, Goran]

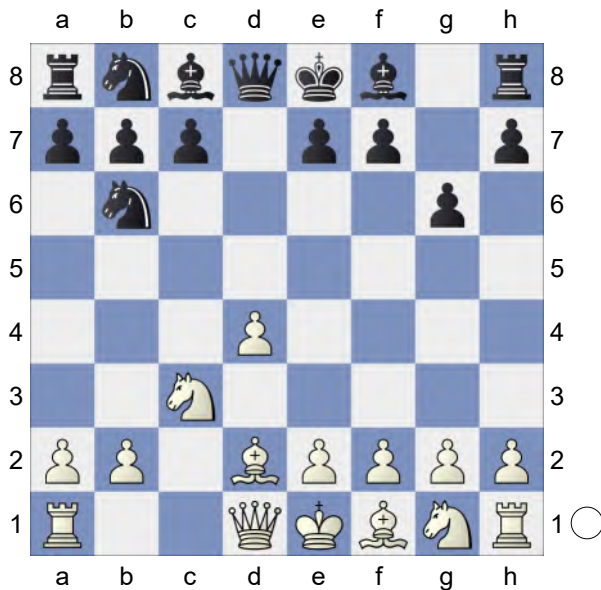
D85

2626

2721

2015

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5
Nxd5 5.Bd2 Nb6



6.e3 Bg7 7.f4 0-0 8.Nf3 Be6

[8...N8d7 - 121/(158)]

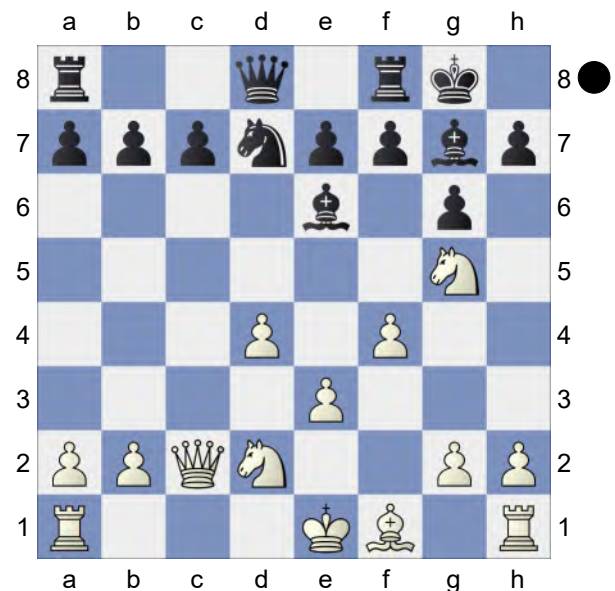
9.Ne4N

[9.Rc1]

9...Nc4 10.Qc2 Nxd2

(Diagram)

11.Nfxd2 Nd7 12.Ng5 Diagram

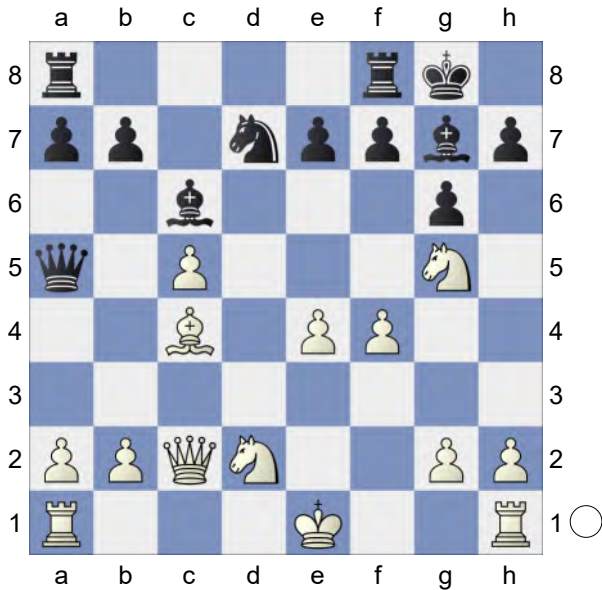


12...c5! 13.dxc5?!

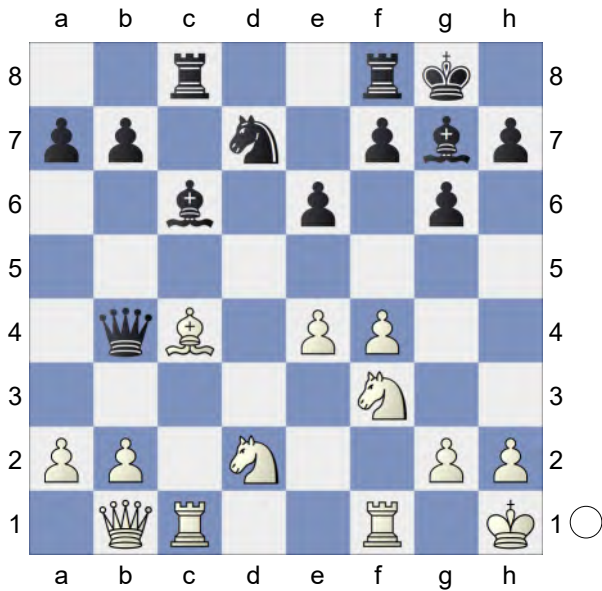
[13.Nxe6 fxe6 14.dxc5 Rc8 15.Bc4
Rxc5! 16.Bxe6+ (16.Qb3 Rc6
17.Bxe6+ Kh8 18.Bxd7 Qxd7
19.Rd1 Rd8 20.Ne4 Qxd1+ 21.Qxd1
Rxd1+ 22.Kxd1 Bxb2=) 16...Kh8
17.Qd3 Bxb2 18.Rd1 Rc3 19.Qd4+
Nf6 20.Qxd8 Rxd8 21.Ke2 Rc6=]

13...Bd5! 14.e4 Bc6 15.Bc4 Qa5

[15...e6!? 16.Nb3 Nxc5 17.Nxc5
Qa5+ 18.Kf1 Qxc5 19.Nxe6 Bxe4
20.Qxe4 fxe6 21.g3 Kh8 22.Kg2

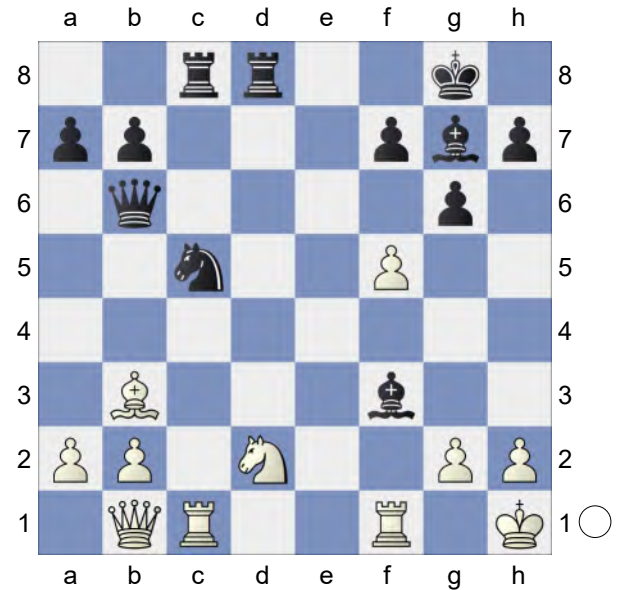
e5 $\bar{f}$]

16.Rc1 e6 17.0-0 Qxc5+ 18.Kh1 Qe7!
19.Ngf3 Rac8 20.Qb1 Qb4

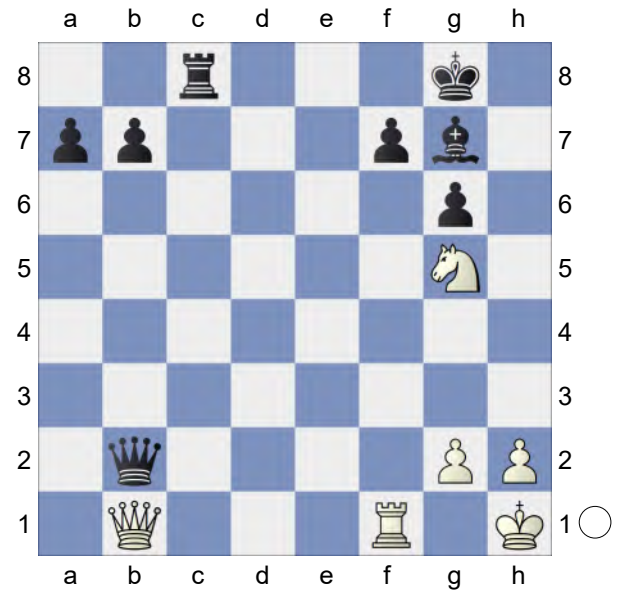


21.Bb3 Nc5 $\bar{f}$ 22.Rc4 Qb6 23.Rcc1
Rfd8 24.f5
[24.e5 Nd3 25.Nc4 Qb4 $\bar{f}$]
24...exf5 25.exf5 Bxf3
[25...Nxb3 26.Nxb3 a5-+]

(Diagram)

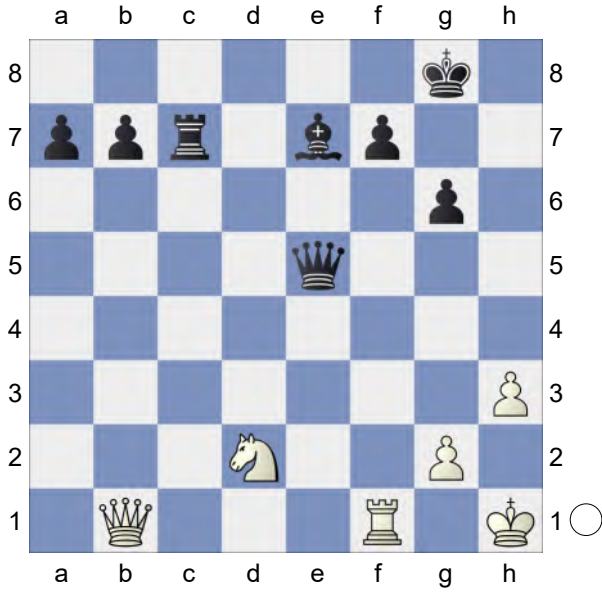


26.Nxf3 Nxb3 27.axb3 Qxb3-+
28.fxg6 hxg6 29.Rxc8 Rxc8 30.Ng5
Qxb2

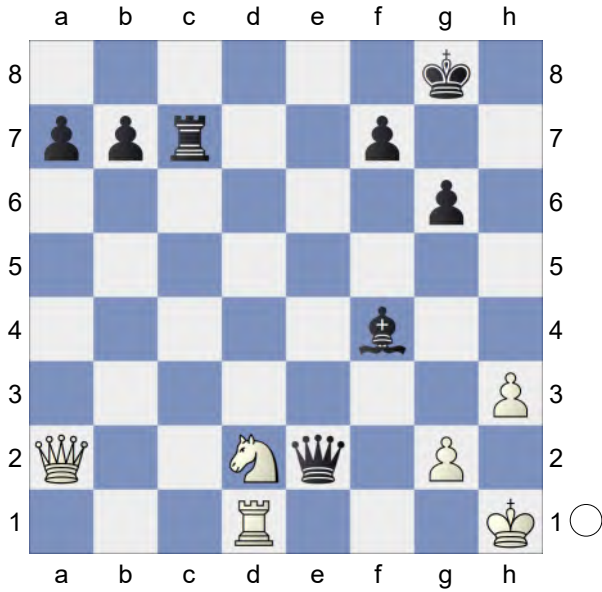


31.Qe1 Bf6 32.Ne4 Be7 33.h3 Qe5
34.Qb1 Rc4 35.Nd2 Rc7

(Diagram)



36.Qa2 Bd6 37.Nf3 Qe3 38.Nd2 Bf4
39.Rd1 Qe2



0-1

375

□ Adhiban, Baskaran

■ Wei, Yi

125/77 Hyderabad

[Arsovic, Goran]

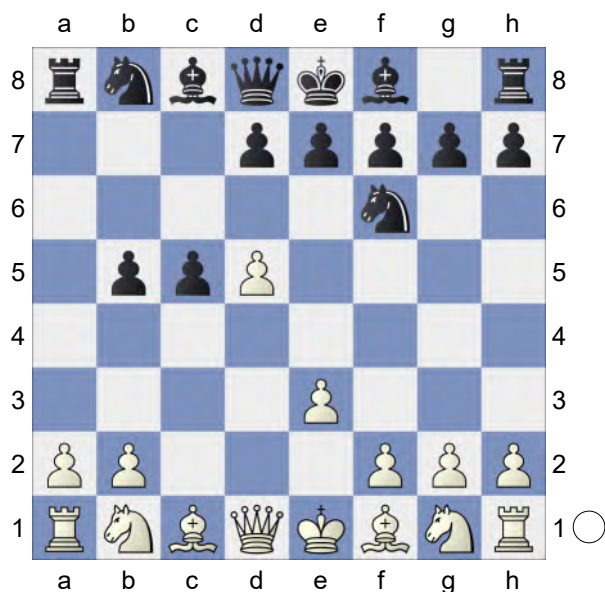
A57

2646

2706

2015

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6
5.e3 axb5



6.Bxb5 Qa5+

[6...Ba6 7.Bxa6 Nxa6 8.Nc3 e6
9.e4 c4]

7.Nc3 Bb7 8.Bd2 Qb6 9.Nf3 Nxd5

[9...e6 10.dxe6 fxe6 11.0-0 Be7
12.a4]

10.a4

[10.Nxd5]

10...Qg6

[10...e6 11.0-0 Be7 12.e4 (12.a5)

A) 12...Nb4 13.Bf4 0-0 14.Bxb8
Rfxb8 15.Ne5↑ d5? (15...Qc7
16.Qxd7 Qxe5 17.Qxe7) 16.Nd7♣
Qc7 17.exd5 - 36/(341) (17.Nxb8
Rxb8 18.exd5) 17...exd5 18.Nxb8
Rxb8 19.Qe2 c4;

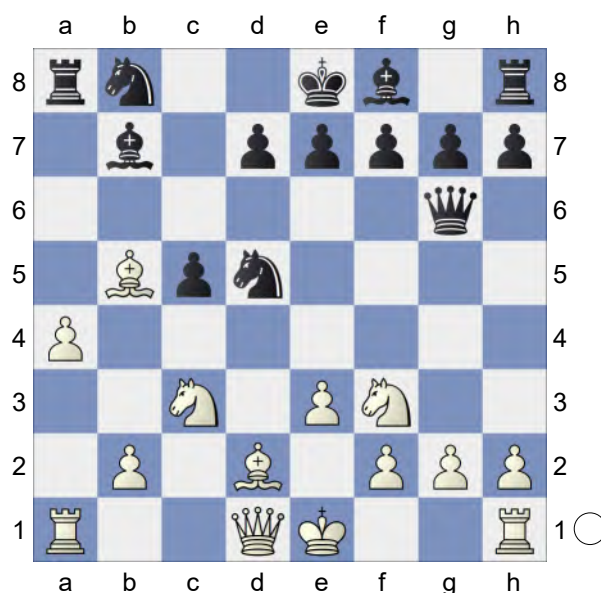
B) 12...Nc7 13.a5;**C)** 12...Nxc3 13.Bxc3±**C1)** 13...0-0 14.Ne5 d5

(14...Bxe4 15.Qg4 Bg6
16.Bxd7∞; 14...d6?! 15.Nc4 Qc7
16.Qg4↑ g6 17.Rae1) 15.exd5
exd5♣ 16.Re1 d4 17.Bd2;

C2) 13...Bxe4

C2a) 14.Ne5 Bd5 15.Qh5
0-0 16.Rfe1 (16.Rae1 d6=
17.Ng4?!) 16...d6;

C2b) 14.Nd2± Bd5! 15.Qg4
Bf6 16.Bxf6 gxf6 17.Qg7
Rf8]



11.0-0 e6 12.a5 Nc7

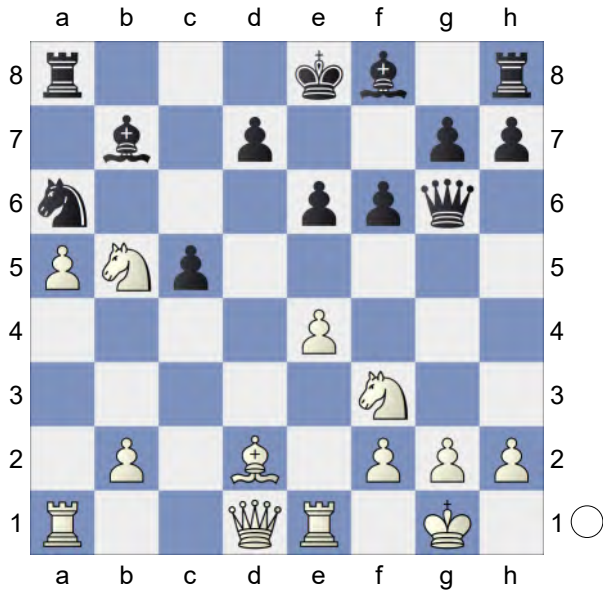
[12...Be7 13.a6 Nxc3 14.Bxc3 Bd5
15.Bd3!]

13.e4N Nxb5

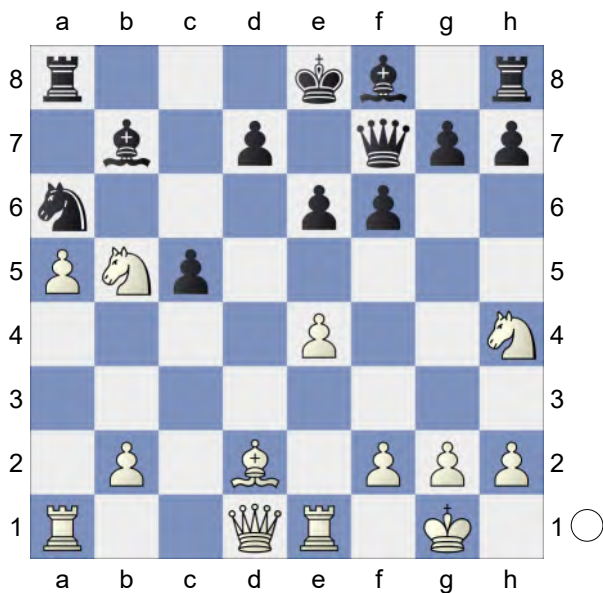
[13...Be7 14.Ne5± Qf6 15.Ng4 Qg6
16.Be2!]

14.Nxb5 Na6 15.Re1 f6?

(Diagram)



16.Nh4 Qf7 Diagram



17.Qb3! Bc6

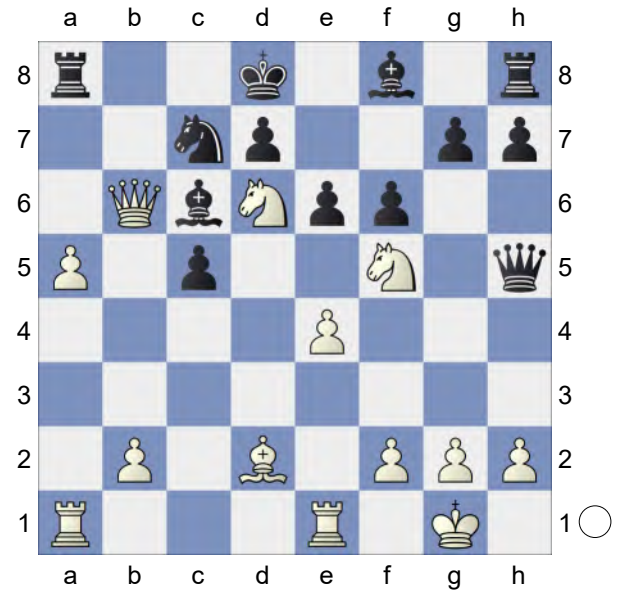
[17...Qh5 18.Nc7+ Nxc7 19.Qxb7
Bd6 (19...Qxh4 20.Qxc7) 20.Qb6+-
Bxh2+ (20...Be5 21.Nf3 #) 21.Kxh2!
Qxh4+ 22.Kg1 Na6 23.Rad1!
(23.Qd6) 23...0-0]

18.Nf5!+- Qh5

[18...Bxb5 19.Qxb5+- Be7
(19...exf5 20.Qb7+-) 20.Nxe7+-
Qxe7 21.Rad1]

19.Nbd6+ Kd8 20.Qb6+ Nc7

(Diagram)



21.Bf4 exf5 22.Nxf5

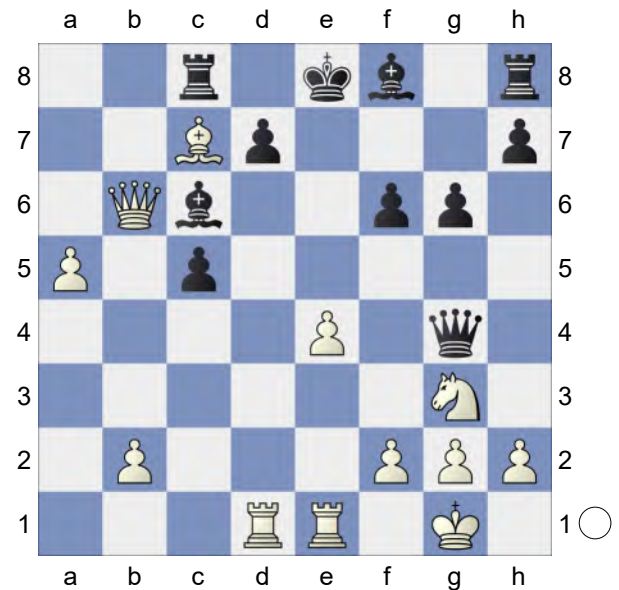
[22.Nb5]

22...Rc8 23.Rad1 Ke8 24.Bxc7! g6

25.Ng3

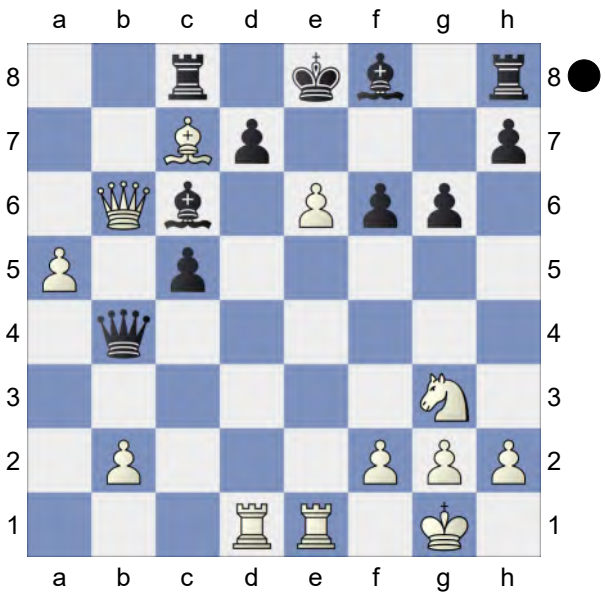
[25.e5]

25...Qg4



26.e5 Qb4 27.e6

(Diagram)



1-0

374

□ Adhiban,Baskaran

■ Wei,Yi

125/77 Hyderabad

[Arsovic,Goran]

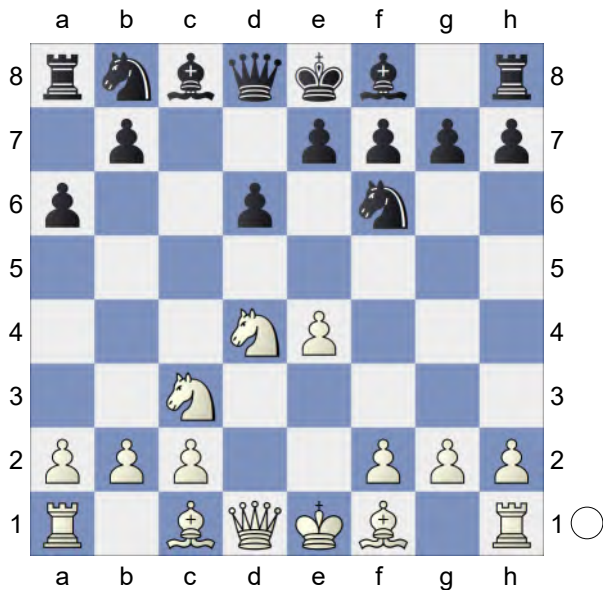
B97

2646

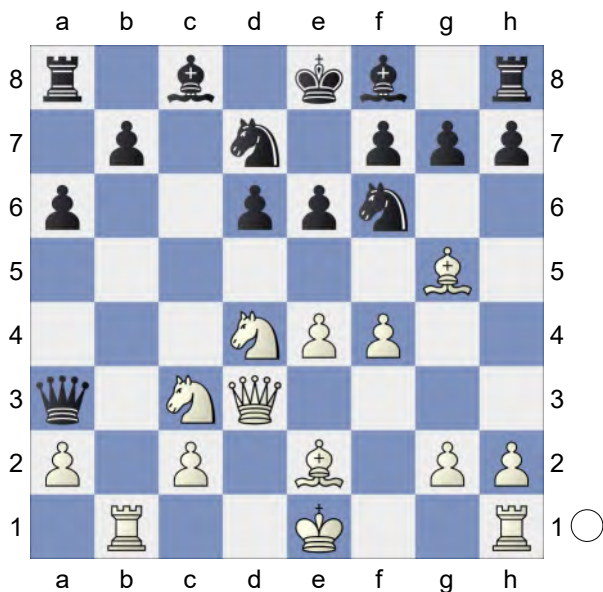
2706

2015

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6



6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Qb6 8.Qd3 Qxb2
9.Rb1 Qa3 10.Be2 Nbd7



11.0-0 Be7

[11...Qc5 - 36/(341)]

12.Kh1 h6 13.Qh3N

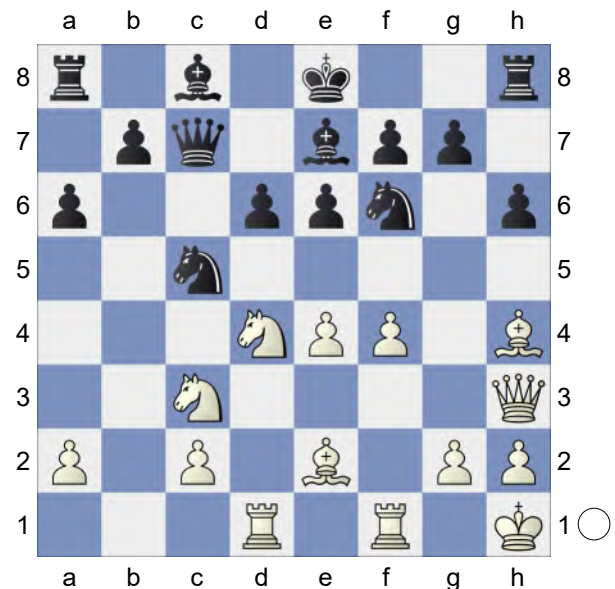
[13.e5]

13...Qc5

[13...Nxe4 14.Rb3 (14.Bxe7?
Qxc3?) 14...Qc5 (14...Nxc5 15.fxc5
Qa5 16.g6 Nf6 17.gxf7+ Kxf7
18.Bf3↑) 15.Nxe4 Qxd4 16.Bxe7
Kxe7∞ (16...Qxe4?! 17.Re3 Qc6
18.Qh4↑)]

14.Rbd1 Qc7 15.Bh4 Nc5?

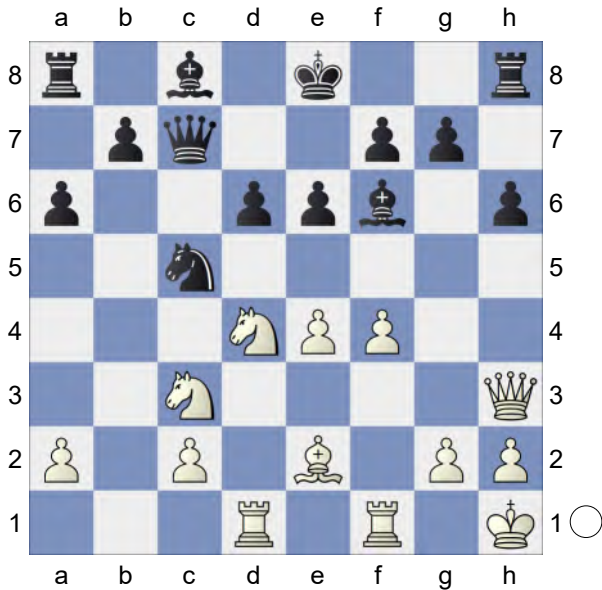
[15...Rg8 16.f5 e5 17.Ne6! fxe6
18.fxe6 Nf8 (18...Nb6 19.a4±)
19.Bxf6 Bxe6 20.Nd5! Bxd5 21.Bxe7
Qxe7 22.Rxd5 Ne6 23.Qa3±]
[15...b5! 16.e5 (16.Qg3?! g5
17.fxc5 hxc5 18.Bxc5 Rg8?)
16...dxc5 17.Nxe6 fxe6 18.Qxe6
Qxc3 19.Bh5+ Kd8 20.fxe5 Qc4
21.Qb6+ Qc7 22.Qe6 Qc4=]



16.Bxf6 Bxf6 Diagram

[16...gxf6 17.f5 e5 18.Nb3±]

(Diagram)



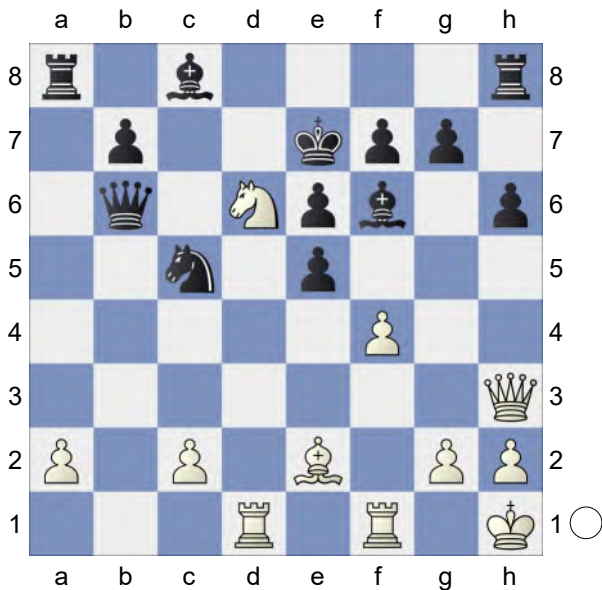
17.e5! dxe5

[17...Be7 18.f5 exf5 (18...dxe5
19.Nxe6! Nxe6 20.fxe6 Bxe6
21.Qxe6! fxe6 22.Bh5+ g6 23.Bxg6#
#) 19.exd6 Bxd6 20.Ndb5+-]

18.Ndb5!+- axb5 19.Nxb5 Qb6

[19...Qe7 20.Nd6+ Kf8 21.fxe5+-]

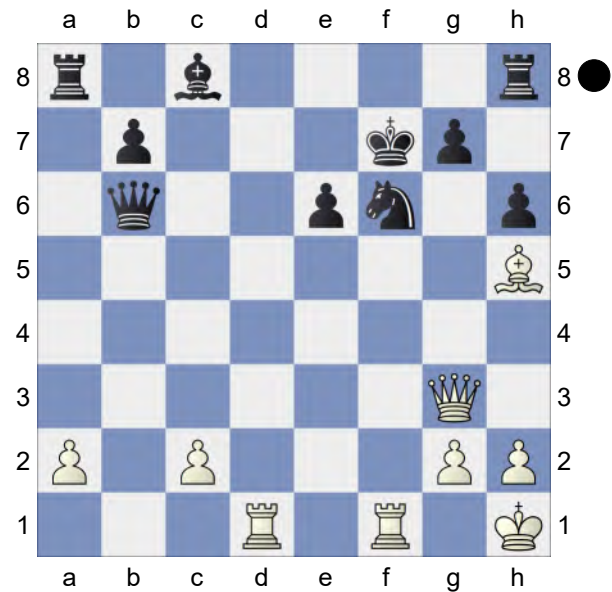
20.Nd6+ Ke7



21.fxe5 Nd7 22.exf6+ Nxf6 23.Qg3 Kf8

[23...Rg8 24.Rxf6 Kxf6 (24...gxf6
25.Qxg8+-) 25.Qf4+ Kg6 26.Qxf7+
Kh7 27.Bd3+-]

24.Nxf7! Kxf7 25.Bh5+



1-0

153

□ Wei,Yi

■ Duda,Jan Krzysztof

chess24.com (Int.-rapid) 145/84

[Arsovic,Zoran]

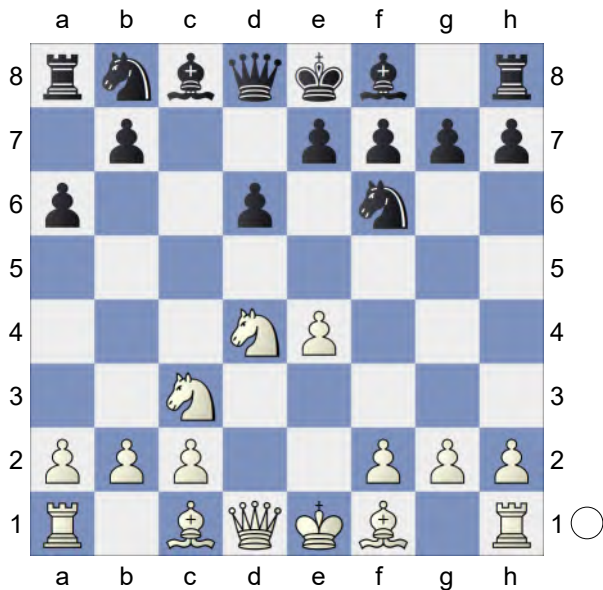
B91

2732

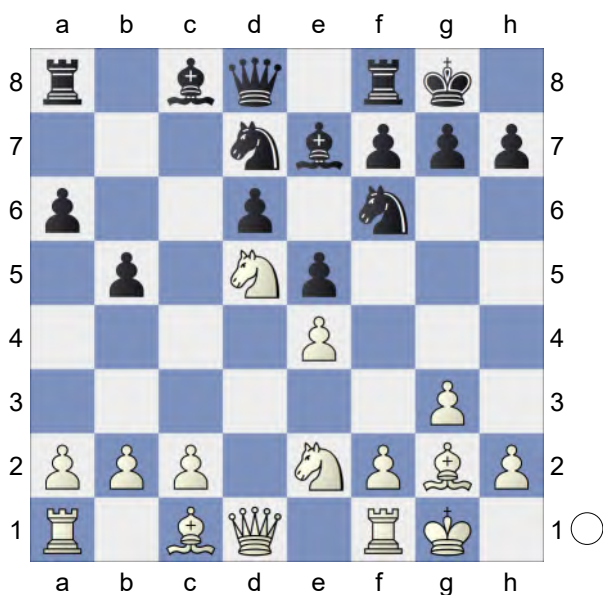
2753

2020

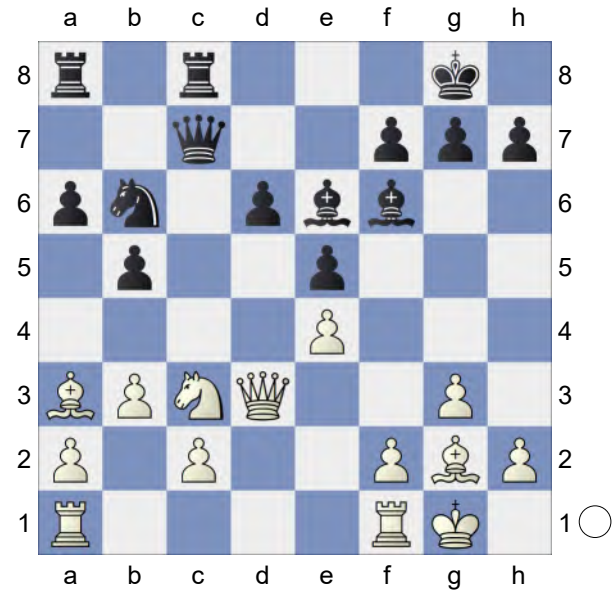
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6



6.g3 e5 7.Nde2 Be7 8.Bg2 0-0 9.0-0
b5 10.Nd5 Nbd7



11.Nec3 Nb6 12.Nxf6+ Bxf6 13.b3
Qc7 14.Qd3 Be6 15.Ba3 Rfc8



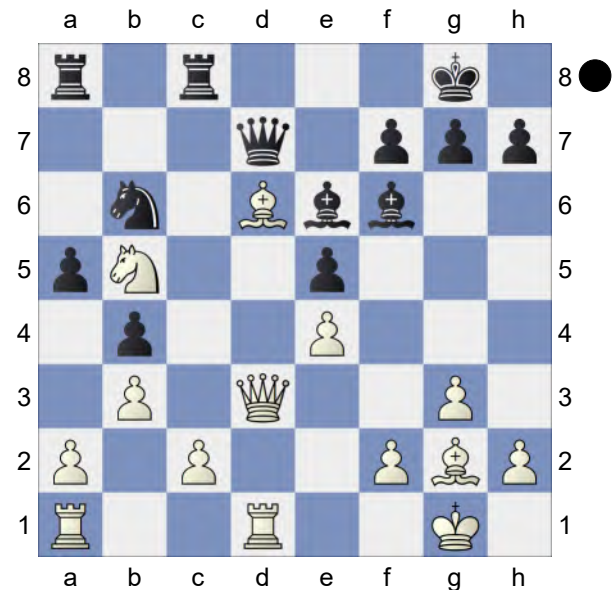
16.Bb4 Qd7N

[16...a5 - 138/(103)]

17.Rfd1 a5 18.Bxd6 b4! 19.Nb5

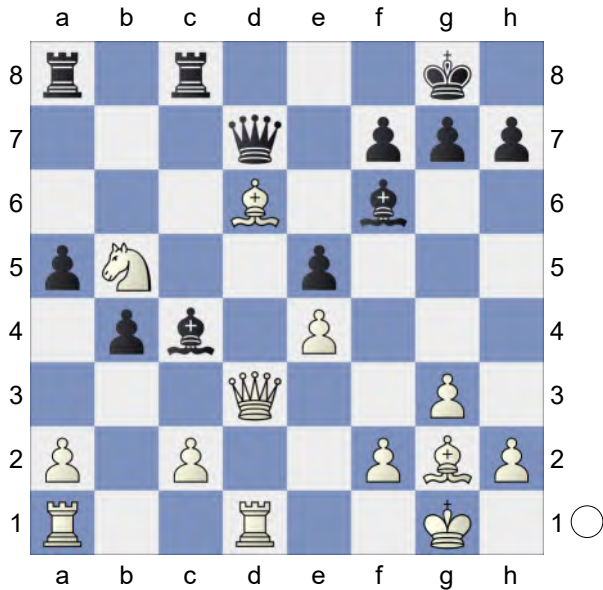
Diagram

[19.Ne2 Rd8 20.Rac1 (20.Bc5 Qc6
21.Qe3 Nd7 22.Bd6 Rac8)
20...Qc6 21.c4 Nc8 22.c5 Nxd6
23.cxd6 Qb6 24.Rc2 Ra7 25.Nc1
Rad7]

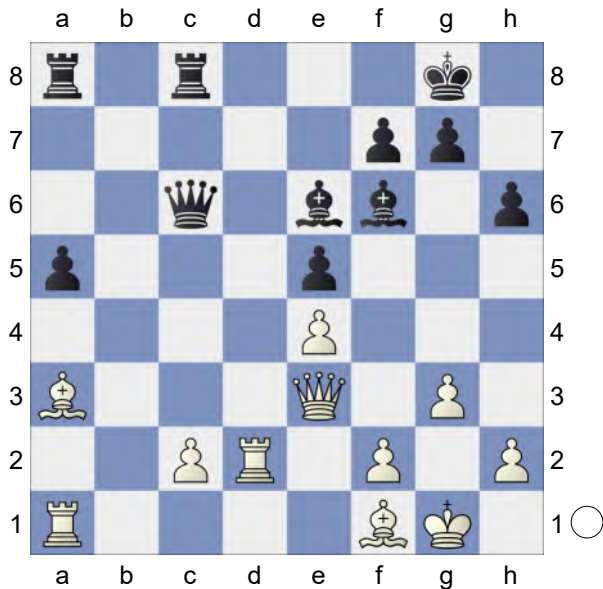


19...Nc4! 20.bxc4 Bxc4

(Diagram)

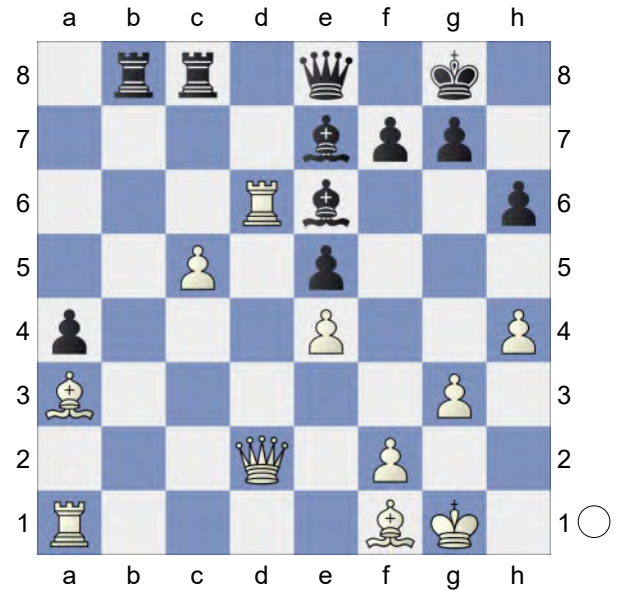


21.Qe3 Qxb5 22.a3 bxa3 23.Bxa3
Be6 24.Bf1 Qc6 25.Rd2
 [25.Bd3 a4 26.Rdb1 Bd8]
25...h6



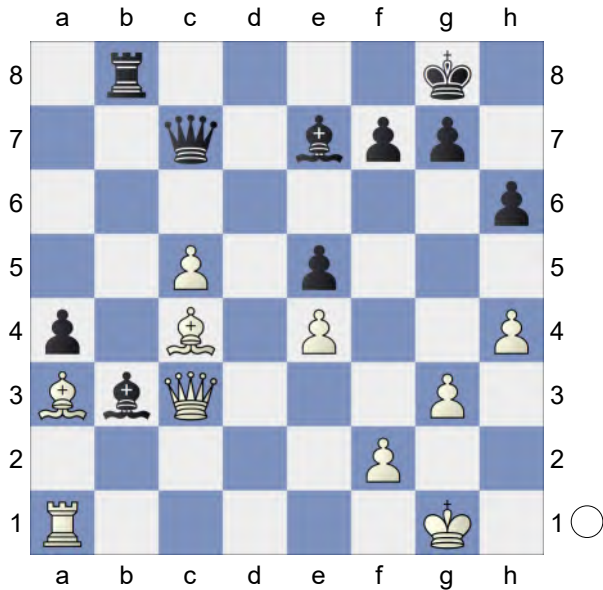
26.h4 Bd8
 [26...a4 27.c4 Rcb8 28.Rd6 Qc7]
27.c4 a4 28.c5 Rab8
 [28...Be7 29.Rc1 Rab8]
29.Rd6 Qe8 30.Qd2
 [30.Qc1 Be7 31.Ra6]
30...Be7

(Diagram)



31.Rb6 Qf8
 [31...Rxb6 32.cxb6 Bxa3 33.Rxa3
 Qc6 34.Qa5 Rb8 35.Rxa4 Rxb6
 36.Qa8+ Qxa8 37.Rxa8+ Kh7
 38.Kg2=]
32.Rxb8 Rxb8 33.Qc2= Bb3 34.Qc3
Qc8 35.Bc4 Qc7
 [35...Bxc4 36.Qxc4 Bxh4
A) 37.gxh4? Qg4+ 38.Kf1
 (38.Kh2 Qxh4+ 39.Kg1 Rb3
 40.Qf1 Qxe4) 38...Qf3 39.Kg1
 Rb3 40.Qf1 Rxa3 ;
B) 37.c6 Bxg3 38.fxg3 Qh3 39.c7
 Qxg3+ 40.Kf1 Qf3+ 41.Ke1 Qe3+
 42.Kd1 Qg1+ 43.Kd2 Qg5+=]

(Diagram)



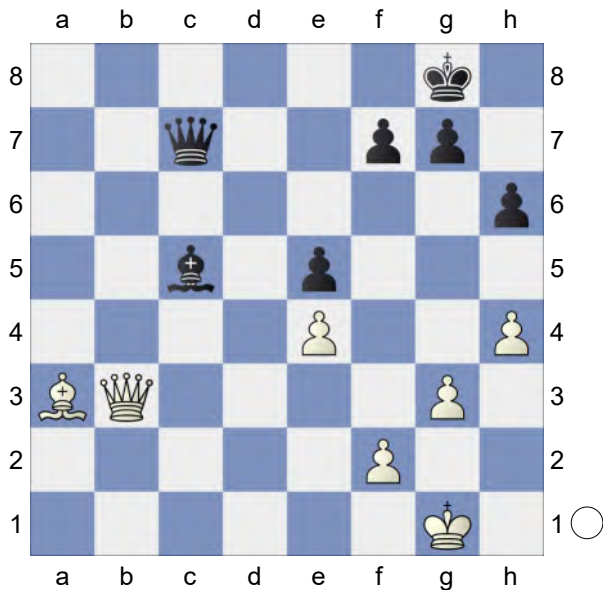
36.Bd5 Bf6

[36...Bxd5! 37.exd5 e4 38.Qe3 Qe5
39.Re1 f5 40.d6 Rb3 41.Qc1 Rxg3+
42.fxg3 Qxg3+=]

37.Rb1 Be7 38.Bxb3?!

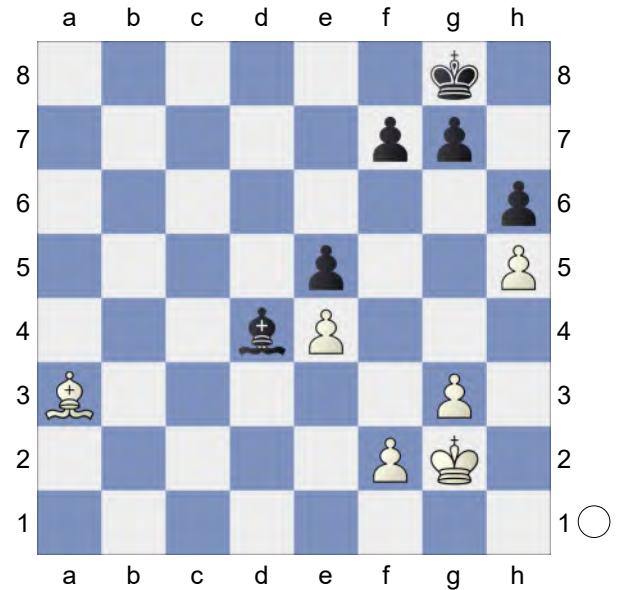
[38.Rc1 Rb5 39.Qd3 Rb8 40.Rc3±]

**38...Rxb3 39.Rxb3 axb3 40.Qxb3
Bxc5**



**41.Qc2 Bd6 42.Qxc7 Bxc7 43.h5
Bb6 44.Kg2 Bd4**

(Diagram)



1/2-1/2

109

Wei, Yi

Firouzja, Alireza

chess.com (Int.-m/5-blitz) 145/(194)

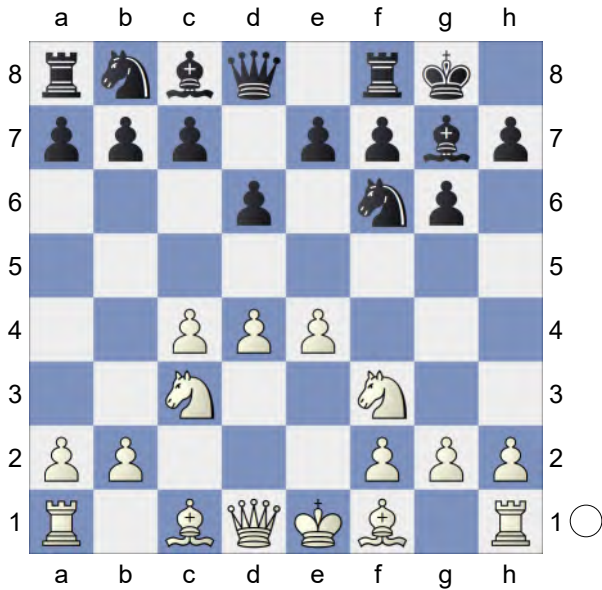
[Balzert, Antonius]

E92

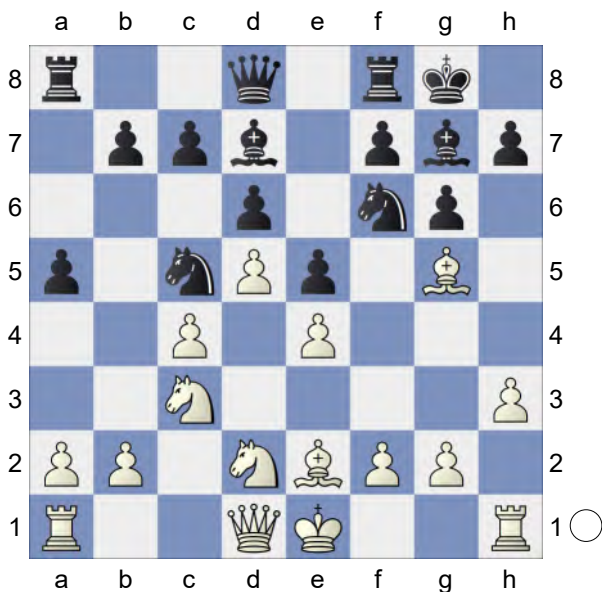
2736

2682

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6
5.Nf3 0-0



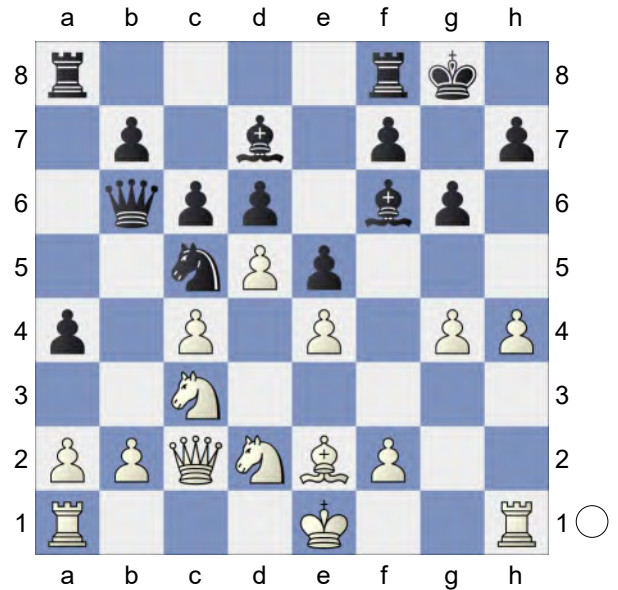
6.h3 e5 7.d5 a5 * 8.Bg5 Na6 9.Be2
Nc5 10.Nd2 Bd7



11.g4 c6 12.h4 Qb6 13.Bxf6 Bxf6
14.Qc2

[14.Nb3!?]

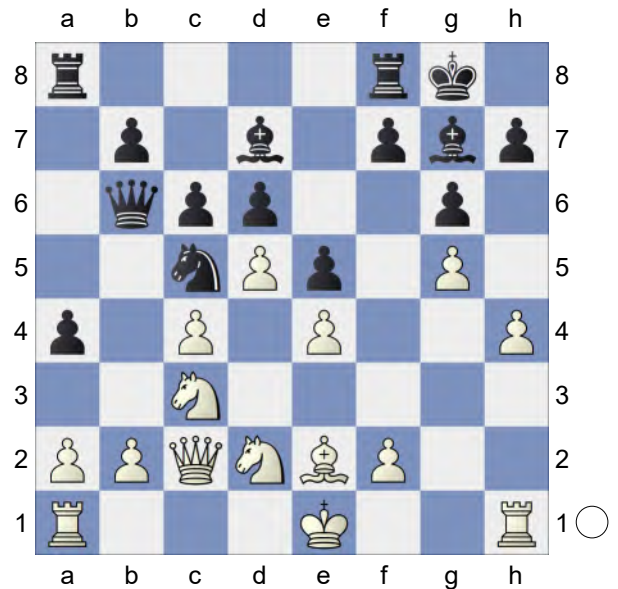
14...a4 Diagram



15.g5?!N

[15.a3]

15...Bg7



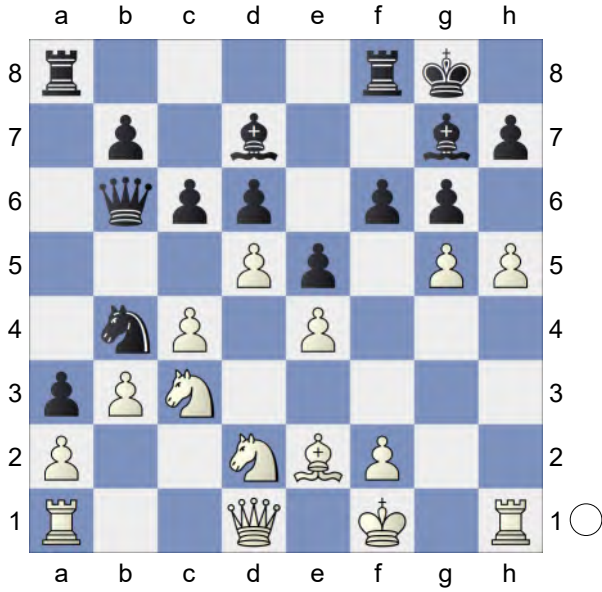
16.h5 a3 17.b3

[17.Rb1 axb2 18.Rxb2 Qd8+]

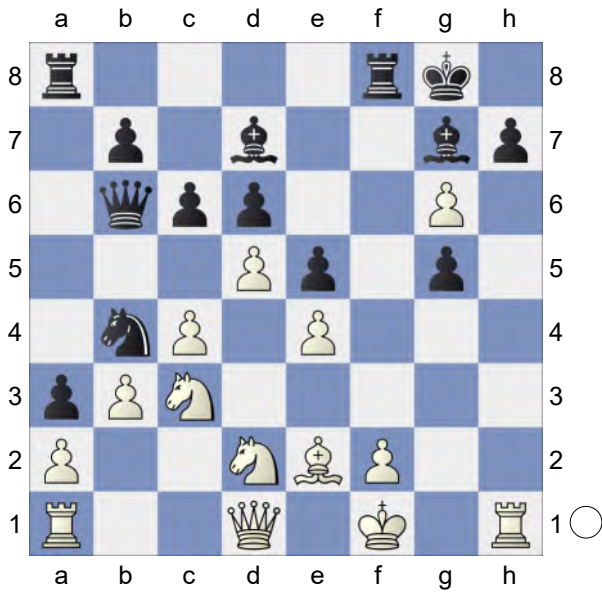
17...Na6 18.Qd1 Nb4 19.Kf1 f6

Diagram

(Diagram)

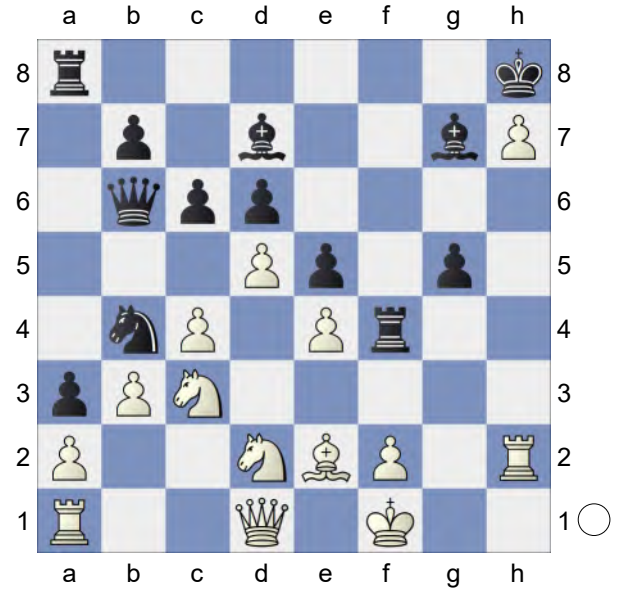


20.hxg6
 [20.dxc6!?]
20...fxg5



21.gxh7+ Kh8-+ 22.Rh2 Rf4

(Diagram)



0-1

128

□ Wei, Yi

■ Ding, Liren

(m/2) 126/112

[Berg, Emanuel]

C77

2734

2782

2015

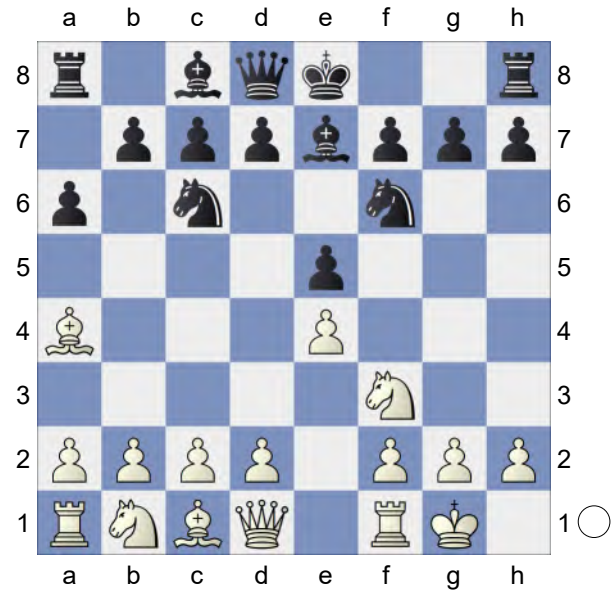
E. Berg: 'Mirroring by GM Emanuel Berg STEINITZ LIVES! THE d3 RUY LOPEZ: A TEST OF PATIENCE After a century and more of 6.Re1, White has gone back to an idea of the first world champion. GM Emanuel Berg reports on World Cup experiences of top players with this line. In this column we will delve deeper into the Spanish Game where White plays an early d3. This move has grown a lot in popularity over the last few years and almost overtaken the old main line of 6.Re1 in top level chess. In the recently concluded World Cup it was to be seen in several games. The move has been played by leading grandmasters such as Carlsen, Caruana, Anand and Topalov, to mention a few. One might wonder why many players now favour the move 6.d3 rather than 6.Re1 with the standard setup c3–d4 to follow. One explanation is that it's a very practical move for White as it assures easy development and stability in the centre. Thus many sharp lines, including the popular Marshall Attack, are avoided. When comparing the two moves (6.d3 and 6.Re1) from the games in the World Cup it can be seen that after 6.Re1 Black has a clear positive score while the games with 6.d3 have resulted in a stable plus for White with 3 wins and 4 draws. When playing events like the World Cup, searching for positions where winning chances can be pursued with minimal risks is often a

good idea.' Havasi, Gergo: 'E. Berg: 'Mirroring by GM Emanuel Berg STEINITZ LIVES! THE d3 RUY LOPEZ: A TEST OF PATIENCE After a century and more of 6.Re1, White has gone back to an idea of the first world champion. GM Emanuel Berg reports on World Cup experiences of top players with this line. In this column we will delve deeper into the Spanish Game where White plays an early d3. This move has grown a lot in popularity over the last few years and almost overtaken the old main line of 6.Re1 in top level chess. In the recently concluded World Cup it was to be seen in several games. The move has been played by leading grandmasters such as Carlsen, Caruana, Anand and Topalov, to mention a few. One might wonder why many players now favour the move 6.d3 rather than 6.Re1 with the standard setup c3–d4 to follow. One explanation is that it's a very practical move for White as it assures easy development and stability in the centre. Thus many sharp lines, including the popular Marshall Attack, are avoided. When comparing the two moves (6.d3 and 6.Re1) from the games in the World Cup it can be seen that after 6.Re1 Black has a clear positive score while the games with 6.d3 have resulted in a stable plus for White with 3 wins and 4 draws. When playing events like the World Cup, searching for positions where winning chances can be pursued with minimal risks is often a good idea.' Berg, Emanuel: 'E. Berg: 'Mirroring by GM Emanuel Berg STEINITZ LIVES! THE d3 RUY LOPEZ: A TEST OF PATIENCE After a century and more of 6.Re1, White has gone back to an idea of the first world champion.

GM Emanuel Berg reports on World Cup experiences of top players with this line. In this column we will delve deeper into the Spanish Game where White plays an early d3. This move has grown a lot in popularity over the last few years and almost overtaken the old main line of 6.Re1 in top level chess. In the recently concluded World Cup it was to be seen in several games. The move has been played by leading grandmasters such as Carlsen, Caruana, Anand and Topalov, to mention a few. One might wonder why many players now favour the move 6.d3 rather than 6.Re1 with the standard setup c3–d4 to follow. One explanation is that it's a very practical move for White as it assures easy development and stability in the centre. Thus many sharp lines, including the popular Marshall Attack, are avoided. When comparing the two moves (6.d3 and 6.Re1) from the games in the World Cup it can be seen that after 6.Re1 Black has a clear positive score while the games with 6.d3 have resulted in a stable plus for White with 3 wins and 4 draws. When playing events like the World Cup, searching for positions where winning chances can be pursued with minimal risks is often a good idea."

1.e4 Havasi,Gergo Havasi, Gergo Havasi,Gergo E. Berg Havasi, Gergo: 'Berg,Emanuel"Berg,Emanuel E. Berg E. Berg: 'Berg,Emanuel' Berg, Emanuel: 'E. Berg Havasi,Gergo Havasi, Gergo E. Berg Havasi,Gergo: 'Berg, Emanuel'" **1...e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7**

(Diagram)

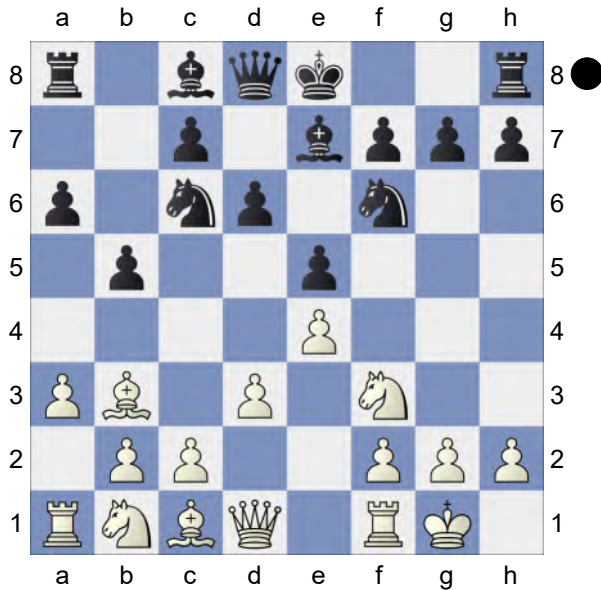


6.d3 b5

[The most common reply but Havasi, Gergo: 'The most common reply but Berg,Emanuel: 'The most common reply but' 6...d6 (E. Berg) is a serious option too.]

7.Bb3 d6 E. Berg: '[With this move Black overprotects the e5-pawn, which creates the positional threat ...Na5 in order to claim the pair of bishops.]' Havasi,Gergo: 'E. Berg: '[With this move Black overprotects the e5-pawn, which creates the positional threat ...Na5 in order to claim the pair of bishops.]' Berg, Emanuel: 'E. Berg: '[With this move Black overprotects the e5-pawn, which creates the positional threat ...Na5 in order to claim the pair of bishops.]'" **8.a3** E. Berg: '[Securing the bishop against Black's positional threat of ...Na5.] Diagram

(Diagram)



This will be the starting position for my column since from here the two selected games will head in slightly different directions.' Havasi,Gergo: 'E. Berg: '[Securing the bishop against Black's positional threat of ...Na5.] Diagram [#] This will be the starting position for my column since from here the two selected games will head in slightly different directions.' Berg,Emanuel: 'E. Berg: '[Securing the bishop against Black's positional threat of ...Na5.] Diagram [#] This will be the starting position for my column since from here the two selected games will head in slightly different directions.'" **8...0-0**

[E. Berg: 'The most popular move while the new try' Havasi,Gergo: 'The most popular move while the new try Berg,Emanuel: 'E. Berg: 'The most popular move while the new try'" 8...Na5!? E. Berg: 'will be covered in the next game.' Havasi,Gergo: 'Berg, Emanuel'(E. Berg) will be covered in the next game. Berg,Emanuel: 'E. Berg: 'will be covered in the next game.' Havasi, Gergo: 'Berg, Emanuel'"]

9.Nc3 E. Berg: 'White makes use of the available square on c3 to develop his knight in an active way. This square is often occupied by the c-pawn in many Spanish lines. Having the knight actively placed on c3 gives White excellent control over the d5-square, although d4 is not so well covered.' Havasi,Gergo: 'E. Berg: 'White makes use of the available square on c3 to develop his knight in an active way. This square is often occupied by the c-pawn in many Spanish lines. Having the knight actively placed on c3 gives White excellent control over the d5-square, although d4 is not so well covered.'" **9...h6**

[9...Nb8 E. Berg: 'RR' E. Berg: 'Anand, Viswanathan 2791 - So,Wesley 2788, Shamkir 2015 - 124/111' Havasi, Gergo: 'RR' 'Berg,Emanuel'(E. Berg) Anand,Viswanathan 2791 - So,Wesley 2788, Shamkir 2015 - 124/111 Berg, Emanuel: 'E. Berg: 'RR' 'RR' E. Berg: 'Anand,Viswanathan 2791 - So, Wesley 2788, Shamkir 2015 - 124/111' Havasi,Gergo: 'Berg,Emanuel' - 124/111" - 124/111]

[Black goes for a solid but slow setup, including ... Ne8 and ... Bf8, where it's useful to have prevented Bg5. Havasi,Gergo: 'E. Berg: 'Black goes for a solid but slow setup, including ... Ne8 and ... Bf8, where it's useful to have prevented Bg5.' Berg,Emanuel: 'Black goes for a solid but slow setup,

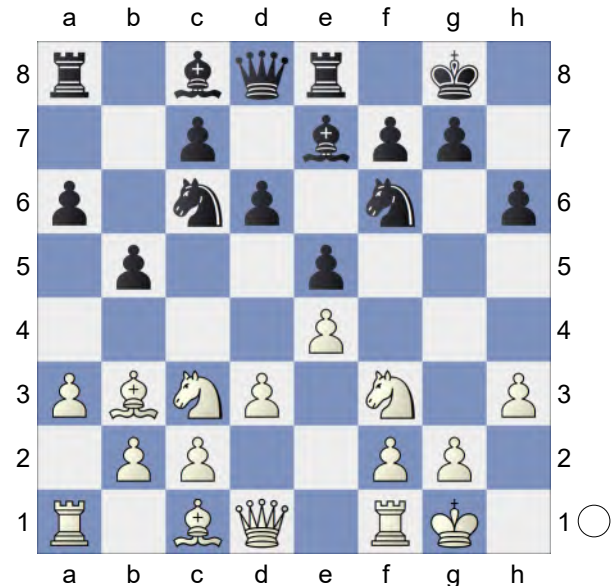
including ... Ne8 and ... Bf8, where it's useful to have prevented Bg5."

9...Bg4 E. Berg Havasi,Gergo Havasi, Gergo: 'Berg,Emanuel: 'E. Berg'" 10.Be3 Nd4 has been the clearly most popular continuation but offers White a comfortable game in which he can press on for a win with minimal risks. RR Bruzon Batista,Lazaro 2682 - Almasi,Zoltan 2693, La Habana 2014 - 120/119 Havasi,Gergo: 'E. Berg: 'has been the clearly most popular continuation but offers White a comfortable game in which he can press on for a win with minimal risks. RR Bruzon Batista,Lazaro 2682 - Almasi,Zoltan 2693, La Habana 2014 - 120/119' Berg,Emanuel: 'has been the clearly most popular continuation but offers White a comfortable game in which he can press on for a win with minimal risks. RR Bruzon Batista, Lazaro 2682 - Almasi,Zoltan 2693, La Habana 2014 - 120/119'" 11.Bxd4 Havasi,Gergo Havasi,Gergo: 'Berg, Emanuel: 'Havasi,Gergo'" exd4 12.Nd5 Havasi,Gergo: 'Berg,Emanuel: 'is an important question in this line, because Black has had good results in it.'" is an important question in this line, because Black has had good results in it.]

10.h3 E. Berg: '[This is always a useful move to prevent any ...Bg4 ideas.]' E. Berg: '[This is always a useful move to prevent any ...Bg4 ideas.]' Berg, Emanuel: 'E. Berg: '[This is always a useful move to prevent any ...Bg4 ideas.]' Havasi,Gergo: 'The inclusion of h3 and h6 is favourable for White, because ... ♔g4 is not an option anymore.'" Havasi, Gergo: 'The inclusion of h3 and h6 is favourable for White, because ... ♔g4 is

not an option anymore.' **10...Re8**

[10...Be6 Havasi,Gergo Havasi, Gergo: 'Berg,Emanuel: 'Havasi,Gergo'" 11.Nd5 Na5 12.Ba2 c6 13.Nxf6+ Bxf6 14.Bxe6 fxe6 15.b4 Nb7 16.c4∞ 1-0 (53) Bartel,M (2619)-Schachinger,M (2443) Legnica 2013]



11.Bd2 Havasi,Gergo: 'N' 'N' 'N' 'N'"Berg, Emanuel: 'Havasi,Gergo: 'N' 'N'"

[E. Berg: 'The more active' Havasi, Gergo: 'The more active Berg, Emanuel: 'E. Berg: 'The more active'" 11.Be3!? E. Berg: 'also looks good, with somewhat better prospects for White.' Havasi,Gergo: 'Berg, Emanuel'"(E. Berg) also looks good, with somewhat better prospects for White. Berg,Emanuel: '!' '!' '!' E. Berg: 'also looks good, with somewhat better prospects for White.' Havasi, Gergo: 'Berg,Emanuel' E. Berg: 'also looks good, with somewhat better prospects for White. Berg,Emanuel: '!' '!' '!']

[11.Nd5 Havasi,Gergo Havasi,Gergo: 'Berg,Emanuel: 'Havasi,Gergo'" Be6 12.Bd2 Bf8 13.Re1 Rb8 14.Nb4

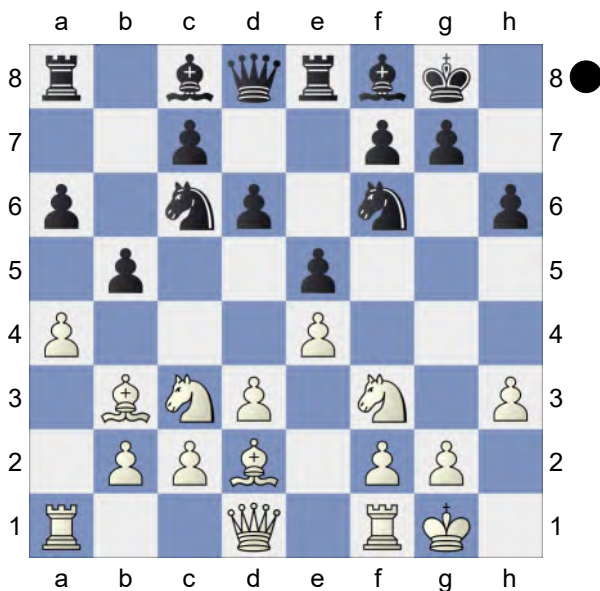
Nxb4 15.Bxe6 Rxe6 16.axb4 d5
17.Bc3 d4 18.Bd2 c5 19.bxc5 b4
20.Bc1 Bxc5= 1/2 (66) Bruzon Batista,
L (2707)-Espinosa Veloz,E (2461)
Havana CUB 2013]

11...Bf8N Havasi,Gergo: 'Berg,Emanuel:
'N'"E. Berg: 'N' Berg,Emanuel: 'N'Havasi,
Gergo: 'Berg,Emanuel: 'N'" "

[11...Rb8 E. Berg: 'RR' E. Berg:
'Miranda Mesa,Elier 2416 - Becerra
Rivero,Julio 2546, Merida 2014'
Havasi,Gergo: 'RR' 'Berg,Emanuel'(E.
Berg) Miranda Mesa,Elier 2416 -
Becerra Rivero,Julio 2546, Merida
2014 Berg,Emanuel: 'E. Berg: 'RR'
'RR' E. Berg: 'Miranda Mesa,Elier
2416 - Becerra Rivero,Julio 2546,
Merida 2014' Havasi,Gergo: 'Berg,
Emanuel'"]

12.a4 E. Berg: 'Diagram

[12.Nd5 Havasi,Gergo Havasi,Gergo:
'Berg,Emanuel: 'Havasi,Gergo is also
good.'" is also good.]



White has completed his development
and it's time to create active play along
the a-file.' Havasi,Gergo: 'E. Berg:
'Diagram [#] White has completed his

development and it's time to create
active play along the a-file.' Berg,
Emanuel: 'E. Berg: 'Diagram [#] White
has completed his development and it's
time to create active play along the a-file.

12...Rb8

[12...b4 Havasi,Gergo Havasi,Gergo:
'Berg,Emanuel: 'Havasi,Gergo'
13.Nd5 Rb8 (13...Na5 14.Ba2)
14.a5 Havasi,Gergo: 'Berg,Emanuel:
'seems to be better for White.'" seems
to be better for White.]

13.axb5 axb5 'Berg,Emanuel: 'Havasi,
Gergo: 'White has opened the a-file,
which is very important. '" Havasi,Gergo:
'White has opened the a-file, which is
very important. ' **14.Re1** E. Berg: 'A
standard move in the Spanish which
often turns out to be useful sooner or
later.'

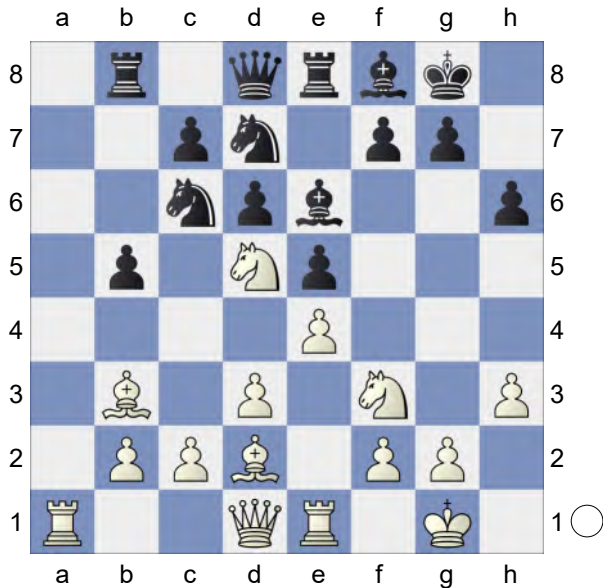
Havasi,Gergo: 'E. Berg: 'A
standard move in the Spanish which
often turns out to be useful sooner or
later.' Berg,Emanuel: 'E. Berg: 'A
standard move in the Spanish which
often turns out to be useful sooner or
later.'" **14...Be6** E. Berg: 'Naturally Black
wants to get rid of the strong bishop on
b3.'

Havasi,Gergo: 'E. Berg: 'Naturally
Black wants to get rid of the strong
bishop on b3.' Berg,Emanuel: 'E. Berg:
'Naturally Black wants to get rid of the
strong bishop on b3.''" **15.Nd5**

E. Berg: '[This is the standard reply to ...
Be6 in d3-lines of the Spanish. Now
Black is unable to trade bishops, while
exchanging on d5 will cost him the
bishop-pair.]' Havasi,Gergo: 'E. Berg:
'[This is the standard reply to ... Be6 in
d3-lines of the Spanish. Now Black is
unable to trade bishops, while
exchanging on d5 will cost him the
bishop-pair.]' Berg,Emanuel: 'E. Berg:
'[This is the standard reply to ... Be6 in

d3-lines of the Spanish. Now Black is unable to trade bishops, while exchanging on d5 will cost him the bishop-pair.]" **15...Nd7**

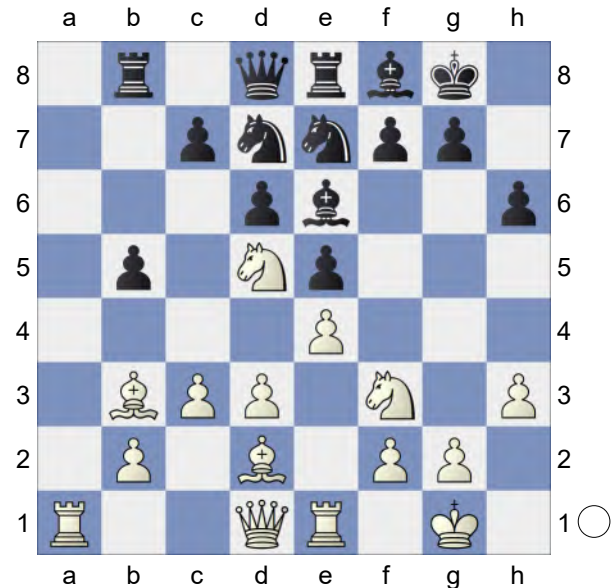
[15...Bxd5 Havasi,Gergo Havasi,
Gergo: 'Berg,Emanuel: 'Havasi,Gergo"
16.exd5 Ne7 17.c4±]



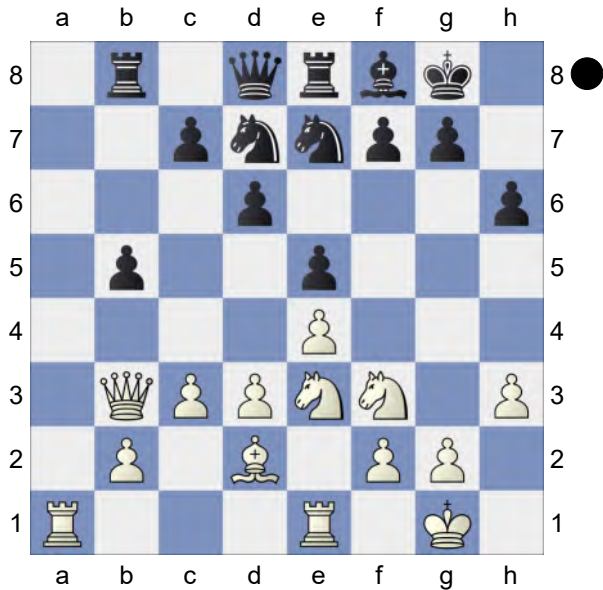
16.c3 E. Berg: 'Now that the knight has moved to d5, White is ready to advance his c-pawn with better central control over d4. This move also enables the bishop to drop back to c2.' Havasi, Gergo: 'E. Berg: 'Now that the knight has moved to d5, White is ready to advance his c-pawn with better central control over d4. This move also enables the bishop to drop back to c2.'" **16...Ne7** Diagram

[16...Nc5 Havasi,Gergo Havasi,
Gergo: 'Berg,Emanuel: 'Havasi,Gergo"
17.Bc2± Havasi,Gergo: 'Berg,
Emanuel: 'followed by d4.'" followed by

d4.]



E. Berg: 'After a bit of regrouping Black is ready to force some exchanges.' Havasi,Gergo: 'Berg,Emanuel: 'Diagram [♘]" Diagram [#]'E. Berg: 'After a bit of regrouping Black is ready to force some exchanges. Berg,Emanuel: 'Diagram [#]"Diagram [♘] E. Berg: 'After a bit of regrouping Black is ready to force some exchanges.' Havasi,Gergo: 'Berg, Emanuel: 'Diagram [♘]" E. Berg: 'After a bit of regrouping Black is ready to force some exchanges. Berg,Emanuel: 'Diagram [#]" ' **17.Ne3!** E. Berg: 'Black has less space so keeping as much pieces as possible on the board favours White.' Berg,Emanuel: '!"E. Berg: 'Black has less space so keeping as much pieces as possible on the board favours White.' Berg,Emanuel: 'E. Berg: 'Black has less space so keeping as much pieces as possible on the board favours White.' Havasi,Gergo: 'Keeping the pieces with some space advantage.'" Havasi,Gergo: 'Keeping the pieces with some space advantage.' **17...Bxb3** **18.Qxb3** E. Berg: 'Diagram



Black has managed to exchange the light-squared bishops but instead has allowed White an active queen. The pawn structure is similar for both sides but White has more active pieces.' Havasi,Gergo: 'E. Berg: 'Diagram [#] Black has managed to exchange the light-squared bishops but instead has allowed White an active queen. The pawn structure is similar for both sides but White has more active pieces.' Berg, Emanuel: 'E. Berg: 'Diagram [#] Black has managed to exchange the light-squared bishops but instead has allowed White an active queen. The pawn structure is similar for both sides but White has more active pieces.'"

18...Ng6

[18...d5 Havasi,Gergo Havasi,Gergo: 'Berg,Emanuel: 'Havasi,Gergo' 19.exd5 Nc5 20.Qc2 Nxd5 21.Ng4↑]

19.g3 E. Berg: 'This move restricts the movement of the knight on g6 but also slightly weakens the king on g1.' Havasi, Gergo: '!' '!' '!' '!' E. Berg: 'This move restricts the movement of the knight on g6 but also slightly weakens the king on

g1.' Berg,Emanuel: 'E. Berg: 'This move restricts the movement of the knight on g6 but also slightly weakens the king on g1.' Havasi,Gergo: '!' '!' "

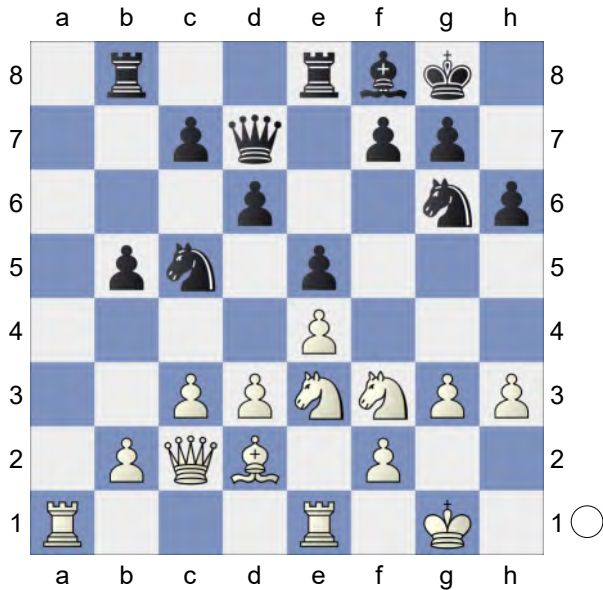
[E. Berg: 'The immediate' 19.Qc2!? E. Berg: 'was a good alternative, having in mind moves like b4 or d4.' Havasi,Gergo: 'Berg,Emanuel: '!'?" E. Berg: 'was a good alternative, having in mind moves like b4 or d4. Berg, Emanuel: '!' '!'?" E. Berg: 'was a good alternative, having in mind moves like b4 or d4.' Havasi,Gergo: 'Berg,Emanuel: '!'?" Havasi,Gergo: 'to prepare for d4 is also good.' E. Berg: 'was a good alternative, having in mind moves like b4 or d4. Berg, Emanuel: '!'?" ' Havasi,Gergo: 'to prepare for d4 is also good.']

19...Nc5 Havasi,Gergo: '?!' '?!' '?!' 'Berg, Emanuel: 'Havasi,Gergo: '?!' '?!' Havasi, Gergo: 'Black forces White to move his queen to c2, but this is a really useful move.'" '?!' Havasi,Gergo: 'Black forces White to move his queen to c2, but this is a really useful move.'

[19...c6 Havasi,Gergo Havasi,Gergo: 'Berg,Emanuel: 'Havasi,Gergo seems to be better:" seems to be better: 20.Qc2 Nf6=]

20.Qc2 Qd7

(Diagram)



21.b4! E. Berg: 'White does not unnecessarily waste time defending h3.'
 Berg,Emanuel: '! ' **21...Ne6** **22.d4**
 E. Berg: 'Finally the pawn has arrived on d4 as is customary in the normal Spanish lines.' Havasi,Gergo: '! ' '! ' '! ' '!'
 E. Berg: 'Finally the pawn has arrived on d4 as is customary in the normal Spanish lines.' Berg,Emanuel: 'E. Berg: 'Finally the pawn has arrived on d4 as is customary in the normal Spanish lines.' Havasi,Gergo: '! ' '!'

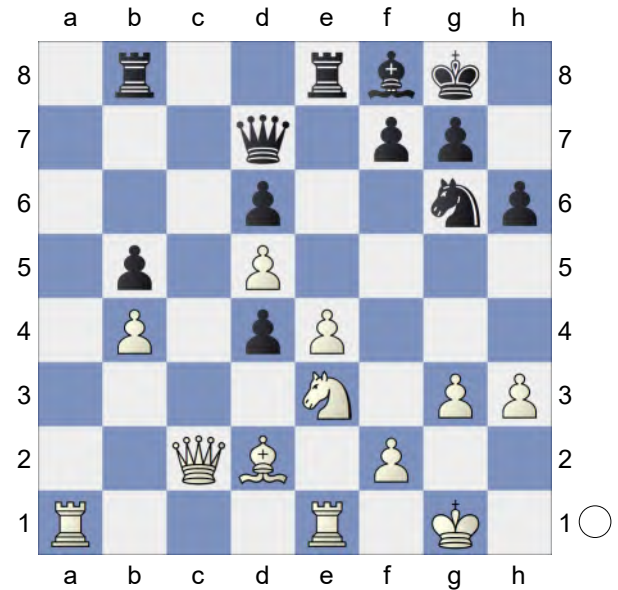
[22.Ra7± Havasi,Gergo Havasi,
 Gergo: 'Berg,Emanuel: 'Havasi,
 Gergo"]

22...exd4 23.cxd4 c5 24.d5 Nd4

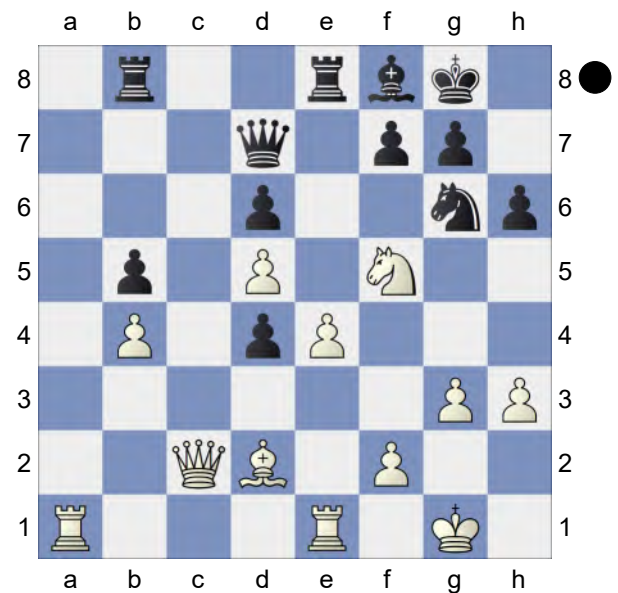
E. Berg: 'Black plays for activity, hoping to exploit the fact that White has weakened his king's position.' Havasi,
 Gergo: 'E. Berg: 'Black plays for activity, hoping to exploit the fact that White has weakened his king's position.' Berg,
 Emanuel: 'E. Berg: 'Black plays for activity, hoping to exploit the fact that White has weakened his king's position.'

" **25.Nxd4 cxd4**

(Diagram)



26.Nf5 E. Berg: 'Diagram

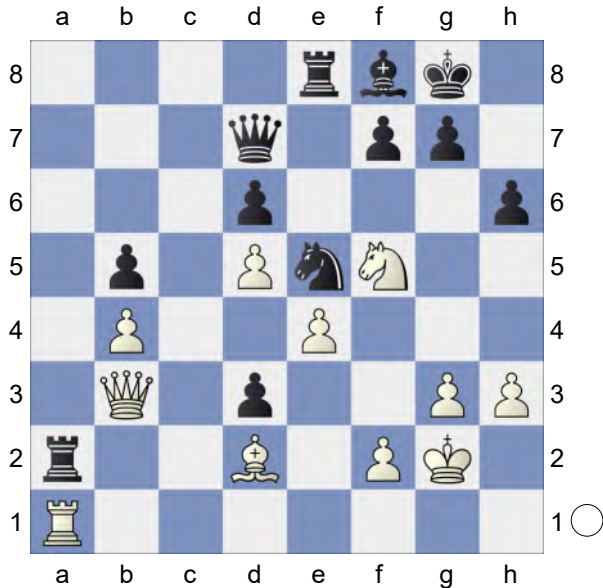


Black's d-pawn looks as good as lost but there is still quite a bit of work to do in order to capture it.' Havasi,Gergo: 'E. Berg: 'Diagram [#] Black's d-pawn looks as good as lost but there is still quite a bit of work to do in order to capture it.' Berg,Emanuel: 'E. Berg: 'Diagram [#] Black's d-pawn looks as good as lost but there is still quite a bit of work to do in order to capture it.'" **26...Ne5**

[26...Rbc8 Havasi,Gergo Havasi,
 Gergo: 'Berg,Emanuel: 'Havasi,Gergo"

be better when White is close to rounding up the d3-pawn by means of Bf4."]

30...Rxa2

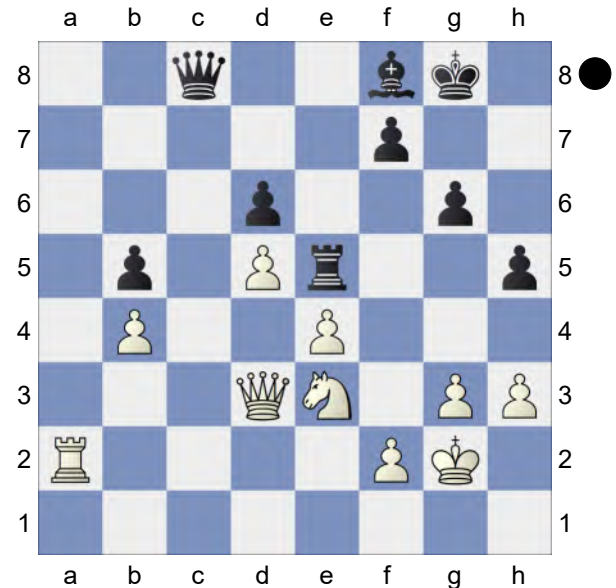


31.Rxa2 Qc8?! Havasi,Gergo: 'Berg, Emanuel: '?!' E. Berg: '?!' Berg, Emanuel: 'Havasi,Gergo: 'Berg, Emanuel: '?!' Havasi,Gergo: 'A very tricky move, planning ♔c4. '?!' Havasi, Gergo: 'A very tricky move, planning ♔c4. '

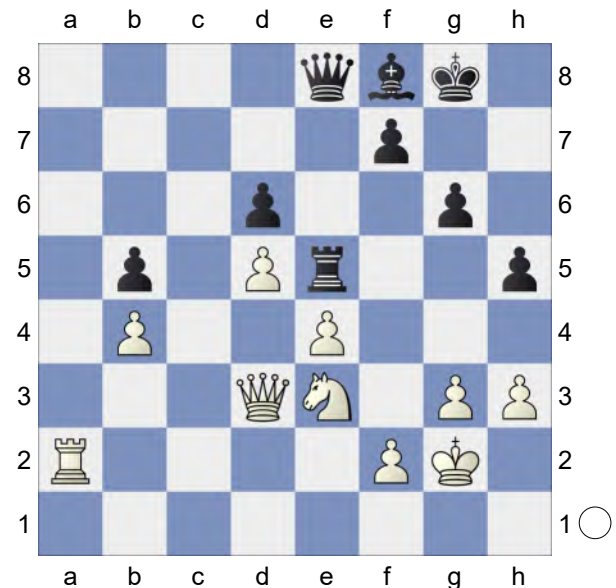
[E. Berg: 'Better was' Havasi,Gergo: 'Better was Berg,Emanuel: 'E. Berg: 'Better was' ♠31...Qc7! E. Berg: '!' E. Berg: 'when' Havasi,Gergo: '!' 'Berg, Emanuel' (E. Berg) when Berg, Emanuel: ' ♠!' '♠!' E. Berg: '!' '!' E. Berg: 'when' Havasi,Gergo: 'Berg, Emanuel' E. Berg: 'when Berg, Emanuel: ' ♠!' ' 32.Ne3 E. Berg: 'can be met by' Havasi,Gergo: 'can be met by Berg,Emanuel: 'E. Berg: 'can be met by' Qe7!=]

32.Ne3 Havasi,Gergo: '!' '!' '!' '!' Berg, Emanuel: 'Havasi,Gergo: '!' '!' Havasi, Gergo: 'Avoiding ♔c4.'" Havasi,Gergo: 'Avoiding ♔c4.' **32...g6 33.Bc3 h5 34.Bxe5 Rxe5 35.Qxd3** E. Berg:

'Diagram



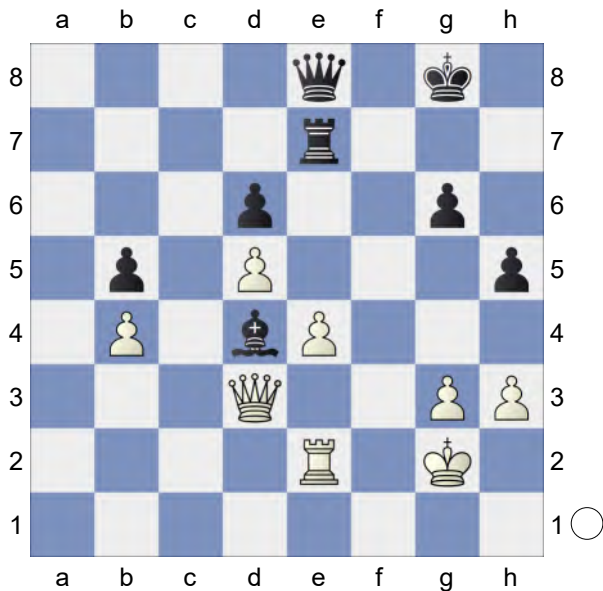
White has finally won the passed d-pawn and has a stable plus.' Havasi,Gergo: 'E. Berg: 'Diagram [#] White has finally won the passed d-pawn and has a stable plus.' Berg,Emanuel: 'E. Berg: 'Diagram [#] White has finally won the passed d-pawn and has a stable plus.'" **35...Qe8**



36.Re2 E. Berg: 'A tricky defence of the e4-pawn.' Havasi,Gergo: 'E. Berg: 'A tricky defence of the e4-pawn.' Berg, Emanuel: 'E. Berg: 'A tricky defence of the e4-pawn.'" **36...Bg7**

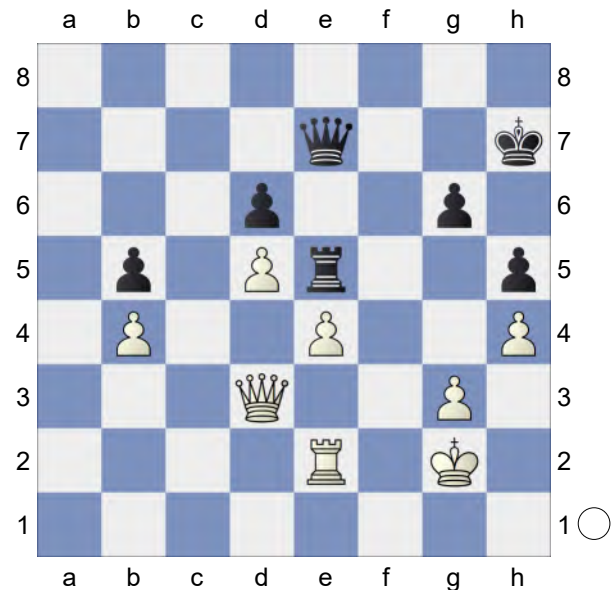
[E. Berg: 'Of course not' 36...Rxe4
 Havasi,Gergo: '?' '?' '?' '?' Berg,
 Emanuel: 'Havasi,Gergo: '?' '?'
 37.Ng4!+- E. Berg: 'when the fork on
 f6 is decisive.' Havasi,Gergo: '!' '!' '!'
 '!' Havasi,Gergo: 'Berg,Emanuel: '+-
 '!' E. Berg: '+-!' E. Berg: 'when the
 fork on f6 is decisive.' Berg,Emanuel:
 '+-!' E. Berg: 'when the fork on f6 is
 decisive.' Havasi,Gergo: '!' '!' Havasi,
 Gergo: 'Berg,Emanuel: '+-!' ' ']

37.Nc2 f5 38.f3 fxe4 39.fxe4
 Havasi,Gergo: ' ±' '±' 'î€'Berg,Emanuel:
 'Havasi,Gergo: ' ±' '±' 'Š' ' ±' **39...Re7**
40.Nd4 Bxd4



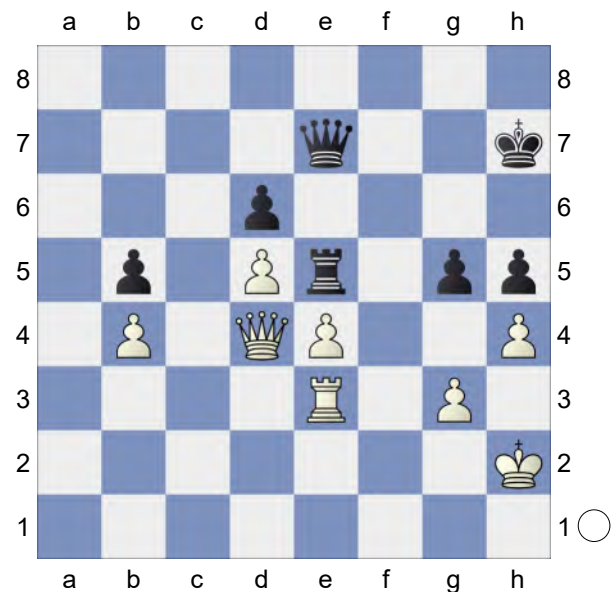
41.Qxd4 E. Berg: 'White has reached a
 clearly favourable endgame. However
 it's not at all that easy to make progress
 due to the weak e4-pawn.' Havasi,
 Gergo: 'E. Berg: 'White has reached a
 clearly favourable endgame. However
 it's not at all that easy to make progress
 due to the weak e4-pawn.' Berg,
 Emanuel: 'E. Berg: 'White has reached
 a clearly favourable endgame. However
 it's not at all that easy to make progress
 due to the weak e4-pawn.' **41...Re5**
42.Qd3 Kh7 43.Qc2 Qe7 44.h4 Kg7

45.Qd3 Kh7

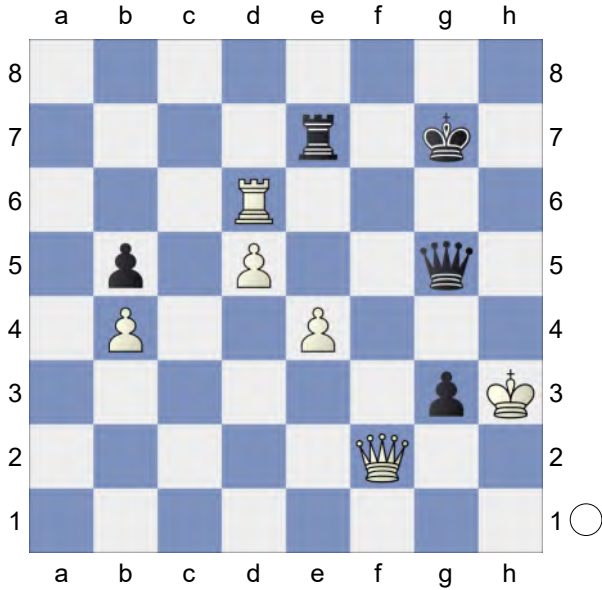


46.Kh2 Kg7 47.Qd4 Kh7 48.Re3 g5?!
 E. Berg: 'Diagram

[48...Qc7 Havasi,Gergo Havasi,
 Gergo: 'Berg,Emanuel: 'Havasi,Gergo
 was better and it is not so easy to find
 a winning plan for White.' was better
 and it is not so easy to find a winning
 plan for White.]



Black sees a chance to create active
 counterplay but it would have been wiser
 to stick to passive defence.' Berg,



56.Qf5 Qxf5+ 57.exf5 Re4 58.Rg6+
Havasi,Gergo: '?' '?' '?' 'Berg,Emanuel:
'Havasi,Gergo: '?' '?' '?'

[58.Kxg3 Havasi,Gergo Havasi,
Gergo: 'Berg,Emanuel: 'Havasi,Gergo"
Rxb4 59.Kf3±]

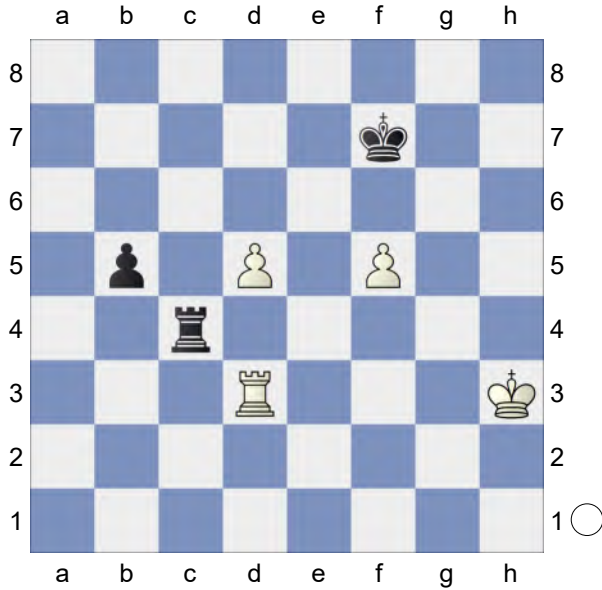
58...Kf7 59.Rxg3 Rxb4

[59...Rd4= E. Berg: 'looks simpler
when the draw is very close.' Havasi,
Gergo: 'Berg,Emanuel'(E. Berg)
looks simpler when the draw is very
close. Berg,Emanuel: '=' '='E. Berg:
'looks simpler when the draw is very
close.' Havasi,Gergo: 'Berg,Emanuel'
E. Berg: 'looks simpler when the draw
is very close. Berg,Emanuel: '=' ']

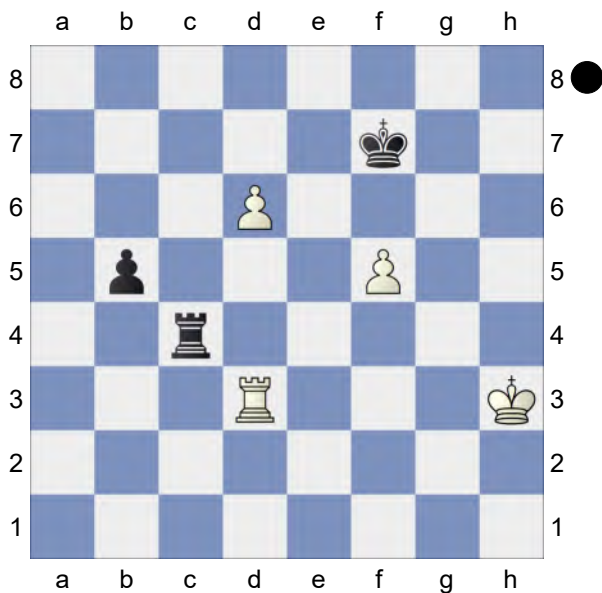
[59...Kf6!= Havasi,Gergo Havasi,
Gergo: 'Berg,Emanuel: 'Havasi,
Gergo"]

60.Rd3 Rc4

(Diagram)



61.d6 Diagram

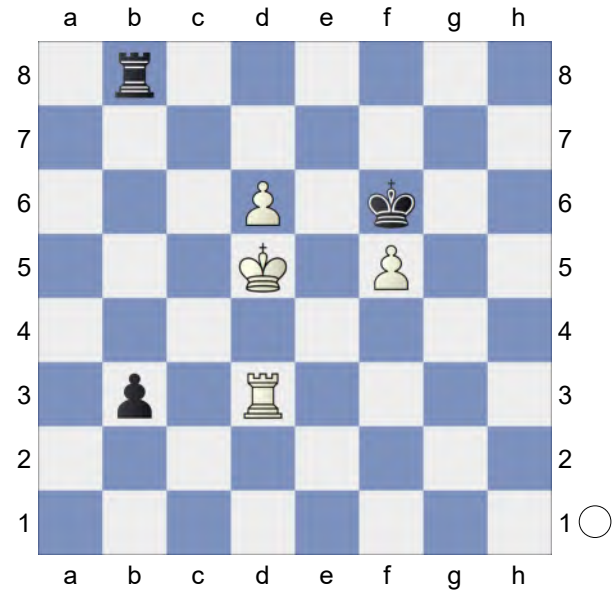


E. Berg: 'Diagram [#]' Havasi,Gergo:
'Berg,Emanuel: 'Diagram E. Berg:
'Diagram [#]'Diagram E. Berg:
'Diagram [#]' Havasi,Gergo: 'Berg,
Emanuel: 'Diagram 61...Rc8??
E. Berg: 'The final mistake.' Havasi,
Gergo: '?' '?' '?' '?' Havasi,Gergo: 'Berg,
Emanuel: '??' E. Berg: '??' E. Berg: 'The
final mistake.' Berg,Emanuel: '??' E.
Berg: 'The final mistake.' Havasi,Gergo:
'?' '?' Havasi,Gergo: 'Berg,Emanuel: '??'

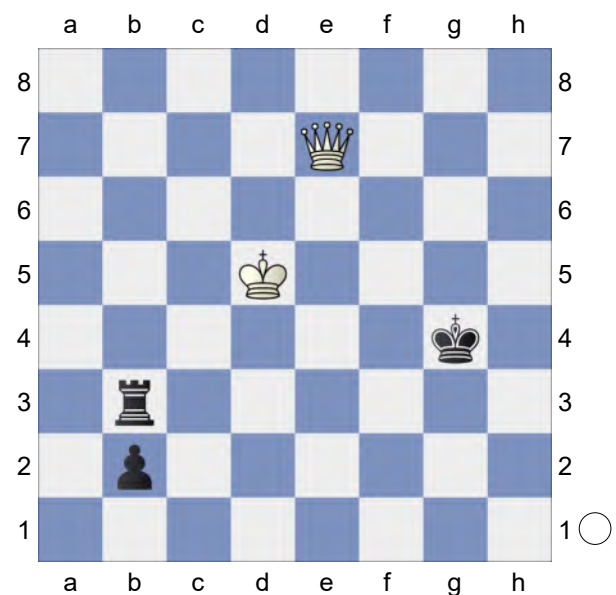
[E. Berg: 'Absolutely necessary was' 61...Ke8! E. Berg: 'when Black maintains the draw, e.g.' Havasi, Gergo: '=!' '=!' '=!' '=!' Havasi, Gergo: 'Berg, Emanuel: '!'"E. Berg: '! E. Berg: 'when Black maintains the draw, e.g.' Berg, Emanuel: '!'"E. Berg: 'when Black maintains the draw, e.g.' Havasi, Gergo: '=!' '=!' Havasi, Gergo: 'Berg, Emanuel: '!'"' 62.d7+ Havasi, Gergo: 'Berg, Emanuel'"E. Berg Berg, Emanuel: 'Havasi, Gergo: 'Berg, Emanuel'" (62.Kg3 Havasi, Gergo Havasi, Gergo: 'Berg, Emanuel: 'Havasi, Gergo" Kd7 63.f6 b4 64.f7 Rc8) 62...Kd8 63.Kg3 Rc7 64.f6 Rxd7= E. Berg: 'It's essential that White's rook and king are both on the same rank, otherwise' Havasi, Gergo: 'It's essential that White's rook and king are both on the same rank, otherwise' Berg, Emanuel: 'E. Berg: 'It's essential that White's rook and king are both on the same rank, otherwise'" 65.f7 (E. Berg) would have been a winning move. Havasi, Gergo: 'would have been a winning move. Berg, Emanuel: '(E. Berg) would have been a winning move."]

62.Kg4 Kf6 63.Kf4 b4 64.Ke4
Havasi, Gergo: '+-' '+-' '+-' 'Berg, Emanuel: 'Havasi, Gergo: '+-' '+-' '+-' '+-'
64...Rb8 E. Berg: 'Wei chooses the tricky way to victory.' **65.Kd5**
Havasi, Gergo: '? ' '? ' '? '?"Berg, Emanuel: 'Havasi, Gergo: '? '?"
[65.Rb3+-]
65...b3

(Diagram)



66.d7 b2 67.Rb3! Havasi, Gergo: 'Berg, Emanuel: '!'"E. Berg: '! Berg, Emanuel: '!'"Havasi, Gergo: 'Berg, Emanuel: '!'" " **67...Rxb3 68.d8Q+ Kxf5 69.Qd7+□**
E. Berg: 'The only winning move!' Havasi, Gergo: 'Berg, Emanuel: ' □'"E. Berg: ' □' E. Berg: 'The only winning move!' Berg, Emanuel: 'E. Berg: 'The only winning move!' Havasi, Gergo: 'Berg, Emanuel: ' □'" '□" **69...Kg5 70.Qe7+ Kg4**

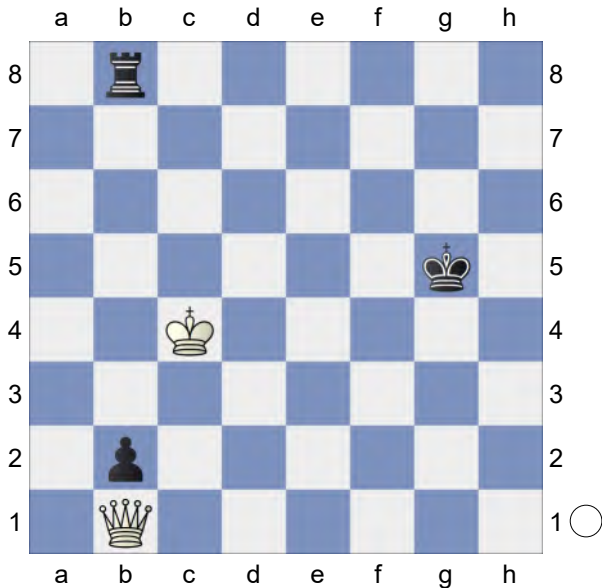


71.Qe4+ Kg3 72.Qg6+ Kh4
Havasi, Gergo: '? ' '? ' '? '?"Berg,

Emanuel: 'Havasi,Gergo: '?' '?'

[72...Kf4= Havasi,Gergo Havasi,
Gergo: 'Berg,Emanuel: 'Havasi,
Gergo"]

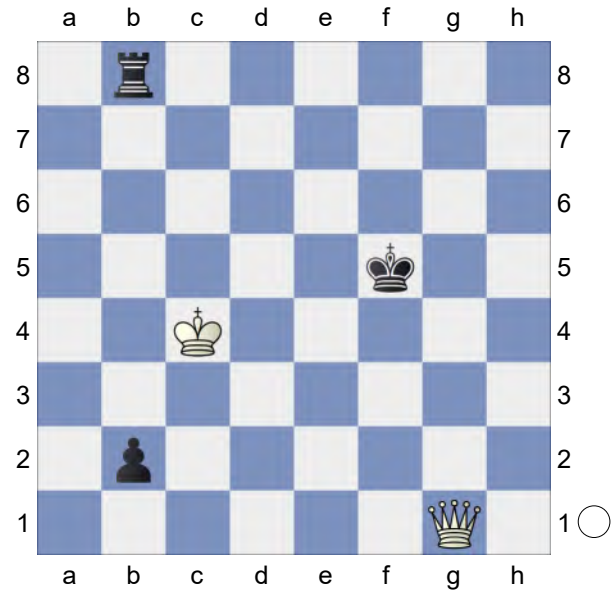
73.Qb1 Kg5 74.Kc4 Rb8 E. Berg:
'This move loses the rook but other
moves would lose the b-pawn, which
doesn't save Black either. Diagram



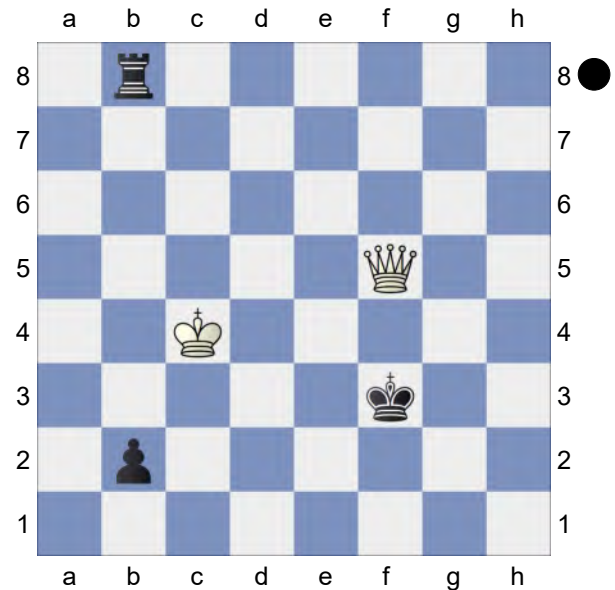
' Havasi,Gergo: 'E. Berg: 'This move
loses the rook but other moves would
lose the b-pawn, which doesn't save
Black either. Diagram [#]' Berg,
Emanuel: 'E. Berg: 'This move loses the
rook but other moves would lose the b-
pawn, which doesn't save Black either.
Diagram [#]'''

75.Qg1+ Kf5

(Diagram)



**76.Qc5+ Kg4 77.Qd4+ Kf3 78.Qf6+
Ke4 79.Qe6+ Kf3 80.Qf5+**



E. Berg: 'White will very soon win the
rook on b8 by a check so Black resigned.
A long and interesting game where
White was successful in the opening and
was pressing for a win throughout the
entire game, although Black did have
certain chances to equalize.' Havasi,
Gergo: 'E. Berg: 'White will very soon
win the rook on b8 by a check so Black
resigned. A long and interesting game
where White was successful in the

opening and was pressing for a win throughout the entire game, although Black did have certain chances to equalize.' Berg,Emanuel: 'E. Berg: 'White will very soon win the rook on b8 by a check so Black resigned. A long and interesting game where White was successful in the opening and was pressing for a win throughout the entire game, although Black did have certain chances to equalize.'"

1-0

133

□ Wei,Yi

■ Ding,Liren

Baku (m/3-rapid)

[Berg,Emanuel]

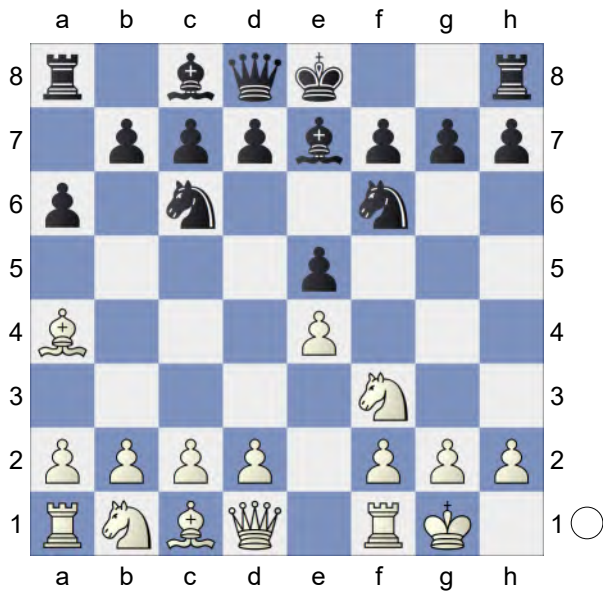
C84

2734

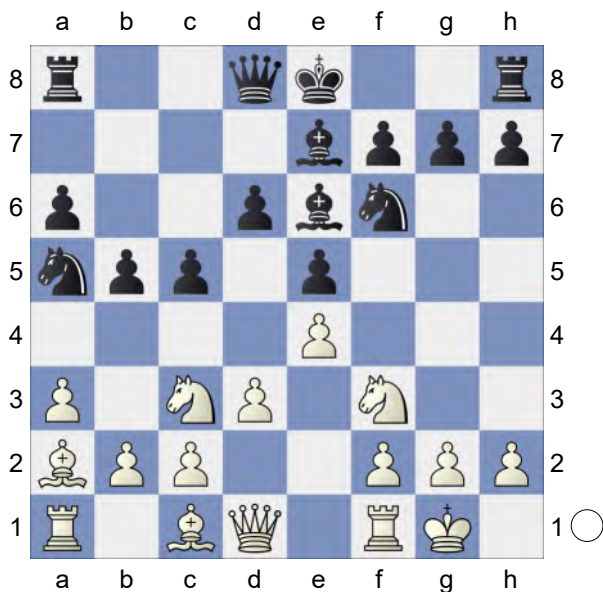
2782

2015

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4
Nf6 5.0-0 Be7



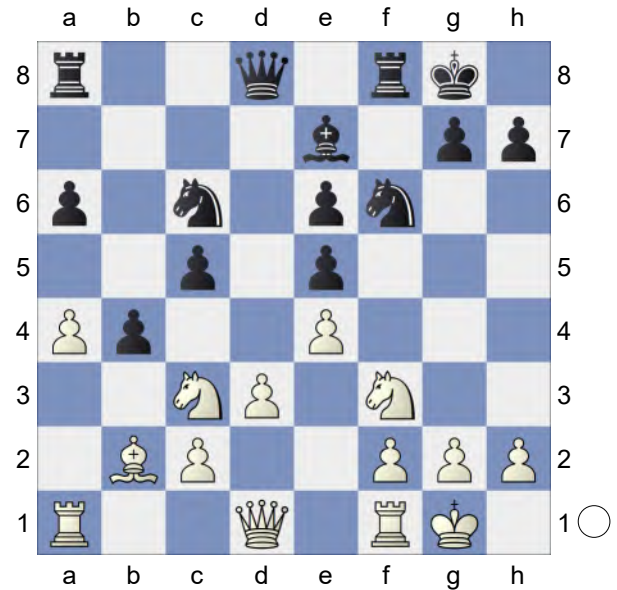
6.d3 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.a3 Na5 9.Ba2
c5 10.Nc3 Be6



11.Bxe6 fxe6 * 12.b4N

[12.Ne2 - 126/109]

12...Nc6 13.bxc5 dxc5 14.Bb2 0-0
15.a4 b4



16.Nb1?!

[16.Ne2∞]

16...c4! 17.dxc4 Qxd1 18.Rxd1 Nxe4

19.Re1 Diagram

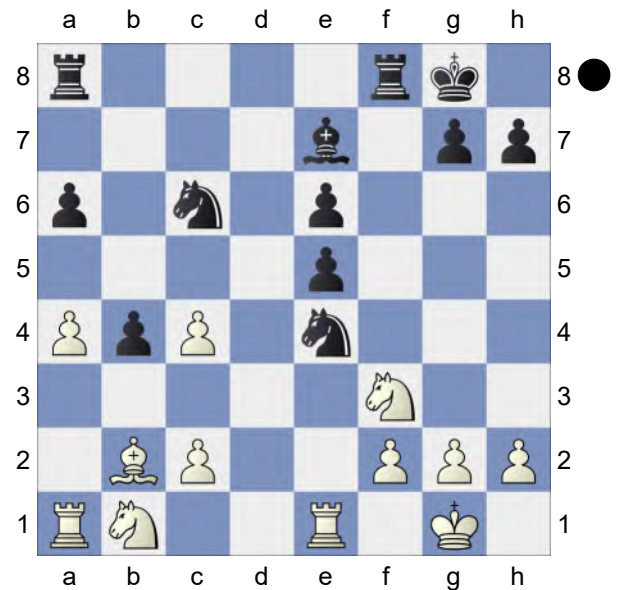
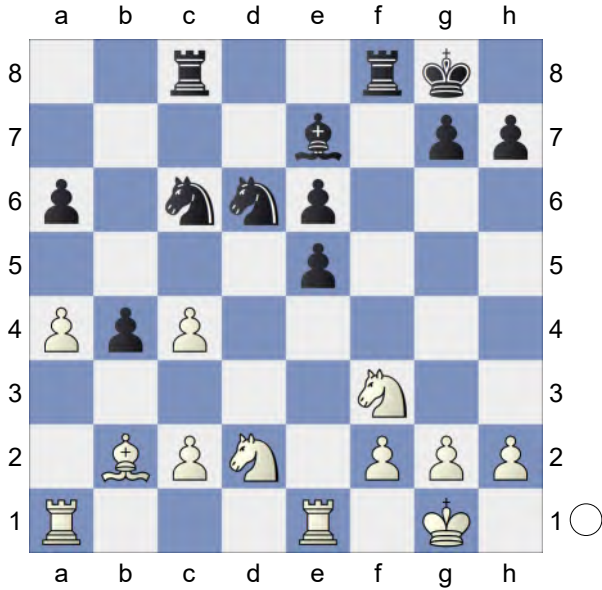


Diagram  19...Nd6

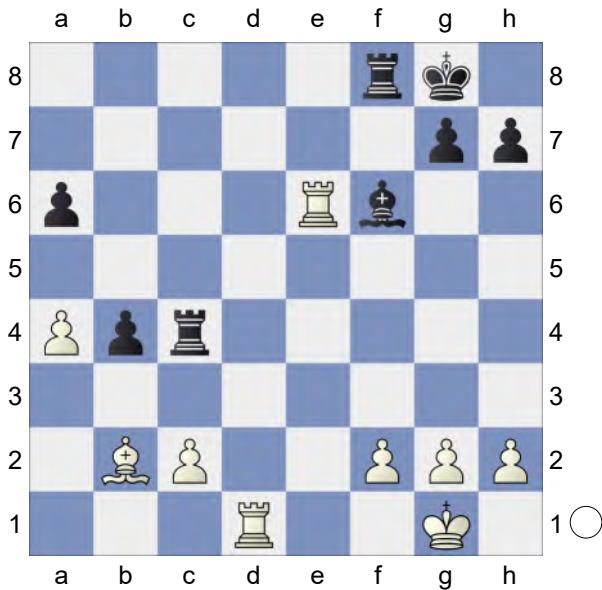
[19...Rf4! 20.Nbd2 (20.Nxe5 Bc5
21.Nd3 Bxf2+ 22.Nxf2 Rxf2 23.Rxe4
Rxc2⌘) 20...Nxd2 21.Nxd2 Rd8⌘]

20.Nbd2 Rac8

(Diagram)

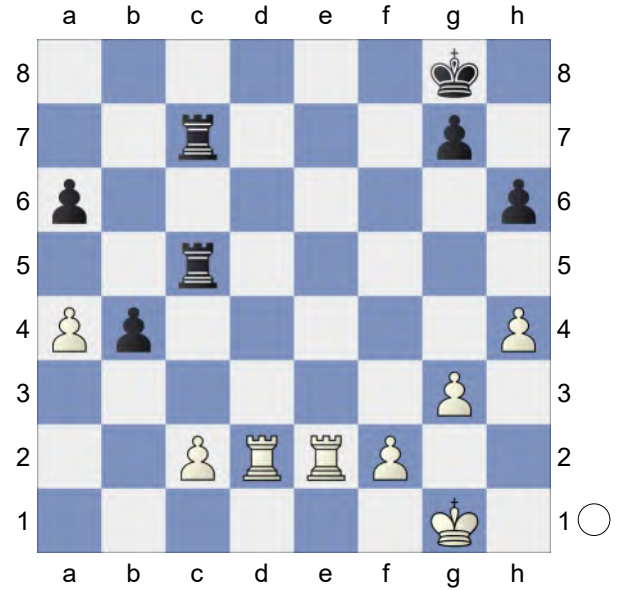


21.Rad1 Na5 22.Nxe5 Ndxc4
23.Ndxc4 Nxc4 24.Nxc4 Rxc4
25.Rxe6 Bf6

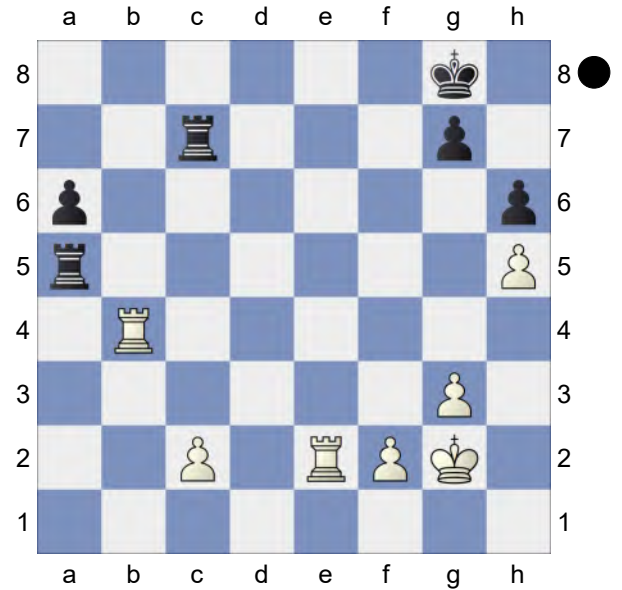


26.Bxf6 Rxf6 27.Re2 h6 28.g3 Rfc6
29.Rdd2 R4c5 30.h4 Rc7

(Diagram)



31.Kg2 Ra5 32.Rd4 Rxa4 33.h5 Ra5
34.Rxb4



1/2-1/2

265

□ Wei,Yi

■ Kobalia,Mihail

Moscow Aeroflot op-A 15th_21817_2125..

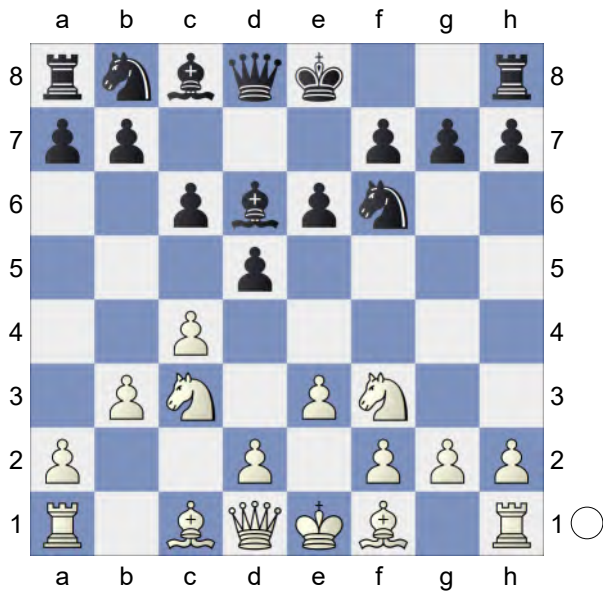
[Besenthal,Klaus Guenter]

A11

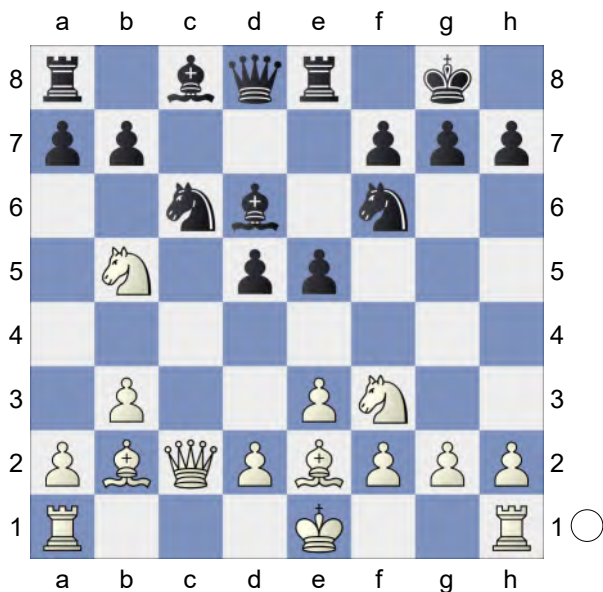
2714

2632

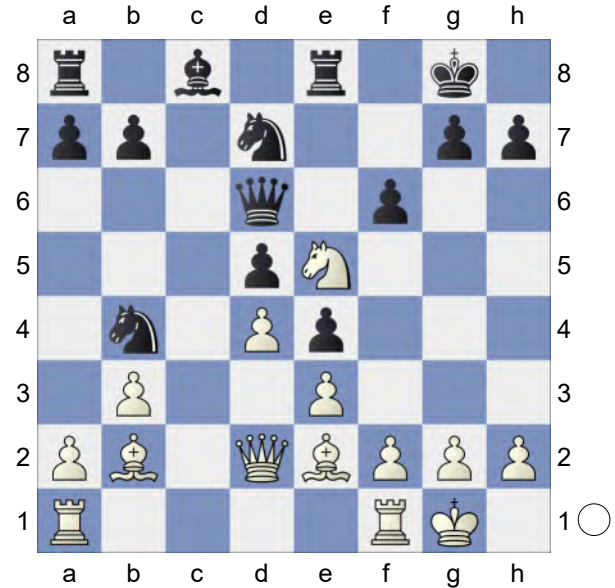
1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 c6 3.e3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6
5.b3 Bd6



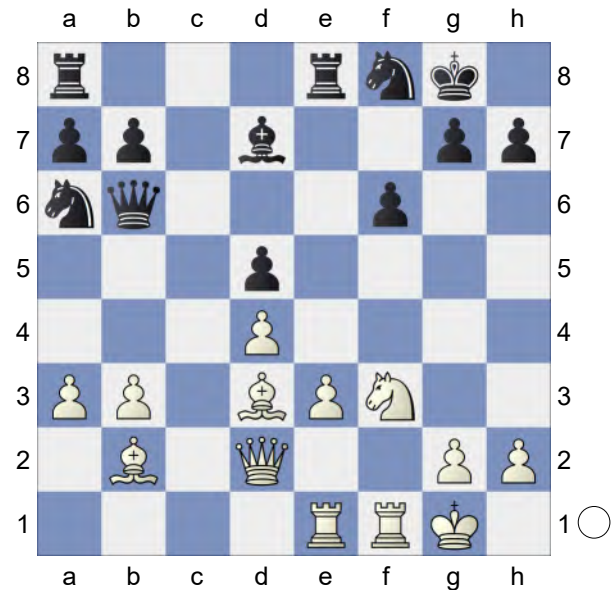
6.Bb2 0-0 7.Be2 Re8 8.Qc2 e5
9.cxd5 cxd5 10.Nb5 Nc6



11.Nxd6 Qxd6 12.d4 Nb4 13.Qd2 e4
14.Ne5 Nd7 15.0-0 f6

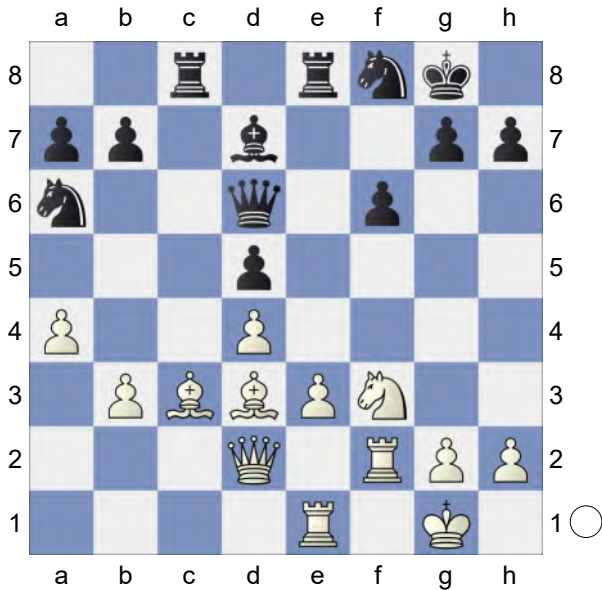


16.a3 Na6 17.f4 exf3 18.Nxf3 Nf8
19.Bd3 Bd7 20.Rae1 Qb6

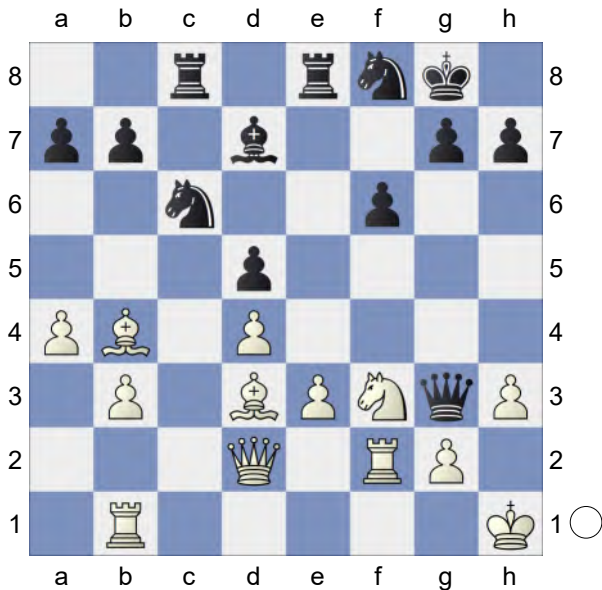


21.Bc2 Rac8 22.Rf2 Bc6 23.a4 Qb4
24.Bc3 Qd6 25.Bd3 Bd7

(Diagram)

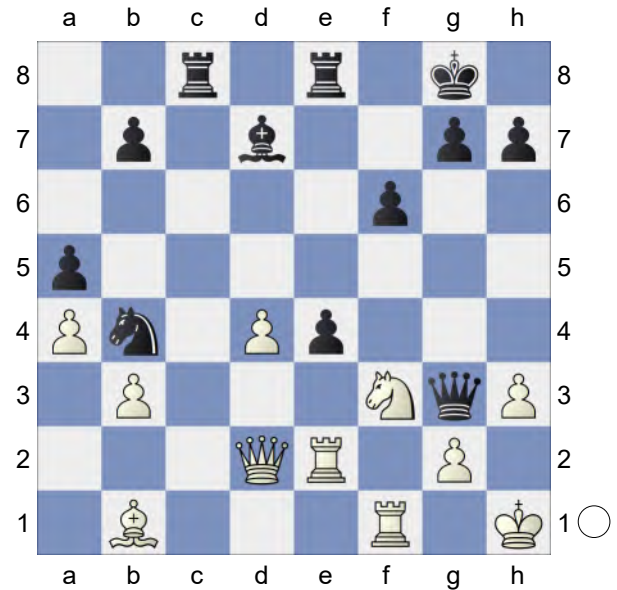


**26.h3 Qb6 27.Rb1 Qc7 28.Ba5 Qg3
29.Kh1 Nb8 30.Bb4 Nc6**

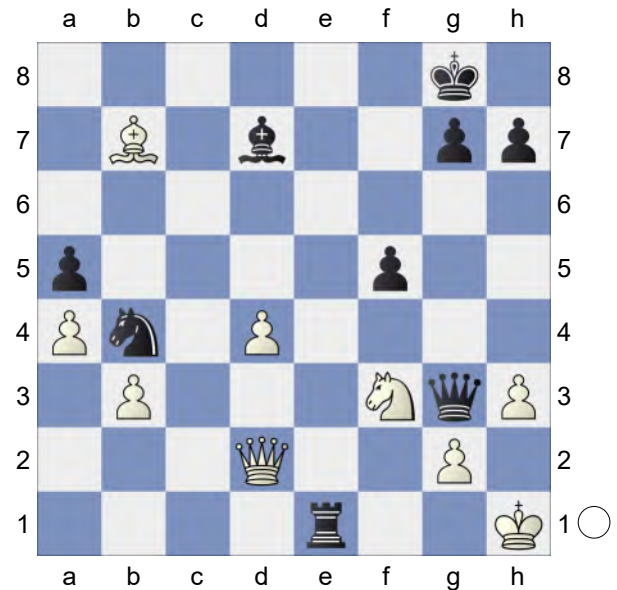


**31.Bxf8 Rxf8 32.Rbf1 Rfe8 33.Re2
a5 34.e4 Nb4 35.Bb1 dxe4**

(Diagram)



**36.Rxe4 Rxe4 37.Bxe4 Re8 38.Re1
f5 39.Bxb7 Rxe1+ Diagramm**



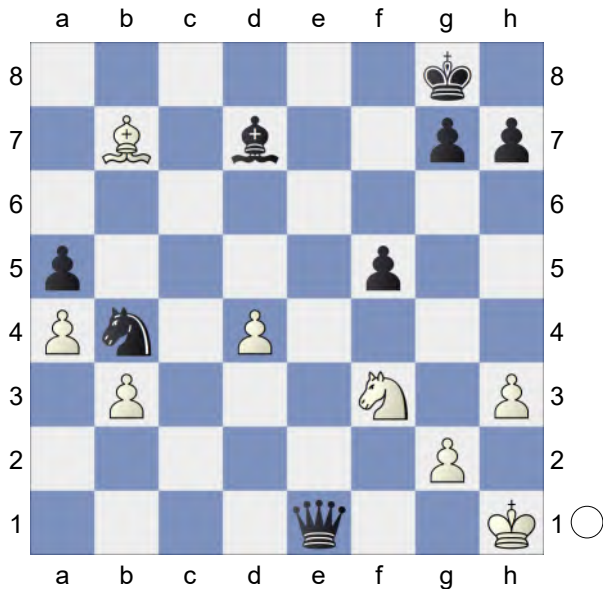
Eine - bei begrenzter Bedenkzeit - extrem schwer einzuschätzende Stellung. Es wird aber schnell klar, dass Weiß im Endspiel auf b3 und a4 zwei extrem schwache Bauern hat, was ihn schließlich die Partie kostet. Hätte Wei dies erkannt, dann hätte er die Damen mit Sicherheit auf dem Brett gelassen. Schwarz hätte es sich in diesem Fall nicht leisten können, beide weiße Damenflügelbauern einzukassieren, da

der Anziehende in der Zwischenzeit über den schwarze König hergefallen wäre.

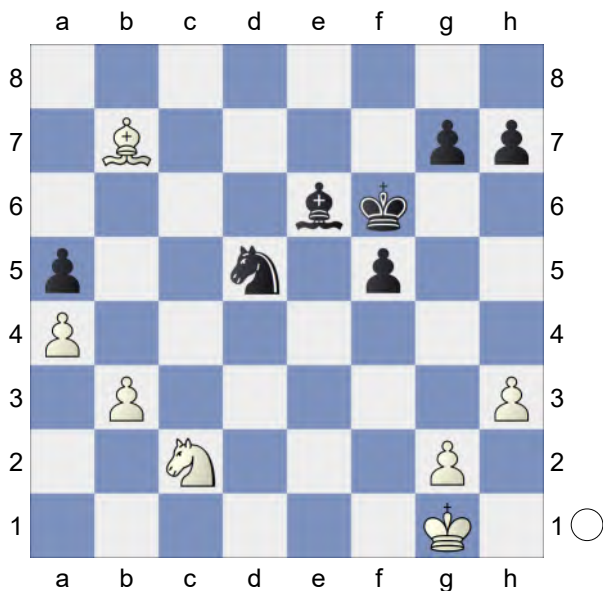
40.Qxe1?

[40.Nxe1! Qxb3 41.Qg5 Qxa4
(41...Bxa4 42.Qd8+ Kf7 43.Nf3+-)
42.Qd8+ Kf7 43.Nf3+-]

40...Qxe1+



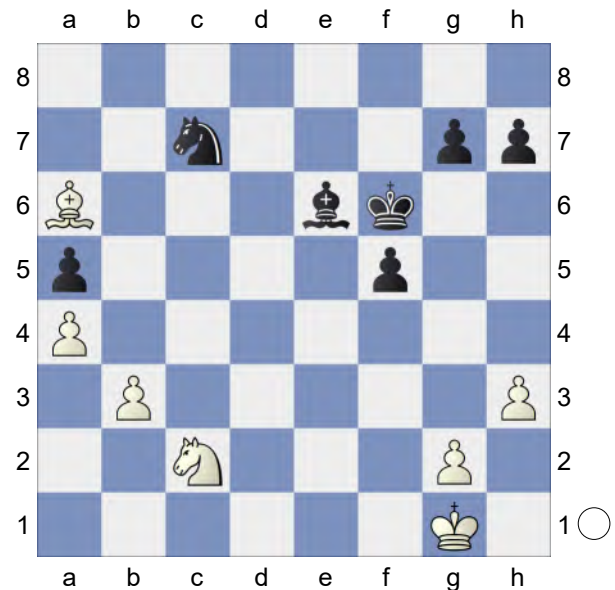
**41.Nxe1 Be6 42.d5 Nxd5 43.Nc2 Kf7
44.Kg1 Kf6 Diagramm**



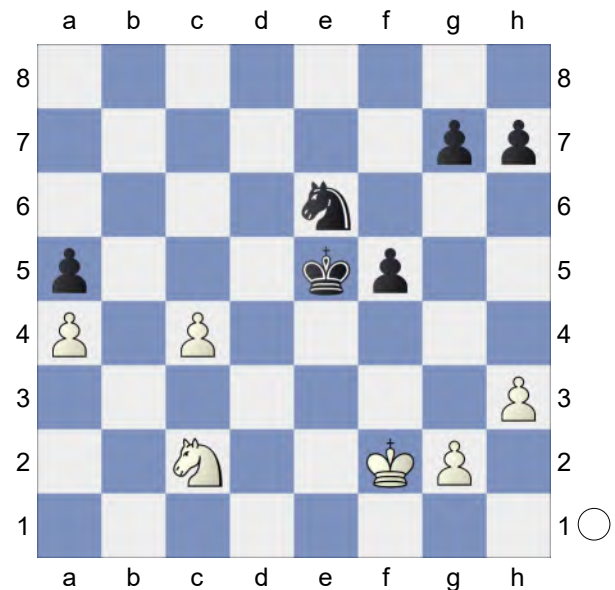
45.Ba6 Allem bislang Gesagtem zum Trotz: Erst dieser Zug ist der entscheidende Fehler.

[45.Nd4!]

45...Nc7



**46.Bc4 Bxc4 47.bxc4 Ne6 48.Kf2
Ke5**



Der Ba4 geht verloren.

0-1

41

□ Ding, Liren

■ Wei, Yi

Tata Steel Chess - Masters (8.4) 24.1.16

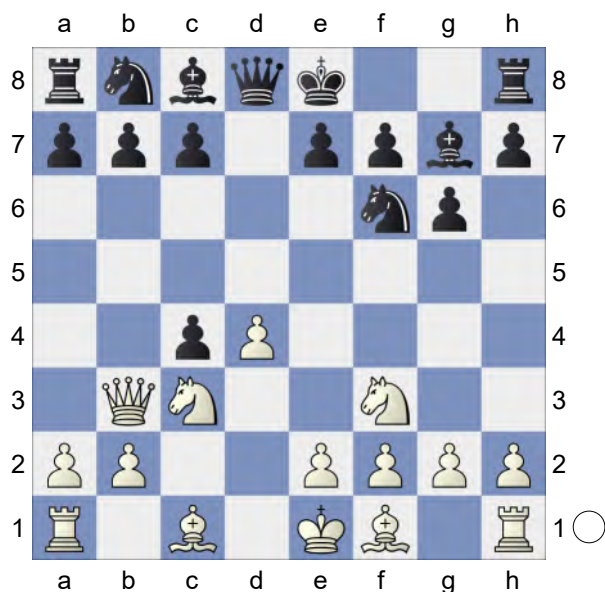
[Bill Schaefer]

D97

2766

2706

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3
Bg7 5.Qb3 dxc4



6.Qxc4 0-0 7.e4 Nc6 The modern main line. 8.Be2 The most popular try for White. Given White's difficulties in proving an advantage in the gambit line that follows, perhaps 8.Be3 or 8.Bg5!? (Holt, C (2530)-So, W (2788) Saint Louis USA 2015) deserve further investigation.

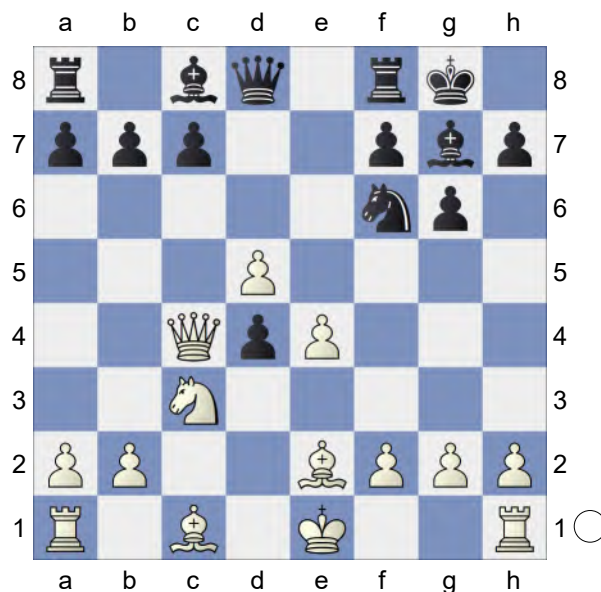
[GCF: I agree that your suggestions do indicate some possible areas for research. Another idea that is worthy of attention is 8.Bf4 which has 'surprise value' as well as being quite promising.]

[8.Bf4 Bg4 (8...Nh5 9.Be3 Bg4 10.e5± as in Lalic, B-Tate, A Pardubice 2015, see the September 2015 update) 9.d5 Nh5 10.Bg5 Na5 11.Qb4 b6 12.0-0-0 Stoczek, J-Stella, A Benasque 2015, with a complex

midgame in prospect.]

8...e5!? A pawn sacrifice that leads to an interesting (and theoretical) battle.

9.d5 Nd4 10.Nxd4 exd4



11.Qxd4 c6 12.Qc4

[The main alternatives are: 12.Qd1 Re8 13.0-0 (13.dxc6 Qxd1+ 14.Nxd1 Nxe4 15.cxb7 Bxb7 16.Be3 Nd6± 1/2-1/2 (68) Kozul, Z (2630)-Sadzikowski, D (2492) Jerusalem 2015) 13...Nxe4 14.Nxe4 Rxe4 15.dxc6 Rd4 16.Qb3 bxc6 17.Bc4 Qc7 18.Re1 Bf5 19.Bg5 Sandipan, C-Baron, Ta Benasque 2012, and now Be4!= is important. (Flear on ChessPublishing).]

[And 12.d6 Re8 13.Qd3 b5

A) 14.a3 Be6 15.f3 Nh5 (15...Bc4 16.Qd1 Bxe2 17.Nxe2 Re6= (Flear)) 16.Be3 Be5 17.g3 f5 (17...Qxd6=) 18.Bc5 a5 (18...f4!? 19.g4 Qh4+ 20.Bf2 Ng3 is unclear) 19.Rd1 Dambacher, M-Leenhouts, K Belgian league 2015, and now Qd7 keeps matters complicated.;

B) 14.f3 Re6 15.Be3 Rxd6 16.Qc2 Nh5 1/2-1/2 (66) Wang, H

(2710)-Vachier Lagrave, M (2758)
Beijing 2014]

12...b5 13.Qxc6

[An alternative here is: 13.Qb3 Retreating to b3 (it surveys ...b4, keeps the queen out of harm's way) was covered in the notes of Aronian-Giri, 2015 by Flear: cxd5 14.exd5

A) 14...b4 15.Qxb4 Nxd5 16.Nxd5 Qxd5 17.0-0 Qe5 18.Bf3 Rb8 19.Qa4 Qd4 20.Qxd4 Bxd4 21.Rd1 Bg7 22.Be3 Rxb2 23.Bc5 (new, varying from 23.Bxa7 Bb7 24.Bxb7 Rxb7 25.Bd4 Ra8 26.g3 Bxd4 27.Rxd4 Ra3 28.Rd2 Rba7 when White couldn't make any progress, Riemersma, L-Swinkels, R Amsterdam 2013) 23...Re8 24.Bc6 Rc2 25.Rab1 Bg4 26.Bxe8 Bxd1 27.Rxd1 (a possible improvement for White here is 27.Be3! e.g. Be2 28.Rb7 Bc4 29.Bxf7+! Bxf7 30.Rb8+ Be8 31.Rxe8+ Kf7 32.Ra8 Bd4 33.a4 Rc6 34.Rd8 Bxe3 35.fxe3 Ke6 when White's extra pawn gives him an edge, even if a draw is the most likely result) 27...Rxc5 28.g3 Rc7 0.5-0.5 Li Zuhao, L-Zelesco, K Melbourne 2014.;

B) 14...Bb7!?_____ is a more lively try when 15.Qxb5 Nxd5! is already equal;

C) 14...Re8 15.0-0 b4 16.Qxb4 Nxd5 17.Nxd5 Rxe2 18.Qc4 Re5 19.Nc7 Be6 20.Nxe6 Rxe6 21.Be3 Bxb2 22.Rab1 Bf6 1/2-1/2 (46) Zubov, A (2608) -Baron, T (2506) Rishon Le Ziyon 2015]

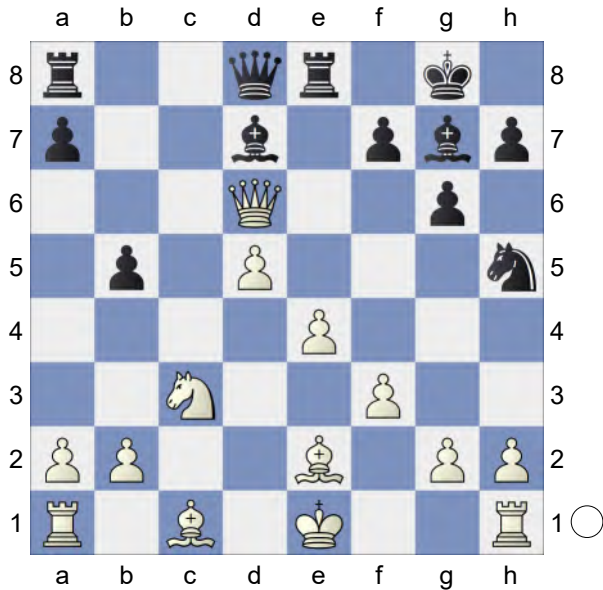
13...Bd7 14.Qd6 Re8 15.f3 The most recent try for an advantage (and recommended by chess engines.) It leads to a very sharp position where

Black has strong compensation due to his active pieces.

[The most frequently played move has been: 15.Bg5!? and was indeed what I tried in my own game. However, this line tends to lead to a position where White has a material advantage but Black's active pieces and opposite colored bishops make it difficult to convert. b4 16.Qxb4 Nxd5 17.Nxd5 Qxg5 18.0-0 Rab8 19.Qd6 (I looked at this alternative 19.Qc5 to try to keep more pieces on the board but ultimately it appears to peter out to equality.) 19...Bh3 20.Nf4 Bg4 21.Bxg4 Be5 22.Qd7 Qxf4 23.g3 Qf6 (My own game continued: 23...Qxe4 24.Rae1 Qb4 25.b3 Re7 26.Qd1 Rbe8 27.Bf3 Here I offered a draw because the ending with the opposite colored bishops looks difficult to convert. 1/2-1/2 (27) Schaefer, B-Whisenhunt, M Training Game 2016 [Schaefer, Bill]) 24.Rad1 Bxb2 25.Qa4 Red8 26.Rxd8+ Rxd8 27.Qxa7 Kg7 28.Be2 Rd2 29.Qe3 Qc3 30.Qxc3+ Bxc3 31.Bc4 1/2-1/2 (48) Aronian, L (2797)-Giri, A (2784) Wijk aan Zee NED 2015 [Glenn Flear]]

15...Nh5

(Diagram)



16.Be3 Developing and bringing his bishop where it can help defend the weakened e1-h4 dark squares.

[An important alternative is: 16.g3 f5 17.Bd3 (In the June 2012 update, Glenn Flear analyzed: 17.0-0 Bf8 18.Qa6 Bc5+ 19.Kh1 b4 20.Nb5 fxe4 21.d6! with advantage to White.) 17...a5 18.Be3 b4 19.Nd1 Nf6 20.e5 Ng4 21.fxg4 Bxe5 22.Qc5 Rc8 23.Qa7 Ra8 24.Qc5 Rc8 25.Qa7 1/2-1/2 (41) Meier, G (2646) - So, W (2677) Saint Louis 2012]

16...f5! Black immediately attacks White's center in view of the somewhat precarious position of White's king.

[16...Be5 17.Qa6 Nf4 18.Bxf4 Bxf4 19.g3 Be3 20.Bxb5 Rb8 21.Bxd7 Qxd7 22.Qd3 Bc5 23.0-0-0 Rb4 24.Rd2 Reb8 25.Rc2 Qb7 26.b3 a5 27.Rd1 Qb6 28.d6 Rd4 29.Qe2 Ba3+ 30.Kb1± but White later went astray in the ending and lost 0-1 (68) Sandipan, C (2590)-Adhiban, B (2547) Moscow 2013]

17.Qa3 Places the queen in what seems to be a less vulnerable position.

[17.Qc5 has the merit of

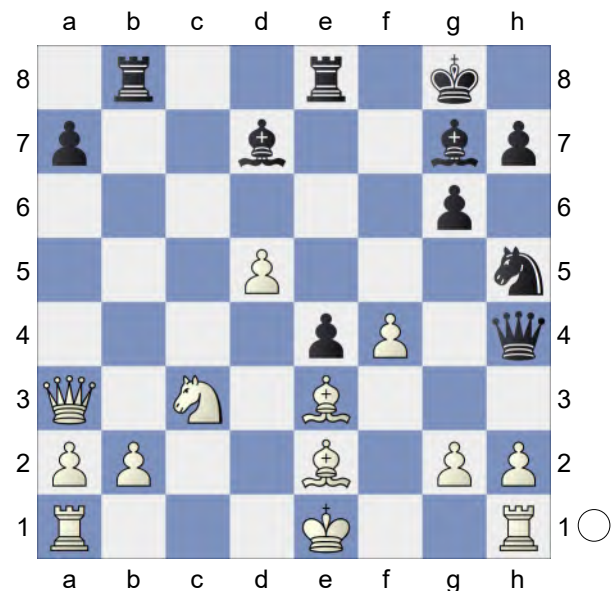
strengthening White's control of the weakened dark squares. However, White's queen is vulnerable to attack.

Rc8 18.Qxa7]

17...b4! However, Black insists on drawing the queen back to the line of fire and activating his rook. This also makes a possible castling queenside look less inviting. **18.Qxb4 Rb8 19.Qa3** White's queen is forced back to a passive square far from the action on the kingside. **19...fxe4 20.f4**

[Certainly not: 20.fxe4? Bxc3+ 21.bxc3 Qh4+ 22.Bf2 Qxe4 23.0-0 Qxe2 24.Rae1 Qc4+]

20...Qh4+



21.g3

[21.Bf2 Qf6 22.0-0 e3 23.Be1 Nxf4 24.Qxa7 (24.Kh1 Qg5 25.Bf3 e2 26.Rg1 Bd4 27.Bg3 Bxg1 28.Rxg1 Bg4+) 24...Nxe2+ 25.Nxe2 Qxb2 26.Qxd7 Qxa1 27.Bg3 Qxf1+ 28.Kxf1 Rb1+ 29.Be1 Rf8+ 30.Nf4 Rxf4+ 31.Ke2 Bd4=]

21...Nxg3 22.Bf2

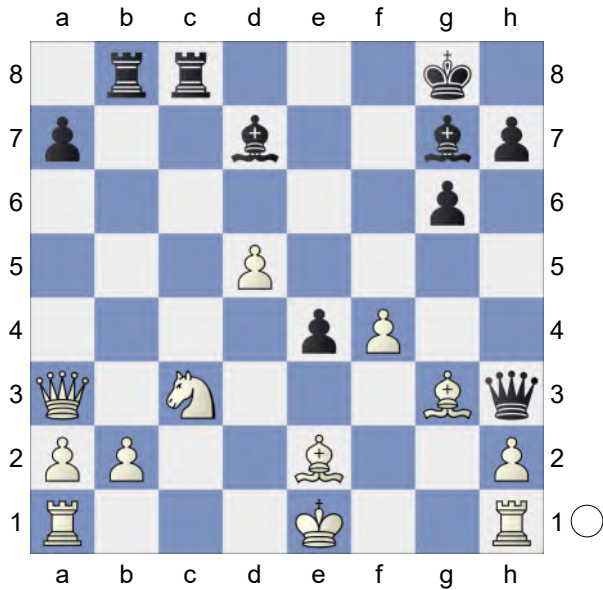
[22.hxg3? Qxh1+]

22...Qh3 23.Bxg3 Rec8 24.Bf1 Here Ding Liren bails out of this sharp

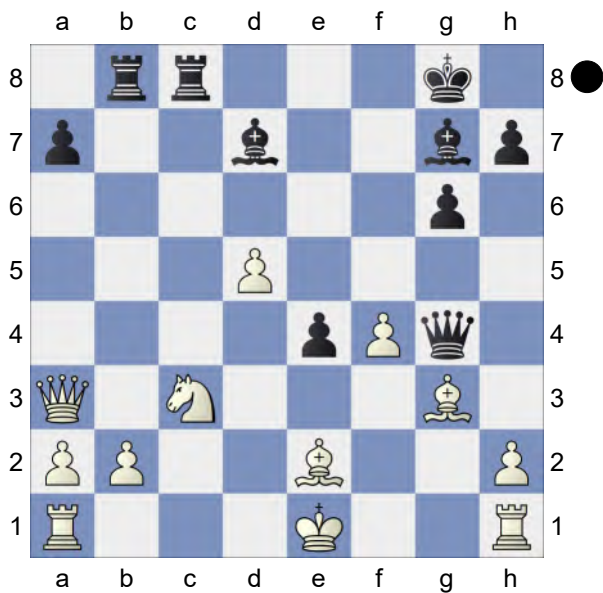
position with a draw by repetition.

[24.Rg1 Preventing Black from
entering with the queen on g2. Bd4
(24...e3) 25.0-0-0 Bc5 26.Qa5 Qf5
27.Rg2 Bb4 28.Qxa7 Bc5 29.Qa5
Bb4 30.Qa6 e3 31.Bd3 Rxc3+
32.bxc3 Qf6=]

24...Qg4 25.Be2 Qh3



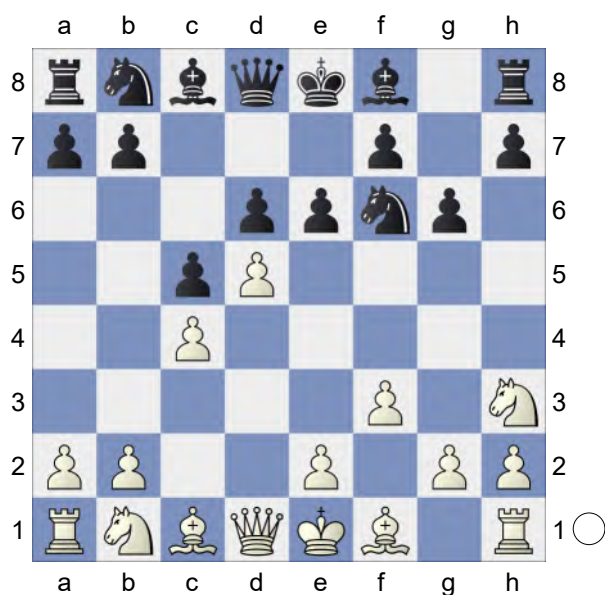
26.Bf1 Qg4 27.Be2



1/2-1/2

43 **E60**
 □ **Ding,Liren** **2766**
 ■ **Wei,Yi** **2706**
 Tata Steel Chess - Masters (8.4) 24.1.16
[Bill Schaefer]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.f3 c5 4.d5 e6
5.Nh3 d6
 [5...b5]



6.Nf2 b5 7.e4 Bg7 The modern main line.

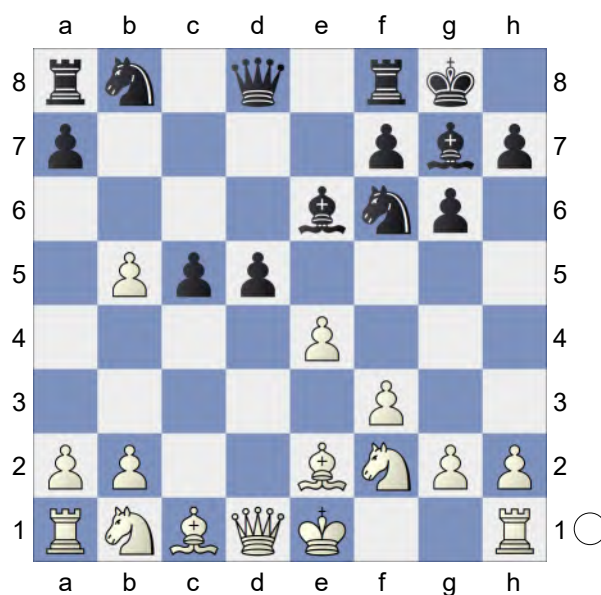
[7...b4 8.a3 a5 9.axb4 (9.dxe6 Bxe6) 9...cxb4 Here I offered a draw because the ending with the opposite colored bishops looks difficult to convert. 1/2-1/2 (27) Schaefer, B-Whisenhunt, M Training Game 2016 [Schaefer, Bill] I looked at this alternative 10.Be3 to try to keep more pieces on the board but ultimately it appears to peter out to equality. An alternative here is: Nfd7 Retreating to b3 (it surveys ...b4, keeps the queen out of harm's way) was covered in the notes of Aronian-Giri, 2015 by Flear: 11.Nd3 Na6 12.Nd2 (12.Qa4 Nac5

13.Nxc5 dxc5 14.Nd2 Bd6)
 12...Bg7]

8.dxe6 The most popular try for White. Given White's difficulties in proving an advantage in the gambit line that follows, perhaps 8.Be3 or 8.Bg5!? (Holt, C (2530)-So, W (2788) Saint Louis USA 2015) deserve further investigation.

8...Bxe6!? A pawn sacrifice that leads to an interesting (and theoretical) battle.

9.cxb5 0-0 10.Be2 d5



11.0-0 a6 12.a4 axb5 13.Bxb5 Qb6

[13...Na6 14.Bg5 Qb6 15.Bxf6 (15.Nc3 Nc7 16.e5 Nfe8 17.Be7 1/2-1/2 (48) Aronian, L (2797)-Giri, A (2784) Wijk aan Zee NED 2015 [Glenn Flear] My own game continued: Bxe5 18.Bxf8 Kxf8) 15...Bxf6 16.exd5! with advantage to White. The most frequently played move has been: Rfd8!? and was indeed what I tried in my own game. However, this line tends to lead to a position where White has a material advantage but Black's active pieces and opposite colored bishops make it difficult to convert. 17.Nc3 Nc7 18.dxe6 (18.Bc6 Rab8 19.Nfe4

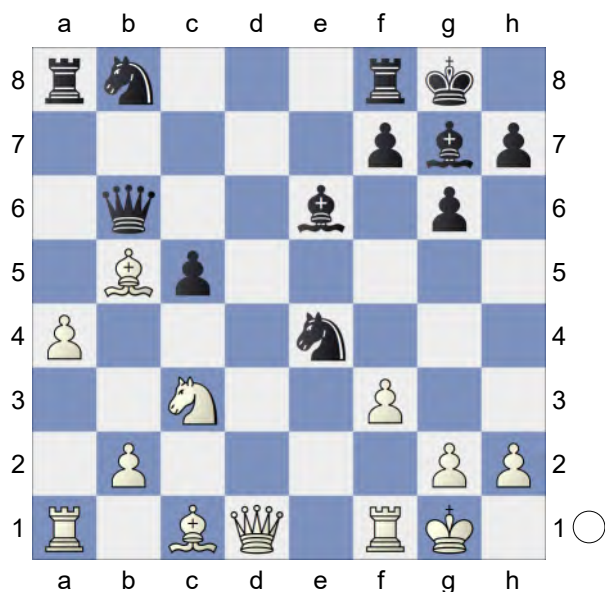
Bd4+ 20.Kh1 Nxd5 21.Nxd5 Bxd5
22.Bxd5 Rxd5; 18.Nfe4 Bd4+ 19.Kh1
Nxd5) 18...Rxd1 19.exf7+ Kxf7
20.Raxd1 Bxc3 21.bxc3 Nxb5
22.axb5 Qxb5 23.Ne4]

14.Nc3 dxe4

[An important alternative is: 14...d4
15.Ne2 Ne8 (15...Na6 16.Nf4)
16.Nf4 Nd6 17.Nxe6 fxe6 18.Bd3
(18.Be2 1/2-1/2 (41) Meier, G (2646) -
So, W (2677) Saint Louis 2012 In the
June 2012 update, Glenn Flear
analyzed: c4) 18...c4 19.e5 Bxe5
20.Qe2 Nd7 21.Bxc4 Nxc4 22.Qxc4
Rfc8 23.Qe2]

15.Nfxe4 The most recent try for an
advantage (and recommended by chess
engines.) It leads to a very sharp
position where Black has strong
compensation due to his active pieces.

15...Nxe4



16.Nxe4 Developing and bringing his
bishop where it can help defend the
weakened e1-h4 dark squares.

16...Bd4+! Black immediately attacks
White's center in view of the somewhat
precarious position of White's king.

[16...c4+ 17.Kh1 Na6 18.Bd2 Nc7

19.Bc3 Nxb5 20.axb5 Rad8 21.Qc1
Qxb5 22.Nf6+ Kh8 23.Ra5 Qb3
24.Qf4± but White later went astray in
the ending and lost 0-1 (68) Sandipan,
C (2590)-Adhiban, B (2547) Moscow
2013]

17.Kh1 Places the queen in what seems
to be a less vulnerable position.

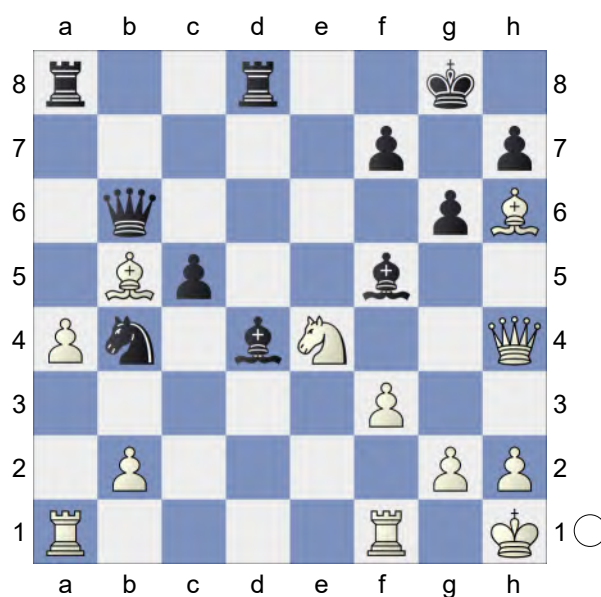
17...Nc6! However, Black insists on
drawing the queen back to the line of
fire and activating his rook. This also
makes a possible castling queenside
look less inviting.

[17...Na6 18.Bh6 Rfd8 19.Qe1
Bxb2 20.Rb1 Bd4 21.a5 Qc7
22.Qh4]

18.Bh6 Rfd8 19.Qe1 White's queen is
forced back to a passive square far from
the action on the kingside. **19...Nb4**

[19...Na7 20.Qh4 Bd5 (20...Nxb5+
21.Nf6+ has the merit of strengthening
White's control of the weakened dark
squares. However, White's queen is
vulnerable to attack. Kh8 22.Bf8 h5
23.Qg5) 21.a5 Qe6 22.Bd3]

20.Qh4 Bf5



21.Bg5 Rd5

[21...Rf8 22.Bc4]

22.Bc4 Rd7 23.Rad1 Nc2 24.b3
 Here Ding Liren bails out of this sharp position with a draw by repetition.

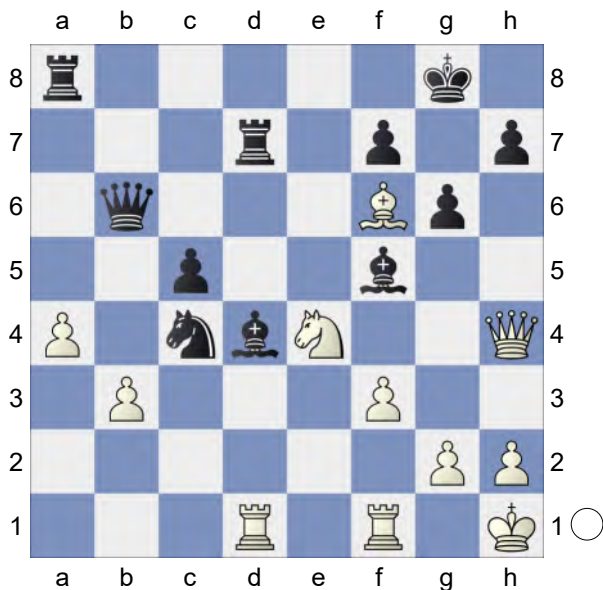
[24.Rxd4 Rxd4 (24...Nxd4 25.Nf6+ Qxf6? **Certainly not: 26.Bxf6?**)
 25.Qh6 Rd6 (25...Rxe4 26.fxe4)
 26.Bxf7+ Kxf7 27.Qxh7+ Ke6 28.g4
 Rad8 (28...Bxe4 29.Qe7+ Kd5
 30.Qxe4#) 29.gxf5+ gxf5= 30.Nc3]

24...Na3 25.Bf6

[25.Rxd4]

25...Nxc4

[25...Bxe4 26.Rxd4 (26.Bxd4 cxd4
 27.Qxe4 Rad8) 26...cxd4 27.fxe4
 Nxc4 28.Qh6 Qxf6= 29.Rxf6 d3?
 30.Rf1 Re8 31.Qh3 (31.bxc4 d2)
 31...Ne5] $\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$



26.Rxd4 Nd6 27.Qh6

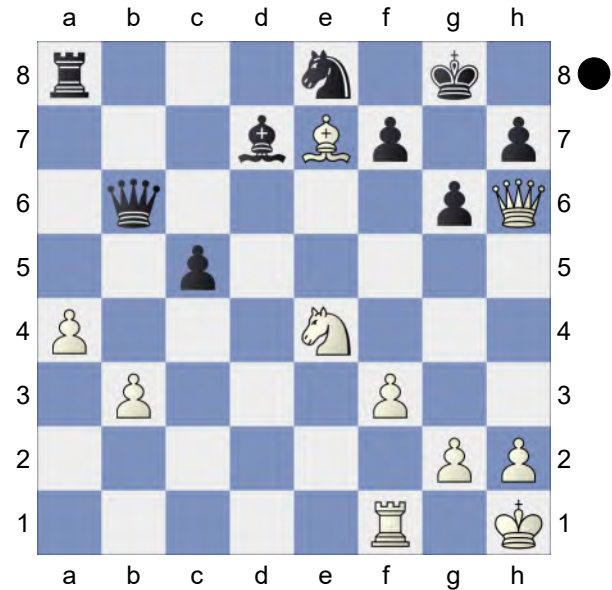
[27.Qxh7+ Kxh7 28.Ng5+ Kg8
 29.Rh4]

27...Ne8 Preventing Black from entering
 with the queen on g2. **28.Rxd7 Bxd7**

[28...Nxf6 29.Rd6]

29.Be7

(Diagram)



28

□ So, Wesley

■ Wei, Yi

chess.com (m/7-bltz) 137/(4)

[Bozic, Vitomir]

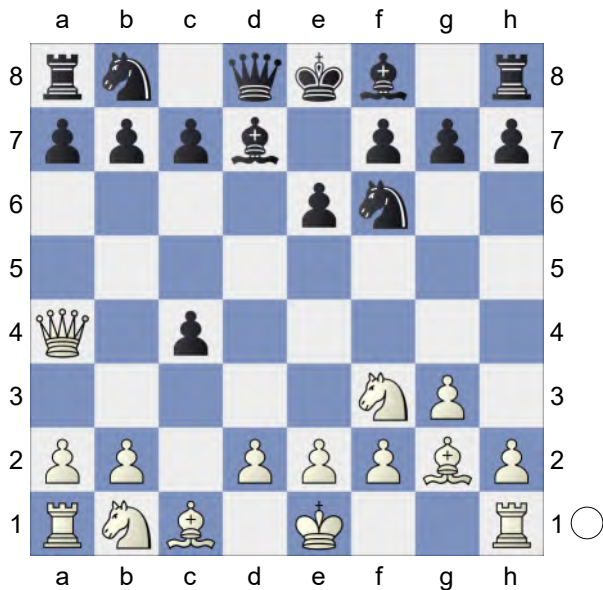
A13

2780

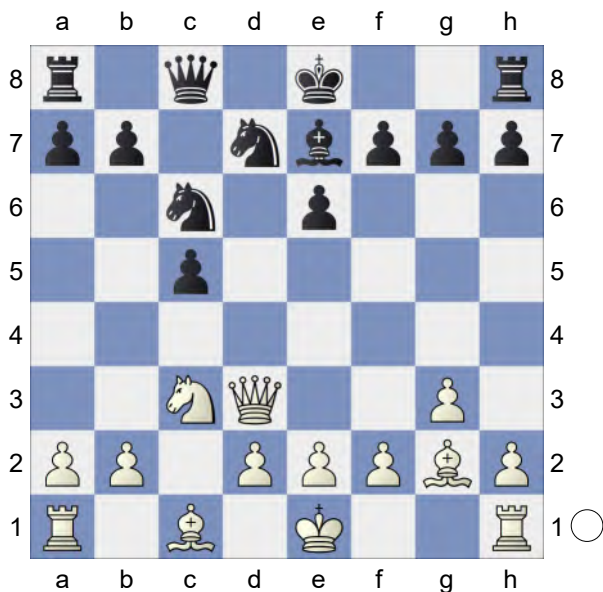
2729

2018

1.c4 e6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.Nf3
dxc4 5.Qa4+ Bd7

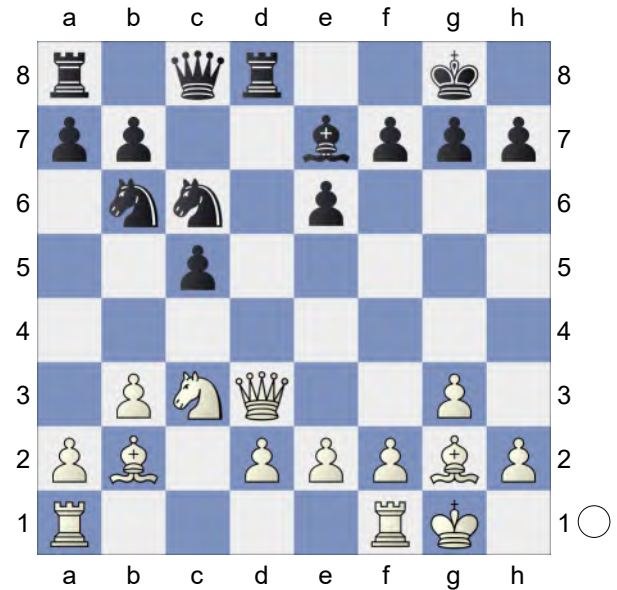


6.Qxc4 c5 7.Ne5 Qc8 8.Qd3 Nc6
9.Nxd7 Nxd7 * 10.Nc3 Be7



11.0-0 0-0 12.b3N
[12.Qb5 - 137/(4)]

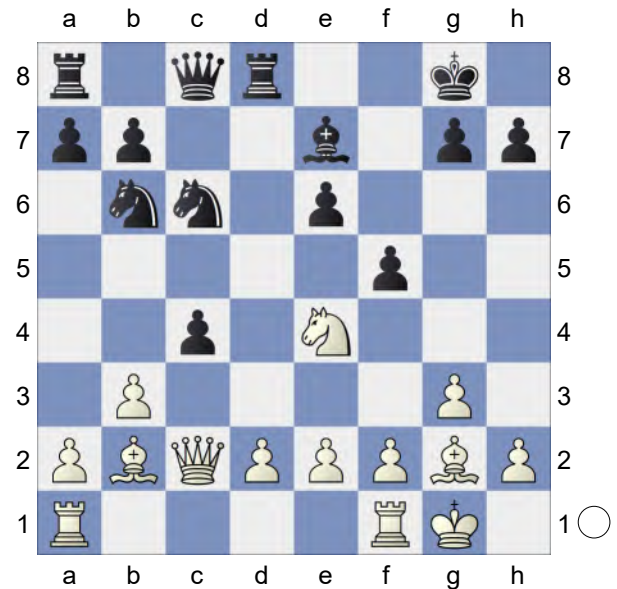
12...Rd8 13.Bb2 Nb6 Diagram



14.Qc2

[14.Qe3±]

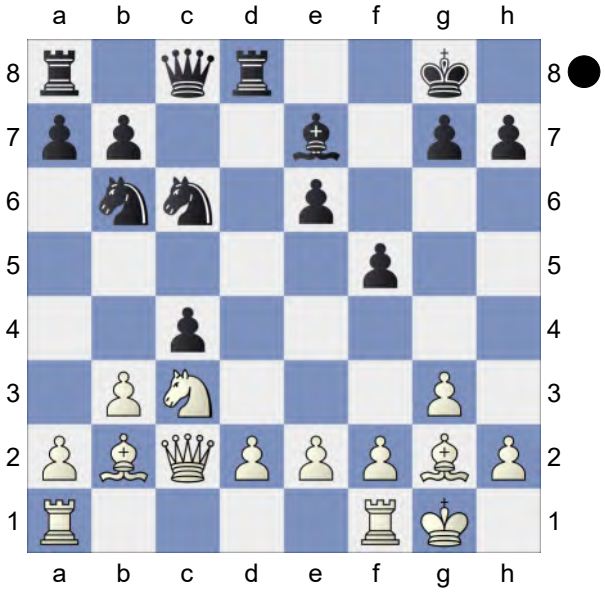
14...c4 15.Ne4 f5



16.Nc3

[16.Nc3 Bg5∞]

(Diagram)



311

□ Wei, Yi

■ Gao, Rui

Chiva

[Bu, Xiangzhi]

B90

2700

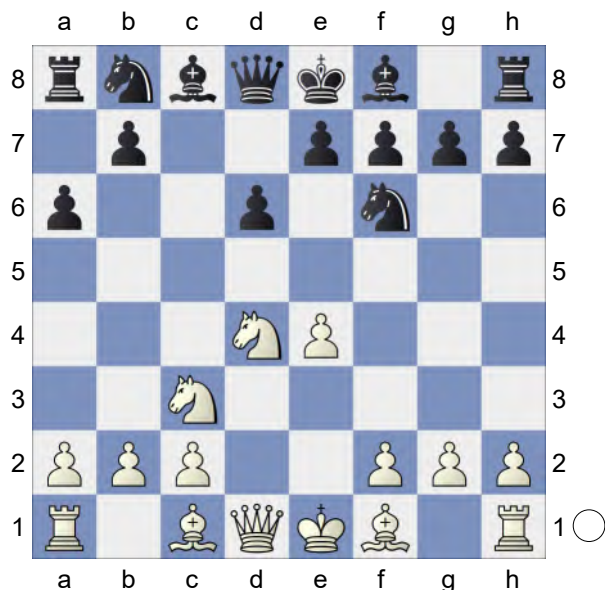
2552

2016

GET TO KNOW THE CHINESE LEAGUE! The Chinese Chess League is getting stronger every year, attracting more and more foreign players. But still it is not very well known in the international chess community. In this article I want to take a closer look at this very interesting tournament with the readers. While the first part will help you get an idea of the event, the second part is a selection of chess material from the 2016 edition. The Chinese Chess League has been successfully running for 12 years now. It contains 12 teams, the 2 teams ranked last are dropped down to Division B, while the 2 top teams from Division B are upgraded. Division A developed from one round-robin to a double round-robin, from one rapid game each team to an almost classical time control and from 10 to 12 teams (22 rounds!). Now we even have a very well-managed and strong Division B, which also attracted top foreign players. Young and talented Chinese players can gain a lot of experience in the League by playing against very famous competition, which is a big opportunity for them. In Division A each team is composed of five players and two reserves. The maximum number of Chinese players that can be registered for the team is seven, but there is no limit for registering foreigners. Boards 1-3 are male players, while Boards 4-5 are female players, plus one reserve

each. In the male and female sections, the board order can change. When two foreign competitors have played, the hosting team's foreign player will move automatically to the next board to give Chinese local players more chances to play with foreigners. There are normally six sessions: Among each session there are three to four rounds of games. Two match points are granted for a win and one for a draw. The time control is 90 minutes plus 30 seconds per move for the whole game. Each round starts at 1 pm and the Zero Tolerance rule applies. To assure the quality of the games, we also require the Sofia rule (draw offer after 30 moves only). The 2016 Chinese Chess League took place in Shen Zhen from April to December. For an idea of how strong the league is, it will be enough to mention that there were 12 players with an Elo rating of 2700 and higher. The winner of the 2016 edition was the Shanghai Team, composed of the following players: Ni Hua, Zhou Jianchao, Lou Yiping, Xu Yi, Ju Wenjun and Zhang Xiaowen from China, reinforced by Pentala Harikrishna, Dmitry Andreikin and Anna Zatonskih. I played for the Shandong Team that earned third place. I will start with our biggest hope, his name is Wei Yi! He is currently the youngest grandmaster in China, and his games are always interesting. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6** Diagram

(Diagram)



6.Nb3!? One of the features of Wei Yi is his approach to the openings. In this game he chooses a line that is not common in the Najdorf, but it is a new and interesting idea. White removes the knight from d4 before Black can play ... e5, threatening it. This makes Black unable to follow the normal routine in the variation. **6...e6**

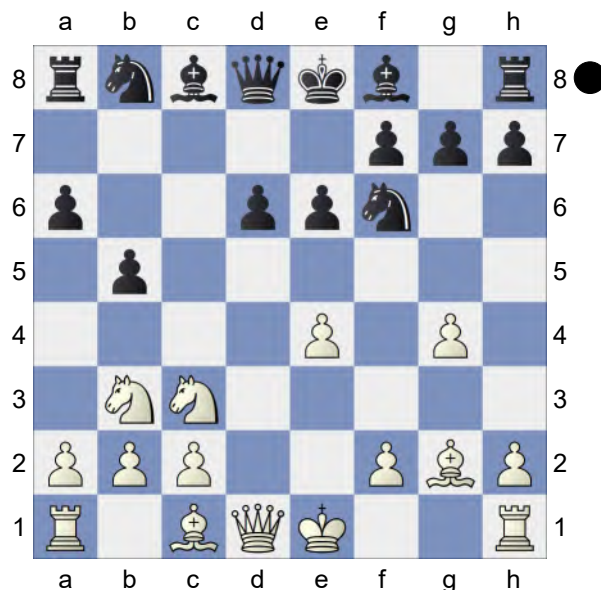
[Playing the normal 6...e5 wouldn't do any good now, as it enables White to pin the f6-knight and take control over the d5square. 7.Bg5 Be7 8.Qd3↑. Also, White can decide to develop his bishop through g2.]

[I think Black should consider playing with 6...g6, arriving at a Sicilian Dragon structure, where ...a6 can also be useful. 6...g6!? 7.Be3 Bg7 8.Be2 (8.f3 0-0 9.Qd2 Nc6 10.0-0-0) 8...0-0 9.0-0 Nc6∞]

[RR6...Nbd7 Kanarek, Marcel 2532 - Wojtaszek, Radoslaw 2713, Polska (ch) 2016 - 128/75]

7.g4 b5 8.Bg2 Diagram

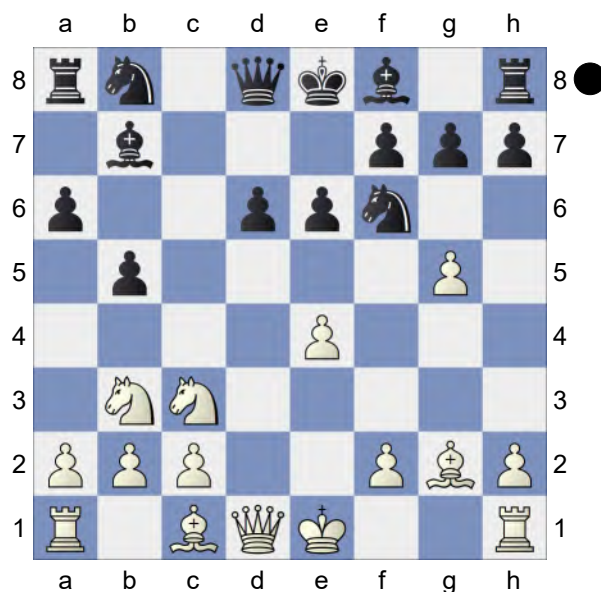
(Diagram)



8...Bb7

[If Black tries to drive away the white knight prior to attacking e4 his lack of development will result in a strong white attack. 8...b4 9.e5 d5 10.exf6 bxc3 11.0-0 Qxf6 12.bxc3 Ra7 13.Rb1→]

9.g5 Diagram



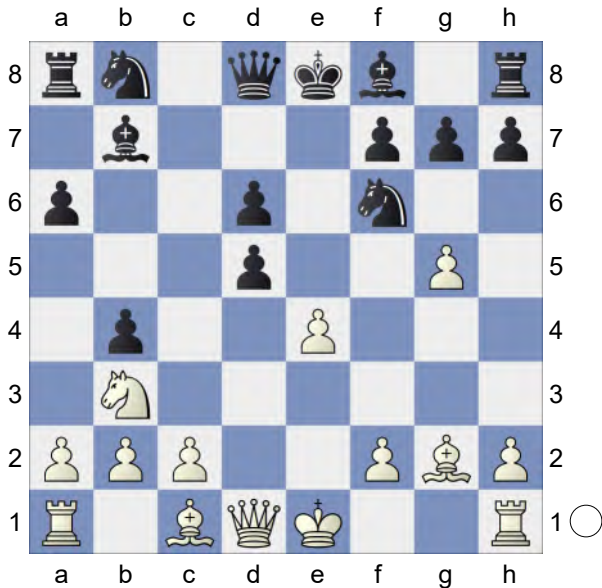
9...b4 A delicate decision in this variation. It would have been better to finish the development first.

[9...Nfd7 10.0-0 (10.Be3 Nc6 11.f4 Nb6) 10...Nc6 11.f4 Be7↗]

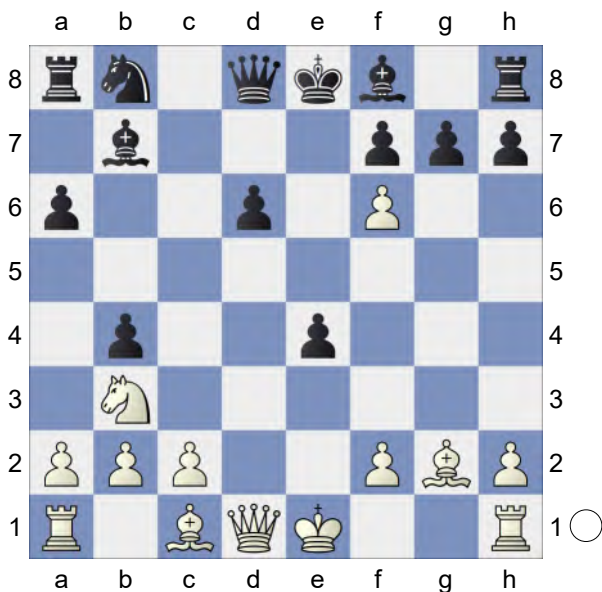
10.Nd5 exd5N

[10...Nxd5 11.exd5 e5 12.a3±

This is why pushing the b-pawn too early is not good. And the bishop on b7 is badly placed. RR Bartel, Mateusz 2625 - Wojtaszek, Radoslaw 2713, Polska (ch) 2016]



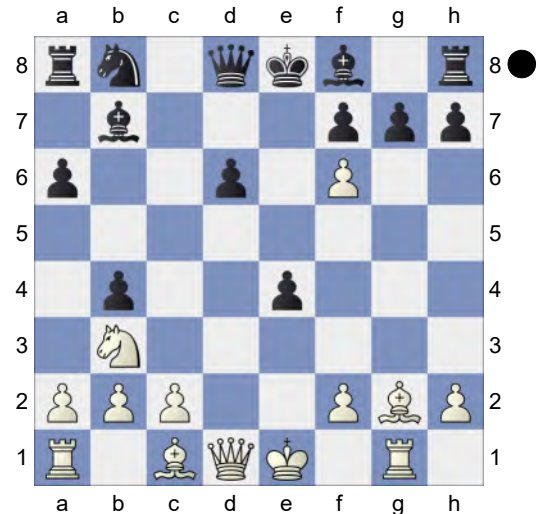
Black has no time to keep the position closed. **11.gxf6 dxe4** Diagram



12.Qg4!? White's f6-pawn is like poison in Black's territory. Black has to deal with it at once, but whichever path he

may chose, it will always cause some problem.

[Now White forces Black to take this poison, but I prefer 12.Rg1 Diagram



gxf6 (12...Qxf6 13.Na5 Bc8 14.Bxe4 Ra7 15.Be3±; 12...Rg8 13.Bh3 Nd7 14.Bxd7+ Qxd7 15.Bh6 g6 16.Bxf8 Rxf8 17.Qd4) 13.Qh5↑ Compared to the actual game, Black suffers even more.]

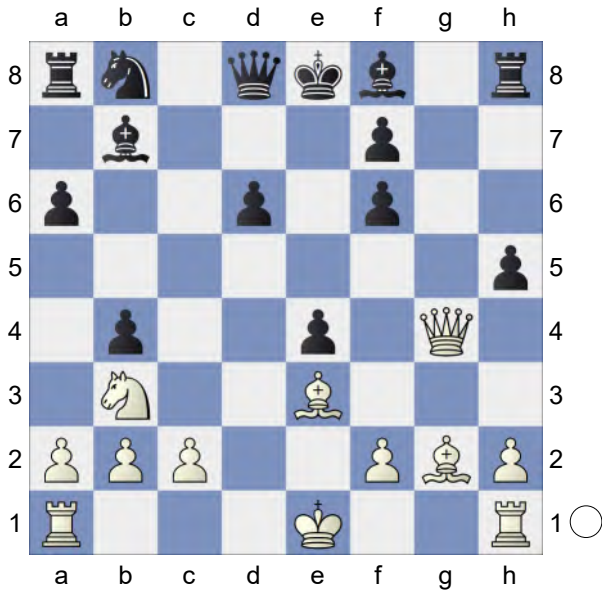
[12.Be3 gxf6 (12...Nd7 13.fxg7 Bxg7 14.Qxd6 Bxb2 15.Rd1 Bc3+ 16.Bd2 Ne5 17.Bxc3 Qxd6 18.Rxd6 bxc3=) 13.Qh5 Rg8 14.Bh3 Nc6 15.0-0-0→ Van Foreest, Jorden 2615 - Van Wely, Loek 2667, Nederland (ch-rapid) 2016]

12...gxf6 It is better to take with the queen. White gains some activity, but Black's pawn structure and king safety are guaranteed.

[12...Qxf6 13.Na5 Bd5 (13...h5 14.Qg5 Bc6 15.Nxc6 Qxg5 16.Bxg5 Nxc6 17.Bxe4±) 14.Qc8+ Qd8 15.Qxd8+ Kxd8 16.Be3±]

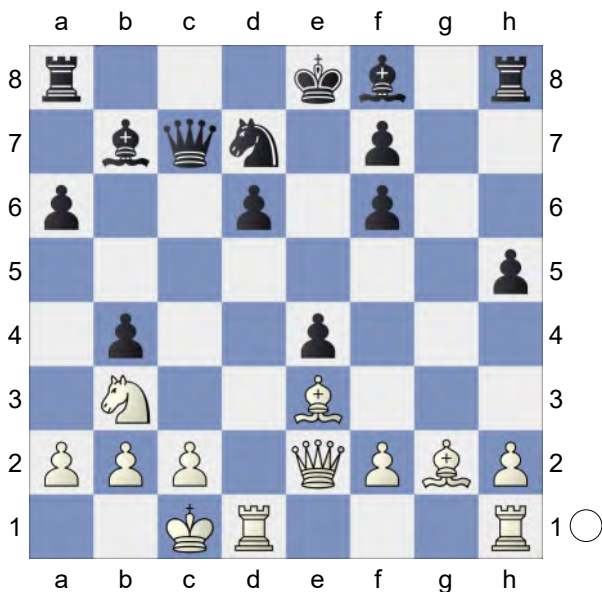
13.Be3 h5 Diagram

(Diagram)

**14.Qe2**

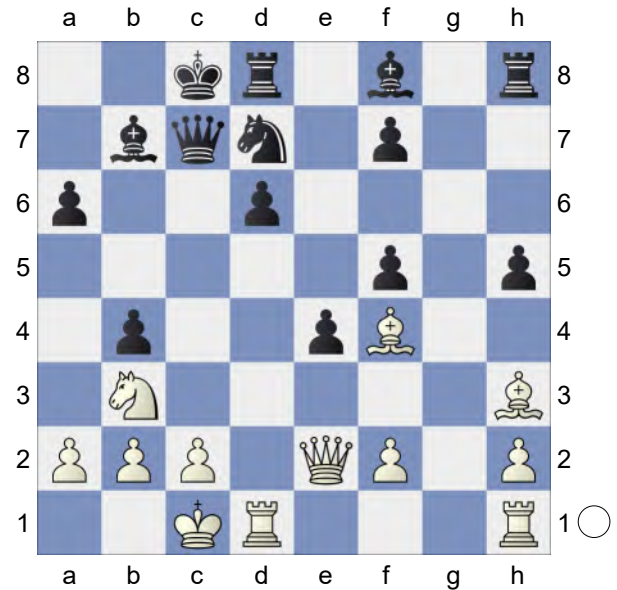
[Yi did not give Rui the chance to use the white queen and develop his own pieces, like in case of 14.Qf5 Qd7 15.Qxf6 Rg8 16.Rg1±]

14...Nd7 15.0-0-0± White has two pawns less, but Black's pawn structure and piece development are not good. White's position is slightly better.

15...Qc7?!

16.Bf4 f5 17.Bh3 0-0-0 Diagram

(Diagram)

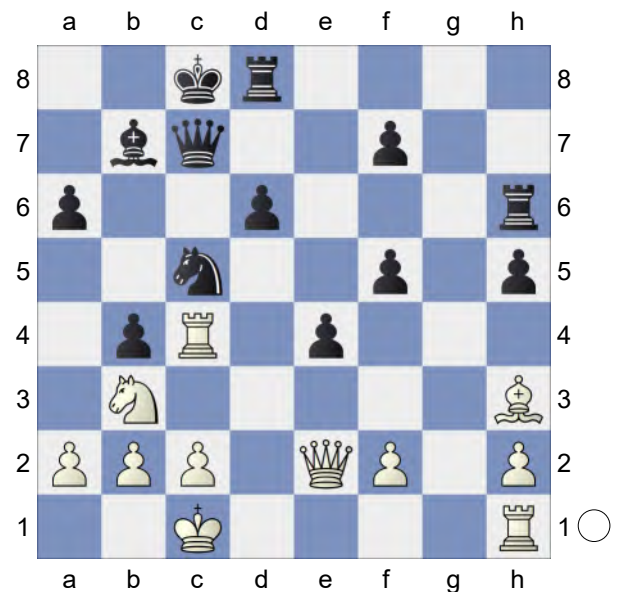


18.Rd4?! White should have taken the pawn first, avoiding to trade the dark square bishop and then starting to attack Black's weaknesses.

[18.Bxf5 Kb8 19.Kb1±]

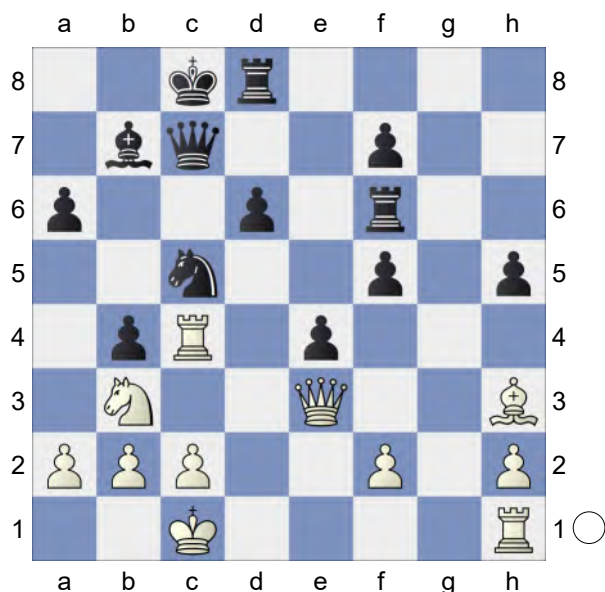
18...Bh6 19.Bxh6 Rxd6 20.Rc4

[Now White can also take the pawn, but this will allow Black to coordinate his pieces. 20.Bxf5 d5±]

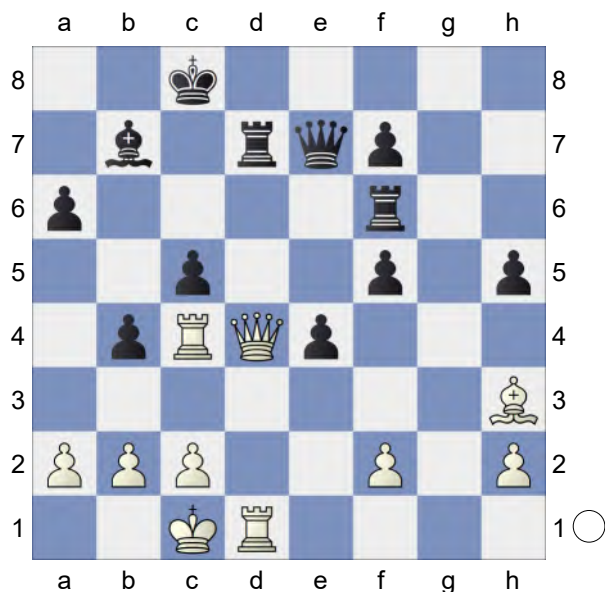
20...Nc5

21.Qe3 Rf6 Diagram

(Diagram)



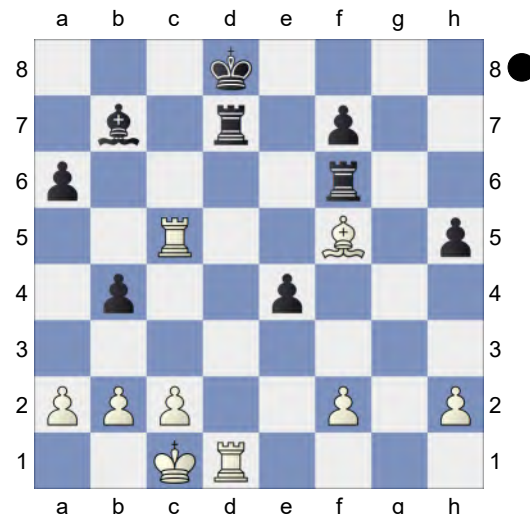
22.Qd4 Qe7 23.Rd1 Rd7 24.Nxc5 dxc5 Diagram



25.Rxc5+?! White chooses to keep pieces for attacking, but overlooks Black's counterplay. He should have entered in a rook and bishop ending, where material is equal, but White has more activity and a better pawn structure:

[25.Qxc5+ Qxc5 26.Rxc5+ Kd8 27.Bxf5 Diagram

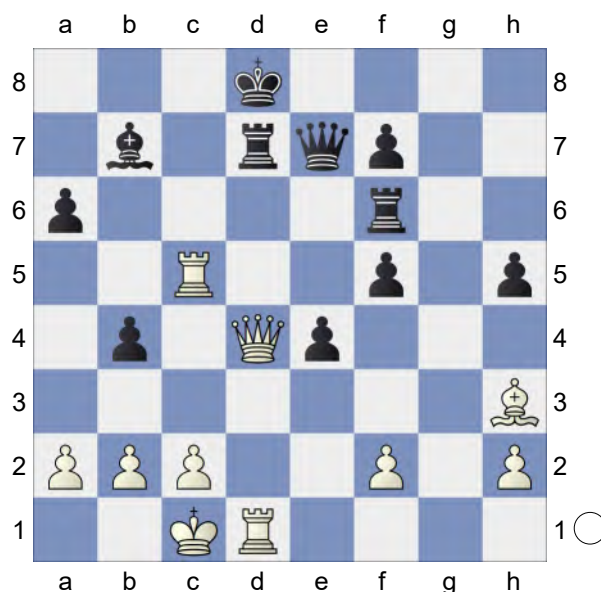
(Diagram)



A) 27...Rdd6 28.Rd2 (28.h4 is ok for White) 28...h4 29.Kd1±;

B) 27...Rxd1+ 28.Kxd1 Ke7 29.Ke2 Kd6 30.Ra5±]

25...Kd8

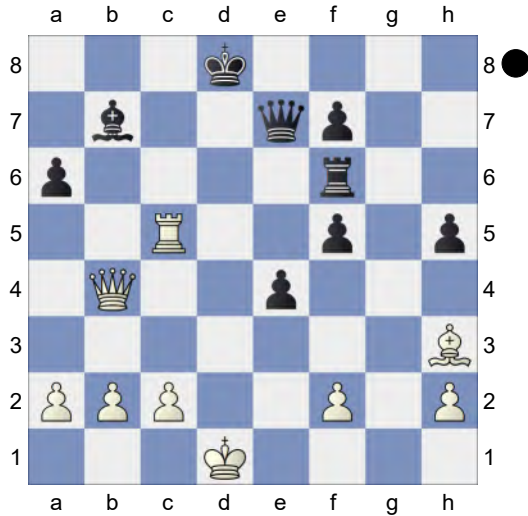


26.Qxb4 Now it is not easy to go into the same ending.

[26.Qxd7+ Qxd7 27.Bxf5 Qd6± and Black's intermediate move prevents the white king from joining the battle.]

26...Rfd6?

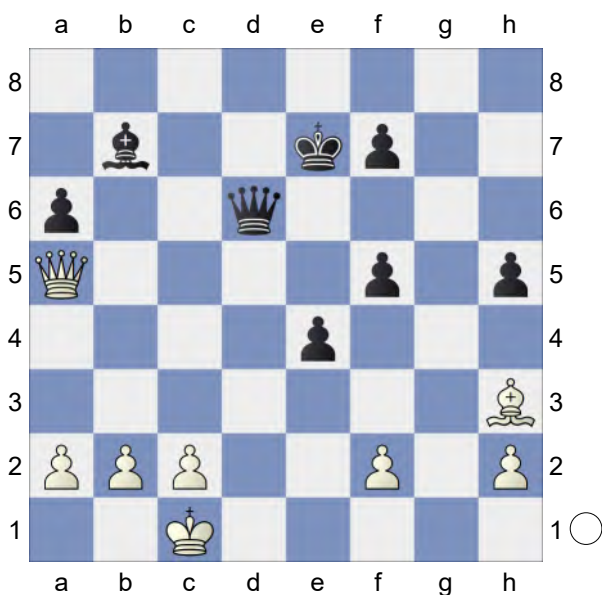
[Black missed a chance to draw: 26...Rxd1+ 27.Kxd1 Diagram (Diagram)



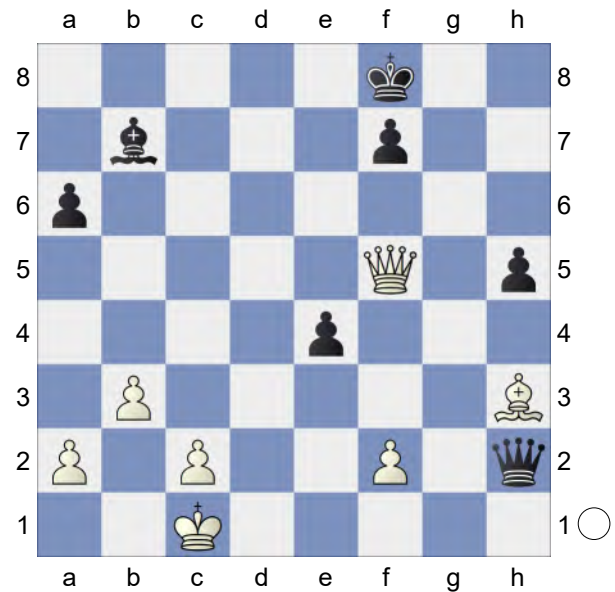
e3! 28.Qa5+ Ke8 29.Re5 Re6
30.Rxe6 Qxe6 31.Qxf5 Qd6+
32.Qd3 Bf3+ 33.Ke1 exf2+ 34.Kf1
Qe5= . Through attacking White's king,
Black reduced some pressure, and
now the position is equal.]
**27.Rxd6 Qxd6 28.Qa5+ Ke8 29.Re5+
Re7**

[If Black avoids the rook exchange, he
will have to trade his queen and enter
into a slightly worse ending: 29...Kf8
30.Qc5±]

30.Rxe7+ Kxe7



31.Qxf5 Qxh2 32.b3 Kf8 Diagram
(Diagram)



33.Kb2?

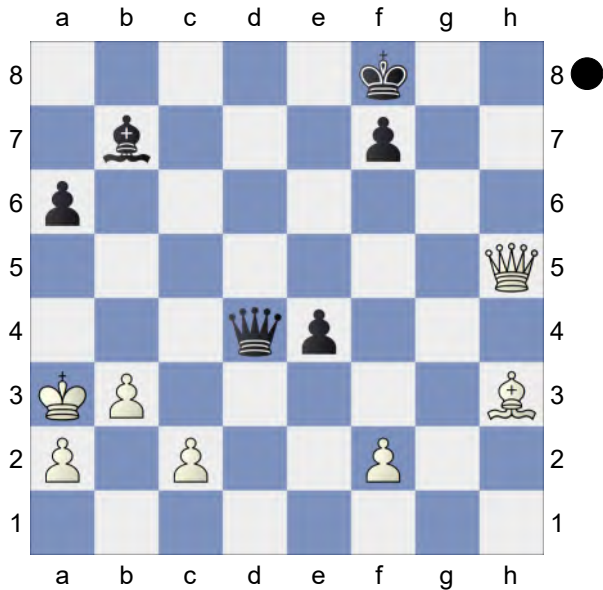
[White does not want to play the pure
queen and pawn ending and gives
Black another opportunity. 33.Qxh5
Qxf2 34.Qh8+ Ke7 35.Qe5+ Kf8
36.Qb8+ Kg7 37.Qxb7 Qe3+ 38.Kb2
Qxh3 39.Qxe4+-]

33...Qd6?!⊕

[Under time pressure, Black chooses
the wrong move. Keeping the h-pawn
would have offered drawing chances:
33...h4□ 34.Qd7 (34.Qc5+ Ke8)
34...Qe5+ 35.Kb1 Qd5=]

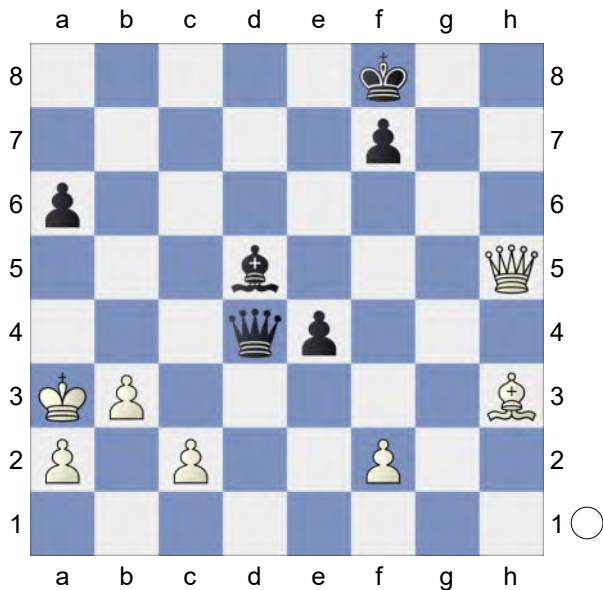
34.Qxh5 Qd4+ 35.Ka3 Diagram

(Diagram)



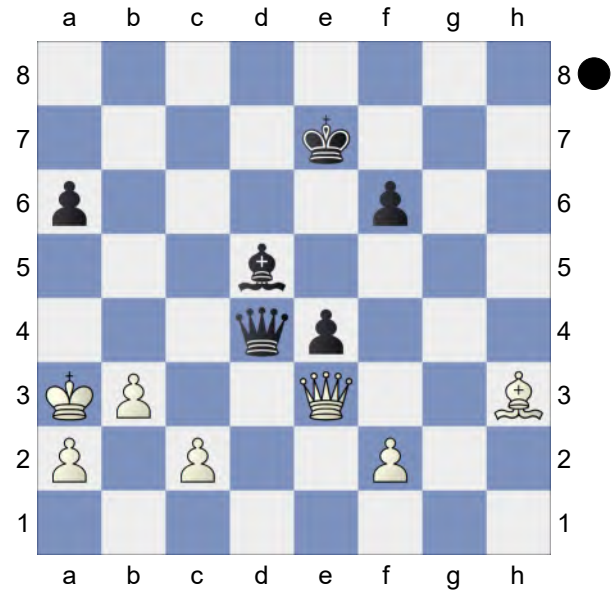
35...Bd5?

[35...Qc3 36.Qh6+ Kg8 37.Qg5+ Kf8 38.Qd8+ Kg7 39.Qb6 Bc6 40.Bf1 Bb5 41.Bxb5 axb5 42.Qxb5 Qxc2±]

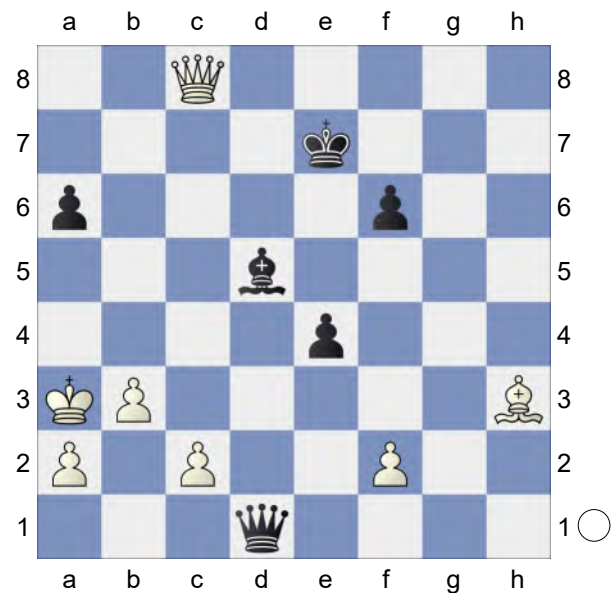


After this move White could stabilize his territory and is heading towards victory. Black should have invaded White's territory, with practical chances for a draw: **36.Qh6+ Ke7 37.Qg5+ f6 38.Qe3+-** Diagram

(Diagram)

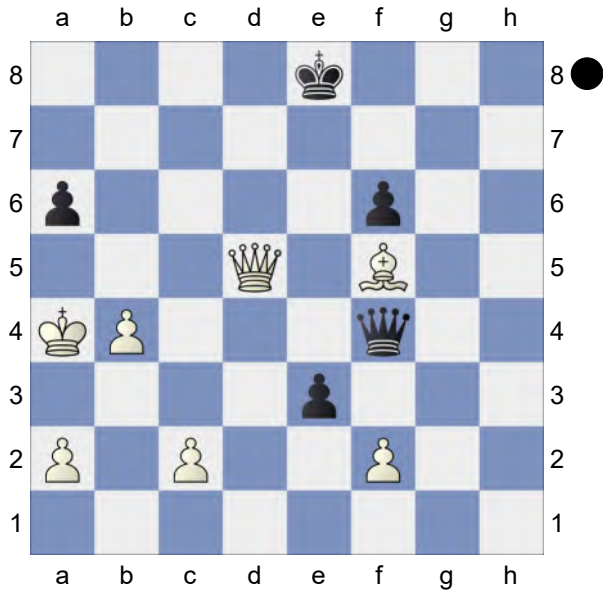


38...Qd1 39.Qc5+ Ke8 40.Qc8+ Ke7



41.Qc5+ Ke8 42.Bf5 Qc1+ 43.Ka4 Qf4 44.Qxd5 e3+ 45.b4

(Diagram)



Black is lost, and after some meaningless checks, he resigns. Wei Yi had some good ideas in the opening, and got an advantage thanks to powerful play. Although he had some inaccuracies later on, he kept attacking and didn't allow his opponent to simplify. On his way to victory he found his opponent's weaknesses and used them well.

1-0

16

□ Ding,Liren

■ Wei,Yi

(m/1) 152/170

[Cabrillo,Goran]

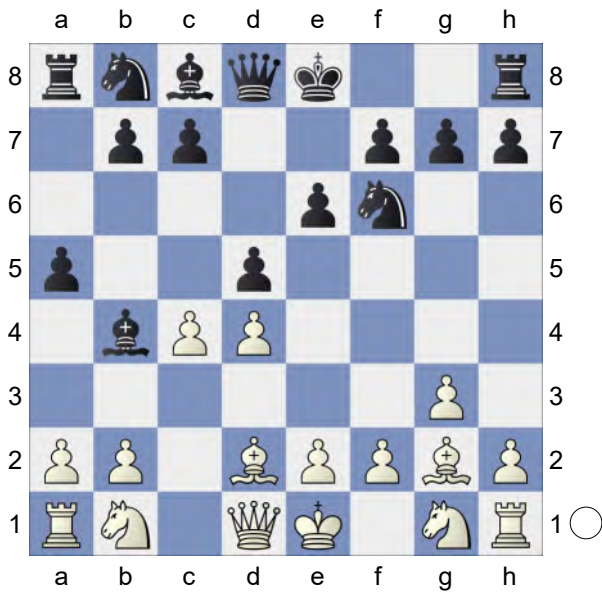
E11

2799

2729

2022

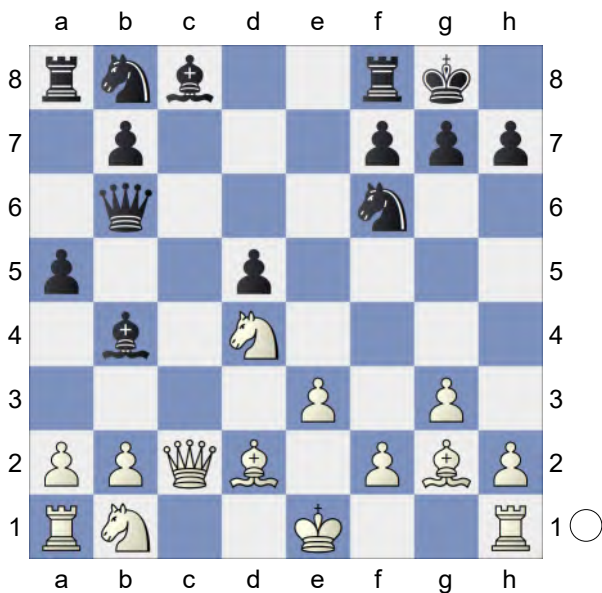
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2
a5 5.Bg2 d5



6.Nf3 0-0 7.Qc2

[7.0-0]

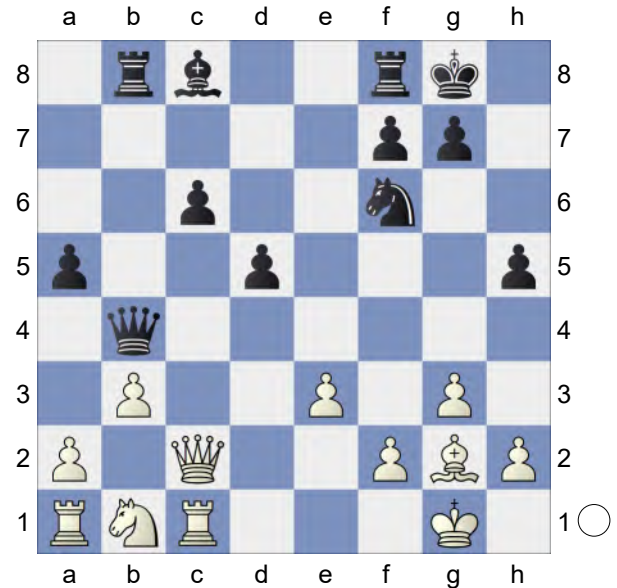
7...c5 8.cxd5 cxd4 9.Nxd4 Qb6 10.e3
exd5



11.0-0 Nc6 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Rc1
Rb8 14.Bxb4

[14.Nc3]

14...Qxb4N 15.b3 h5 Diagram



16.Nc3! h4 17.Ne2 Bd7 18.Nf4± hxg3

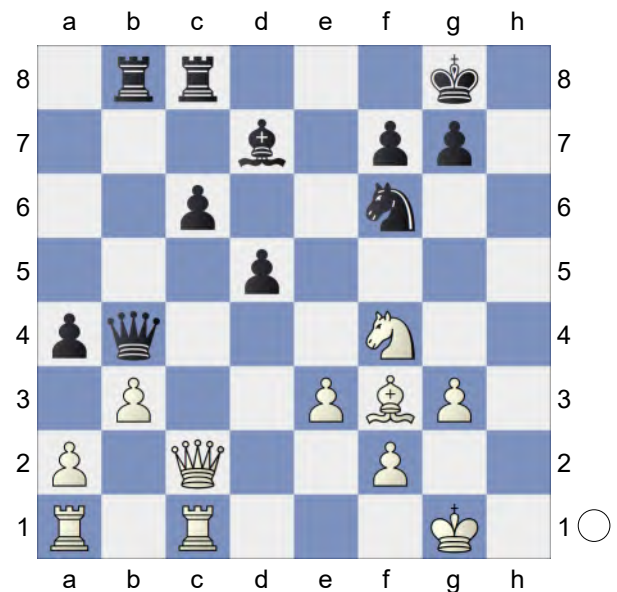
19.hxg3 Rfc8

[19...Rfe8 20.Qc5 Ne4]

20.Bf3

[20.Nd3 Qg4 21.Ne5 Qe6 22.Nxd7!
Qxd7]

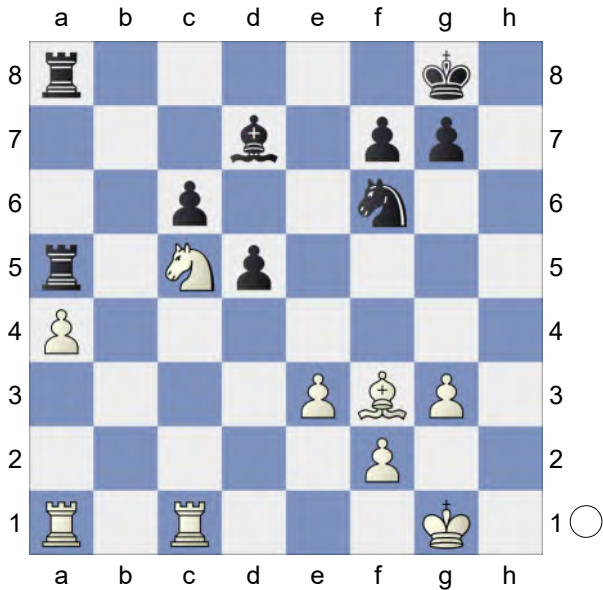
20...a4



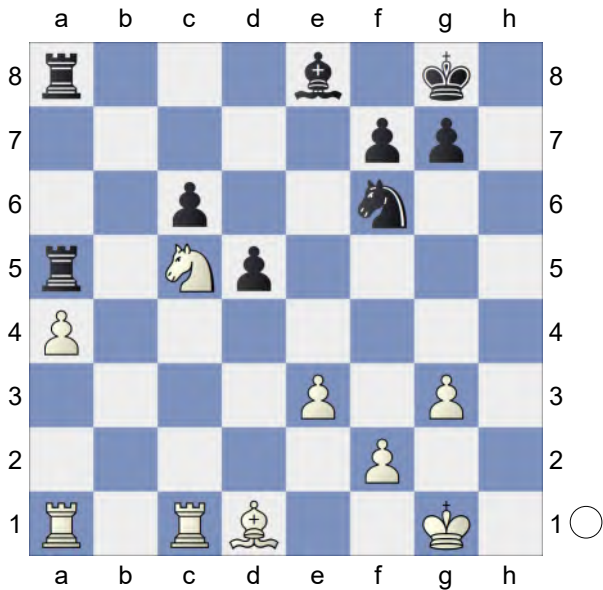
21.bxa4 Ra8 22.Nd3

[22.Bd1]

22...Qxa4 23.Qxa4 Rxa4 24.Nc5
Ra5?! 25.a4 Rca8

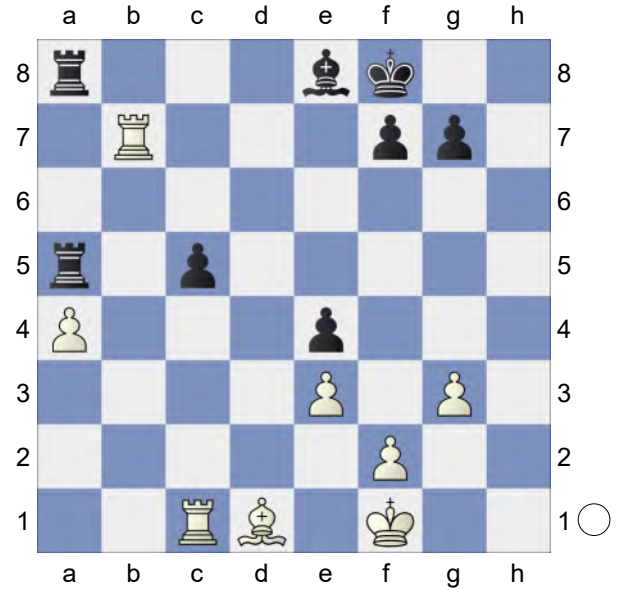


26.Bd1± Be8 Diagram

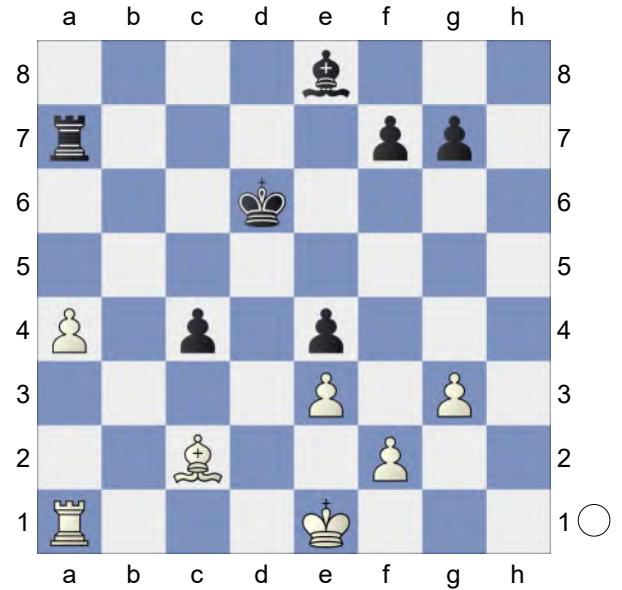


27.Kf1! Kf8 28.Rab1 Ne4 29.Nxe4
dxe4 30.Rb7 c5

(Diagram)

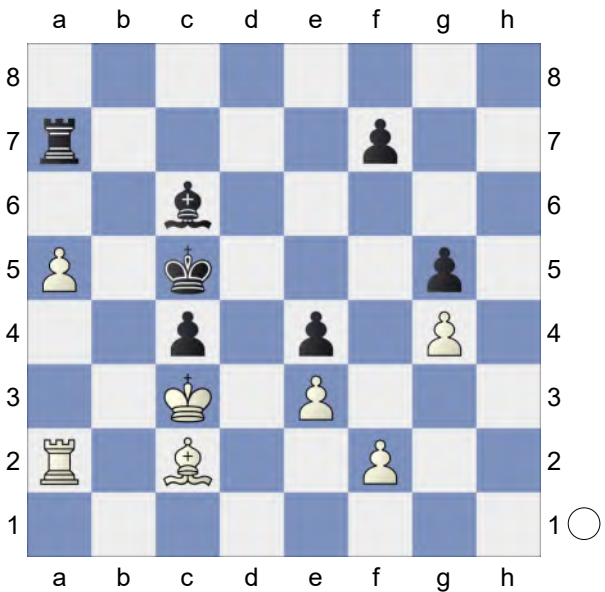


31.Bb3 R5a7 32.Rxa7 Rxa7 33.Ke1
Ke7 34.Ra1 c4 35.Bc2 Kd6

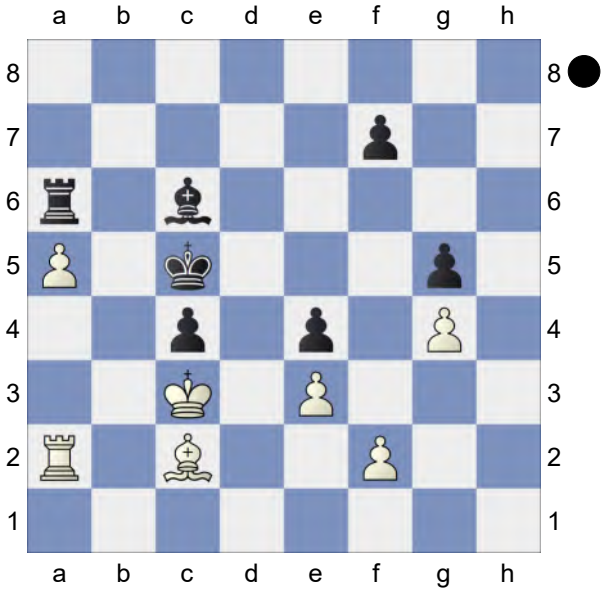


36.Kd2 Kc5 37.Kc3+- Ra6 38.g4 g5
39.a5 Bc6 40.Ra2 Ra7

(Diagram)



41.Ra1 Ra6 42.Ra2



1-0

17

□ Ding, Liren

■ Wei, Yi

(m/1) 152/170

[Cabrillo, Goran]

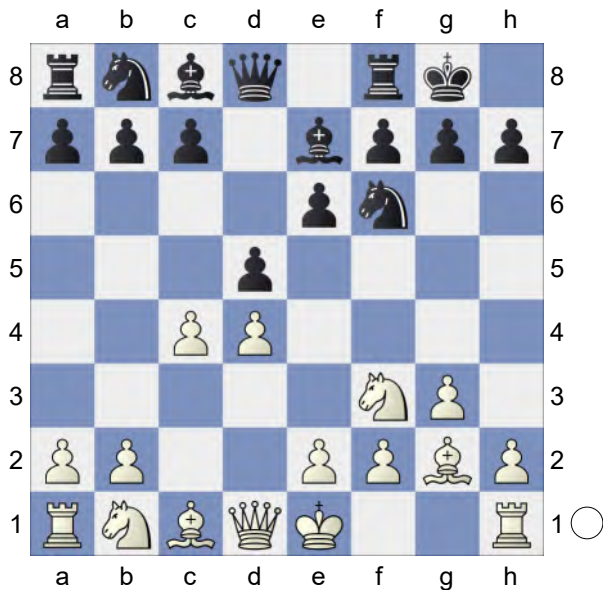
E05

2799

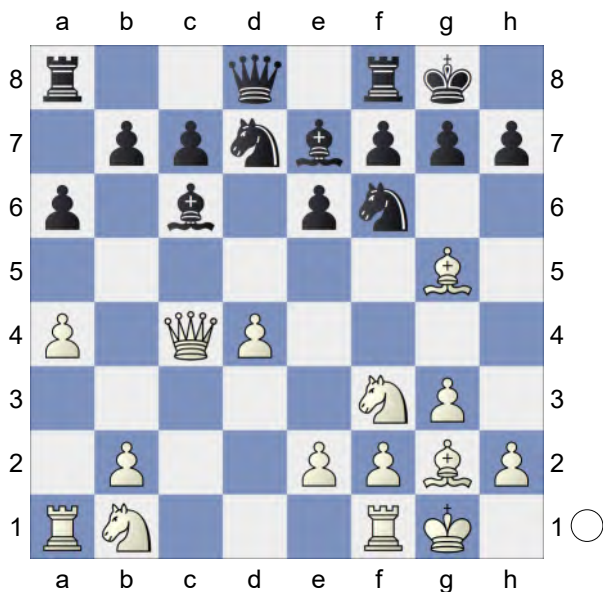
2729

2022

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 Be7
5.Nf3 0-0



6.0-0 dxc4 7.Qc2 a6 8.a4 Bd7
9.Qxc4 Bc6 10.Bg5 Nbd7



11.Rd1 a5

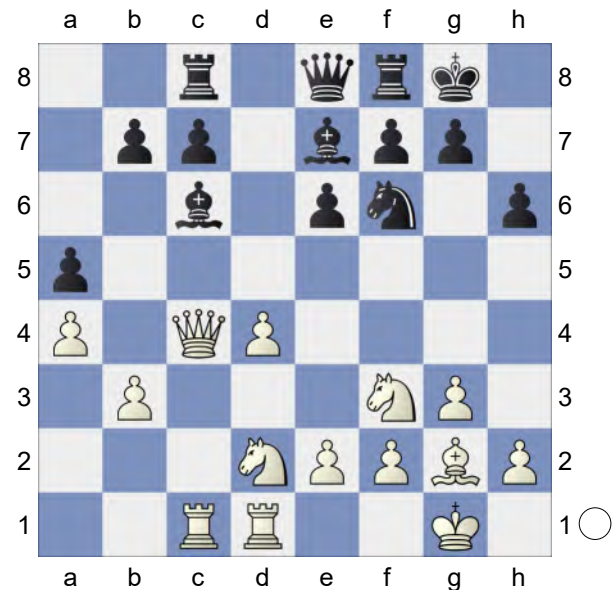
[11...Bd5 - 68/433]

12.Nbd2 h6 13.Bxf6 Nxf6 14.Rac1
Qe8N

[14...Bb4]

15.b3 Rc8 Diagram

[15...Ba3 16.Rc2 Bb4 17.e3 Ne4
18.Qd3 Nxd2 19.Nxd2 Bxg2
20.Kxg2 c5 (20...Bxd2 21.Qxd2 c6
22.Rc5±) 21.Nf3 Rd8 22.Qe2
(22.Qe4 Rd5 23.Rdc1 cxd4
24.Nxd4 Ba3 25.Rc8 Qd7) 22...Qe7
23.dxc5 Bxc5 24.Rcd2 b6 25.Rd3
Rxd3 26.Qxd3 Qb7=]



16.Ne5! Bxg2

[16...Bd5 17.Qd3 Bxg2 18.Kxg2
Bb4 19.Qf3 Nd5 20.Rc2 c6 21.e4
Ne7 22.Ndc4±]

17.Kxg2 c5

[17...c6 18.e3±]

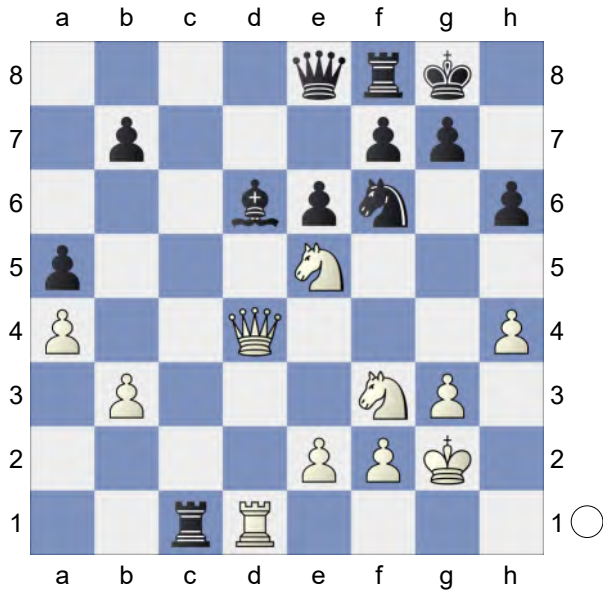
18.Ndf3± Bd6

[18...cxd4 19.Qxd4 Ba3 20.Rc4!
Rxc4 21.Qxc4 Nd5 22.Rd3 Qe7
23.e4±]

19.h4

[19.Nd3 cxd4 20.Qxd4 Ba3 21.Rxc8
Qxc8 22.Ra1! Be7 23.Rc1 Qb8
24.Qb6±]

19...cxd4 20.Qxd4 Rxc1



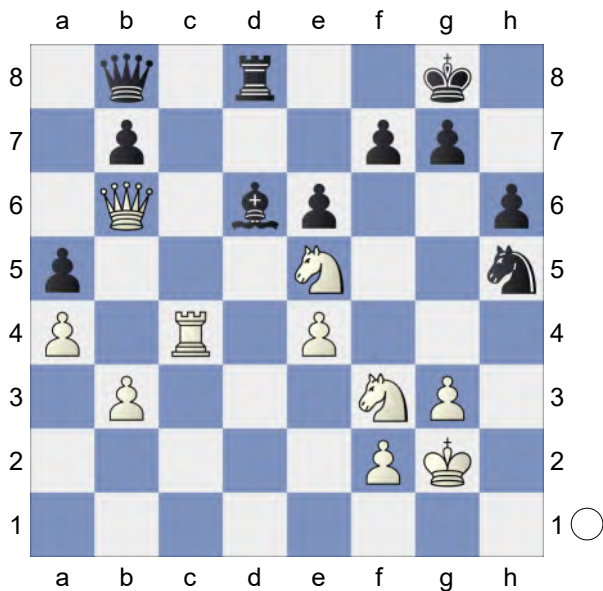
21.Rxc1 Qb8 22.Rc4 Rd8 23.e4

[23.g4!?→]

23...Ne8 24.h5 Nf6?!

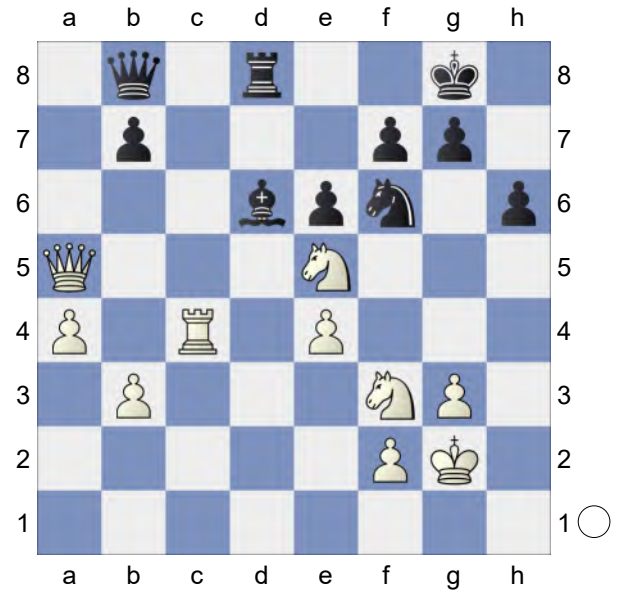
[24...Bb4 25.Qb6±]

25.Qb6 Nxh5

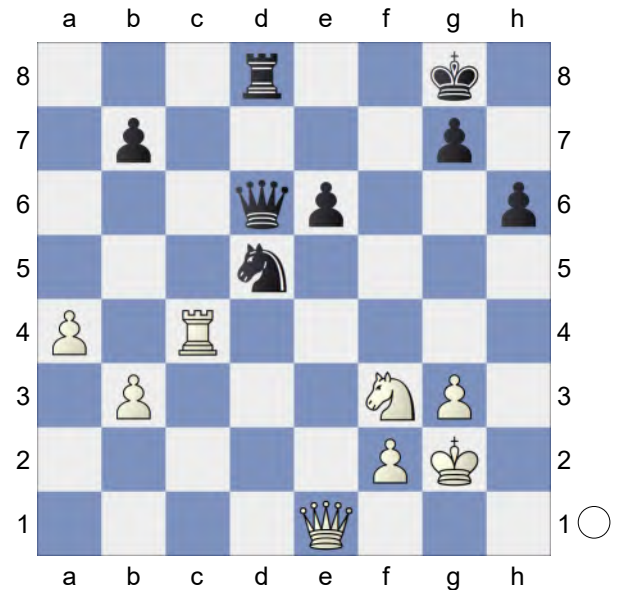


26.Qxa5± Nf6 Diagram

(Diagram)



27.Nxf7! Kxf7 28.e5 Nd5 29.exd6 Qxd6 30.Qe1 Kg8

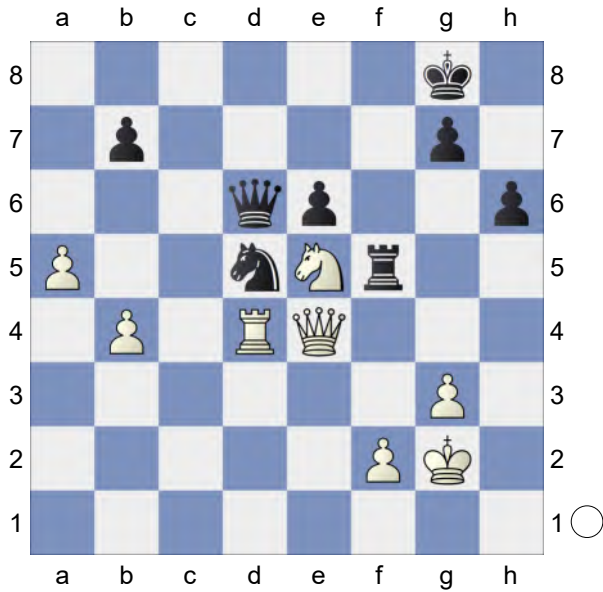


31.Qe4 Re8 32.b4 Nb6

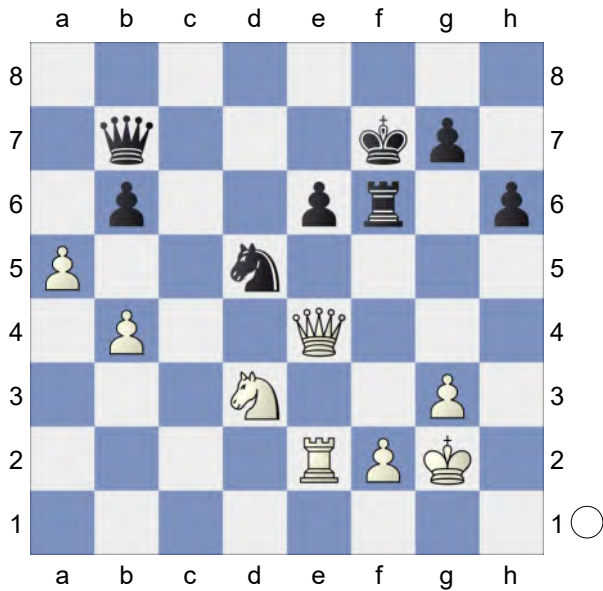
[32...b6 33.a5 bxa5 34.bxa5 Nf6 35.Qc2±]

33.Rd4 Nd5 34.Ne5 Rf8 35.a5 Rf5

(Diagram)

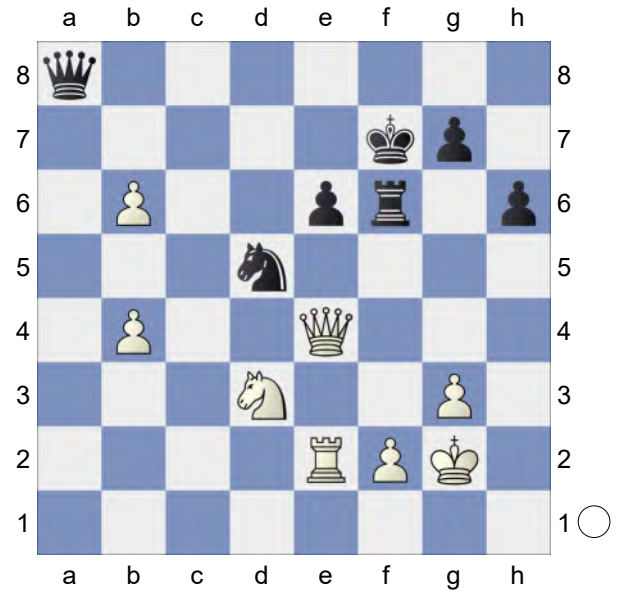


36.Nd3 Qe7 37.Nc5+- Kf7 38.Rd2 b6 1-0
39.Nd3
 [39.Rxd5! Rxd5 40.axb6]
39...Qb7 40.Re2 Rf6



41.axb6 Qa8
 [41...Qa8 42.Ne5+ Kg8 43.Kg1
 Nxb6 44.Ng4]

(Diagram)



446

□ Wei, Yi

■ Shirov, Alexei

FIDE World Cup (2.2)

[ChessBase]

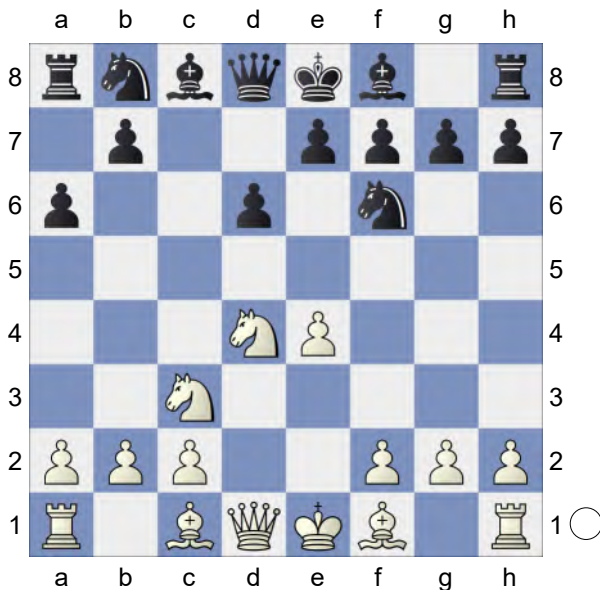
B84

2551

2696

15.08.2013

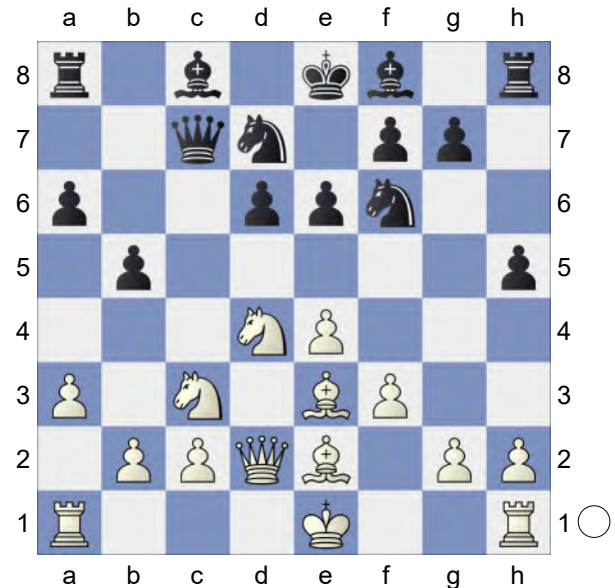
GM Ioannis Papaioannou: 'A successful Bxb5 sacrifice with all the necessary conditions for white!' 1.e4 GM Ioannis Papaioannou GM Ioannis Papaioannou 1...c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6



6.Be3 e6 7.Be2 Qc7 8.Qd2 b5 9.f3 Nbd7 10.a3 h5

[Üblicher ist 10...Bb7 11.0-0-0 d5 12.exd5 Bxd5 13.Bf4 Qb7 14.Nf5 Qb6 15.Rhe1 0-0-0 16.Bg5 Nc5 17.Bxf6 gxf6 18.Qd4 Bc6 19.Qxf6 Nd7 20.Ne7+ Bxe7 21.Qxe7 Rhf8 22.Rd6 Qc7 23.Red1 Rde8 24.Qh4 Nb6 25.Qb4 Kb7 26.a4 bxa4 27.Ne4 Bxe4 28.Rd7 1-0 (28) Shirov, A (2736)-Gelfand, B (2709) Monte Carlo 2004]

[10...Be7 GM Ioannis Papaioannou 11.0-0-0 0-0 12.Bxb5 axb5 13.Ndxb5 Qc6 14.Nxd6 Ba6]



11.0-0-0 Rb8

[11...Be7 GM Ioannis Papaioannou

12.Bxb5 axb5 13.Ndxb5 Qa5

14.Nxd6+ Bxd6 15.Qxd6

A) 15...Qa6?? 16.Qxa6 Bxa6

17.b3 0-0 18.Kb2 Rfb8 19.Bd4

(19.Rd6 Ne5) 19...e5 20.Be3

Nb6 21.Bxb6 Rxb6 22.a4;

B) 15...Ra6 16.Qd2 0-0 17.Kb1

Rc6 18.Nd5 Qxd2 19.Nxf6+ Nxf6

20.Rxd2 Ba6 21.b3 Rfc8 22.Kb2]

12.Bxb5!? Bringt drei Bauern für die

Figur. 12...axb5 13.Ndxb5 GM Ioannis

Papaioannou: 'White wants to trade

queens or keep the more active queen'

13...Qb7 14.Qxd6 Bxd6

[Die Variante hatte Shirov schon mal

auf dem Brett gehabt: 14...Be7

15.Bf4 e5 16.Bxe5 Qxb5 17.Nxb5

Rxb5 18.Qc6 Rc5 19.Qa8 Nxe5

20.b4 Rc4 21.Qa5 Nc6 22.Qb5 Be6

23.Rd5 Rc3 24.Kd2 Nxd5 25.exd5

Bf6 26.dxe6 fxe6 27.Rd1 h4 28.Kc1

0-0 29.Qa6 Nd4 30.Rxd4 Bxd4

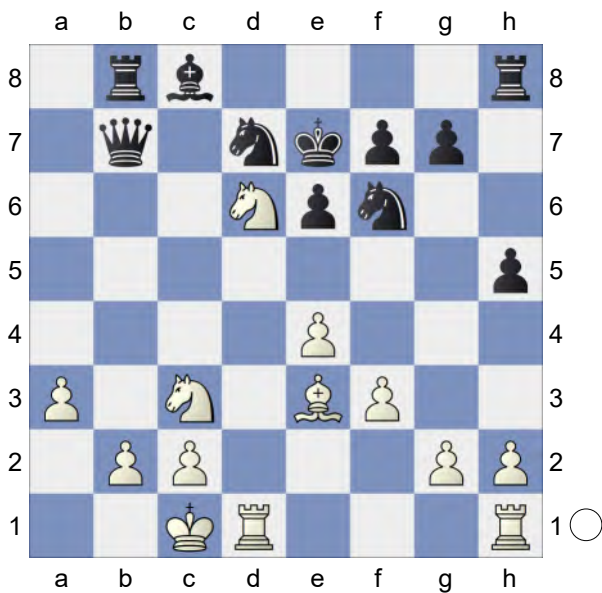
31.Qxe6+ Rf7 32.a4 Re3 33.Qc4

Bc3 34.Kb1 Bf6 35.a5 Rc3 36.Qd5

Ra3 37.Kc1 g6 38.c4 Kg7 39.c5

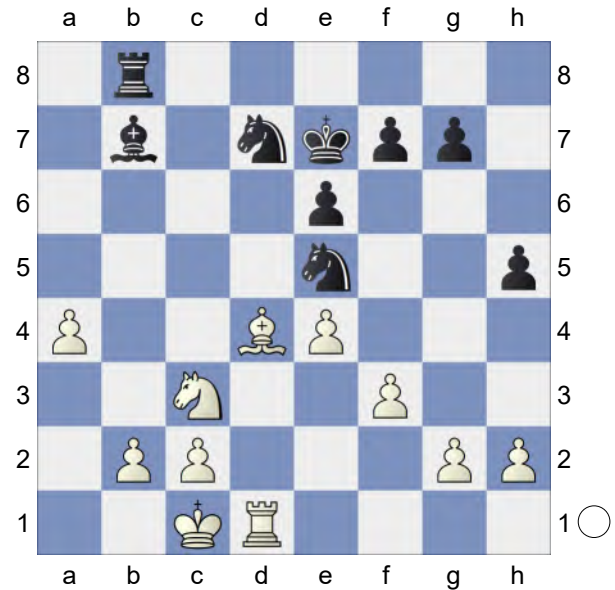
Re7 40.Kd2 Bc3+ 41.Kd3 Bxb4+
 42.Kc4 Bc3 43.c6 Bf6 44.Kb4 Ra1
 45.Qd6 Rb1+ 46.Kc4 g5 47.g3 Re3
 48.Qd7+ Kg6 49.Qd2 Rc3+ 50.Kd5
 Rb5+ 51.Kd6 Rbc5 52.Qa2 Rxc6+
 53.Kd7 Rc7+ 54.Kd6 R3c6+ 55.Kd5
 Rc2 56.Qb1 Kf5 57.g4+ Kg6
 58.Kd6 Kg7 59.Qb5 Be7+ 60.Ke6
 R2c6+ 0-1 (60) Bologan,V (2700)-
 Shirov,A (2705) Edmonton 2005]

15.Nxd6+ Ke7



16.Nxb7 Bxb7= GM Ioannis Papaioannou: 'White is better here because he will start pushing his pawns and his pawn on e4 is well-defended.'
17.Rd4 Rhd8 18.Rhd1 Ne5 19.a4 Rxd4 20.Bxd4 Nfd7

(Diagram)



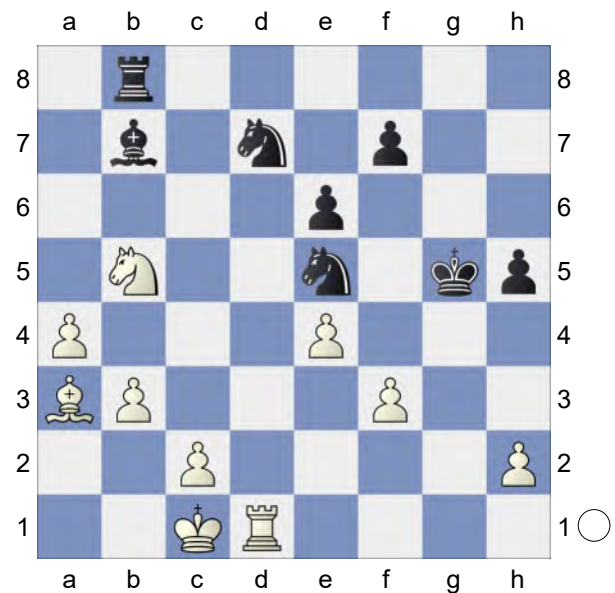
21.b3 GM Ioannis Papaioannou: 'Planning Kb2.'

[21.f4 (GM Ioannis Papaioannou) is bad in principle! White wants a stable situation over there.]

21...g5 22.Nb5= g4

[22...Bc6 23.Na7 (Nach 23.c4 ist g4 24.Bb2 gxf3 25.Ba3+ Kf6 26.gxf3 Nxf3 möglich, denn der Sd7 ist gedeckt. 27.Na7 Nde5) 23...Bb7 24.Nb5=]

23.Bb2 gxf3 24.Ba3+ Kf6 25.gxf3 Kg5

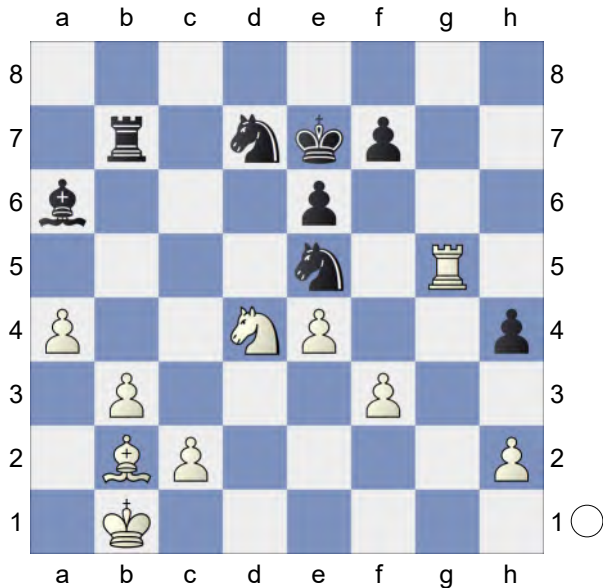


Shirov hatte hier nur noch weniger als eine Minute auf der Uhr und lebte ab jetzt von seiner Zugabezeit. Die Stellung ist zudem nicht einfach zu spielen.

26.Nd4 Ba6 27.Kb1 Rb7 28.Rg1+ Kf6

[28...Kf4 29.Bc1#]

29.Bb2 Ke7 30.Rg5 h4



31.f4 Ng6 32.Nxe6 fxe6

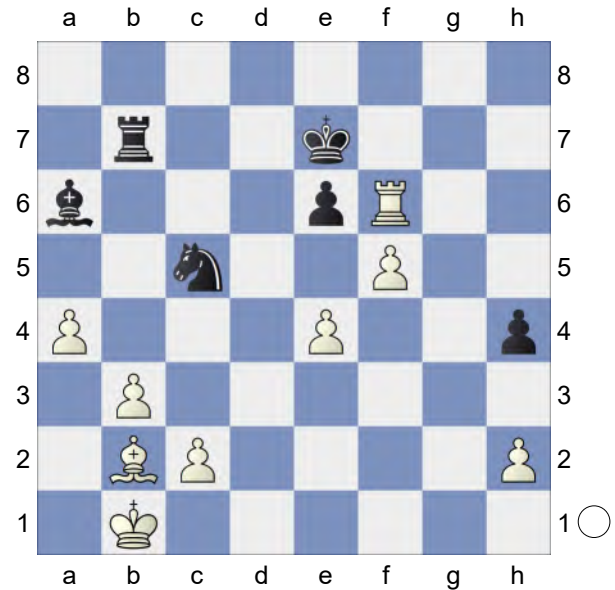
[32...Kxe6 33.f5+ Ke7 34.fxg6 fxg6 35.Rxg6±]

33.Rxg6 Nc5

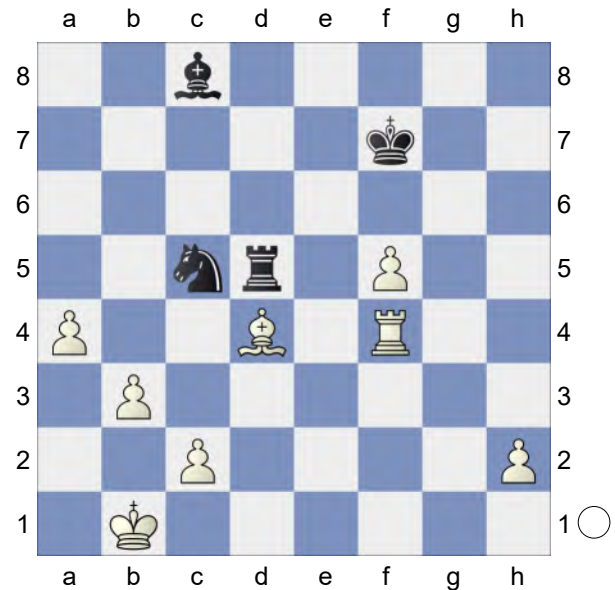
[33...Rb6 34.Rh6 Bb7 35.Ba3+ Kf7 36.Rh7+-]

34.f5+- Kf7 35.Rf6+ Ke7

(Diagram)

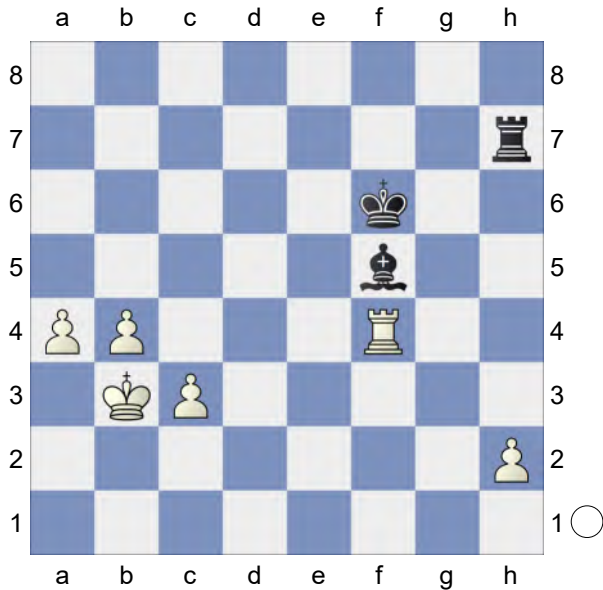


36.Rh6 Kf7 37.Rxh4 exf5 38.exf5 Rd7 39.Bd4 Rd5 40.Rf4 Bc8

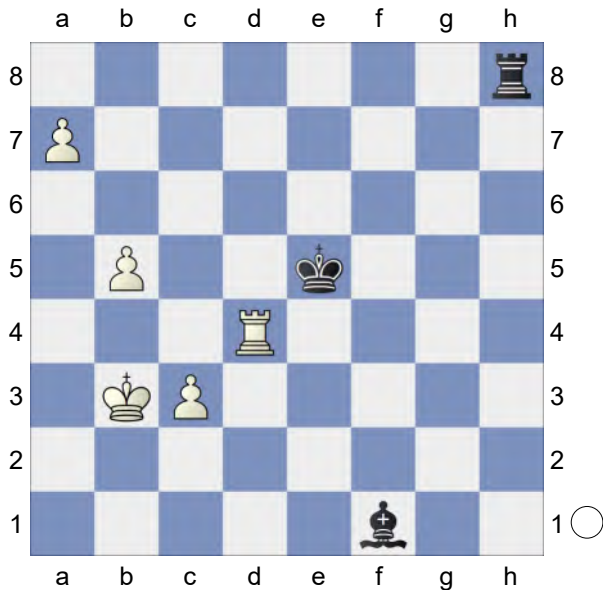


41.Bxc5 Rxc5 42.Kb2 Kf6 43.b4 Rc7 44.Kb3 Bxf5 45.c3 Rh7

(Diagram)



**46.b5 Ke5 47.Rd4 Rxh2 48.a5 Bh3
49.a6 Bf1 50.a7 Rh8**



**51.Kb4 Bg2 52.Rd2 Bf3 53.Ka5 Rc8
54.Rd3**

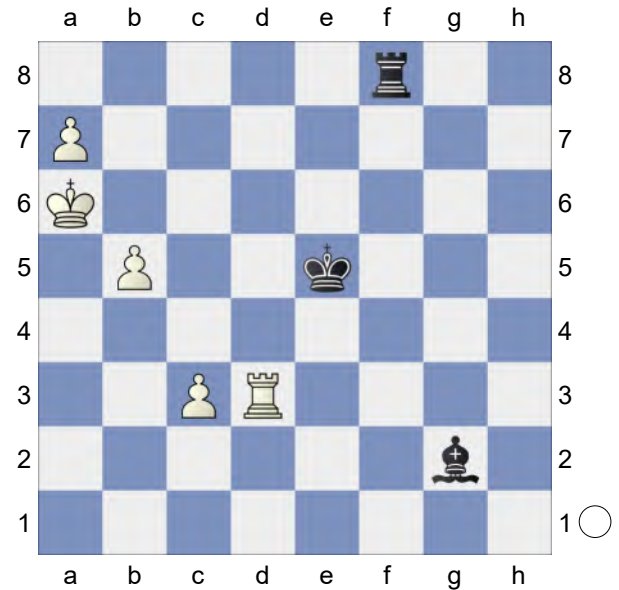
[**Natürlich nicht** 54.b6 Rxc3 55.Rb2
Ra3+ 56.Kb4 Ra1=]

54...Bg2

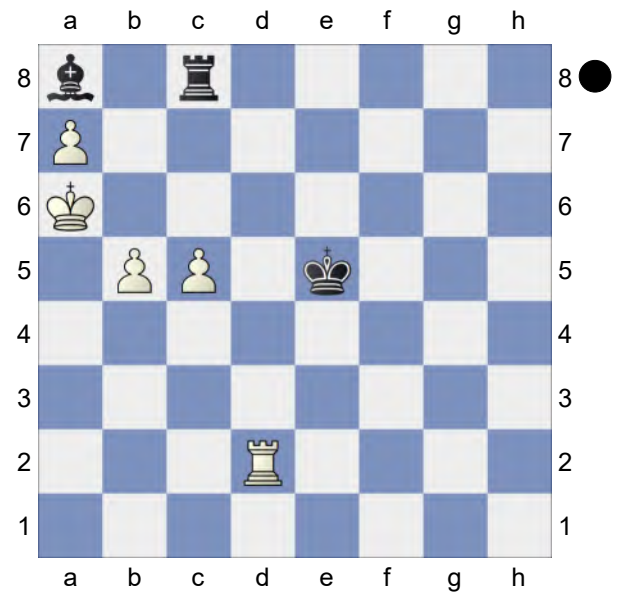
[54...Bb7 55.Kb4 Ba8 56.c4+-]

55.Ka6 Rf8

(Diagram)



**56.Rd2 Ba8 57.c4 Rc8 58.c5
[58.c5 Rxc5 59.Rd8+-]**



1-0

318

□ Wei, Yi

■ Nakamura, Hikaru

Bilbao Masters 9th (8)

[ChessBase]

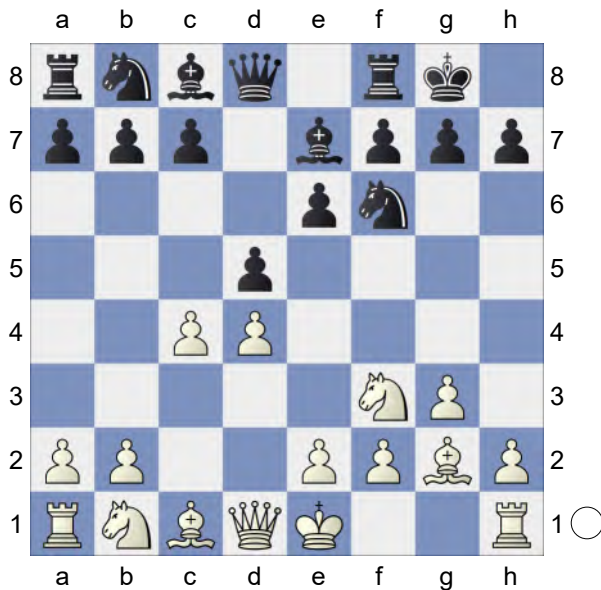
E06

2696

2787

21.07.2016

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 Be7
5.Nf3 0-0



6.Nc3

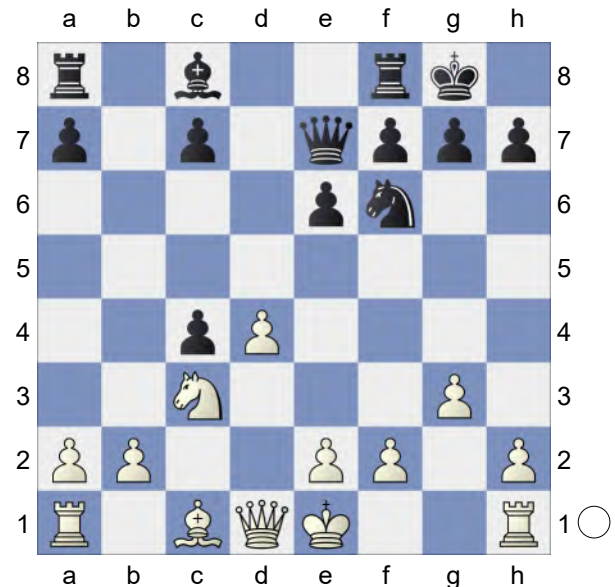
[Nach 6.0-0 dxc4 7.Ne5 Nc6 8.Bxc6
bxc6 9.Nxc6 Qe8 10.Nxe7+ Qxe7
11.Qa4 ist in einer der Hauptvarianten
der Katalanischen Eröffnung eine
ähnliche Stellung erreicht, mit dem
Unterschied, dass der Sb1 noch nicht
gezogen hat. Nakamura hatte sie erst
kürzlich auf dem Brett: e5 12.dxe5
Qxe5 13.Qxc4 Be6 14.Qd3 Rad8
15.Qe3 Qh5 16.f3 Bc4 17.Nc3 Rfe8
18.g4 Qg6 19.Qf2 Nd5 20.Nxd5
Rxd5 21.Re1 h5 22.g5 f6 23.h4
Rde5 24.e4 f5 25.Bf4 R5e7
26.Rac1 Bxa2 27.Qxa7 Bf7 28.Rxc7
Rxc7 29.Qxc7 fxe4 30.Rxe4 Rxe4
31.fxe4 Qxe4 32.Qe5 Qf3 33.Bg3
Bd5 34.Qe8+ Kh7 35.g6+ Kh6
36.Qh8+ Kxg6 37.Qe8+ Kh7

0-1 (37) Kramnik, V (2812) - Nakamura,
H (2787) Paris 2016]

6...dxc4

[Zur Geschlossenen Variante führt
6...c6 7.0-0 Nbd7 8.b3 (8.Qd3)]

7.Ne5 Nc6 8.Bxc6 bxc6 9.Nxc6 Qe8
10.Nxe7+ Qxe7



11.Qa4 c5 12.dxc5

[Schwarz hat gute praktische
Ergebnisse nach 12.Qxc4 cxd4
13.Qxd4 e5 14.Qh4 Rb8 15.0-0
Rb4 16.e4 h6]

12...Qxc5 13.Be3 Qc7 14.Rd1 Bd7

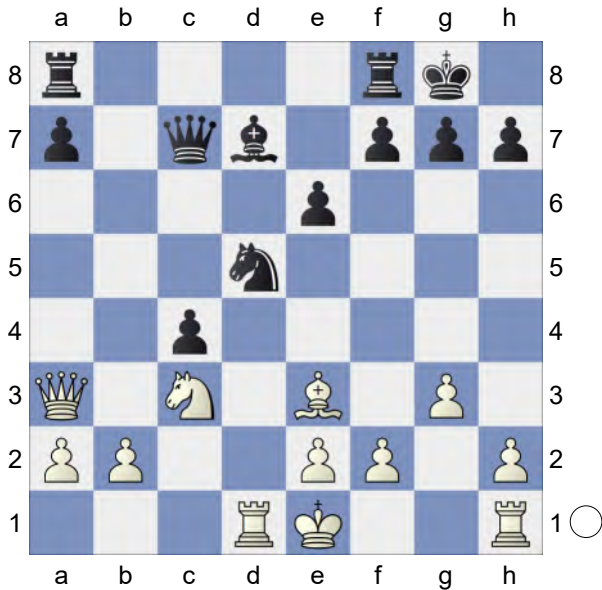
Ein neuer Zug von Nakamura.

[14...Bb7]

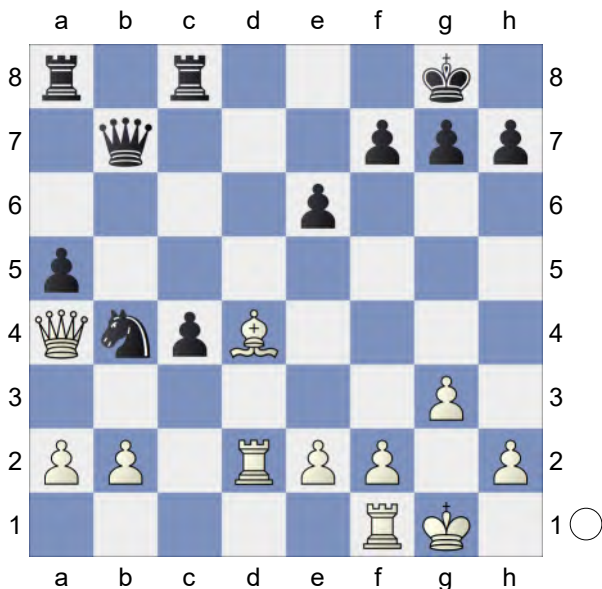
[14...Nd5]

15.Qa3 Nd5

(Diagram)

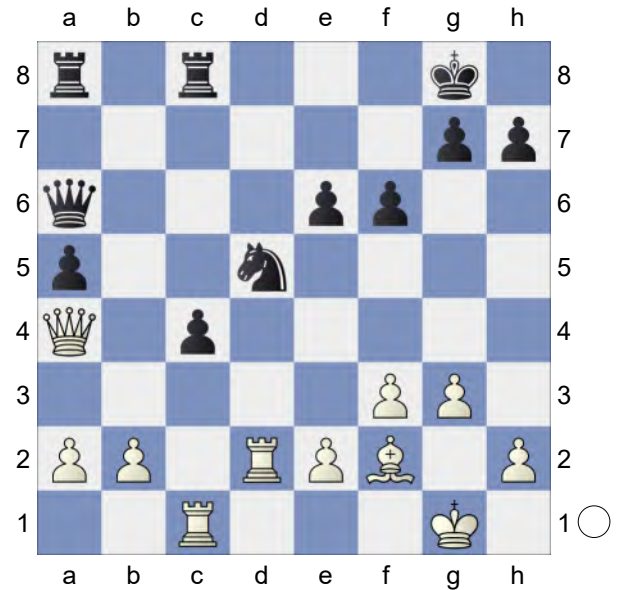


16.Bd4 a5 17.Rd2 Nb4 18.0-0 Qb7
19.Na4 Bxa4
 [Es drohte 19...-- 20.Bxg7 Kxg7
 21.Nc5]
20.Qxa4 Rfc8

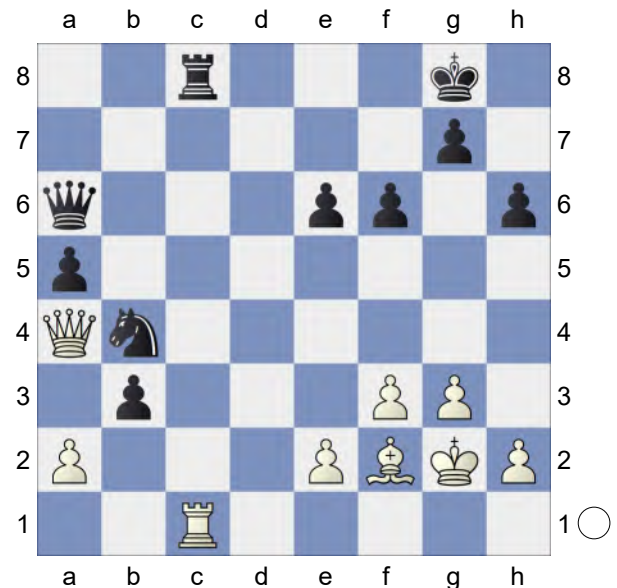


21.Rc1 f6 22.f3 Qa6 23.Bf2 Nd5
24.Rdc2 Nb4 25.Rd2 Nd5

(Diagram)

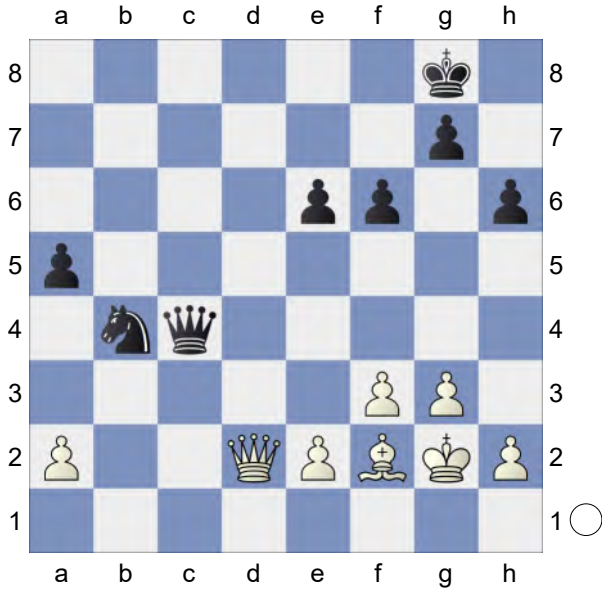


26.Rdc2 Nb4 27.Rc3 Der Chinese
 lehnt die Einladung zur
 Stellungswiederholung ab und spielt
 weiter. Aber viel Spannung kommt nicht
 mehr auf... **27...h6 28.Kg2 Rab8 29.b3**
cxb3 30.Rxc8+ Rxc8



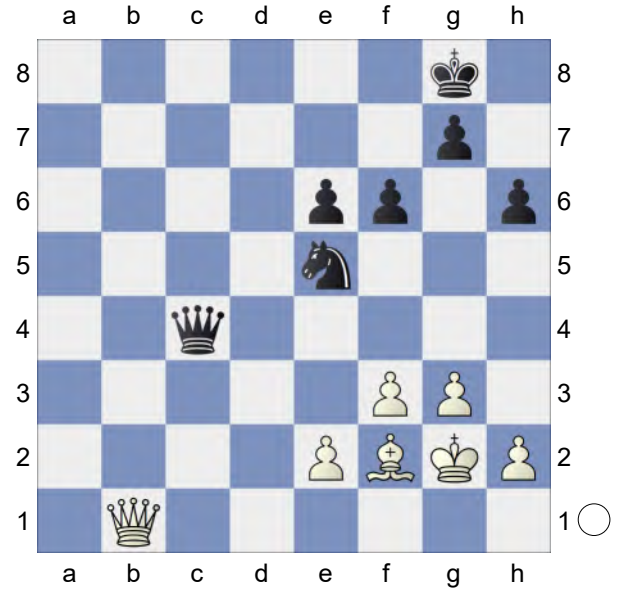
31.Rxc8+ Qxc8 32.Qxb3 Kf7 33.Qa4
Qa6 34.Qd7+ Kg8 35.Qd2 Qc4

(Diagram)



36.Qd8+ Kh7 37.Qxa5 Nxa2 38.Qd2 Nb4 39.Qb2 Nc6 40.Qb1+ Kg8

$\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$



41.Qb7 Ne5 42.Qb8+ Kh7 43.Qb1+ Kg8 44.Qb8+ Kh7 45.Qb1+ Kg8

(Diagram)

413

□ Wei,Yi

■ Henrichs,Thomas

Gibraltar Masters 12th (3)

[ChessBase]

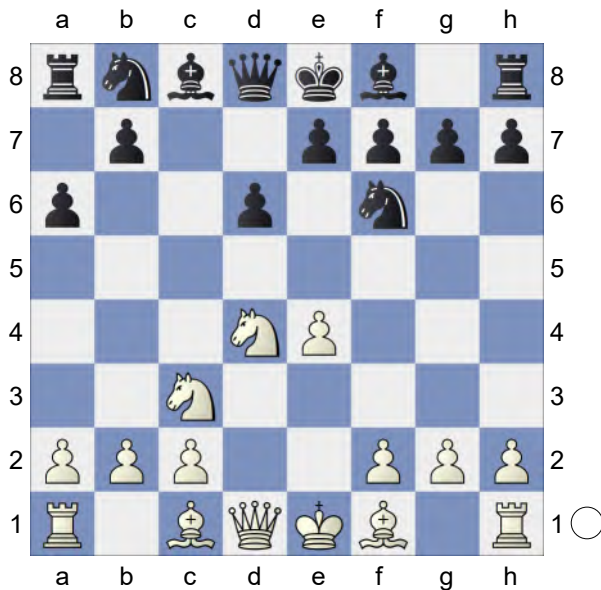
B87

2607

2477

30.01.2014

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6

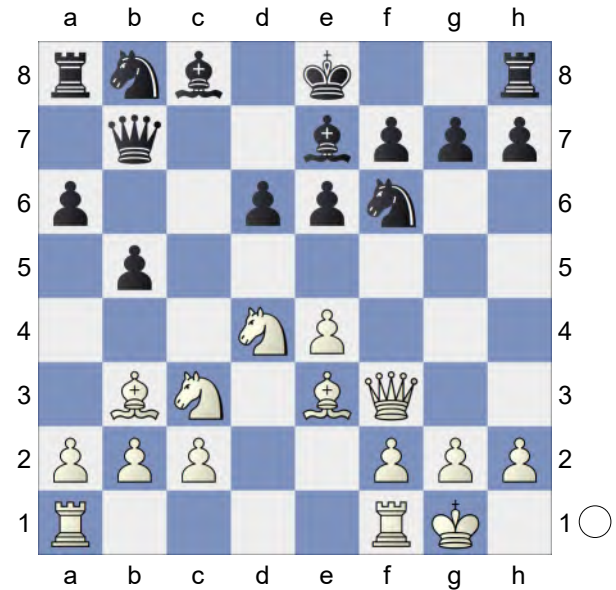


6.Bc4 e6 7.0-0 b5 8.Bb3 Be7 9.Qf3
Qb6

[9...Qc7 war auch Thema im WM-Kampf 1993: 10.Qg3 Nc6 11.Nxc6 Qxc6 12.Re1 Bb7 13.a3 Rd8 14.f3 0-0 15.Bh6 Ne8 16.Kh1 Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.Qxg5 Nf6 19.Rad1 Rd7 20.Rd3 Rfd8 21.Red1 Qc5 22.Qe3 Kg8 23.Kg1 Kf8 24.Qf2 Ba8 25.Ne2 g6 26.Nd4 Qe5 27.Re1 g5 28.c3 Kg7 29.Bc2 Rg8 30.Nb3 Kf8 31.Rd4 Ke7 32.a4 h5 33.axb5 axb5 34.Rb4 h4 35.Nd4 g4 36.Rxb5 d5 37.Qxh4 Qh5 38.Nf5+ 1-0 (38) Short, N (2655)-Kasparov, G (2805) London 1993]

10.Be3 Qb7

(Diagram)



11.Qg3 0-0

[Noch eine Partie aus besagtem WM-Kampf: 11...b4 12.Na4 Nbd7 13.f3 0-0 14.Rad1 Kh8 15.Rfe1 Rb8 16.Kh1 Ne5 17.Ne2 Qc7 18.c3 Bd7 19.Nf4 Bxa4 20.Bxa4 bxc3 21.bxc3 Qxc3 22.Bd4 Qa5 23.Bb3 Qb5 24.Ne2 Rfc8 25.Nc3 Qa5 26.f4 Nh5 27.Qe3 Nc6 28.Ne2 Nxd4 29.Nxd4 Qc3 30.Rd3 Qc5 31.Qf3 Nf6 32.f5 e5 33.Ne2 Qb4 34.Nc3 d5 35.Bxd5 Nxd5 36.exd5 e4 37.Qxe4 Rxc3 38.Rd4 Qd6 39.f6 Bxf6 0-1 (39) Short, N (2665)-Kasparov, G (2815) London 1993]

12.f3

[Üblicher ist 12.Bh6 Ne8 13.Rfe1 Kh8 14.Bg5 z.B.: Nf6 15.Rad1 Nbd7 16.Re3 Qb6 17.f4 Nh5 18.Qh4 Bxg5 19.fxg5 g6 20.Kh1 Bb7 21.Rh3 Nc5 22.g4 b4 23.Nd5 exd5 24.gxh5 Qc7 25.Bxd5 Rae8 26.Re1 Qe7 27.Bxb7 Qxb7 28.Rhe3 Rxe4 29.Rxe4 Re8 30.Kg1 Nxe4 31.Qf4 Kg8 32.c3 bxc3 33.bxc3 Re5 34.Nf3 Nxg5 0-1 (34) Iruzubieta Villaluenga, J (2280)-Topalov, V (2700) Elgoibar 1992]

12...Kh8

[12...Nbd7 13.Bd5?! (Gut ist 13.Nd5) 13...Nxd5 14.exd5 Ne5 15.Rad1 b4 16.Na4 Nc4 17.Bh6 Bf6 18.b3 Nb6 19.dxe6 fxe6 20.Nxb6 Qxb6 21.Be3 Qc7 22.Rd2 e5 23.Ne2 Be6 1/2-1/2 (49) Navara,D (2646) -Svidler,P (2738) Sochi 2008]

[Relevant: 12...Bd7 13.Rfd1 Nc6 14.Nxc6 Bxc6 15.Ne2 Rfc8 16.Rd2 b4 17.c4 a5 18.Bc2 a4 19.Bd3 Nd7 20.Nd4 Ne5 21.Bf1 Be8 22.Rc1 b3 23.axb3 axb3 24.Qe1 Bd8 25.Qd1 Ba5 26.Rf2 Rab8 27.Nb5 Nxc4 28.Rxc4 Bxb5 29.Rxc8+ Qxc8 30.Qxd6 Be1 31.Bxb5 Bxf2+ 32.Kxf2 Rxb5 33.Bd4 h6 34.h4 Kh7 35.Kg1 Rb7 36.Qg3 f6 37.Qg4 Qd7 38.Bc3 e5 39.Qg3 Qd1+ 40.Kh2 Qc1 41.Qh3 Qf4+ 42.Kg1 Ivanchuk,V (2775)-Le Quang,L (2714) Beijing 2011 0-1]

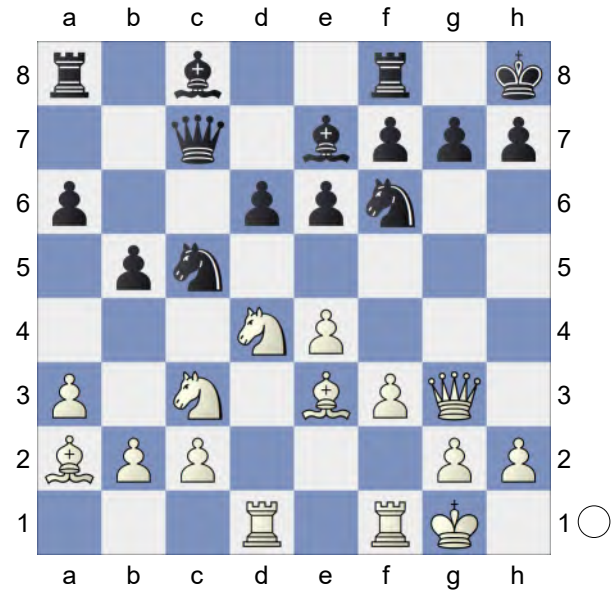
13.Rad1 Nbd7 14.a3 Nc5N
Der erste neue Zug.

[14...Nb6 15.Bg5 Nc4 16.Bxc4 bxc4 17.Bxf6 gxf6 18.b4 cxb3 19.cxb3 Rg8 20.Qh4 Qa7 21.Kh1 Qc5 22.Na4 Qa7 23.Nc6 Qb7 24.Rc1 Re8 25.Nb6 Qxb6 26.Nxe7 Kg7 27.f4 1-0 (29) Bacurin,E-Isaev,Y Ukraine 1990]

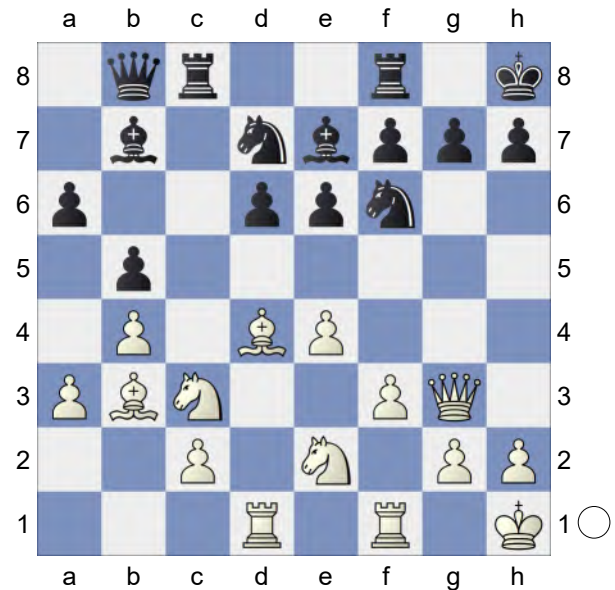
[Vorgänger (2): 14...Nb6 15.Bc1 Bd7 16.e5 dxe5 17.Qxe5 Ne8 18.f4 Bf6 19.Qe2 Rc8 20.Ne4 Be7 21.Nf3 Bc6 22.Ng3 Nc4 23.c3 Nf6 24.Ne5 Bd5 25.Nxc4 bxc4 26.Ba2 Bc5+ 27.Kh1 Rce8 28.Bxc4 Bxc4 29.Qxc4 Qb5 30.Qxb5 axb5 31.Ne2 Rd8 32.Ng3 g6 33.h3 h5 34.Kh2 Kg7 1/2-1/2 (34) Zheleznikov,G-Gaidamak, A RCCA corr 2002]

15.Ba2 Qc7

(Diagram)



16.Kh1 Rb8 17.b4 Ncd7 18.Nde2 Bb7 19.Bd4 Rbc8 20.Bb3 Qb8

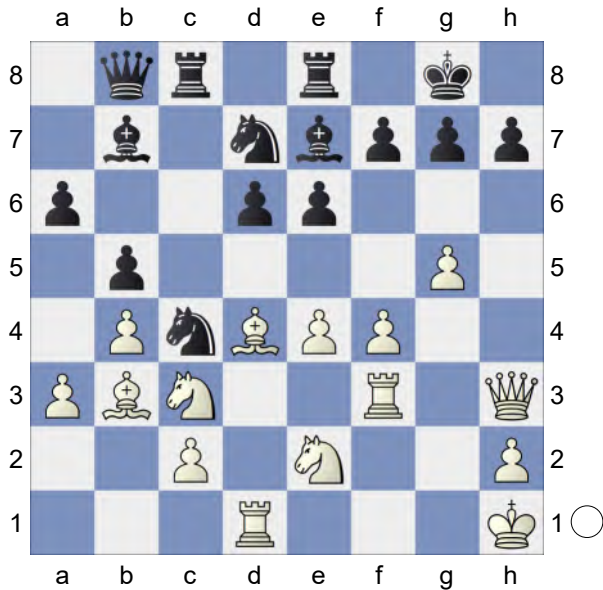


21.Qh3 Ne5 22.g4 Kg8 23.g5 Nfd7 24.f4 Nc4 25.Rf3

[25.f5]

25...Rfe8

(Diagram)



26.Bxg7! Ein "intuitives" Opfer. Weiß erhält langanhaltenden und wohl auch Gewinn bringenden Angriff.

[26.Qh5 Qa8 27.Ng3 d5=]

26...Kxg7 27.Qh6+

[27.f5 Bxg5 28.Rg1 h6 29.Qh5 Nce5 30.Rxg5+ hxc5 31.fxe6 Rxc3 32.Qxg5+=]

27...Kh8 28.Rh3+- Nf8 29.Nd5?

Danach ergeben sich für Schwarz Verteidigungsmöglichkeiten. Auch mit Houdini ist diese Position mit allen ihren Möglichkeiten nur schwer zu durchdringen.

[29.f5 exf5 30.Ng3+- Die Drohung Sxf5 und Dg7 # kostet Material.]

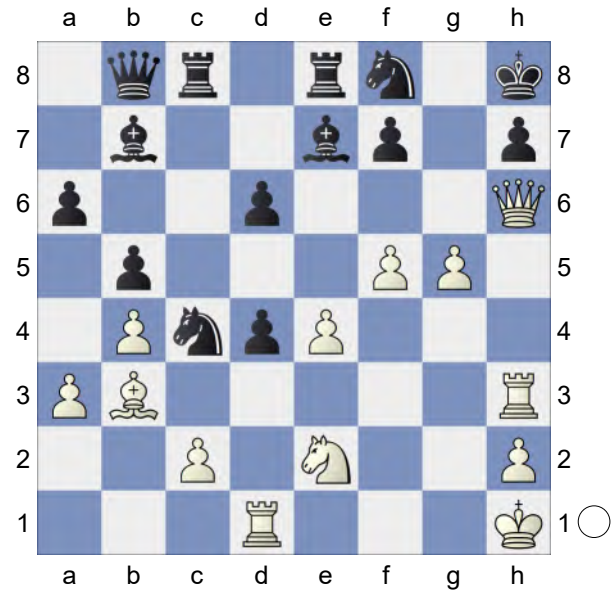
29...exd5? Verpasst die Chance.

[Richtig war 29...Bxd5 30.exd5 Qa7 31.f5 exf5 32.Nd4 Qd7 33.Rf1 f4 34.Rxf4 Bxg5 35.Qxg5 Qxh3 36.Qf6+ Kg8 37.Qxf7+ Kh8 38.Qf6+=]

30.f5? Auch Weiß trifft wieder nicht das Beste. Es droht entscheidend f6, aber Schwarz hat nun Gegenspiel.

[30.Nd4 gefolgt von -- 31.Nf5+- gewinnt.]

30...d4!=

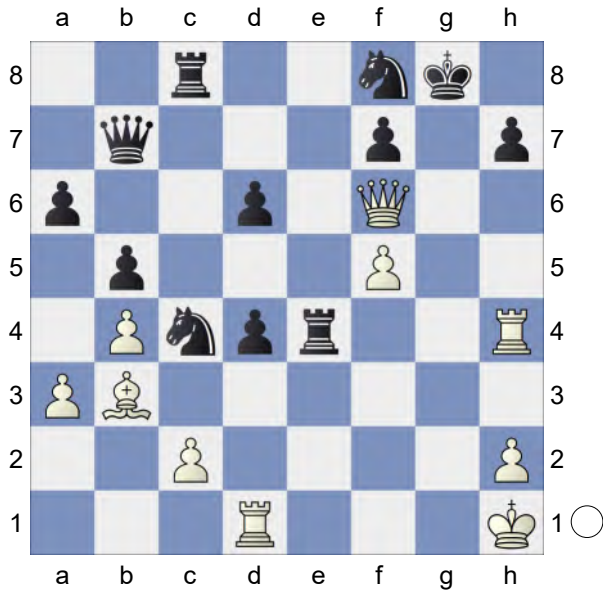


Räumt die lange Diagonale für Läufer und Springer. **31.Ng3 Bxe4+ 32.Nxe4?** Danach gerät Weiß auf die Verliererstraße.

[Nötig war 32.Kg1 und nun: d3 33.Nxe4 Qa7+ 34.Kh1 Ne3 35.g6 fxc6 36.fxc6 Und jetzt hat Schwarz nur einen Zug: Bh4!! 37.Rxh4 (37.Qxh4 Rxe4 38.Qxe4 Nxd1-+) 37...Nf5 38.Qg5 Weiß kann noch Dauerschach geben. Nxh4 39.Nxd6 dxc2 40.Qf6+ Qg7 41.Nf7+ Kg8 42.Nd6+ Kh8 43.Nf7+=]

32...Qb7 33.Rh4 Bxg5 34.Qxg5 Rxe4 35.Qf6+ Kg8

(Diagram)

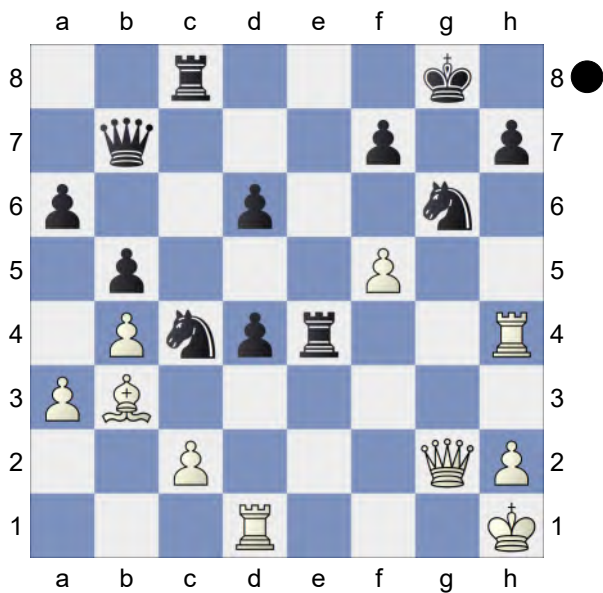


36.Qg5+

[36.Rg1+ Rg4+ 37.Rg2 Qxg2#]

36...Ng6 37.Qg2

[37.Qg2 aus Gibraltar ist nun Re5
überliefert, danach würde Schwarz die
Dame verlieren. (Sinn macht:
37...Re1+ 38.Rxe1 Qxg2+ 39.Kxg2
Nxh4+)]



0-1

294

□ Wei, Yi

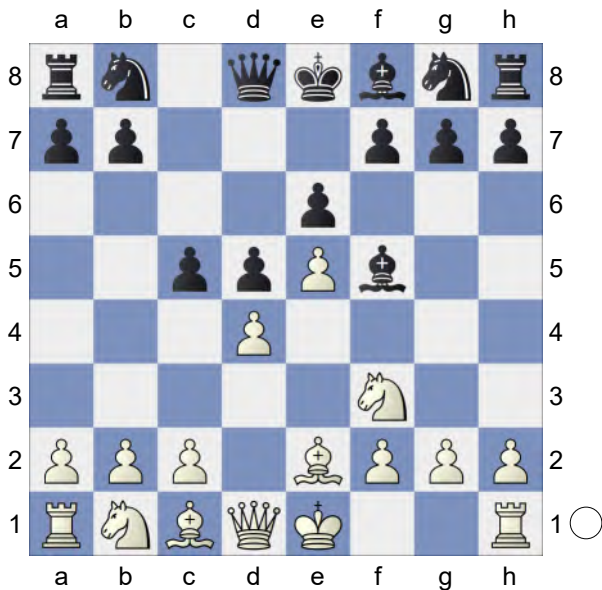
■ Ezat, Mohamed Mahmoud

WchT 10th Tsaghkadzor (5.3) 23.04.15

[ChessBase]

B12**2706****2479**

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nf3 e6
5.Be2 c5

**6.Be3 cxd4**

[Die Alternative ist 6...Qb6 7.Nc3
Nc6 8.0-0 Qxb2 9.Qe1 cxd4
10.Bxd4 Nxd4 11.Nxd4 Bb4
12.Ndb5 Ba5 13.Rb1 Qxc2

und nun erhielt Caruana für den
nächsten Zug den New in Chess Preis
für die Neuerung des Jahres. 14.Rc1
Qb2 15.g4 Bg6 16.f4 Be4 17.Rf2
Nh6 18.Bd3 Qb4 19.Rb1 Qc5
20.Nxe4 dxe4 21.Qxa5 0-0 22.Be2
e3 23.Rff1 Rfc8 24.Qe1 Qd5
25.Rb2 f6 26.Qg3 fxe5 27.fxe5 Rf8
28.Rxf8+ Rxf8 29.Qxe3 Nf7 30.Nc3
1-0 (30) Caruana, F (2801)-Vachier
Lagrave, M (2768) Saint Louis 2014]

7.Nxd4 Ne7

[7...Bg6 8.0-0 Nc6 9.c4 Nge7
10.Nc3 Nxd4 11.Bxd4 dxc4 12.Nb5

Nc6 13.Bxc4 Nxd4 14.Nxd4 Bc5
15.Qa4+ Ke7 16.Nb3 Qb6 17.Rac1
Rhc8 18.Be2 Kf8 19.Rxc5 Rxc5
20.Qa3 1-0 (20) Short, N (2655)-
Malisauskas, V (2510) Moscow 1994]

8.0-0

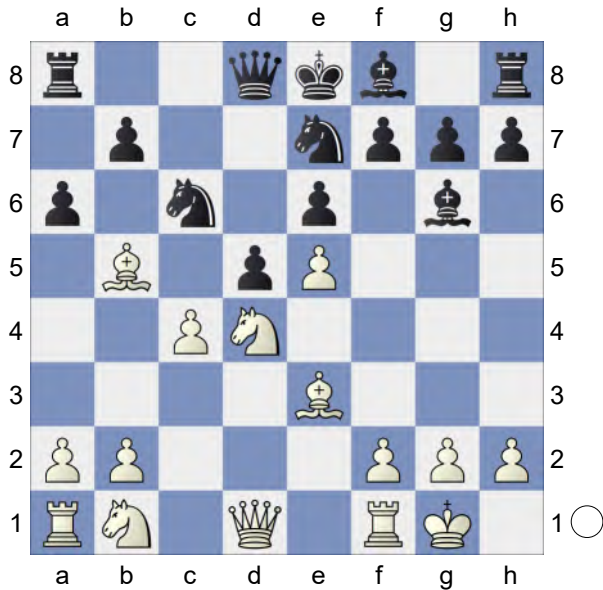
[Die Hauptvariante entsteht nach 8.c4
Nbc6 9.Qa4 a6 10.Na3 Qa5+
11.Qxa5 Nxa5 12.0-0 dxc4 13.Nxc4
Nxc4 14.Bxc4 Be4 15.Rac1 Bd5
16.Be2 mit einer Vielzahl von
Beispielen, u.a.: Rc8 17.Rxc8+ Nxc8
18.Rc1 Ne7 19.b4 Ng6 20.b5 Ba3
21.Rc3 Bb4 22.Rc8+ Kd7 23.Rxh8
Nxh8 24.bxa6 bxa6 25.Bxa6
1/2-1/2 (25) Alekseev, E (2616)-
Bareev, E (2711) Sochi 2004]

8...Nbc6 9.Bb5 Bg6

[Oder 9...a6 10.Bxc6+ Nxc6 11.Nxf5
exf5 12.c3 Be7 13.Nd2 Nxe5
14.Bd4 f6 15.Re1 Nc6 16.Nf1 f4
17.Qg4 0-0 18.Qxf4 Bd6 19.Qf3
Qa5 20.Ne3 Nxd4 21.cxd4 Rad8
22.g3 Rfe8 23.a3 Bf8 24.Ng2
Rxe1+ 25.Rxe1 Qd2 26.b4 Qxd4
27.Nf4 Qc4 28.Rd1 d4 29.Qxb7 d3
30.Ng2 Qb3 31.Ne3 Qxa3 32.Qc7
Rd4 33.Nf5 Re4 34.Kg2 Qb3
35.Qd7 Qxd1 36.Qd5+ Kh8 37.Qf7
1-0 (37) Shirov, A (2706)-Laznicka, V
(2683) Novy Bor 2012]

10.c4 a6

(Diagram)

**11.Ba4**

[11.Bxc6+ bxc6 12.Qa4 Qd7
13.Rc1 Nf5 14.Nxf5 Bxf5 15.Nd2
Rb8 16.Nb3 Bd3 17.Na5 Rb4
18.Qxc6 Qxc6 19.Nxc6 Rxb2
20.cxd5 exd5 21.e6 Bd6 22.Bd4
Rd2 23.Be5 Bxe5 24.Nxe5 Ke7
25.exf7 Kf6 26.f8Q+ Rxf8 27.Nd7+
Kf7 28.Nxf8 Kxf8 29.Rd1 Rxd1+
30.Rxd1 Bc4 31.a3 Ke7 32.f4
1-0 (32) Bok,B (2532)-Donchenko,A
(2477) Stroebeck 2013]

11...dxc4 12.Na3 Bd3 13.Rc1

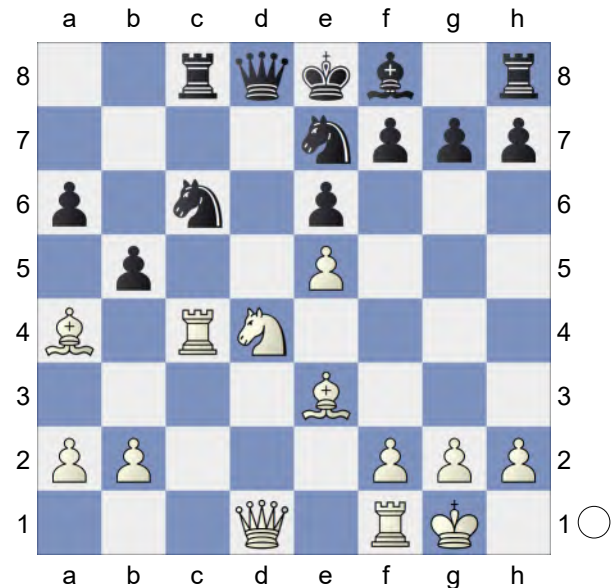
[13.Re1 Qd7 14.b3 b5 15.Naxb5
axb5 16.Bxb5 Rb8 17.bxc4 Rxb5
18.Nxb5±]

13...Rc8 Ein neuer Zug von Schwarz,
der den Vorgänger wohl nicht kannte.
Danach steht Schwarz wohl schon auf
Verlust.

[In der Bundesliga geschah kürzlich
13...Bxf1 14.Qxf1 Rc8 15.Qxc4 Qc7
(15...Qd7!?) 16.Qc2 Qxe5 17.Nc4
Qc7 18.Nb6 Rd8 19.Qe4 e5
20.Nxc6 Nxc6 21.Rxc6 bxc6
22.Bxc6+ Ke7 23.Bc5+ Kf6 24.Qf3+
Ke6 25.Bd5+ Rxd5 26.Qxd5+ Kf5
27.Nd7 Kg6 28.Nxe5+ Kf6 29.Nd7+

Kg6 30.g4 1-0 (30) Bartel,M (2652)-
Laznicka,V (2666) Germany 2015]

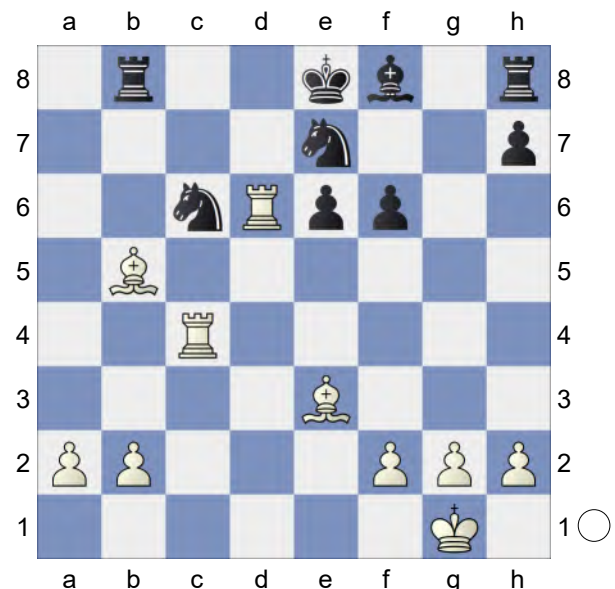
14.Nxc4 Bxc4 15.Rxc4 Der Druck auf
c6 entscheidet angesichts der
unterentwickelten schwarzen Stellung
die Partie. **15...b5**



**16.Nxb5 axb5 17.Bxb5 Qxd1 18.Rxd1
f5** Andere Züge verlieren genauso.

[18...g5 19.Rdc1 Bg7 20.Bxc6+
Nxc6 21.Rxc6 Rxc6 22.Rxc6 Bxe5
23.Bxg5 Bxb2 24.Rd6+-]

19.exf6 gxf6 20.Rd6 Rb8



21.Bxc6+ Nxc6 22.Rdxc6 Rxb2

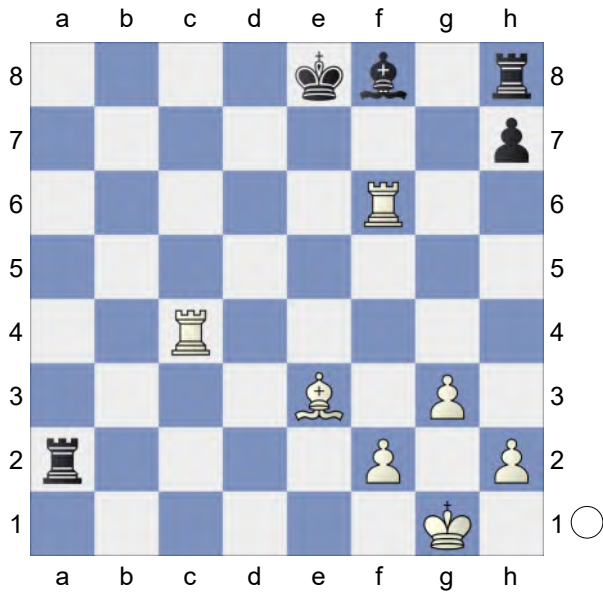
23.Rxe6+ Kf7

[23...Be7 24.g3+-]

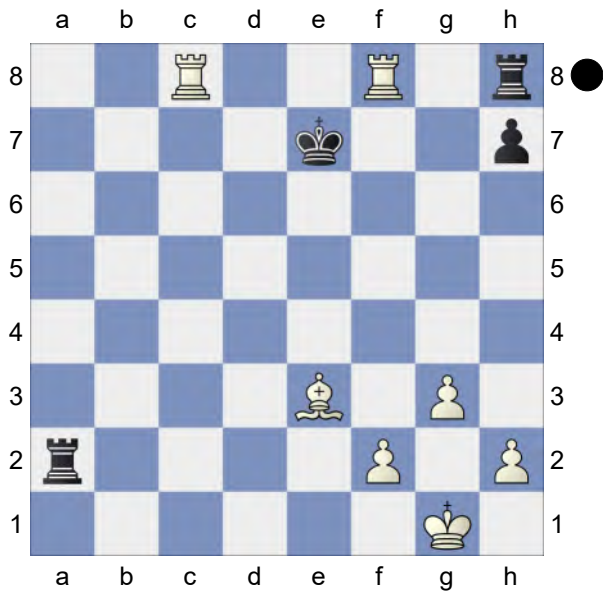
24.Rxf6+

[24.Rxf6+ Kxf6 25.Bd4+-]

24...Ke8 25.g3 Rxa2



26.Rc8+ Ke7 27.Rxf8



1-0

130

□ Wei,Yi

■ Ding,Liren

FIDE World Cup (4.5)

[ChessBase]

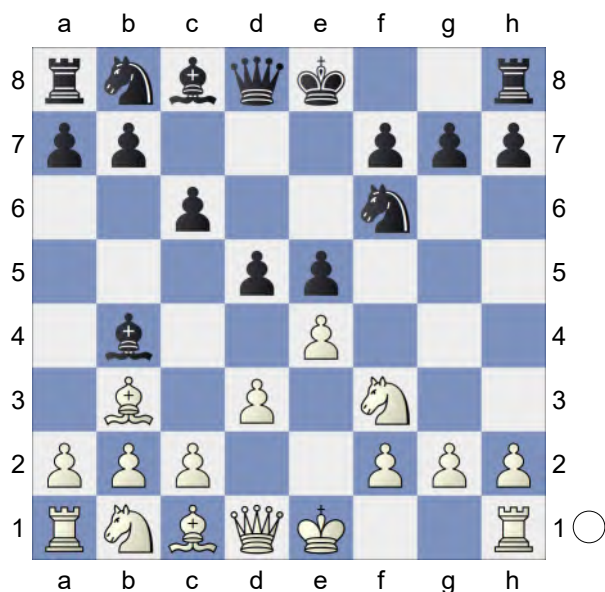
C24

2734

2782

22.09.2015

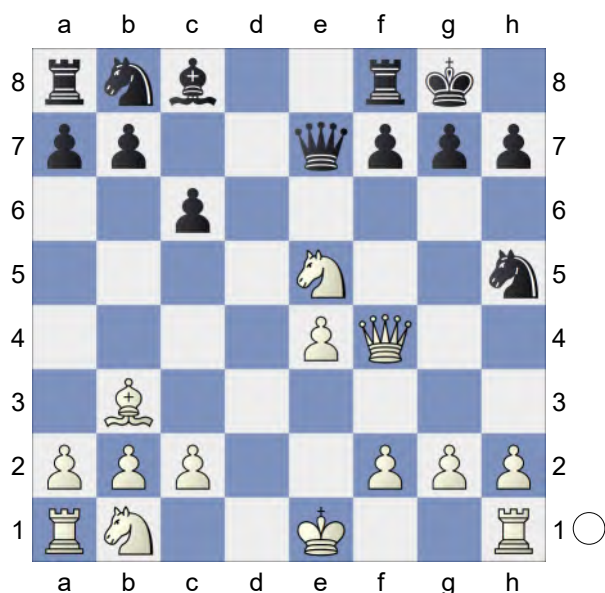
1.e4 Tadic,Branko 1...e5 2.Bc4 Nf6
3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 Bb4+



6.Bd2 Bxd2+ 7.Qxd2 dxe4 8.Nxe5
0-0 9.dxe4

[9.Nxf7 (Tadic,Branko) - 98/(219)]

9...Qe7 10.Qf4 Nh5



11.Bxf7+ Kh8

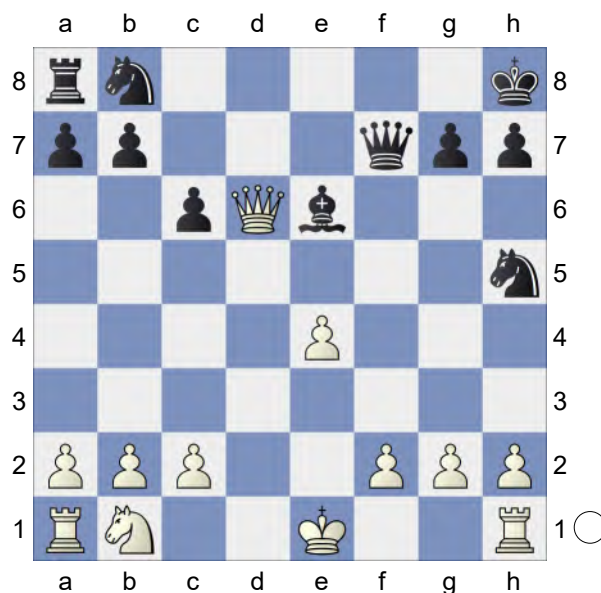
[11...Qxf7 Tadic,Branko 12.Qxf7+
Rxf7 13.Nxf7 Kxf7 14.Nc3 Nd7
15.0-0-0± Ke7 (15...Ne5 16.f4±)]

12.Qg3!! Rxf7

[The point is that after 12...Nxg3?
13.Ng6+! hxg6 14.hxg3+ Black gets
mated!]

13.Nxf7+ Qxf7 Instead of being dead
lost, the ball is in White's camp with
rook and two pawns for the two pieces
and the better center. That said, Ding
Liren was not about to tuck his tail
between his legs, and fought back hard
and drew the game. 14.Qd6 Be6

Tadic,Branko: 'Diagram

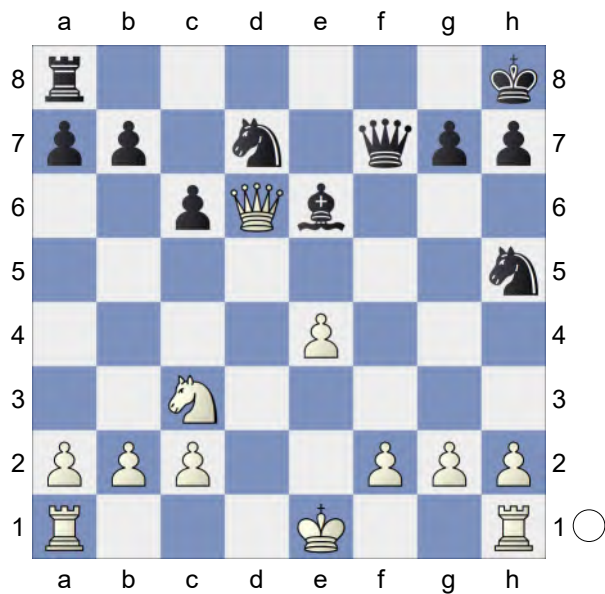


' 15.Nc3 Tadic,Branko: 'N'

[15.Qd8+ Tadic,Branko Qg8
16.Qxg8+ Kxg8 17.Nc3 Nd7
18.0-0-0 Ne5 19.b3±]
[15.Nd2 Tadic,Branko]

15...Nd7

(Diagram)



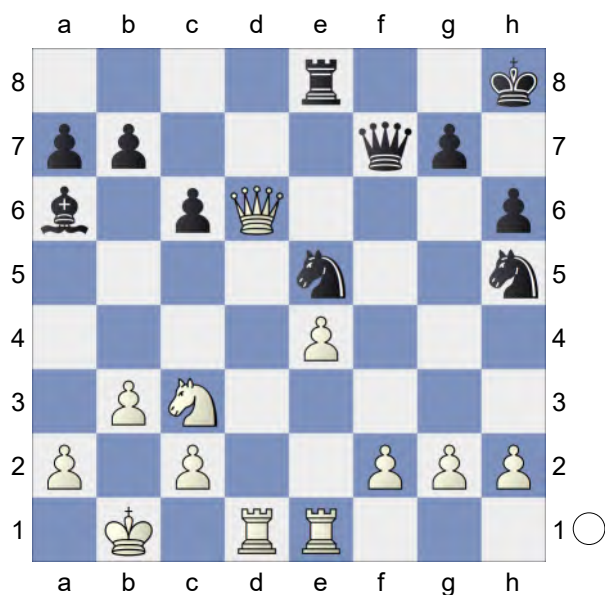
16.0-0-0 Re8 17.Rhf1

[17.f3 Tadic,Branko Nf4 18.g3 Nh3
19.f4! Bg4 (19...Nf2 20.f5 Bc4
21.Qxd7 Qxd7 22.Rxd7 Nxh1
23.Rxb7±) 20.Rd4±]

17...Bc4 18.Rfe1 Ne5 19.b3 Ba6
20.Kb1

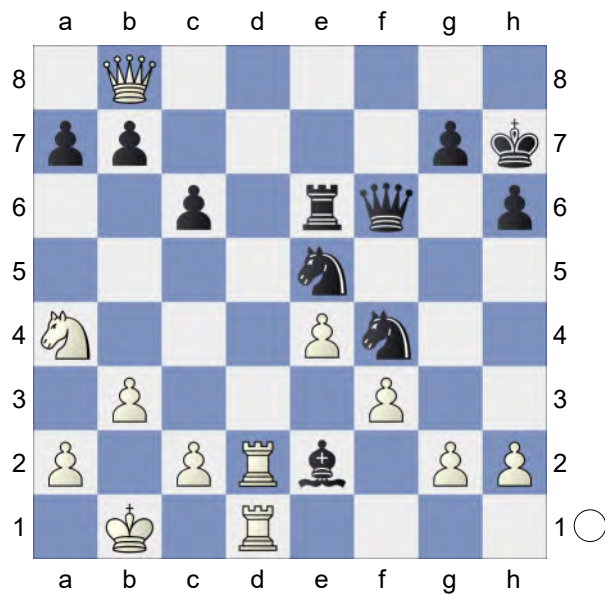
[20.f3 Tadic,Branko Nf4 21.Rd2 Qh5
22.Kb1± ΔQxh2? 23.Qxe5!+-]

20...h6



21.f3 Nf4 22.Rd2 Kh7 23.Red1 Re6
24.Qb8 Qf6 25.Na4 Be2

(Diagram)



26.Rc1 Tadic,Branko: '?!'

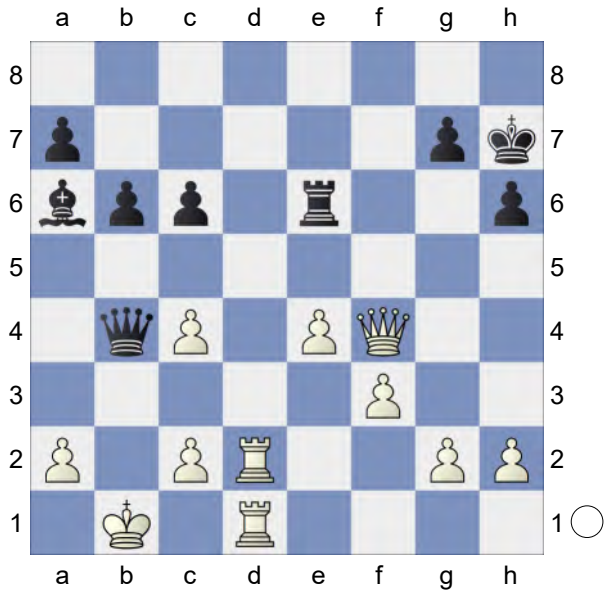
[♟26.Re1 Tadic, Branko Bxf3
(26...Bb5 27.Nc5 Re7 28.a4±)
27.Rf1 Bxe4 28.Nc5 Bxc2+ 29.Rxc2
Re7 30.g3 Ned3! 31.gxf4 Nb4
32.Rd2 (32.Rc4? Re2+) 32...Qf5+
33.Kb2 Qxc5 34.Qd6 Qxd6 35.Rxd6
Re2+ 36.Kb1 Rxh2 37.Rd7 Nxa2
38.Rf3± (38.Rxb7 Nc3+ 39.Kc1
Na2+ 40.Kd1 Nc3+ 41.Kc1=)]

26...b6 27.Nc3 Ba6

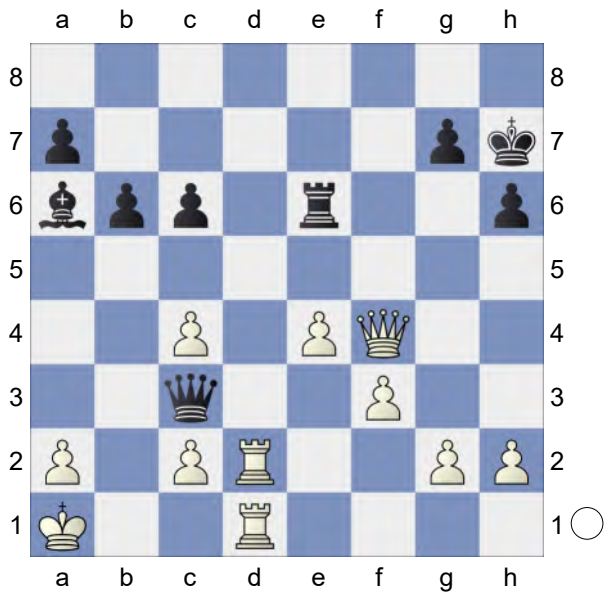
[27...Nc4 Tadic,Branko 28.bxc4
Qxc3 29.Qxf4 Qb4+ (29...Bxc4
30.Qf5+ Rg6 31.Rd3 Bxd3 32.cxd3
Qxd3+ 33.Rc2=) 30.Ka1 Qc3+
31.Kb1 Qb4+=]

28.Rcd1 Nc4 29.bxc4 Qxc3 30.Qxf4 Qb4+

(Diagram)



31.Ka1 Qc3+



1/2-1/2

107

□ Wei,Yi

■ Bu,Xiangzhi

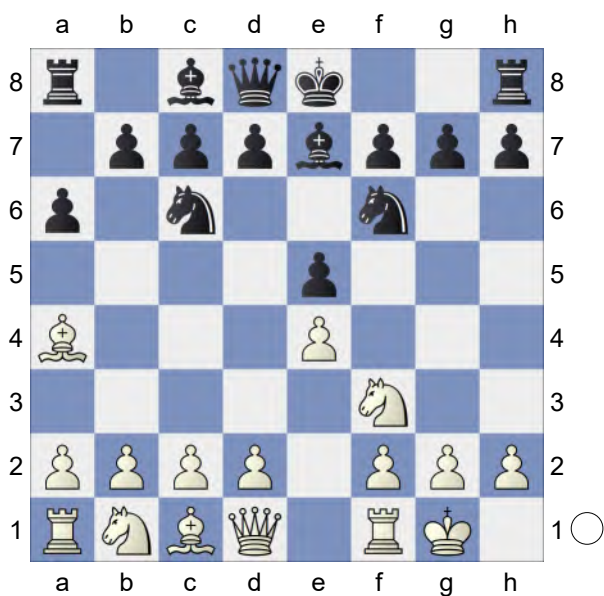
China Chess King 1st (3.2) 30.11.2015
[ChessBase]

C92

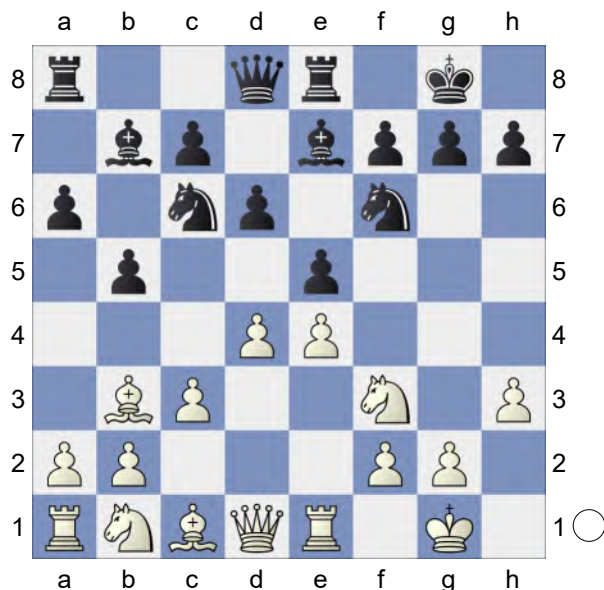
2737

2710

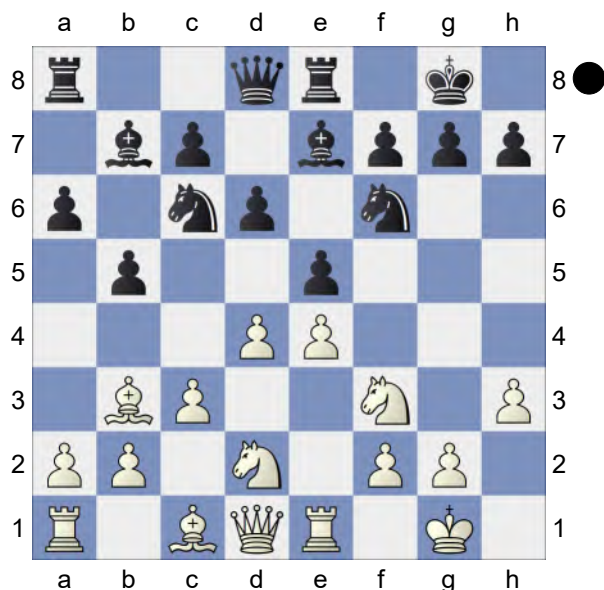
Wei Yi won a very strong event with all the best Chinese players. In this spectacular game where he again showed an interesting opening idea he was a little lucky. Eine bemerkenswerte Partie. Beide Seiten haben im Mittelspiel ihre Pläne systematisch und konsequent verfolgt. Nach einer kleinen Ungenauigkeit in einer objektiv ausgeglichenen Stellung gewann Weiß mit einer phantastischen und überraschenden Kombination. Eine bemerkenswerte Partie. Beide Seiten haben im Mittelspiel ihre Pläne systematisch und konsequent verfolgt. Nach einer kleinen Ungenauigkeit in einer objektiv ausgeglichenen Stellung gewann Weiß mit einer phantastischen und überraschenden Kombination. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7**



6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3
Bb7 10.d4 Re8

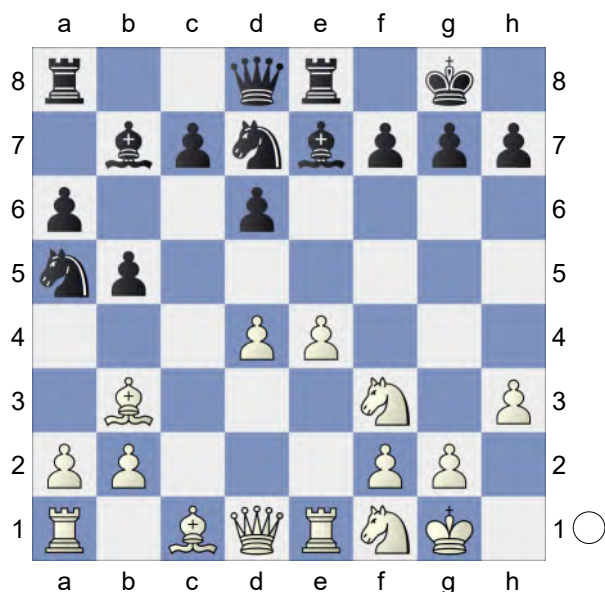


11.Ng5 Rf8 12.Nf3 Re8 13.Nbd2



exd4 The Kjartansson (first player to employ this move) Spanish is becoming very fashionable lately thanks to Peter Svidler. **14.cxd4 Nd7 15.Nf1 Na5**

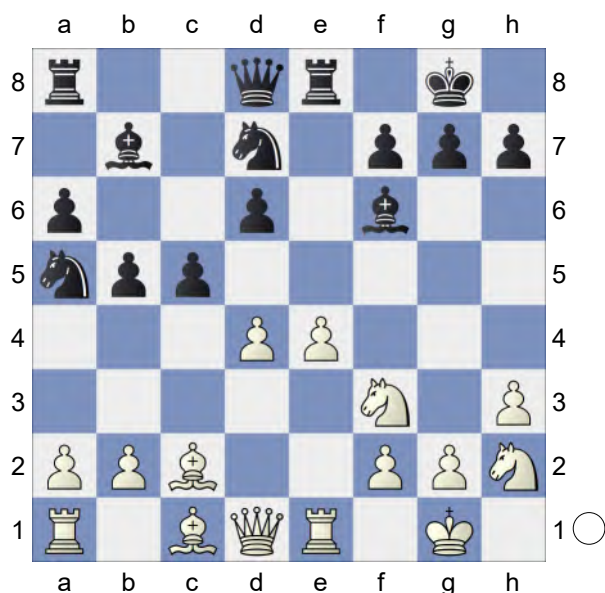
(Diagram)



16.Bc2 Bf6 17.N1h2 It is very logical to go for the g4 square when the black bishop is on f6. 17.Bf4 or 17.Ng3 are possible but the latest trend prior to this game was

[17.Rb1 !? c5 18.d5 Nc4 19.b3 (19.N1h2 would lead to our game with a different move order.) 19...Nce5 was played the famous Giri-Svidler game from the World Cup and more recently in Leko-Nyback from the European Team Championship.]

17...c5



18.d5 !? The new move. Black has no problems after

[18.Ng4 cxd4 19.Nxd4 Bxd4 20.Qxd4 Rc8 21.Qd1 h5 22.Nh2 Qc7 23.Bb1 Nf6 Black was very fine with good development and an attack on e4 in Svidler-Kjartansson Gibraltar 2015. After this game, Svidler who often employs the Spanish, added 13...exd4 to his opening arsenal.]

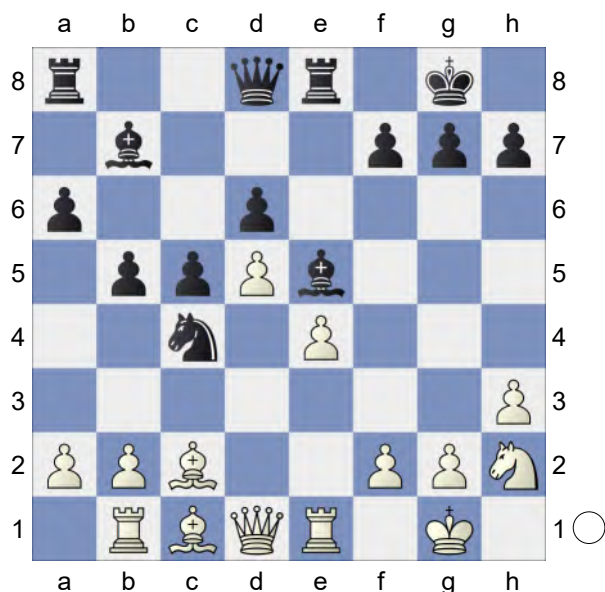
18...Nc4 19.Rb1 would lead to our game with a different move order. Ein strategisch interessanter Stellungstyp. Schwarz hat eine Mehrheit auf dem Damenflügel, Weiß hat Vorteile auf dem Königsflügel. Ein strategisch interessanter Stellungstyp. Schwarz hat eine Mehrheit auf dem Damenflügel, Weiß hat Vorteile auf dem Königsflügel.

19...Nde5 The best move. The knight on c4 should stay there to provoke the b3 move.

[19...Nce5 20.Nxe5 Bxe5 (20...Nxe5 21.f4 ±) 21.Be3 (21.f4 Bd4+ 22.Kh1 f5 23.Nf3 Nf6 Black is more than fine.) 21...Rc8 22.Re2 ± (22.Ng4 Bd4)]

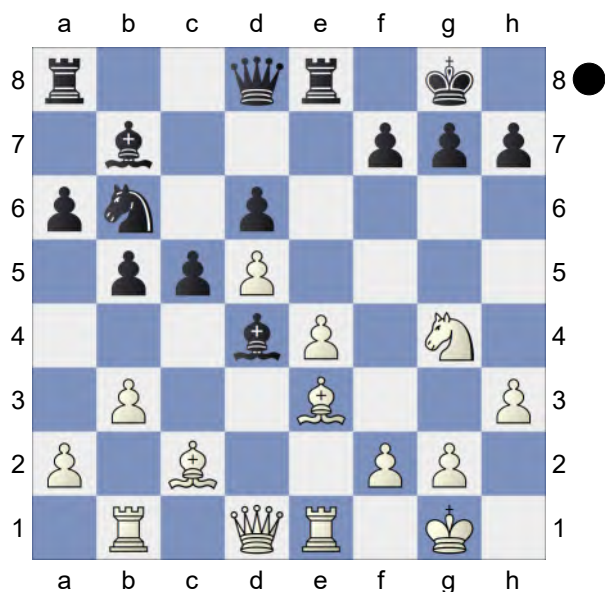
20.Nxe5 Bxe5

(Diagram)



21.b3 Nb6 22.Ng4 Bd4 23.Be3

[23.Bb2 is also interesting to force the exchange of bishops but the rook on b2 will be oddly placed. Bxb2 24.Rxb2]



23...Bc3 ! A very brave over the board decision. But exchanging now gives a clear advantage to White.

[23...Bxe3 24.Rxe3 ±]

24.Re2 Visually very dangerous is

[24.Qd3 !? Bxe1 25.e5 g6 26.Nf6+ Kg7 (26...Qxf6 27.exf6 Bb4

is also interesting but I don't think it's enough for the queen.) 27.Nxe8+ (27.Bg5 Rxe5 28.Nh5+ Kf8 29.Bxd8 Rxd8 ∞) 27...Qxe8 28.Rxe1 Nxd5 29.exd6 Qc6 ! and it seems Black wins the d6 pawn, leading to an unclear position.]

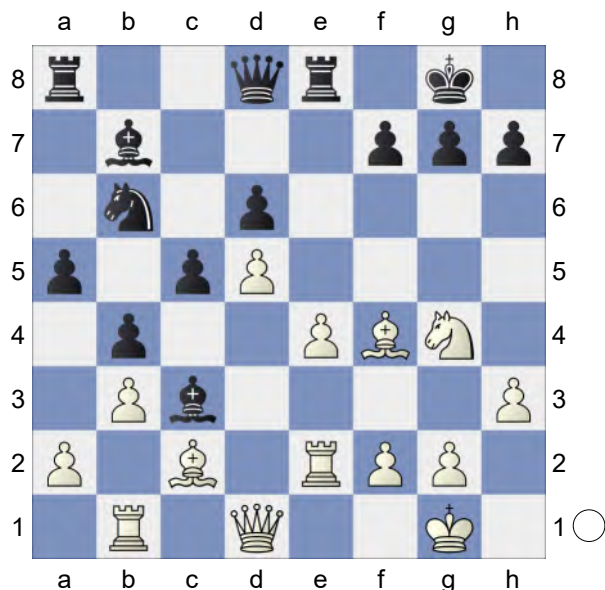
24...b4 ! Black gets easy play on the queenside. Legt den weißen Damenflügel fest, um anschließend mit einem Vorstoß des a-Bauern die a-Linie zu öffnen. Weiß steht aktiv und die weißen Figuren stehen drohend, aber wie bringt Weiß seine Figuren zum Angriff? Legt den weißen Damenflügel fest, um anschließend mit einem Vorstoß des a-Bauern die a-Linie zu öffnen. Weiß steht aktiv und die weißen Figuren stehen drohend, aber wie bringt Weiß seine Figuren zum Angriff?

[24...f5 25.Qd3 ! is pretty strong, but not (25.exf5 Nxd5 26.Qd3 Qd7 27.f6 gxf6 ♗ when Black is ok.) 25...fxg4 26.Qxc3 gxh3 27.gxh3 Qh4 28.f3 ! White has a nice attack on the dark squares.]

25.Bf4! Weiß überstürzt nichts, sondern bringt seinen Turm mit dieser Umgruppierung auf die dritte Reihe, wo er am Angriff teilnimmt. Weiß überstürzt nichts, sondern bringt seinen Turm mit dieser Umgruppierung auf die dritte Reihe, wo er am Angriff teilnimmt.

25...a5

(Diagram)

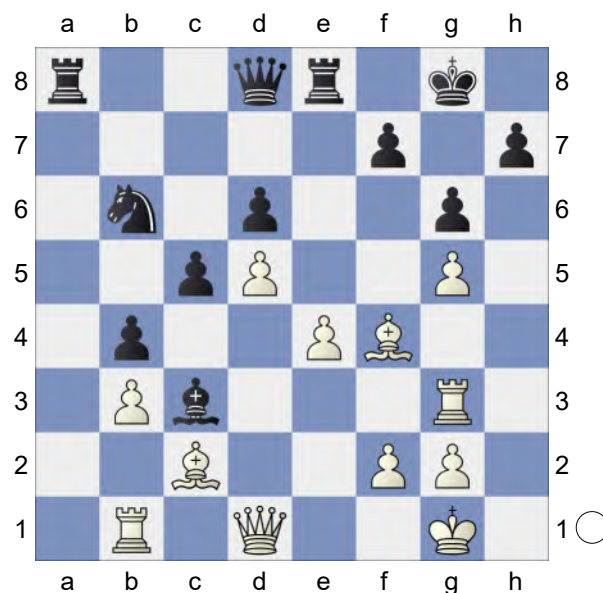


26.Re3 This is definitely wrong. White is too slow, he should try to transfer the queen but it involves an unclear sacrifice.

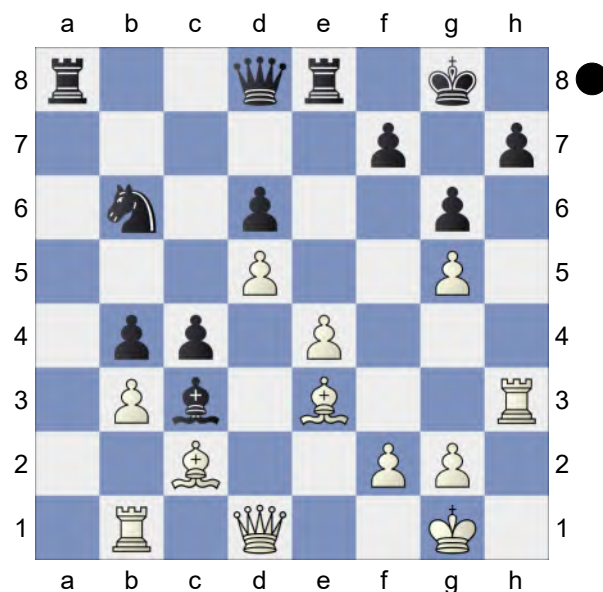
[26.Qd3 ! Ba6 (26...Kh8 27.e5 g6 28.exd6 Nxd5 29.Bg3 looks good for White.) 27.Qg3 Bxe2 28.Nh6+ Kf8 29.Bxd6+ Re7 30.Nf5 Nc8 31.e5 ! White might have missed this strong intermezzo. g6 32.Nxe7 Nxe7 With a crazy position.]

26...Bc8 ! It is important to kill the strong knight. Mit der Idee, eine Angriffsfigur abzutauschen. Mit der Idee, eine Angriffsfigur abzutauschen. **27.Rg3 Bxg4 28.hxg4!?** Auf den ersten Blick paradox: Weiß bringt seinen Turm nach g3, um ihn dann mit diesem Zug den Blick zu versperren? Aber Weiß will nicht auf der g-Linie, sondern auf der h-Linie angreifen. Auf den ersten Blick paradox: Weiß bringt seinen Turm nach g3, um ihn dann mit diesem Zug den Blick zu versperren? Aber Weiß will nicht auf der g-Linie, sondern auf der h-Linie angreifen. **28...a4** ♣ It is clear that Black arrives first. **29.g5 axb3 30.axb3 g6**

[30...Bd4 ! 31.Rh3 g6 32.Qg4 Ra2 33.Rc1 c4 ♣]



Black might first improve the bishop before this defensive move. **31.Be3 ! Taking the important diagonal. 31...c4 32.Rh3**



Es dauert eine Weile, bis Weiß seine Figuren in Stellung gebracht hat und wirkliche Drohungen aufstellen kann. Das schwarze Spiel am Damenflügel ist schneller. Dafür ist das weiße Spiel am Königsflügel gefährlicher, denn Weiß

greift den König an. Es dauert eine Weile, bis Weiß seine Figuren in Stellung gebracht hat und wirkliche Drohungen aufstellen kann. Das schwarze Spiel am Damenflügel ist schneller. Dafür ist das weiße Spiel am Königsflügel gefährlicher, denn Weiß greift den König an. **32...Ra2** ? Now that the break was already done, the improvement on the a-file is ok but was very good for Black.

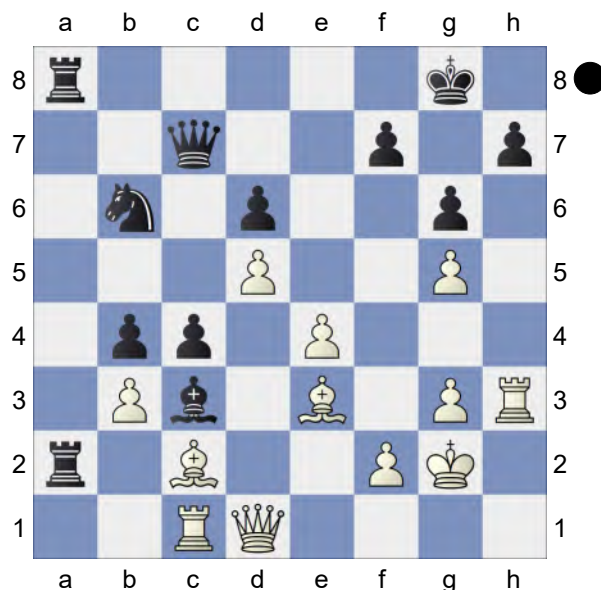
[Nachdem Schwarz die a-Linie geöffnet hat, muss er einen Weg finden, konkrete Drohungen aufzustellen. 32...Ta2 sieht wie der natürliche Zug aus, aber vielleicht war Nachdem Schwarz die a-Linie geöffnet hat, muss er einen Weg finden, konkrete Drohungen aufzustellen. 32...Ta2 sieht wie der natürliche Zug aus, aber vielleicht war 32...cxb3 ! 33.Rxb3 (33.Bxb3 Rxe4 ♖) 33...Nc4 ♖ besser. Nach z.B. besser. Nach z.B. 34.Bf4 (34.Bd4 Ra1 35.Bb1 Qxg5 36.Rbxc3 bxc3 37.Bxc3 Ra3 ♗) 34...Ra1 35.Rb1 Rxb1 36.Bxb1 Qb6 steht Schwarz gut. Es ist nicht zu sehen, wie Weiß konkrete Drohungen aufstellen kann, wohingegen der schwarze b-Bauer gefährlich ist. steht Schwarz gut. Es ist nicht zu sehen, wie Weiß konkrete Drohungen aufstellen kann, wohingegen der schwarze b-Bauer gefährlich ist.]

33.g3! Improving the king and implementing some threats on the h-file. Bemerkenswert kaltblütig. Der schwarze Turm ist bereits in die weiße Stellung eingedrungen, doch Weiß nimmt sich Zeit, um auf der h-Linie Drohungen aufstellen zu können. Bemerkenswert kaltblütig. Der schwarze Turm ist bereits

in die weiße Stellung eingedrungen, doch Weiß nimmt sich Zeit, um auf der h-Linie Drohungen aufstellen zu können.

33...Qc7 34.Kg2 Rea8 35.Rc1

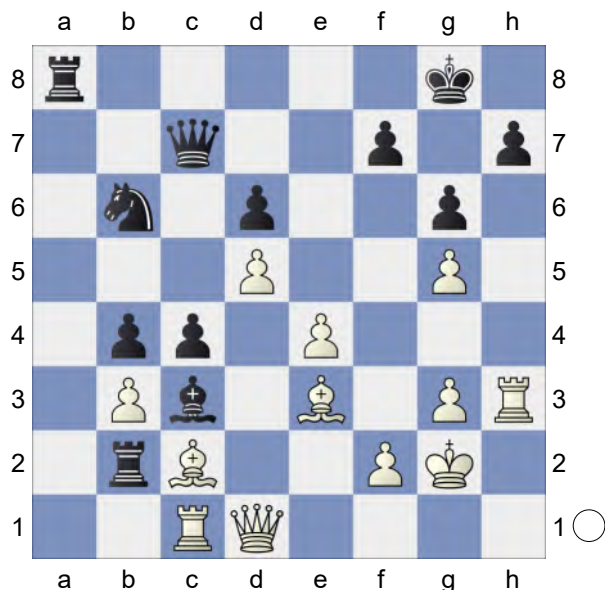
[35.Bd4 Bxd4 36.Qxd4 Qc5 ! - ♖+]



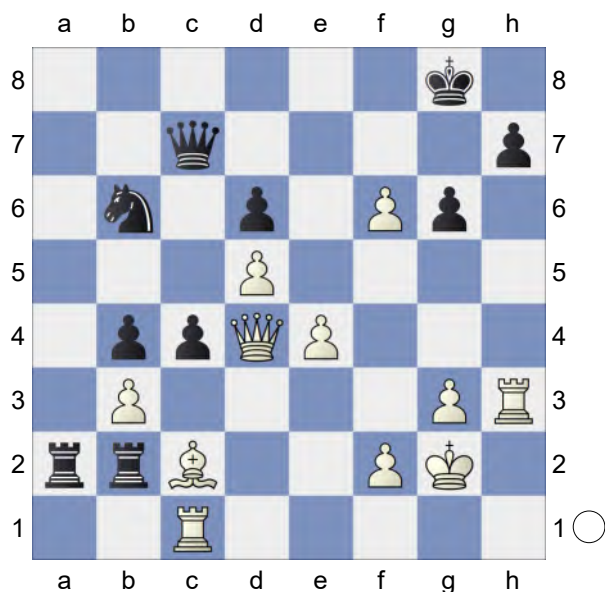
35...Rb2

[Erneut muss sich Schwarz entscheiden, wie er konkrete Drohungen aufstellen will. Der Textzug sieht natürlich aus, aber besser war Erneut muss sich Schwarz entscheiden, wie er konkrete Drohungen aufstellen will. Der Textzug sieht natürlich aus, aber besser war 35...Ra1 36.Bb1 cxb3 37.Qxb3 (37.Rxh7 Kxh7 38.Qh1+ Kg8 39.Bd4 Bxd4 40.Rxc7 b2 41.Rc6 Rxb1 42.Qxb1 Ra1-+) 37...Qc4 38.Qc2 Nd7 ♗ is clearly better for Black. und die schwarzen Drohungen sind realer. und die schwarzen Drohungen sind realer.]

(Diagram)



?? A big mistake that ruins all of Black's efforts. **36.Bd4** ! ± White was not very active but with this simple move he already gets a mating attack! The exchange is not possible because the rook on b2 is hanging now. **36...f6** ! The best defense. **37.gxf6 Bxd4 38.Qxd4 Raa2**



Auf diesen Zug, mit dem Schwarz 39... cxb3 droht, hat sich Schwarz verlassen. Doch Weiß hat einen ebenso überraschenden wie starken Konter: Auf diesen Zug, mit dem Schwarz 39... cxb3

droht, hat sich Schwarz verlassen. Doch Weiß hat einen ebenso überraschenden wie starken Konter: **39.Rxh7!!**

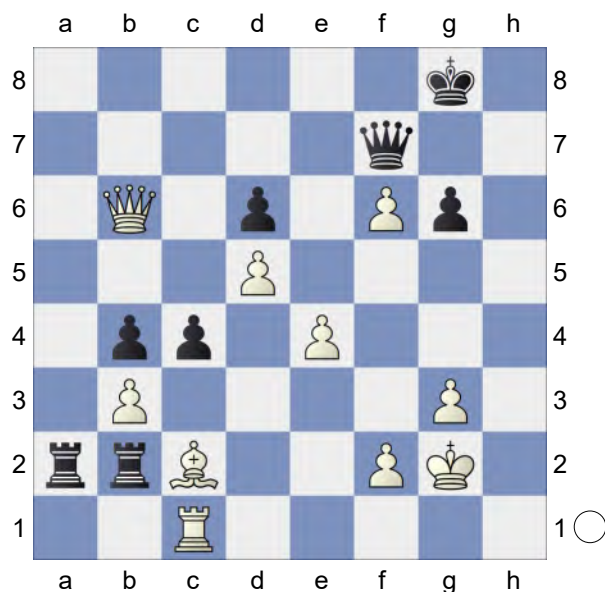
!! A great killing blow! **39...Qxh7**

[39...Kxh7 40.Rh1+ Kg8 41.f7+ of course leads to mate. Kxf7 42.Rh7+ Ke8 43.Qh8#]

40.Qxb6 Die überraschende Pointe. Nach dieser Rechts-Links-Kombination hat Weiß eine Qualität weniger, der Läufer auf c2 hängt und der weiße Bauer f6 wirkt gefährdet, aber dafür steht der schwarze König exponiert - zu exponiert. Die überraschende Pointe. Nach dieser Rechts-Links-Kombination hat Weiß eine Qualität weniger, der Läufer auf c2 hängt und der weiße Bauer f6 wirkt gefährdet, aber dafür steht der schwarze König exponiert - zu exponiert.

40...Qf7

[40...Rxc2? 41.Qd8+ Kf7 42.Qe7+ Kg8 43.Qe8#]



41.Rh1 Ra8

[Nach Nach 41...Qxf6 gewinnt Weiß mit 42.Qb8+ Qf8 43.Rh8+ Kxh8 44.Qxf8+ Kh7 45.Qf7+ Kh8 46.e5+-]

42.Bd1 ! The three remaining white pieces are in the attack! **42...Qxf6**
43.Bg4 Re8

[Nach dem überraschenden Gegenopfer Nach dem überraschenden Gegenopfer

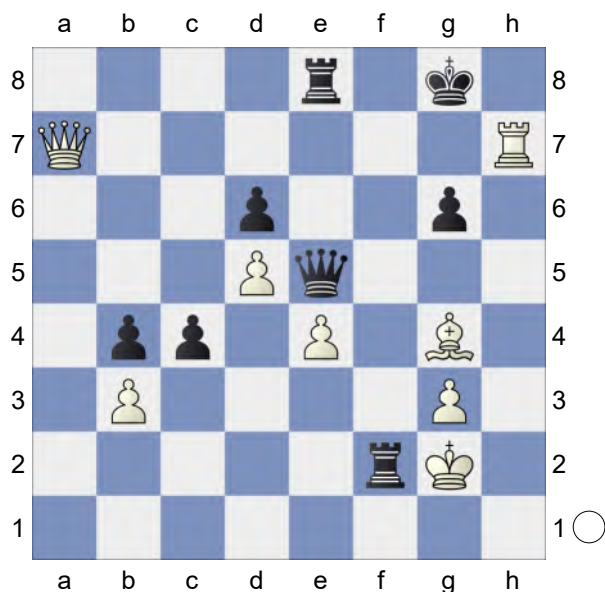
43...Qxf2+ 44.Qxf2 Raa2 45.Qxb2 Rxb2+ 46.Kf3 Rxb3+ 47.Kf4 Kg7 48.e5 dxe5+ 49.Kxe5 bringt Weiß seine Mehrfigur zur Geltung. bringt Weiß seine Mehrfigur zur Geltung.]

44.Qa7 Mit der Drohung 45.Le6+ Kf8 46.Th8+ Dxh8 47. Df7# Mit der Drohung 45. Le6+ Kf8 46.Th8+ Dxh8 47. Df7#

44...Qe5 ? Making things easy. More stubborn defense was

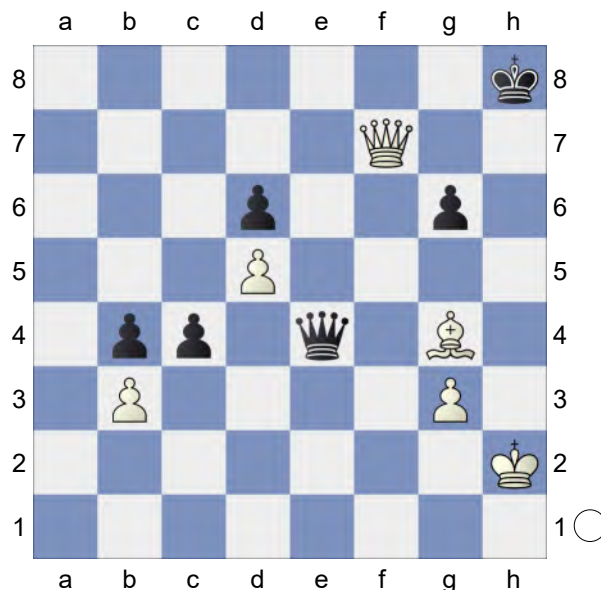
[44...Kf8 ! 45.Be6 Re7 46.Qb8+ Re8 47.Qb6 Kg7 48.Qa7+ ! Re7 49.Qe3 g5 50.bxc4 +□- But White has too many pawns!]

45.Rh7 Rxf2+



The last try but it is clearly not enough. Die einzige Möglichkeit, das Matt zu parieren. Die einzige Möglichkeit, das Matt zu parieren. **46.Kxf2 Rf8+ 47.Kg2 Qxe4+ 48.Kh2 Rf2+ 49.Qxf2 Kxh7 50.Qf7+ Kh8**

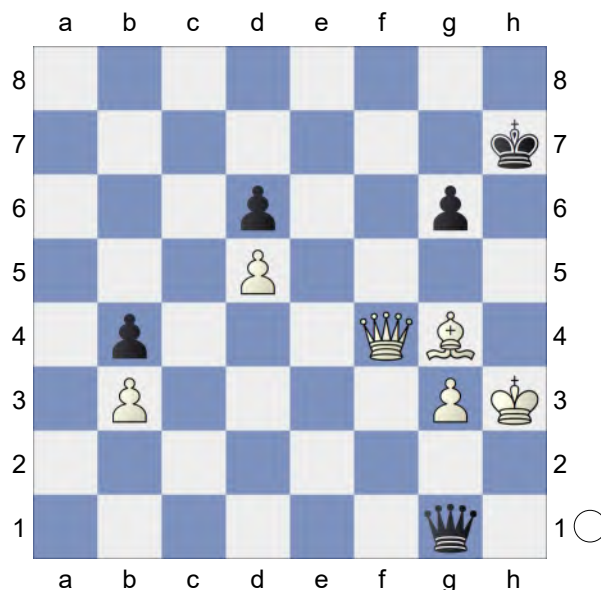
(Diagram)



51.Qf4 Qc2+ 52.Kh3 Kg7

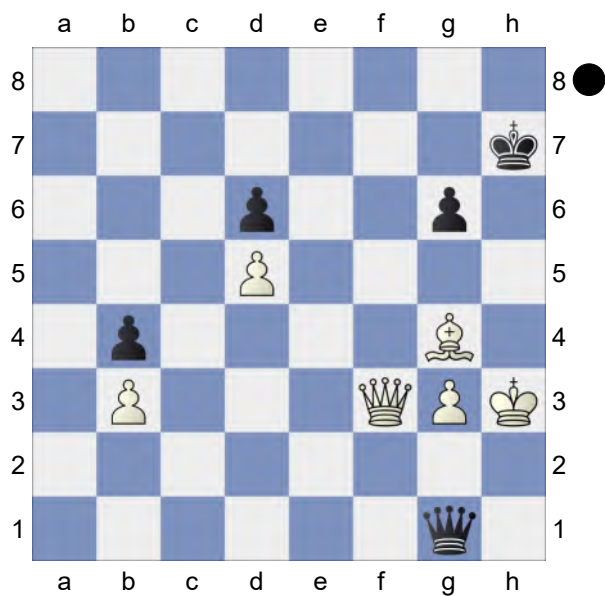
[52...cxb3 53.Qh6+ Kg8 54.Be6#]

53.Qd4+ Kh7 54.Qxc4 Qf2 55.Qf4 Qg1



56.Qf3

(Diagram)



Eine beeindruckende Angriffspartie von Wei Yi. Eine beeindruckende Angriffspartie von Wei Yi.

1-0

423

□ Vazquez Igarza, Renier

■ Wei, Yi

Gibraltar Masters 13th (5)

[ChessBase]

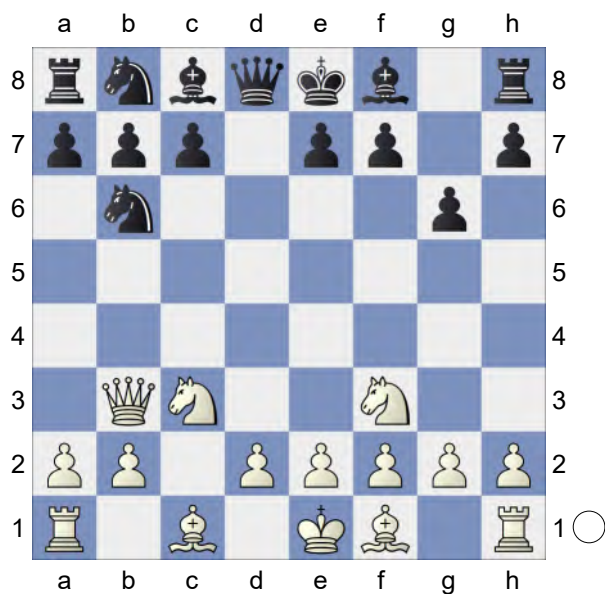
D90

2592

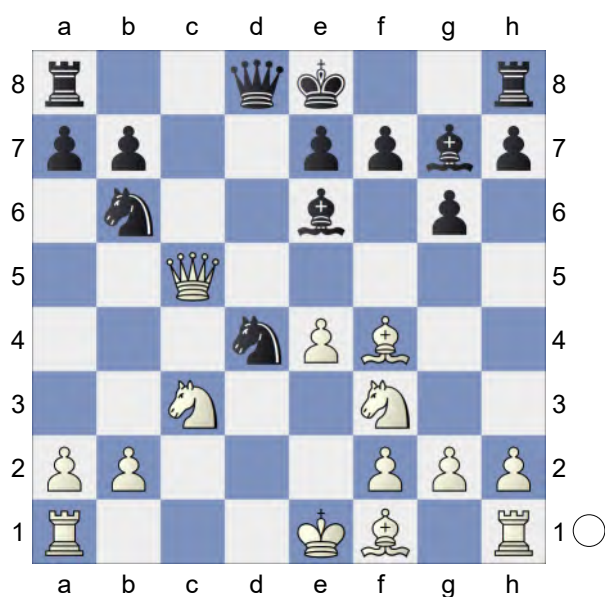
2675

31.01.2015

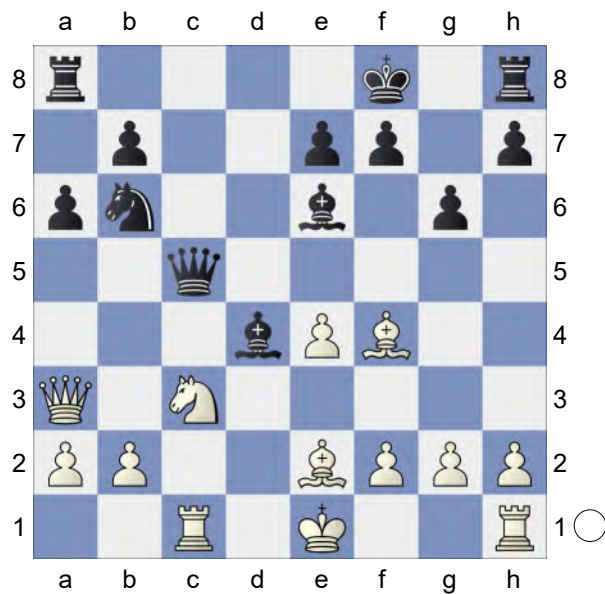
1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5
Nxd5 5.Qb3 Nb6



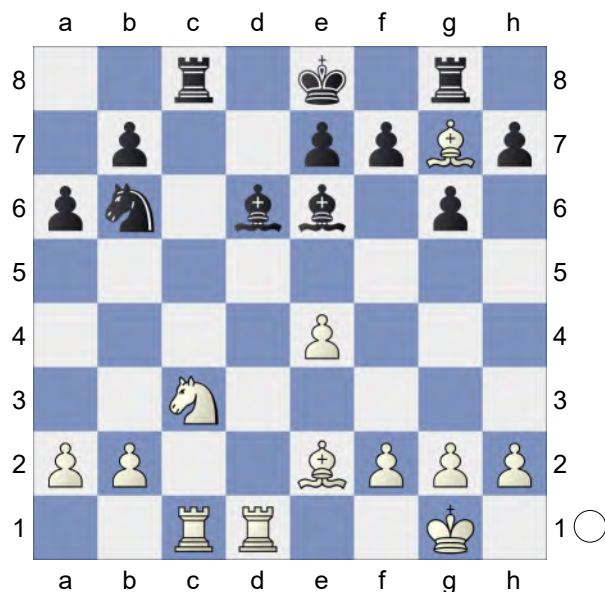
6.d4 Bg7 7.Bf4 Be6 8.Qa3 c5
9.Qxc5 Nc6 10.e4 Nxd4



11.Nxd4 Bxd4 12.Bb5+ Kf8 13.Qa3
a6 14.Be2 Qc8 15.Rc1 Qc5

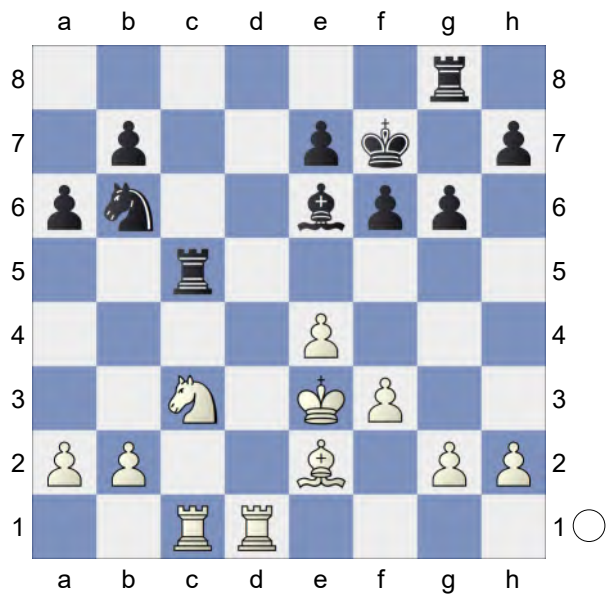


16.Qxc5 Bxc5 17.0-0 Rc8 18.Bh6+
Ke8 19.Rfd1 Bd6 20.Bg7 Rg8

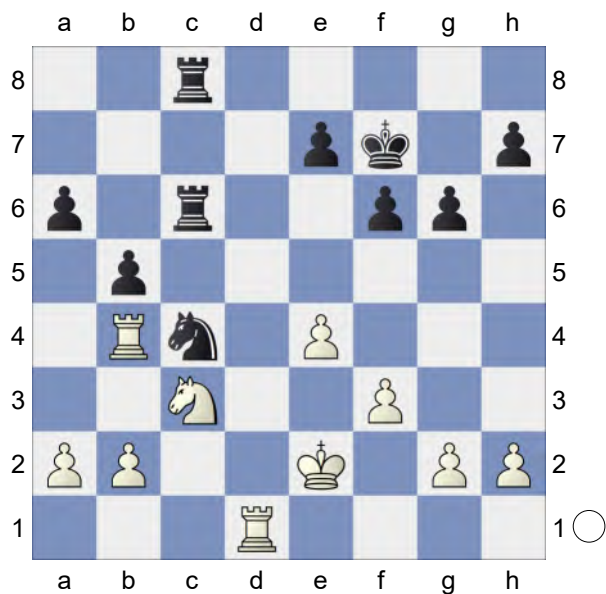


21.Bd4 Bc5 22.f3 f6 23.Kf2 Kf7
24.Ke3 Rc6 25.Bxc5 Rxc5

(Diagram)

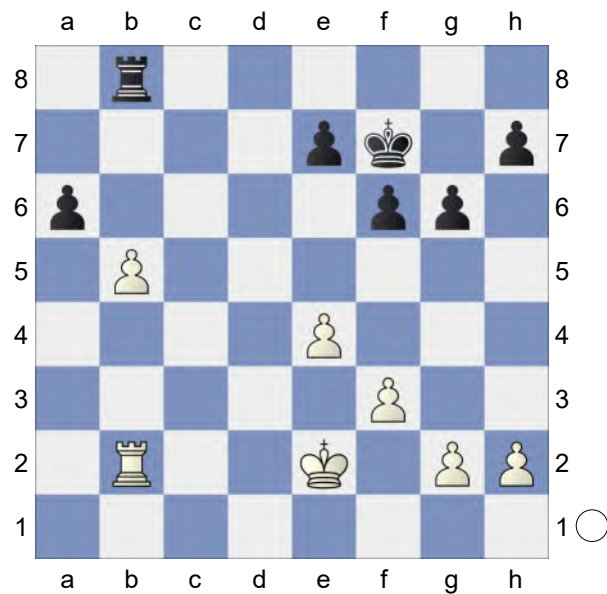


26.Rd4 Rgc8 27.Rb4 R5c6 28.Rd1 Bc4 29.Bxc4+ Nxc4+ 30.Ke2 b5

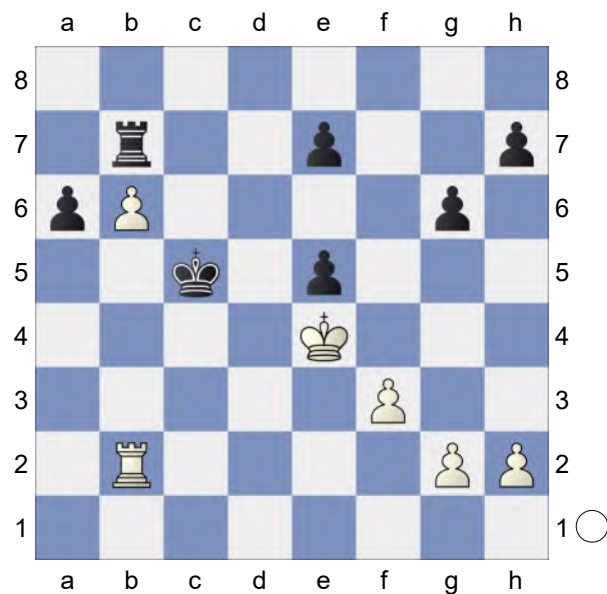


31.a4 Nxb2 32.Rxb2 Rxc3 33.axb5 Rc2+ 34.Rd2 Rxb2 35.Rxb2 Rb8

(Diagram)

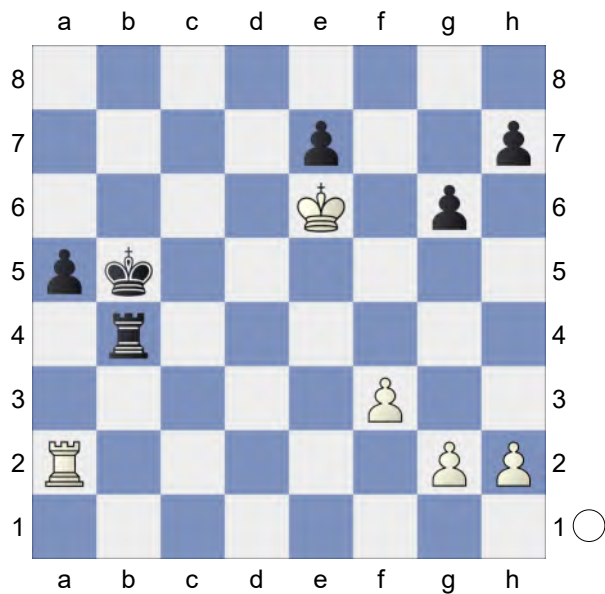


36.b6 Rb7 37.Kd3 Ke6 38.Kd4 Kd6 39.e5+ fxe5+ 40.Ke4 Kc5



41.Rc2+ Kxb6 42.Kxe5 a5 43.Rb2+ Ka6 44.Ra2 Rb4 45.Ke6 Kb5

(Diagram)

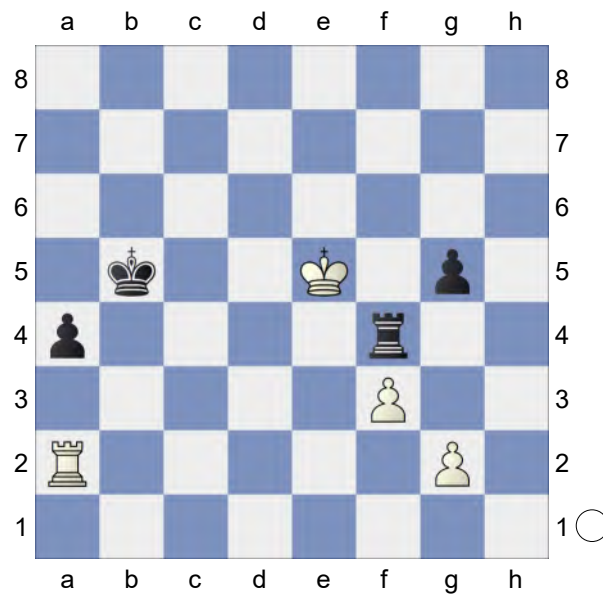


46.Kxe7 Rf4 47.Kd6 a4 48.Ke5 g5 49.h4 h6? This endgame is not as trivial as it looks. Black wanted to keep the pawn on g5 for the blockade, but he really had no choice but to take on h4.

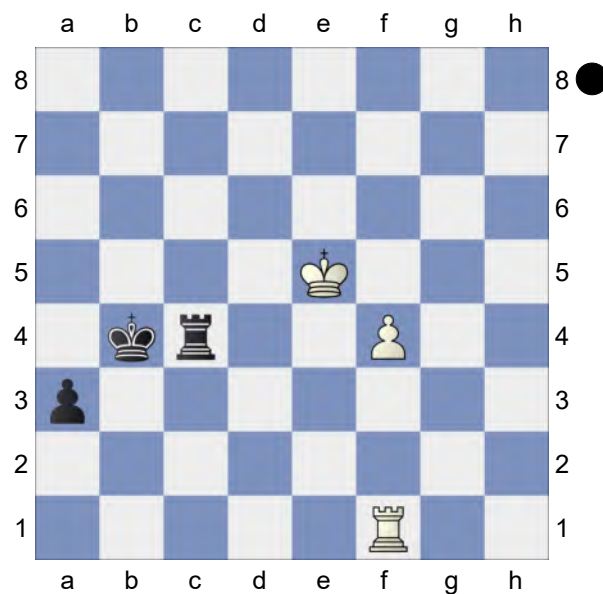
[49...Rxh4! 50.Kf5 h6 51.g3 Rh1 52.f4 gxf4 53.gxf4 And White is simply not in time to push his f-pawn and capture the enemy h-pawn. For example: Kb4! 54.Rb2+ Kc3 55.Rb6 (55.Rb8 a3 56.Rc8+ Kb2 57.Rb8+ Ka1 58.Kg6 Rb1 59.Ra8 Rb6+-) 55...h5! (55...a3 56.Ra6 Kb2 57.Rb6+ Ka1 58.Ke4 and now the rook is attacking h6, a very important detail. There is no 58... Rb1.) 56.Ra6 Kb4 57.Rb6+ Ka5! 58.Rb8 a3+-]

50.hxg5 hxg5

(Diagram)



51.Ra1 Kb4 52.Rf1! a3 53.g3 Rc4 54.f4 With the creation of this passed pawn White can feel safe. Worst case scenario he sacrifices his rook for the a-pawn and pushes the f-pawn, forcing Black to sacrifice his rook for the passer. **54...gxf4 55.gxf4**



1/2-1/2

21

Giri, Anish
Wei, Yi

Bilbao Masters 9th (1)

13.07.2016

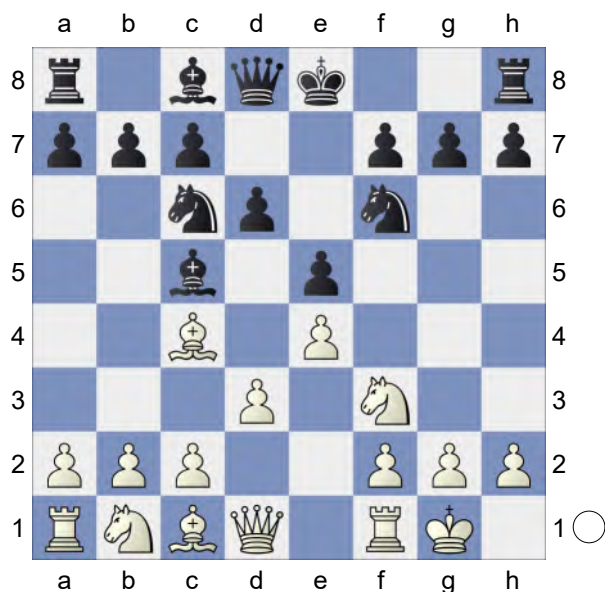
[ChessBase]

C54

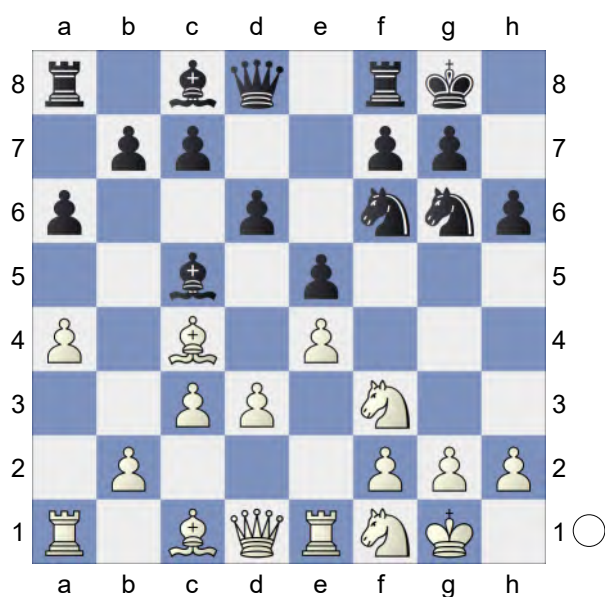
2785

2696

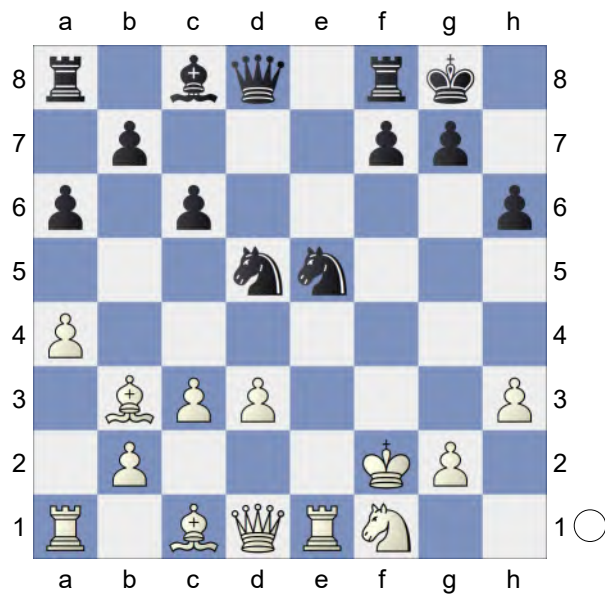
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0
Nf6 5.d3 d6



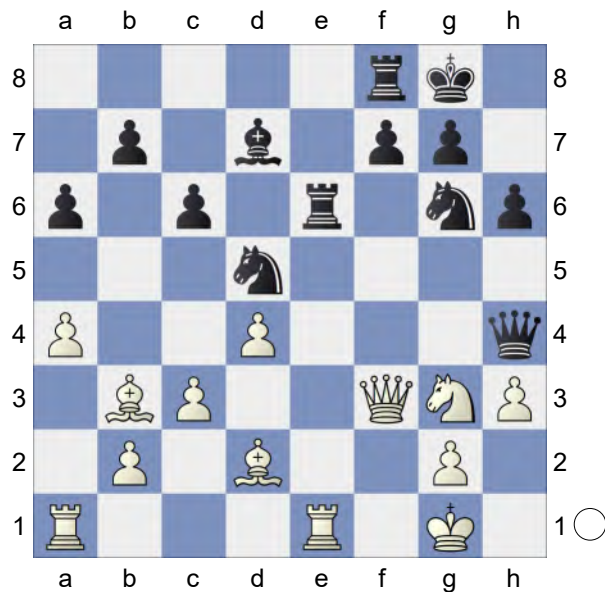
6.c3 a6 7.a4 h6 8.Nbd2 0-0 9.Re1
Ne7 10.Nf1 Ng6



11.Bb3 c6 12.h3 d5 13.exd5 Nxd5
14.Nxe5 Bxf2+ 15.Kxf2 Nxe5

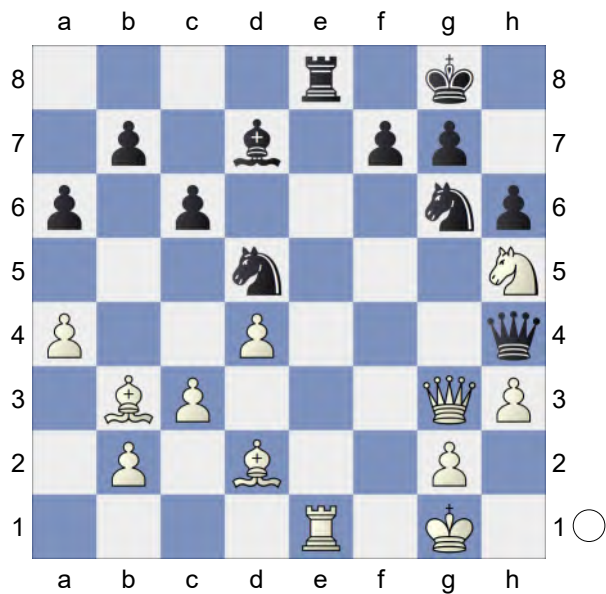


16.d4 Ng6 17.Kg1 Qh4 18.Bd2 Bd7
19.Qf3 Rae8 20.Ng3 Re6

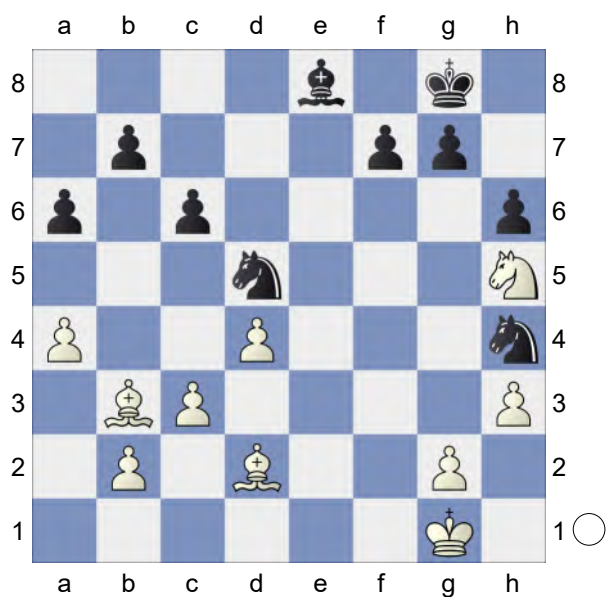


21.Nh5 Rfe8 22.Rf1 Qe7 23.Qg3 Re2
24.Rae1 Rxe1 25.Rxe1 Qh4

(Diagram)

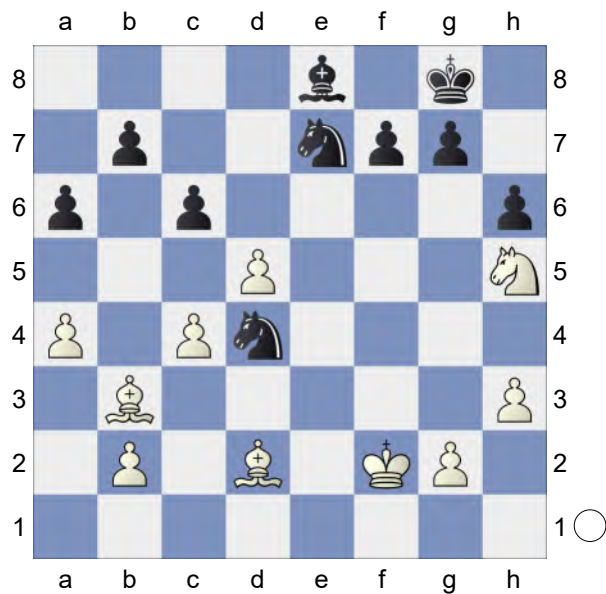


26.Rxe8+ Bxe8 27.Qxh4 Nxh4



Mit dem Läuferpaar hat Weiß
Endspielvorteil und geht nun im Zentrum
vor. **28.c4 Ne7 29.Kf2 Nhf5 30.d5
Nd4**

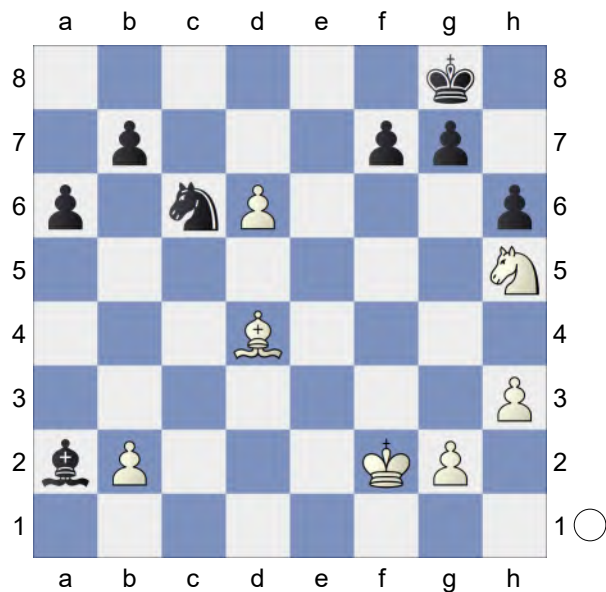
(Diagram)



**31.Ba2 cxd5 32.cxd5 Bxa4 33.Bc3
Bb3 34.d6 Nec6 35.Bxd4**

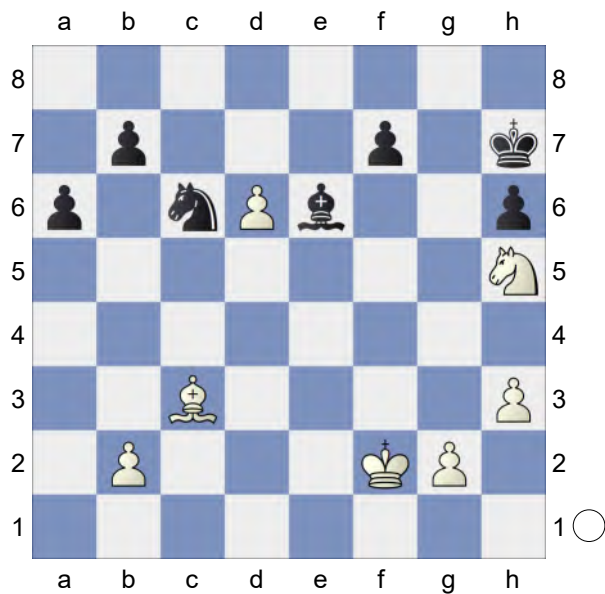
[Ein anderer Versuch war 35.Bxb3!?
Nxb3 36.Nxg7 f6 37.Nf5 Kf7
38.Nxh6+ Ke6 39.Ng8]

35...Bxa2



36.Bxg7 Kh7 37.Bc3 Be6

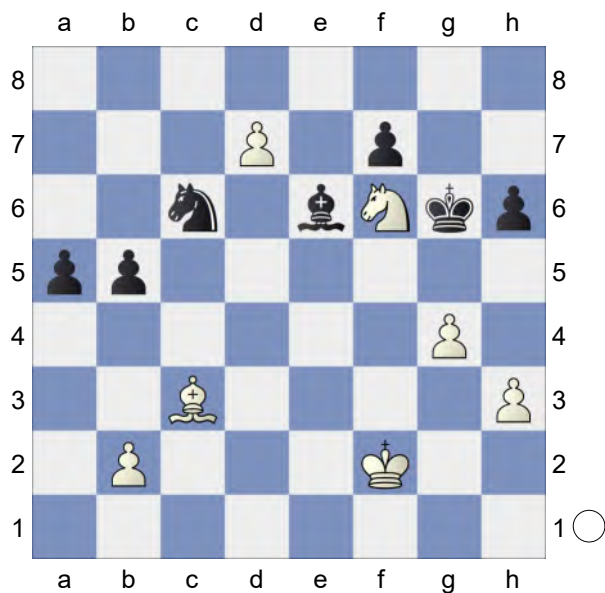
(Diagram)



38.Nf6+

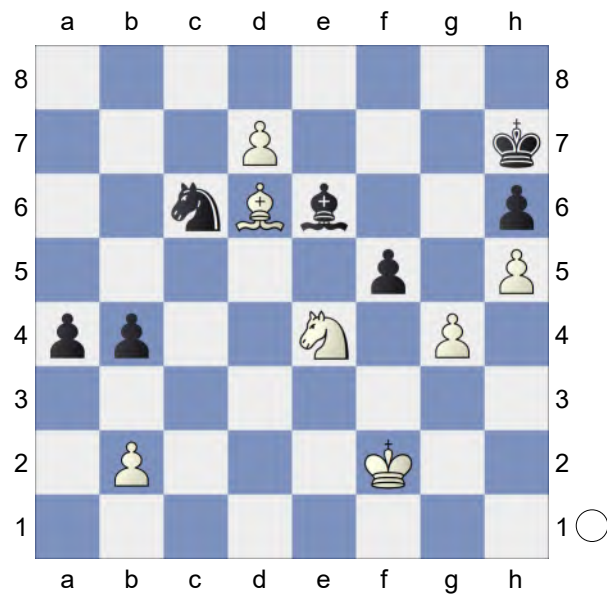
[38.g4!? um den König zu mobilisieren. b5 39.Ke3 b4 40.Bf6]

38...Kg6 39.d7 a5 40.g4 b5

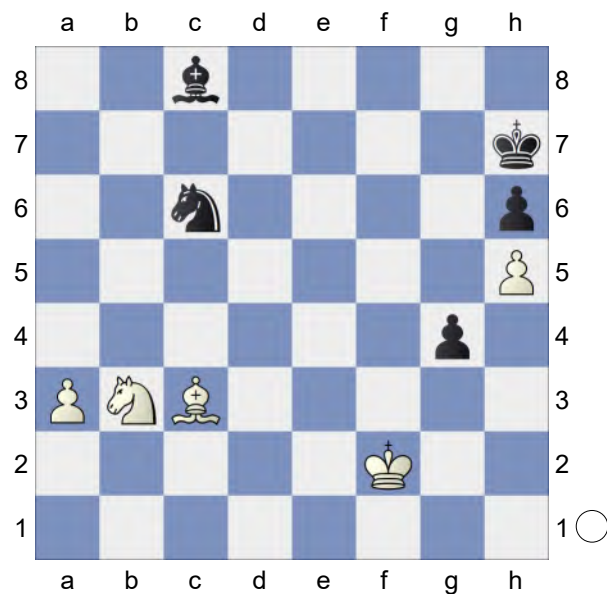


**41.h4 b4 42.Be5 a4 43.h5+ Kg7
44.Ne4+ Kh7 45.Bd6 f5**

(Diagram)

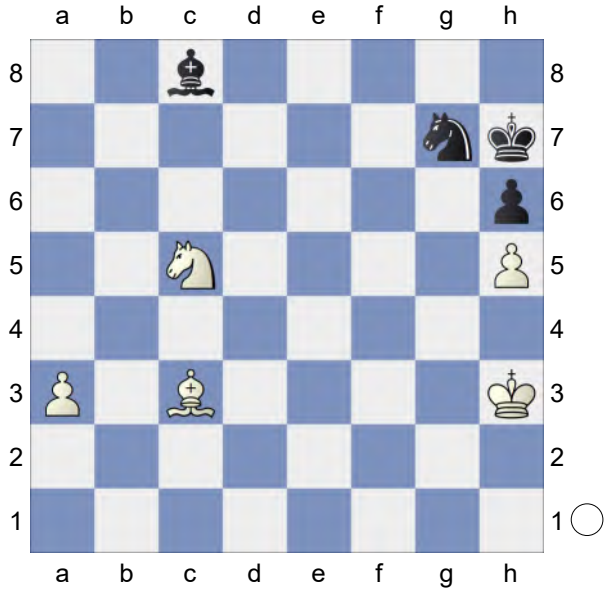


**46.Nc5 a3 47.bxa3 b3 48.Be5 Bxd7
49.Bc3 Bc8 50.Nxb3 fxg4**

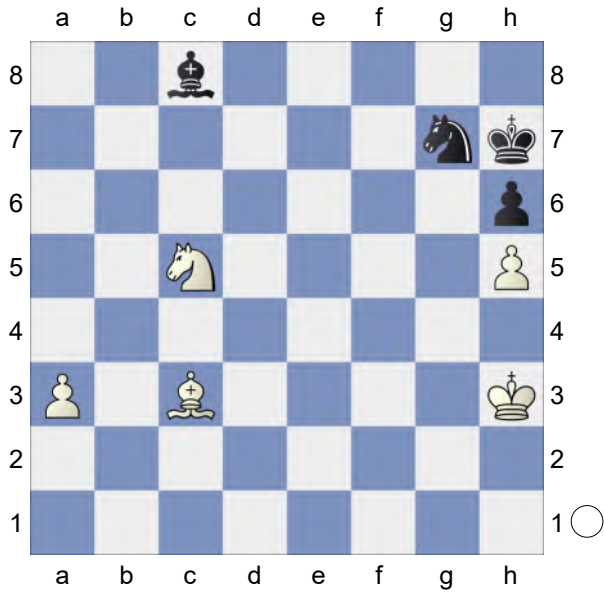


**51.Kg3 Ne7 52.Nc5 Nf5+ 53.Kxg4
Nd4+ 54.Kh4 Nf5+ 55.Kh3 Ng7+**

(Diagram)



56.Kh4 Nf5+ 57.Kh3 Ng7+



1/2-1/2

290

□ Wei,Yi

■ Giri,Anish

Tata Steel-A 79th (5)

[ChessBase II]

B19

2706

2773

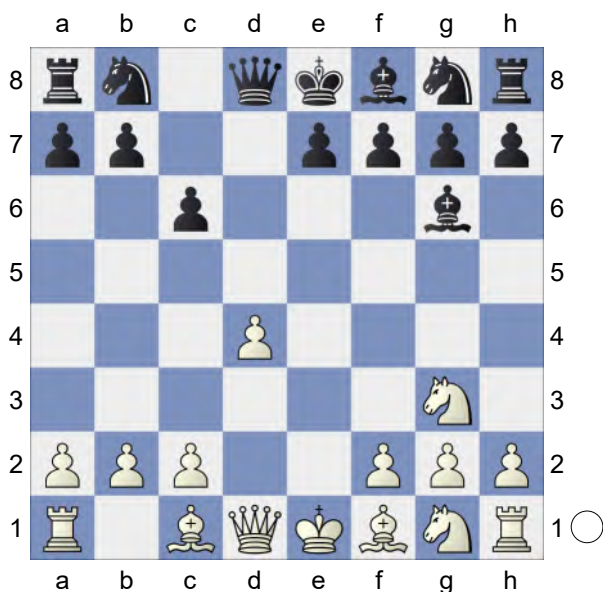
19.01.2017

(100min+30sec)/40+(50min+30sec)/20+(15min+30sec)

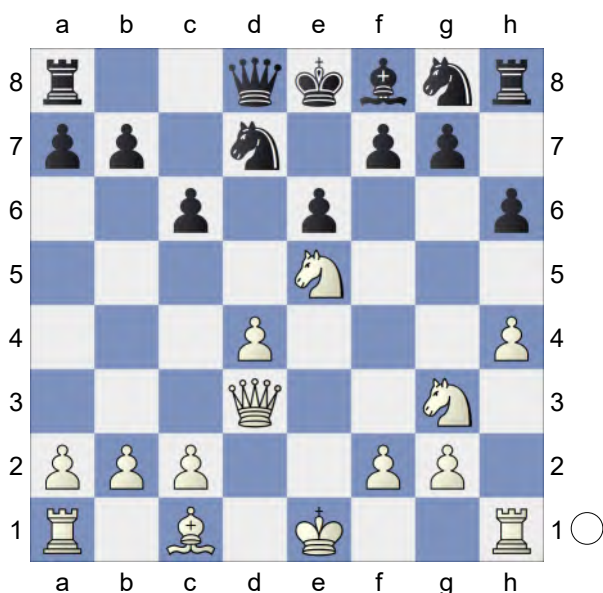
1.e4 0 Schandorff,Lars Schandorff,Lars

1...c6 2 2.d4 26 d5 4 3.Nd2 26 dxe4 3

4.Nxe4 4 Bf5 3 5.Ng3 16 Bg6 3



6.h4 10 h6 3 7.Nf3 6 e6 9 8.Ne5 4:34
 Bh7 8 9.Bd3 5 Bxd3 6 10.Qxd3 4 Nd7
 11



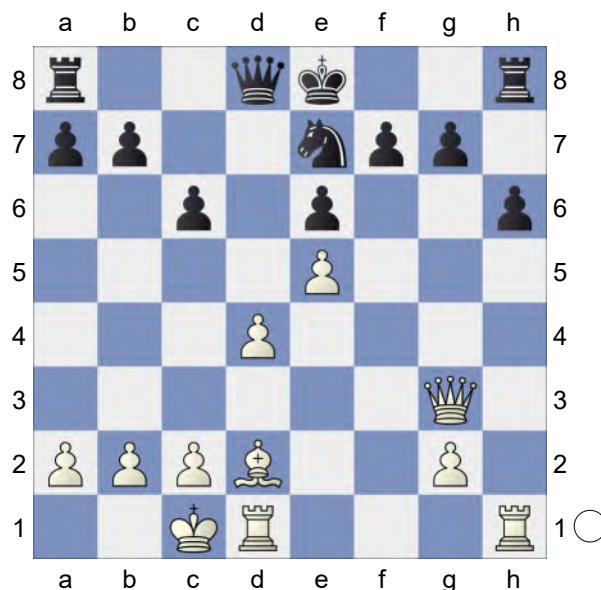
11.f4 17 Be7 18 Moulthun Ly: 'This line has been played a lot recently and most games have ended in a draw, clearly indicating Black is able to comfortably hold most of the positions in practise. It's still possible for White to find some improvements but with such a simplified position, there is only so much he can do.'

[11...Bb4+ is another popular option with games in the archives.]

12.Bd2 3:01

[12.Nh5 I analysed last month as an interesting alternative to create complications in the game: Ragger, M - Villegas, P]

12...Nxe5 1:02 13.fxe5 1:03 Bxh4 3
 14.0-0-0 9:14 Bxg3 33 15.Qxg3 6 Ne7
 3



16.Bb4 19:39 Schandorff,Lars: '!?' '!?'
 Moulthun Ly: 'N!?' 'N!?' Moulthun Ly: 'Wei Yi figures his opponent would have examined all the main moves in this position and tries one not suggested by the engine. A typical approach used by players in today's Modern chess age.'

[16.Qxg7 Rg8

A) 17.Qxh6 Qd5 18.Kb1 0-0-0

19.Qf6

A1) 19...Rxcg2

A1a) 20.Bc1 Nf5 21.Rh7
Rd7 (21...Qe4 22.Rd3±)
22.Rxf7 Rxf7 23.Qxf7±;

A1b) 20.Bc3?! Nf5= 21.Qxf7
Rg7 22.Qh5 Ng3 23.Qh6
Nf5 24.Qh5 Ng3 25.Qh6 Nf5
26.Qh5 1/2-1/2 Grandelius,N
(2641)-Lupulescu,C (2618)
Baku AZE 2016;

A2) 19...Nf5 20.Rh7 Rxcg2
21.Bc1 Rd7 22.Rxf7 Rxf7
23.Qxf7±;

B) 17.Qh7 Qd5

B1) 18.Kb1 0-0-0 19.Qxf7
Rxcg2 (19...Nf5! is the simplest
way to equalise.) 20.Ba5 Qxa5
21.Qxe7 Is a bit better for White
although he was unable to
convert the point in the game:
Saric,I (2668)-Mamedyarov,S
(2761) Baku AZE 2016;

B2) 18.Rdf1 0-0-0 19.Rxf7
Qxa2 (19...Rh8 20.Qd3 Qxa2
21.c3 Nd5∞) 20.c3 Nd5
21.Rxb7±;

B3) 18.Rhf1 0-0-0 19.Rxf7
Qxa2 20.c3 Qa1+ Ended in a
perpetual for Ter Sahakyan,S
(2582)-Hovhannisyan, R (2631)
Yerevan ARM 2017 21.Kc2
Qa4+ 22.Kc1 Qa1+ 23.Kc2
Qa4+ 24.Kc1 Qa1+ 1/2-1/2 Ter
S a h a k y a n , S (2 5 8 2) -
Hovhannisyan,R (2631) Yerevan
ARM 2017]

16...Nf5 12:45 17.Qf4 1:27

[17.Qf3 Qd5=]

17...g5 3:42 Moulthun Ly: '!' '!' Moulthun
Ly: 'Black needs to dislodge the queen
and try to secure the outpost on ...f5 for
the knight.' Schandorff,Lars: 'Passive

play leads to trouble:'

[17...Qd7 Schandorff,Lars 18.g4 Ne7
19.Bd6 Nc8 20.Bc5 b6 21.Ba3 Ne7
22.Rh3 Rd8 23.Rf1 Rf8 Kokarev,D
(2622)-Lintchevski,D (2566) Kazan
2016, and now 24.Bd6!± would have
been hard for Black to get out of.]

[17...a5 18.Ba3 g5 19.Qd2 g4
(19...Qd5 20.Kb1 Qe4 21.Rhe1
Qg4 22.Bc5∞) 20.Kb1 Qd5 21.Bc5
a4=]

18.Qf2N 7:46 Moulthun Ly: "N" Moulthun
Ly: 'ChessBase II: 'N'

[18.Qf3 g4 (18...Qd5±) 19.Qxcg4
Qd5 20.Qh5 0-0-0 21.Rh3 Qxcg2
22.Rd2 Qg1+ 23.Rd1 Qg5+
24.Qxcg5 hxcg5 25.Rxh8 Rxh8 26.Bc3
g4 27.Rg1 g3 28.Kd2 Rh4 29.Kd3
b5 30.a3 Kd7 31.b3 Rf4 32.Bb2
Rf3+ 33.Ke2 Rf2+ 34.Kd3 g2
35.Bc3 Rf3+ 36.Kd2 Nh4
0-1 (36) Puranik,A (2475)-Melkumyan,
H (2640) Warsaw 2016]

18...g4 1:38 Schandorff,Lars: '!' '!'
Moulthun Ly: 'The idea of the last move.'
Schandorff,Lars: 'Preventing White from
playing g4 himself. ' **19.c4 16:52**

[19.Rd3 Schandorff,Lars Qd5]

[19.Kb1 Qd5 20.b3 0-0-0=]

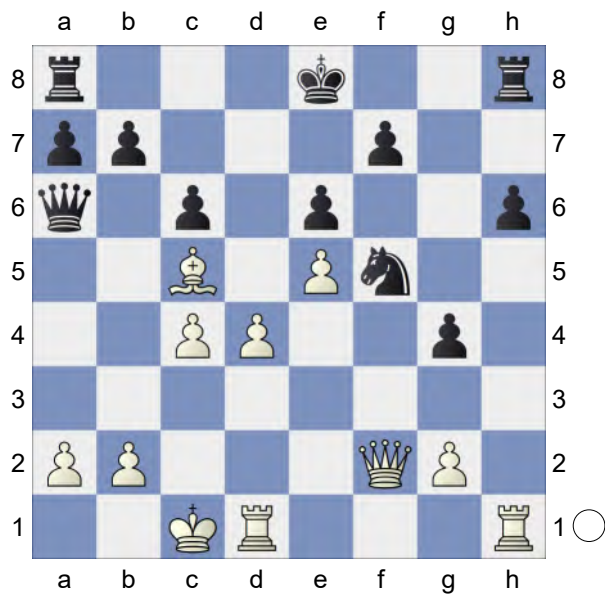
19...Qb6 11:55 Moulthun Ly: 'is okay for
White now.'

[19...a5 Schandorff,Lars is a possible
improvement. A sample line is 20.Bc5
b6 21.Ba3 Qg5+ 22.Kb1 Qe3!±]

[19...Qg5+! is better. 20.Bd2 Qg6±]

20.Bc5 3:23 Qa6 2:13

(Diagram)



Schandorff,Lars: 'A common square for the queen in the Caro-Kann. ' **21.b3** 18 **g3** 7:07 Moulthun Ly: 'I don't feel this move helps the Black position as much and I would have preferred to keep the pawns on the light squares.'

[21...h5 22.Kb2 Qa5 23.Bd6 0-0-0]

22.Qd2 5:38

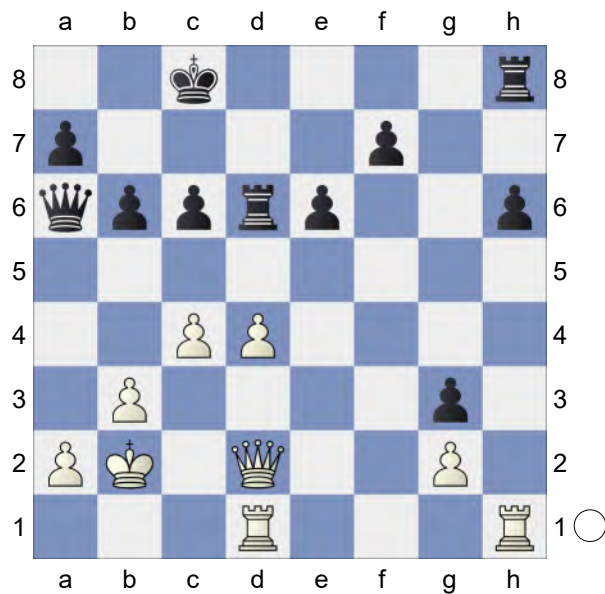
[22.Qe2 b6 23.Bd6 Nxd6 24.exd6 Qa3+ 25.Kb1 Qxd6 26.Qf3 0-0-0 27.Qxf7=]

22...0-0-0 17:46 Schandorff,Lars: 'The opening has gone excellently for Black. The extra pawn is not that important yet, but it means that White must seek compensation all the time. '

[22...b6 23.Bd6 Nxd6 24.exd6 Qa3+ 25.Kb1 Qxd6]

23.Kb2 44 **b6** 5:38 **24.Bd6** 6 **Nxd6** 9 **25.exd6** 6 **Rxd6** 6

(Diagram)



Moulthun Ly: 'The resulting position is objectively about equal due to Black's loose pawns.' **26.Qf4** 14:28 **Rd7** 3:13 **27.d5** 28 Schandorff,Lars: '!? '!? ' Moulthun Ly: 'Trying to create complications before Black can consolidate but it should favour Black with accurate play.' Schandorff,Lars: 'The young Chinese player chooses the most active continuation. He could have grapped a pawn here or on the previous move, but true to his style goes for the initiative.'

[27.Qxg3 b5]

27...cxd5 7:27 **28.cxd5** 18 **exd5** 1:04

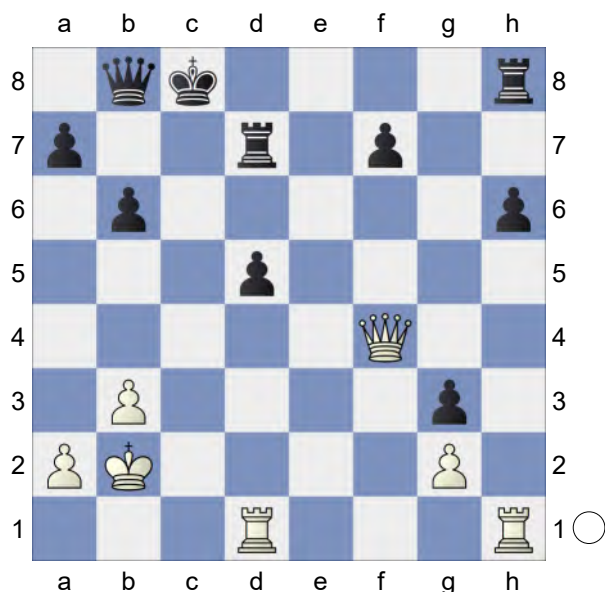
[28...Rhd8! 29.Rc1+ Kb7]

29.Qg4 1:49 Moulthun Ly: '!? '!? ' Moulthun Ly: 'Only move therefore best.' Schandorff,Lars: 'Black is three pawns up, but it is difficult to untangle his pieces.' **29...Qb7** 16:30 **30.Qf4** 15:45

[30.Rc1+ Kb8 31.Qxg3+ Ka8 32.Rxh6 Qb8]

30...Qb8 11:11

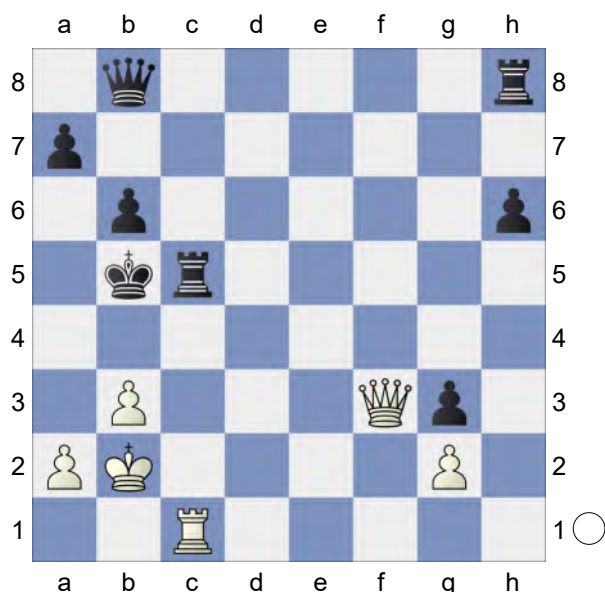
(Diagram)



Schandorff,Lars: '! ' Moulthun Ly: 'Starts to become a more serious advantage.' 31.Qf6 14 Kb7 13 32.Rxd5 8 Moulthun Ly: '!?' '!' 32...Rxd5 2:02 33.Qxf7+ 3 Kc6 2:41 Schandorff,Lars: 'The best chance.'

[33...Qc7 Schandorff,Lars 34.Qxd5+ Kb8 35.Rc1 Rd8! 36.Qe4 gave White good compensation.]

34.Rc1+ 5 Rc5 4 35.Qf3+ 3 Kb5 5:18 [35...Kc7 36.Qf4+ Kb7]



36.Qd3+ 19 Ka5 2:22 Schandorff,Lars:

'Forced to avoid the draw. It is not without risk, though, having your king on the wrong side of the pawn shelter. ' 37.Qd4 3:29 Ka6 23 Moulthun Ly: 'Now Black is unable to escape from the checks and the game ends in a draw.'

[37...Qe8 Keeps the game going. 38.b4+ Ka6 39.bxc5 Qb5+ 40.Ka3 Rc8]

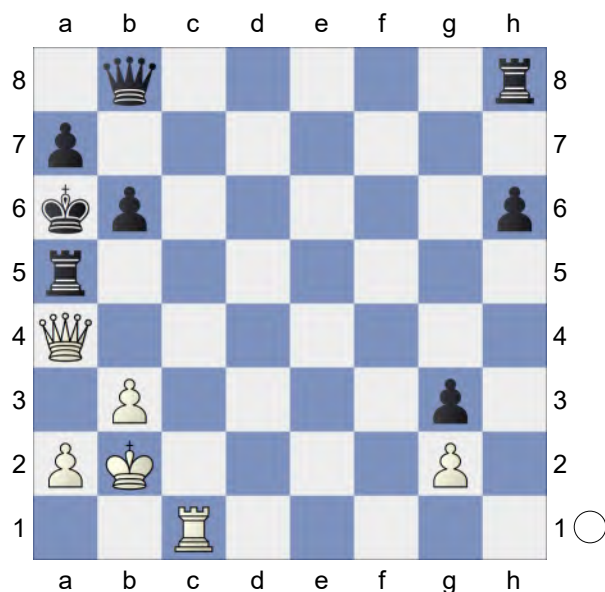
38.Qa4+ 5 Ra5 31

[38...Kb7 Schandorff,Lars 39.Qe4+ Moulthun Ly: '=' Moulthun Ly: 'Leads to a draw.' Kc7 40.Qe7+ Kc6 41.Qe4+ Kd7 42.Rd1+ Kc8 43.Qe6+ Kb7 44.Qe4+ also ends in a lot of checks, that Black can't really get out of.]

39.Qc4+ 7 Rb5 22

[39...b5 Schandorff,Lars 40.Qe6+ Qb6 41.Rc6=]

40.Qa4+ 0 Ra5 26

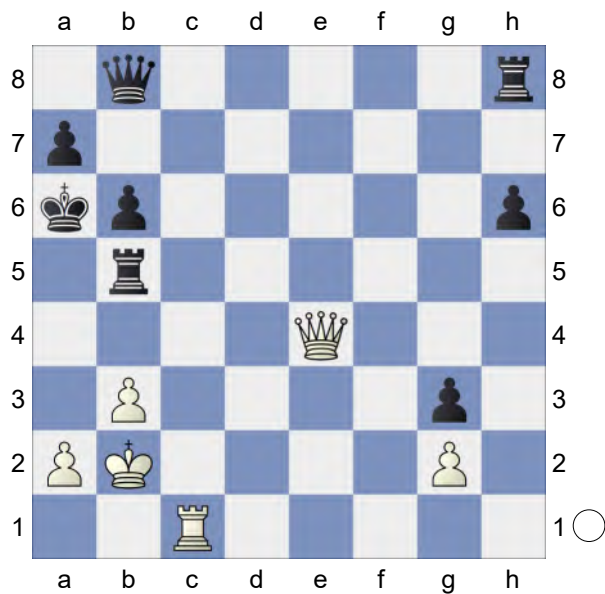


41.Qc4+ 26 Rb5 1:20 42.Qa4+ 5 Kb7 35 43.Qe4+ 5 Schandorff,Lars: '! '!

[43.Qxb5 Schandorff,Lars Qd6 and Black has chances.]

43...Ka6 2

(Diagram)



Moulthun Ly: 'White's opening experiment with 16.Bb4!? didn't go according to plan as Black was able to find the correct response. After which White found himself on the back-foot and was perhaps slightly fortunate to escape with the half point. Overall I believe this line is harmless for Black and it may be time for White to consider other alternatives to play for an advantage.'

$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

13

□ So, Wesley

■ Wei, Yi

Tata Steel-A 79th (12)

[ChessBase II]

D41

2808

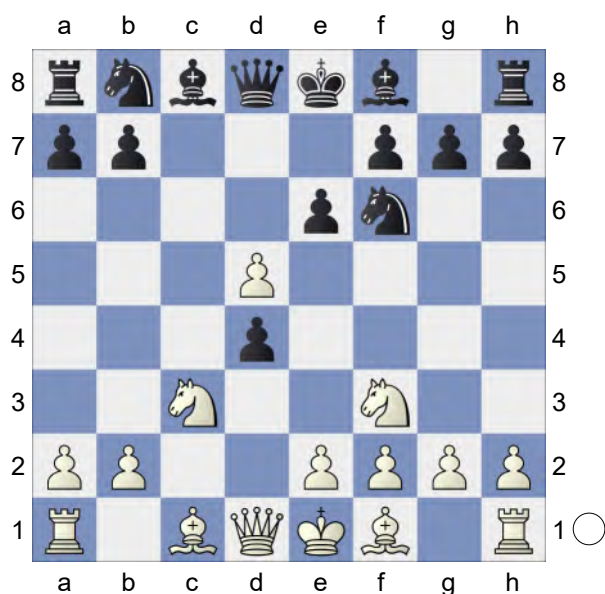
2706

28.01.2017

(100min+30sec)/40+(50min+30sec)/20+(15min+30sec)/10

1.Nf3 0 d5 8 2.d4 5 Nf6 7 3.c4 5 e6 4

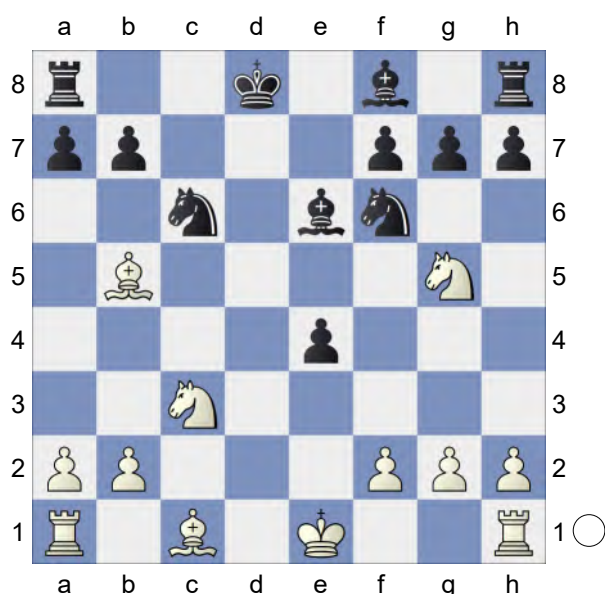
4.Nc3 8 c5 17 5.cxd5 33 cxd4 27



6.Qxd4 32 exd5 6 7.e4 14 Nc6 6

8.Bb5 10 dxe4 9 9.Qxd8+ 5:40 Kxd8 5

10.Ng5 5 Be6 7



11.Bxc6 4

[11.0-0 Bb4 12.Ncxe4 Nxe4
13.Nxe4 Ke7 14.Be3 Rhd8 15.Bxc6
bxc6 16.Rfc1 Bd5 17.Bc5+ Bxc5
18.Nxc5 Rab8 19.Rc2 Bxa2 20.h3
Be6 21.Rxa7+ Kf6 22.Nxe6 fxe6
23.Rxc6 Rxb2 24.Rcc7 Rg8 25.h4
Rb5 26.g3 Kg6 27.Ra6 Kf6 28.Kg2
Rbb8 29.g4 Rbc8 30.g5+ Kf5
31.Re7 Rce8 32.Rea7 Kg4 33.Ra4+
Kh5 34.Kg3 Ref8 35.Re7 Rf5
36.Rxe6 Rgf8 37.f4 Rb5 38.Ra3
Rb1 39.Re7 Rg1+ 40.Kh2 Rg4
Mamedyarov, S (2768)-Wei, Y (2707)
Doha 2016 ½-½]

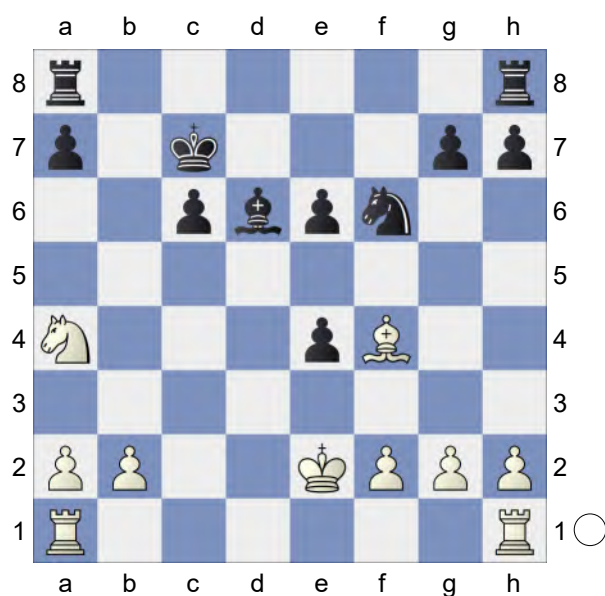
11...bxc6 6 12.Nxe6+ 5 fxe6 4 13.Ke2

7 Bb4 3:03 14.Na4 3:27 Kc7 37

15.Bf4+N 16:15

[15.Rd1 Rhd8 16.Bf4+ Kb7
17.Rac1 a5 18.Rxd8 Rxd8 19.Rc4
Rd5 20.Be3 Rb5 21.h3 Kc7 22.b3
Rd5 23.Bf4+ Kb7 24.Bg3
½-½ (24) Lysyj, I (2691)-Wang, Y
(2726) China 2015]

15...Bd6 13

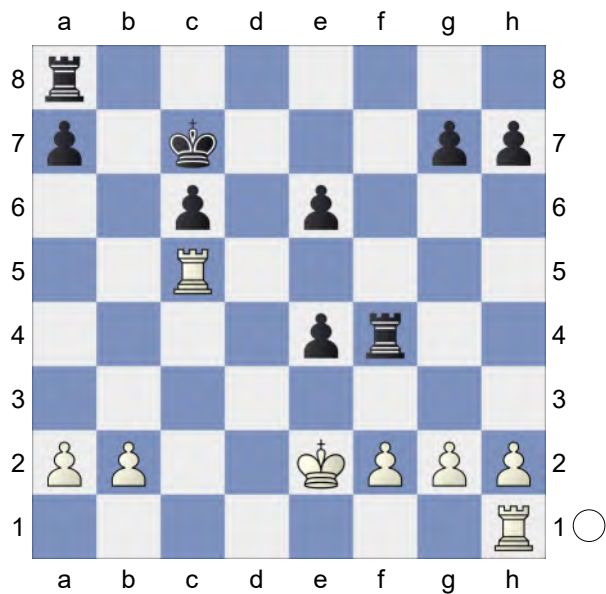


16.Be3 2:58 Nd5 45:49 17.Rac1 3:17

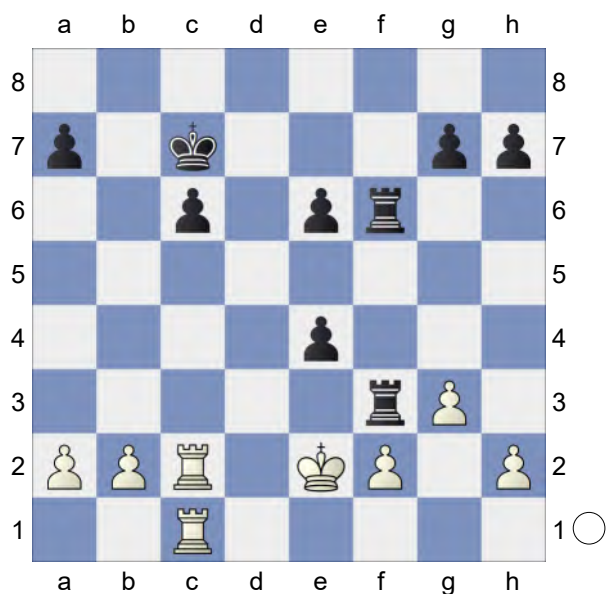
Rhf8 3:48 18.Nc5 14:34 Bxc5 2:14

19.Rxc5 14 Nf4+ 7:04 20.Bxf4+ 11:18

Rxf4 3

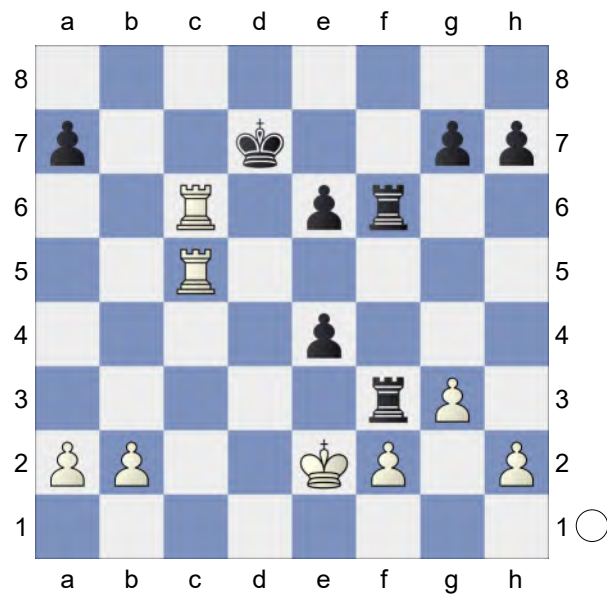


21.Ke3 7:33 Raf8 24 22.Rc2 6 Rg4
1:06 23.g3 17 Rf3+ 2:46 24.Ke2 52
Rg6 40 25.Rhc1 1:39 Rgf6 2:08

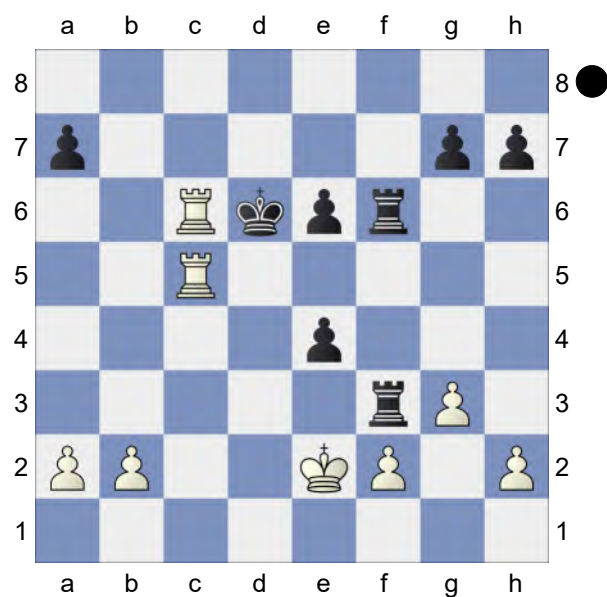


26.Rxc6+ 6 Kd7 48 27.Rc7+ 6:45 Kd6
6 28.R1c6+ 38 Kd5 6 29.Rc5+ 11 Kd6
17 30.R7c6+ 4 Kd7 4

(Diagram)



31.Rc7+ 2 Kd6 5 32.R7c6+ 4



1/2-1/2

42

C43

□ Harikrishna,Pentala

2766

■ Wei,Yi

2706

Tata Steel-A 79th (8)

22.01.2017

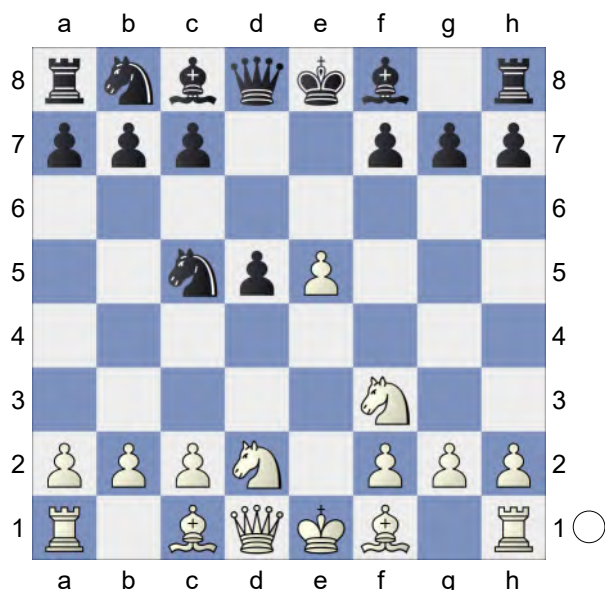
[ChessBase II]

(100min+30sec)/40+(50min+30sec)/20+(15min+30sec)

1.e4 0 e5 7 2.Nf3 0 Nf6 10 3.d4 0

Nxe4 12 4.dxe5 0 d5 11 5.Nbd2 0

Nc5 1:15



6.Be2 0

[6.c3 Be7 7.b4 Ne6 8.Nb3 f6
 9.Bd3 Nd7 10.0-0 fxe5 11.Bf5 Nf6
 12.Nxe5 0-0 13.Re1 Bd6 14.Qd3
 Re8 15.Nf3 c6 16.Bd2 Bd7 17.c4
 Nc7 18.Nbd4 Bxf5 19.Nxf5 Bf8
 20.Rxe8 Qxe8 21.Re1 Qf7 22.Ne5
 Qe6 23.Nd4 Qc8 24.b5 c5 25.Ndf3
 Qd8 26.Bg5 dxc4 27.Qc2 Qd5
 28.Bxf6 gxf6 29.Ng4 Bg7 30.Re7
 Nxb5 31.Nxf6+ Bxf6 32.Qxh7+ Kf8
 33.Rd7 Nd6 34.h4 Rd8 35.Qh6+
 Ke8 Nepomniachtchi,I (2707)-
 Ivanchuk,V (2710) Ashdod 2015 0-1]

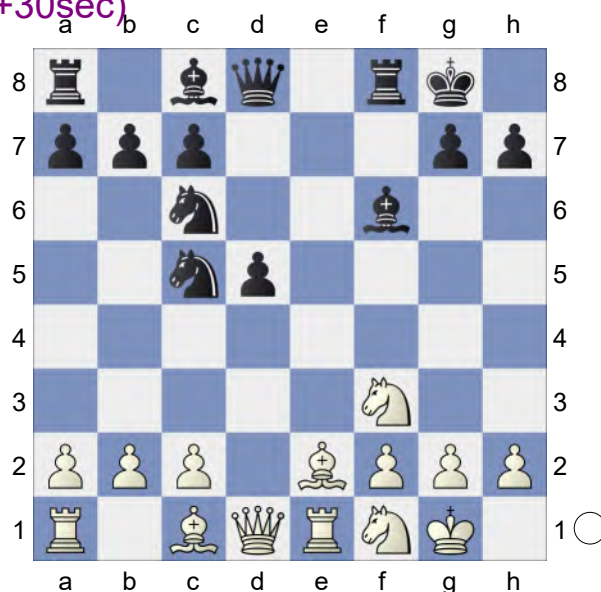
6...Be7 8:05 7.0-0 9 0-0 6:50 8.Re1N 4

[8.Nb3 Nxb3 9.axb3 c5 10.c3 Nc6
 11.Bf4 Bf5 12.Bd3 Qd7 13.Re1
 Rad8 14.h3 h6 15.Bg3 Bxd3

16.Qxd3 Qe6 17.Rad1 d4 18.Qb5
 dxc3 19.bxc3 Rxd1 20.Rxd1 b6
 21.Qa4 ½-½ (21) Negi,P (2621)-Giri,A
 (2588) Wijk aan Zee 2010]

8...Nc6 7:04 9.Nf1 13:50 f6 3:49

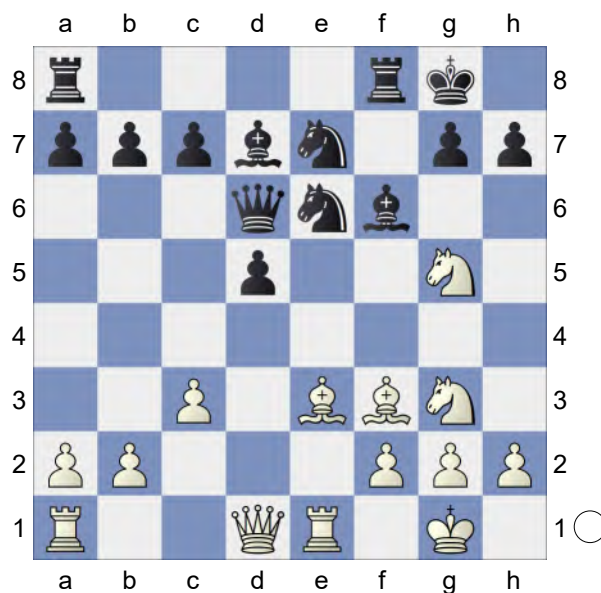
10.exf6 6:23 Bxf6 4:04



11.Ng3 2:39 Qd6 10:12 12.c3 8:18 Be6

4:12 13.Ng5 6:01 Bd7 21:45 14.Bf3

19:02 Ne7 43 15.Be3 3:51 Ne6 7:25

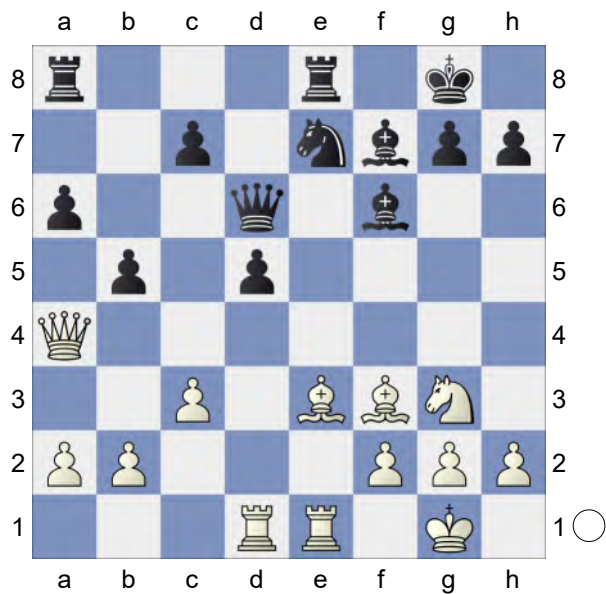


16.Nxe6 8:05 Bxe6 10 17.Qe2 9:52

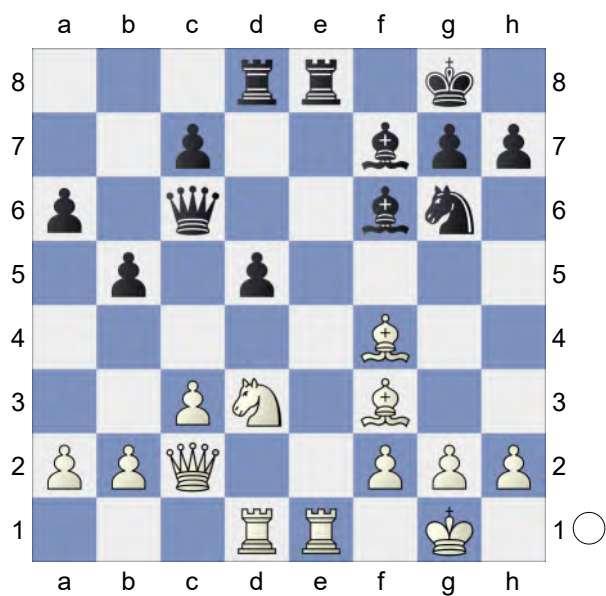
Bf7 2:07 18.Rad1 1:25 Rfe8 5:20

19.Qb5 12:20 a6 22 20.Qa4 20 b5 2:15

(Diagram)

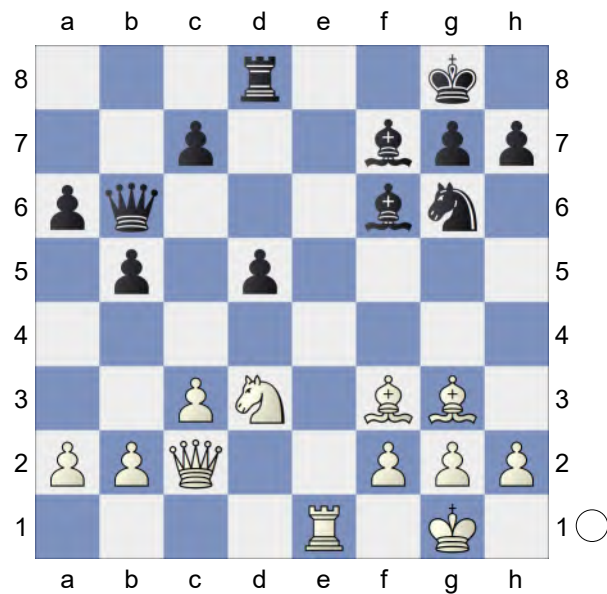


21.Qc2 44 Qc6 1:45 22.Nh5 32 Be5 41
23.Nf4 27 Rad8 39 24.Nd3 1:38 Bf6 23
25.Bf4 16 Ng6 2:17



26.Bg3 1:56 Rxe1+ 1:28 27.Rxe1 32
Qb6 1:00

(Diagram)



1/2-1/2

52

□ Eljanov, Pavel

■ Wei, Yi

Tata Steel-A 79th (10)

[ChessBase II]

E97

2755

2706

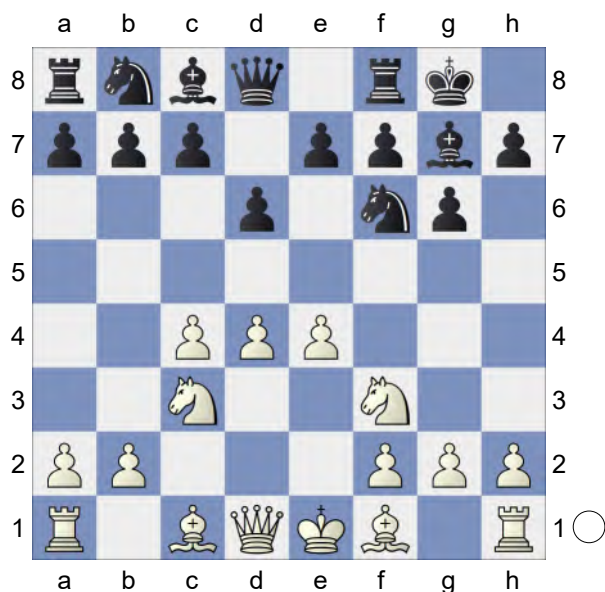
25.01.2017

(100min+30sec)/40+(50min+30sec)/20+(15min+30sec)/10

1.d4 0 Schandorff, Lars 1...Nf6 12 2.c4 0

g6 1:49 3.Nc3 11 Bg7 12 4.e4 6 d6

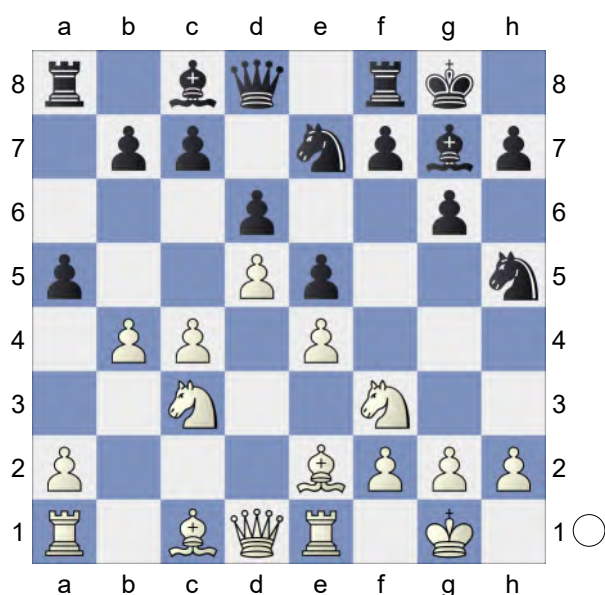
1:17 5.Nf3 15 0-0 14



6.Be2 1:17 e5 1:02 7.0-0 6 Nc6 22

8.d5 51 Ne7 11 9.b4 4 Nh5 2:00

10.Re1 9 a5 35



Schandorff, Lars: 'A typical motif. Black will follow up with ... ♔d6 and start

attacking.' 11.bxa5 2:40 Rxa5 2:42

12.Nd2 15 Nf4 14 13.Bf1 1:54 c5 1:56

14.a4 4 Schandorff, Lars: 'The game is

balanced somehow, but anything else

than 30 sec. Black is quite active and White

has to take care, but Black has an

isolated pawn that could be a weakness

later on and White has a very sound

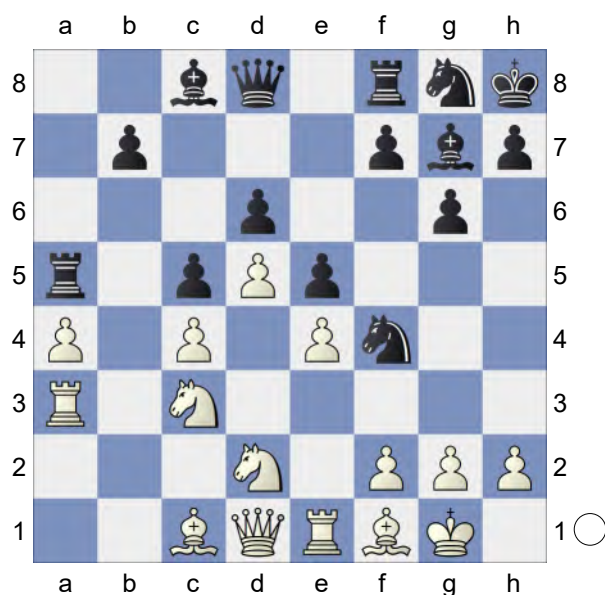
position.' 14...Kh8 10:44

[14...Ra6 15.Ra3 g5]

15.Ra3N 1:53 Ng8 2:26

[15...g5 16.g3 Nh3+ 17.Bxh3 Bxh3

18.Nb3 Ra6 19.Bxg5]



16.Nb5 33 Nh6 2:50 Schandorff, Lars: 'The part with the isolated pawn should in general avoid exchanges.'

[16...Bh6 17.g3 Nh5 (17...Nh3+

18.Bxh3 Bxh3 19.g4 Qh4 20.Rg3)

18.Bb2]

17.Nf3 6:51 Ra6 2:42

[17...f6 18.Bxf4 exf4 19.Qd2 Nf7

(19...g5 20.Nxd6) 20.Qxf4 f5

A) 21.exf5 Bxf5 (21...Bh6 22.Qe4

Bxf5 23.Qe7) 22.Qg3;

B) 21.Qc1 Ra8 22.h3 fxe4

23.Rxe4 Bf5 24.Re1 Bd7 25.Qc2
Ne5 26.Ree3 Bf5 27.Qd1 Nxf3+
28.Rxf3 Be5 29.Bd3]
[17...f5 18.exf5 Bxf5 19.Bxf4 exf4
20.Qd2 Ra6 21.Qxf4]

18.Bxf4 27:55

[18.h3]

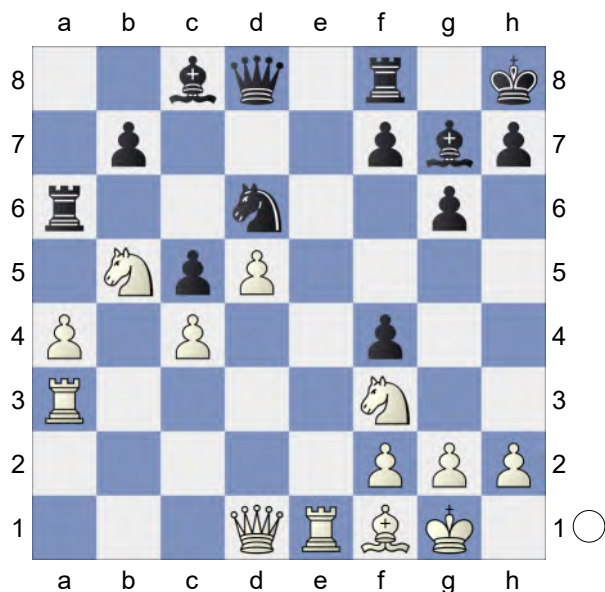
18...exf4 42:02 19.e5 6:39 Schandorff,
Lars: 'Gives the queen the a1-square.'

[19.Qd2 g5]

19...Nf5 1:57 Schandorff,Lars: 'Solves
the problem with the d-pawn and leads
to exchanges and a pretty equal position.'

[19...dxe5 20.Nxe5 Re8 (20...Bxe5
21.Rxe5 Ng4 22.Re2) 21.Nd3]

20.exd6 1:26 Nxd6 13



21.Nd2 3:01 Qa5 1:37

[21...Nxb5 22.cxb5 Rd6 23.Bc4 Bf5
24.a5]

[21...Bf5 22.Bd3 (22.Nxd6 Qxd6
23.Bd3 Bd7 24.Ne4 Qc7) 22...Nxb5
23.cxb5 Rd6 24.Bc4 b6 25.Ne4
Rd7 (25...Bxe4 26.Rxe4) 26.Qd2
Qh4]

[21...g5 22.Nxd6 (22.Nb3 Nxb5
23.cxb5 Rh6 24.Nxc5 g4) 22...Rxd6
23.Ne4 Rh6 24.Qf3 (24.Nxc5 Qd6)

24...Be5]

22.Ne4 13:26 Re8 23

[22...Nxb5 23.cxb5 Ra7 24.Nd6
Qb4 25.Ra2]

23.Nec3 4

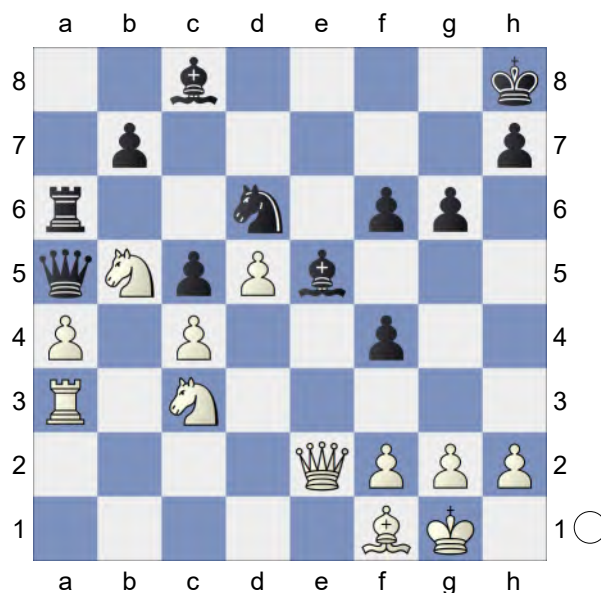
[23.Nbxd6 Rxd6 24.Rb3 (24.Nxd6
Rxe1 25.Qf3 Qb6 26.Nxc8 Rxf1+
27.Kxf1 Qb1+ 28.Ke2 Qb2+ 29.Kd1
Qb1+) 24...Rb6 25.Rxb6 Qxb6]

23...Re5 3:15

[23...Be5 24.Rb3 (24.Nxd6 Rxd6)
24...Qd8]

**24.Rxe5 4:45 Bxe5 1:09 25.Qe2 8:43
f6 39**

[25...Bxc3 26.Qe7]



Schandorff,Lars: '=' Schandorff,Lars: 'A
lot happened later in time trouble and
White came close to victory, but in an
opening survey we can leave the game
now and notice that White never really
got anything at this stage. His winning
chances only occurred because Black
overpressed and sacrificed a piece.'

**26.Nxd6 7:27 Rxd6 6:10 27.Ne4 7:57
Rd8 4:50**

[27...Rb6 28.Nxf6 Bxf6 29.Qe8+
Kg7 30.Qxc8]

28.Rb3 2:48 Bd4 3:07

[28...Qc7

A) 29.a5 Bf5 (29...Qxa5 30.Rb5
Qa7 31.Nxc5 b6 32.Nd3 Ba6
33.Rb4 Bd6 34.Ra4) 30.Rb6
Bxe4 31.Qxe4 Rd6;

B) 29.Rb5 Bd4 30.a5 Re8]

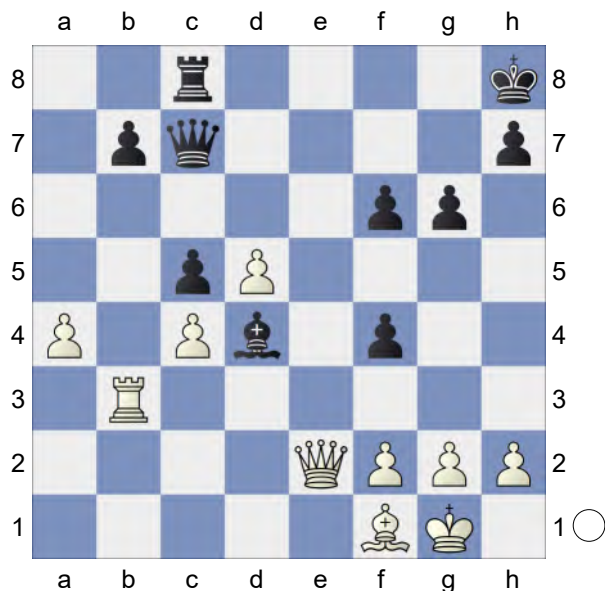
29.Nd6 1:15 Qc7 1:10

[29...Qxa4 Caruana,F (2823)-
Nakamura,H (2779) Saint Louis 2016
0-1 30.Qe7]

30.Nxc8 36

[30.Nb5 Qe5 31.Nxd4 cxd4
32.Qd2]

30...Rxc8 1:35



31.Qe6 6:02 Rd8 8:09 32.Rb6 10

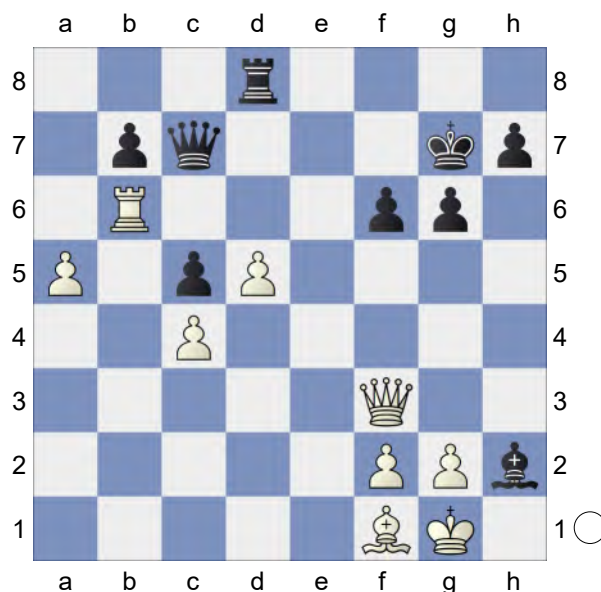
[32.Qb6 Qxb6 33.Rxb6 Rd7 34.Be2
Kg7 35.Kf1 (35.Bf3 Kf7 36.d6 Ke6
37.Bxb7 Rxd6)]

**32...Kg7 4 33.a5 13 Be5 3:06 34.Qh3
4:24 f3 55**

[34...Ra8 35.Qb3 Ra7]

35.Qxf3 1:32 Bxh2+ 2:43

(Diagram)



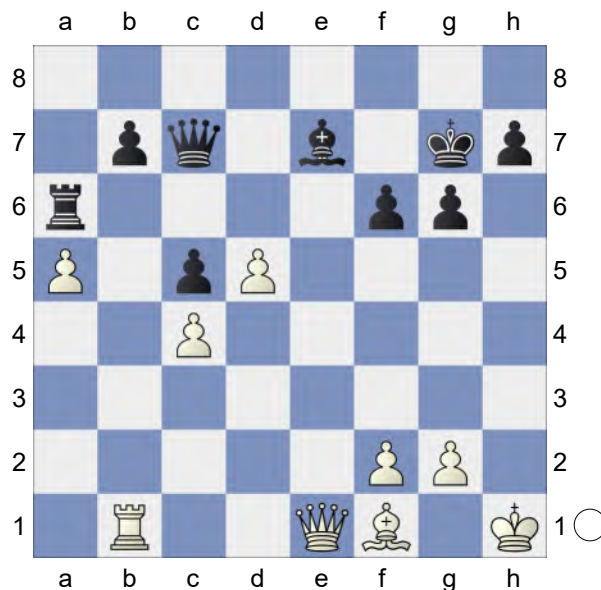
36.Kh1 32 Bd6 7

[36...Be5 37.d6]

37.Qe3 44 Rd7 1:40

[37...Ra8 38.Qb3 Ra7 39.g3]

**38.Qe6 1:04 Be7 2:38 39.Rb1 37 Rd6
32 40.Qe1 0 Ra6 8**



41.Rb5 7:37 Bd8 9

[41...Bd6 42.Qb1]

42.g3 6 b6 3:10

[42...Rxa5 43.d6]

[42...Be7 43.Qb1 Ra7 44.Bg2 Bd6]

43.Qe6 4:07

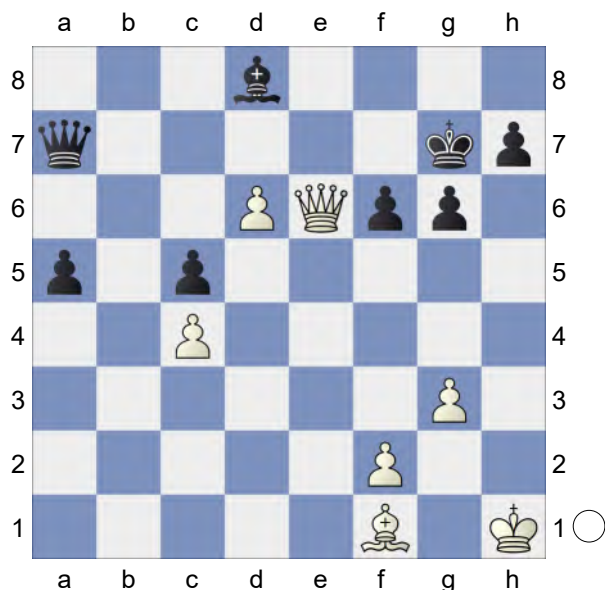
[43.axb6 Rxb6 44.Qe3 Rxb5

45.cxb5 Qd6]

43...Rxa5 8 44.Rxa5 13 bxa5 1:56

45.d6 14:02 Qa7 9:32

[45...Qf7 46.Qc8 Bb6 47.Bg2 a4
48.Bd5 Qa7 49.d7 a3 50.f4]



46.Qe8 1:35 Qb6 53

[46...Qb8 47.Qd7+ Kh6 48.Bg2 a4
49.Bd5 Bb6]

47.Qd7+ 9 Kh6 2:35 48.Qh3+ 12:08

Kg7 4:03 49.Qd7+ 2:36 Kh6 13 50.Bg2 3:57 a4 21

[50...Qb8 51.Bd5 Bb6

A) 52.Qe7

A1) 52...a4 53.Qxf6 Qd8

54.Qf4+ Kg7 55.Qe5+ Kh6

56.Qe3+ Qg5 (56...Kg7

57.Qe7+ ½-½ (33) Malakhov,V

(2695)-Ding,L (2777) China 2016

Kh6 Schandorff,Lars 58.g4)

57.Qe7;

A2) 52...Qd8 53.Bc6;

B) 52.Qe6 Qd8 53.Bc6

B1) 53...Kg7 54.Qe7+ Kh6

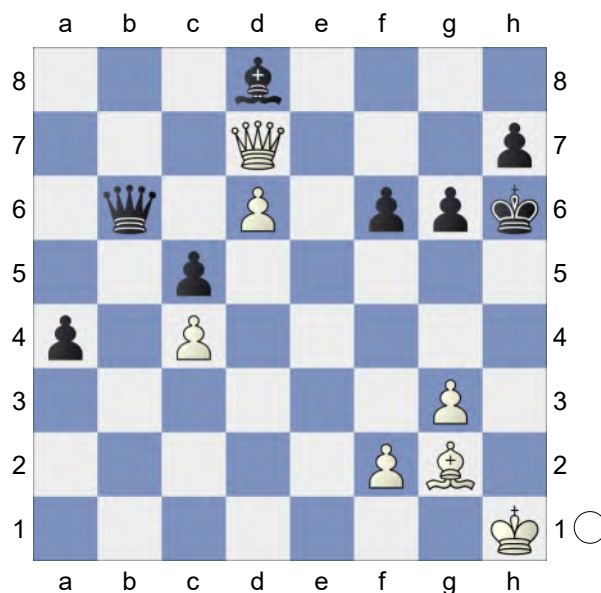
(54...Kh8 55.Be8);

B2) 53...f5 54.Kg2]

[50...f5 51.Bd5 Bf6 52.Bg8±

Other decent moves are Bg7

Schandorff,Lars 53.Qe7 Schandorff,
Lars]



51.Qh3+ 20 Kg7 20 52.Qd7+ 7:32 Kh6

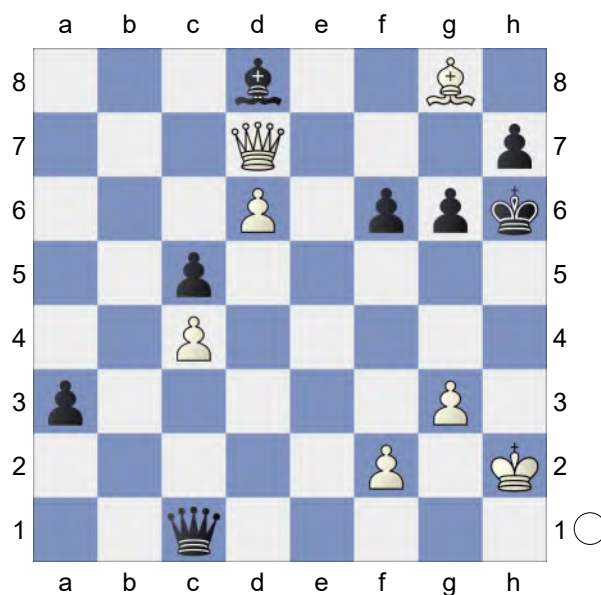
4:14 53.Bd5 15 a3 1:18

[53...Qb1+ 54.Kg2 Ba5 55.Qxa4
Qb6 56.Qd7]

54.Bg8 2:28 Qb1+ 7

[54...a2 55.Qxh7+ Kg5± 56.Qh4+
Kf5 57.Qf4#]

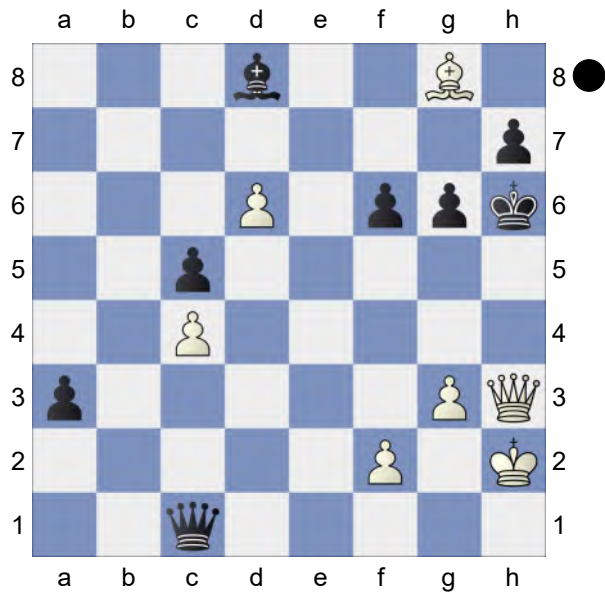
55.Kh2 1:14 Qc1 15



56.Qh3+!

[56.Qh3+ Kg5! is the way to play, for

instance 57.f4+]



Schandorff, Lars

1/2-1/2

53

A13

□ Eljanov,Pavel

2755

■ Wei,Yi

2706

Tata Steel-A 79th (10)

25.01.2017

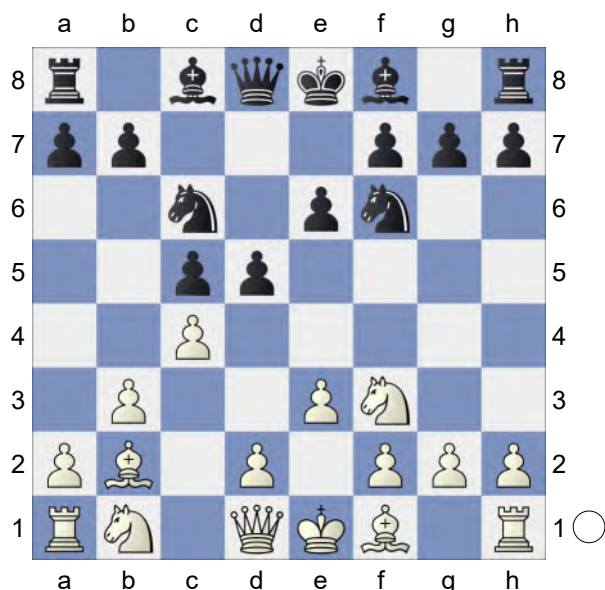
[ChessBase II]

(100min+30sec)/40+(50min+30sec)/20+(15min+3

1.Nf3 0 Schandorff,Lars 1...d5 12 2.e3 0

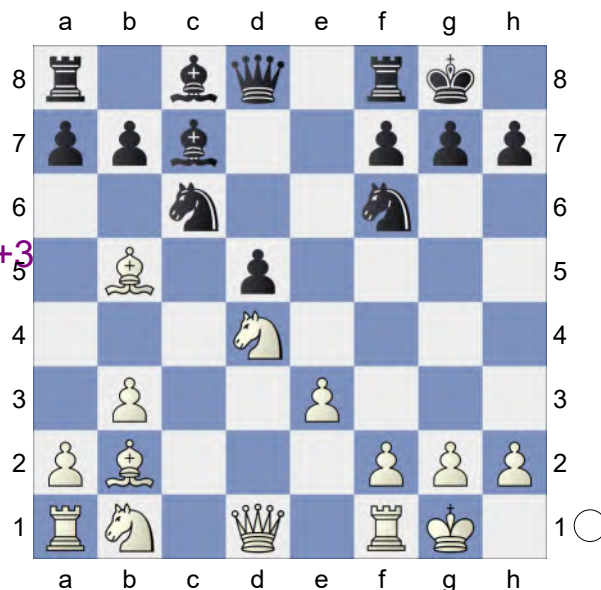
Nf6 1:49 3.c4 11 e6 12 4.b3 6 c5 1:17

5.Bb2 15 Nc6 14



6.cxd5 1:17 exd5 1:02 7.Bb5 6 Bd6 22
 8.0-0 51 0-0 11 9.d4 4 cxd4 2:00
 10.Nxd4 9 Bc7 35

[10...Qe7 11.Nd2 Bg4 12.Be2 Qe5
 13.g3 Qh5 14.Bxg4 Nxg4 15.N2f3
 Nce5 16.Kg2 Qg6 17.Nb5 Nd3
 18.Bd4 Bc5 19.Qd2 Bxd4 20.exd4
 a6 21.Nc3 Rac8 22.Rad1 Nf4+
 23.Qxf4 Rxc3 24.Ne5 Nxe5 25.dxe5
 Rd8 26.Rd2 Qc6 27.Qd4 h6
 28.Rfd1 a5 29.h4 b5 30.Kh2 b4
 31.Qg4 Rc2 32.Qf3 Rxd2 33.Rxd2
 Qc3 34.Rd3 Qxe5 35.Re3 Qd6
 36.Rd3 d4 37.Qf5 Qd5 38.Qxd5
 Rxd5 39.Kg2 f5 40.h5 Caruana,F
 (2823)-Nakamura,H (2779) Saint
 Louis 2016 0-1]



Schandorff,Lars: 'A typical motif. Black
 will follow up with ... ♔ d6 and start
 attacking.' 11.Nd2 2:40

[Other decent moves are 11.Be2
 Schandorff,Lars]

[11.Nc3 Schandorff,Lars]

11...Nxd4 2:42

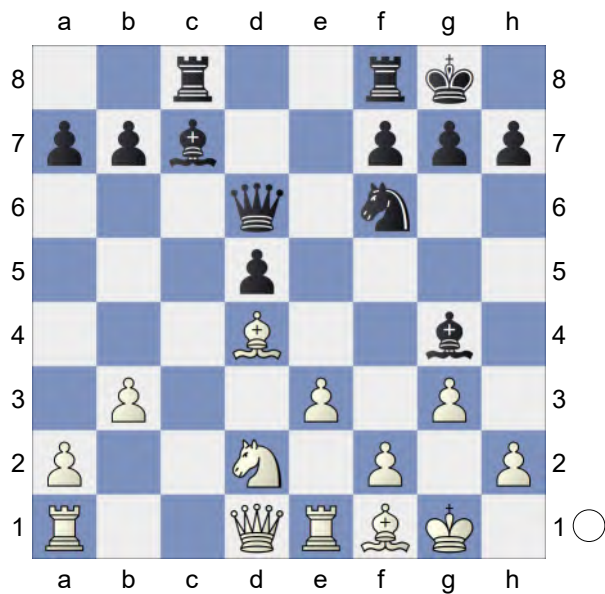
[11...Qd6 Schandorff,Lars 12.N2f3
 Bg4 13.Bxc6 bxc6 14.Qc2±]

12.Bxd4 15 Qd6 14 13.g3 1:54 Bh3
 1:56 14.Re1 4 Schandorff,Lars: 'The
 game is balanced somehow, but
 anything else than dry. Black is quite
 active and White has to take care, but
 Black has an isolated pawn that could be
 a weakness later on and White has a
 very sound position.' 14...Rac8 10:44

15.Bf1N 1:53

[15.Bd3 Ba5 16.Bxf6 Qxf6 17.Qh5
 Qh6 18.Qxh6 gxh6 19.Red1 Bg4
 20.f3 Bh5 21.g4 Bg6 22.Nf1 Bb6
 23.Kg2 Rc3 24.Bxg6 hxg6 25.Rxd5
 Rfc8 26.Rad1 Bxe3 27.Rd8+ Rxd8
 28.Rxd8+ Kg7 29.Nxe3 Rxe3
 30.Rd7 Re2+ 31.Kg3 Re3 32.Kg2
 Re2+ 33.Kg3 ½-½ (33) Malakhov,V
 (2695)-Ding,L (2777) China 2016]

15...Bg4 2:26

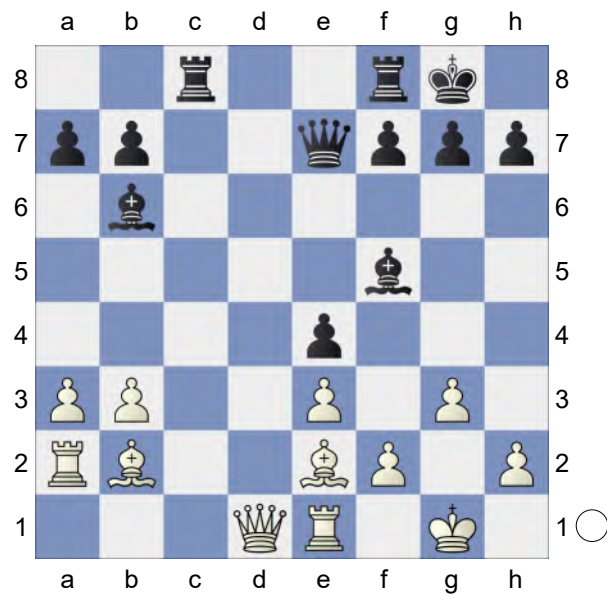


16.Be2 33 Bf5 2:50 Schandorff,Lars: 'The part with the isolated pawn should in general avoid exchanges.' **17.Bb2 6:51**

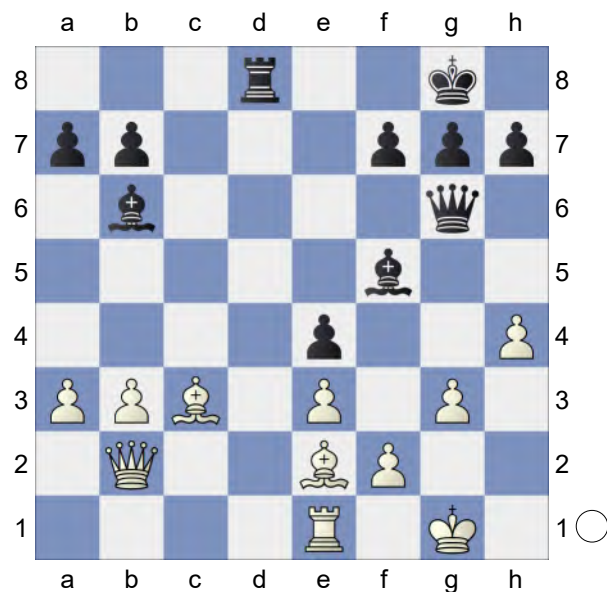
[17.a3! Schandorff,Lars a5 18.Rc1! is the way to play, for instance Qe6 19.b4 axb4 20.axb4±]

17...Qe7 2:42 18.a3 27:55 Bb6 42:02 19.Ra2 6:39 Schandorff,Lars: 'Gives the queen the a1-square.' **19...Ne4 1:57** Schandorff,Lars: 'Solves the problem with the d-pawn and leads to exchanges and a pretty equal position.' **20.Nxe4 1:26 dxe4 13**

(Diagram)



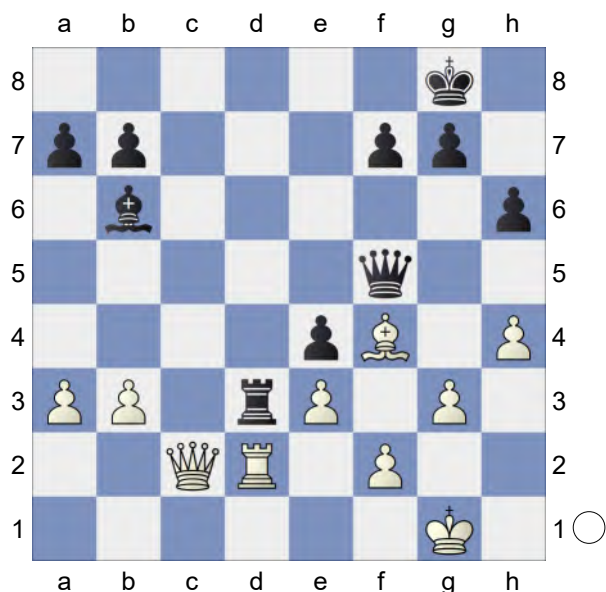
21.Qa1 3:01 Rc2 1:37 22.Bc3 13:26 Rxa2 23 Qxa2 4 Rd8 3:15 24.Qb2 4:45 Qg5 1:09 25.h4 8:43 Qg6 39



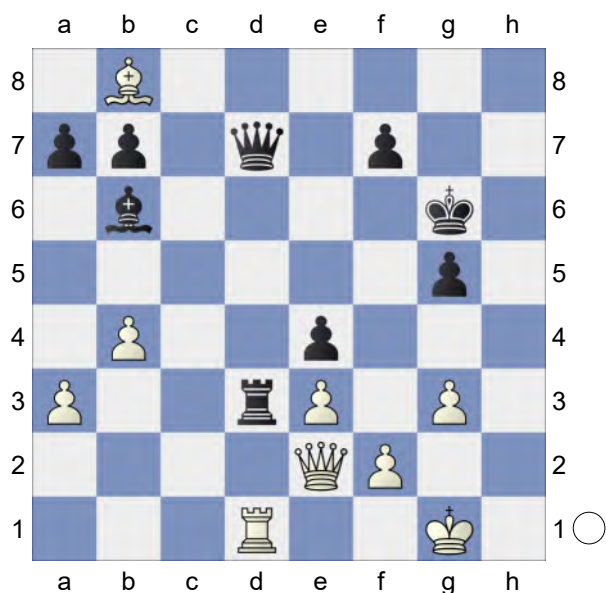
Schandorff,Lars: '=' Schandorff,Lars: 'A lot happened later in time trouble and White came close to victory, but in an opening survey we can leave the game now and notice that White never really got anything at this stage. His winning chances only occurred because Black overpressed and sacrificed a piece.'

26.Be5 7:27 Bg4 6:10 27.Qc2 7:57 Bxe2 4:50 28.Rxe2 2:48 Qf5 3:07

29.Bf4 1:15 h6 1:10 30.Rd2 36 Rd3 1:35

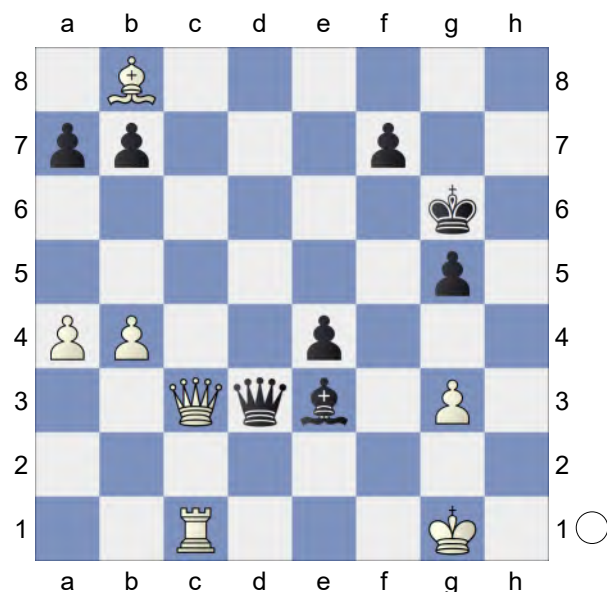


31.Rd1 6:02 g5 8:09 32.hxg5 10 hxg5 4 33.Bb8 13 Kh7 3:06 34.Qe2 4:24 Kg6 55 35.b4 1:32 Qd7 2:43

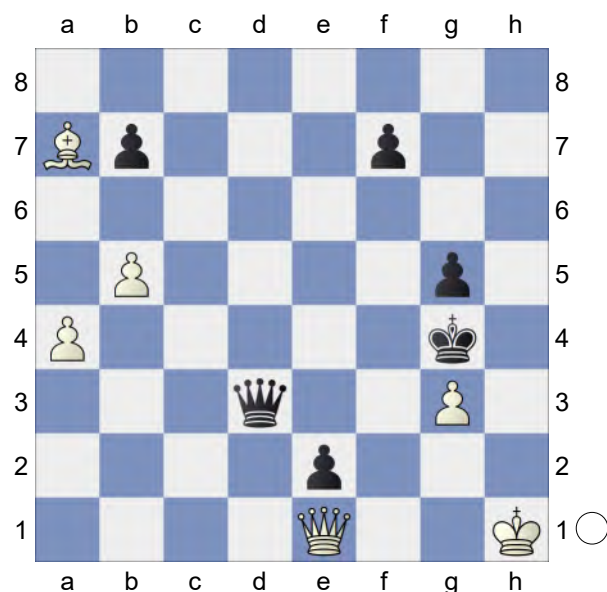


36.Rc1 32 Rd2 7 37.Qe1 44 Qd3 1:40 38.a4 1:04 Re2 2:38 39.Qc3 37 Rxe3 32 40.fxe3 0 Bxe3+ 8

(Diagram)

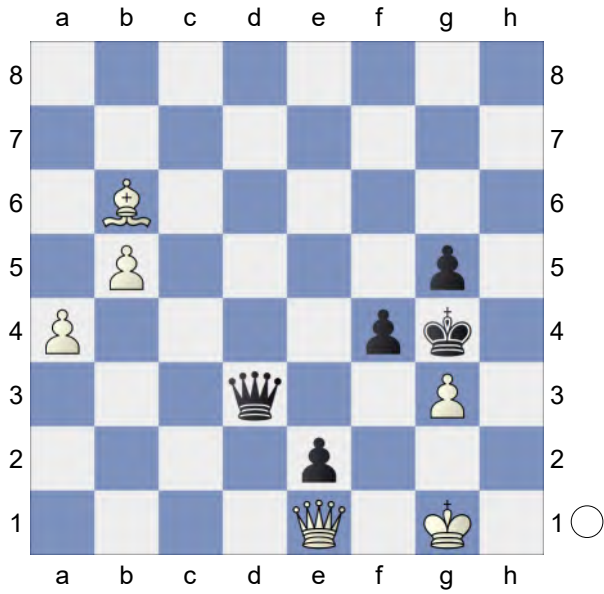


41.Kh1 7:37 Bxc1 9 42.Qxc1 6 e3 3:10 43.Bxa7 4:07 e2 8 44.Qe1 13 Kh5 1:56 45.b5 14:02 Kg4 9:32

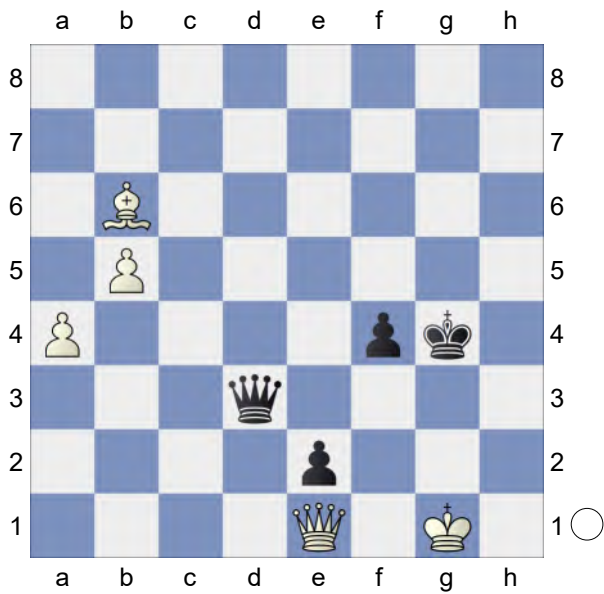


46.Kh2 1:35 Qh7+ 53 47.Kg1 9 Qd3 2:35 48.Bb6 12:08 f5 4:03 49.Ba5 2:36 b6 13 50.Bxb6 3:57 f4 21

(Diagram)



51.gxf4 20 gxf4 20 52.Bc5 7:32 Qc4
4:14 53.Bb6 15 Qd3 1:18 54.Bc5 2:28
Qc4 7 55.Bb6 1:14 Qd3 15



$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

26

E11

□ Aronian, Levon

2780

■ Wei, Yi

2706

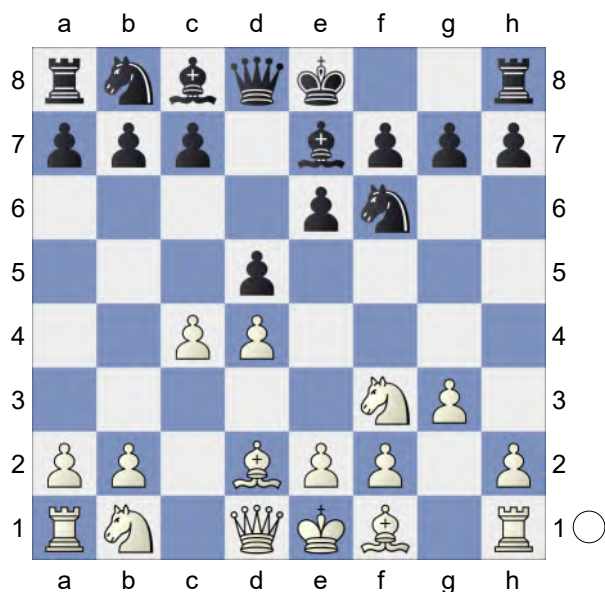
Tata Steel-A 79th (2)

15.01.2017

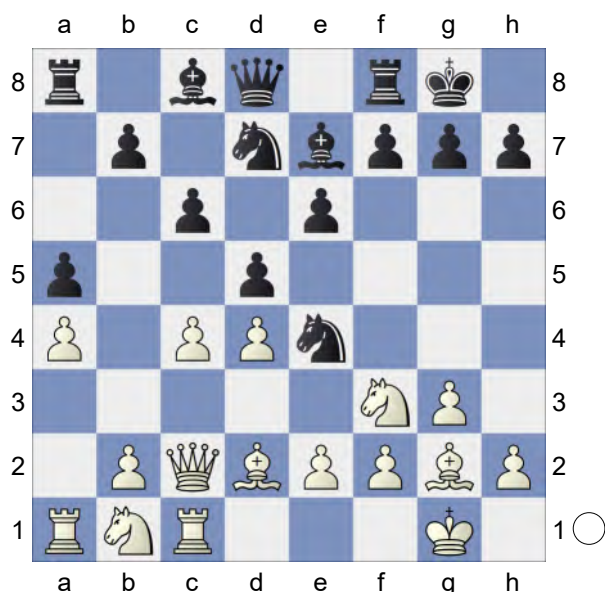
[ChessBase II]

(100min+30sec)/40+(50min+30sec)/20+(15min+30sec)/10

1.Nf3 0 d5 14 2.d4 0 Nf6 8 3.c4 0 e6
8 4.g3 0 Bb4+ 52 5.Bd2 0 Be7 7



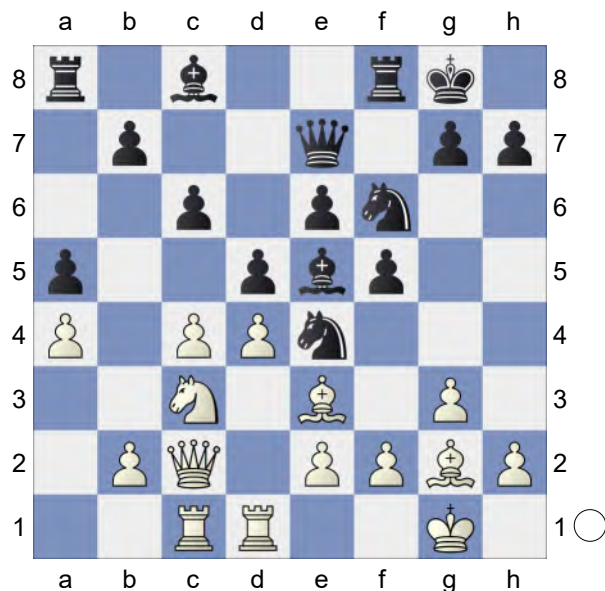
6.Bg2 0 0-0 11 7.0-0 0 Nbd7 15 8.a4 5
a5 14:41 9.Qc2 6 c6 2:48 10.Rc1 28
Ne4 1:55



11.Be3N 43

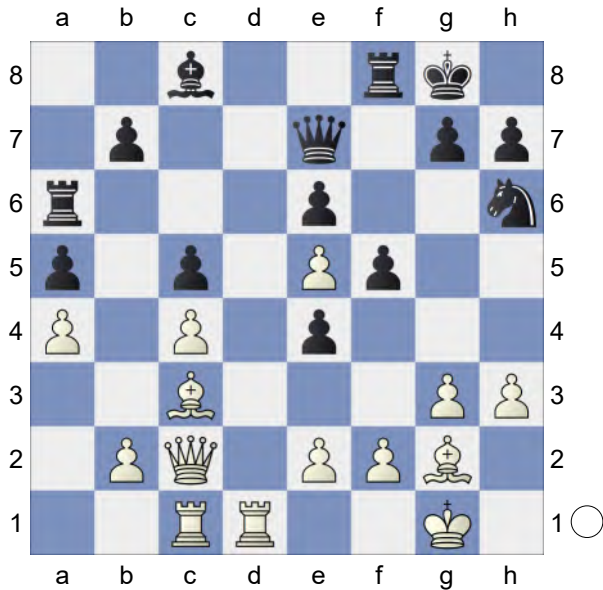
[11.Be1 f5 12.Nbd2 Bd6 13.e3 Ra7
14.Qd1 b6 15.cxd5 cxd5 16.Nb1
Ba6 17.Na3 Qa8 18.Nb5 Bxb5
19.axb5 Rc8 20.Bf1 Rxc1 21.Rxc1
Rc7 22.Rxc7 Bxc7 23.Qa4 Qb8
24.b4 axb4 25.Bxb4 h6 26.Qc2 Bd6
27.Qc6 Ndf6 28.Bxd6 Qxd6
29.Qc8+ Kh7 30.Ne5 Qe7 31.Qc6
Ng4 32.Nxg4 fxe4 33.Bd3 g6
34.Bxe4 dxe4 35.Qxb6 1-0 (35)
Carlsen, M (2851)-Eljanov, P (2765)
Stavanger 2016]

11...f5 9:56 12.Nc3 2:06 Bd6 1:08
13.Rd1 5:23 Qe7 2:33 14.Rac1 11:31
Ndf6 5:05 15.Ne5 1:17 Bxe5 7:09

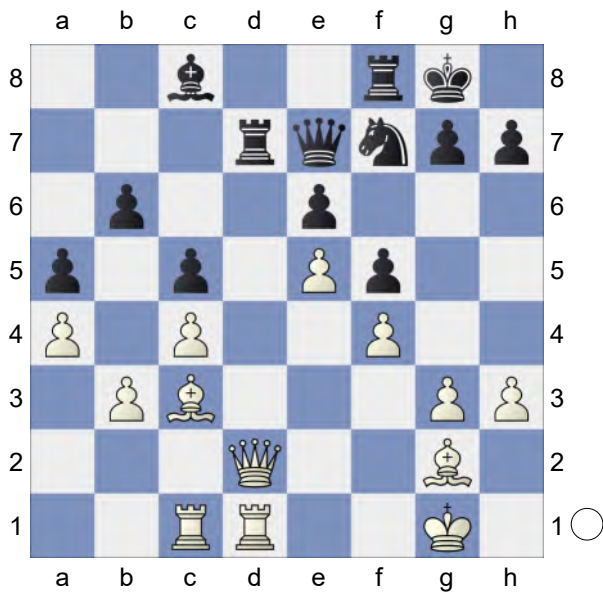


16.dxe5 7 Ng4 7 17.Bd4 21 c5 2:07
18.Nxe4 6 dxe4 25:42 19.Bc3 3 Ra6
51 20.h3 6:39 Nh6 8

(Diagram)

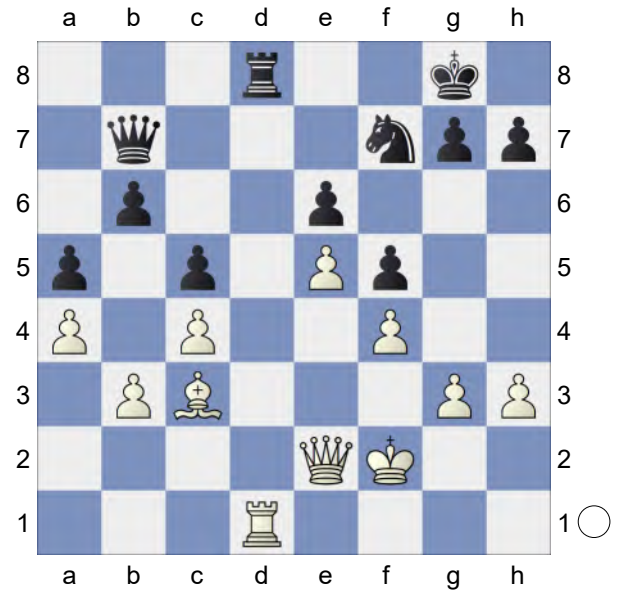


21.Qd2 22 Nf7 4:47 22.f3 1:22 exf3 15
23.exf3 4 b6 9 24.f4 4:56 Ra7 36
25.b3 5:10 Rd7 5:13

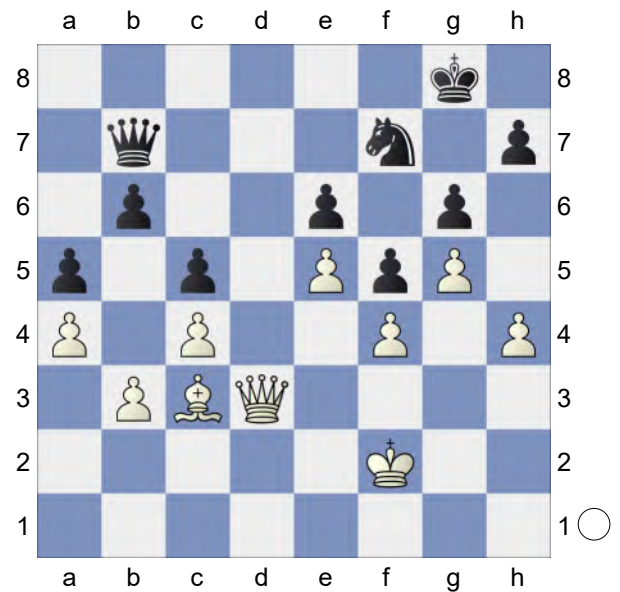


26.Qe2 42 Bb7 13 27.Rxd7 1:42 Qxd7 6
28.Rd1 4 Qe7 20 29.Bxb7 1:23
Qxb7 7 30.Kf2 4:12 Rd8 6:19

(Diagram)



31.Rxd8+ 23 Nxd8 6 32.Qd3 2 Nf7 27
33.g4 12 Nh6 7:38 34.g5 2:20 Nf7 8
35.h4 58 g6



1/2-1/2

116

□ Andreikin, Dmitry

■ Wei, Yi

Tata Steel-A 79th (1)

[ChessBase II]

C42

2736

2706

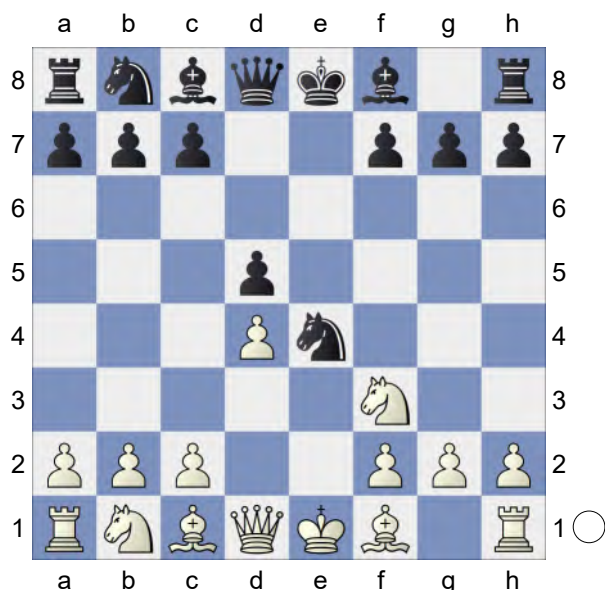
14.01.2017

(100min+30sec)/40+(50min+30sec)/20+(15min+8

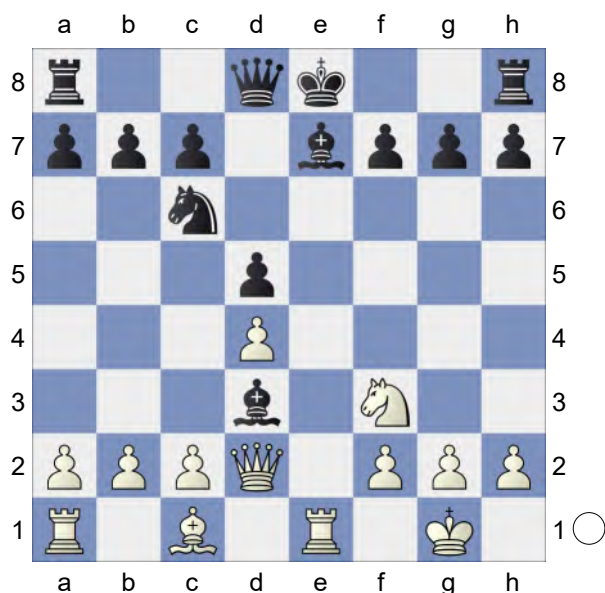
1.e4 0 e5 14 2.Nf3 0 Nf6 13 3.Nxe5

3:16 d6 7 4.Nf3 2:17 Nxe4 8 5.d4 2:20

d5 1:08



6.Bd3 1:04 Nc6 19 7.0-0 8 Be7 16
 8.Nbd2 24 Bf5 1:44 9.Re1 2:14 Nxd2
 1:10 10.Qxd2 12 Bxd3 12

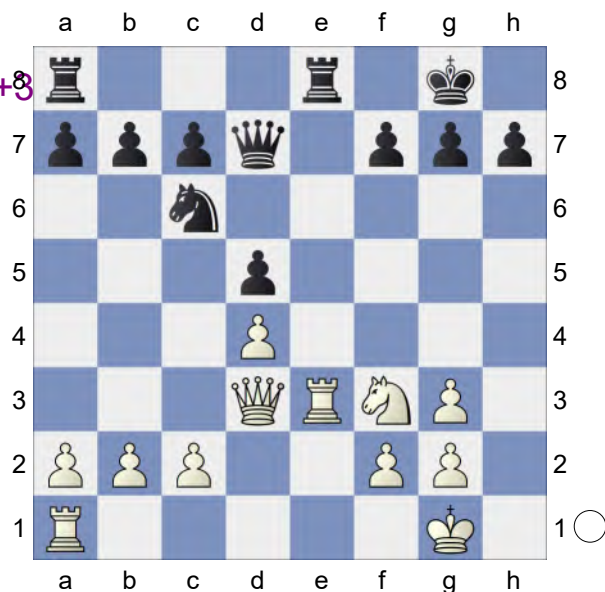


11.Qxd3 11 0-0 10 12.Bf4 19:35 Bd6

2:19 13.Bg3 11:33 Bxg3 29:36

14.hxg3 9 Qd7 19 15.Re3 10:58 Rfe8

10:50

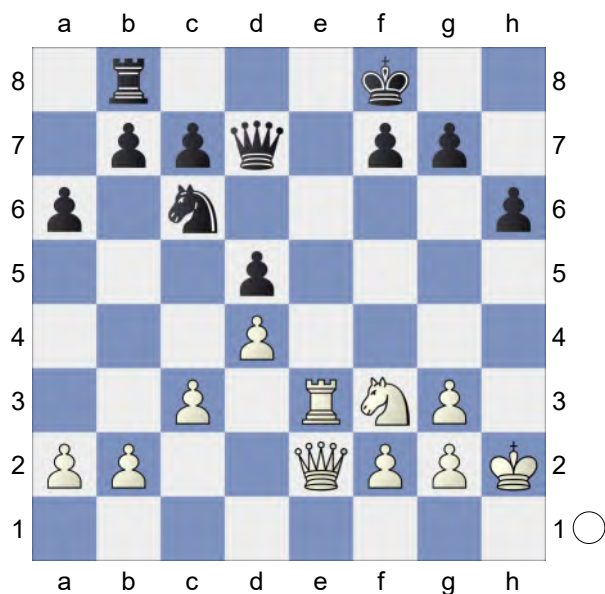


16.Rae1 23 Rxe3 8 17.Rxe3 4:31
 Rb8N 23:39

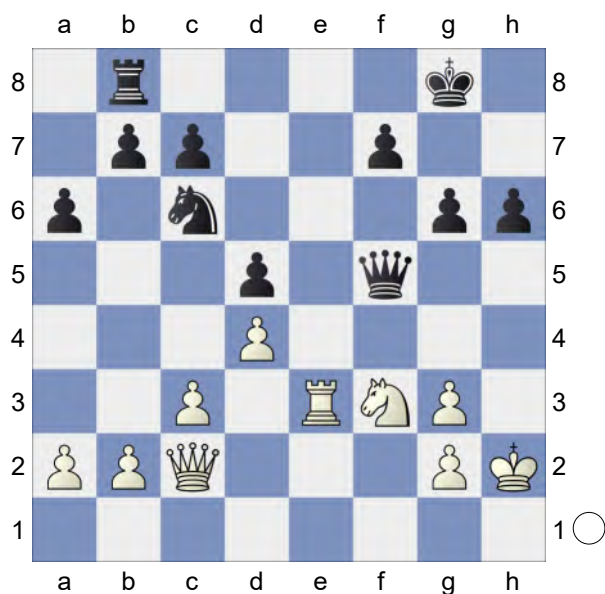
[17...h6 18.Qb3 Rb8 19.Ne5 Qd6
 20.Nxc6 Qxc6 21.c3 a5 22.Qa3 b6
 23.Qe7 b5 24.a3 b4 25.axb4 axb4
 26.cxb4 Qc1+ 27.Kh2 Qxb2 28.Rf3
 Rf8 29.Qc5 c6 30.Qxc6 Qxd4 31.b5
 Qe5 32.b6 Re8 33.Rf4 Qe6 34.Qb7
 g5 35.Ra4 Qe2 36.f3 d4 37.Qd7
 Qe7 38.Qxe7 Rxe7 39.Ra7
 1-0 (39) Adams, M (2738)-Wang, Y
 (2737) Baku 2016]

18.Qe2 12:52 h6 15:53 19.c3 2:14 Kf8
 9:45 20.Kh2 19:24 a6 1:11

(Diagram)

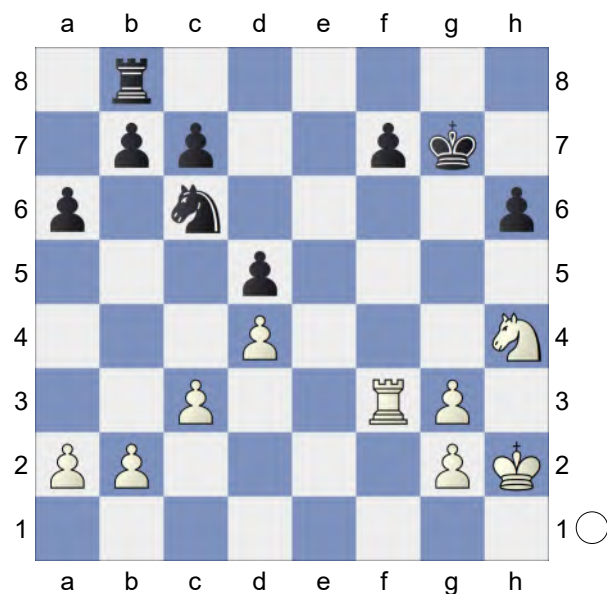


21.Qc2 5 Kg8 3:14 22.Nh4 1:49 g6 2:15 23.f4 4:19 Qg4 5:51 24.Nf3 11 Qd7 46 25.f5 5:32 Qxf5 28

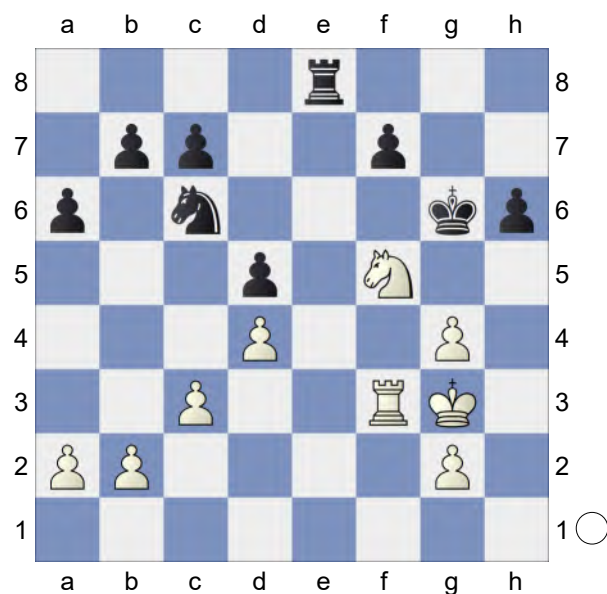


26.Qxf5 5 gxf5 3 27.Nh4 3 Kg7 1:16 28.Nxf5+ 1:15 Kf6 25 29.Rf3 2:03 Kg6 4 30.Nh4+ 1:26 Kg7 2

(Diagram)

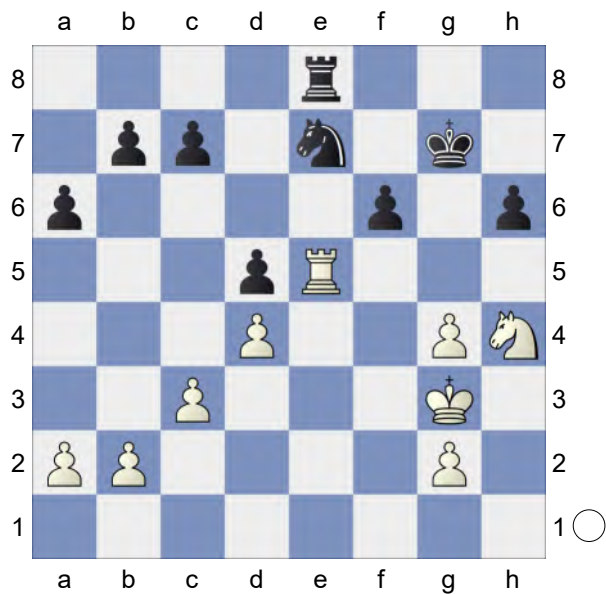


31.Nf5+ 1:17 Kg6 2 32.g4 1:26 Rh8 15 33.Nh4+ 46 Kg7 1 34.Nf5+ 6 Kg6 4 35.Kg3 57 Re8 32

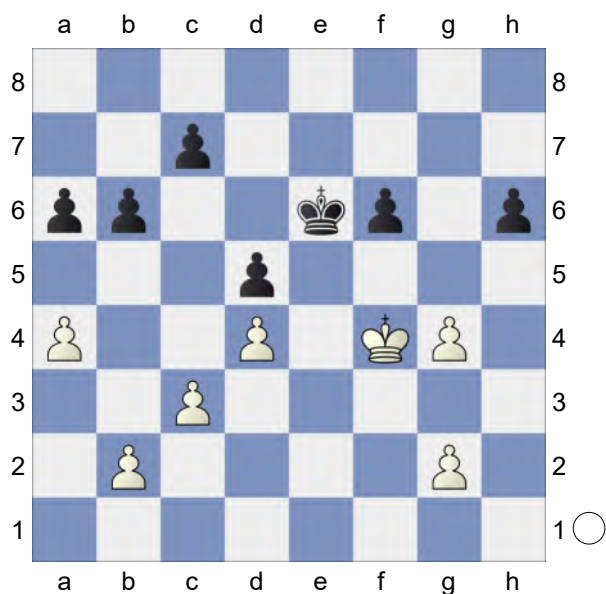


36.Nh4+ 7 Kg7 2 37.Nf5+ 6 Kg6 8 38.Nh4+ 2:25 Kg7 2 39.Rf5 20 Ne7 4:11 40.Re5 0 f6 56

(Diagram)

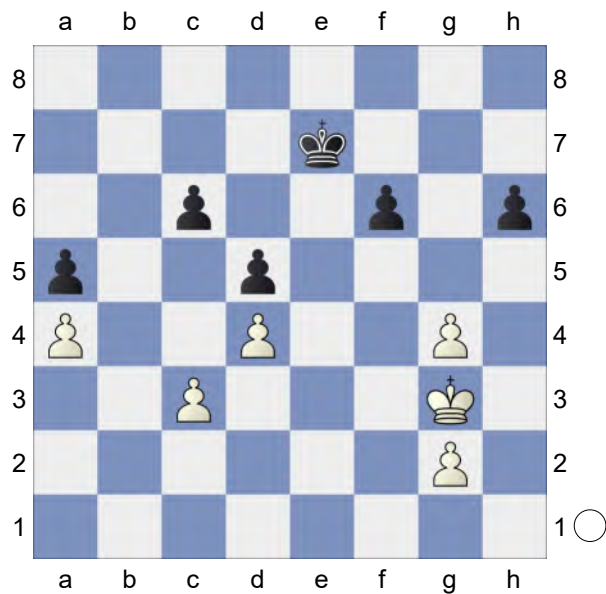


41.Rxe7+ 23:02 Rxe7 10 42.Nf5+ 2
Kf8 5 43.Nxe7 4 Kxe7 3 44.Kf4 6 Ke6
5 45.a4 12 b6 3:04

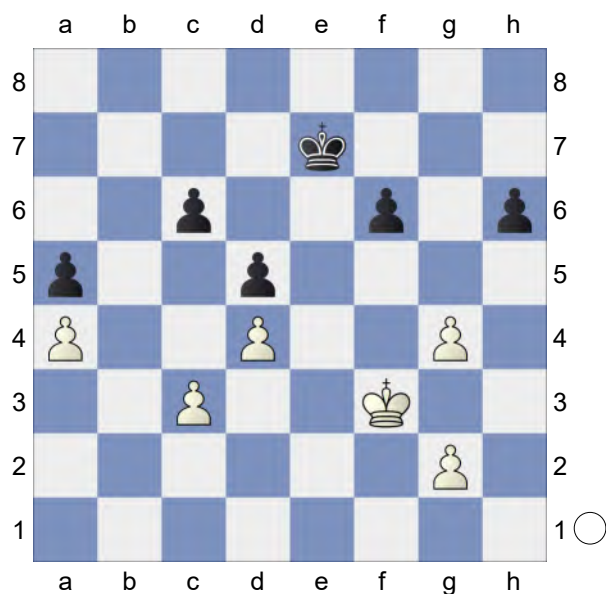


46.b3 52 c6 10 47.b4 4:05 a5 25
48.Kf3 1:20 Kd6 1:22 49.bxa5 16 bxa5
7 50.Kg3 35 Ke7 6

(Diagram)



51.Kf4 43 Ke6 5 52.Kf3 32 Ke7 1:02
53.Kf4 37 Ke6 7 54.Ke3 19 Kf7 13
55.Kf3 4 Ke7 5



1/2-1/2

433

□ Zhao Zong Yuan

■ Wei, Yi

Chinese Teams 2013 (22.4) 24.12.2013

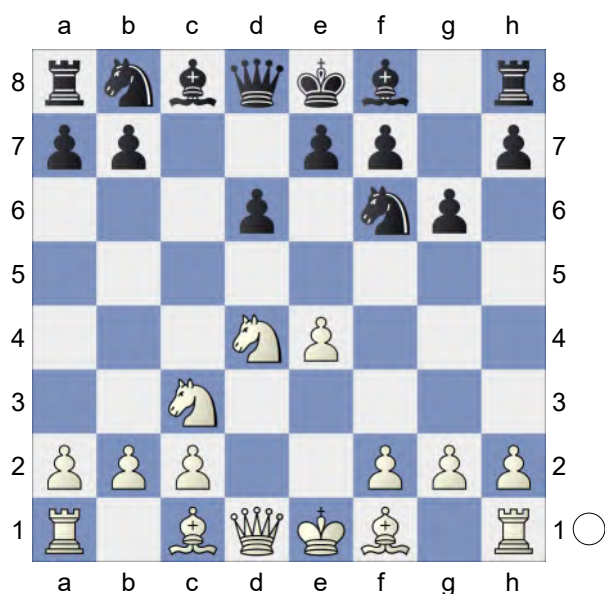
[Chris Ward]

B70

2579

2604

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 g6

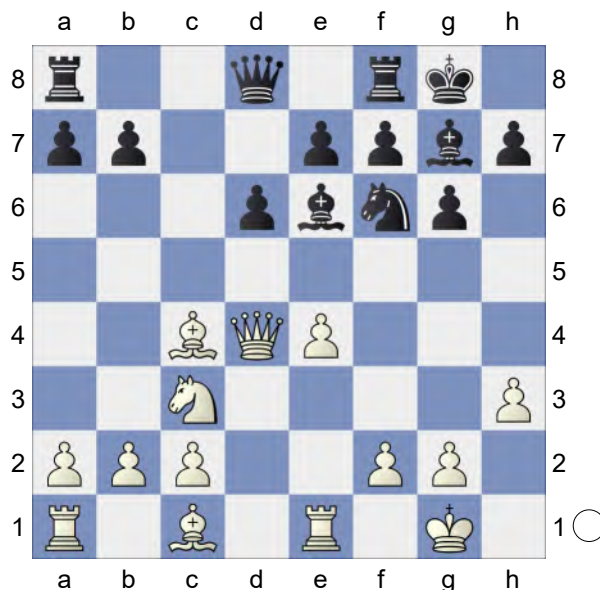


6.Bc4 Bg7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Re1 Nc6 9.h3
Nxd4

[More common is 9...Bd7 with a view to possibly trading knights next time and parking the bishop on c6 e.g. 10.Bb3 Nxd4 11.Qxd4 Bc6 That has been looked at on ChessPublishing plenty of times but the text has also had appearances here.]

10.Qxd4 Be6

(Diagram)



11.Bxe6 fxe6 In playing ...fxe6 Black has created a half-open f-file for himself and has extra control of the d5-square. The obvious drawback is the weakness on e6 and White's next move aims to show just how bad Black's pawn structure might look. **12.e5** Given the sheer amount of games that have been played, it is somewhat surprising that there are only 5 examples of this position in Megabase 13. **12...Nh5?** What is even more shocking is that this is only the second time that this move (a clear mistake) has been played and the first time (mentioned on our site) was also by a player rated over 2600!

[Our previous conclusion has been that 12...Nd7 13.Qg4 is an obvious sequence. Now Black must take on e5 but there is a choice:

A) 13...Bxe5 14.Qxe6+ Rf7 15.Be3 (The immediate 15.Ne4! is more accurate as it prevents the ...Bxc3 mixer. Now Nf8 16.Qd5 e6 17.Qb3 was also better for White in Lampe, D (2272)-Asendorf, J (2280) Germany 2002, Rather than being a strength, those black centre

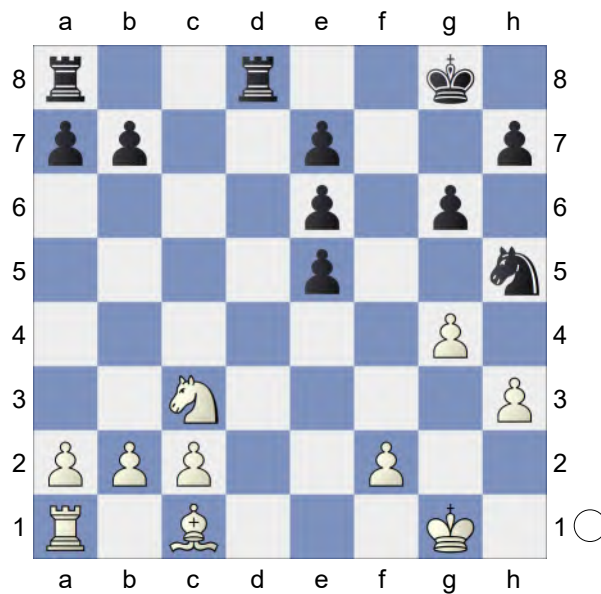
pawns are targets.) 15...Rc8?!
 (mixing things up with 15...Bxc3!?
 is a better try, my point being that
 the White knight is too powerful a
 piece as far as Black's light-
 squared holes are concerned.)
 16.Ne4 Nf8 17.Qb3 with a clear
 advantage to White in Hunt, H
 (2315)-Delemarre, I (2210)
 Menorca 1996.;

B) 13...Nxe5 14.Qxe6+ Kh8 when
 15.Ne4 Qc8 16.Qxe7 Qxc2
 would offer Black some action and
 so maybe 15 Be3 is best and a very
 slight edge to White.]

13.g4! Yep knights on the rim are dim
 and that one is now trapped! **13...Bxe5**
14.Rxe5 Necessary of course but
 certainly good. **14...dxe5 15.Qxd8**
Rfxd8

[Previously I wrote about 15...Raxd8
 16.gxh5 gxh5 biting the bullet. Sure,
 Black has 2 pawns to go with his rook
 for the knight and bishop, but it's not
 the greatest pawn structure. The
 following game soon ended when
 Julian decided he'd had enough:-
 17.Be3 a6 18.Ne4 Rc8 19.c3 Rc4
 20.Nd2 Rc6 21.a4 Kf7 1-0 Emms, J-
 Hodgson, J Copenhagen 1996.]

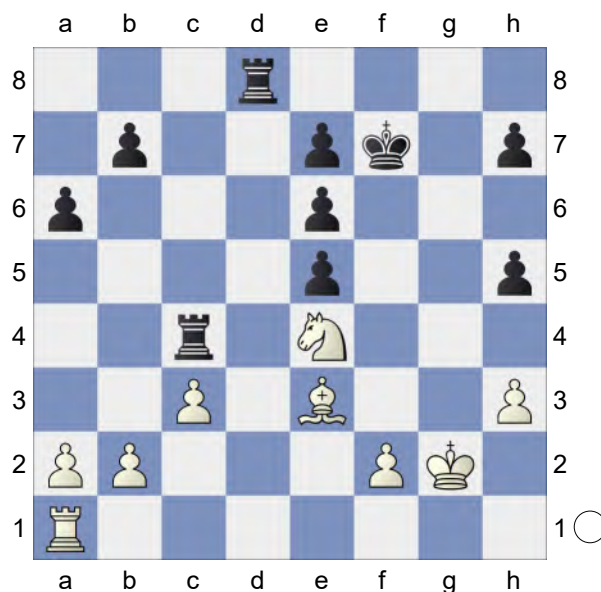
(Diagram)



Recapturing with the other rook is hardly
 a significant improvement. **16.gxh5**
gxh5 17.Be3 Kf7 18.Kg2

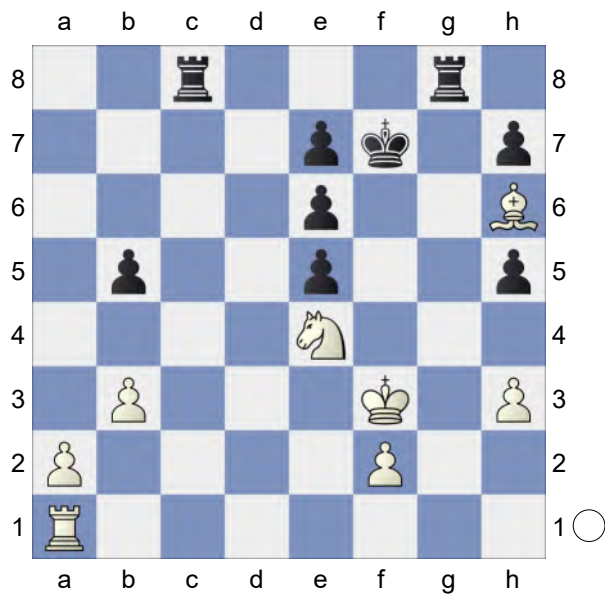
[18.Ne4 also looks sensible but the
 key point is that White should
 preserve his remaining rook.]

18...a6 19.Ne4 Rac8 20.c3 Rc4

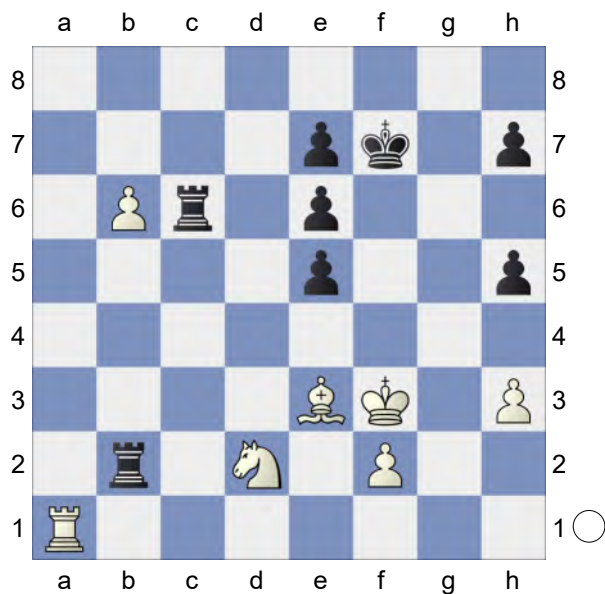


21.Kf3 Rf8 22.Bh6 Rg8 23.b3 Rcc8
24.c4 This is just all a bit bemusing and
 I'm still in shock about 12...Nh5? **24...b5**
25.cxb5 axb5

(Diagram)



**26.a4 Rgd8 27.Be3 Rd3 28.axb5
Rxb3 29.b6 Rc6 30.Nd2 Rb2**

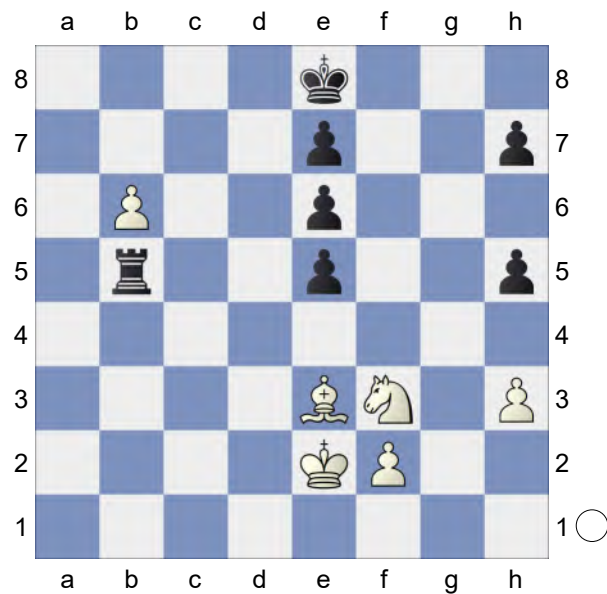


31.Rb1

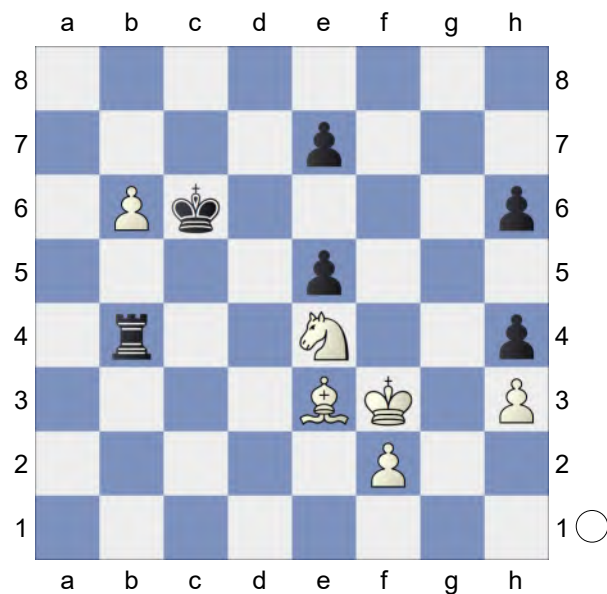
[Again I reiterate that I would have kept the rook and surely 31.Ra5! (or most over rook moves) are better. Still, Black has such lousy pawns that it probably doesn't matter.]

**31...Rxb1 32.Nxb1 Rc4 33.Nd2 Rb4
34.Ke2** White is still winning, but it's going to take a bit longer. **34...Ke8
35.Nf3 Rb5**

(Diagram)

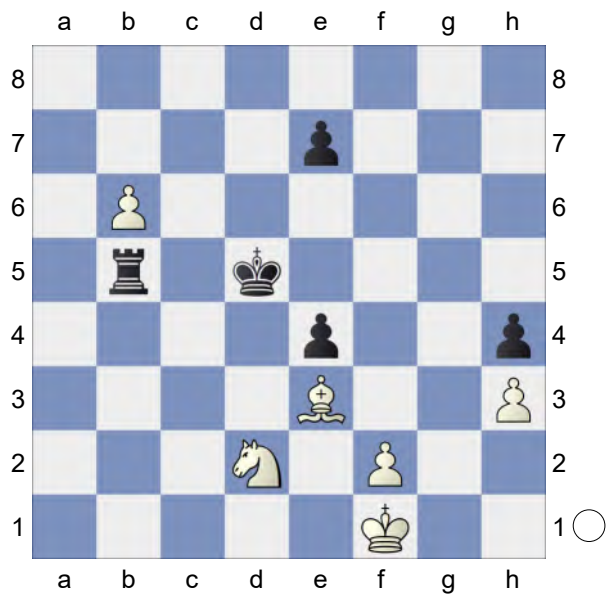


**36.Ng5 h6 37.Nxe6 Kd7 38.Nc5+
Kc6 39.Ne4 Rb4 40.Kf3 h4**

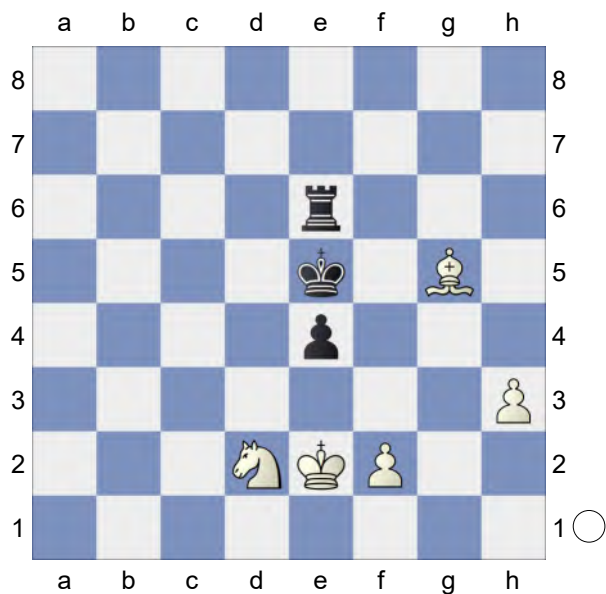


**41.Nd2 Kd5 42.Kg2 Kd6 43.Bxh6 e4
44.Be3 Kd5 45.Kf1 Rb5**

(Diagram)

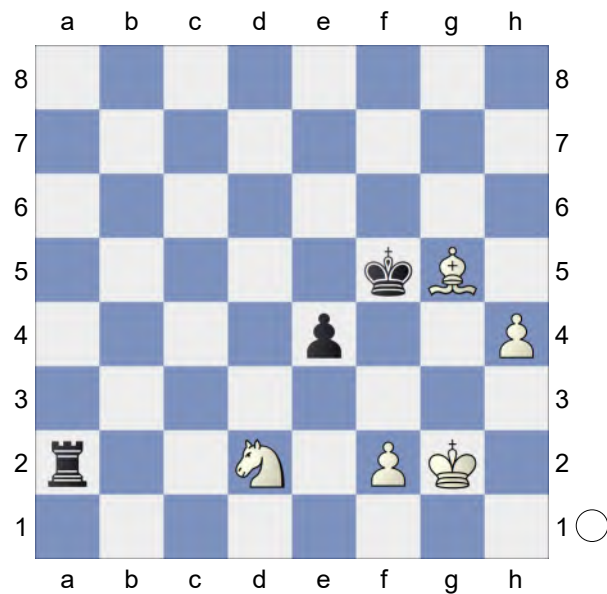


**46.Ke2 Ra5 47.Bg5 Rb5 48.Bxh4
Rxb6 49.Bxe7 Re6 50.Bg5 Ke5**

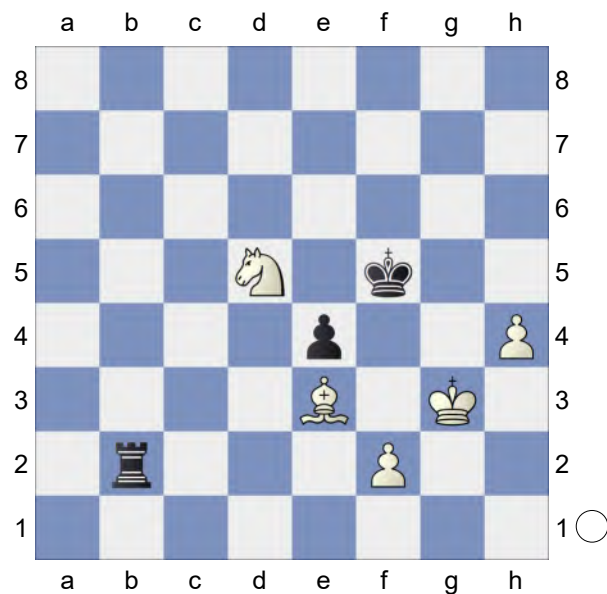


**51.Be3 Re8 52.Bg5 Kf5 53.h4 Ra8
54.Kf1 Ra4 55.Kg2 Ra2**

(Diagram)

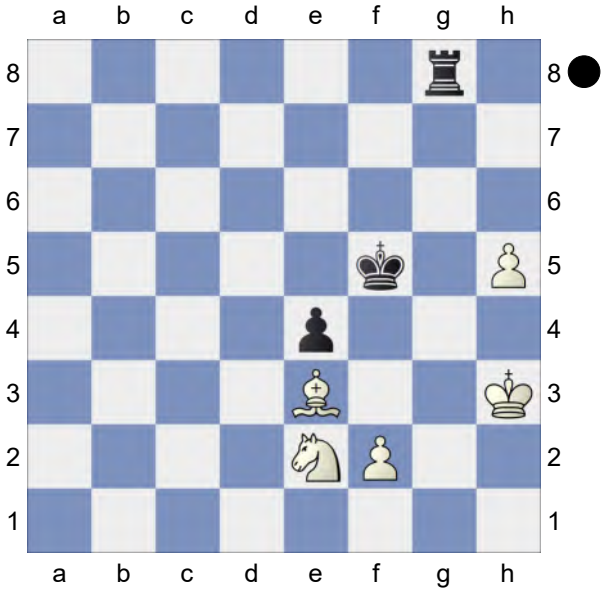


**56.Nf1 Kg4 57.Ne3+ Kh5 58.Kg3
Rb2 59.Nd5 Kg6 60.Be3 Kf5**



**61.h5 Rb5 62.Nc3 Rb8 63.Ne2 Rg8+
64.Kh3**

(Diagram)



1-0

200

□ Wei, Yi

■ Lu Shanglei

6th Hainan Danzhou GM (6.2) 07.07.15

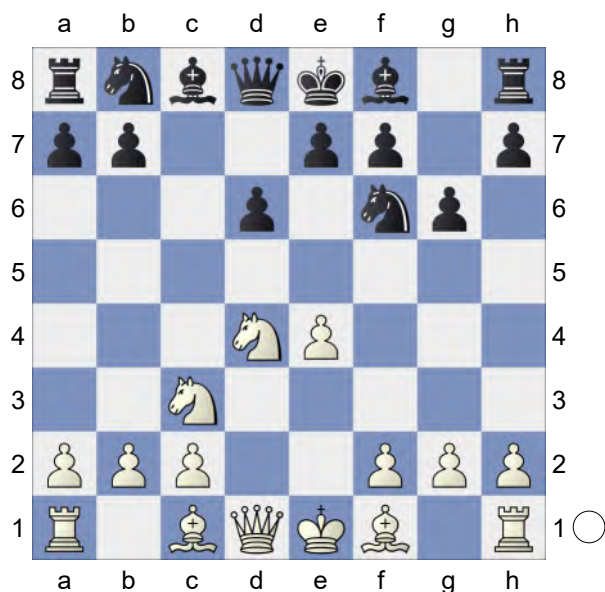
[Chris Ward]

B76

2724

2595

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 g6



6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Qd2 0-0

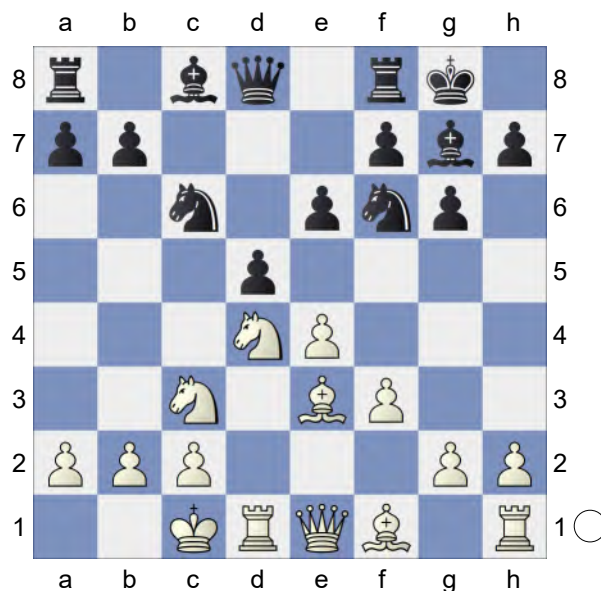
9.0-0-0 d5 The game that in the last few weeks has featured the highest ELO rating average and in arguably the most critical variation of all. 10.Qe1 But here White deviates from the main line of 10 exd5 which theoretically still stands fine for Black.

[The other relative side-line is 10.Kb1 after which Rb8 has always struck me as a cute response. It's purpose was illustrated in the recent 11.h4 e5 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.exd5 cxd5 14.Nxd5 Qxd5 15.Qxd5 Nxd5 16.Rxd5 e4 of Li, R (2394)-Bodek, M (2425) Saint Louis USA 2015. That queen's rook soon got some action and now 17.Bd4 exf3 18.gxf3 Bb7 19.Bxg7 Rfe8 20.Re5 Bxf3 21.Bb5 Bxh1 22.Rxe8+

Rxe8 23.Bxe8 Kxg7 24.c4 was an opposite coloured bishop ending destined for a draw.]

10...e6

[Upon 10...e5 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.exd5 regular subscribers will know that White has a slight edge after cxd5 (12...Nxd5 then is critical with for example 13.Bc4 Be6 14.Kb1 Rb8 15.Ne4 f5!? being the site annotated Edouard, R (2659) -Jones, G (2661) London Chess Classic Challenge 2014. Just one of several games in that line.) 13.Bg5 Be6 14.Bc4 Qc7 15.Bxf6 dxc4 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 although if White gets his move order wrong or gets greedy amongst that sequence there could be serious repercussions.]



11.Kb1 The text is I suppose a useful waiting move and in not committing the pawn to h4, White leaves that square free for his queen.

[Previously on this site we have mainly focused our attention on 11.h4 having already concluded that]
[11.g4?! is well met by e5

as this time after 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.exd5 cxd5 14.Bg5 the weakness of the f3-pawn is exploited by Bb7]

11...Qe7!? preparing to bring the rook to the d-file instead. Indeed that has received some air time in practice:

[The main alternative here is 11...Re8 , placing the rook on the e-file in anticipation of an eventual trade on d5. Then we have:

A) 12.g4 Nxd4 (12...e5 13.Nxc6 bxc6 must also be an option.) 13.Bxd4 (Instead 13.Rxd4 e5 14.Rxd5!? Nxd5 15.Nxd5 looks like an interesting exchange sacrifice.) 13...e5 14.Bf2 d4 15.Bb5 Rf8 16.Ne2 Be6 17.Nc1 a6 18.Ba4 Nd7 which saw Black get have the better of an eventual draw in Lupulescu, C (2574)-Grecescu, G (2383) Predeal 2007.;

B) 12.Nb3 Qc7 (Instead 12...b6 13.g4 Qc7 14.g5 Nh5 15.Bb5 a6 16.Bxc6 Qxc6 17.Bd4 dxe4 18.Bxg7 Kxg7 19.Nxe4 e5 20.Rd6 Qc7 offered about equal chances but with 21.Nf6?! Nxf6 22.gxf6+ Kh8 23.Qd2 Bf5 had seen Black gain the upper hand in Hunt, H (2385)-Ferguson, M (2360) Hastings 1995.) 13.Qh4 (Needless to say 13.exd5?! Nxd5 14.Nxd5 exd5 15.Rxd5? is completely out of the question given the e-file pin e.g. Bh6 16.Rd3 Qb6 Besides the text was always White's idea with Bg5 being prepared next to exert some pressure.) 13...dxe4 14.fxe4 b6?! with a d v a n t a g e W h i t e . Optimistically Black might point out that he has a solid pawn structure and potential for pressure against

White's isolated e-pawn. However I think that the reality of the weak square on d6 and the looseness of the knight on f6 means that even without this move, the initiative was most certainly with White in Spraggett, K (2595) -Gerber, R (2408) Geneve SUI 2012.]

[Finally there is nothing especially crafty about 11...e5 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.exd5 cxd5 14.Bg5 Be6 15.Bc4 Qc7 16.Bxf6 dxc4 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 It is merely the same position that we have previously assessed as a slight edge to White but with the king on b1 rather than c1. There are pros and cons of this but with all things considered it probably doesn't change the assessment!]

12.Bg5

[Alternatively 12.Nb3 Rd8 13.Bc5 Qc7 14.Bb5 (14 Nb5 Qe5 doesn't achieve much whilst 14.exd5 Nxd5 15.Nxd5 exd5 16.Qh4 Bf5 left Black pretty active with pressure against c2 in Klima, L (2420)-Ralis, P (2239) Stare Mesto 2009.; 14.Nb5 Qe5) 14...dxe4 15.Rxd8+ Nxd8 16.Nxe4 Nxe4 17.Qxe4 Bd7 18.Bxd7 Qxd7 19.Bd4 and Black hadn't been tested in the drawn game Ivanchuk, V (2705) -Georgiev, K (2660) Tilburg 1993.]

[Although one of the main plans, it should be noted how 12.Qh4? walks into the tactic Nxe4! 13.Qxe7 Nxc3+]

12...h6 13.Bh4

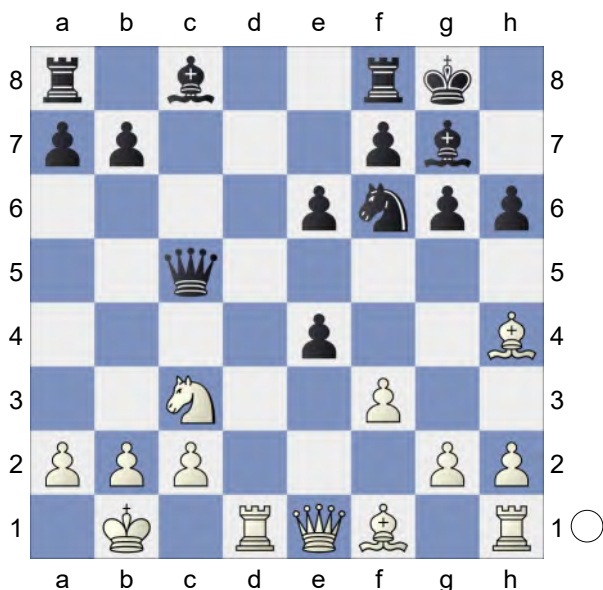
[13.Bxf6? Qxf6 would naturally be better for Black. White must preserve his dark-squared bishop so that it can ultimately challenge the Dragon one.]

13...Nxd4 14.Rxd4 Qc5

[Upon 14...g5?! 15.Bf2 the power of the discovered attack will have been nullified whereas Black may regret those pawn advancements on the kingside.]

15.Rd1 dxe4

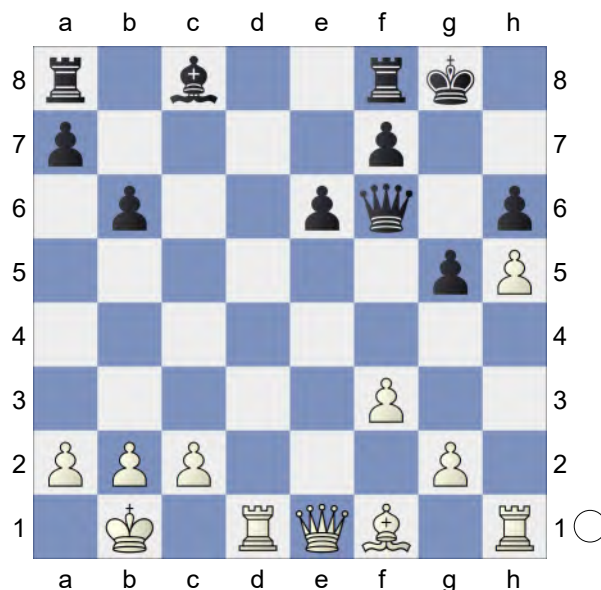
[This ultimately works out okay but it isn't totally necessary for Black to seek such clarification. For example 15...a6 preparing ...b5 seems plausible as attempts to win that d5-pawn won't work out too well e.g. 16.Bxf6 (or 16.exd5 Nxd5) 16...Bxf6 17.exd5 Bxc3 18.Qxc3 Qxc3 19.bxc3 exd5 20.Rxd5 Be6 It's half a pawn at best with Black having adequate activity.]

**16.Bxf6**

[16.Nxe4 Nxe4 17.fxe4 is of no concern to Black who could either fianchetto his queen's bishop or possibly park it on e6 after ...e5.]

16...Bxf6 17.Nxe4 Qe5 18.Nxf6+ Always the intention was to grab this bishop but the mate threat on b2 accelerated matters. **18...Qxf6 19.h4**

Pausing here to assess, Black has a solid structure and it's basically a question of whether he can develop his bishop and involve his rooks before White gets anything serious going.

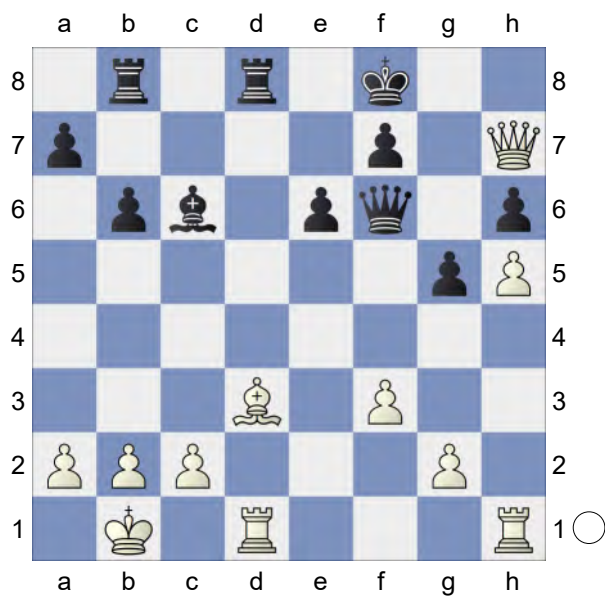
19...b6 20.h5 g5

21.Qe4 Rb8 22.Bd3 Rd8 The point. The black queen is effectively deputising for the Dragon bishop. As h6 and h8 are under her majesty's control, Black need not fear the check on h7. **23.Qh7+ Kf8 24.Bg6** Rather visual but against careful defence not helping White's cause. Of course White could simply retreat his queen but Black should be fine. **24...Bd7**

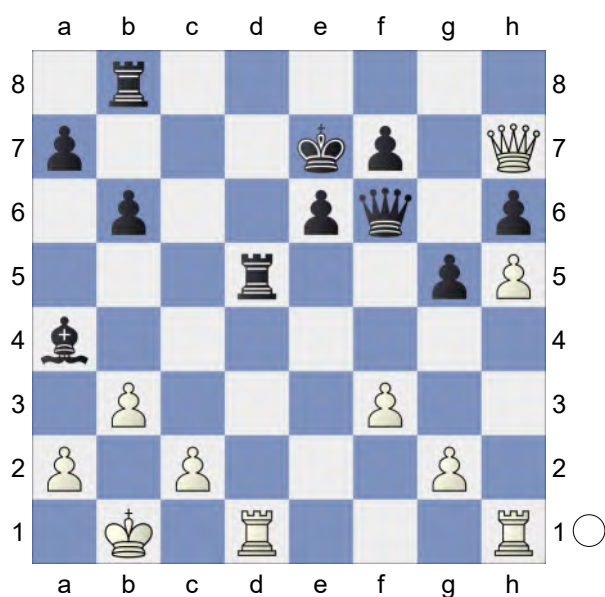
[This or either of the other two bishop moves were best, basically ignoring White's shenanigans! Accepting White's offering through 24...fxg6? would have been disastrous e.g. 25.Rxd8+ Qxd8 26.Qxh6+ Kg8 27.hxg6 Qf6 28.Qh7+ Kf8 29.Qc7 Ra8 30.Rh8+ Qxh8 31.Qf7#]

25.Bd3 Admitting that he wasn't going anywhere but now Black gets some ideas of going for a win. **25...Bc6**

(Diagram)

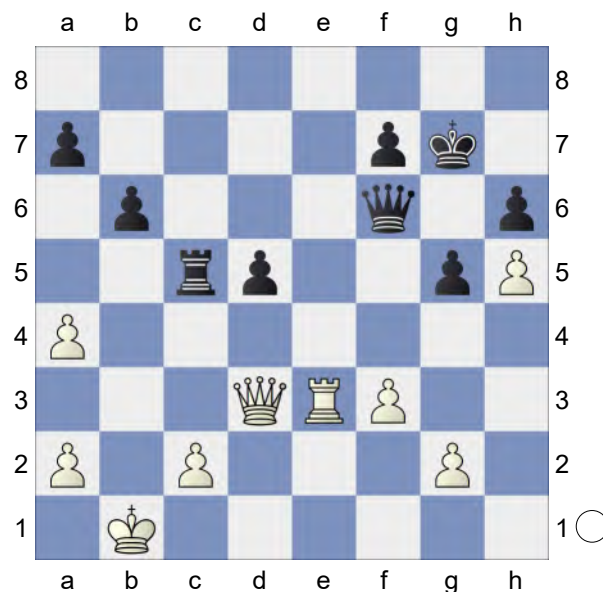


26.Be4 Bb5 27.Bd3 Bc6 28.Be4 Ba4
 Yep, avoiding the repetition and good on Black, although to be fair it's still about equal. **29.b3 Ke7!?** Crafty! If White takes the bishop, then a ...Rh8 will trap the queen. **30.Bd5?!** Enabling the queen to retreat along the diagonal. I can't see why he didn't just drop it back to d3 but anyway, with both bishops en prise, it's all fun and games! **30...Rxd5**



31.Rxd5 exd5 32.bxa4 Rc8
 With those shattered white queenside

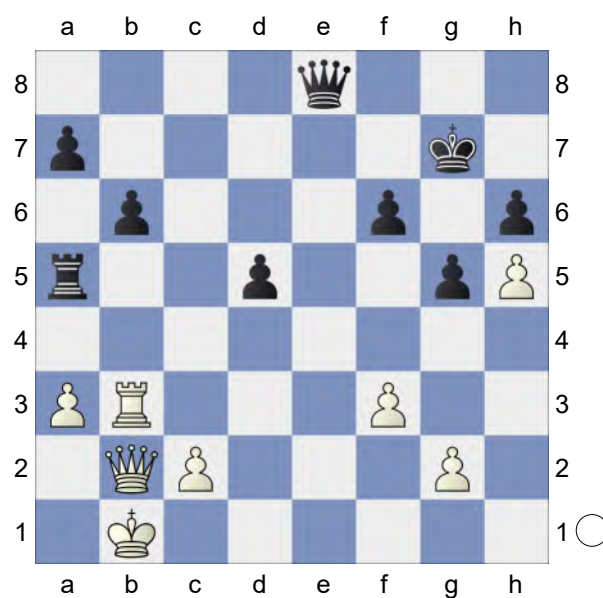
pawns and an equally exposed king, it's definitely advantage Black now although winning is another matter. **33.Re1+ Kf8 34.Qd3 Rc5 35.Re3 Kg7**



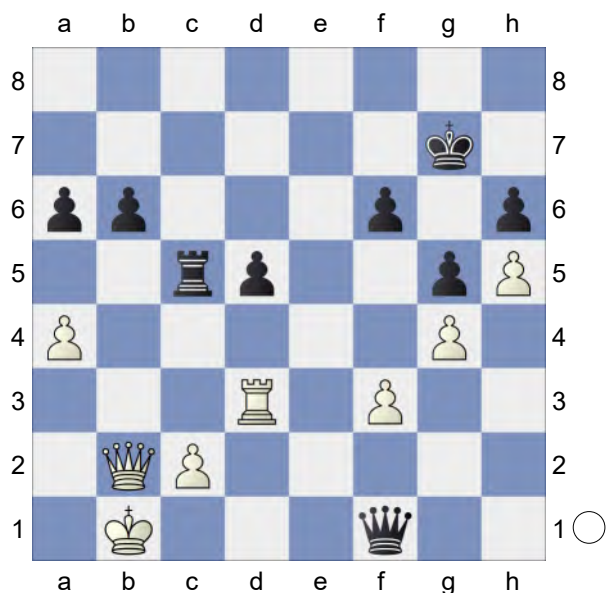
36.a3 Ra5 37.Qb3 Qd4 38.Rd3 Qxa4 39.Qb2+?!]

Presumably White didn't fancy defending **39.Qxa4 Rxa4 40.Rxd5 Rxa3 41.Rd7** but that rook and pawn ending must have offered reasonable drawing chances.]

39...f6 40.Rb3 Now White is a pawn down but rather passive. **40...Qe8**



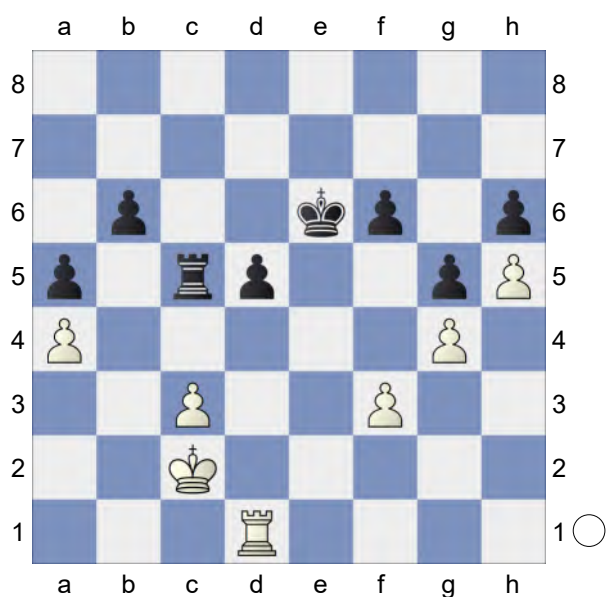
41.g4 Qe1+ 42.Ka2 Rc5 43.Rd3 Qe2
 44.Kb1 a6 Bringing ...Rb5 into play.
 45.a4 Qf1+



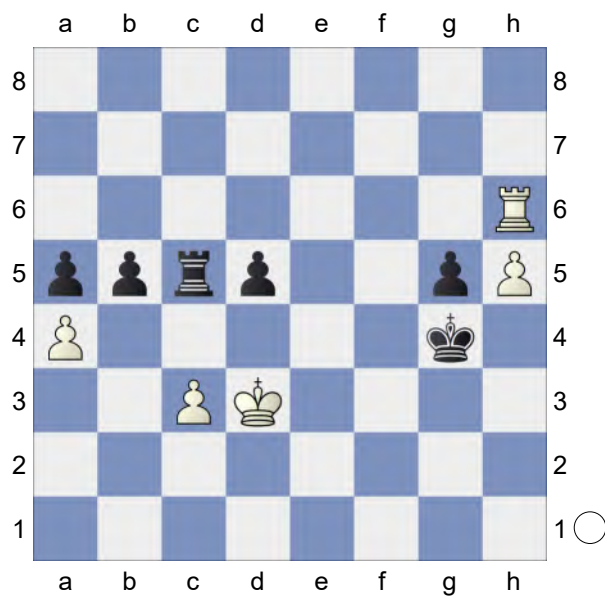
46.Ka2 Qf2?

[Rather a shame. Instead 46...Rc4! would have kept White seriously under the pump.]

47.c3! Now snatching at the opportunity to get a rook and pawn ending.
 47...Qxb2+ 48.Kxb2 Kf7 49.Kc2 a5
 50.Rd1 Ke6

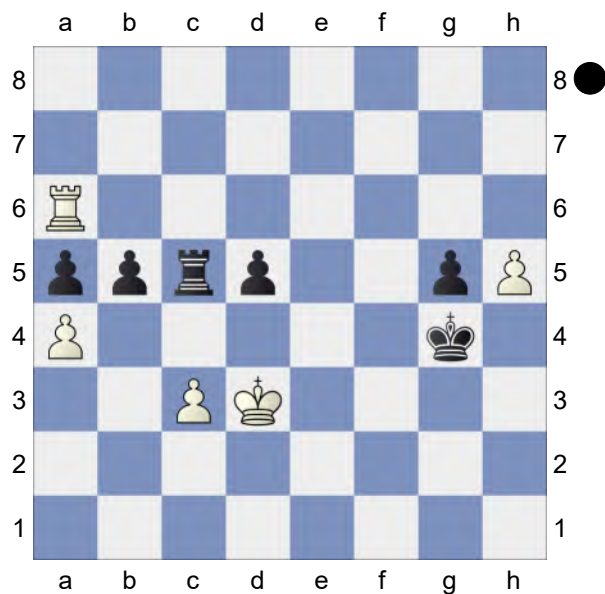


51.Kd3 Ke5 52.Re1+ Kf4 53.Re6
 Kxf3 54.Rxf6+ Kxg4 55.Rxh6 b5



But now too many pawns are coming off.

56.Ra6



1/2-1/2

308

□ Wei, Yi

■ Zhou, Jianchao

CHN-chT Chiva (4.4)

[Collins, Sam]

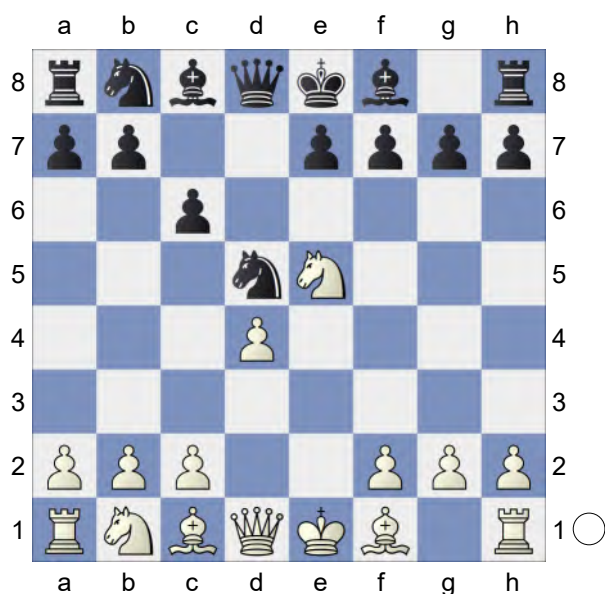
B04

2700

2612

15.04.2016

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.Nf3
dxe5 5.Nxe5 c6



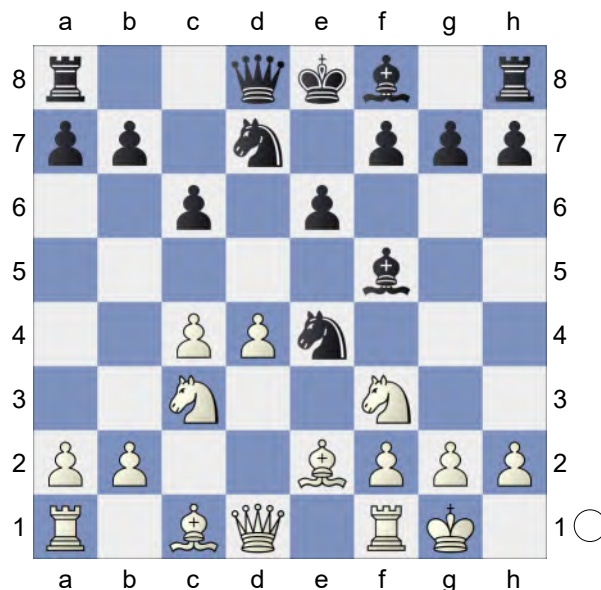
6.Be2 Bf5 7.0-0 Nd7 8.Nf3 e6 9.c4
N5f6!

[Going for the exchange with 9...Nb4 10.a3! leaves White on top, as shown by Tom Rendle in his notes to Z. Hracek - R.Appel, Bundesliga 2013 (1-0 in 31).]

10.Nc3 Ne4!?

[By far the most popular move is 10...Bd6 but White has a decent score there.]

(Diagram)



A logical move (trading pieces in a position with less space), which has resulted in six draws from six games in my database. **11.Qb3** Logically targeting the weakness on b7.

[11.Bd3 Nxc3 12.bxc3 Bxd3 13.Qxd3 Bd6 14.Ng5 Nf6 15.Re1 0-0 16.Qh3 Re8 and Black had equalised in R.Yu - A.Shimanov, Katowice 2014 (1/2-1/2 in 35).]

[11.Nxe4 Bxe4 12.Bf4 (12.Ng5 Bg6 13.d5 e5 14.Bd3 was agreed drawn in Y. Zinchenko - V.Sergeev, Alushta 2005, though Black still needs to fully equalise.) 12...Be7 13.Re1 0-0 was G.Papp - G.Schroll, Austria 2011 (1/2-1/2 in 44), and now 14.Bd3 Bxd3 15.Qxd3 looks like an edge for White.]

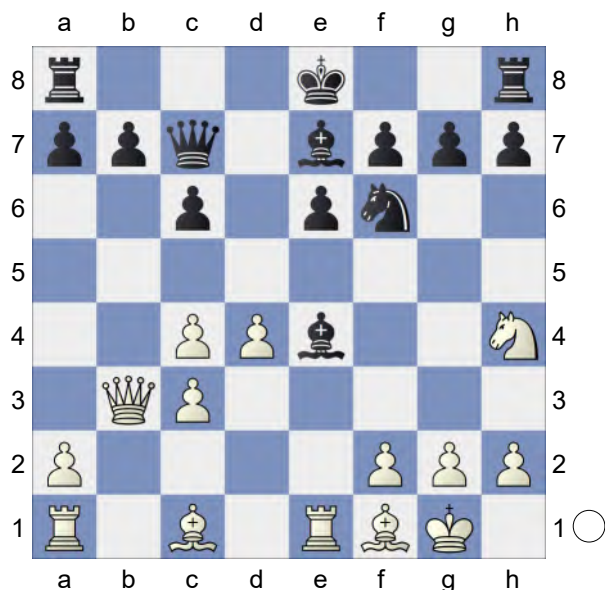
11...Nxc3

[11...Qc7 was tried in M.Luch - P. Shkapenko, Jastrzebia Gora 2015 (1/2-1/2 in 25). Here I like grabbing the bishop pair with 12.Nh4±, which might transpose to the game.]

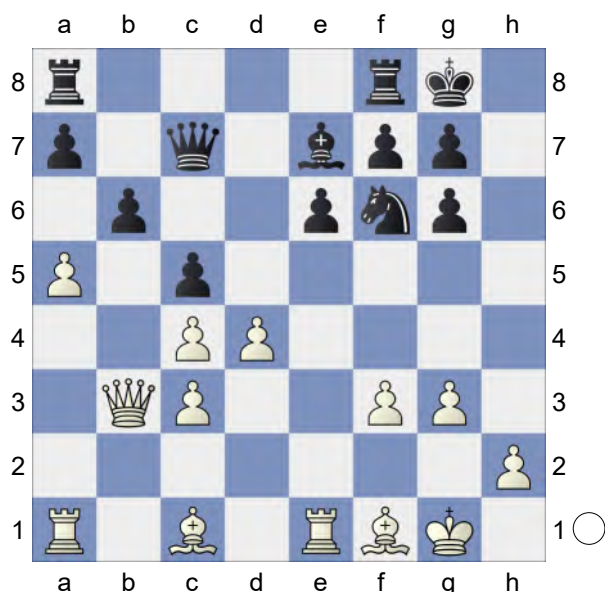
12.bxc3 Qc7 13.Nh4 Be4 Trying to provoke f3, in order to slightly disturb White's co-ordination and prevent Bf3.

[13...Bg6 14.g3 b6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.a4 Bd6 17.a5 0-0 18.Be3± was similar in H. Steingrímsson - V. Sveshnikov, Bratto 2014 (1/2-1/2 in 45)]

14.Re1 Be7 15.Bf1 Nf6



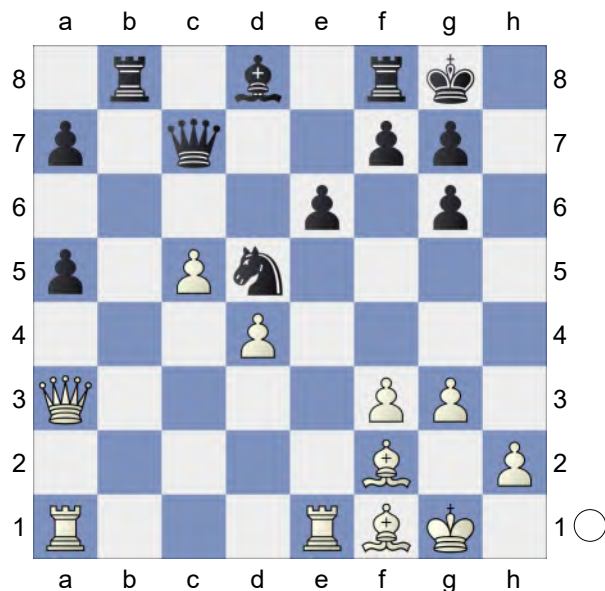
16.f3 Bg6 17.g3 b6 18.a4 0-0 19.Nxg6 Instructively, Wei Yi waited for Black to castle before playing this, since otherwise Black might consider generating counterplay down the h-file. **19...hxg6 20.a5 c5**



21.Be3

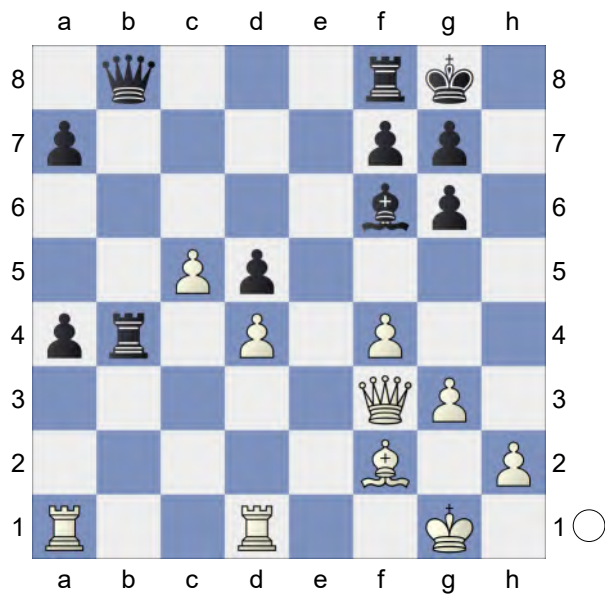
[21.d5 looks more convincing. Black should probably go for exd5 22.cxd5 Bd6 23.Bd2 with an enduring edge for White.]

21...cxd4 22.cxd4 bxa5! Black has made a number of significant structural decisions, but he now (temporarily) has an extra pawn and the possibility of pressure on the white centre. **23.c5** Otherwise the black bishop can land on b4, but now Black gets the d5-square for his knight. **23...Nd5 24.Bf2 Rab8** Black has managed to solve his opening problems and brings the position to safety. **25.Qa3 Bd8**

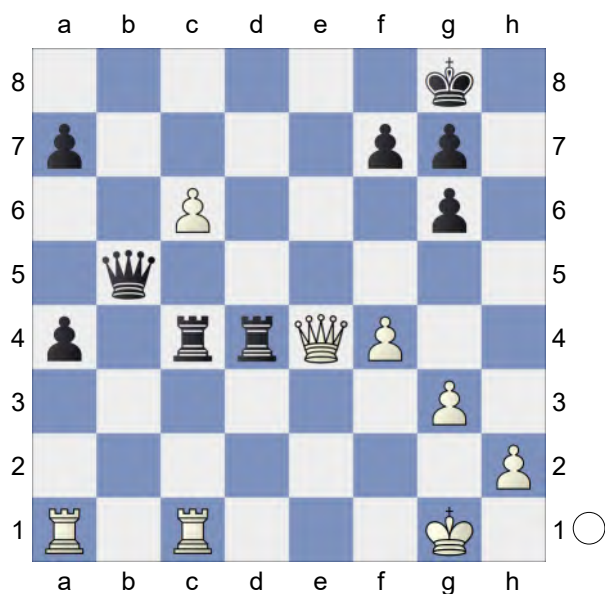


26.f4 Rb4 27.Bg2 Qb8 28.Bxd5 exd5 29.Qf3 Bf6 30.Red1 a4

(Diagram)

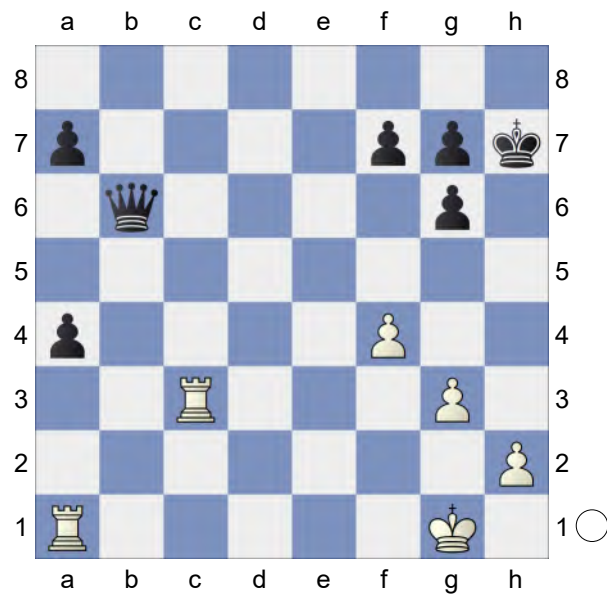


31.Qxd5 Rd8 32.Qe4 Qb5 33.c6 Rc4
34.Rdc1 Bxd4! Liquidating to a draw.
35.Bxd4 Rdx4

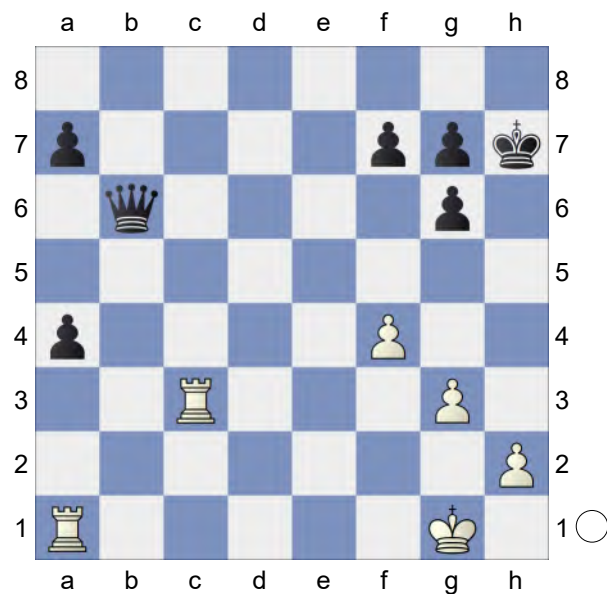


36.Qxd4 Rxd4 37.c7 Rc4 38.c8Q+
Rxc8 39.Rxc8+ Kh7 40.Rc3 Qb6+

(Diagram)



41.Kh1 Qb7+ 42.Kg1 Qb6+ 43.Kh1
Qb7+ 44.Kg1 Qb6+



10...Ne4 keeps its excellent record, and
against a very dangerous opponent.
Black is certainly solid in this line.

1/2-1/2

113

□ Wei, Yi

■ Nepomniachtchi, Ian

Moscow FIDE GP (2.1)

[Collins, Sam]

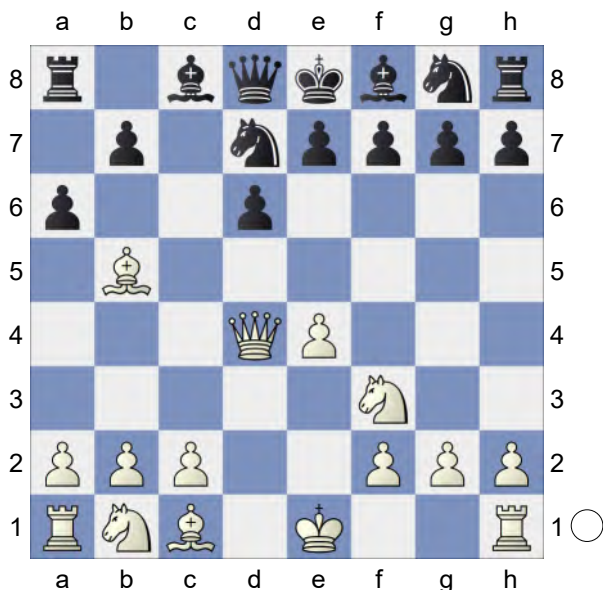
B51

2736

2773

20.05.2019

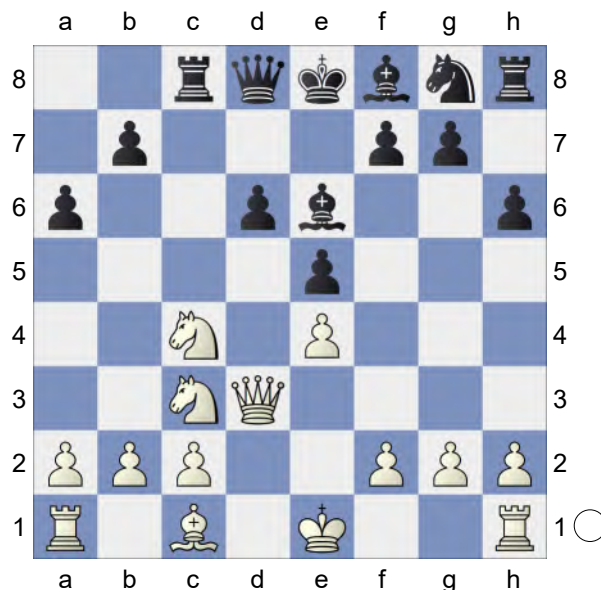
It's important to point out that this game was played at a classical time control, although obviously Nepo played a lot of rapid and blitz in Moscow. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nd7 4.d4 cxd4 5.Qxd4 a6**



6.Bxd7+ Bxd7 7.Nc3 e5 8.Qd3 h6 9.Nd2 Rc8 10.Nc4 Be6

[10...Qc7 was played in S.Fedorchuk – R. Ponomarev, Spanish Team Championship 2011 (1-0 in 25) which I annotated in the Archives.]

(Diagram)



11.Ne3 Nf6 12.0-0

[12.a4 could transpose but led to original positions after Qb6!? 13.0-0 Be7 14.Rd1 0-0 15.Bd2 Qd4!? 16.Be1 Qxd3 17.Rxd3= R.Rapport - M.Lagarde, Karlsruhe 2018. Black always has enough counterplay on the c-file to hold the balance in such endgames.]

12...Be7

[12...Qc7 13.a4 Be7 is less flexible since the queen is committed to c7 (while Nepo prefers to place it on d7). This setup cuts out b3 and Bb2 but that doesn't seem like a serious option anyway. 14.Rd1 0-0 15.Bd2 (15.Qe2 Qc5 16.Qf3 b5 17.axb5 axb5 18.Ra5 Bd7∞ N.Vignesh - J. Santos Latasa, Sharjah 2017 (1/2-1/2 in 52)) 15...Rfd8 16.Be1 Rd7 17.a5 h5 18.h3= T.Gharamian - K.Sasikiran, Germany 2017 (1/2-1/2 in 28).]

[12...Qb6 13.b3 Be7 14.Bb2 0-0 15.Kh1 Qc5 16.f4?! was agreed drawn in M.Munoz Pantoja - K. Oliva Castaneda, Sabadell 2016, a result which would have been more logical after a normal 16th move like 16.

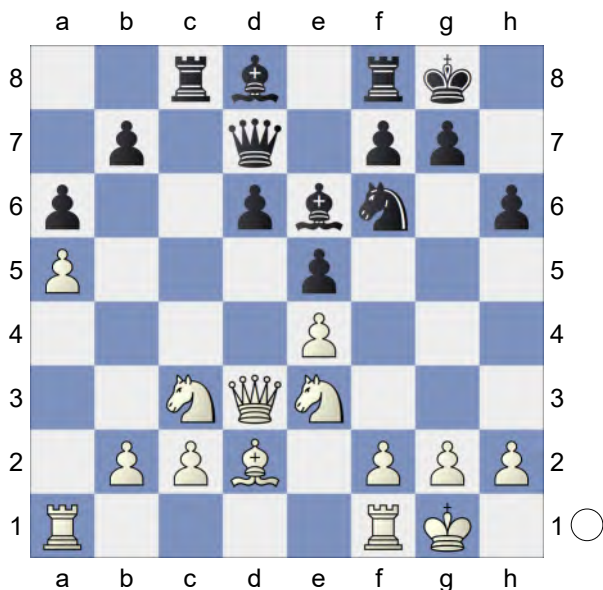
Ncd5.]

13.a4

[13.Rd1 0-0 14.Bd2 Rc5 (14...b5!? P.Velicka - V.Babula, Ostrava 2016 (1/2-1/2 in 65)) 15.a4 Qc8 16.Be1 Rd8= was played in V.Anand - G. Kasparov, Saint Louis 2017 (1/2-1/2 in 31). Kasparov, who once dubbed 3. Bb5+ the choice of the "Pepsi generation", had worse career statistics in this line than his (awesome) results in Open Sicilians, but he had no problems in this game.]

13...0-0 14.a5 Qd7 15.Bd2 Bd8!?

[Varying from his game with Duda in Dortmund 2018, where White was better after 15...Rfd8 16.Rfd1 Bf8 17.Be1 Rc6 18.Na4 Qe8 19.c4± The draw in 58 moves was proof of Nepo's tactical resourcefulness/swindling ability rather than the soundness of his position.]



16.Ncd5

[White retains chances for an edge after less committal play like 16.Rfd1 but this is a different game.]

16...Nxd5 17.exd5

[17.Nxd5 f5± is very comfortable for Black.]

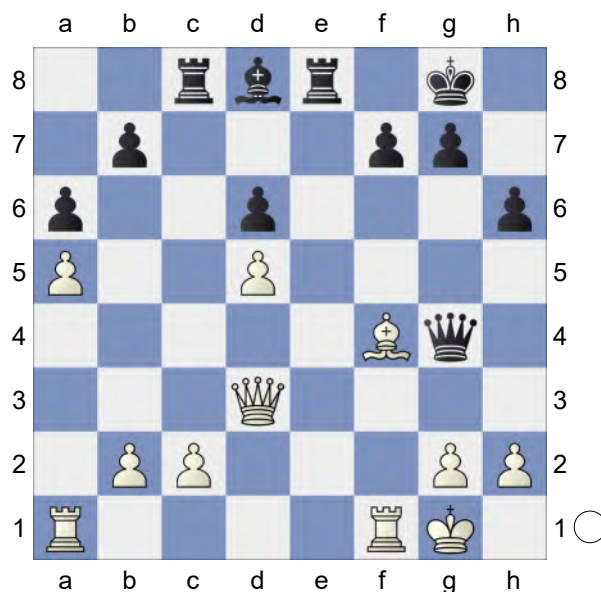
17...Bg4 A safe move, after which the game peters out. White doesn't want to get involved in a race between his queenside play and Black's kingside play. **18.f4**

[The engine slightly prefers White after the subtle 18.Rac1 followed by the standard c4, b4 and c5 play. As Magnus has shown recently, Black has good practical chances in this structure even in objectively dubious versions. The point of the mysterious rook move is that Bh5 is well met by (18...Bg5!?∞) 19.Qf5!±]

[By contrast, 18.c4 Bh5! is quite comfortable for Black.]

18...exf4 19.Nxg4 Qxg4 20.Bxf4 Re8!?

[20...Qg6!= was quite safe.]



21.Rf3

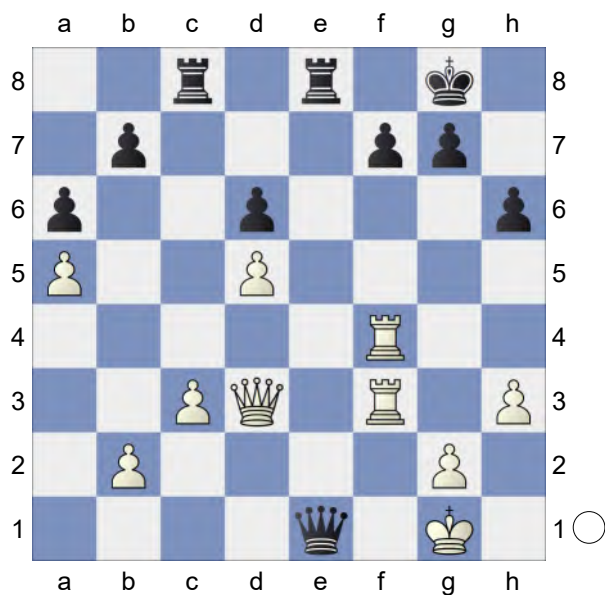
[21.Bxd6 Re2 22.Rf2 Rxf2 23.Kxf2 Qh4+ 24.Kg1 Bxa5!= is a nice shot.]

21...Bf6 22.c3 Be5 23.h3 Qh4 24.Ra4 Bxf4

[Black is not worse after 24...Rc5

but the rook endgame doesn't hold
may dangers either.]

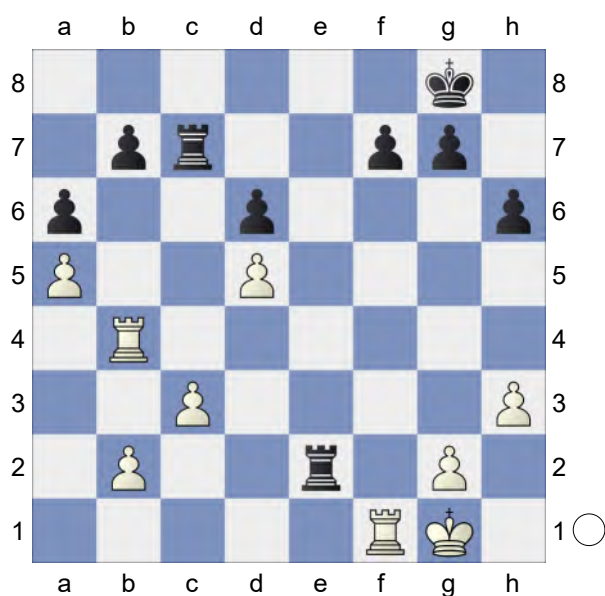
25.Raxf4 Qe1+



26.Rf1 Qe2 27.Qxe2

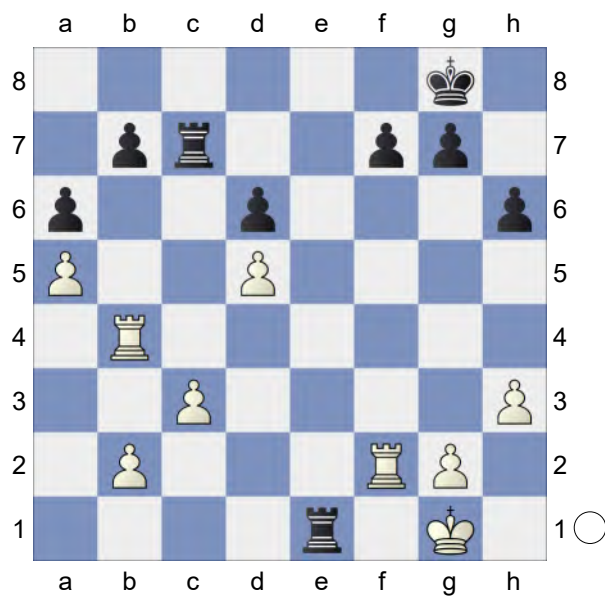
[27.Qf3 doesn't change much: Qxb2
28.Rxf7 Qxc3 29.Rxb7 Qd4+ 30.Kh1
Qe5=]

**27...Rxe2 28.Rb4 Rc7 29.Rf2 Re1+
30.Rf1 Re2**



31.Rf2 Re1+

(Diagram)



1/2-1/2

32

□ Aronian, Levon

■ Wei, Yi

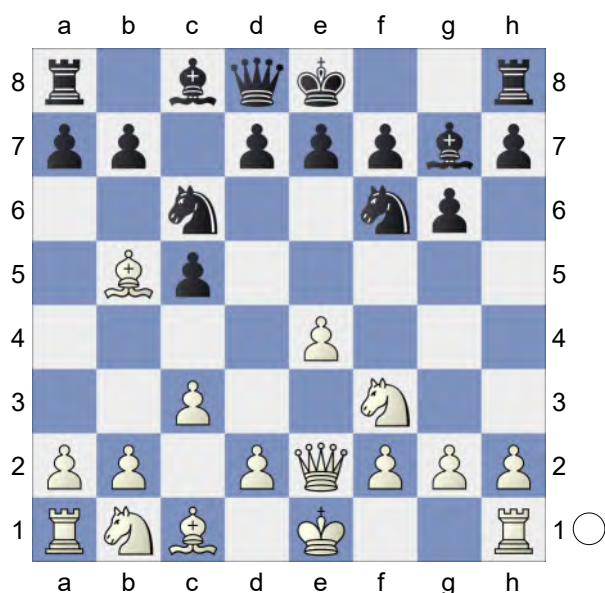
Online Nations Cup Prelim (7.2) 8.5.20
[Collins, Sam]

B31

2773

2732

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.c3
Nf6 5.Qe2 A rare line, which I covered
in I.Smirin - P.Eljanov, Netanya Masters
2019 (0-1 in 55). 5...Bg7



6.d4 cxd4 7.cxd4 0-0 Wei Yi plays
provocatively, allowing either of his
knights to be attacked. 8.d5

[8.Nc3 d5! 9.e5 Ne4 10.0-0 Nxc3
11.bxc3 Na5± A.Velea - A.
Yedigaryan, Porto Carras 2018 (0-1 in
33).]

8...a6!

[8...Nb8 9.Nc3 d6± is passive: M.
Bartel - K.Bryzgalin, Warsaw 2011
(1-0 in 45).]

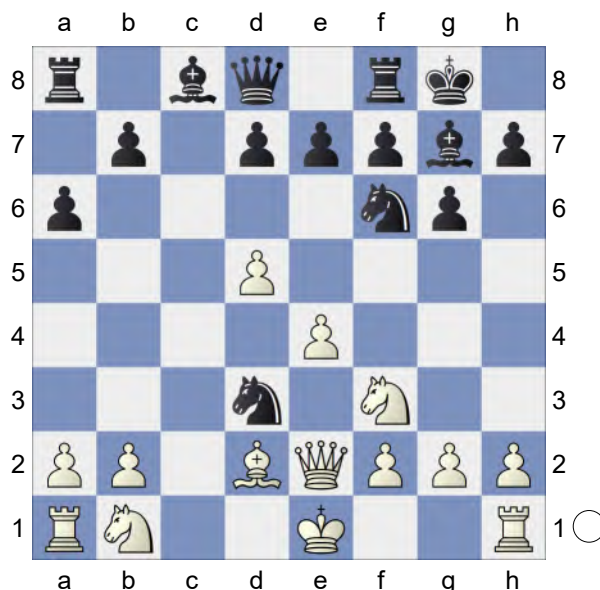
[8...Nb4 9.Nc3 d6 O.Guigon - K.
Roser, Le Port Marly 2014 (1/2-1/2 in
23) 10.0-0±]

9.Bd3 Nb4 10.Bd2

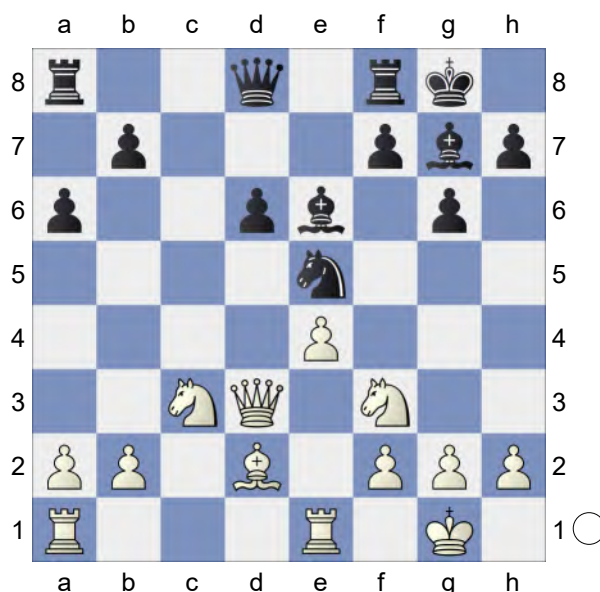
[White doesn't have time for 10.Bc4?
e6! 11.dxe6 dxe6 12.0-0 b5

13.Bb3? (13.a3 bxc4 14.axb4
Qd3±) 13...Qd3± P.Shuvalova - O.
Nechaev, Sochi 2015 (0-1 in 43).]

10...Nxd3+



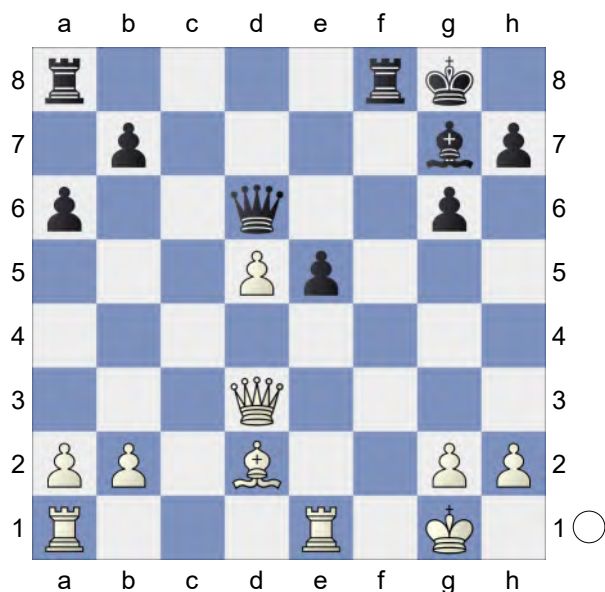
11.Qxd3 d6= Black can have no
complaints from the opening, with two
bishops and no weaknesses. 12.0-0 e6
13.dxe6 Bxe6 This structure of e4 vs.
d6 arises in the Spanish, but this looks
like a pretty good version for Black.
White can't be worse, but I don't think
he's better. 14.Re1 Nd7 15.Nc3 Ne5



16.Nxe5 dxe5 17.Nd5 f5 18.f3 fxe4

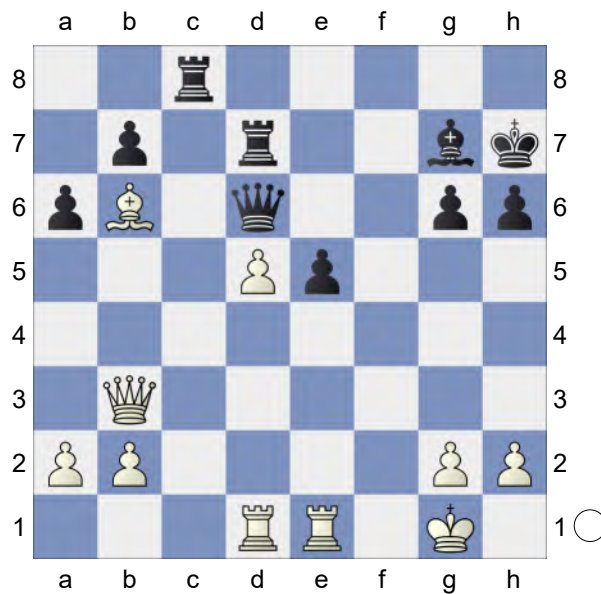
[Engines prefer maintaining the tension with 18...Rf7 , though it's hard to tolerate the d5-knight for long.]

19.fxe4 Bxd5 20.exd5 Although the position remains equal, White's game has become easier to handle, with a passed d-pawn which looks more threatening than its counterpart on e5.
20...Qd6

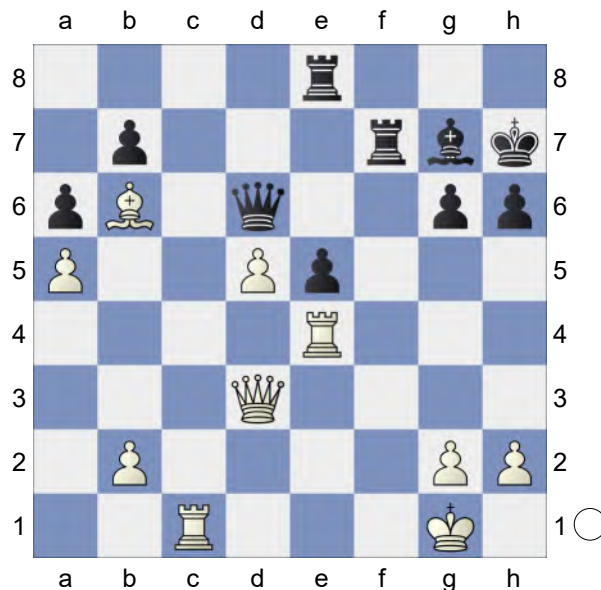


21.Qb3 Rfd8 22.Bg5 Rd7 23.Rad1 h6
Again disliked by the engine, but I don't see how Black is meant to tolerate the g5-bishop indefinitely. **24.Be3 Rc8**
25.Bb6 Kh7

(Diagram)



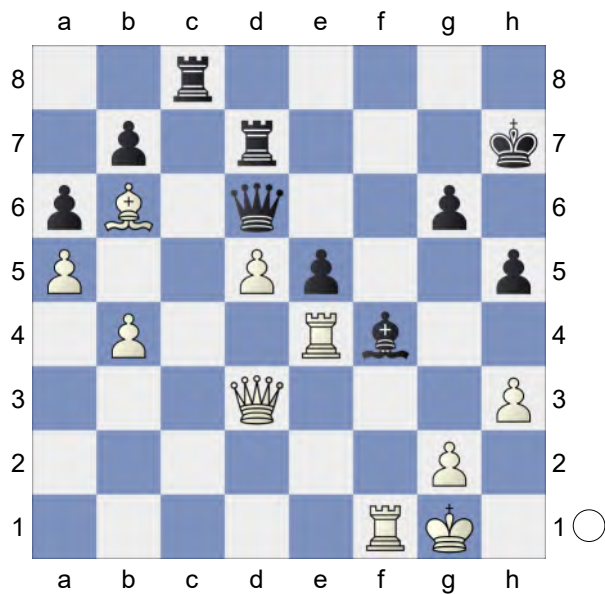
26.a4 Rf8 27.a5 Rdf7 28.Rc1 Re8
29.Re4 Rf4 30.Qd3 Rf7



31.b4 Aronian is playing beautifully and is exerting some pressure on Black's position. **31...Rd7 32.h3 h5 33.Rec4 Bh6**

[33...Qxd5 34.Qxd5 Rxd5 35.Rc7 Kg8 36.Rxb7 e4 37.Rcc7±]
34.Rf1 Bf4 35.Re4 Rc8

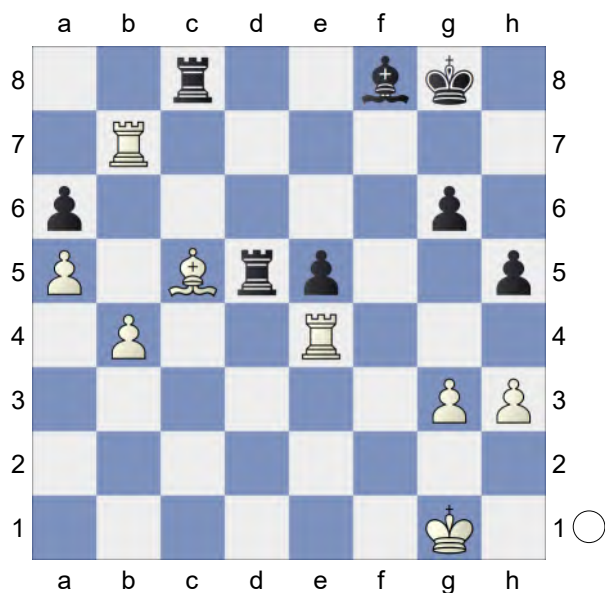
(Diagram)



36.g3 Bh6 37.Bc5 Qxd5

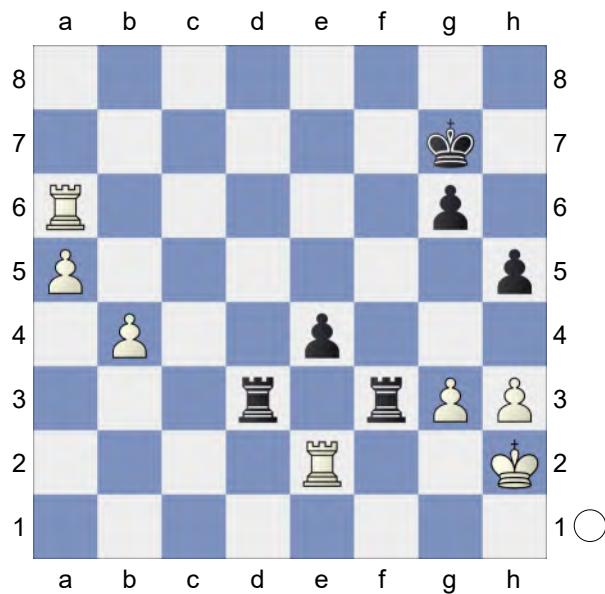
[37...Rxc5 38.bxc5 Qxc5+ 39.Kh2 Rxd5 40.Rf7+ Bg7 41.Qf3 Rd2+ 42.Re2 Qxa5 43.Rxb7 Qa2 44.Rxd2 Qxd2+ 45.Qg2 Qxg2+ 46.Kxg2 and Black makes a draw even without the a- and e-pawns.]

38.Qxd5 Rxd5 39.Rf7+ Kg8 40.Rxb7 Bf8

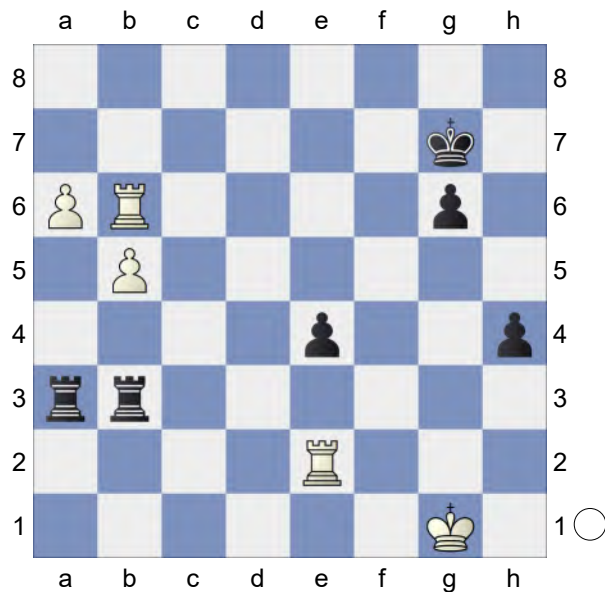


41.Bxf8 Rxf8 42.Re2 Rd3 43.Kh2 e4 44.Rb6 Kg7 45.Rxa6 Rff3

(Diagram)



46.Re6 Rxg3 47.a6 Rxh3+ 48.Kg1 Ra3 49.b5 Rhb3 50.Rb6 h4



51.Rb7+ Kh6 52.a7 Rg3+ 53.Rg2 Rh3 54.Rg4? Finally the time control reveals itself, after pretty high quality play.

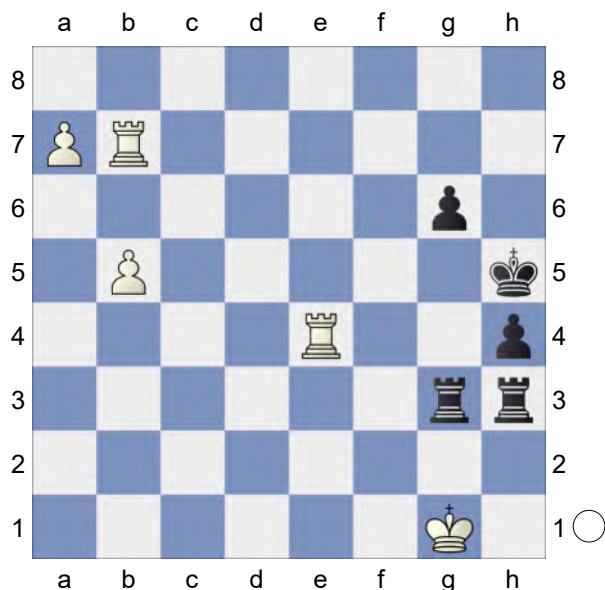
[54.Re2= was one of several moves to hold the balance.]

54...Kh5?

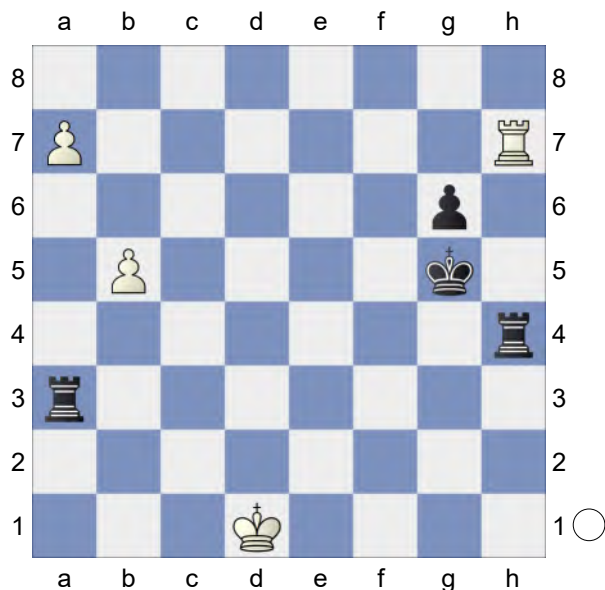
[The win was far from straightforward. 54...Ra1+ 55.Kg2 (55.Kf2 Rf3+ 56.Ke2 Ra2+ 57.Ke1 Rh3 58.Rg1 Rhh2-+) 55...Re3!! 56.Kh2

(56.Rxh4+ Kg5 57.Rh8 Re2+ and 58...Ra3#) 56...Ree1!!+ , and the lines continue. I challenge anyone to find this even at a classical time control.]

55.Rxe4 Rag3+



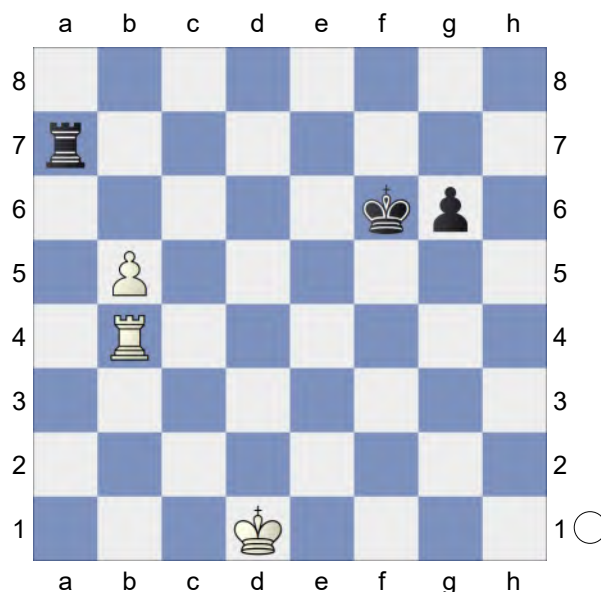
56.Kf1 Rh1+ 57.Ke2 Rh2+ 58.Kd1 Ra3 59.Rxh4+ Rxh4 60.Rh7+ Kg5



61.Rxh4 Rxa7! The best move, even if the tablebases don't see a difference.

[61...Kxh4 62.b6 is, remarkably, still a draw. g5! 63.b7 Rxa7 64.b8Q Ra4! and the rook gets to f4, with a

fortress.]
62.Rb4 Kf6



1/2-1/2

35

□ Aronian, Levon

■ Wei, Yi

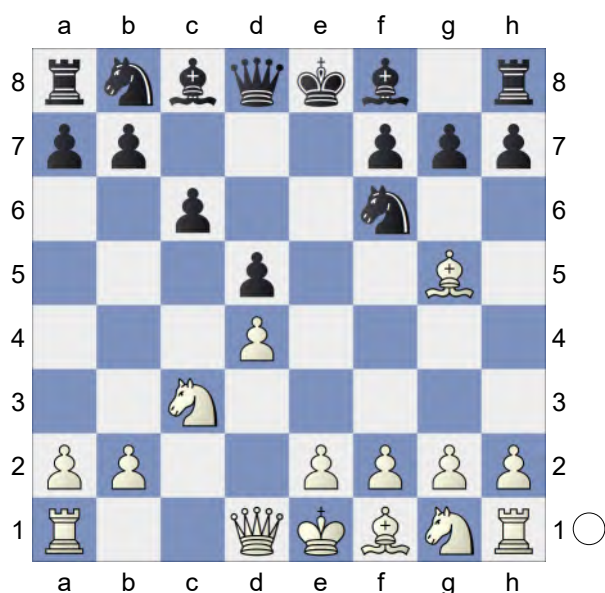
Online Nations Cup Prelim (7.2) 8.5.20
[Collins, Sam]

D36

2773

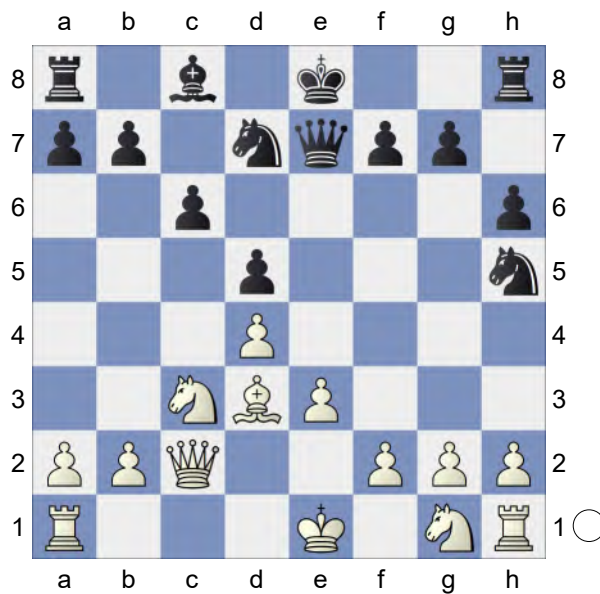
2732

1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 Nf6 4.cxd5
exd5 5.Bg5 A rare line, which I covered
in I.Smirin - P.Eljanov, Netanya Masters
2019 (0-1 in 55). 5...c6



6.Qc2 Be7 7.e3 Nbd7 Wei Yi plays
provocatively, allowing either of his
knights to be attacked. 8.Bd3 h6!
9.Bh4 Nh5 10.Bxe7 Qxe7

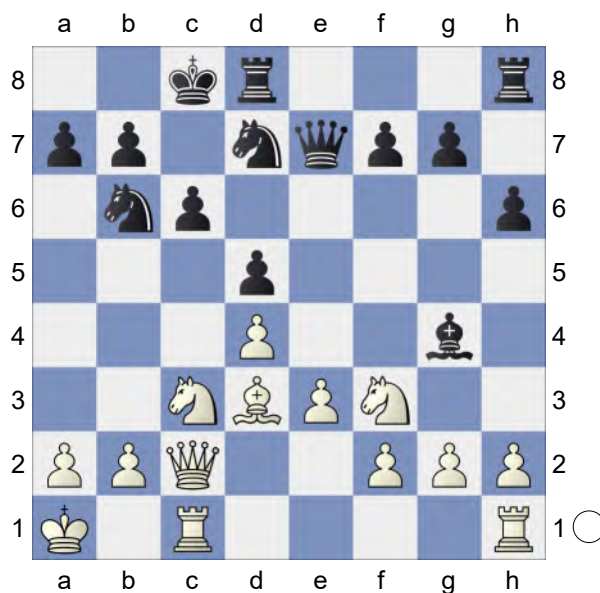
(Diagram)



11.0-0-0 Nb6= Black can have no
complaints from the opening, with two
bishops and no weaknesses. 12.Nf3

[12.h3]

12...Bg4 13.Kb1 Nf6 This structure of
e4 vs. d6 arises in the Spanish, but this
looks like a pretty good version for Black.
White can't be worse, but I don't think
he's better. 14.Rc1 Nfd7 15.Ka1 0-0-0



16.Nd2 Kb8 17.Na4

[17.Rhe1]

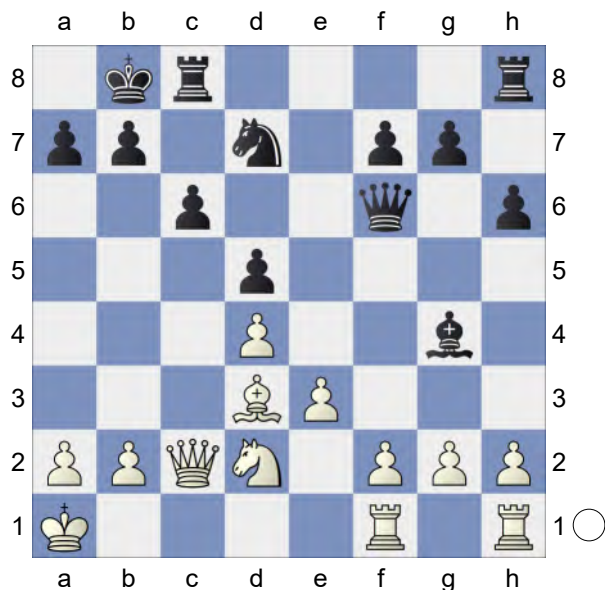
17...Nxa4 18.Qxa4 Qh4

[18...Qf6 19.Rhf1 Bf5]

19.Rcf1 Qf6 20.Qc2 Although the position remains equal, White's game has become easier to handle, with a passed d-pawn which looks more threatening than its counterpart on e5.

20...Rc8

[20...Bh5]



21.Nb3 Rc7 22.Rc1 Rhc8 23.h3 Be6

Again disliked by the engine, but I don't see how Black is meant to tolerate the g5-bishop indefinitely. **24.Rhf1**

[24.f4]

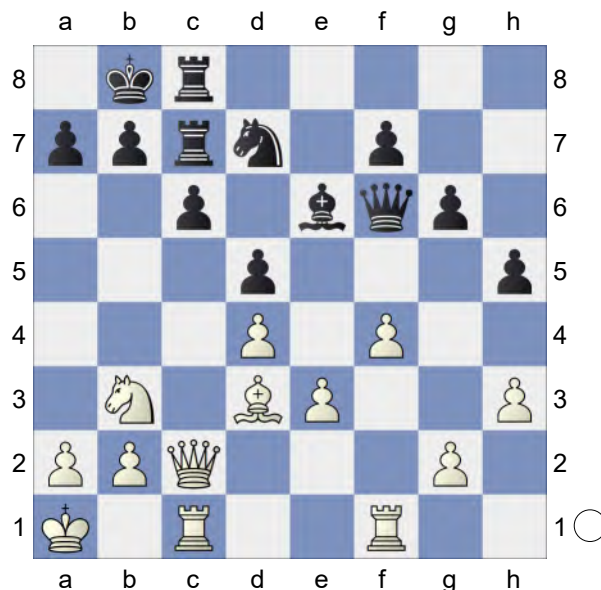
24...h5

[24...c5 25.Nxc5 Nxc5 26.dxc5 Rxc5 27.Qxc5 Rxc5 28.Rxc5 Qg5 29.g3 Bxh3 30.Rfc1]

25.f4 g6

[25...Nb6 26.f5 Bd7 27.Nc5 (27.Qf2)]

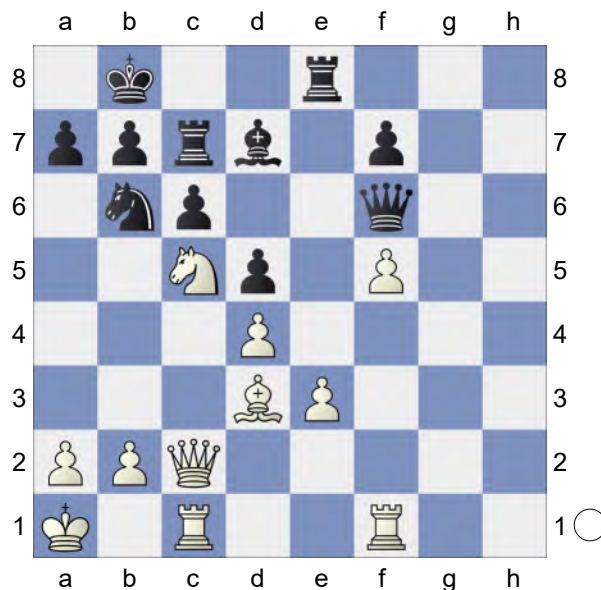
(Diagram)



26.f5 gxf5

[26...Bxf5 27.Bxf5 gxf5 28.Rxf5 (28.Qxf5 Qxf5 29.Rxf5 Rg8) 28...Qg6 29.Qf2]

27.g4 hxg4 28.hxg4 Nb6 29.gxf5 Bd7 30.Nc5 Re8



31.Rce1 Aronian is playing beautifully and is exerting some pressure on Black's position.

[31.Qf2]

31...Qd6 32.a3

[32.Rg1±]

[32.Qf2 Bc8! (32...f6 33.e4 Bc8

34.e5 fxe5 A.Velea - A.Yedigaryan,
Porto Carras 2018 (0-1 in 33). 35.Qg3
Nc4 36.Bxc4 dxc4 37.Na4) 33.f6]

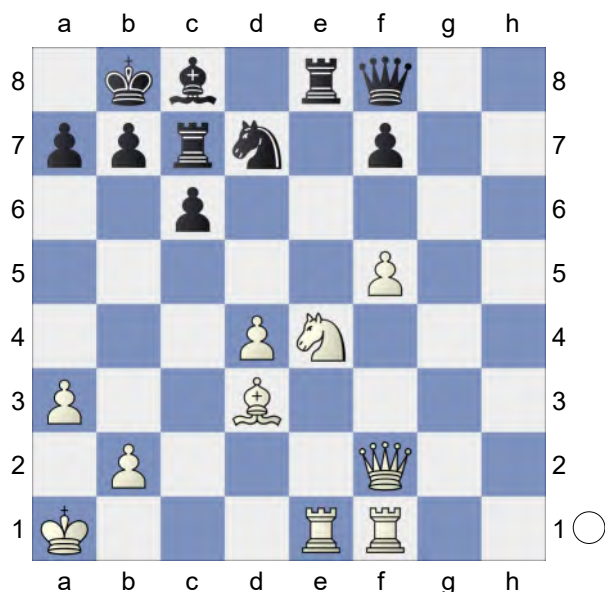
32...Bc8 33.Qf2 Nd7

[33...f6 34.Rh1 Rce7 O.Guigon - K.
Roser, Le Port Marly 2014 (1/2-1/2 in
23)]

34.e4 dxe4 35.Nxe4 Qf8

[35...Qd5 36.Bb1]

[35...Qh6 36.Qg3 is passive: M.
Bartel - K.Bryzgalin, Warsaw 2011
(1-0 in 45).]



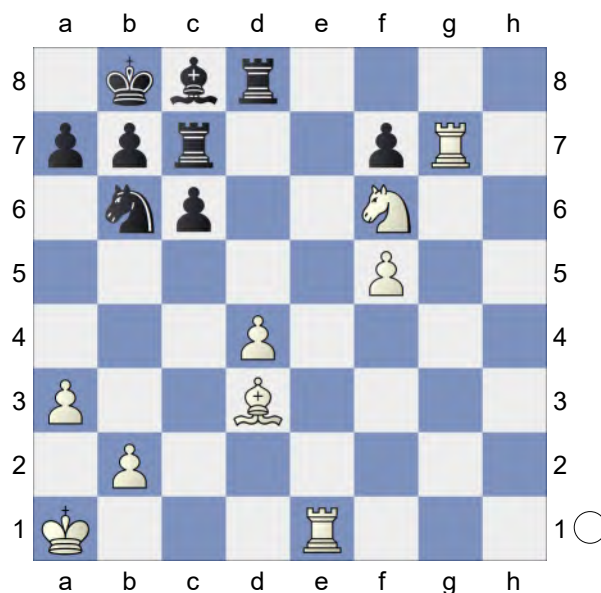
36.Rg1 Rd8 37.Qh2

[37.f6 and Black makes a draw even
without the a- and e-pawns. Nb6
38.Rg7 Rcd7 39.Bc2 (39.Ng5
Rxd4? 40.Nxf7 P.Shuvalova - O.
Nechaev, Sochi 2015 (0-1 in 43).
Rxd3 41.Nxd8 Qxd8) 39...Rxd4
40.Bb3 R4d7 41.Ng5
Engines prefer maintaining the tension
with Nd5, though it's hard to tolerate
the d5-knight for long. White doesn't
have time for 42.Bxd5? Rxd5!
(42...cxd5 43.Qd4) 43.Nxf7]

37...Qh8 38.Qxh8

[38.Qf2 Nf6]

38...Rxb8 39.Rg7 Nb6 40.Nf6 Rd8 [40...Rh6]



41.Rg4

[41.Bb1 Rxd4 42.Ne8 Rcd7 43.Nf6
Rd8 44.Rxf7]

41...c5 42.Ne8

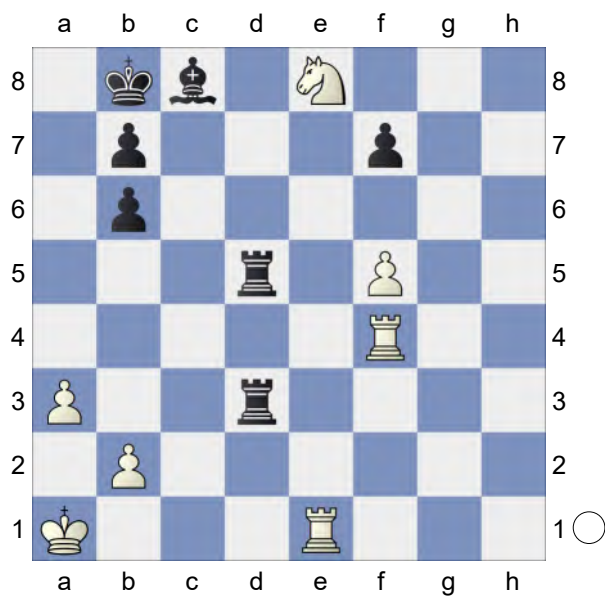
[42.dxc5 Rxc5 (42...Rxd3 43.cxb6
axb6 44.Re8 Rc1+ 45.Ka2 Kc7)
43.Bb1 Bxf5+ 44.Rg5= was one of
several moves to hold the balance.]

42...Rcd7 43.dxc5 Rxd3 44.cxb6 axb6

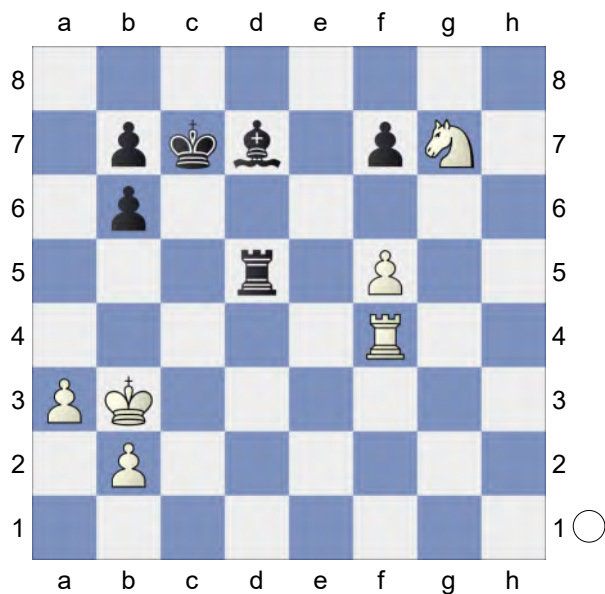
[44...Bxf5!-+ , and the lines continue.
I challenge anyone to find this even at
a classical time control. 45.bxa7+
Kxa7 46.Rgg1 Rd2 and 58...Ra3#
47.Nf6 R8d4 48.Rgf1 Be6]

45.Rf4 R8d5

(Diagram)



46.Ref1 Rd1+ 47.Rxd1 Rxd1+ 48.Ka2 Rd5 49.Ng7 Bd7 50.Kb3 Kc7

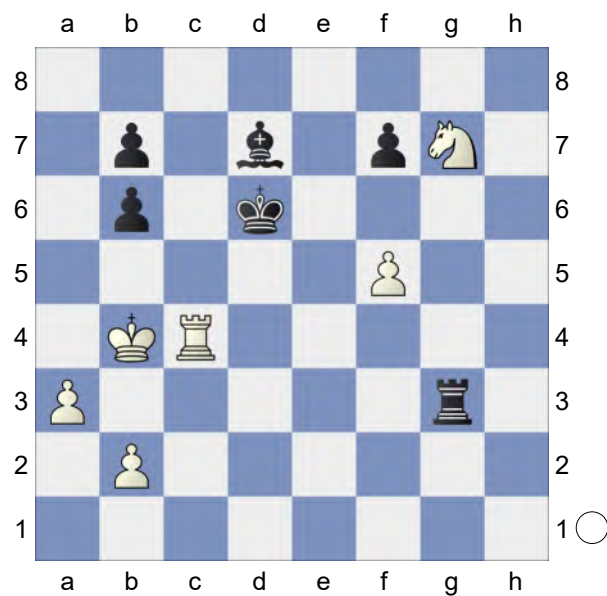


51.Re4 Kd6 52.Ne8+ Kc6

[The win was far from straightforward.
52...Bxe8 53.Rxe8 Rxf5!! 54.Rb8]

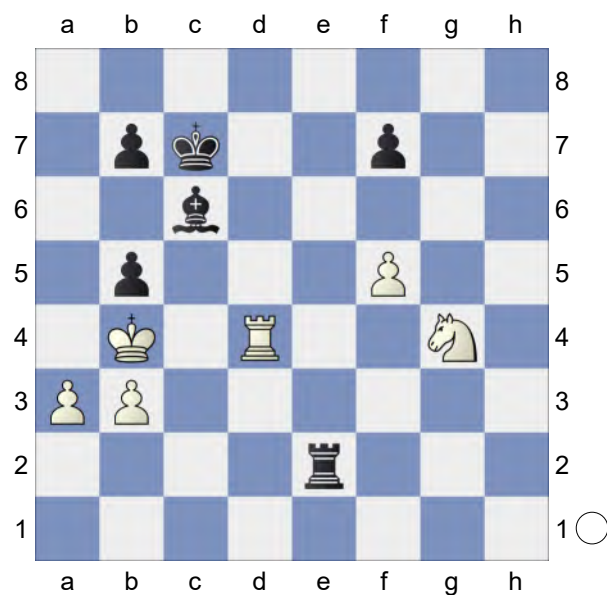
53.Ng7 Rd3+ 54.Kb4? Finally the time control reveals itself, after pretty high quality play. 54...Rg3? 55.Rc4+ Kd6

(Diagram)



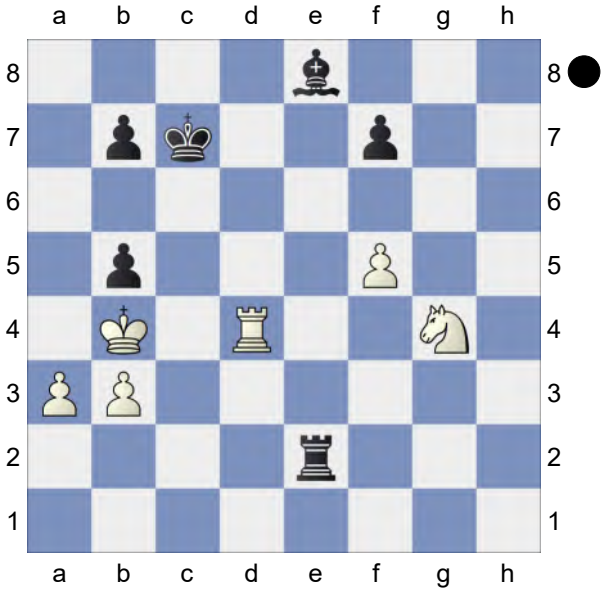
56.Rd4+ Kc7 57.Nh5 Rg2 58.Nf6 Bc6
[58...Bxf5 59.Nd5+ Kb8 60.b3!
and the rook gets to f4, with a fortress.]

59.b3 b5 60.Ng4 Re2



61.Nh6 Be8! The best move, even if the tablebases don't see a difference. 62.Ng4 Bd7 63.Nh6 Be8
is, remarkably, still a draw. **64.Ng4!**

(Diagram)



$\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$

523

□ Zhao Jun

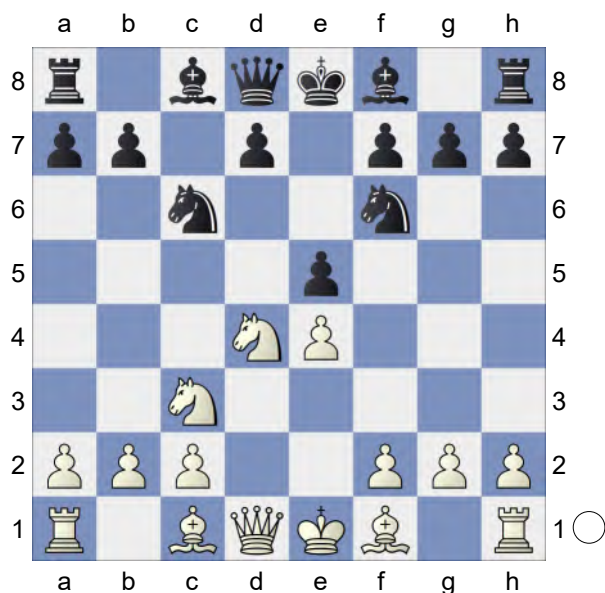
■ Wei, Yi

Chinese Mind Games, Zaozhuang 2015
[Cyrus Lakdawala]

B33

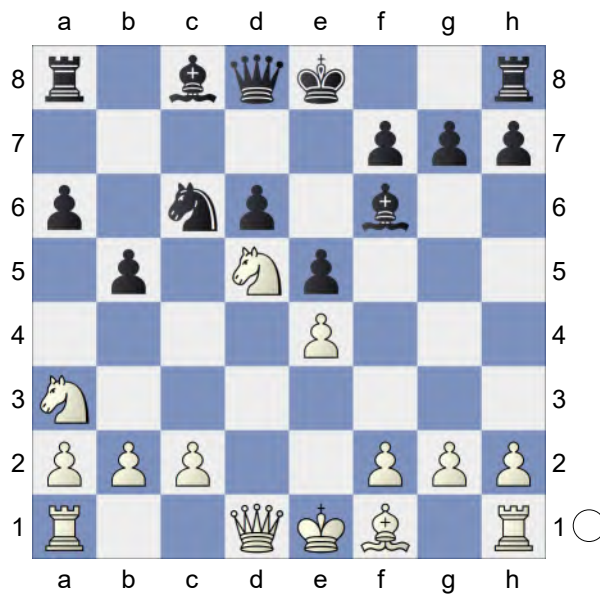
1.e4 c5 When the young buck challenges the authority of an older leader, the herd watches. At the time of this writing, the 16-year old Chinese prodigy (current FIDE rating: 2721!) is, in my opinion, an odds-on favourite to challenge Magnus Carlsen for the world title within the next ten years. **2.Nf3 Nc6**

3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5



6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6

(Diagram)



11.c4 b4 12.Nc2 0-0 13.Be2

No fianchetto this time. --- QUESTION: What are the differences between playing Be2 and fianchettoing? --- ANSWER: With 13 Be2: -- 1. White saves a move by developing the bishop at once. -- 2. White avoids weakening the h3- and f3-squares. -- 3. White allows a potential black kingside build-up with ideas like ...Qh4. -- 4. White's chances of an f2-f4 break go down considerably. --- When White fianchettoes: -- 1. White can seize control over the critical g5-square with a future h2-h4. -- 2. White can meet Black's ...g6-g6 (and ...f7-f5) plan with h4-h5, threatening to open the h-file with h5xg6. --- Conclusion: I don't believe that either version is better than the other, and the one White picks is a matter of taste. **13...a5**

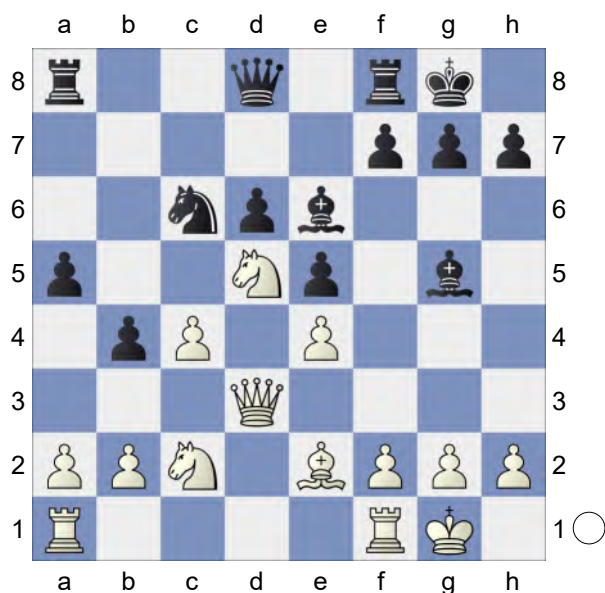
[In Negi-Kryvoruchko Black plays 13...Bg5 first, after which 14.0-0 a5 would transpose below. --- QUESTION: Why isn't b4 hanging? --- ANSWER: Patience. We look at this very possibility in the next game.]

14.0-0 Bg5 Black immediately seizes

upon the fact that White hasn't played h2-h4 to post his dark-squared bishop on a good diagonal. **15.Qd3** A logical move, which prepares to put a rook to d1, while watching the b3-square.

[Playing to exchange light-squared bishops with 15.Bg4 doesn't bother Black, who can simply respond Be6. This obviously discourages Bxe6, since Black then seizes control over d5. G.Kamsky-T.Radjabov, Beijing (rapid) 2013, continued 16.Bxe6!? (hey, I said: "obviously discourages Bxe6") fxe6 17.Nde3 Qe7 18.Qe2!? (I would prefer 18.Qd3, retaining control over d4) 18...a4 (or 18...Nd4 with a slight edge) 19.b3 Rfb8 20.g3 Ra5 21.Ng2 Rba8 and Black exerts mild pressure.]

15...Be6



16.Rad1

[The f1-rook can be posted to d1 too; for example, 16.Rfd1 Rc8 17.Nde3 Bxe3 18.Qxe3 Qc7 19.Rd2 Rfd8 20.Rad1 Nb8! (intending to redeploy to the more active c5-square) 21.b3 Na6 22.f4 f6 and Black stood no worse, I.Nepomniachtchi-Wang Yue,

Russia-China blitz match, Sochi 2009.]

16...Ra7 A useful deployment, which enables Black to reinforce the backward d6-pawn from d7, as well as to double heavy pieces on a queenside file at any opportune moment. **17.b3**

[Or similarly 17.Bf3 g6 18.Qe2 Qb8 19.b3 a4 20.Qd3 Ra5 21.Nde3 ½-½ A.Motylev-B.Grachev, FIDE World Cup, Baku (2nd rapid tie-break game) 2015. I slightly prefer Black at the end there.]

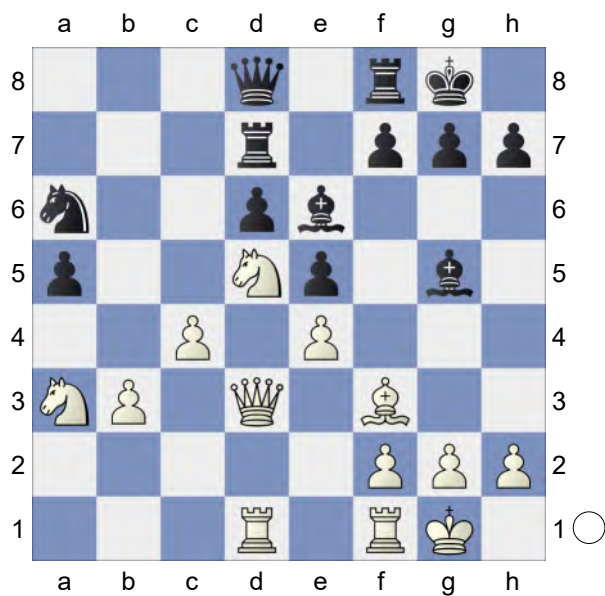
17...Rd7 18.Bf3 Nimzowitsch would be impressed with White's overprotection of d5, but I ask: Is White's control over d5 bothering Black in any way? I don't see how it is. **18...Nb8!?** Destination c5.

19.a3!? A new move which turns the queenside into a warring republic with no ruling authority. --- QUESTION: Is it in White's favour to open the queenside? --- ANSWER: White logically assails b4, hoping to gain some queenside traction by exploiting Black's knight retreat. However, this plan does help Black in one way: it opens the position for his bishop pair.

[Previously, White played exclusively on the kingside: 19.g3 (aiming for an f2-f4 break) Na6 20.Qe2 Nc5 21.Nce3 g6 22.Bg2, V.Kovalev-O. Ladvá, European Rapid Championship, Warsaw 2011, and now Bh6 23.f4 exf4 24.gxf4 Re8 leaves the game dynamically balanced.]

19...bxa3 20.Nxa3 Na6?!

[Seeing that the situation on the queenside has changed, Black should backtrack with 20...Nc6!, retaining control over d4 and b4.]



I prefer White's position after this.

21.Nb5? When we pick an aggressive plan and then hesitate, we demand the privilege of ownership, without the commitment of paying for it. With one move White goes from better to worse.

[He should play the more accurate 21.Qc3! (allowing him to recapture on d5 with the rook) Nc5 22.Nb5 g6 23.g3 Bh6 24.Bg2 , when I think Black stands slightly worse due to the weaknesses at d6 and a5.]

21...Bxd5! 22.cxd5?!

[Not 22.Qxd5?? , which self-traps the queen after Nb4 .]

[Instead, 22.exd5 is probably the lesser evil, even if it does allow Black to activate his kingside pawn majority with f5 .]

22...Rb7! Now White experiences serious issues in the protection of b3.

23.Be2

[Or 23.Qc4 Qd7 24.Nd4 Nc5 25.Nc6

A) 25...Nxb3 and Black wins a pawn; 26.-- (26.--);

B) 25...Rxb3 might be played as well, since 26.Nxe5 (not

26.Nxa5?? Rxf3! and wins)
26...dxe5 27.Qxc5 can be met by the temporary sacrifice Rc8
28.Qxa5 Rxf3! 29.gxf3 Qh3
30.Rd2 (returning the exchange is the only defence) Bf4 31.Rfd1
Bxh2+ 32.Kh1 Bf4+ 33.Kg1 Bxd2
34.Qxd2 Qxf3 with a clear advantage in the endgame.]

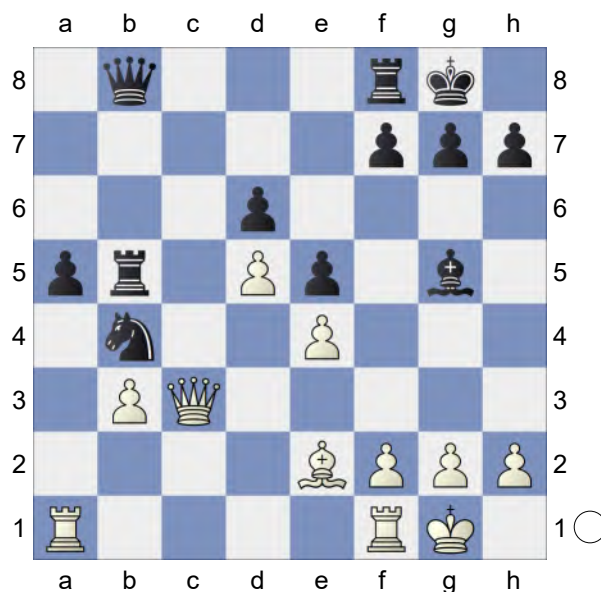
23...Qb8 24.Ra1

[After 24.Nc3 Nc5 25.Qf3 Rxb3 , Black has an extra pawn and White's knight is caught in a painful pin.]

EXERCISE (combination alert): White complies under duress. How did Black win material? --- **ANSWER:** Removal of a key defender. **24...Nb4!**

[Rather than 24...Nc5? , which allows White to hang on to his knight after 25.Qc4 .]

25.Qc3 Rxb5



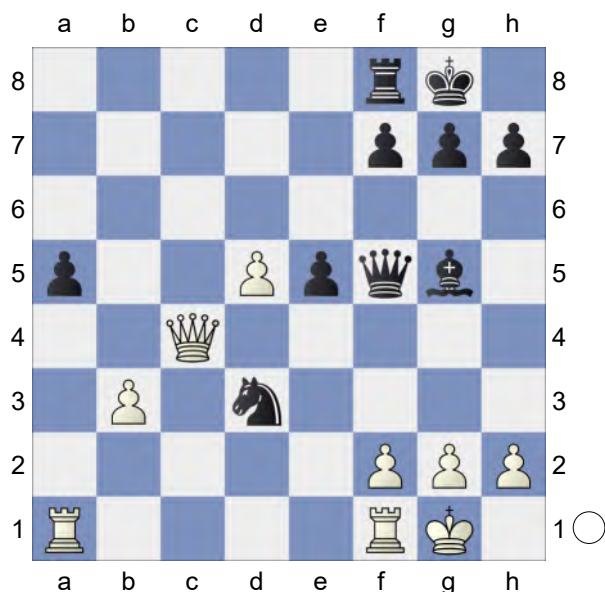
26.Bxb5 Qxb5 27.Qc7 Black has won two minor pieces for the rook, but urgency presses upon White and it appears as if he has rustled up some counterplay against a5 and d6. However, Wei Yi's next move shows that Black's initiative comes first. **27...Qe2!**

Targeting both f2 and e4. If White's position hasn't quite reached hell, then it may be nearing the suburbs. **28.Qxd6 Nd3**

29.Qa6 Covering e5, while eyeing f2.

[There is no time for 29.Rxa5? in view of Be3! (once begun, attacks take on a life of their own, almost independent of us, who started them) and if 30.fxe3? Qxe3+ 31.Kh1 then Nf2+ 32.Kg1 Nh3+ 33.Kh1 Qg1+! with a standard smothered mate.]

29...Qxe4 30.Qc4 Qf5!



Black must keep queens on the board to go after White's king. From f5 the queen enables a future activation of the rook into the attack with ...Rc8. **31.Rxa5**

[If 31.d6 at once, then e4 and Black hangs on to his a-pawn.]

31...h5! Offering his king luft, while worrying White about a future push of his h-pawn. **32.d6 Rc8 33.Qc7!?**

When we are losing, a single thought pops into our mind: How can we turn order into anarchy? Refusing to be enfeebled by long adversity, Zhao Jun fastens to his single strength in the position: his passed d-pawn. White

refuses to impose limits on his spending and offers his queen. The idea is either a desperate bluff, or a cunning trap.

[Objectively speaking, 33.Qd4 was correct, making use of the pin along the fifth rank, but that would only prolong White's suffering after g6 34.Qa7 Rd8 .]

[QUESTION: Why can't he just play 33.Qd5 - ? --- ANSWER: Let's turn that into an exercise. --- EXERCISE (combination alert): Black to play and win. --- ANSWER: Qxf2+! (when we are the victims of such shots, our emotions are the same as upon seeing a large oak tree, which has been a familiar sight all our lives, suddenly shattered into fragments in an instant by a bolt of lightning) 34.Rxf2 Rc1+ 35.Rf1 Be3+ 36.Kh1 Rxf1# . Forcing mate with a queen sacrifice is the chess equivalent of Christmas, your birthday and a visit from the tooth fairy and Easter bunny, all on the same day.]

33...Rxc7! White's attempt at irony backfires; this is not one of those "Down-goes-Frazier" moments for Black. Sometimes an open challenge by our opponent undermines our rationality, to the point where we back down, when logic tells us we should accept the challenge. Wei Yi correctly accepts the queen. White's idea was merely an abstraction, without a real chance of application. He is unable to force promotion of the c7-pawn.

[Chickening out with 33...Bd8! 34.Qa7 Bxa5 35.Qxa5 Qg4 wins easily too, when Black is a piece up and White's d-pawn is going nowhere.]

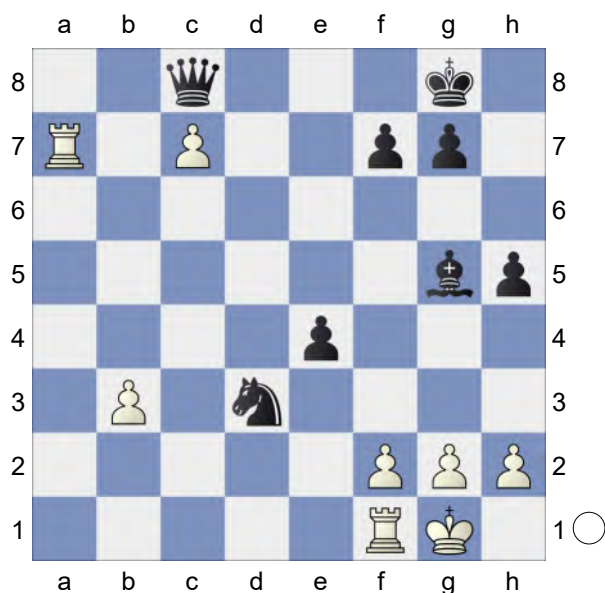
[There is absolutely no reason to play an apathetic response like 33...Rd8?

, even if Komodo says Black is still winning anyway.]

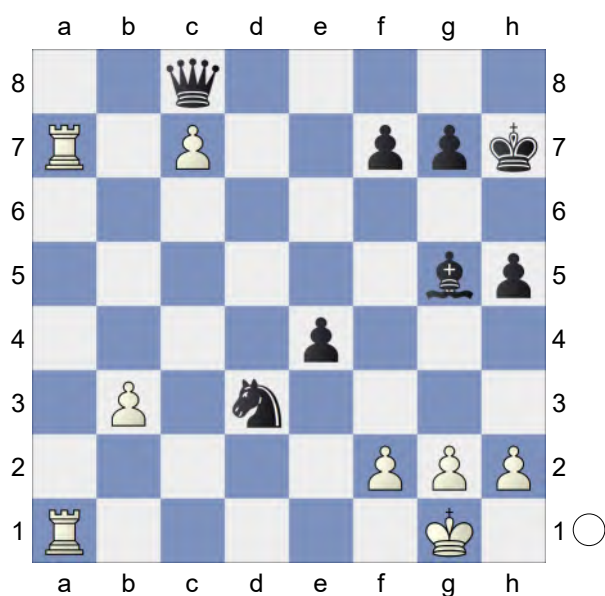
34.dxc7 Qc8 "With great power comes great responsibility," says the queen, quoting Spiderman's uncle Ben. The queen isn't destined to be chained to c8 forever. **35.Ra7 e4**

pieces to sensible squares and await our chances. Note Black's idea of 16... Ra7, maintaining flexibility with the heavy pieces.

0-1



Threatening ...Bf4 and ...Bxc7. **36.Rfa1 Kh7!**



Frustrating White's aim of a Ra8 pin, and c7 soon falls. --- SUMMARY: White's quiet set-up with 13 Be2 shouldn't cause us any problems. We can develop our

150

Flexible Thinking

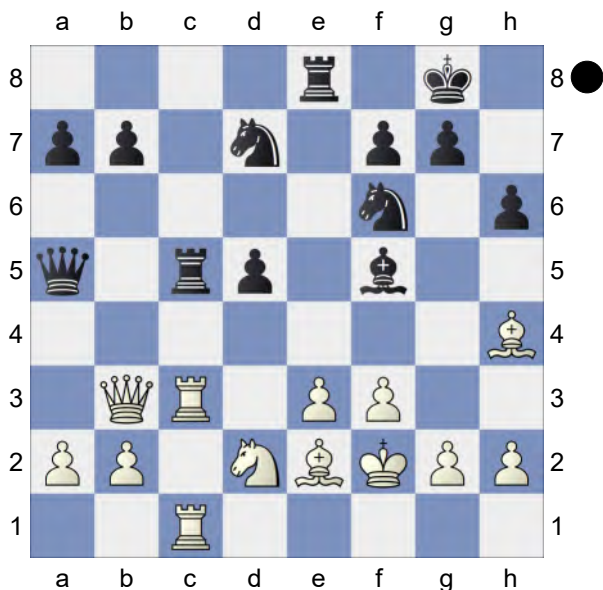
Wei, Yi

Ivanchuk-Wei Yi m 2017 (3) 23.10.2017
[DK]

D38

2732

2740



17...g5 18.Bg3!

[18.Rxc5 Nxc5 19.Qc3 Qxc3
20.Rxc3± /=]

18...Rxe3!?

[18...b6 19.Bd6±]

19.Kxe3 d4+ 20.Kxd4!

[20.Kf2 dxc3 21.Rxc3=]

20...Re5

[20...Nd5 21.Ne4+-]

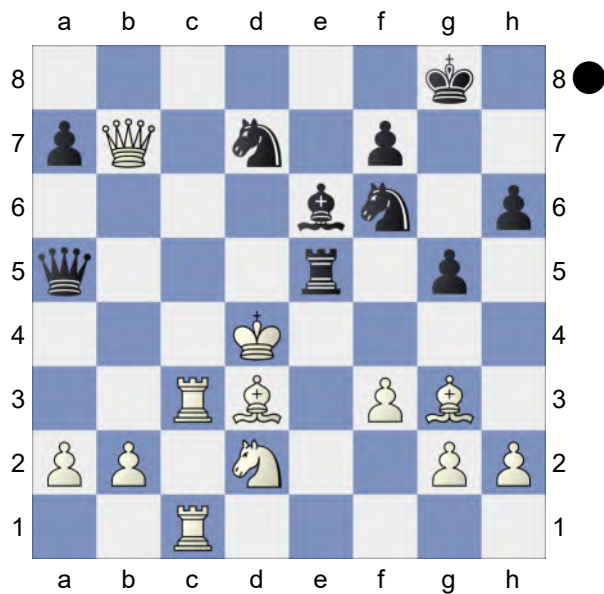
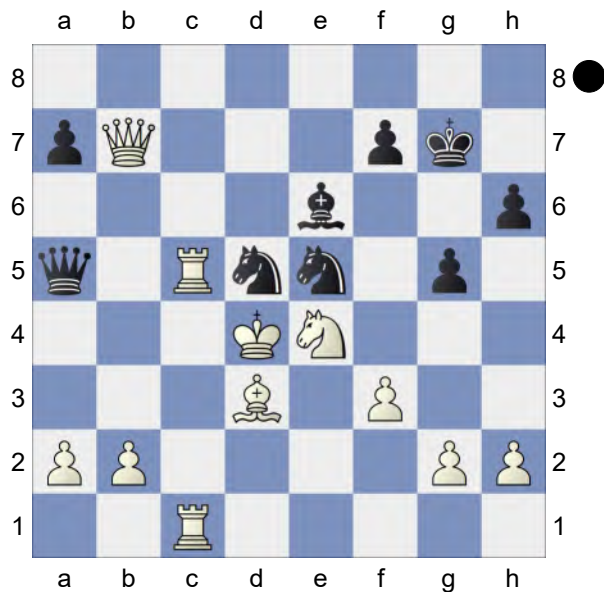
21.Bd3!

[21.Bxe5 Qxe5+ 22.Kc4 Qc5#]

[21.Re1 Nc5!-+]

21...Be6 22.Qxb7!

(Diagram)

Kg7 23.Ne4 Nd5 24.Bxe5+ Nxe5
25.Rc5

1-0

244

□ Wei, Yi

■ Yu, Yangyi

CHN-ch Xinghua (2)

[Dave Smerdon]

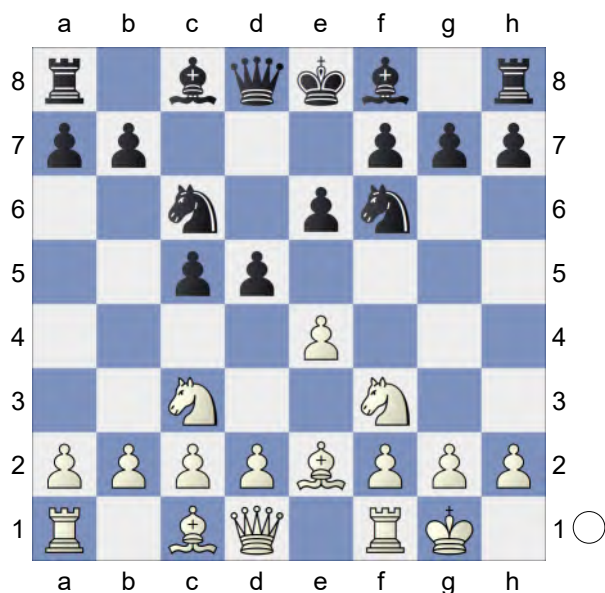
B40

2718

2723

19.05.2015

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.Be2!? We've seen this odd 'anti' crop up a few times recently. White will likely transpose back into a sort of open Sicilian against quiet play, but the principled approach for Black is of course to play a quick ...d7-d5. The future world champion shows that White can still drum up some chances in this case. **3...Nc6 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.0-0 d5**



6.exd5 Nxd5 7.d4

[7.b3 Be7 8.Bb2 0-0 9.Re1 Bf6 10.Qc1 Nxc3 11.dxc3 b6= is nothing special for White, but I watched my teammate pull off an important victory for White in 37 moves in McShane, L (2670)-Laznicka, V (2666) Germany 2015.]

[I analysed 7.Bb5 in Harikrishna, P (2723)-Muzychuk, A (2544) Caleta 2015]

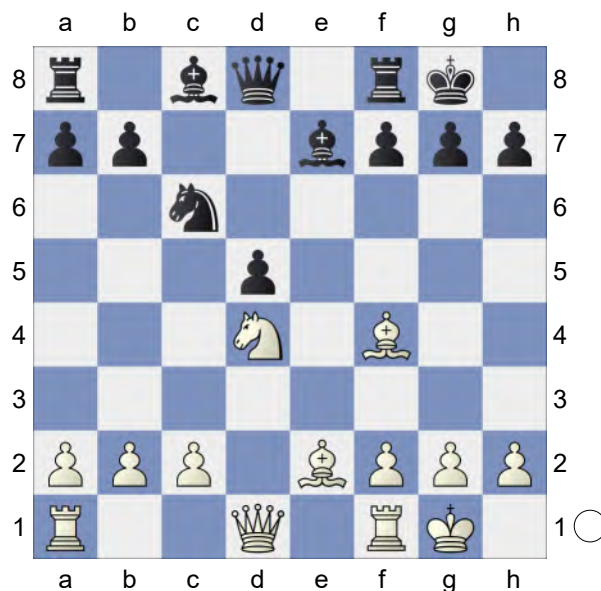
7...cxd4

[7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Re1 0-0 10.Bd3 cxd4 11.cxd4 b6 12.c3 reaches a surprisingly normal-looking Panov-Botvinnik Caro-Kann structure where White can usually create some decent attacking chances on the kingside. For example, Bb7 13.h4!? Bxh4?! 14.Nxh4 Qxh4 15.Re3! led to a nice white victory in Ivanchuk, V (2731)-Sutovsky, E (2623) Tsaghkadzor 2015]

8.Nxd4 Be7 9.Nxd5 exd5 10.Bf4

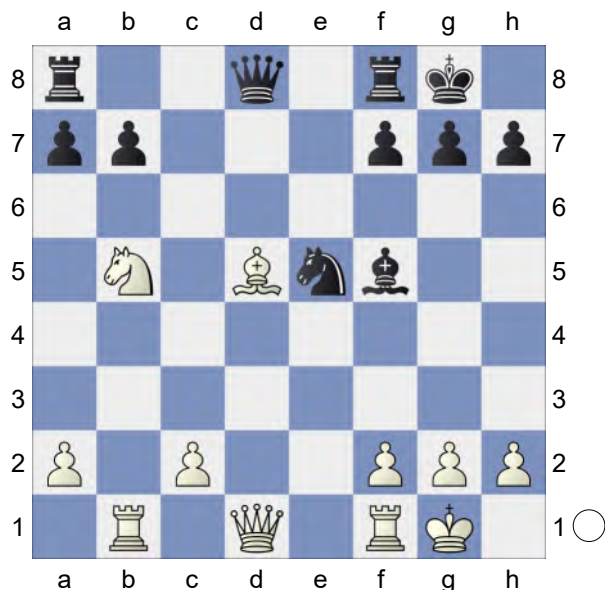
[10.Be3 is a more regular placement of the queen's bishop against the isolated pawn. I have to admit that White would have gained a small opening advantage, had the game gone this way. 0-0 11.Re1 Re8 12.c3±]

10...0-0



11.Bf3 Bf6 12.Nb5 Basically forced after White's choice of tenth move, but now White's initiative quickly fizzles out. **12...Bxb2 13.Rb1 Be5 14.Bxe5 Nxe5 15.Bxd5 Bf5**

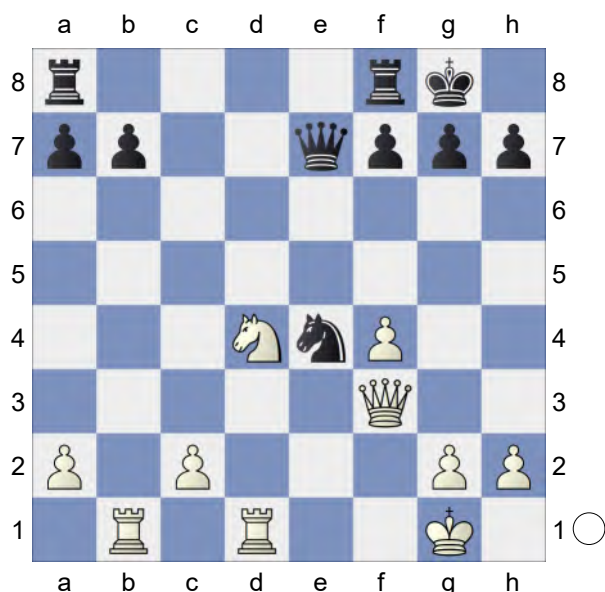
(Diagram)



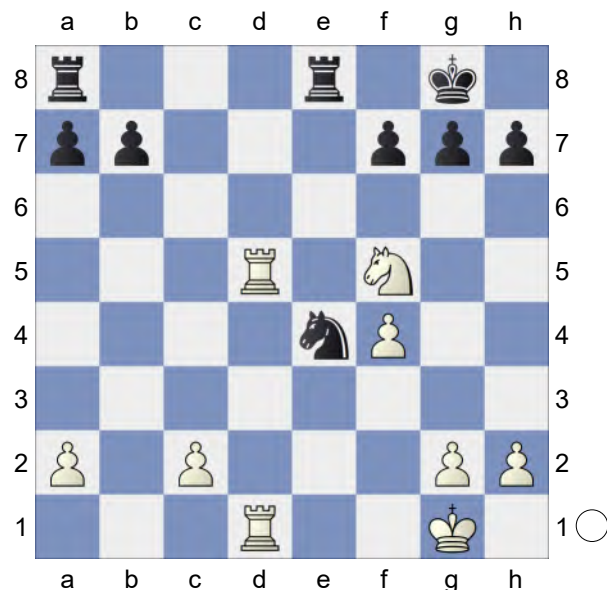
16.f4

[16.Bxb7 Qxd1 17.Rbxd1 Rab8=]
 [16.Re1 Rc8! (16...Nd3?! 17.cxd3
 Qxd5 18.Nc7 Qxd3 19.Qxd3 Bxd3
 20.Rxb7!±) 17.Rxe5 Bxc2 18.Qf1
 Bxb1 19.Qxb1 Kh8!∞ , preparing ...
 Rc5.]

16...Nd3! A nice equaliser. 17.Qf3 Nc5
18.Rfd1 Qe7 19.Nd4 Be4!= 20.Bxe4
Nxe4

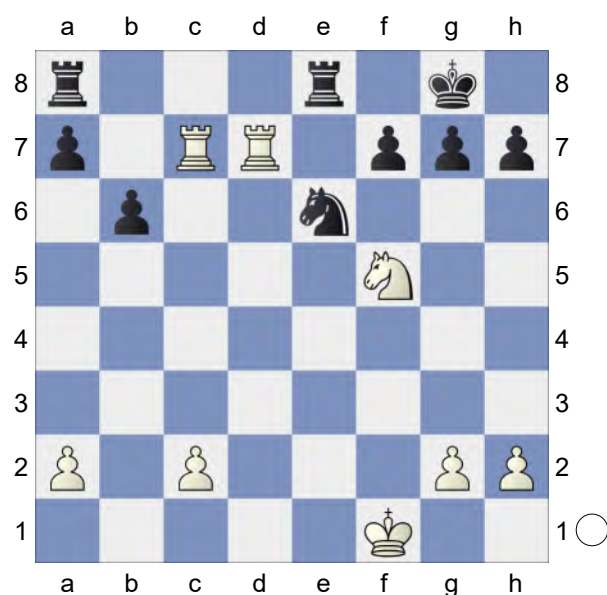


21.Rb5 Nd6 22.Rd5 Rfe8 23.Qa3 Ne4
24.Qxe7 Rxe7 25.Nf5 Ree8
 (Diagram)



White's activity is offset by Black's
 slightly better structure. **26.Rd7 Nc3**
27.R1d6 b6 28.Rc6 Ne2+ 29.Kf1
Nxf4 30.Rcc7 Ne6

[30...Ne6 31.Rxa7 g6 32.Nd6 Rxa7
 33.Rxa7 Rd8=]



1/2-1/2

381

□ Wei, Yi

■ Muthaiah, Al

Wch U20 53rd (1)

[Dave Smerdon]

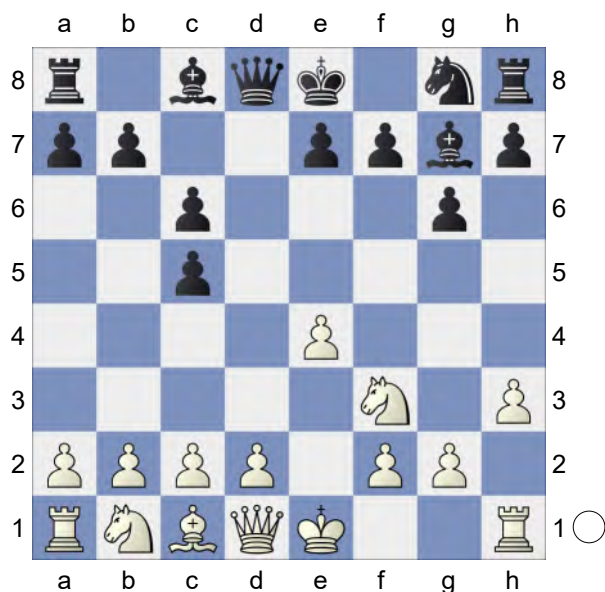
B31

2641

2215

06.10.2014

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.Bxc6
dxc6 5.h3 Bg7



6.d3 Nf6 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 Nd7!?

Rarer than its more popular cousin, though of course quite logical.

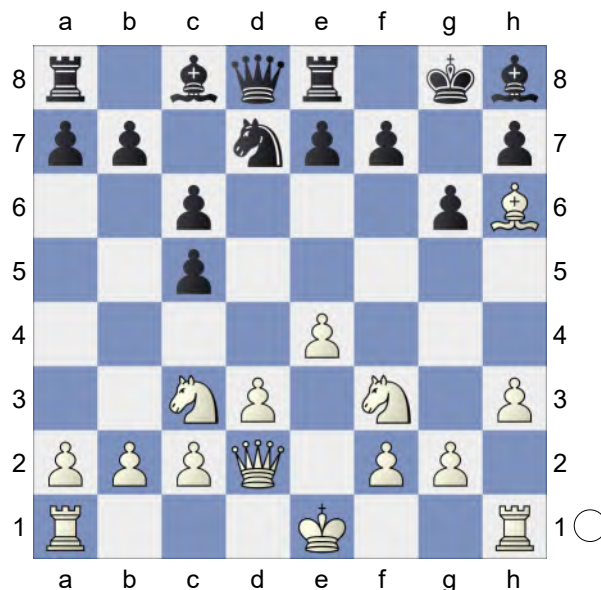
[We have looked at 8...b6 9.Qd2 e5 a few times on this site, most recently in Andriasian, Z (2624)-Grigoryan, K (2482) Yerevan 2012]

9.Qd2 Re8

[9...e5 10.Bh6 gets the bishop, and thus weakens Black's kingside as well as e5 and c5. Still, it's not so terrible for Black. Qe7 11.Bxg7 Kxg7 12.0-0-0 a5 13.Kb1?! (13.a4!±) 13...a4! 14.Ne2 b5!± 1-0 (53) Motylev, A (2677)-Jones, G (2578) Aix-les-Bains 2011]

10.Bh6 Bh8

(Diagram)



11.h4 Black has a horrible score from this position. I guess this is because White's game plays itself, because objectively White is only a little better.

11...Qa5

[11...e5?! 12.h5 Nf6 13.hxg6 hxg6 14.0-0-0→ 1-0 (40) Shirov, A (2713) - Leko, P (2749) Monte Carlo 2005]

[11...Nf6! looks best, taking advantage of the new g4-square. 12.h5 Ng4 13.hxg6 hxg6 14.0-0-0 Qa5 15.Rh4 b5± 1-0 (29) Sutovsky, E (2465)-Muhtarov, L (2180) Ljubljana 1994]

12.h5 Qb4?! Strangely enough, this weak move was also played before.

[12...Nf6± was still possible.]

[12...b5± was consistent.]

13.hxg6 hxg6

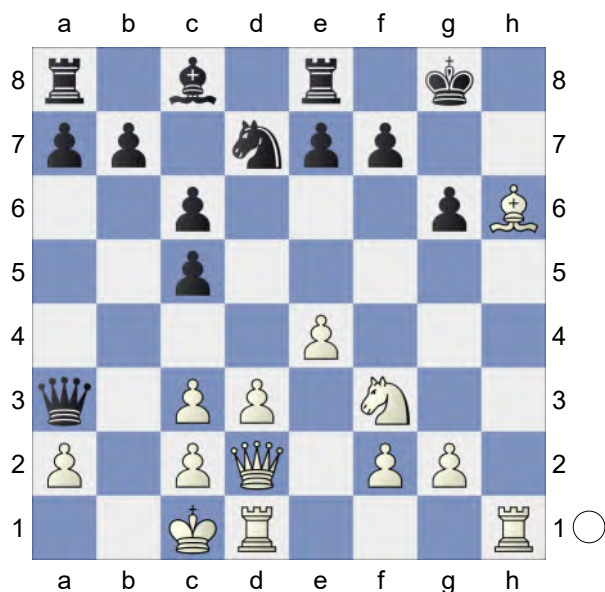
[13...fxg6 14.0-0-0 Nb6 (14...Bxc3 15.bxc3 Qa3+ 16.Kb1 Nb6 is a much better version of the game, although the endgame after 17.Qc1 Qxc1+ 18.Rxc1 is clearly better for white.) 15.e5± 1-0 (27) Titov, G (2490)-Markovic, M (2370) Vrnjacka Banja 1992]

14.0-0-0 Bxc3?? Losing. This bishop

was needed for the kingside, and now White has the opportunity to finish the game in spectacular fashion. **15.bxc3!**

[15.Qxc3 gives White a very pleasant endgame, but there is no reason to exchange the queens White's attack along the h-file is much more dangerous than Black's.]

15...Qa3+



16.Kb1 Nb6 Losing, but things were already beyond salvation.

[16...Nf6 17.Bg7!! Ng4 18.Ng5!+-]

[16...f6 is best, but 17.Qe1 prepares Bc1, leading to an overwhelming attack down the h-file.]

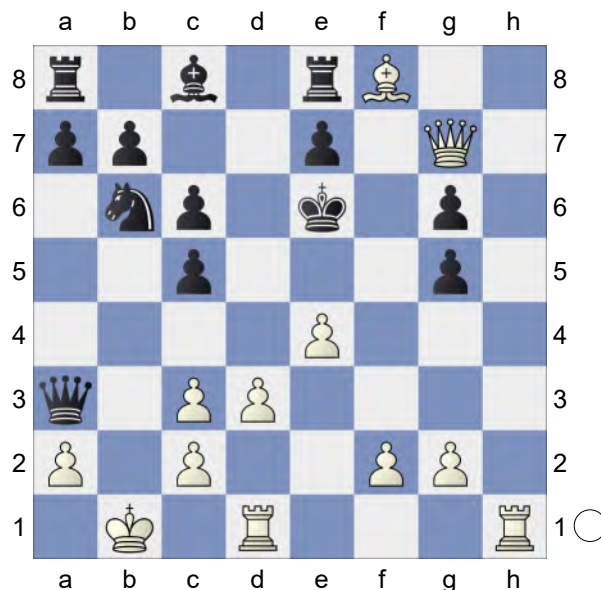
17.Bf8!! A standard motif, leading in this case to mate in 14. Yi doesn't find the most precise continuation and thus prolongs the game, even giving Black serious chances, but there can be no doubt that his opening play was both powerful and instructive. **17...f6 18.Qh6**

[18.Rh8+!! Kf7 19.Ng5+! fxe5 20.Qxg5 Ke6 21.Rh7 and mate soon follows.]

18...Kf7 19.Qg7+?

[19.Ng5+!! fxe5 20.Qxg5+-]

19...Ke6 20.Ng5+ fxe5



21.d4?

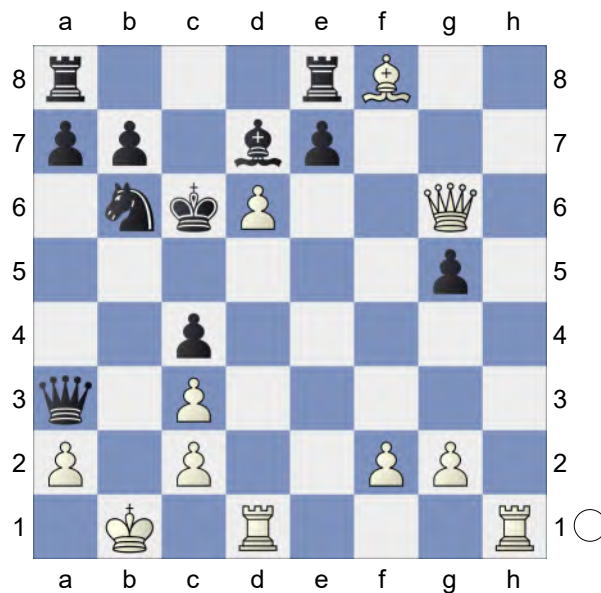
[21.Bxe7! Rxe7 22.Qxg6+ Kd7 23.e5 c4! 24.dxc4+ Kc7 25.Qd6+ Qxd6 26.exd6+ Kd7 27.dxe7+ Kxe7±]

21...c4! Suddenly, Black's king is escaping. **22.d5+ cxd5 23.exd5+ Kd7 24.d6 Kc6 25.Qxg6??**

[25.dxe7 Kb5 26.Qxg6+]

25...Bd7??

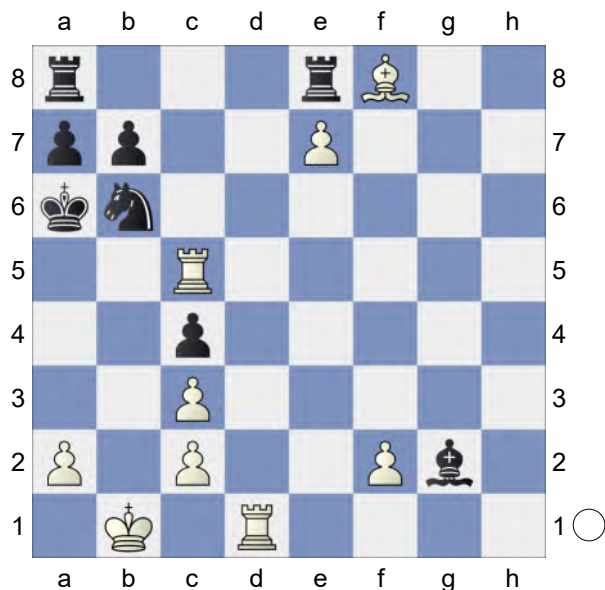
[25...Bf5!! 26.Qxf5 Na4 27.Qd5+ Kb6 28.Qd4+ Ka5 and wins.]



26.dxe7+ Kb5 27.Rh5! Bc6 28.Qxg5+ Ka6 29.Qc5 Qxc5 30.Rxc5

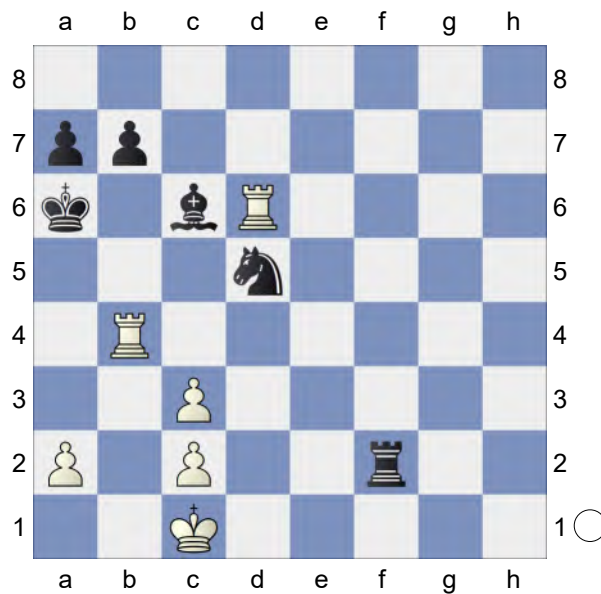
The smoke has cleared, and Black's king has survived. Moreover, his material advantage gives him a technically winning position, which, as justice would have it, he subsequently spoils.

30...Bxg2



31.Rd6 Rxf8 32.exf8Q Rxf8 33.Rxc4 Rxf2 34.Rb4 ...I say technically winning, but of course Black has several obstacles to overcome in order to push towards the full point - namely, excavating his king and knight. 34...Bc6 35.Kc1 Nd5

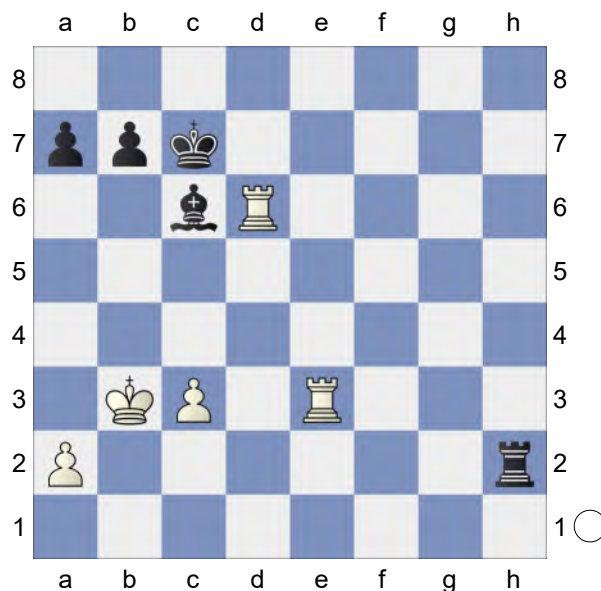
(Diagram)



One piece out, one piece stuck! 36.Ra4+ Kb6 37.Kb2 Ne3 38.Kb3 Rxc2??

[38...Rf1! 39.a3 Kc5 40.Rxc6+ bxc6 41.Rxa7 Nc4-+]

39.Re4 Kc7 40.Rxe3 Rh2??



Thus ends the official score, which makes me think Black must have lost on time. Of course, 40...Ba4+ is a draw.

1-0

268

A18

□ Yu, Yangyi

2709

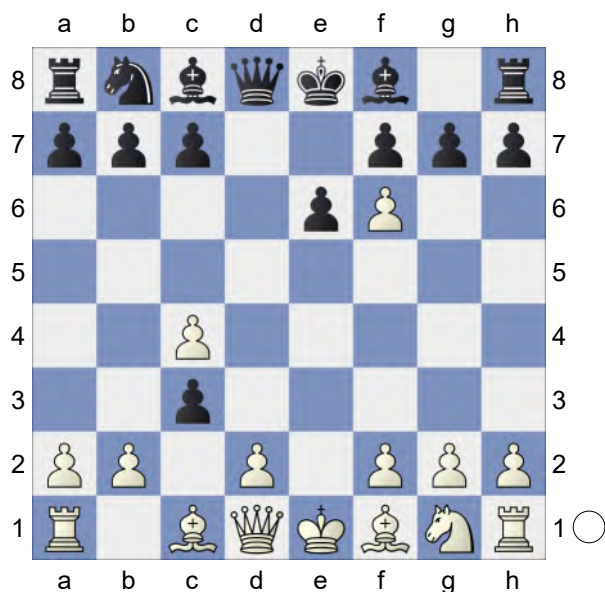
■ Wei, Yi

2732

Chinese Championship (10.3) 14.05.21

[David Cummings]

1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.e4 d5 4.e5 d4
5.exf6 dxc3



6.fxg7 "Everything new is well-forgotten old". This move is actually new to this site, but is one of the first things White tried, dating back to Nimzowitsch's games in the 1930s. Over time, theory moved on for good reason, since Black should be able to equalize without too much trouble. Nowadays, however, Black is doing fine in most major openings, so why not explore some of these more obscure sidelines?

[6.bxc3 is the mainline. The PGN Archives contain nearly 50 annotated games starting with this move.]

6...cxd2+ 7.Bxd2 Bxg7 8.Nf3!?
A very unusual move order, tempting Black with the b2-pawn. Instead:

[8.Qc2 is the most common move, and transposes to the game after Nc6

9.Nf3 etc.]

[8.Qb3 is also possible, and has been tried by Magnus Carlsen among others:

A) 8...Nc6 9.Nf3 when Black has played:

A1) 9...Qe7 10.Bd3 0-0 was played in Carlsen, M (2861)-Nakamura, H (2761) Abidjan 2019 1/2-1/2 (32), and now (10...a5! to annoy White's queen, looks fine for Black) 11.Be4! followed by doubling Black's c-pawns, gives White a slight advantage.;

A2) 9...a5 10.0-0-0 a4 11.Qc2 Qe7 12.a3 Bd7 13.Bd3 Na5 14.Kb1 Nb3 15.Bc3 Bxc3 16.Qxc3 0-0-0 was roughly equal in Gukesh, D (2547)-Zarnicki, P (2514) Moscow 2019 0-1 (58);

B) 8...Nd7 9.Rd1 b6 10.Bc3 Bxc3+ 11.Qxc3 Qf6 12.Qxf6 Nxf6 13.Be2 Ke7 was balanced in Harutyunian, T (2501)-Oparin, G (2622) Batumi 2018 1/2-1/2 (16)]

8...Nc6 Black continues with normal development. Here:

[8...Bxb2 looks playable, although Wei Yi probably wanted to avoid any specific preparation. Now 9.Rb1 Reda, P-Kruger, I Wroclaw 2008 0-1 (73), and now Black should play Bg7 for example 10.Qc2 0-0 (the b1-rook discourages Black from attempting queenside castling) 11.Bd3 f5 12.c5 Nc6 13.0-0 e5 14.Bc4+ Kh8 15.Rb3 when White's active pieces and Black's loose king's cover, compensate for the missing pawn.]

9.Qc2 Qf6 Not a bad move, but the slightly awkward position of Black's

queen sets up the preconditions for Black's inaccuracy on the next move.

Alternatively:

[9...Nd4 10.Nxd4 Bxd4 11.Bc3 Qf6 12.Bxd4 Qxd4 13.Rd1 Qe5+ Nimzowitsch,A-Kostic,B Bled 1931 1/2-1/2 (40), and now instead of trading queens with 14.Qe2, the move 14.Be2 leaves White somewhat better with greater activity and a more compact pawn structure.]

[9...Qe7 is a reliable approach for Black, who can play ...Bc8-d7 and0-0-0 next, and the queen also eyes the b4-square.

A) 10.Bd3 Bd7 11.0-0 (11.a3 0-0-0 12.0-0-0 Nd4 13.Nxd4 Bxd4 14.Kb1 Bc6 15.Be4 Bxe4 16.Qxe4 Qf6= 1/2-1/2 (19) Golcman,E (2200)-Sprotte,N (2171) Marianske Lazne 2014) 11...Nb4 12.Bxb4 Qxb4 13.Rab1 0-1 (29) Demensky,E (2220)-Ushacov,V (2145) Kemerovo 2010 0-0-0=;

B) 10.Bc3 Bxc3+ 11.Qxc3 Qb4 12.Kd2 b6 13.Qxb4 Nxb4 14.Kc3 Nc6 15.Bd3 Bb7= 1-0 (41) Iturrizaga Bonelli,E (2635)-Nowak,L (2257) Suwalki 2019]

[9...Bd7 is also fine, with 10...Qe7 to follow]

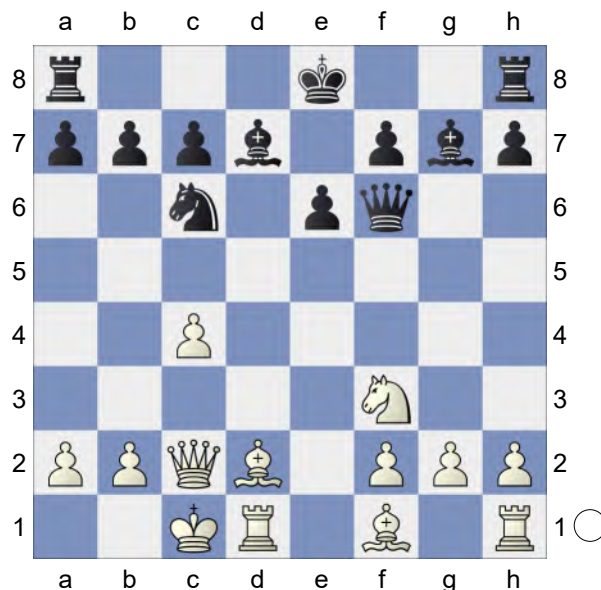
10.0-0-0 Here:

[10.Bc3 is also worth considering. Now Qf5 11.Bd3 Bxc3+ 12.Qxc3 Qa5 13.Qxa5 Nxa5 14.0-0-0 and Black hasn't fully equalized yet.]

10...Bd7?!

[10...e5 11.h3 Be6 12.Bd3 0-0-0 13.Bg5 Bh6 14.Qd2 Bxg5 15.Qxg5 Qxg5+ 16.Nxg5 with an approximately level endgame, Chandler,M (2390)-Hurme,H (2310)

Buenos Aires 1978 0-1 (54) Rd4]



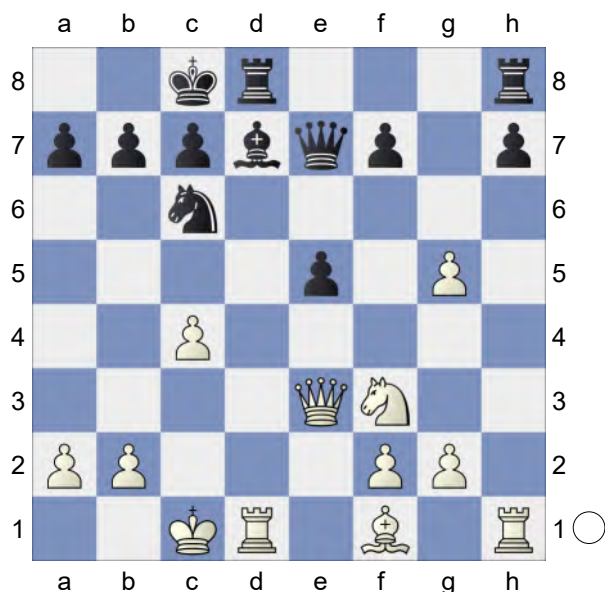
An older game saw the better move:
11.Bg5 Bh6 Instead:

[11...Qg6?? is the positionally desirable move, but fails because of 12.Qd2 and Black has no good way of saving the d7-bishop. Nb8 (12...Bc8 13.Qd8+ Nxd8 14.Rxd8#) 13.Bd3 Qh5 14.Be4 and White wins the b7-pawn at the very least, while keeping full control of the position.]

[11...Qf5 12.Qxf5 exf5 13.Bd3 and White is for choice due to Black's ruined pawn structure.]

12.h4 0-0-0 13.Qd2 Forcing the trade on the g5-square which gives White a nice space advantage. **13...Bxg5 14.hxg5 Qe7 15.Qe3 e5**

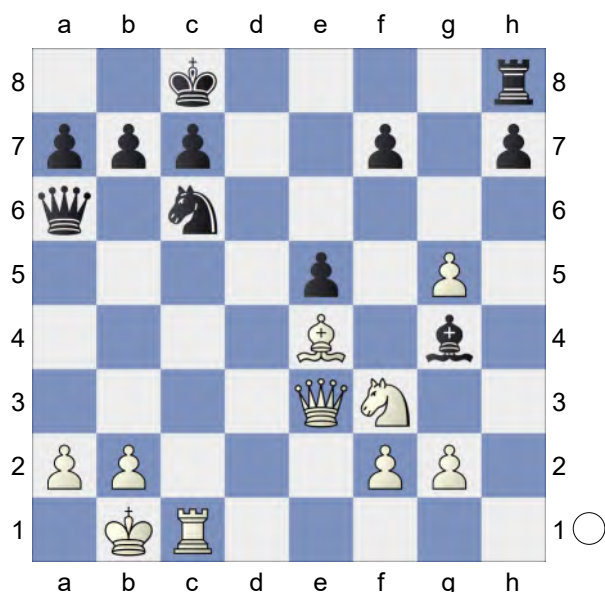
(Diagram)



16.Bd3 Bg4 17.Be4 White threatens **18.Bxc6** and is putting pressure on multiple points in Black position - the a7-, e5 and h7-pawns. **17...Qb4?!** Running after the c4-pawn opens up the game in White's favour. Going for simplifications with:

[**17...Rxd1+ 18.Rxd1 Bxf3 19.gxf3 Rd8 20.Rxd8+ Kxd8 21.Bxh7 Qd6** gives Black good chances to hold despite the pawn deficit.]

18.Kb1 Rxd1+ 19.Rxd1 Qxc4 20.Rc1 Qa6



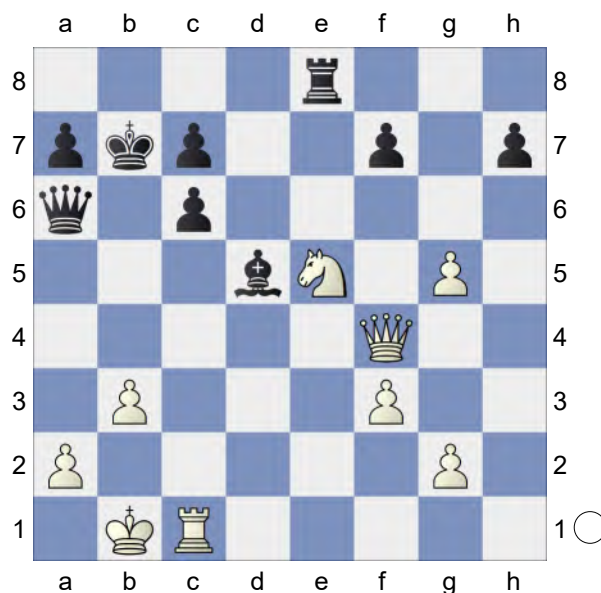
21.Bxc6 bxc6 22.Nxe5 The doubling of

the c-pawns has created a lot of weaknesses, and White is clearly better here. **22...Be6 23.b3 Bd5 24.Qf4?!** Allowing Black back into the game. Stronger was:

[**24.Nd3** The knight will be a monster on the c5-square, and **Bxg2?** **25.Nc5 Qa3 26.Rg1 Bd5 27.Rg4** leaves Black's queen close to trapped]

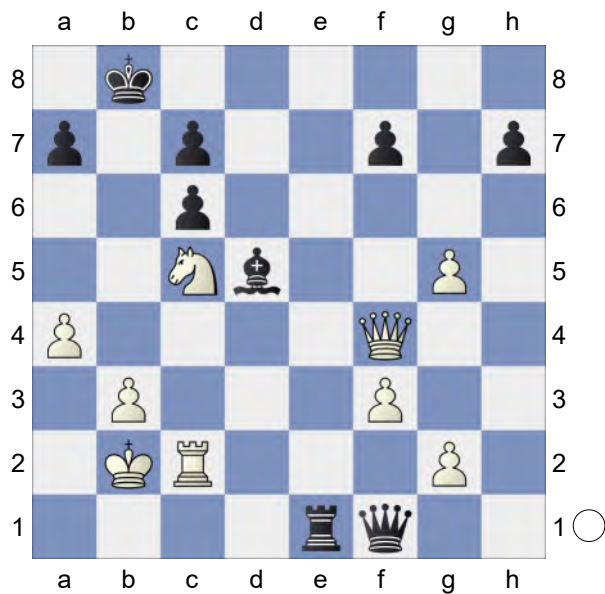
24...Re8 25.f3 Kb7?!

[**25...Qb5** prevents the knight from reaching the c5-square and Black is doing OK here.]



26.Nd7 Now White is back on track. White's own king looks to be exposed, but Yu shows that Black can't really get to it. **26...Qd3+ 27.Rc2 Qb5 28.Nc5+ Kb8 29.a4 Re1+ 30.Kb2 Qf1**

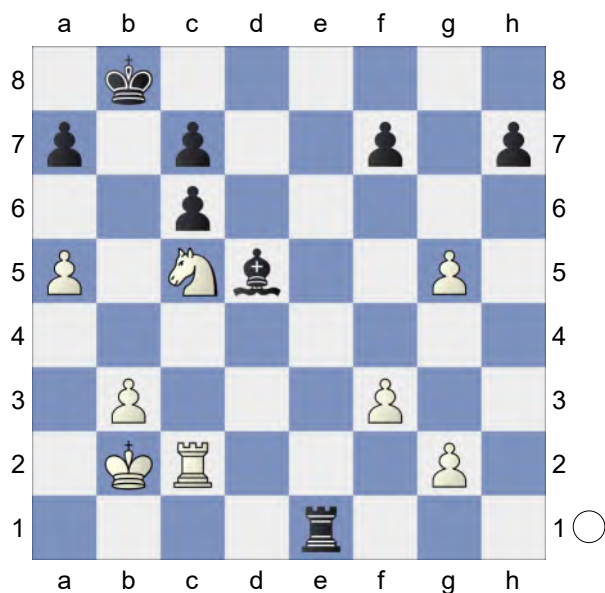
(Diagram)



31.Qf6 White plays it safe, although he can even grab the a7-pawn with impunity:

[31.Qb4+ Kc8 32.Qb7+ Kd8
33.Qxa7 for example Rb1+ 34.Ka3
Ra1+ 35.Kb4 Qe1+ 36.Rc3
and the checks run out.]

**31...Re8 32.Qc3 Ka8 33.Qd2 Qe1
34.Qxe1 Rxe1 35.a5 Kb8**

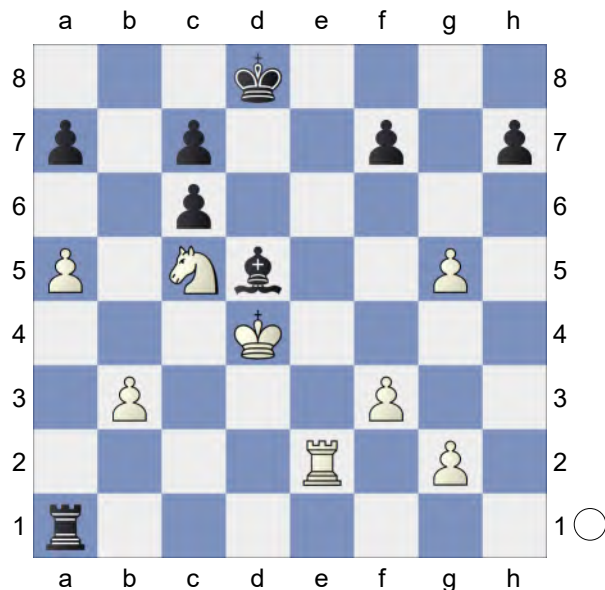


**36.Kc3 Kc8 37.Kd3 Kd8 38.Re2
Rd1+ 39.Kc3 Rc1+ Chasing White's
king where it wants to go. Instead:**

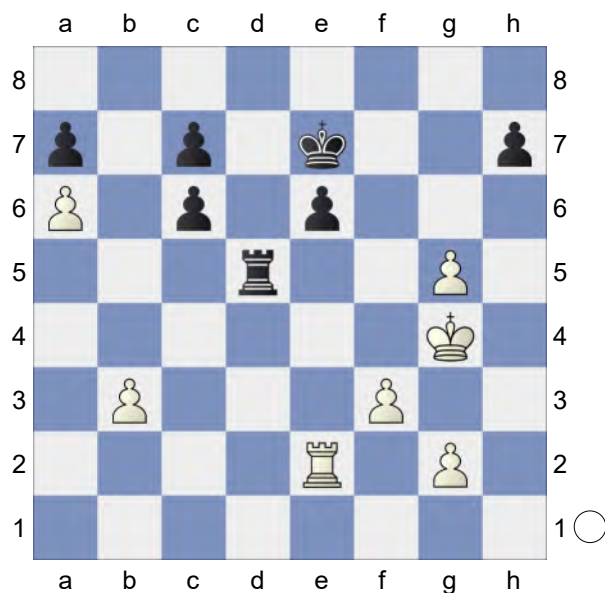
[39...Rh1 with the idea of ...h7-h6 to

eliminate the weak h7-pawn, keeps
White's advantage with bounds.
40.Ne4 h6]

40.Kd4 Ra1



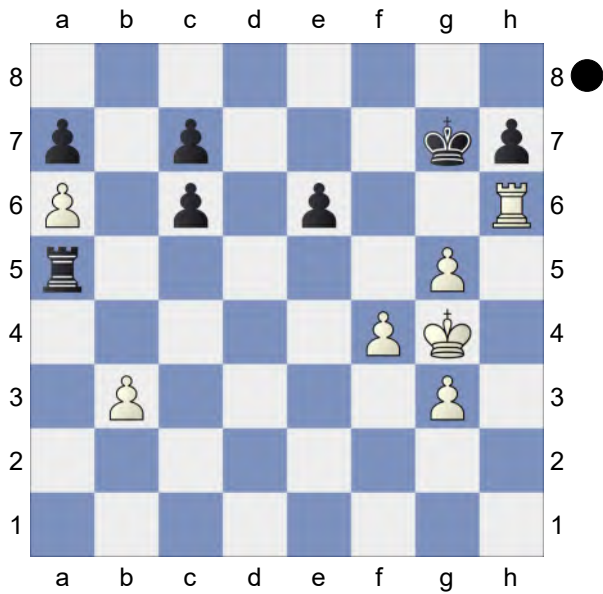
**41.a6 Rd1+ 42.Ke5 Ke7 43.Kf5+
Be6+ 44.Nxe6** The rook endgame is
great for White because of his active
king and all of Black's weak pawns.
44...Rd5+ 45.Kg4 fxe6



**46.g3 Kf7 47.f4 Ra5 48.Rh2 Kg7
49.Rh6**

[49.Rh6 Rxa6 50.Rxe6 Rb6
51.Re7+ Kg8 52.f5 Rxb3 53.f6

Black is hopelessly lost.]



Black threw in the towel, since after, for example
1-0

169

A01

□ Wei, Yi

2728

■ Xu, Yi

2545

CHN-chT Chiva (1.4)

09.04.2019

[David Cummings]

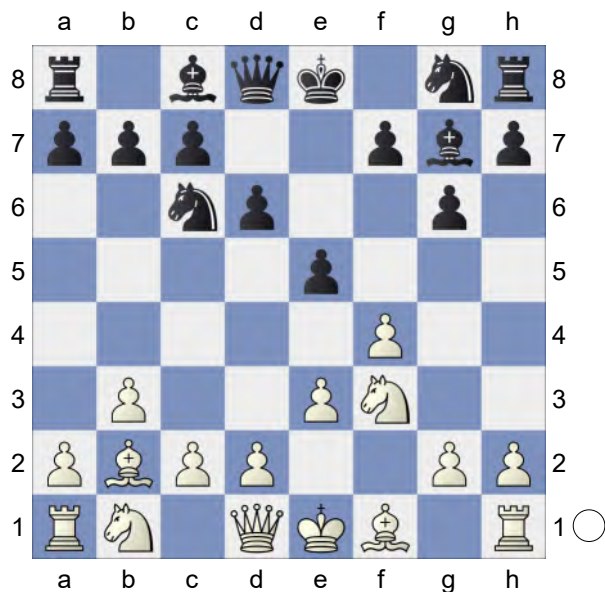
1.b3 **Cabrilo, Goran** **1...e5** **2.Bb2** **Nc6**
3.e3 **g6** We looked at this King's-Indian style setup in the March 2019 Update, when Wei Yi used it to score a convincing win playing Black! To balance the coverage, we now see how he handles it from White's perspective. **4.f4** A logical idea, using the pin on the e5-pawn. White also has:

[4.h4?! Nf6 5.Bb5 Qe7 6.Nf3 e4 didn't end well for White in Antipov-Wei, see the game in the Archives.]

[4.c4 Bg7 5.Nf3 d6 6.d4 is a more positional approach that is covered in Fedoseev-Vitiugov in the Archives.]

[4.Bb5 (Cabrilo, Goran) - 139/1]

4...Bg7 **5.Nf3** **d6**



6.fxe5 White seeks clarification of the pawn structure right away. Instead:

[6.Bb5 has been played more often,

but after Nge7 7.fxe5 0-0 8.0-0 dxe5 it is not obvious what the bishop is doing on the b5-square, for example 9.Nc3 a6 10.Bc4 b5 11.Bd3 h6 12.Qb1 Kh8 13.a4 b4 14.Ne2 Qd6 and Black's well centralized position gives him the advantage, Artemiev, V (2660)-Khairullin, I (2625) Khanty-Mansiysk 2014 1-0 (98)]

6...Nge7 Black has also played:

[6...Nxe5 7.Nxe5 and now:

A) 7...Bxe5 8.Bxe5 dxe5 9.Nc3 c6 10.Qf3 Qh4+ 11.g3 Qg4 12.Qf2 Qf5 13.Qg2!? Nf6 (13...Qxc2!? is the critical test) 14.Bd3 Qh3 15.Qf3 Nh5 16.Ne4 0-0 17.Be2 Qf5 18.Qxf5 Bxf5 19.Nd6 and White has the better endgame chances, Wei, Y (2727)-Liu, G (2452) China 2017 1/2-1/2 (81);

B) 7...dxe5 8.Nc3 Nh6 (8...Ne7 would transpose to the main game) 9.Qf3 0-0 10.Bc4 c6 11.a4 Bf5?! (11...a6!? with the idea of ...Bc8-g4 followed by a quick ...b7-b5, keeps Black on at least level terms) 12.e4 Bg4 13.Qg3 Qd7 was played in Mamedyarov, S (2804)-Dreev, A (2653) chess. com INT 2018 0-1 (89), and now 14.h3 Be6 15.Bxe6 Qxe6 16.Ba3 Rfd8 17.0-0-0 slightly favours White due to his more active minor pieces, although the position is doubled edged due to opposite side castling.]

[6...dxe5 is a rarer choice here. After 7.Bb5 the pressure on the e5-pawn forces Black to go Bd7 but this also appears playable for Black, for example 8.0-0 f5!? followed by ... Qd8-e7 threatening ...e5-e4 ideas.]

7.Nc3 **Nxe5** An earlier Wei Yi game saw

Black keep all the knights on the board:

[7...dxe5 8.Qe2 (8.Bc4 followed by short castling, is another valid plan.) 8...0-0 9.0-0-0 a5 10.a4 Nb4 11.h4 h5 12.Qf2 Bf5?! (12...Nf5 keeps the structure fluid, since 13.e4? Nd4 is strong for Black) 13.e4 Bg4 14.Bc4 Nec6 15.Ng5 Bf6 Wei,Y (2739)-Karjakin,S (2760) Medias 2017 0-1 (62), and now 16.Rdf1 maintains strong pressure on the f7-weakness.]

8.Nxe5 dxe5 Black goes for the pawn structure we have seen in several of the earlier notes. Alternatively: would transpose to the main game

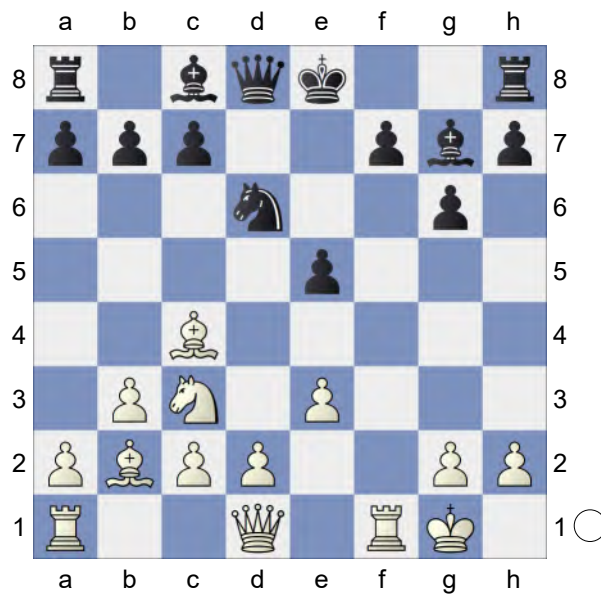
[8...Bxe5 cedes more central squares. Now 9.Qf3 d5 10.0-0-0 Be6 11.h3 Qd7 12.Ne2 There was no rush to trade bishops. (12.Kb1 0-0-0 13.d4 looks a little more pleasant for White.) 12...Bxb2+ 13.Kxb2 0-0 (13...0-0-0 is less double edged) 14.Qf6 a5 15.Nf4 a4 16.b4 a3+ gave Black good counterplay in Jobava,B (2676)-Lalith,B (2573) Moscow 2016 1/ 2-1/2 (58)]

9.Bc4 Nf5 The first new move. Instead: Cabrilo,Goran: 'N!?'

[9...0-0 10.0-0 Be6? (a needless, major weakening of the pawn structure) 11.Bxe6 fxe6 12.Rxf8+ Qxf8 13.Qe2 Nd5 14.Qc4 c6 15.Ne4 and White is clearly better because of the blockade of the doubled e-pawns, Roe,S (2224)-Reitemann,J (1882) Bregenz 2018 1-0 (37)]

10.0-0 Nd6

(Diagram)

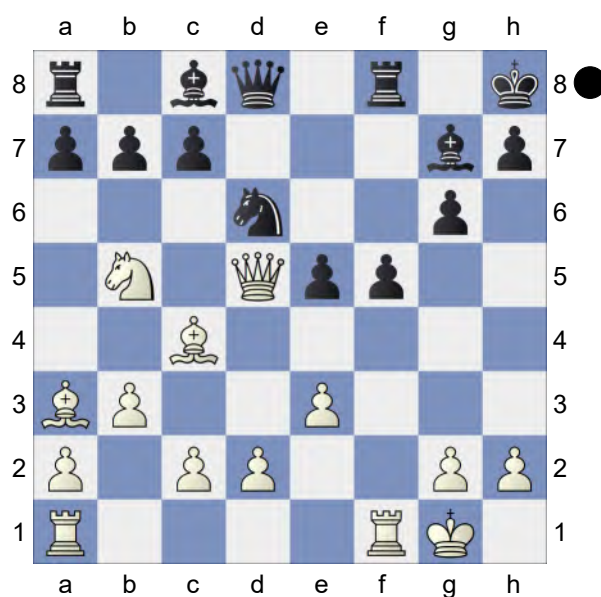


11.Ba3 0-0

[11...f5 Cabrilo,Goran 12.Qf3 c6∞]

12.Qf3 Kh8 sensibly moving the king out of the pin along the a2-g8 diagonal.

13.Nb5 f5 Black has played the opening well and after regular moves will have nothing to worry about. So now Wei Yi tries to mix things up with **14.Qd5!?** Forcing Black to find some accurate moves in the forcing sequence that follows. Cabrilo,Goran: 'Diagram



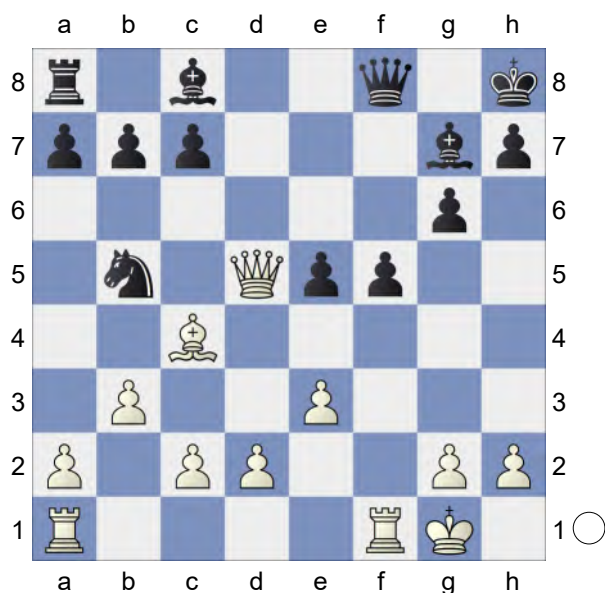
' **14...Nxb5** Best. After: Cabrilo,Goran: '!' [14...Nxc4 15.Qxc4 White has a

double attack on the c7-pawn and f8-rook.

A) 15...c5 Cabrilo, Goran 16.Bxc5 Rf6 17.d4± (17.Bxa7? b6±);

B) 15...c6 16.Bxf8 Bxf8 17.Nc3 nets White the exchange.]

15.Bxf8 Qxf8

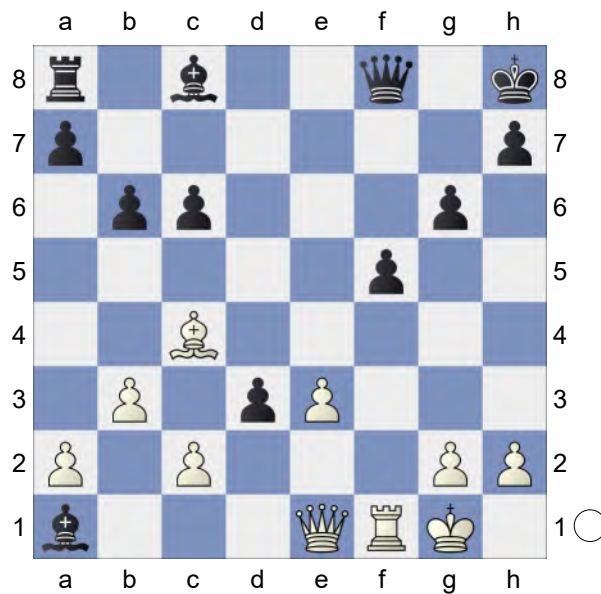


16.Qxb5 c6! White's queen is short of squares, and is forced back to the c3-square, whereupon Black regains the lost exchange with ...e5-e4. **17.Qa5 b6** **18.Qc3 e4** **19.d4** The only move, but now after **19...exd3** **20.Qe1**

[20.Qxd3? Cabrilo, Goran b5±]

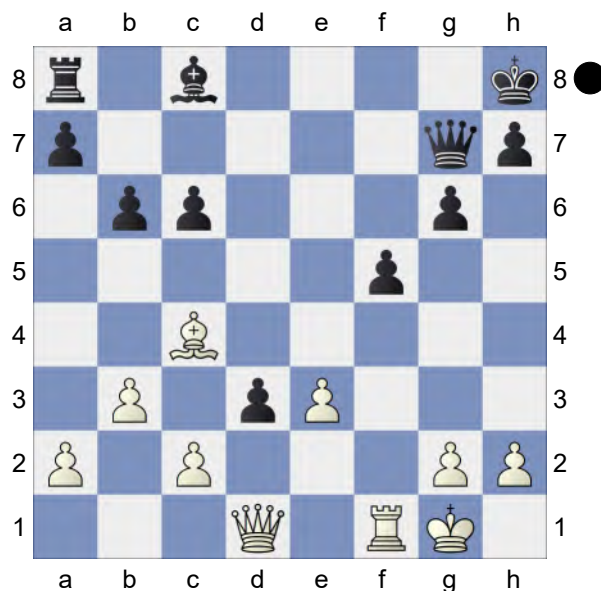
20...Bxa1

(Diagram)



21.Qxa1+ Qg7 Black is fine. **22.Qd1** Cabrilo, Goran: 'Diagram

[22.Bxd3 Cabrilo, Goran Bd7 23.e4 fxe4 24.Bxe4 Re8 25.Bf3=]



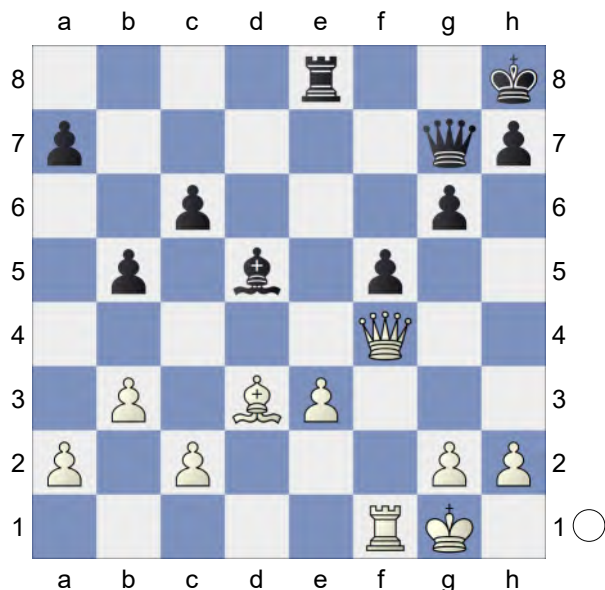
22...b5

[22...Bb7! Cabrilo, Goran 23.Bxd3 c5±]

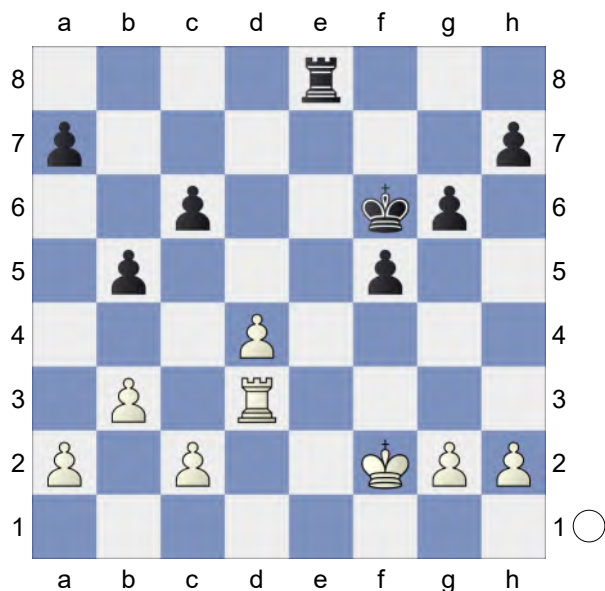
23.Bxd3 Be6 **24.Qf3 Bd5** The position is completely equal, although Wei Yi later manages to outplay his opponent from a level endgame. **25.Qf4**

[25.e4?? Cabrilo, Goran fxe4 26.Bxe4

Qd4+-+]
25...Re8



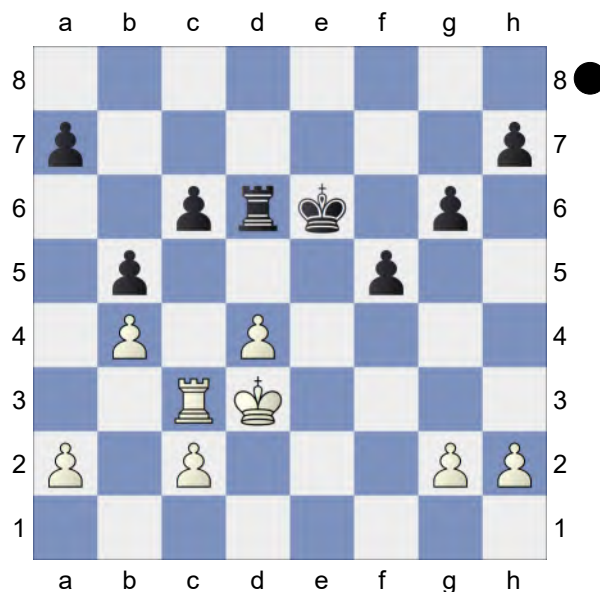
26.Qd4 Be4 27.Rd1 Qxd4 28.exd4
Bxd3 29.Rxd3 Cabrilo,Goran: '= '
29...Kg7 30.Kf2 Kf6



31.Rc3 Re6 32.b4 Rd6 33.Ke3
The rook endgame should be drawn, but White conjures up some resources out of nowhere. 33...Ke6? This turns out to be a serious mistake, since Black ends up with the passive rook vs. White's active rook. Instead: Cabrilo,Goran: '?!'
[33...Re6+ Cabrilo,Goran: ' Δ' 34.Kd3

(34.Kf3 Cabrilo,Goran Rd6=) 34...f4 creates the threat of counterplay for Black on the kingside. Cabrilo,Goran: '≠']

34.Kd3 Cabrilo,Goran: 'Diagram



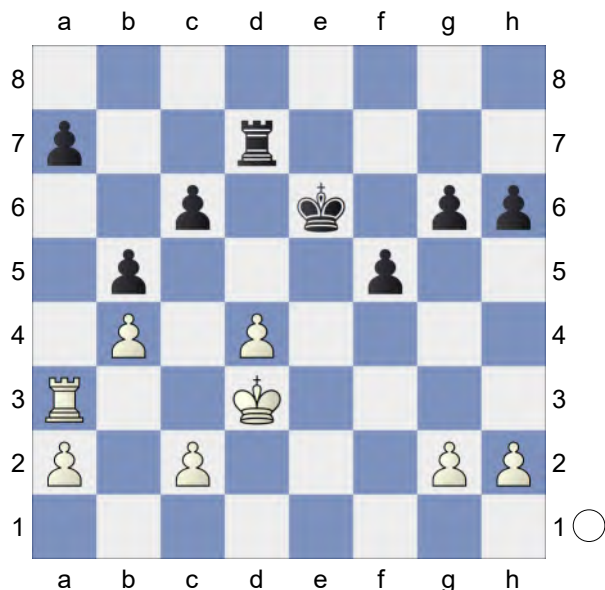
' 34...h6 Or: Cabrilo,Goran: '?'

[34...g5 35.Ra3 Rd7 36.Ra6 Rc7 and now 37.a4! bxa4 38.b5 and White is on top.]

[Δ34...f4! Cabrilo,Goran Δ35.Ke4 (Δ35.Ra3 Rd7 36.Ke4 g5 37.Ra6 Kd6 38.Kf5 Kd5≠) 35...Kf6 36.Rc5 g5=]

35.Ra3 White's queenside play is well underway, while Black's kingside majority is too far back. Cabrilo,Goran: '!' 35...Rd7

(Diagram)

**36.c4**

[36.Ra6 is similar to the previous note.
 Cabrilo,Goran: '!' Rc7 Cabrilo,Goran
 (36...Kd5 Cabrilo,Goran 37.a4+-)
 37.a4 Kf7 (37...bxa4 38.b5+-)
 38.axb5 cxb5 39.g3±]

36...bxc4+ 37.Kxc4 f4 38.Ra6 Rc7?
 Again too passive. Perhaps Black didn't
 have enough time to calculate that the
 upcoming pawn endgame is lost.
 Instead:

[38...Kf5 Cabrilo,Goran: ' Δ ' 39.Rxc6
 Re7 keeps the game going 40.Ra6±
 Cabrilo,Goran]

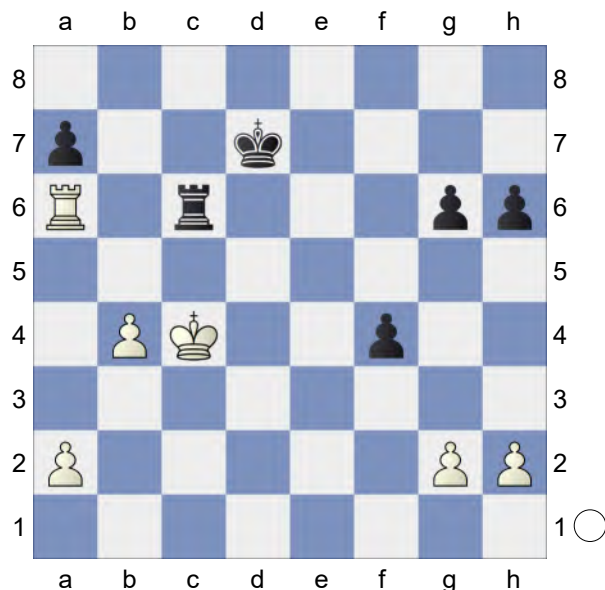
39.d5+ Cabrilo,Goran: '+-' 39...Kd7

[Δ39...Ke5 Cabrilo,Goran 40.Rxc6
 Rd7 41.Rxg6+-]

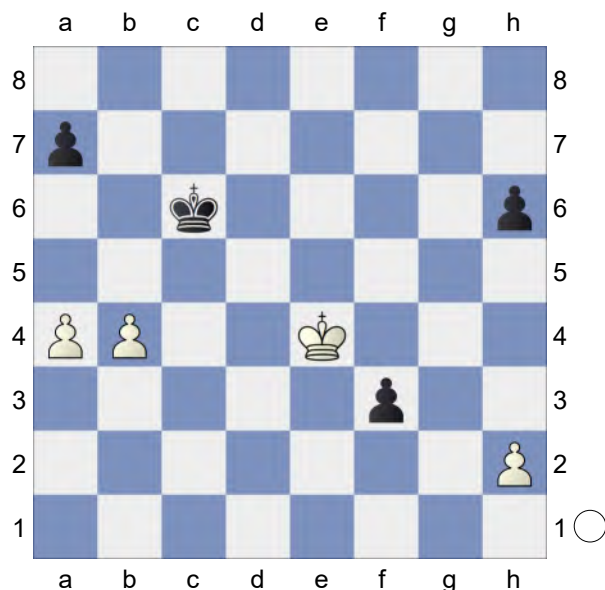
40.dxc6+ Rxc6+

[40...Kd6 Cabrilo,Goran 41.b5]

(Diagram)

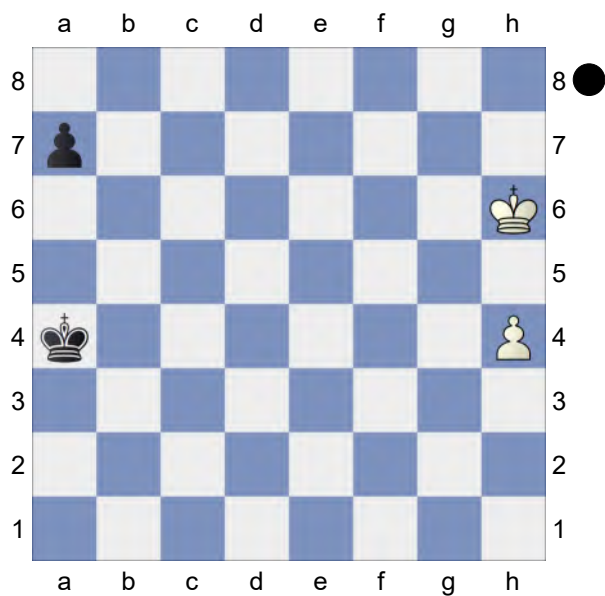


41.Rxc6 Kxc6 42.a4 g5 Now it is
 hopeless as White's king comes over to
 capture the kingside pawns. **43.Kd4 g4**
44.Ke4 f3 45.gxf3 gxf3



46.Kxf3 Kd5 47.Kg4 Kc4 48.Kh5
Kxb4 49.Kxh6 Kxa4 50.h4

(Diagram)



White queens first and wins with a few tempi to spare.

1-0

167 **A13**
 ☐ Wei, Yi **2728**
 ■ Ponomariov, Ruslan **2712**
 8th Danzhou Super-GM (3.5) 11.07.2017
[David Cummings]

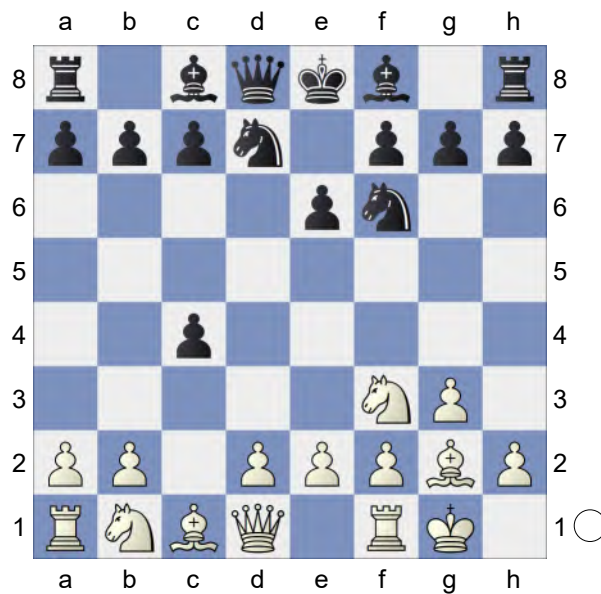
1.Nf3 Wei Yi is known as an 1 e4 player, but as part of his tournament victory in Danzhou, in this game he joined the ranks of Flank Openings players with a creative win over Ruslan Ponomariov.
1...Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 dxc4 5.0-0 The most ambitious reply.

[5.Qa4+ regains the pawn immediately, but loses time with the queen. Black has been doing fine here, see for example Grischuk-Eljanov in the Archives.]

5...Nbd7

[5...a6 6.Qc2 Bd6 and now for example 7.Qxc4 b5 8.Qb3 Bb7 9.a4 Nbd7 10.axb5 Bd5 11.Qc2 axb5 12.Rxa8 Qxa8 13.Nc3 Bc6 14.d3 0-0 15.Bg5 h6 16.Bxf6 Nxf6 17.Rc1 Rc8 with balanced chances, Howell, D (2667)-Shankland, S (2666) Saint Louis 2017 1/2-1/2 (80). This approach appears to be very solid for Black. See the notes to Aronian-Naiditsch for further details.]

(Diagram)



Black's most popular move, although I think he should prefer: **6.Qc2 Nb6** As I wrote in my notes to Aronian-Naiditsch, this is a critical try, holding on to the pawn for now. Alternatively:

[6...c5 7.Na3 Nd5 8.Nxc4 b5 9.Ne3 Bb7 10.Nxd5 Bxd5 11.e4 Bb7 12.d4 and White got the upper hand in Aronian-Naiditsch, see the game in the Archives]

7.a4 White wants to play Nb1-a3 without taking on doubled a-pawns. Instead:

[7.Na3 Bxa3 8.bxa3 Bd7 9.Bb2 Bc6 (9...Ba4 10.Qc1 Bc6 is similar but with the queen on c1) 10.Ne5 Bxg2 11.Kxg2 Qd5+ 12.f3 0-0 13.Rfd1 Nfd7 14.Ng4 when White has some play for the pawn, but a materialistic player may also be fairly happy to play Black here, Gajewski, G (2648)-Cornette, M (2590) Montpellier 2015 1-0 (29)]

7...a5 8.Na3 Bxa3 9.Rxa3 This rook looks fairly modestly placed right now, but has a great career ahead of it! **9...0-0**

10.e4 A new move, fighting for the centre. In earlier games, White has tried:

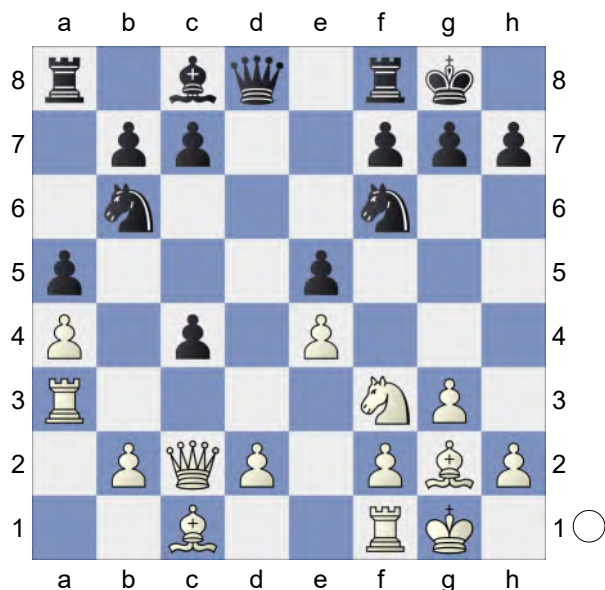
[10.d3 making the pawn sacrifice

permanent, in return for open lines
 cxd3 11.Rxd3 Nbd5 12.Ne5 Qd6
 13.Bf4 with chances for both sides,
 Vishnu,P (2340) -Van den Doel,E
 (2574) Leiden 2011 0-1 (43)]

[10.Rd1 Nfd5 11.Ne5 Nb4 12.Qc3
 N4d5 13.Qc2 led to a repetition with
 Nb4 14.Qc3 N4d5 15.Qd4 Nb4
 16.Qc3 N4d5 1/2-1/2 (16)
 Miroschnichenko,E (2538)-Klovans,J
 (2417) Cappelle-la-Grande 2003]

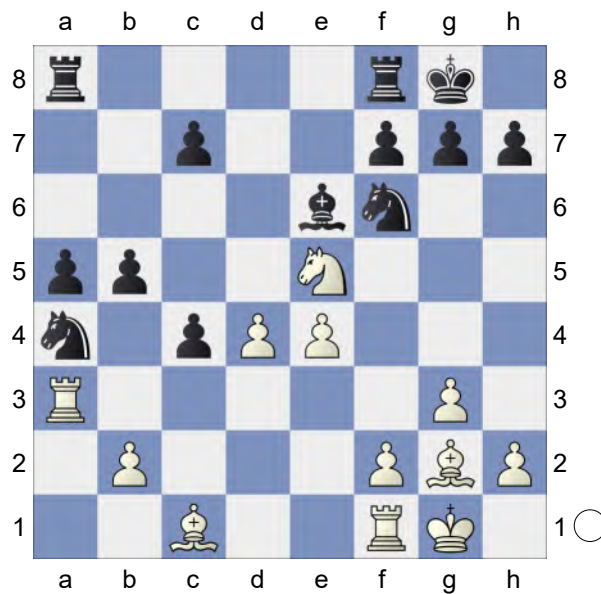
10...e5

[10...Qe8!? for example 11.Ne5 Bd7
 12.Nxc4 Bxa4 13.b3 Nxc4 14.Rxa4
 Ne5 15.d4 Nc6 16.Qc3 and White
 retains typical compensation for the
 pawn]



Black decides to provoke an exchange
 of queens. He could also target the a4-
 pawn with the alternative: 11.Nxe5 Qd4
 12.Qc3 Qxc3 13.Rxc3 White keeps his
 rook active, even though the a4-pawn is
 dropping 13...Be6 14.d4 Nxa4 15.Ra3
 b5

(Diagram)



16.f4 Nb6 17.g4!? Objectively, this
 move should probably get a "?!"
 annotation, but it is a very creative and
 aggressive idea, opening the 3rd rank
 for the a3-rook.

[17.d5 is more conventional, and after
 Bc8 18.Be3 chances are roughly
 balanced]

17...Nxc4 18.f5

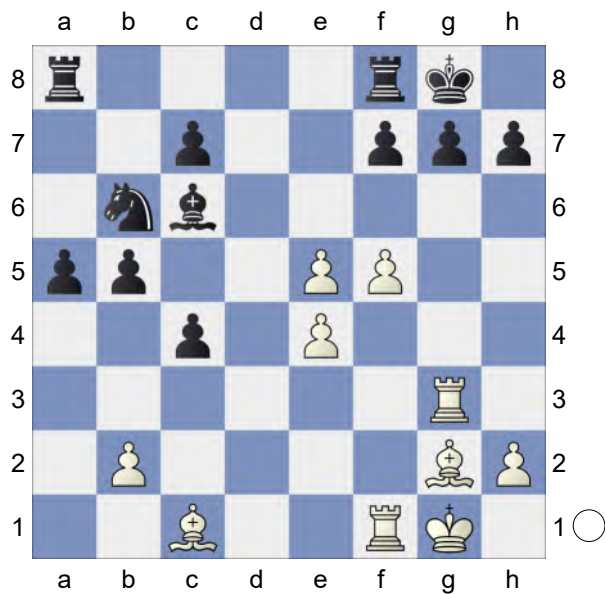
[18.Nc6!? was worth considering]

18...Nxe5 19.dxe5 Bd7 20.Rg3
 White is trying to drum up a kingside
 attack, with ideas of Bc1-h6 and e5-e6
 in the air. **20...Bc6!?**

[20...b4! was a better implementation
 of the same idea. After 21.Bh6 g6
 22.Bxf8 Rxf8 and Black is on top,
 since his queenside pawns are
 moving fast down the board]

[20...Rfe8? shows the potential of
 White's attack after 21.Bh6 g6 22.e6!
 fxe6 23.fxg6 hxg6 24.Rf6
 with a winning attack]

(Diagram)



Black offers an exchange in order to relieve the pressure, hoping then to exploit his queenside pawn mass. Alternatively: **21.Bh6 g6 22.Rg5?!** Another objectively dodgy move that further unbalances the position. Instead:

[22.Bh3!? Bxe4 23.fxc6 hxc6 24.e6 keeps some initiative going in an unclear position]

[22.Bxf8 Rxf8 23.h4 Nd7 24.e6 fxe6 25.h5 is also roughly balanced]

22...c3? A very odd move, giving up his most advanced pawn - Black appears to crack under the pressure. Instead

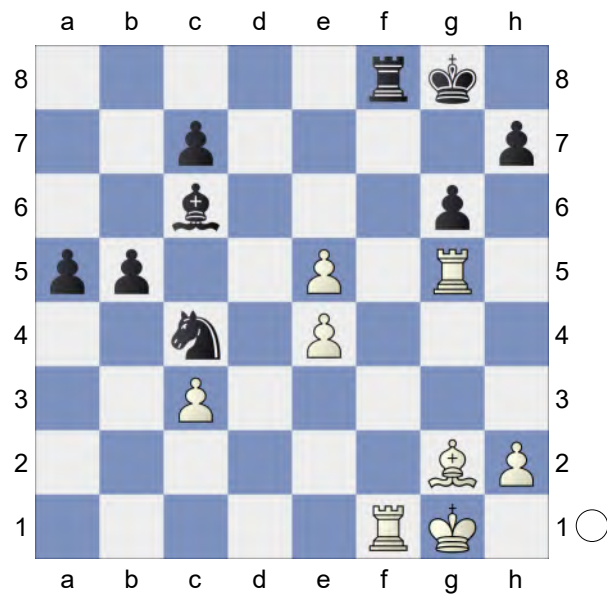
[22...Na4! going after the b2-pawn, is better for Black. If now 23.e6?! fxe6 24.Bxf8 Rxf8 25.fxe6 Rxf1+ 26.Bxf1 Kg7 Black can handle the e6-pawn and is winning]

23.bxc3 Now Black's queenside pawns take much longer to get going, and White is suddenly taking over **23...Nc4?!** Making matters worse.

[23...Nd7 was more resilient, bringing the knight closer to the kingside]

24.fxc6 fxc6 25.Bxf8 Rxf8

(Diagram)

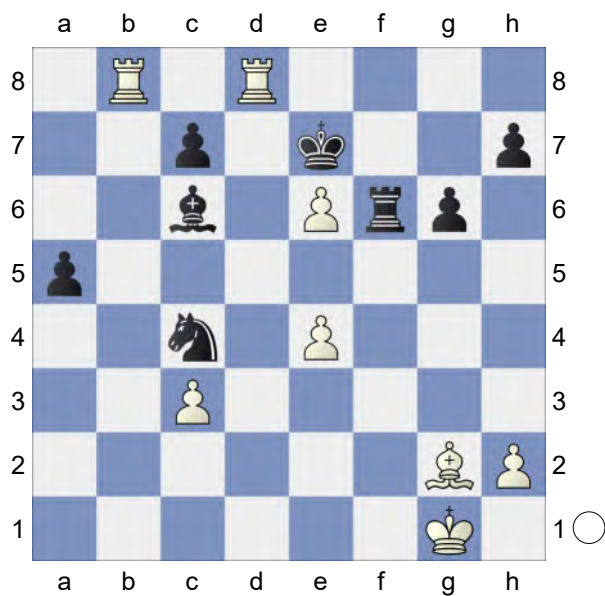


26.e6 White is clearly better now - he is the exchange up for only a pawn, and with a dangerous passed e-pawn. The roaming rook now does great work along the 5th rank. **26...Be8 27.Rd1 Rf6 28.Rd8 Kf8** Instead:

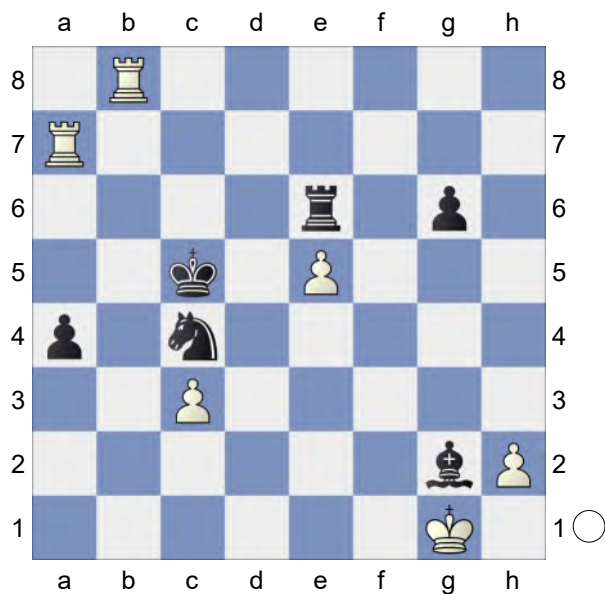
[28...Rxe6 29.Rxb5 Nd6 30.Rd5 Re7 31.Ra8 is also a winning endgame for White]

29.Rxb5 Breaking up Black's connected pawns. White can easily contain the a5-pawn, so can comfortably realize his material advantage. **29...Ke7 30.Rbb8 Bc6**

(Diagram)



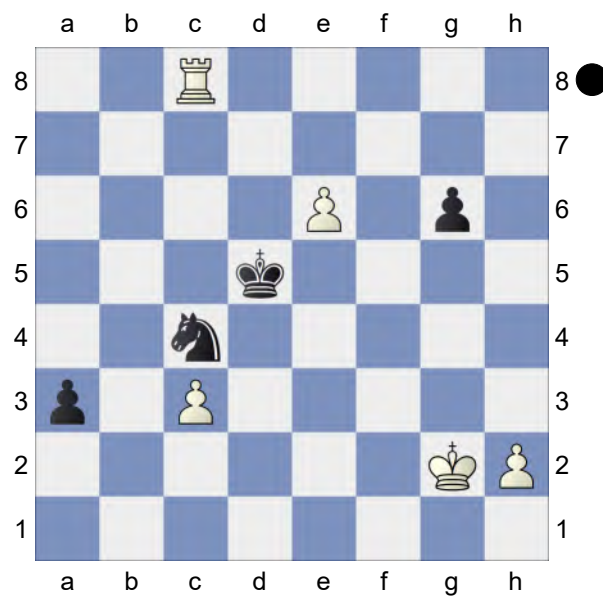
31.Rdc8 Rxe6 32.Rxc7+ Kd6
33.Rxh7 a4 34.Ra7 Kc5 35.e5 Bxg2



36.Kxg2 a3 37.Rc7+ Rc6 38.Rxc6+
Kxc6 39.Rc8+ Kd5 40.e6

[40.e6 a2 (40...Nd6 41.e7 wins)
 41.Ra8 Kxe6 42.Rxa2 and White's
 extra pawn makes this a simple win
 for the rook vs. the knight]

(Diagram)



A nice finishing touch. After
 1-0

196

□ Wei, Yi

■ Nepomniachtchi, Ian

FIDE Grand Prix (28.1)

[David Cummings]

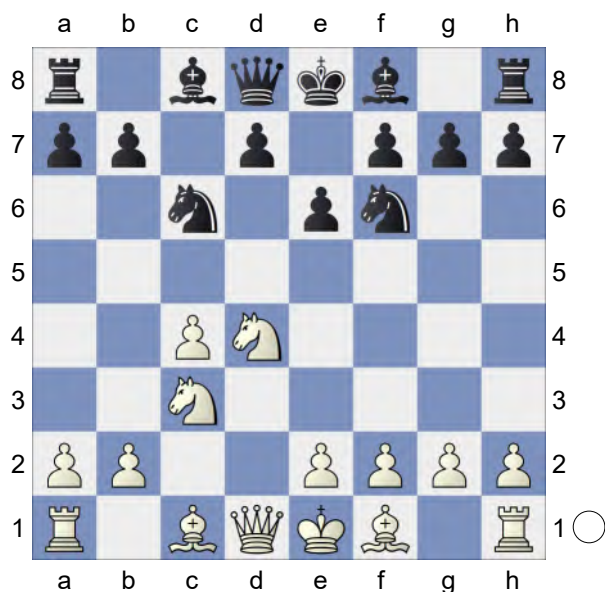
A33

2725

2767

21.12.2019

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.d4
cxd4 5.Nxd4 e6



6.g3 Qb6 7.Ndb5 Varying from:

[7.Nb3 which Ian faced in Gelfand-Nepomniachtchi in an earlier round of the same event, a game that is also covered in this month's Update. As alluded to in the notes to that game, the 6 g3 Qb6 variation is quite a labyrinth, putting the onus on Black to carry a lot of opening knowledge, since it is White that has significant options on almost every move.]

7...Ne5 8.Bg2 Another major line is:

[8.Bf4 - see Topalov-Caruana and earlier games in the Archives.]

8...a6 9.Qa4 White's most popular move, protecting the c4-pawn while exploiting the pin along the a-file. Black also has to be ready for a couple of other lines, both of which offer the c4-pawn as a

gambit:

[9.Na4 Qd8 and now:

A) 10.Nd6+ Bxd6 11.Qxd6 Nxc4 12.Qc5 d5 13.b3 Bd7 14.bxc4 Bxa4 15.Qa3 (15.cxd5 Nxd5 16.0-0 is the subject of Kobo-Salgado Lopez in the Archives) 15...Qd7 16.Bb2 b5?! (16...dxc4 17.0-0 Bc6 maintains the balance) 17.cxd5 exd5 18.Bxf6 gxf6 19.0-0 and White was clearly better in Dubov,D (2700)-Vachier Lagrave,M (2775) Paris (Rapid) 2019 0-1 (62). Black's pawn structure is shattered and his a4-bishop out of play.;

B) 10.Nbc3 Nxc4 11.b3 which is analyzed in Navara-So in the Archives]

[9.Na3 Bxa3 10.bxa3 Nxc4 is covered in Howell-Jumabayev in the Archives]

9...Rb8 An essential move, forcing White to react to the attack on the b5-knight. Instead:

[9...Bc5? 10.Bf4 ended in a quick win for White in Ganguly-Wei Yi from the September 2019 Update. Perhaps that game inspired Wei Yi to try this from White's side!]

10.Na3 White offers the c4-pawn, a theme we have already seen in the note to White's 9th move above. The alternative is:

[10.Be3 which is examined in Harikrishna-Grischuk in the Archives.]

10...Bc5

[10...Bxa3 11.Qxa3 White gets compensation for the pawn in the shape of a lead in development and latent pressure on the dark squares. Objectively, it doesn't appear to be enough for an advantage, but White has scored 6 wins and 5 draws in over-

the-board games in my database, starting from this position. Nxc4 12.Qb3 and now:

A) 12...Qxb3 13.axb3 Ne5 14.Bf4 d6 15.0-0-0 Ke7 and here White sacrifices the exchange with 16.Rxd6 Ng6 (16...Kxd6 17.Rd1+ Ke7 18.Bxe5 Ra8 19.Bd6+ Ke8 20.f4 with dynamic compensation Greenfeld, A (2561)-Phadke, S (2208) Mumbai 2010 1-0 (34)) 17.Rd8 Rxd8 18.Bxb8 Bd7 19.Ba7 Rc8 20.Kb1 Bc6 21.e4 and Black held the endgame in Grandelius, N (2635)-Ragger, M (2689) Caleta 2016 1/2-1/2 (74);

B) 12...Qc7 when White has tried:

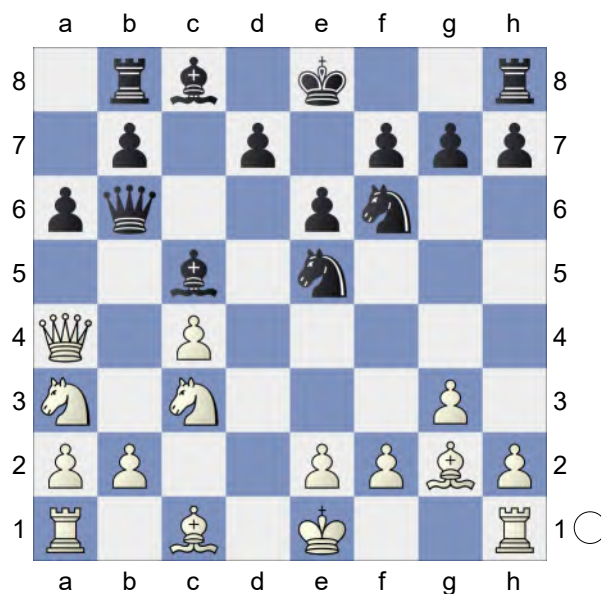
B1) 13.0-0 b5 14.Rd1 d6 15.Bg5 this loses some time (15.Qb4 is better, with typical compensation) 15...Ng4 16.Ne4 0-0 17.h3 Nge5 18.Qc3 Svane, R (2546) -Menezes, C (2408) Bhubaneswar 2016 1/2-1/2 (31), and here f6 would have left White with not quite enough for the pawn.;

B2) 13.Bf4 was played in a 2018 correspondence game, which was dynamically balanced throughout, continuing 13...d6 14.Qb4 e5 15.Bg5 Be6 16.b3 Qa5 17.Qxa5 Nxa5 18.0-0-0 Ke7 19.Kb2 h6 20.Be3 Rhc8 21.f4 Nc6 22.Rd2 b5 23.Rhd1 b4 24.Ne4 Nxe4 25.Bxe4 and now Black has to return the pawn with Nd4 26.Bxd4 exd4 27.f5 1/2-1/2 (27) Nyvlt, Z (2425)-Babic, D (2475) ICCF email 2018;

C) 12...d5 13.e4 (13.Bf4 is also possible) 13...Bd7 14.0-0

d4?! 15.Qxc4 and after restoring material parity, the bishop pair gave White an edge in Matlakov-Rambaldi, which is included in the Archives.]

[10...Be7 is a sensible alternative, leading to a hedgehog structure after 11.0-0 0-0 12.Bf4 d6 13.b4 Qc7 14.Rac1 Ng6 15.Be3 b6 16.Qb3 Bb7 17.f3 Rfc8 with balanced chances, Lupulescu, C (2643)-Howell, D (2694) Douglas 2019 1/2-1/2 (129)]



Black continues with an active developing move. The alternatives are: **11.0-0 0-0** A reasonable solution here was demonstrated by Peter Leko:

[11...Neg4 Black provokes e2-e3, blocking in the c1-bishop, before reverting to a hedgehog setup. 12.e3 0-0 13.Rb1 Be7 14.b4 Qc7 15.Bb2 d6 16.Rbc1 b6 17.Qd1 Bb7 18.e4 Rbc8 19.Qe2 Ne5 with an acceptable position for Black, Inarkiev, E (2693)-Leko, P (2679) Germany 2018 1/2-1/2 (55)]

12.Rb1 Qb4 After this move, White has several paths to a small advantage.

Instead:

[12...d6 13.b4 Bd4 leaves Black's d4-bishop awkwardly placed, and he will likely soon have to cede the two bishops. Now 14.Qb3 Bd7 was played in Nihal,S (2598) - Rodshtein,M (2699) Brest 2019 1/2-1/2 (29), and here 15.Na4 Bxa4 16.Qxa4 Qc7 17.Rd1 Ba7 18.Bf4 would give White a pleasant advantage]

[12...Neg4 would transpose to Inarkiev-Leko (see the note to Black's 11th) after 13.e3]

[12...Bxa3 could also be tried. Although Black lost a tempo by moving the bishop twice, he has castled, which is in contrast to the situation after 10... Bxa3. Now a sample line is 13.bxa3 Qc7 14.Qb4 (14.Bf4 d6 15.Qb4 Nxc4 16.Rfd1 is similar) 14...Nxc4 15.Rd1 with compensation for the pawn]

13.Qd1 A decent move which was, however, the product of a 53 minute (!) think, leaving White short of time later on. White actually has a choice of good moves:

[13.Qxb4 Bxb4 14.Nc2 and now for example Bxc3 15.bxc3 Nxc4 16.Na3 d5 17.Nxc4 dxc4 18.Bf4 Ra8 19.Rfd1 gives White an annoying bind. He can easily regain his pawn at some point, while playing for more.]

[13.Bf4 d6 14.Nc2 Qxa4 15.Nxa4 Ba7 16.c5 Bd7 17.cxd6 Ng6 18.Nc3 Nxf4 19.gxf4 and this time White has the extra pawn. His pawn structure is a bit weakened, and Black has the two bishops, but White is still for choice.]

13...d6 This time, Black should not grab the c4-pawn:

[13...Nxc4? since White now has 14.Nc2 Qb6 15.Na4 Qc7 16.Nxc5 Qxc5 17.b3 Ne5 18.Ba3 winning material]

14.Na4 Instead:

[14.Bg5 looks good. White threatens to damage Black's kingside while his forces are mainly concentrated on the other side of the board. Some sample lines:

A) 14...Nxc4? leaves the c5-bishop trapped after 15.Nc2 Qb6 (15...Qa5 16.Bxf6 gxf6 17.b4 wins) 16.b4 etc.;

B) 14...Bd7 15.Bxf6 gxf6 16.Ne4 with a sample line Ba4 17.Qc1 Kg7 18.Qf4 f5 19.Nxc5 Qxc5 20.b4 Qc7 21.Rfc1 giving White an edge: better structure and more space.;

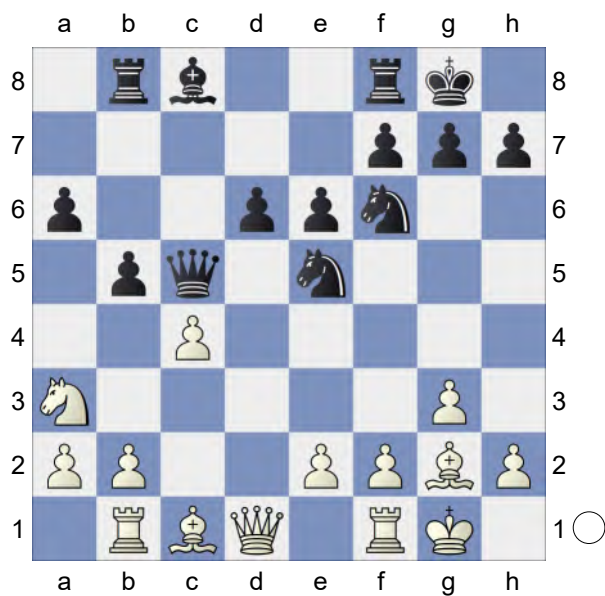
C) 14...Ned7 15.Na4 and now b5 16.Nxc5 Qxc5 17.Be3 is very strong, since Qc7 18.cxb5 axb5 19.Rc1 Qa5 (19...Qd8 20.Ba7 wins the exchange) 20.Qxd6 and White is on top]

14...b5 Alternatively:

[14...Nxc4 is again a consideration. Now 15.Nxc5 Nxa3 16.Nd3 Qb5 17.Ra1 Nc4 18.Qc2 gives White the typical compensation]

15.Nxc5 Qxc5

(Diagram)



16.cxb5 White could also start with [16.b4 or 16 Be3, since pushing the queen back limits some of Black's options]

16...axb5 17.Bg5 In contrast to 14 Bg5, this appears to be rather harmless. Having traded off his c3-knight, White has fewer attackers with which to threaten Black's king, and Black's queen is also more centralized. A subsequent Bg5xf6 may give White chances of a perpetual check (as in fact happened in the game), but to press for an advantage it was more promising to play in the centre with, for example:

[17.Be3 Qc7 18.Qd4 Ba6 19.Rbc1 Qd7 20.Nc2 and after bringing his offside knight back into the game, White is slightly better thanks to his bishop pair, and potential play against the b5- and d6-pawns.]

17...Ba6

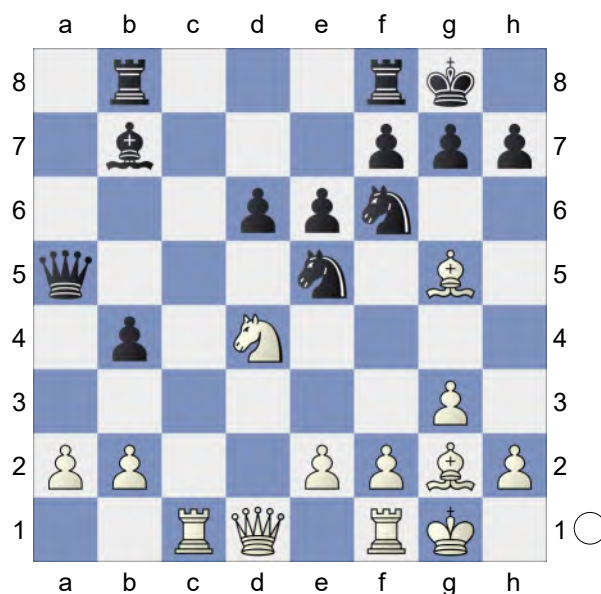
[17...Bb7 is also possible, and roughly equal]

18.Nc2

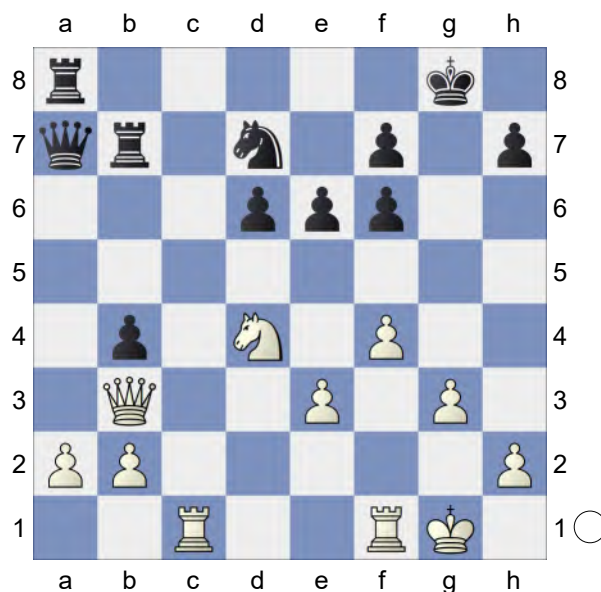
[18.b4 was the last chance to fix the b5-pawn]

18...b4 Black has successfully freed his

position and the game is now roughly balanced. Black's b-pawn has been transformed from a weakness into a strength, constraining White's queenside. **19.Nd4 Bb7 20.Rc1 Qa5**

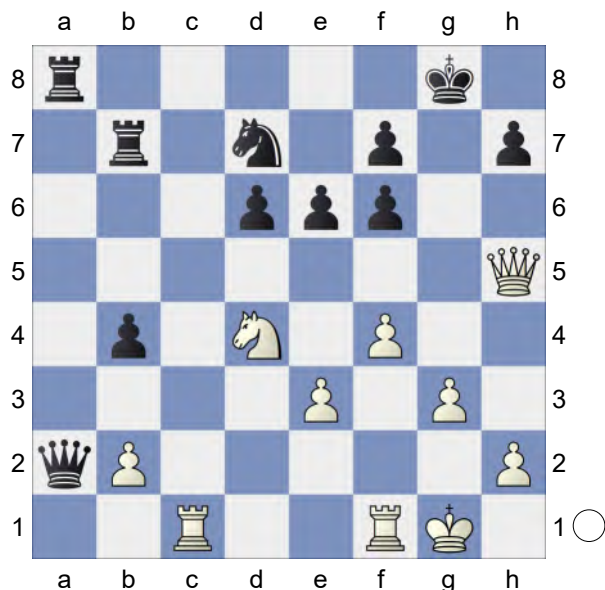


21.Bxb7 Rxb7 22.Bxf6 gxf6 23.Qb3 Ra8 24.f4 Qa7 25.e3 Nd7



26.Qd1 Leaving the a2-pawn to its fate in order to play against Black's exposed king. **26...Qxa2 27.Qg4+ Kh8 28.Qh5 Kg8 29.Qg4+ Kh8 30.Qh5 Kg8**

(Diagram)



31.Nb5?!

[31.Qg4+ with a draw by repetition would have been a logical conclusion to the game. Instead, in time trouble, White goes for more, but this is very risky.]

31...Rxb5! Black gets two pawns for the exchange, and White's king is exposed along his 2nd rank. **32.Qxb5 Qxb2 33.Rb1**

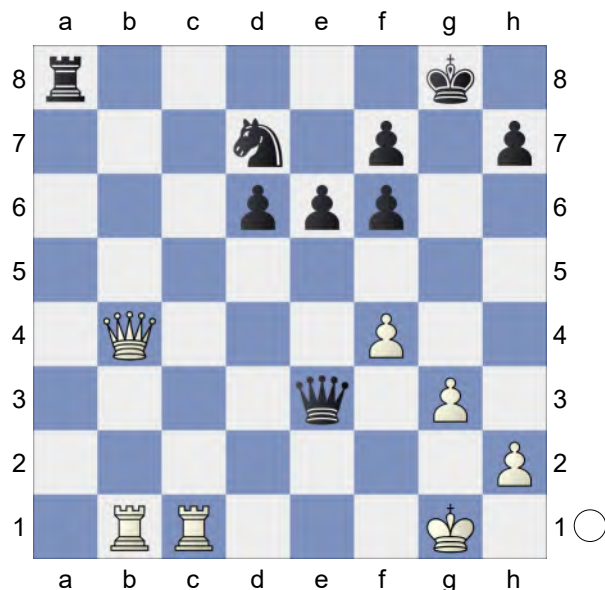
[33.Qxd7? loses to Ra2 with mate on the 7th rank]

33...Qc2 34.Rfc1? It was essential to trade off a pair of rooks, to limit Black's attacking potential:

[34.Ra1 Rxa1 35.Rxa1 and now a possible continuation is b3 36.Ra7 b2 37.Rb7 Qc1+ 38.Kg2 Qxe3 39.Qxb2 Qe4+ 40.Kh3 Qf5+ 41.Kg2 Qe4+ with a draw]

34...Qd2 35.Qxb4 Qxe3+

(Diagram)



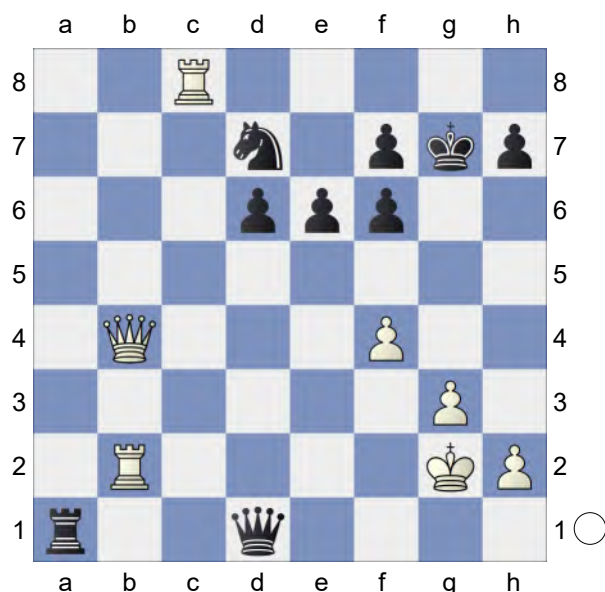
36.Kh1 Ra2 37.Rc8+ Kg7 38.Rb2 Qf3+ Instead:

[38...Ra3! is a subtle move which leaves White defenceless against the threat of ...Ra3-d3 followed by a mating attack, for example 39.Rcc2 Qf3+ 40.Kg1 Rd3 41.Rd2 Nc5! and the knight enters the attack with decisive effect]

39.Kg1 Qd1+

[39...Ra3! was again strong]

40.Kg2 Ra1



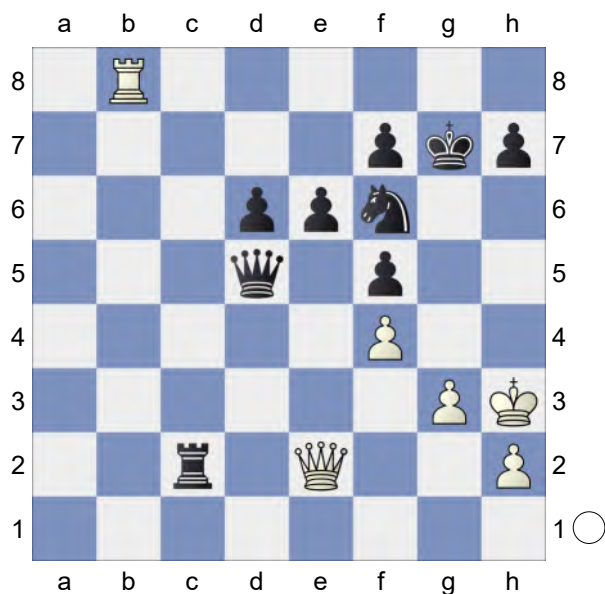
41.Qb5 f5?!

[41...h5! was a better configuration, adding the h-pawn as an attacking unit. Now, for example 42.Qe2 Qd5+ 43.Kh3 (43.Qf3? Rg1+ wins the queen) 43...Qf5+ 44.Kg2 h4 45.Rd2 h3+ 46.Kf2 Rh1 47.Ke3 Nc5 and White's king won't survive.]

42.Qe2 Qd5+ 43.Kh3 Nf6 44.Rbb8

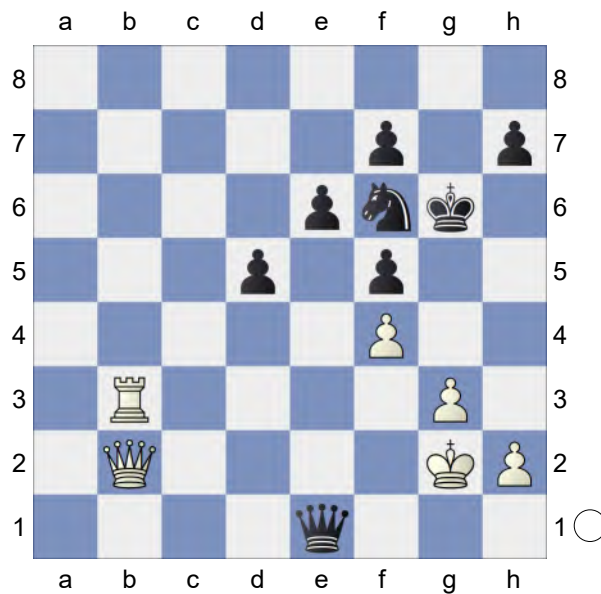
[44.Rd2! pushes the queen off its centralized post. Now Qb7 45.Rd8 d5 46.Rb2 limits Black's attacking options and White should hold]

44...Ra2 45.Rc2 Rxc2



46.Qxc2 Qf3 Black has a nagging edge, and continues the squeeze in "do not hurry!" mode for another 40 moves before White makes the decisive mistake. Along the way, the engine shows how both sides could have improved at various points, but I will only give a few of these in the notes. **47.Rb3 Qf1+ 48.Qg2 Qe1 49.Qb2 Kg6 50.Kg2 d5**

(Diagram)



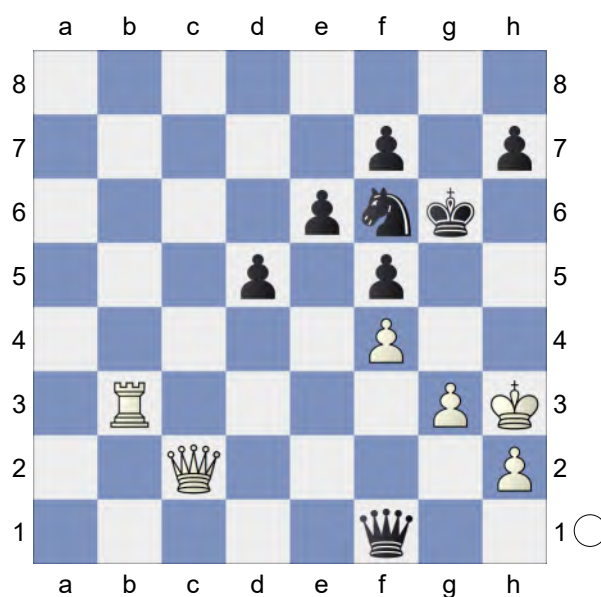
51.Rb8 Qe4+ 52.Kh3

[52.Kg1 was a better location for the king, enabling White to keep his pieces centralized]

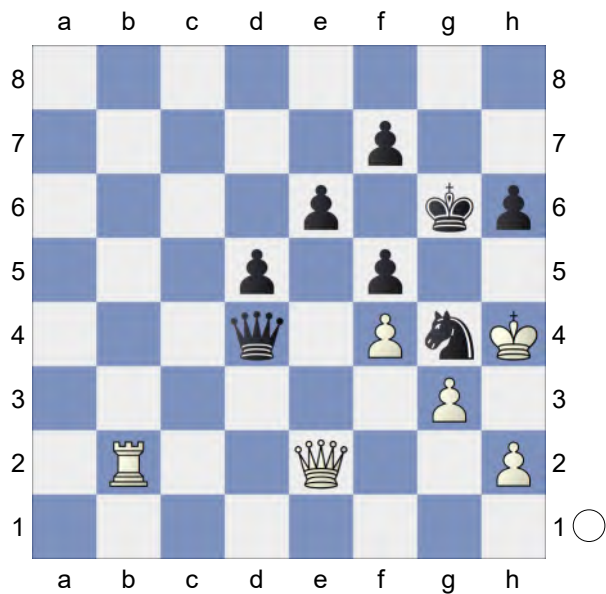
52...Qf3 53.Rb3 Qf1+

[53...Qd1 54.Kg2 d4 was already a winning advantage for Black, who also had several later chances to get in ... d5 - d4 under favourable circumstances.]

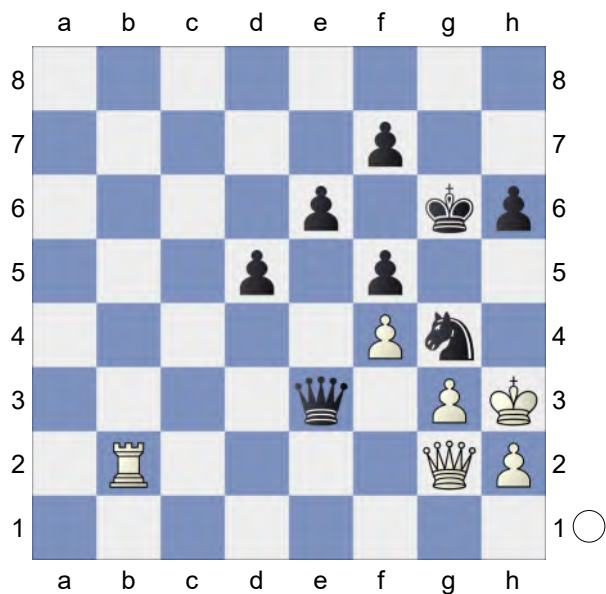
54.Qg2 Qe1 55.Qc2 Qf1+



56.Qg2 Qc4 57.Rb8 h6 58.Kh4 Qd3 59.Rb2 Ng4 60.Qe2 Qd4

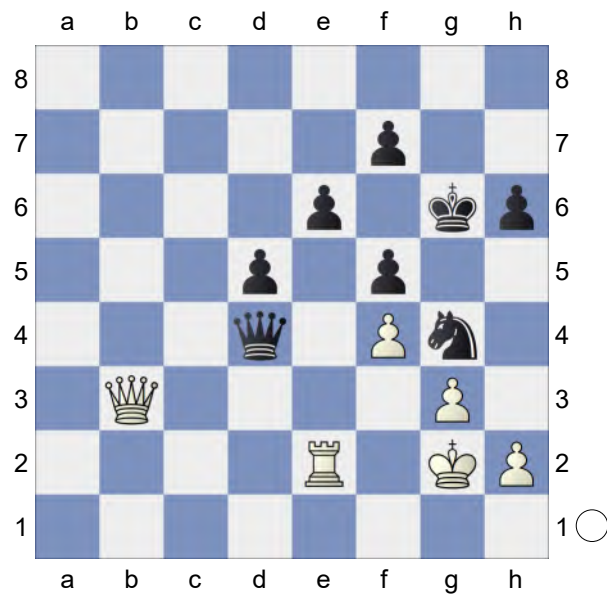


**61.Kh3 Qg1 62.Qg2 Qd4 63.Qe2 Qc5
64.Qc2 Qg1 65.Qg2 Qe3**

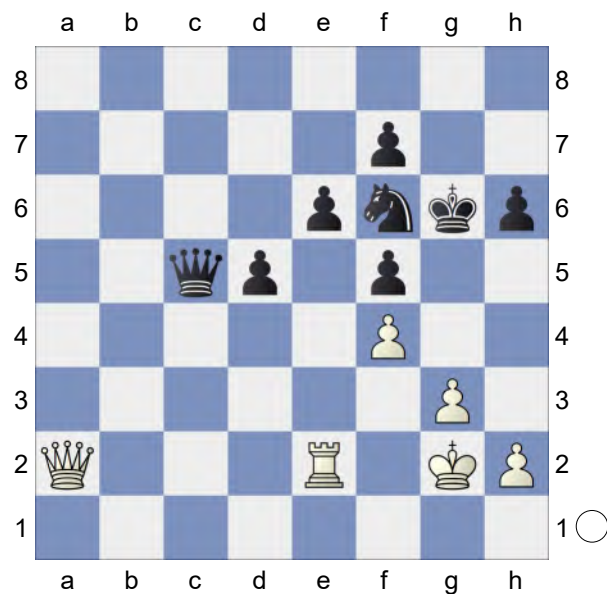


**66.Qe2 Qd4 67.Qc2 Ne3 68.Qb3 Nd1
69.Re2 Nf2+ 70.Kg2 Ng4**

(Diagram)

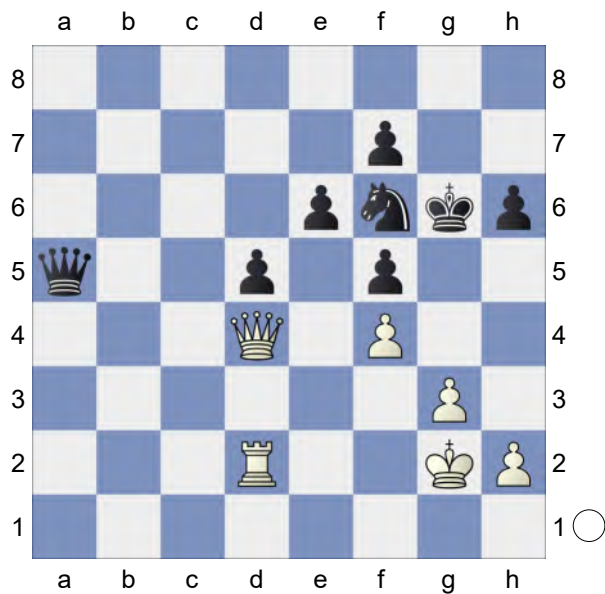


**71.Qb8 Nf6 72.Qb2 Qc5 73.Rc2 Qe3
74.Re2 Qa7 75.Qa2 Qc5**



**76.Qc2 Qd6 77.Qb2 Ne4 78.Qd4 Qa6
79.Rc2 Nf6 80.Rd2 Qa5**

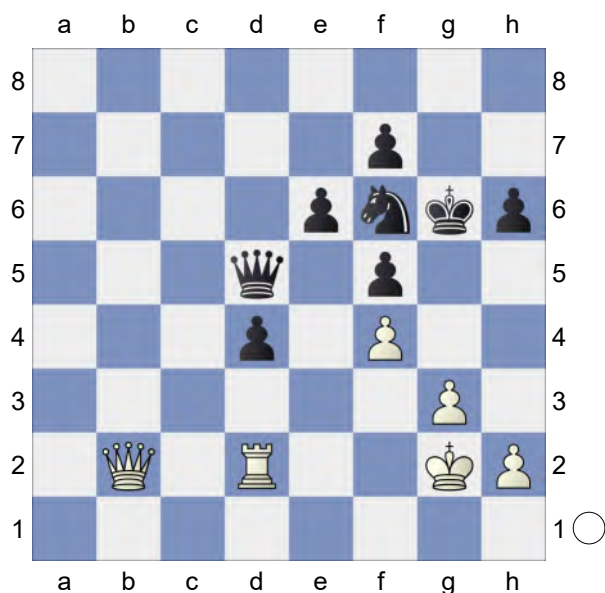
(Diagram)



81.Re2 Qa3 82.Qb2 Qa7 83.Qa2 Qd7 84.Qb2

[84.Rd2! would have prevented the d-pawn from advancing]

84...d4 85.Rd2 Qd5+



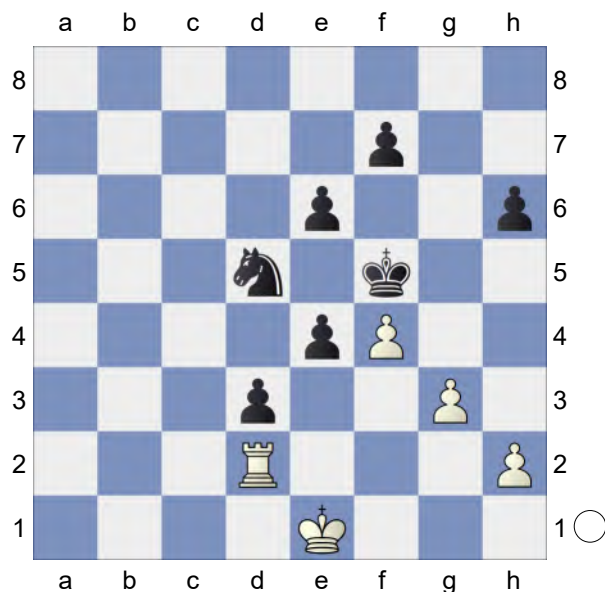
86.Kg1 d3 87.Qe5? Now it is all over.

[87.Qa3 Qd4+ 88.Kg2 Qe4+ 89.Kh3 Qe1 90.Qxd3 Ne4 91.Rc2 Nf2+ 92.Rxf2 Qxf2 would enable White to fight on in the queen endgame]

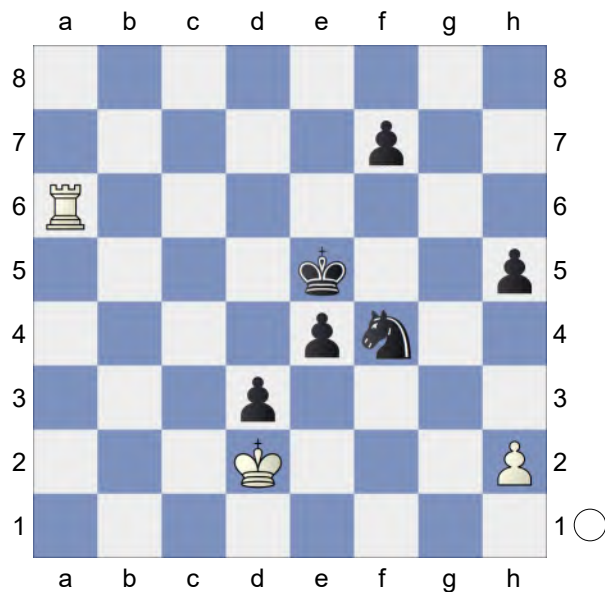
87...Qe4! 88.Qxe4 Allowing the connected passed pawns offers no hope, but:

[88.Rb2 Qc4 89.Qe3 Ng4 90.Qd2 Qd4+ 91.Kh1 Ne3 also wins for Black]

88...fxe4 89.Kf2 Nd5 90.Ke1 Kf5

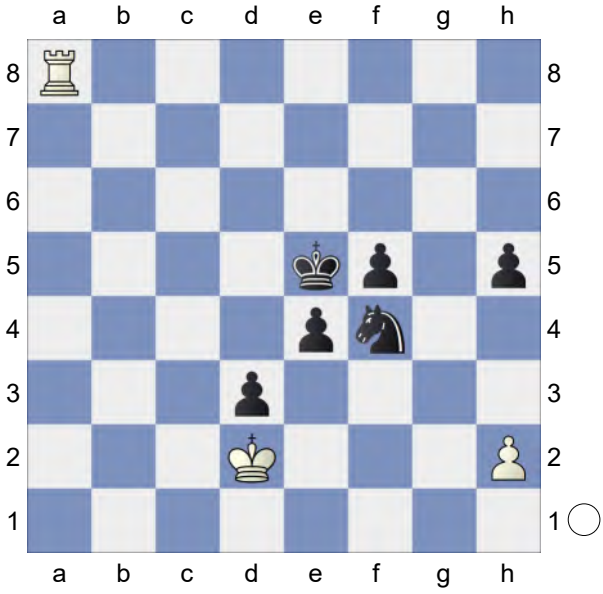


91.Rd1 e5 92.Kd2 exf4 93.gxf4 Nxf4 94.Ra1 Ke5 95.Ra6 h5



96.Ra8 f5

(Diagram)



0-1

194

□ Wei, Yi

■ Navara, David

FIDE Grand Prix (22.2)

[David Cummings]

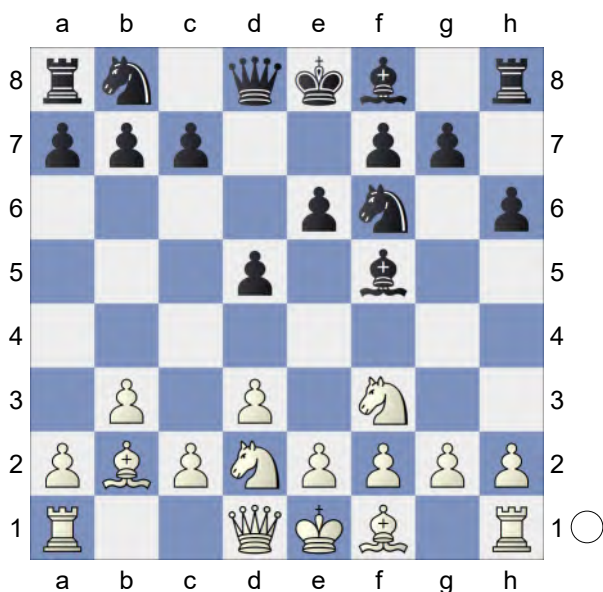
A06

2725

2707

19.12.2019

1.Nf3 d5 2.b3 Bf5 3.Bb2 e6 4.d3 h6
5.Nbd2 Nf6



6.g3 The game has transposed to a Reti system, where White meets Lasker's ... Bc8-f5 system with a double fianchetto. In this game, White successfully aims for the e2-e4 pawn break. Instead, the c2-c4 plan was part of Reti's own original opening concept, and leads to quieter play, for example:

[6.c4 c6 7.g3 Be7 8.Bg2 0-0 9.0-0 Nbd7 which is covered in Rapport-Carlsen in the Archives]

6...c5 A strategically risky idea. Black gains space but the combination of ...c7-c5 and the f5-bishop (which usually cannot return to the queenside) weakens the light squares. Black more often bolsters his central pawn chain with ... c7-c6. Here:

[6...Be7 7.Bg2 0-0 8.0-0 c6 9.Re1

(9.Qe1 is an alternative way of achieving the e2-e4 break. After a5 10.a3 Bh7 11.e4 c5 12.Ne5 we have the game Li Chao-Mareco, in the Archives.) 9...Bh7 10.e4 is analyzed in Fedoseev-Shankland in the Archives]

7.Ne5 A thematic move, controlling key squares in Black's camp and aiming for a turbo-charged e2-e4, which his opponent in fact allows. Alternatively:

[7.Bg2 Nc6 8.0-0 Be7 9.e4 Bh7 The e4-pawn cannot be captured since the g7-pawn would be hanging. However, the "reflex" retreat to the h7-square is not the best here. (9...Bg6 is more flexible and allows Black to activate the bishop with a possible ... Bg6-h5. This gives Black a better chance of equalizing.) 10.Ne5 Nxe5 11.Bxe5 0-0 12.Qe2 Re8 13.Rad1 Nd7 14.Bb2 Bf6 15.e5 Be7 16.c4 with a favourable structure for White - space advantage and play on the light squares, Grischuk, A (2766)-So, W (2778) Leuven (blitz) 2018 1/2-1/2 (35)]

[7.e4 (!) may be White's most accurate move order. Some sample lines:

A) 7...dxe4?! 8.dxe4 Nxe4 gives White a powerful initiative after 9.Bb5+ Nc6 10.Bxc6+ bxc6 11.Qe2 Nxd2 (11...Qa5 12.0-0 and Black struggles to develop his kingside) 12.0-0-0! Nxb3+ 13.axb3 Qc8 14.Ne5 and White is clearly better despite a two pawn deficit.;

B) 7...Bh7 8.exd5 exd5 9.Qe2+ Be7 10.Bxf6 gxf6 11.Bh3 gives White a firm grip on the light squares;

C) 7...Bg4 keeps the game in

standard patterns, but White has gained a free tempo with e2-e4. Now one sample line is 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Nxf3 d4 10.Bg2 Nc6 11.Qe2 e5 12.h4 with a good reversed King's Indian for White. Interestingly, this is one of those positions where the leading engines disagree on the assessment. LC0 gives White a small advantage while Stockfish 10 thinks Black is at least equal.]

7...Nbd7?! This move is the real culprit. Bear in mind that this was a Rapid playoff game - the rest of the game has a one-sided feel to it, but Wei Yi's execution of the light-squared strategy is very instructive for Reti players.

[7...Be7 has also been tried. Now:

A) 8.Bg2 0-0 9.0-0 White continues with routine development and misses his chance to exploit his opponent's setup. (9.e4 can still be tried) 9...Bh7 10.c4 Nbd7 11.cxd5 Nxe5 12.Bxe5 Nxd5 with level chances, Kharlov,A (2557)-Dreev,A (2655) Fuegen 2006 1-0 (56);

B) 8.e4 is most efficient, for example 8...Bh7 9.Bg2 0-0 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qe2 with a pleasant position for White]

[7...Bd6! appears to give Black a satisfactory game. Now 8.e4 Bxe5 9.Bxe5 Bg4 (9...Bg6 is also OK) 10.f3 Bh5 11.Bg2 Nc6 12.Bb2 0-0 13.0-0 e5 is roughly equal. Black's pawn centre constrains White's bishop pair.]

8.e4! Bh7 Instead, capturing on the e4-square unmasks the f1-bishop. Some sample lines:

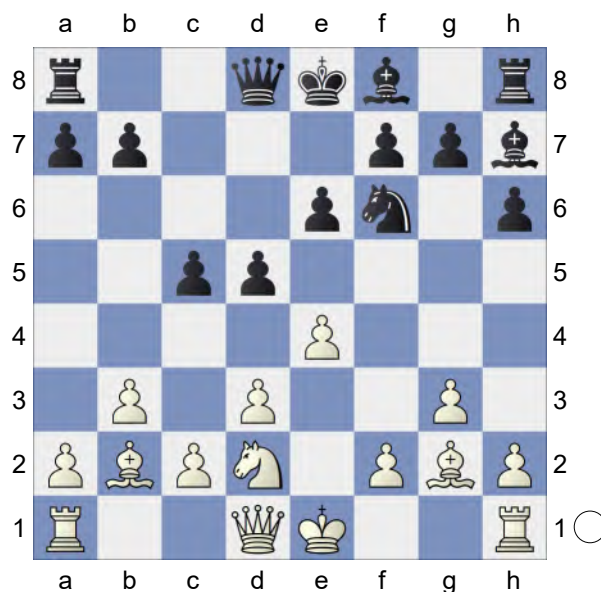
[8...dxe4 9.dxe4 Bxe4 (9...Bh7 10.Nxd7 Qxd7 11.a4 a6 12.Bg2

Be7 13.Qe2 0-0 14.Nc4 gives White a clear positional advantage, his minor pieces are all better placed than their counterparts) 10.Nxe4 Nxe5 11.Bb5+ Ke7 12.Bxe5 Nxe4 13.0-0 Qxd1 14.Rfxd1 a6 15.Bf1 f6 16.Bg2 and White retains a strong initiative despite the reduced material]

9.Nxd7 Qxd7 10.Bg2 Qd8?!

[10...Be7 11.e5 Ng8 unfortunately, the only square for the knight 12.c4 and if Bxd3 13.Qf3 Bg6 14.cxd5 exd5 15.Qxd5 Qxd5 16.Bxd5 and White's minor pieces dominate]

[10...d4 releases the tension and cedes more light squares, but this should be tried. White has various ways of continuing, including 11.a4 Be7 12.Bc1 0-0 13.h4 with a favourable King's Indian Attack for White, but the game continues.]



White is already better, but after this further misstep Black ends up in a fairly hopeless position. Instead: **11.exd5 exd5** Or:

[11...Nxd5 12.0-0 Qd7 13.Re1 0-0-0 14.Nc4 and White will drum up an

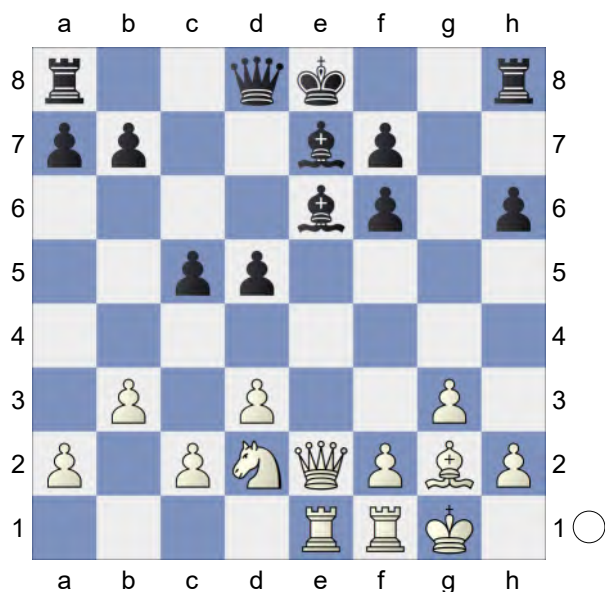
attack against Black's castled king]

12.Qe2+ A key intermediate check, aiming to double Black's f-pawns.

12...Be7 Interposing with the queen just drops the d5-pawn:

[12...Qe7 13.Bxf6 gxf6 14.Bxd5 with a technically winning endgame to follow]

13.Bxf6 gxf6 14.0-0 Bf5 15.Rae1 Be6



16.Qh5 Qd7 Allowing an immediate breakthrough, although after:

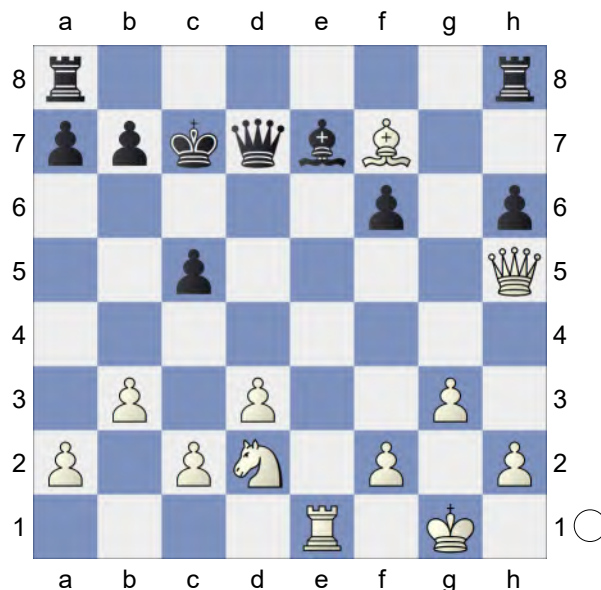
[16...Kf8 17.Bh3 (17.f4 is also strong) 17...Qd7 18.Bxe6 fxe6 19.Nf3 White will continue to improve his pieces with Nf3-h4 and activate his rooks. It is hard to see Black surviving at this level.]

17.Rxe6! Qxe6 18.Bxd5 White gets two pawns for the exchange and an ongoing attack. **18...Qd7**

[18...Qe5 19.Qxf7+ Kd8 20.Bxb7 puts White ahead on material, with Black's king no closer to safety]

19.Bxf7+ Kd8 20.Re1 Kc7

(Diagram)

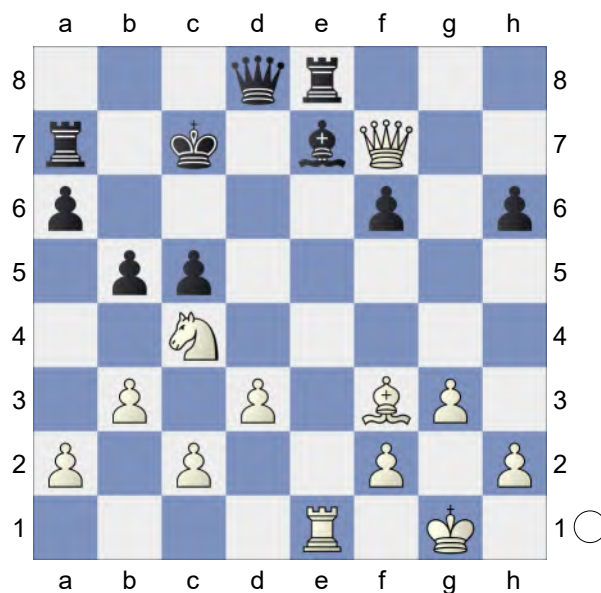


21.Be6 Qd8 22.Nc4 a6 The light squares are so weak that Black is doomed in the long run, for example

[22...Rf8 23.Qf3 Bd6 24.Bd5 Rb8 25.Re6 and White wins.]

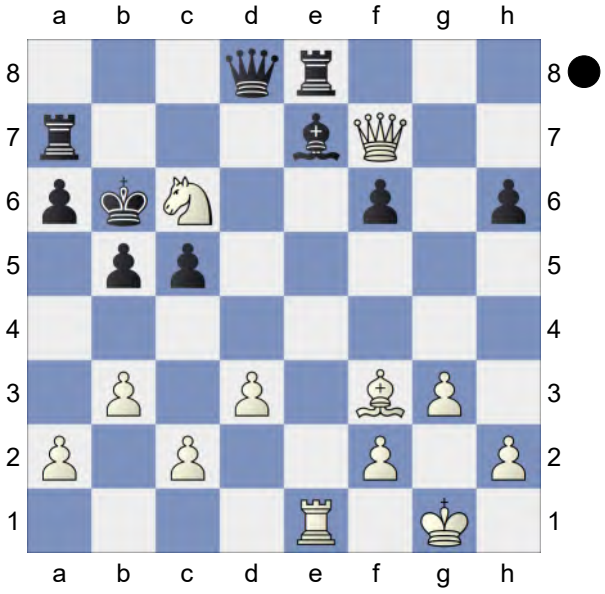
23.Bd5 Ra7 24.Qf7 Re8 25.Bf3 b5

[25...Kb8 26.Re6 h5 27.Nd6 winning material]



Or: **26.Na5 Kb6 27.Nc6**

(Diagram)



1-0

430 **A10**
 □ **Potkin, Vladimir** **2585**
 ■ **Wei, Yi** **2706**
 Aeroflot Open (1.3) 01.03.2016
[David Cummings]

Wei Yi, the current world junior number two behind Richard Rapport, started the Aeroflot Open badly by losing a miniature. **1.c4 g6 2.e4** An anti-Grünfeld line that has had a number of high-level outings in recent years. An anti-Grünfeld line that has had a number of high-level outings in recent years. An anti-Grünfeld line that has had a number of high-level outings in recent years. **2...e5** This move takes the game into a line with its own unique flavour. Not the most usual move, but many Grünfeld players tried it against this move order.

[Instead, **2...Bg7** will lead to a King's Indian or Modern Defence after **3.d4** which is usually not to the taste of the Grünfeld player.]

3.d4 The critical line. Instead

[Instead **3.Nf3** leads to a Maroczy Bind/King's Indian hybrid after leads to a Maroczy Bind/King's Indian hybrid after leads to a Maroczy Bind/King's Indian hybrid after **Bg7 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.Nc3** for example **0-0 7.Be2 Re8 8.f3 c6**

A) 9.Bg5 but here Black can free his game with **d5** was played in Lautier-Taddei, in the Archives (**9...Qb6 10.Qd2 d5!** leading to a concrete line which equalized in A. Lenderman - W. So, USA Championship, Saint Louis 2016.);

B) 9.Bf4 **d5 10.cxd5 cxd5 11.Ndb5 Na6 12.0-0 d4 13.Nd5**

Nxd5 14.exd5 d3 15.Bxd3 Qxd5 with equality, Ding, L (2749)-Wei, Y (2724) Danzhou 2015 1/2-1/2 (30)]

3...Nf6 4.Nf3 Again the best move.

[After **4.dxe5** was tried with success last year by So against Giri: **Nxe4 5.Bd3 Bb4+ (5...Nc5!** is better is better, Black is doing well in theory and practice;) **6.Kf1!** is an early king move that led to success for White in So-Giri which can be found in the Archives is an early king move that led to success for White in So-Giri which can be found in the Archives on the other hand, was good for White in W. So-A.Giri, Shamkir 2015. **Nc5 7.Nf3 Ne6 8.a3 Be7 9.Nc3** with a clear advantage for White but it seems Black has the strong move **5...d5! 6.exd6 Nc5.**]

4...exd4

[Black already has several alternatives here: **4...Bg7?! is dubious. 5.dxe5 Nxe4** and now: **6.Bd3! (6.Qd5?! f5 7.Nc3 c6** and Black has no problems, E.Inarkiev-Xu Xiangyu, Chinese League 2016) **6...Nc5 7.Bg5 f6 8.exf6 Bxf6 9.Qe2+** and White will emerge on top.]

[**4...Nxe4 5.Bd3** and neither main move is fully satisfactory for Black:

A) 5...d5 6.0-0 Nd6 was played in L.Portisch-J.Timman, Buenos Aires Olympiad 1978, and here Timman gives the improvement **7.Re1! (7.Bg5!** looks good as well) **7...e4 8.Nc3 Bg7 9.Nxd5** and White is much better.;

B) 5...Bb4+ 6.Kf1 d5 7.Qb3 (the sharp **7.cxd5** may be even stronger) **7...c5? (7...a5 8.a3 Be7 9.cxd5 Nf6 10.Nxe5** is slightly better for White, as Black's

weakened kingside is a permanent feature of the position) 8.cxd5 Nf6 9.dxe5 Nxd5 10.Bg5 Qd7 11.a3 led to a quick win for White after b5 12.Be4 c4 13.Qc2 Ba5 14.Nc3 Bxc3 15.Bxd5 1-0 in A.Miles-G. Wall, British League 1999.]

[4...Bb4+ 5.Bd2 and now:

A) 5...Bxd2+ 6.Qxd2 Nxe4 7.Qe3 was played in several games from the early days of this variation: f5 (7...d5 8.cxd5 Qxd5 as played in T.Ghiteescu-C.Meleghegyi, Zalaegerszeg 1979, but now White should play 9.Nxe5! 0-0 10.Bc4 Qa5+ 11.Nc3 when White has a strong initiative) 8.dxe5 Qe7 , was seen in J.Speelman-W. Hartston, Hastings 1978, and now 9.Bd3! Qb4+ 10.Nbd2 :

A1) 10...Qxb2 11.Rb1 Qc3 12.Bxe4 Qxe3+ 13.fxe3 fxe4 14.Nxe4 and despite his split pawns, White is much better, for example 0-0 (or 14...b6 15.Nf6+ Kf7 16.Nd5 Na6 17.0-0 Kg7 18.Ng5 c6 19.Nf6 h6 20.Nge4 Rf8 21.Nd6 and Black is tied up) 15.0-0 Nc6 16.Nf6+ Kg7 17.Nd5 , picking up the c7-pawn.;

A2) 10...Nxd2 11.Qxd2 Qxd2+ 12.Kxd2 with slightly better chances for White, due to his space and development advantage.;

B) 5...Qe7 and here White can try the novelty 6.Nxe5!? , for example Nxe4 7.Be2 Nxd2 8.Nxd2 0-0 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Nef3 with a better structure for White. The b4-bishop is awkwardly placed and likely has to be traded for the d2-knight.]

5.e5 Ne4

[but the older move 5...Bb4+ may be more solid, although not the kind of dynamic play the Grünfeld player is looking for: 6.Bd2 Qe7 (or 6...Bxd2+ 7.Qxd2 Qe7 8.Be2 Nh5 9.Qxd4 Nc6 10.Qe3 d6 , I.Stohl-D. Navara, Czech League 2002, and now after 11.exd6 Qxe3 12.fxe3 cxd6 13.Nc3 , White is better, as the weakness of the d6-pawn is more important than that of the e3-pawn) 7.Bxb4 Qxb4+ 8.Qd2 Qxd2+ 9.Nbxd2 Nh5 10.Nxd4 Nc6 . In this queenless middlegame White has:

A) 11.Nxc6 dxc6 enters a position with a similar pawn structure to the Berlin endgame, but with some differences – Black has castling rights but does not have the two bishops. Again, not what Black had in mind when he started out to play the Grünfeld with 1...g6. Now 12.0-0-0 Bf5 13.f3 Ng7 14.g4 Be6 (14...Bd7 leaves the e6-square available for the g7-knight) 15.Ne4 h5 L.Polugaevsky-J. Timman, Bugojno 1980, and now 16.h3! makes it harder for Black to equalize according to Timman.;

B) 11.N2f3!? is a new move, but seems to ask Black some questions, as 12 Nb5 is threatened. Black needs to respond with: 11...a6 (11...0-0?! 12.Nb5 Nxe5 13.Nxe5 Re8 14.0-0-0 Rxe5 15.Nxc7 Rb8 16.Nd5 is better for White as Black's d-pawn will be a liability) 12.0-0-0 0-0 13.g3 and now two sample lines are:

B1) 13...Re8 14.Nxc6 dxc6 15.h3 Ng7 (15...Bf5 can be met

the Archives was played in the earlier game Nakamura-Svidler - see the Archives has a bit more spice to it. After 8.Be2 Nc6 9.Qe3 Nxf3+ 10.Bxf3 0-0 11.0-0 Re8 , White can now try 12.Bd5 which is a new move suggested by Volokitin. After d6 13.Ne4 Rxe5 14.Qg3 Nd4 15.Qd3 c6 , Svidler gives a long line which starts 16.Bxf7+ Kxf7 17.Qxd4 Bf5 18.Ng3 Qf6 19.Be3 Kg8 20.Bf4 Re6 21.Qxf6 Rxf6 22.a3 Bc5 23.b4 Bd4 24.Rad1 c5 , when White is the one pressing, but Black should be able to hold.) 8.Bxd2 Nc6 9.Qf4 Bxd2+ 10.Qxd2 Qe7 11.0-0-0 with chances for both sides, as seen in Svidler, P (2751)-Gelfand, B (2753) Jerusalem 2014 1/2-1/2 (39) and Svidler, P (2753)-Carlsen, M (2881) Flor & Fjaere 2014 0-1 (37) b6 was played in a few games with a roughly equal game. 12.Bd3 Bb7 13.Be4 0-0-0 14.Rhe1 f6 15.exf6 Qxf6 16.Qg5 Qg7 17.h4 Rhe8 with balanced chances, P.Svidler-M.Carlsen, Flor & Fjaere (blitz) 2014. (17...--)]

7...f5 The only move, since The only move, since The only move; The only way to defend the knight properly.

[since 7...Nc5 is answered by 8.Bg5 while while ;]

[while 7...d5 isn't possible because of 8.cxd5 .]

8.exf6 Because Black's last move was forced, White can now open up the position around Black's king. The dark squares are weak with Black's bishop absent on b4. Because Black's last move was forced, White can now open up the position around Black's king. The dark squares are weak with Black's bishop absent on b4. Because Black's last move

was forced, White can now open up the position around Black's king. The dark squares are weak with Black's bishop absent on the b4-square. **8...Nxf6 9.Qh4** The only other game to reach this position continued The novelty.

[The only other game to reach this position continued 9.Bh6 was played in Nabaty-Fier 2015, but Black has the strong reply Qe7?! (9...Nc6! is better ! 10.Qf4 d5 ! 11.Bg7 Rf8 ! 12.Bxf8 Kxf8 with more than compensation for the exchange.) 10.Bd3 Nc6 11.Qh4 d5 12.a3 Ng4 13.Bg5 Qd6 and now Black would be in big trouble after Black would be in big trouble after 14.axb4 , for example (14.Kc1 Bc5 15.Re1+ 1/2-1/2 was agreed drawn here in Nabaty, T (2590)-Fier, A (2601) Skopje 2015, although White can still play for a win after 1/2-1/2 was agreed drawn here in Nabaty, T (2590)-Fier, A (2601) Skopje 2015, although White can still play for a win after was agreed drawn here in T. Nabaty-A.Fier, Skopje 2015, although White can still play for a win after Kf7 16.Re2 etc.) 14...dxc4 15.Re1+ Kf7 16.Kc1 cxd3 17.h3 and White has a winning position and White has a winning position and White has a winning position]

[9.Bg5 is also a decent try but Black has some ways to play. The easiest is Be7 10.Nc3 Nc6 11.Qh4 (11.Qd2 d6 ∞) 11...d5]

9...d5 Played after 26 minutes thought. Opening up the d-file leading to the White king is a hard move to resist, although the engine prefers piece development with Played after 26 minutes thought. Opening up the d-file

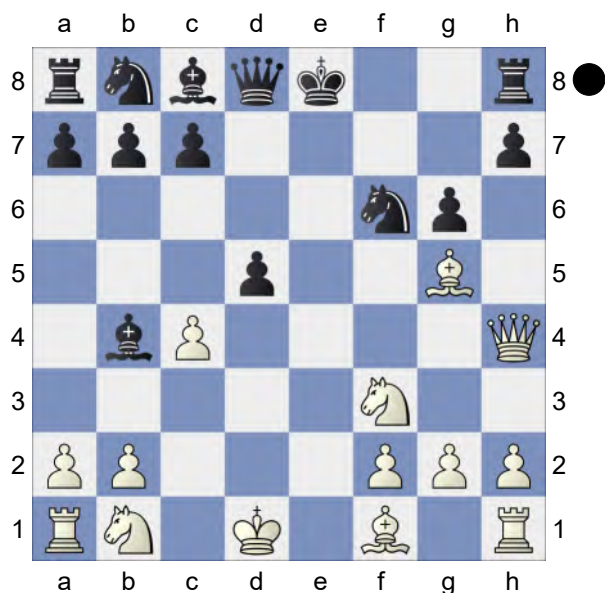
leading to the White king is a hard move to resist, although the engine prefers piece development with Opening up the d-file leading to the White king is a hard move to resist. !? The most forcing move.

An alternative is

[The alternatives are: 9...Nc6 10.Bg5 0-0 ∞ 11.Kc2 d6 12.Bd3 Bc5 13.a3 is slightly better for White according to Timman.]

[9...0-0 10.c5 , playing to trap the b4-bishop. After Nc6 11.a3 Bxc5 12.Qc4+ d5 13.Qxc5 Ne4 Black has play for the piece.]

10.Bg5

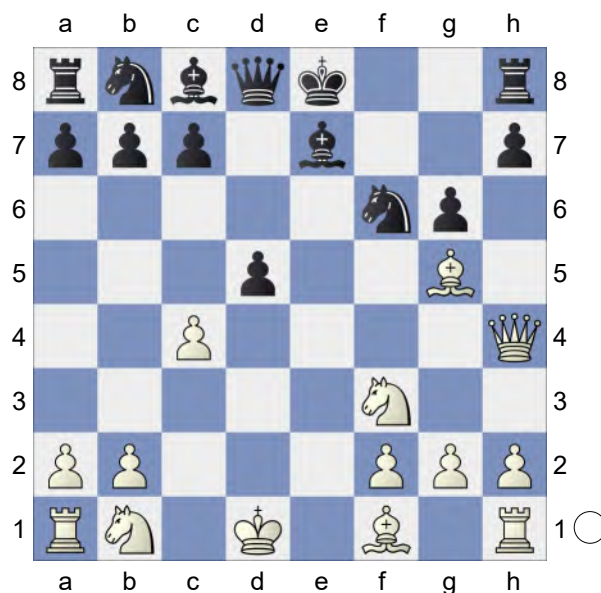


Be7

[A key alternative is castling. After 10...0-0 ! 11.Kc1 (the provocative 11.cxd5!? is also possible Bg4 ! 12.Kc1 Qd6 ! 13.Bxf6 Bxf3 14.Bc3 Rf4 ! 15.Qh6 Bxc3 16.Nxc3 Bg4 17.f3 Bd7 with an unclear game.) 11...d4 12.Nxd4

A) 12...Bc5 13.Nf3 (13.Nc2 runs into a nice tactic: Bxf2 ! 14.Qxf2 Ne4 15.Bxd8 Nxf2 ♞) 13...Nc6 14.Nc3 Bf5 with enough compensations for the pawn.;

B) 12...c5 13.Nc2 Nc6 14.f3 with chances for both sides.]



? This is a clear mistake, but over the board it is not easy to calculate the correct solution properly. **11.cxd5** ! **11...Nxd5?!** It is hard to believe this move can be bad, but it turns out that there are no decent discovered checks with Black's knight! Instead It is hard to believe this move can be bad, but it turns out that there are no decent discovered checks with Black's knight! Instead It is hard to believe this move can be bad, but it turns out that there are no decent discovered checks with Black's knight!

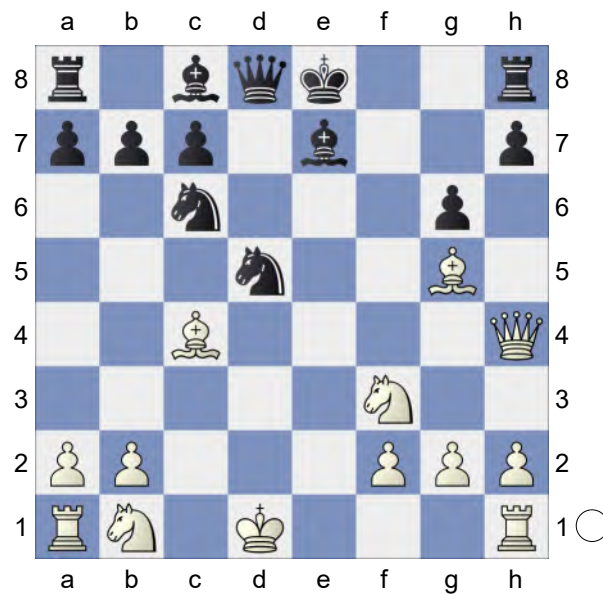
[11...c6!? is unclear, while on the other hand 12.Nc3 Bg4 13.Kc2 Bf5+ 14.Bd3 Bxd3+ 15.Kxd3 and now: 0-0 (15...Nxd5 16.Bxe7 Nxe7+ 17.Kc2 followed by bringing the rooks to the centre and White has a crushing position, since Black's king is now much more exposed than its counterpart) 16.Kc2 cxd5 17.Rad1 and with his king within reach of safety, White is better.]

[Instead: 11...Qxd5+ 12.Nbd2 followed by 13 Bc4 favours White followed by 13 Bc4 favours White followed by 13 Bc4 favours White.]

12.Bc4! Potkin was probably still in his prep at this stage, though after this move he started to consume large amounts of time. There are so many possibilities for both sides that even with computer help it is difficult to predict the course of the game. Clearly there is a lot to explore here and I'm sure we will see more of 7 Kd1. Potkin was probably still in his prep at this stage, though after this move he started to consume large amounts of time. There are so many possibilities for both sides that even with computer help it is difficult to predict the course of the game. Clearly there is a lot to explore here and I'm sure we will see more of 7 Kd1. Potkin was no doubt still in his preparation at this stage. ! Wei Yi probably missed this move as it is strange that Black doesn't have a good discovery check. **12...Nc6** Wei Yi took 32 minutes to convince himself that there was nothing better. All the discovered checks are fruitless, for example The best try and the position is still defendable.

[Amazingly, it turns out that all the discovered checks are fruitless, for example 12...Ne3+ simply loses to 13.Kc1 Nxc4 14.Re1 winning winning winning. +□-]

(Diagram)



13.Bxd5? After an hour's thought, Potkin falters. After an hour's thought, Potkin falters. Potkin falters, This is an odd move, inviting Black's queen into the centre of the board. ? A strange mistake. I don't really understand what prevented White from playing the easy

[13.Nbd2 Developing a piece, closing the d-file and preparing to bring the rooks to the centre, gives White a clear advantage. One sample line is Developing a piece, closing the d-file and preparing to bring the rooks to the centre, gives White a clear advantage. One sample line is , developing a piece, closing the d-file and preparing to bring the rooks to the centre, gives White a clear advantage. One sample line is ! developing a piece and protecting the king.

A) 13...Be6 14.Re1 A very logical move and with the help of easy calculation White wins big material. Qd7 (14...Qd6 15.Bxe7 Ncxe7 16.Nd4 Bf7 17.Bxd5 Bxd5 18.Nb5 +□-) 15.Bxe7 Ncxe7 16.Bxd5 Bxd5 17.Ne5 Qd6 18.Nxg6

! +□-;

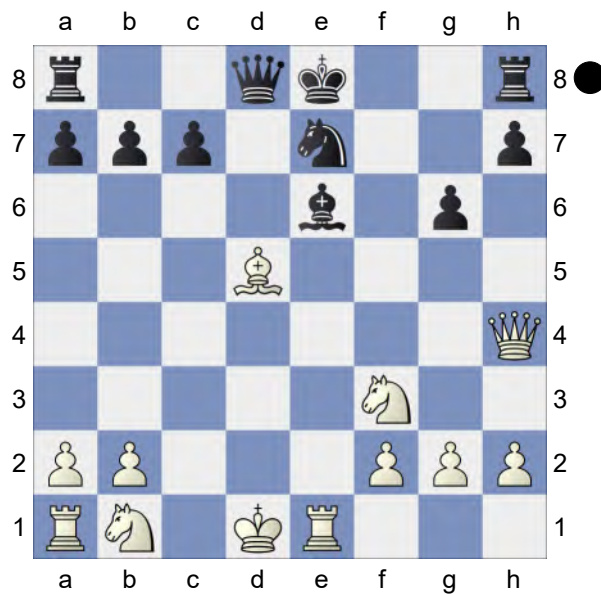
B) 13...Bxg5 The only move. In the best line White gets a very nice ending: 14.Nxg5 h6 15.Bxd5 Qxd5 16.Re1+ Ne7 17.Ngf3 g5 18.Qb4 Qd6 19.Qxd6 cxd6 20.Rc1 with much more active pieces for White with much more active pieces for White with much more active pieces for White. ±]

13...Be6? the simple recapture was better, for example the simple recapture was better, for example Another hard move to understand, since the simple recapture was good; ?! A natural move but Black could have gotten the advantage with the following beautiful idea:

[for example, 13...Qxd5+ 14.Nbd2 (14.Kc1 gives an easy plus: Qc5+ ! 15.Nc3 0-0 ♞) 14...Bxg5 15.Qxg5 (15.Nxg5 Bf5 ! 16.Re1+ Kd7 ! ♞ Black can easily transfer his a-rook and put his king on the safe c8 square while it is more complicated for White's king to find a good place.) 15...Qxg5 16.Nxg5 0-0 and only Black can be better here and only Black can be better here and only Black can be better here.]

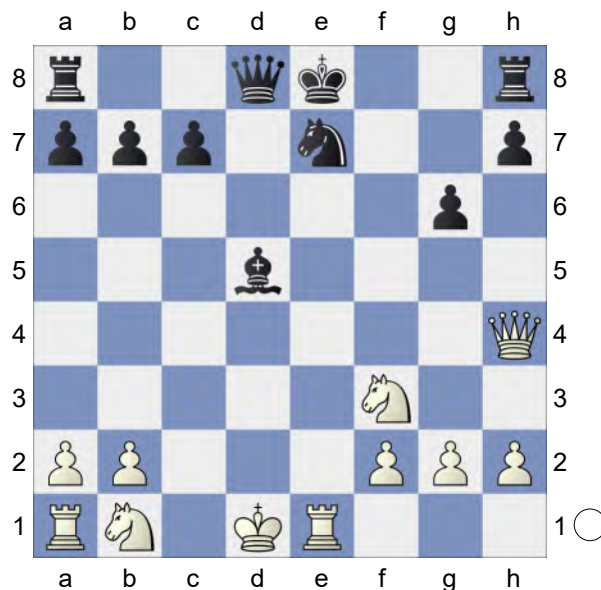
14.Bxe7 Nxe7 15.Re1 Now White is back on track. !

(Diagram)



15...Bxd5?

[15...Qxd5+ was again better was again better was again better. ! 16.Nbd2 Rf8 17.Rc1 Rxf3 ! This great idea is the only way to equalize. 18.gxf3 0-0-0 ♞ with a crazy position.]



Strangely it becomes tough for Black, but there was still an amazing idea to get an unbalanced position: **16.Kc2 Qd7**

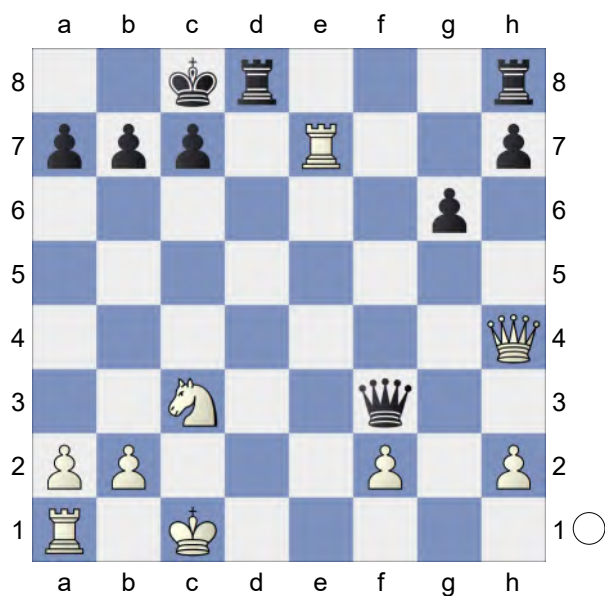
[16...Bxf3 17.gxf3 Kf7 ± was the last

chance. 18.Qc4+ Kg7 19.Nc3 is better for White as his king is now safer than Black's is better for White as his king is now safer than Black's is better for White as his king is now safer than Black's.]

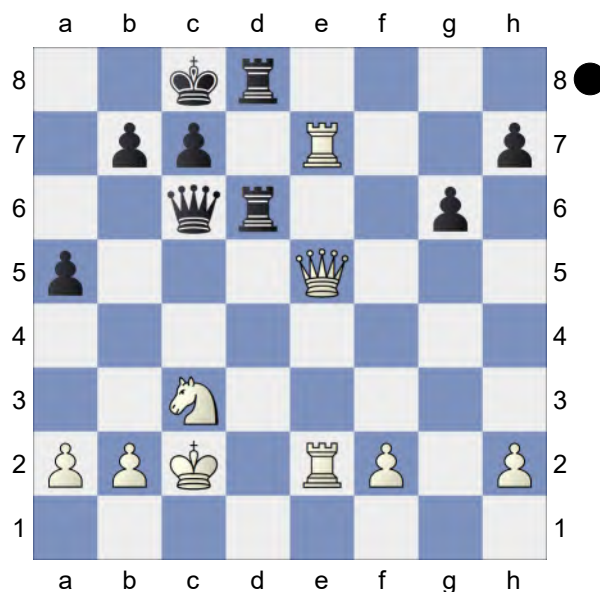
17.Nc3 Qf5+? After

[After 17...Bxf3 18.gxf3 Qf5+ is nicely refuted by 19.Re4 White is better but what Black played is even worse White is better but what Black played is even worse White is better but what Black played is even worse. (19.Kb3 !? Qf7+ 20.Ka3 ! and the pin along the e-file is deadly.)]

18.Kc1 White wins a piece now due to the pin on the e7-knight. Black's counterplay is quickly extinguished. White wins a piece now due to the pin on the e7-knight. Black's counterplay is quickly extinguished. White wins a piece now due to the pin on the e7-knight. Black's counterplay is quickly extinguished. +□- White wins the piece and smoothly regroups to enjoy his extra piece. 18...0-0-0 19.Rxe7 Bxf3 20.gxf3 Qxf3



21.Qg3! The mate threat on c7 stops the counterplay. Black has no compensation for the piece. The mate threat on c7 stops the counterplay. Black has no compensation for the piece. The mate threat on c7 stops the counterplay. Black has no compensation for the piece. 21...Qc6 22.Kc2 Rd6 23.Rae1 Rhd8 24.R1e2 a5 25.Qe5



1-0

361 **A20**
 □ **Anton Guijarro, David** **2674**
 ■ **Wei, Yi** **2721**
 FIDE World Cup 2019 (2.2) 14.09.2019
[David Cummings]

1.c4 e5 2.g3 Nc6 This was the second classical game in a two game knock-out match, and was a must win for Wei Yi, after he had lost the first game with White. He does his best to mix things up right in the opening by calling upon Harry the h-pawn! The specific line he chose is new to this site, although we have looked at similar ideas such as:

[2...h5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nd5 a5 5.a3 Bc5 6.e3 - see Bruzon Batista-Rakhmanov in the Archives]

3.Bg2 h5!? This has been tried a few times by Nepomniachtchi (in rapid and blitz games), albeit with a different follow up on the 4th move. **4.h3** This is fine for White, of course, but I always feel that reacting with such a move slightly justifies Black's early h-pawn thrust. Instead:

[4.d3 h4 5.g4 isn't a great answer. After h3 6.Be4 Nf6 7.Bg5 Be7 8.Bxf6 which was played in Ivanchuk, V (2757) -Nepomniachtchi, I (2766) Leuven (Rapid) 2017 1-0 (74), the simple Bxf6 leaves Black already slightly better due to his control of the dark squares.]

[4.Nf3! is sharper and looks good. Now:

A) 4...e4 5.Nh4 g5 (5...Be7 can be met by 6.Nf5) 6.Nf5 d5 7.cxd5 Qxd5 8.Ne3 Qe5 9.Nc3 f5 Queiroz da Costa, A (1562) -Pereira, G (2006) Florianopolis 2018 0-1 (41) leaves Black way over-

extended. After 10.d3! his edifice will soon collapse;

B) 4...h4 5.Nxh4 Rxh4 6.gxh4 Qxh4 7.d3 Bc5 8.e3 doesn't give Black enough for the exchange, Bartel, M (2629) -Maier, C (2354) Basel 2013 1/2-1/2 (28), although Black did end up drawing somehow.]

4...d6 Instead, Nepo's practice has seen him score a lot of wins in blitz from questionable but double edged opening positions:

[4...Bc5 5.Nc3 d6 and now:

A) 6.e3 Be6 7.b3 Nge7 8.Nge2 d5 9.d4 exd4 10.exd4 Bb4 11.0-0

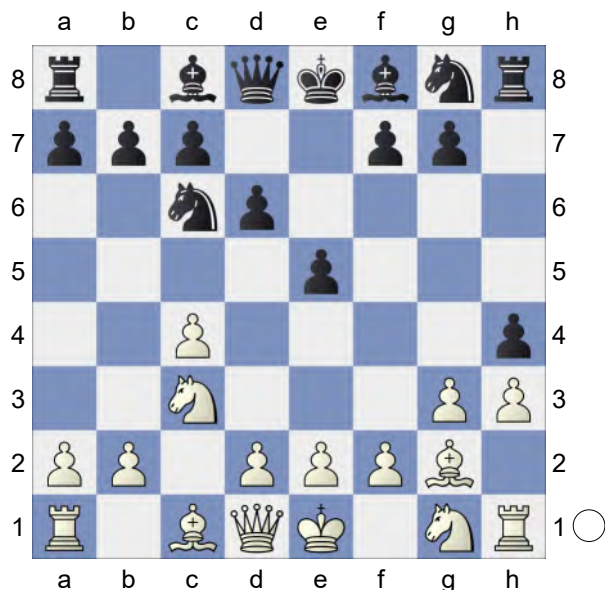
A1) 11...Qd7 12.cxd5 (12.Kh2 is called for) 12...Nxd5 13.Nxd5 Bxd5 14.Bxd5 Qxd5 15.Nf4 Qf5 16.d5 Ne5 and Black took over the initiative in Le, Q (2714) -Nepomniachtchi, I (2763) St Petersburg (blitz) 2018 0-1 (57);

A2) 11...Bxc3 12.Nxc3 Qd7 13.cxd5 Nxd5 was Ding, L (2805) -Nepomniachtchi, I (2773) Abidjan (blitz) 2019 0-1 (42), and here 14.Ne4 followed by Ne4-c5 is better for White;

B) 6.d3 Nge7 7.Nf3 a6 8.a3 f6 9.b4 (9.e3 followed by d3-d4 leaves White with more space and a better pawn structure) 9...Ba7 10.e3 Be6 11.Bb2 Qd7 12.Qc2 d5 and Black had again achieved good counterplay, and won in Svidler, P (2729) -Nepomniachtchi, I (2774) Amsterdam (blitz) 2019 0-1 (65)]

5.Nc3 h4

(Diagram)



6.g4 f5 7.gxf5 Bxf5 8.d3 Nf6

At this point, Black was probably happy to have achieved an unbalanced fighting position, even if objectively White should be able to claim an edge. An earlier game saw:

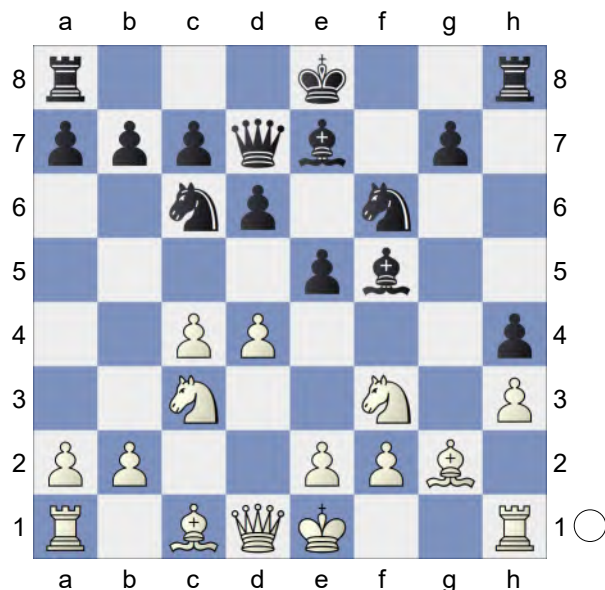
[8...Qd7 9.e4 Be6 10.Nge2 (10.Nf3 is more active and leaves White slightly for choice) 10...g6 11.Be3 Bg7 12.Qd2 Moor,R (2392)-Degtiarev, E (2425) Switzerland 2015 1-0 (38), and now 0-0-0 takes Black's king to safety, with at least a balanced position]

9.Nf3 Be7 10.d4 White goes for a queen trade, perhaps in an attempt to clarify the situation, although in fact the queenless middlegame is far from clear.

[10.Qb3 puts the question to the b7-pawn, so that after Rb8 Black's king doesn't have an obvious safe haven. Now 11.Be3 looks pleasant and fairly low risk for White]

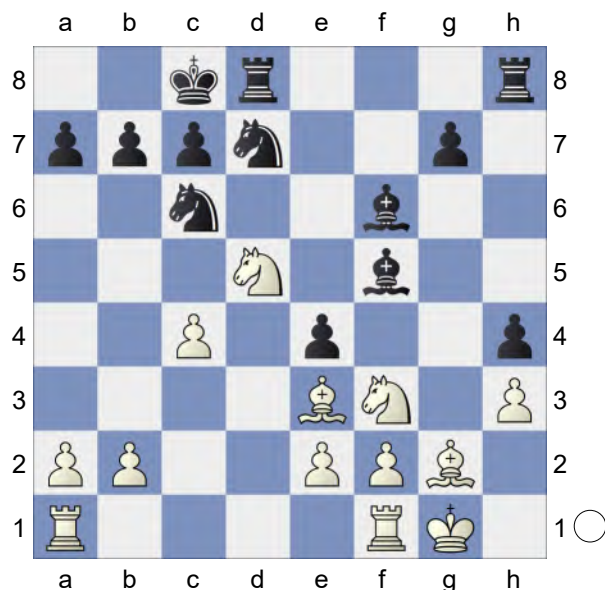
10...Qd7

(Diagram)



11.dxe5 dxe5 12.Qxd7+ Nxd7 13.0-0

0-0-0 14.Nd5 Bf6 Black has completed development, while it is not so easy for White to do the same. **15.Be3 e4**

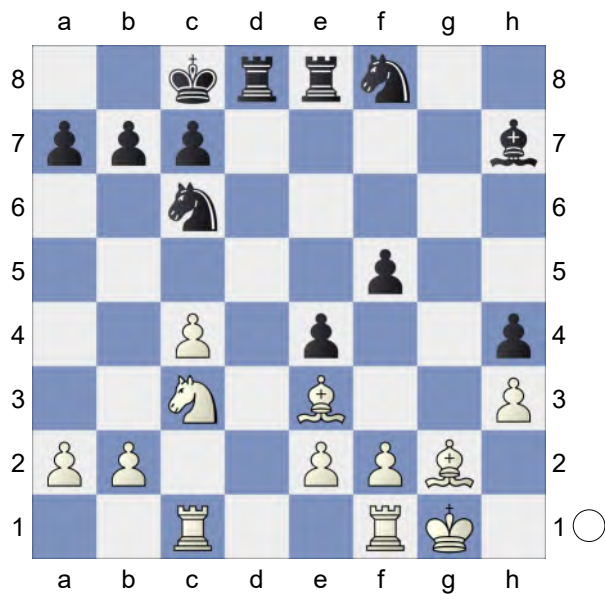


16.Nd2 Rhe8 Black should probably grab the b-pawn with:

[16...Bxb2 17.Rab1 Ba3 and if now 18.Nxe4 Nde5 targeting the weak c4-pawn leaves Black better]

17.Nxf6 gxf6 18.Rac1 Nf8 19.Nb1 Bh7 20.Nc3 f5

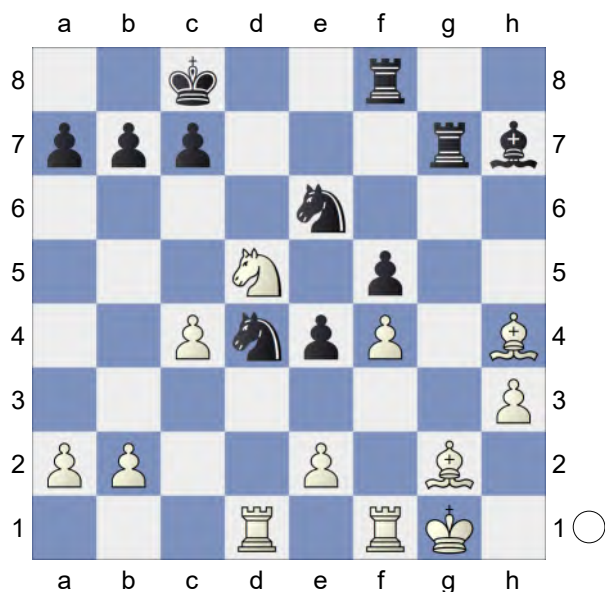
(Diagram)



21.Nd5± Ne6 22.Rcd1 Rf8 23.f4 Rd7
 Black invites White to pick up the h4-pawn - a double edged decision. After:

[23...Bg6 24.Bf2 Rh8 the chances are roughly even]

24.Bf2 Rg7 25.Bxh4 Ncd4

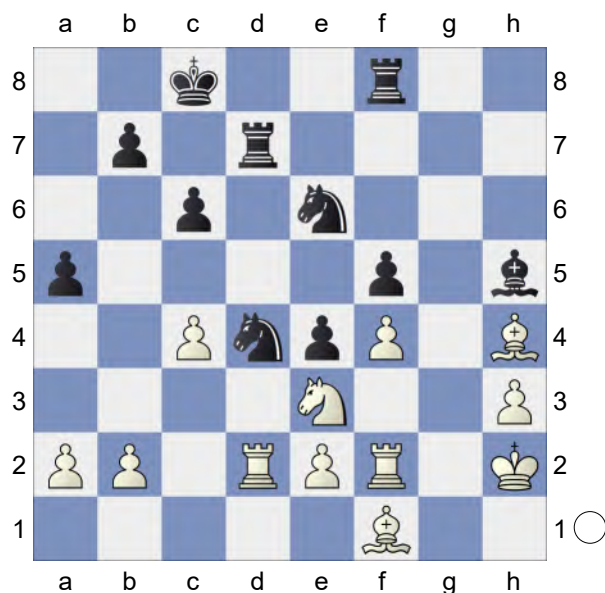


26.Rd2 c6 27.Ne3 White could leave the knight where it stood and get off the g-file pin with:

[27.Kh1! since cxd5 28.cxd5 Rfg8 29.dxe6 Nxe6 30.Rc1+ Kb8 31.e3 gives White a huge advantage. He has an extra pawn and Black's minor

pieces are stymied.]

27...Bg6 28.Kh2 Bh5 29.Rf2 Rd7 30.Bf1 a5



31.Ng2 a4 32.Kh1?! A strange move, wasting a tempo and leaving the h3-pawn loose.

[32.Bg5 was called for]

32...Rh7 33.Bg5 Now:

[33.Kh2 "back" is more solid]

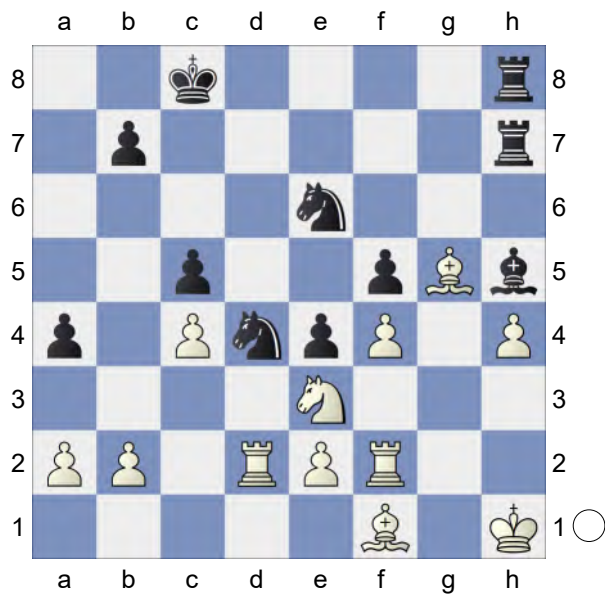
33...c5 Instead:

[33...Nxc5 34.fxc5 Ne6 35.Rd6 Nxc5 leaves Black well on top. White is passive and his kingside is weak.]

34.h4 Re8 35.Ne3 Reh8?!

[35...Nxc5 maintains the advantage]

(Diagram)



36.Rh2 Missing a chance to turn the tables with:

[36.Bf6 Rg8 37.Bh3 and suddenly White is pressing on Black's weak pawns.]

36...Nxg5 37.fxg5? The wrong recapture. Instead:

[37.hxg5! is OK tactically, for example Bf3+ 38.exf3 Nxf3 39.Rxh7 Rxh7+ 40.Kg2 Rh2+ 41.Kg3 Rxd2 42.Bh3 and White has enough compensation for the exchange]

37...f4 Now Black crashes through

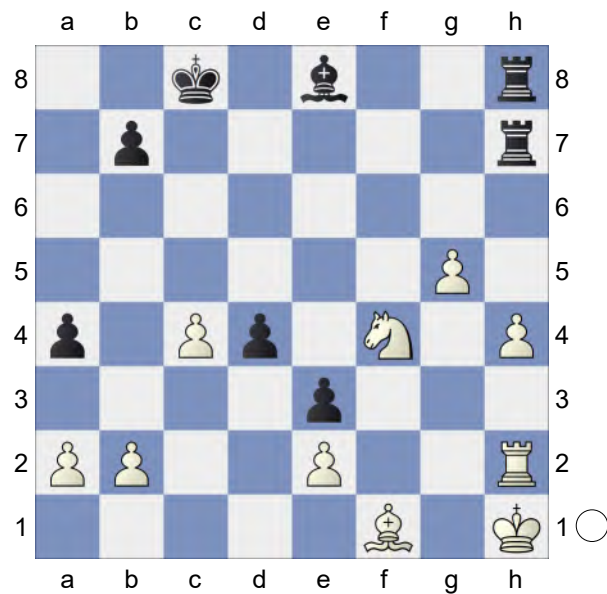
38.Nd5 e3 39.Rxd4 Or:

[39.Rd3 Bg6 followed by ...Rh7xh4]

[39.Rd1 f3 and Black wins]

39...cxd4 40.Nxf4 Be8

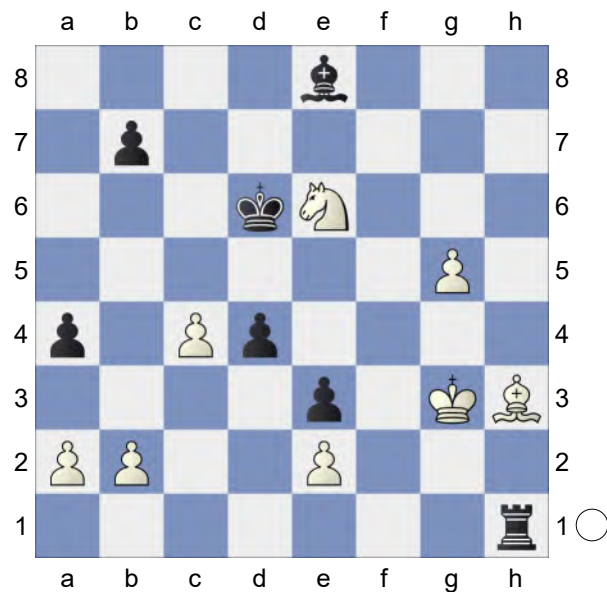
(Diagram)



41.Kg2 Rxh4 42.Rxh4 Rxh4

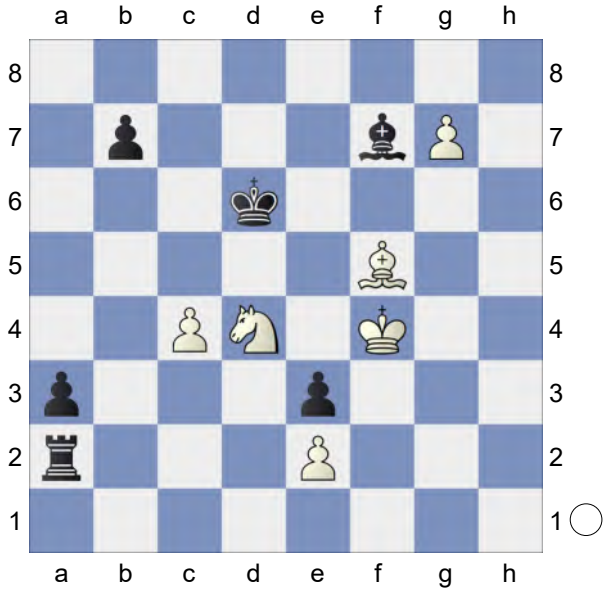
Here White doesn't have enough for the exchange. Black manages to contain the passed g-pawn and wraps up the win. **43.Kg3 Rh1 44.Bh3+ Kc7**

45.Ne6+ Kd6

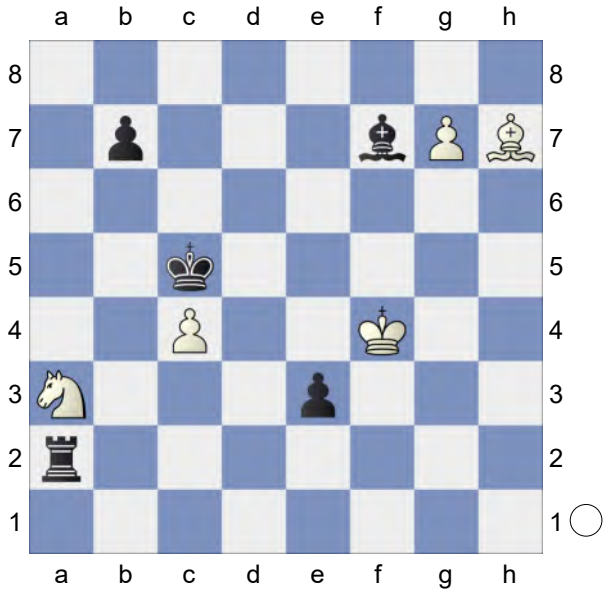


46.Nxd4 Rb1 47.Kf4 Rxb2 48.Bf5 Rxa2 49.g6 a3 50.g7 Bf7

(Diagram)



**51.Bh7 Rxe2 52.Nb5+ Kc5 53.Nxa3
Ra2**



0-1

362

□ Anton Guijarro, David

■ Wei, Yi

FIDE World Cup 2019 (2.2) 14.09.2019

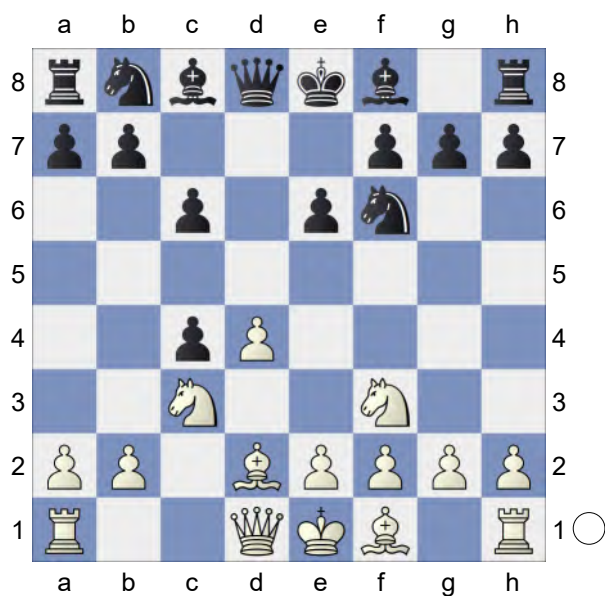
[David Cummings]

D43

2674

2721

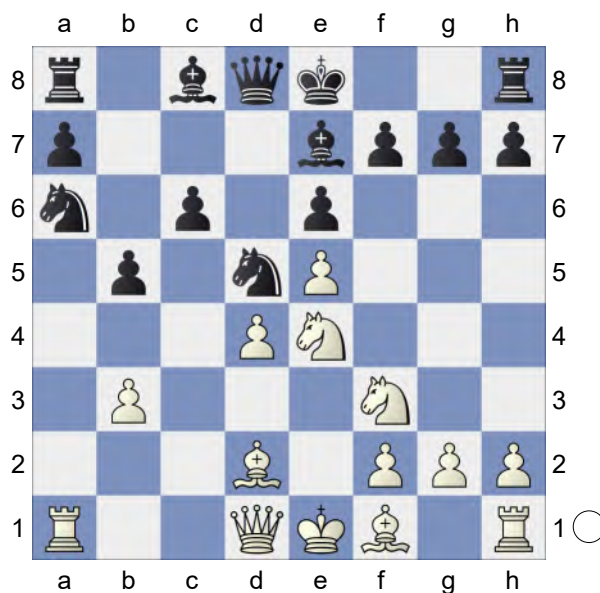
1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 This was the second classical game in a two game knock-out match, and was a must win for Wei Yi, after he had lost the first game with White. He does his best to mix things up right in the opening by calling upon Harry the h-pawn! The specific line he chose is new to this site, although we have looked at similar ideas such as: **3.Nc3 d5!?** This has been tried a few times by Nepomniachtchi (in rapid and blitz games), albeit with a different follow up on the 4th move. **4.d4** This is fine for White, of course, but I always feel that reacting with such a move slightly justifies Black's early h-pawn thrust. Instead: **4...c6** Instead, Nepo's practice has seen him score a lot of wins in blitz from questionable but double edged opening positions: **5.Bd2 dxc4**

**6.e4 b5 7.e5 Nd5 8.Ne4 Be7**

At this point, Black was probably happy to have achieved an unbalanced fighting position, even if objectively White should be able to claim an edge. An earlier game saw:

[8...Nd7]

9.b3 cxb3 10.axb3 White goes for a queen trade, perhaps in an attempt to clarify the situation, although in fact the queenless middlegame is far from clear.

10...Na6**11.Bd3**

[11.Ba5 Qd7 12.Bd3 c5 13.Rc1]

11...Nab4 12.Bb1 a5 13.Bg5 0-0 14.h4

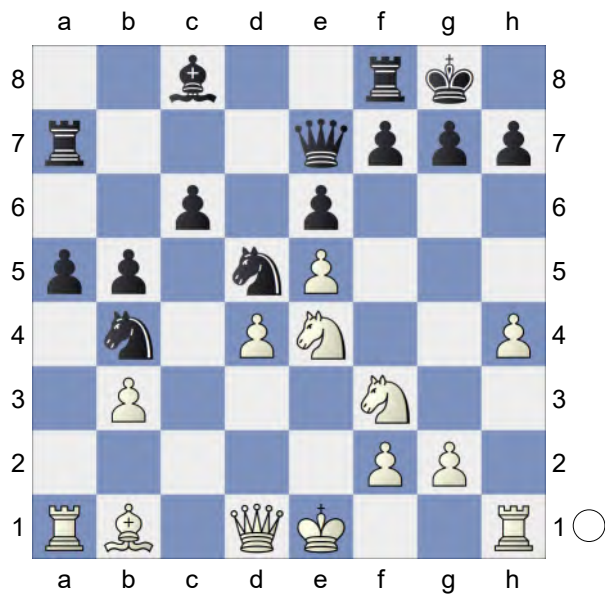
[14.0-0 Bxg5 15.Nexg5 h6 16.Ne4]

14...Ra7 Black has completed development, while it is not so easy for White to do the same.

[14...a4 is more active and leaves White slightly for choice 15.bxa4 bxa4 16.Rxa4 and now: Ba6]

15.Bxe7 Qxe7

(Diagram)

**16.g4**

[16.0-0 takes Black's king to safety, with at least a balanced position]

16...f6 Black should probably grab the b-pawn with:

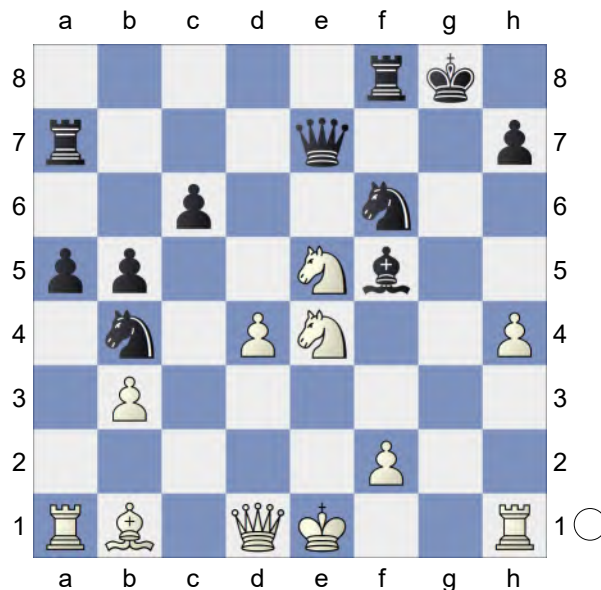
[16...a4 17.bxa4 bxa4 18.Qd2 a3 Moor,R (2392)-Degtiarev,E (2425) Switzerland 2015 1-0 (38), and now]

17.exf6 gxf6

[17...Nxf6 18.Ne5 and suddenly White is pressing on Black's weak pawns. Nxe4 maintains the advantage 19.Bxe4 c5 20.g5 (20.Rc1 Rc7) 20...Qd6 21.0-0 leaves Black well on top. White is passive and his kingside is weak. (21.Bxh7+ was called for Kxh7! since 22.g6+ Kg8 23.Qh5 Nc2+ 24.Kf1 Rf5 25.Qh7+ Kf8 gives White a huge advantage. He has an extra pawn and Black's minor pieces are stymied. 26.Qh8+ Ke7 27.Qxg7+ the chances are roughly even Ke8 28.Qxa7 Qxd4 and if now 29.Qe7+ Kxe7 targeting the weak c4-pawn leaves Black better 30.Nc6+ puts the question to the b7-pawn, so that after Kf6 Black's king doesn't have an obvious safe haven.

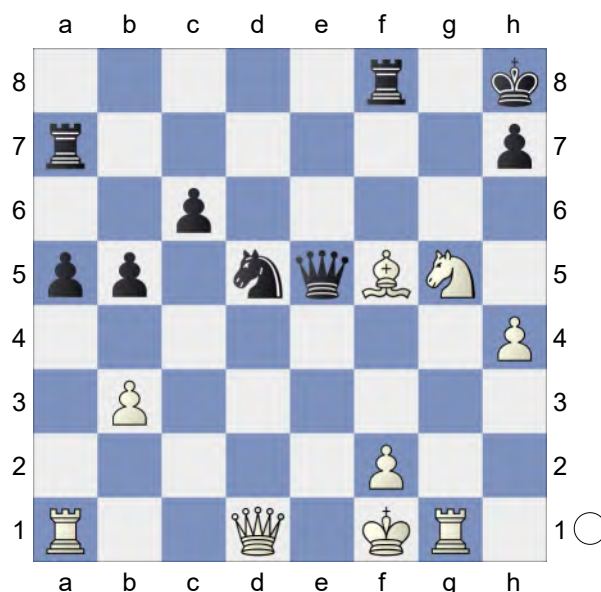
Now 31.Nxd4 looks pleasant and fairly low risk for White cxd4) 21...g6 "back" is more solid]

18.g5 e5 19.gxf6 Nxf6 20.Nxe5 Bf5

**21.Rg1+±**

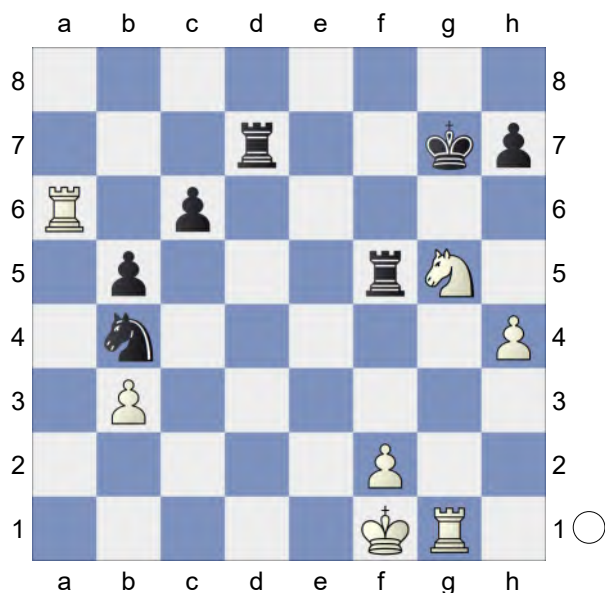
[21.Nc5 Bxb1 22.Rxb1 and White has enough compensation for the exchange Nfd5]

21...Kh8 22.Ng5 Nd7 23.Bxf5 Nxe5 Black invites White to pick up the h4-pawn - a double edged decision. After: **24.dxe5 Qxe5+ 25.Kf1 Nd5**

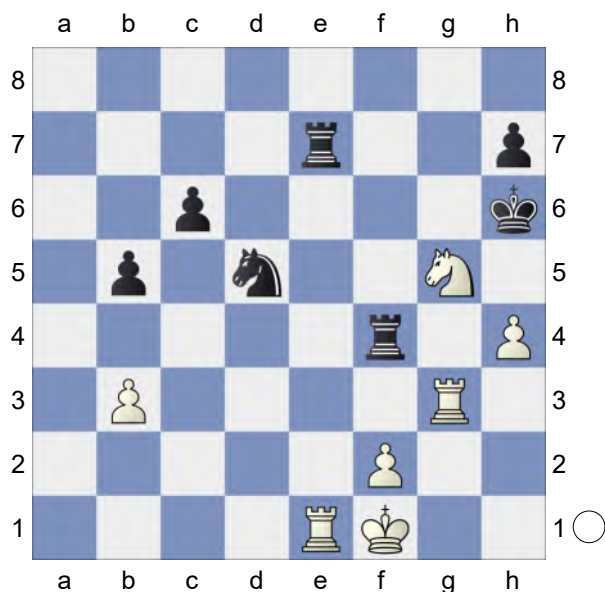


26.Ra2 Rd7 27.Qa1 White could leave

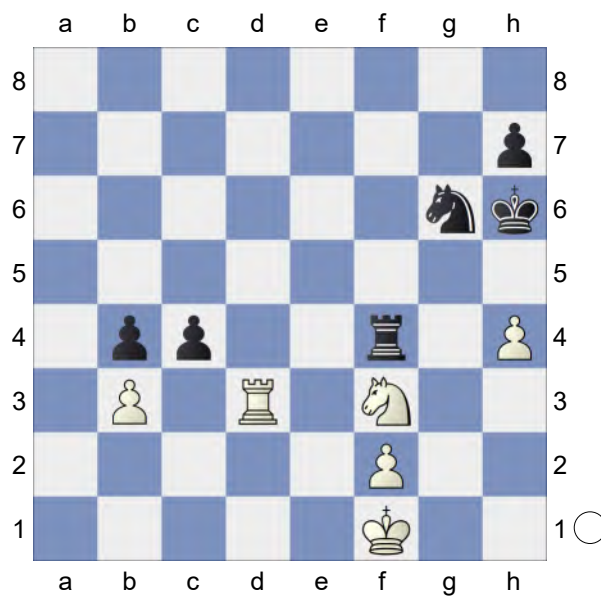
the knight where it stood and get off the g-file pin with: **27...Qxa1+ 28.Rxa1 Rxf5 29.Rxa5 Kg7 30.Ra6 Nb4**



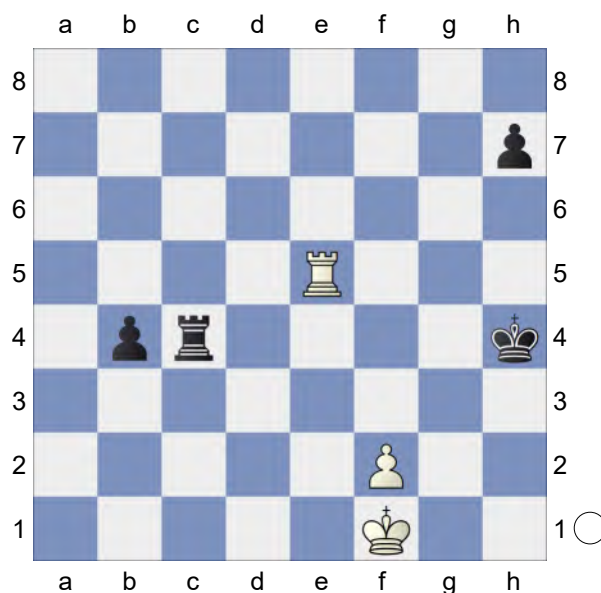
31.Ra1 Kh6 32.Re1?! A strange move, wasting a tempo and leaving the h3-pawn loose. **32...Rf6 33.Rg3** Now: **33...Nd5** Instead: **34.Ne4 Rf4 35.Ng5 Re7?!**



36.Rxe7 Missing a chance to turn the tables with: **36...Nxe7 37.Re3?** The wrong recapture. Instead: **37...Ng6** Now Black crashes through **38.Nf3 c5 39.Rc3** Or: **39...b4 40.Rd3 c4**

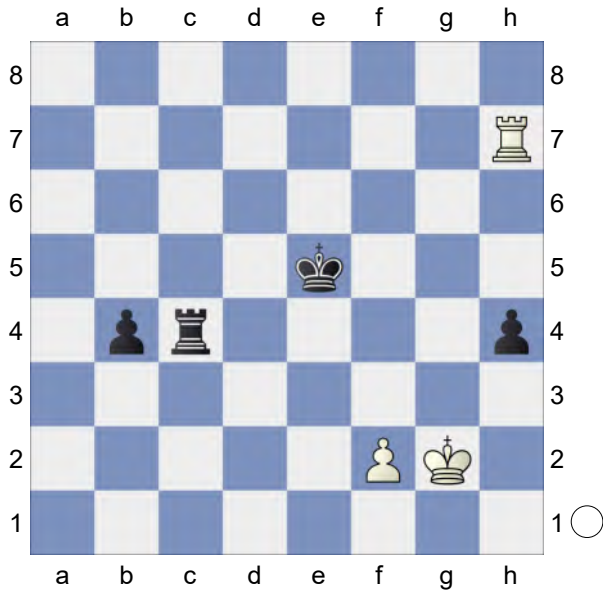


41.bxc4 Rxc4 42.Rd6 Kh5 Here White doesn't have enough for the exchange. Black manages to contain the passed g-pawn and wraps up the win. **43.Rd5+ Kg4 44.Ne5+ Nxe5 45.Rxe5 Kxh4**

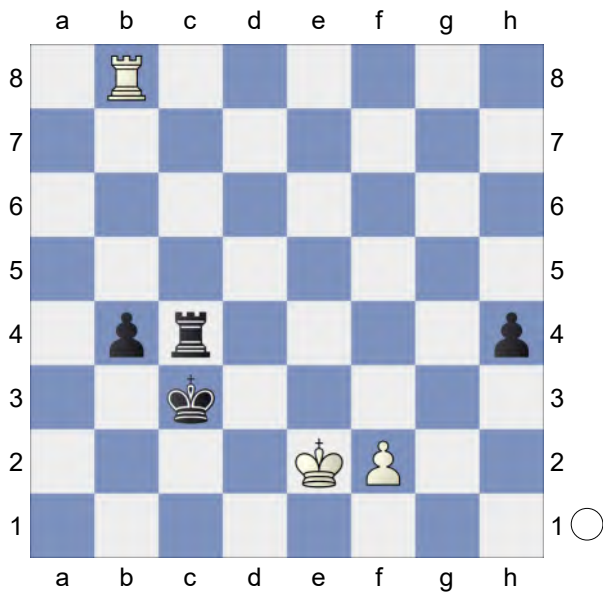
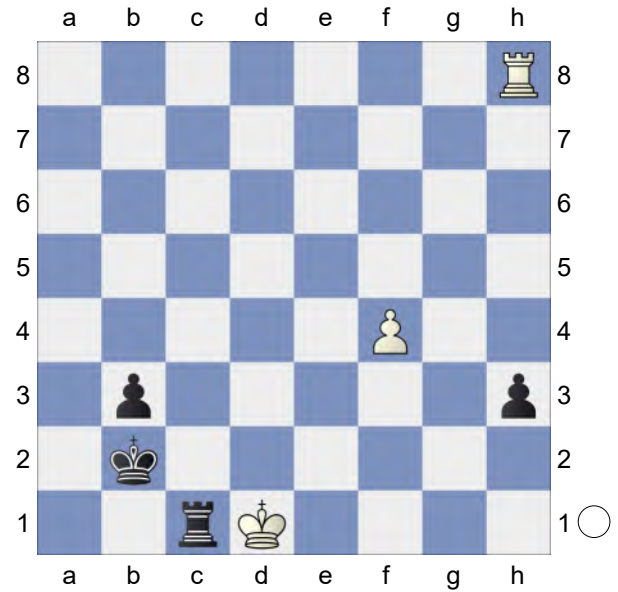


46.Kg2 Kg4 47.Re7 h5 48.Rb7 h4 49.Rg7+ Kf4 50.Rh7 Ke5

(Diagram)



51.Rh5+ Kd6 52.Rb5 Kc6 53.Rb8 Kc5 54.Kf3 Kd4 followed by **...Rh7xh4 55.Ke2 Kc3** **0-1**



and Black wins **56.Kd1!** is OK tactically, for example **56...Kb2 57.Rf8 b3 58.f4 h3 59.Rh8 Rc1+**

(Diagram)

425

A01

□ Antipov, Mikhail AI

2589

■ Wei, Yi

2733

Aeroflot Open (6.4)

24.02.2019

*[David Cummings]***1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.e3 g6**

Black wants to play a King's-Indian style setup. This is an interesting move-order that I last looked at in the September 2018 Update. **4.h4?!** It is hard to be shocked by an early h4-thrust these days! This one has been played several times by (you guessed it) 1 b3 guru Baadur Jobava, albeit it in blitz and rapid games. Antipov bravely ventures it in an important classical game. Instead, the level-headed alternative:

[4.c4 Bg7 5.Nf3 d6 6.d4 is analyzed in Fedoseev-Vitiugov in the Archives.]

4...Nf6 Wei Yi calls White's bluff, going for fast development rather reacting to the h-pawn. There are only about a dozen games in the database featuring 5 h4, and Black's most popular reply has in fact been the alternative:

[4...h5 but if this is indeed Black's best move, it tends to justify 5 h4. Now 5.Nf3 Bg7 6.c4 d6 7.d3 and Black has played:

A) 7...Nf6 8.Nc3 a6 9.Be2 Ne7?! 10.Qc2 (10.d4! would give White a pleasant position) 10...Nf5 11.0-0-0 Ng4 12.Ne4 0-0 13.Nfg5 c6 14.Bxg4 hxc4 15.h5 f6 16.hxc6?! fxc5 when White didn't get enough for the sacrificed piece, Jobava, B (2627)-Svidler, P (2737) St Petersburg 2018 (blitz) 0-1 (30);

B) 7...Nge7 8.Nbd2 a5 9.a3 0-0 10.Qc2 Rb8 11.Be2 is the subject

of Jobava-Dubov in the Archives]

5.Bb5 White's has also essayed the "Harry" move:

[5.h5 and now:

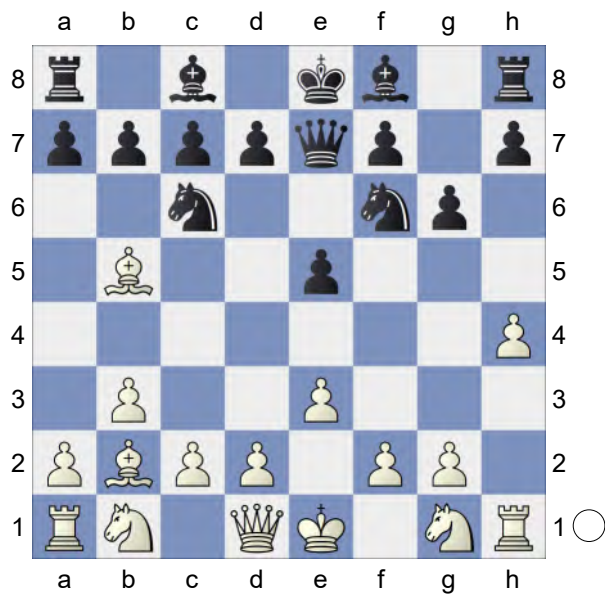
A) 5...Nxe5! is the engine's cold-blooded suggestion. Now 6.Be2 (6.Rxe5 gxe5 7.Qxe5 d6 doesn't appear to give White enough compensation) 6...Nf6 7.Nf3 d6 just looks like a pawn up for Black.;

B) 5...g5?! 6.Bb5 d6 7.d4 Bd7 8.dxe5 (8.Ne2 promises White good play on the light squares) 8...dxe5 9.Nf3 Bb4+ 10.Nbd2 Ne4 11.a3 Bc3 12.Qc1 g4 13.Bd3 gxf3 14.Bxe4 fxg2 15.Bxg2 Bxb2 16.Qxb2 Qe7 17.0-0-0 and White was more active in Artemiev, V (2696)-Dubov, D (2677) Sochi (blitz) 2017 1-0 (29)]

5...Qe7!

[5...d6 6.Ne2 Bg7 7.d4 exd4 8.Nxd4 Bd7 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.Bd3 h5 11.Nc3 0-0 12.Qd2 a5 13.0-0-0 c5 14.f3 a4 and in this opposite-side castling scenario, Black's attack was faster, Jobava, B (2690)-Le, Q (2737) Riyadh (blitz) 2017 0-1 (31)]

(Diagram)

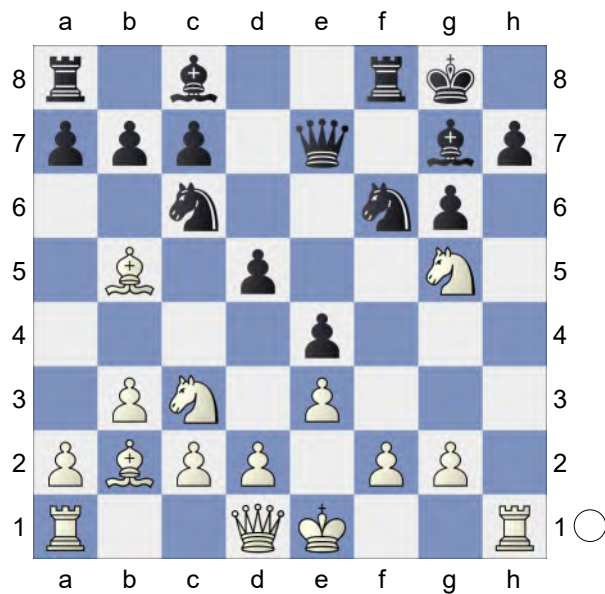


The first new move, deviating from an earlier Jobava game: **6.Nf3?! White's** position already doesn't appear to hang together very well, and he soon ends up clearly worse. Here:

[6.Nc3 just developing, may be a better try. a6 7.Bc4 d6 8.Nd5 Nxd5 9.Bxd5 although White is short of equality.]

6...e4 One of the points of Black's last move is that the e4-pawn is well protected. **7.Ng5 Bg7 8.Nc3 0-0!** Defending against the threat of Nc3xe4, and not fearing ghosts by castling "into it". **9.h5 d5** It is nice to see that the classical principles still (sometimes) apply - meeting White's flank demonstration with strong control of the centre! **10.hxg6 fxg6**

(Diagram)



11.Bxc6 It becomes obvious that White's opening strategy has gone badly wrong. Here:

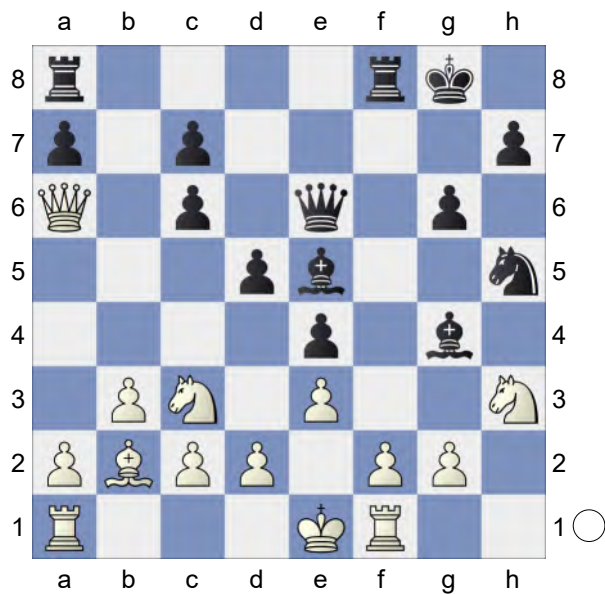
[11.d4 not giving up the light-squared bishop, may be more resilient, although after exd3 12.Bxd3 h6 13.Nf3 Bg4 Black keeps a strong initiative.]

11...bxc6 12.Qe2 Bg4 13.Qa6?! White leaves his king in the centre, trapped by the g4-bishop. Instead:

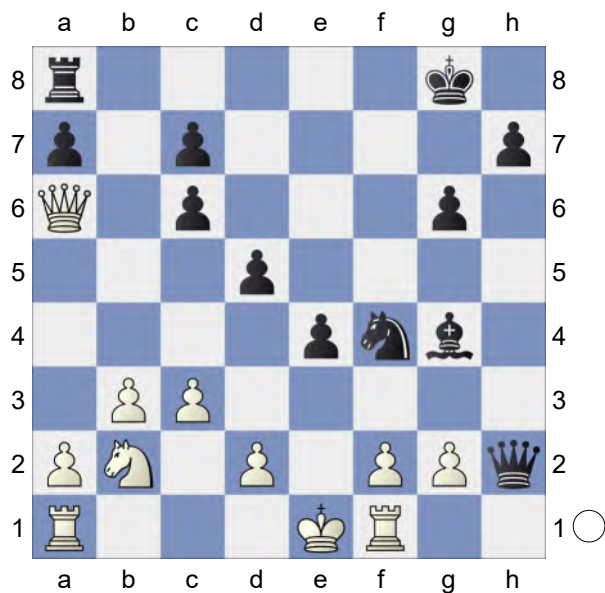
[13.f3 exf3 14.gxf3 Bh5 15.0-0-0 at least gets the king to safety. After h6 16.Nh3 Ne4 Black is still much better.]

13...Nh5 14.Nh3 Qe6 15.Rf1 It is hard to give White any good advice here, and Black has a number of ways to convert this position. Wei Yi's method is very precise and elegant. **15...Be5**

(Diagram)

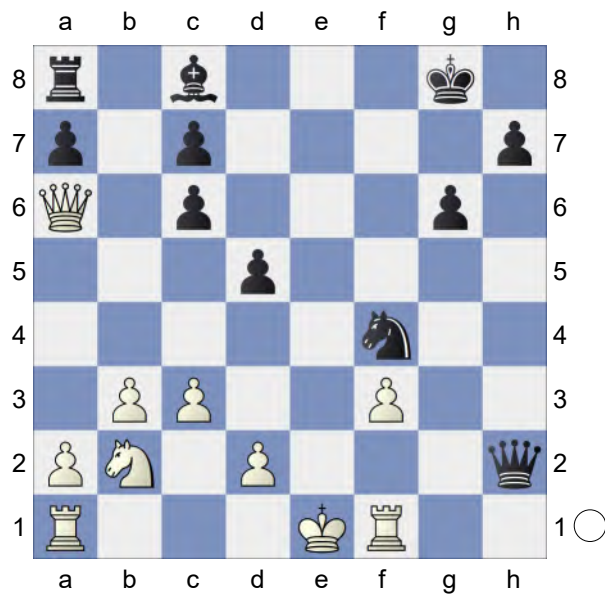


16.Na4 Bxb2 17.Nxb2 Qe5 18.c3 Qh2 White's kingside collapses. **19.Nf4 Rxf4!** Establishing a monster knight on the f4-square. **20.exf4 Nxf4**



21.f3 exf3 22.gxf3 Bc8!

(Diagram)



A nice finishing touch. White's queen has no squares that prevent mate on the e2-square.

0-1

427

□ Antipov, Mikhail AI

■ Wei, Yi

Aeroflot Open (6.4)

[David Cummings]

B40

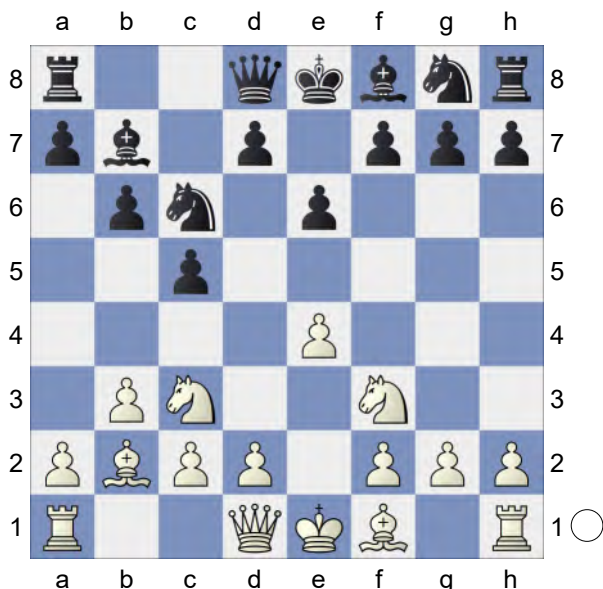
2589

2733

24.02.2019

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.b3 b6 Black wants to play a King's-Indian style setup. This is an interesting move-order that I last looked at in the September 2018 Update.

4.Bb2?! It is hard to be shocked by an early h4-thrust these days! This one has been played several times by (you guessed it) 1 b3 guru Baadur Jobava, albeit it in blitz and rapid games. Antipov bravely ventures it in an important classical game. Instead, the level-headed alternative: 4...Bb7 Wei Yi calls White's bluff, going for fast development rather reacting to the h-pawn. There are only about a dozen games in the database featuring 5 h4, and Black's most popular reply has in fact been the alternative: 5.Nc3 White's has also essayed the "Harry" move: 5...Nc6!



The first new move, deviating from an

earlier Jobava game: 6.d4?!

White's position already doesn't appear to hang together very well, and he soon ends up clearly worse. Here: 6...cxd4 One of the points of Black's last move is that the e4-pawn is well protected.

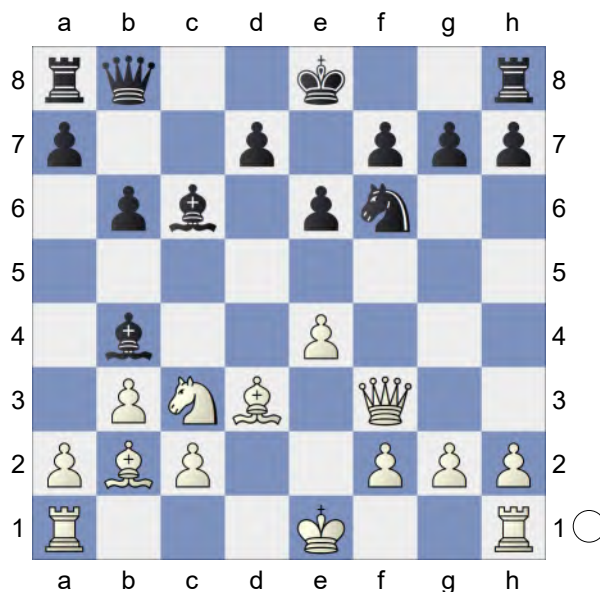
7.Nxd4 Nf6 8.Nxc6 Bxc6! Defending against the threat of Nc3xe4, and not fearing ghosts by castling "into it". 9.Bd3 Bb4

It is nice to see that the classical principles still (sometimes) apply - meeting White's flank demonstration with strong control of the centre! 10.Qf3

[10.0-0]

10...Qb8

[10...Qc7?! 11.0-0-0 Rc8 12.Ne2]

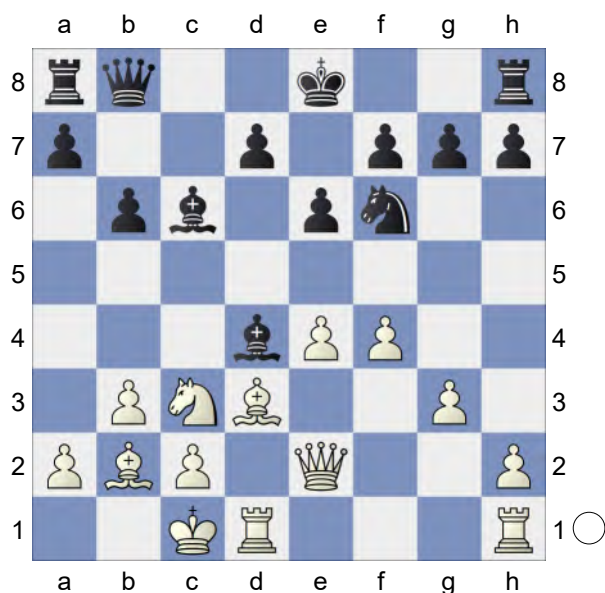


11.0-0-0 It becomes obvious that White's opening strategy has gone badly wrong. Here: 11...Bd6

[11...Qe5 12.Ne2 Qc5 (12...Qg5+ 13.Kb1 Qg4 14.Qe3 Bc5 and in this opposite-side castling scenario, Black's attack was faster, Jobava, B (2690)-Le, Q (2737) Riadh (blitz) 2017 0-1 (31) 15.Bd4 and now:) 13.Kb1 Ba3 14.Ba1 a5]

12.g3 Be5 13.Qe3?! White leaves his

king in the centre, trapped by the g4-bishop. Instead: **13...Ng4 14.Qe2 Nf6 15.f4** It is hard to give White any good advice here, and Black has a number of ways to convert this position. Wei Yi's method is very precise and elegant. **15...Bd4**



16.Kb1 0-0 17.e5 Bxc3

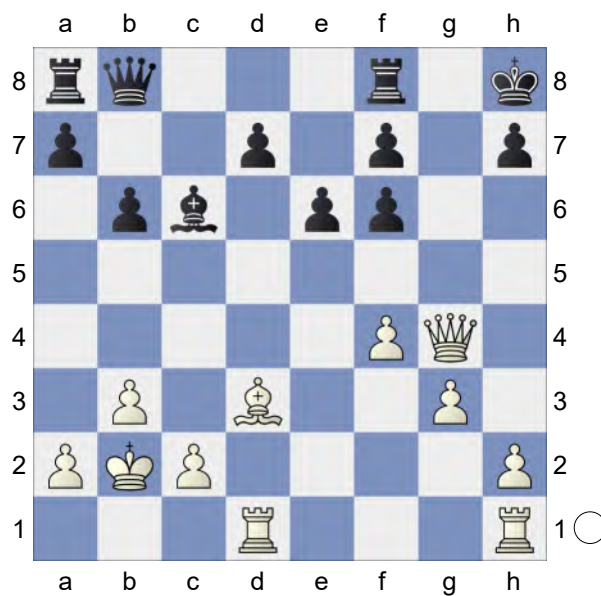
[17...Bxh1 although White is short of equality. 18.exf6 Bc6 19.Bxh7+ Kxh7 20.Qh5+ Kg8 21.Nd5]

18.exf6 Bxb2 White's kingside collapses. **19.Kxb2 gxf6!** Establishing a monster knight on the f4-square.

[19...g6 20.Rhf1]

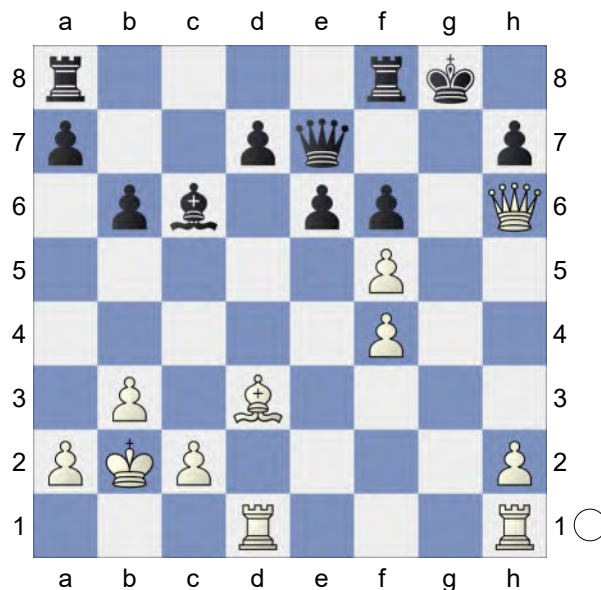
20.Qg4+ Kh8

(Diagram)



21.Qh4 f5 22.Qf6+ Kg8!

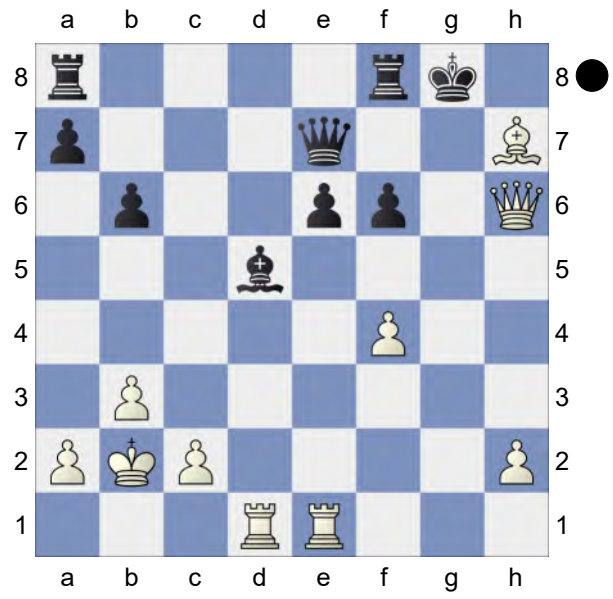
A nice finishing touch. White's queen has no squares that prevent mate on the e2-square. **23.g4 Qd8 24.Qh6 f6 25.gxf5** at least gets the king to safety. After **25...Qe7**



26.Rhe1 Bd5 Black is still much better. **27.fxe6** not giving up the light-squared bishop, may be more resilient, although after **27...dxe6 28.Bxh7+**

[28.Bxh7+ Qxh7 29.Rg1+ Black keeps a strong initiative. Kh8 just developing, may be a better try.

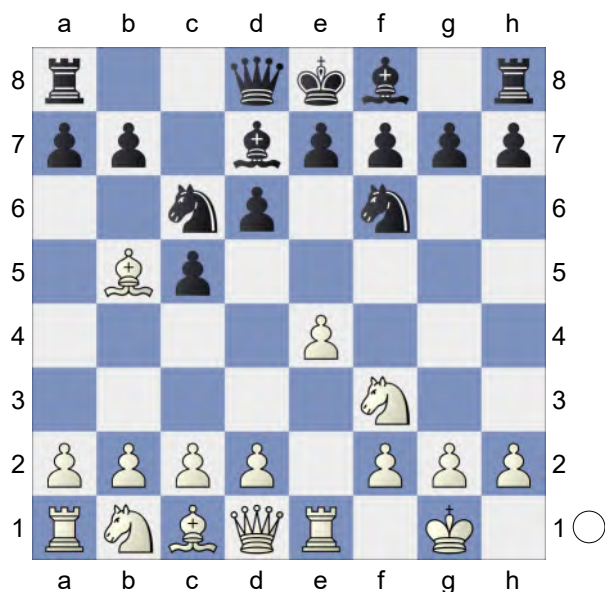
30.Qxh7+ Kxh7 31.Rd3]



0-1

67 **B51**
 □ **Adams, Michael** **2744**
 ■ **Wei, Yi** **2706**
 78th Tata Steel GpA (4.3) 19.01.2016
[David Cummings]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 d6 4.0-0
Bd7 5.Re1 Nf6



6.c3 One of White's many attempts to try and gain an edge against the 5...e6 Fischer system **6...a6!?** A typical move in the Fischer system, but a bold one to play before completing development. Wei Yi had played the same move in 2015, so presumably Adams was prepared for this. Instead **7.Ba4**

[7.Bxc6 Bxc6 8.d4]

7...b5

[7...c4 8.d4 cxd3 9.Bg5

A) 9...e6 10.Qxd3 g6 11.Bxc6 bxc6 12.e5 dxe5 13.Nxe5 Ra7 14.Qf3 (14.Nxc6 Bxc6 15.Qxd8+ Kxd8 16.Bxf6+ Be7 17.Bxh8) 14...Be7 15.Nd2 h6 16.Be3 Rb7 17.Ne4 Rh7 18.Nxf6+ Bxf6 19.Nxd7 Rxd7 20.Rad1 Be5 21.Qxc6;

B) 9...Ne5 10.Bxd7+ Nfxd7 11.Nd4 Qb6 12.b3 g6 13.Be3 Qc7 14.c4;

C) 9...b5 10.Bb3 Ne5 11.Nxe5 dxe5 12.Qxd3 e6 13.Nd2 h6 14.Bh4 Bc6 15.Qxd8+ Rxd8 16.Nf3 Bd6 17.a4]

8.Bc2 White has also played: **8...Rc8**

[8...Bg4

A) 9.h3 Bxf3 10.Qxf3 g6 11.a4 Rb8 12.axb5 axb5 13.Na3 Bg7 14.Nxb5 0-0 (14...Rxb5 15.e5 Nxe5 16.Rxe5 dxe5 17.Qc6+ Qd7 18.Ra8+ Rb8 19.Rxb8#) 15.Na3;

B) 9.d4 cxd4 10.cxd4 Bxf3 11.gxf3;

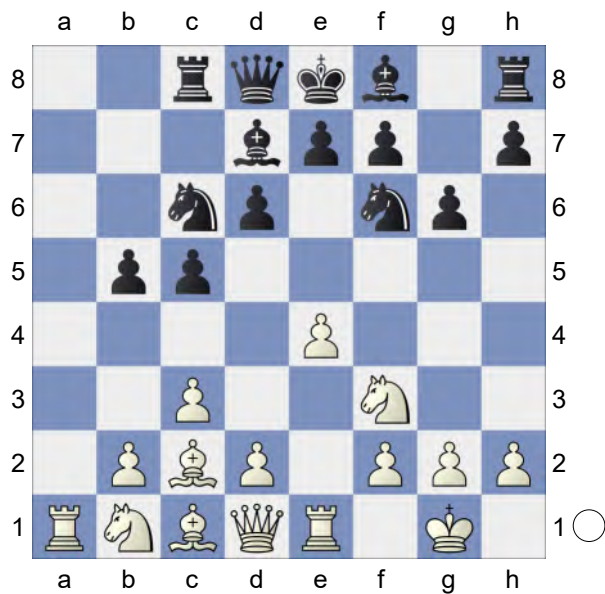
C) 9.d3 e6 10.Nbd2 Be7 11.h3 Bh5 12.Nf1 0-0 (12...Nd7 13.Ng3 Bg6 14.d4 cxd4 15.Nxd4 Nxd4 16.cxd4 0-0 17.Nf5 Rc8 18.Bd3 exf5 19.exf5 Bg5 20.fxg6 hxg6 21.Bxg5 Qxg5) 13.Ng3 Bg6 14.Nh4 Nd7 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Be3 d5 17.Ne2 Nb6 18.d4 Nc4 19.exd5 exd5 20.Bc1 cxd4 21.cxd4 Bf6 22.b3 Nd6 23.Ba3 Re8 24.Bc5 Ne4 25.Rc1 Bg5 26.f4 Bh4 27.Rf1 Nxc5 28.dxc5 Qe7 29.Bd3 (29.Bxg6 fxg6 30.Qxd5+ Qe6 31.Nc3) 29...Nb4]

[8...e5 9.h3 (9.d4 cxd4 10.cxd4 Bg4 11.dxe5 Nxe5 12.Bf4 Bxf3 13.gxf3 Nh5 14.Bxe5 dxe5) 9...Be7 (9...g6 10.d4 Bg7 11.Be3 cxd4 12.cxd4 exd4 13.Nxd4 0-0 14.Nc3 b4 15.Nxc6 Bxc6 16.Nd5 Nxd5 17.exd5 Bb5 18.Rb1 Re8) 10.d3 0-0 11.Nbd2 Qc7 12.Nf1 d5 13.exd5 Nxd5 14.Ng5 h6 15.Ne4 f5 16.Neg3 Kh8]

9.a4 g6

[9...e5]

10.axb5 axb5

**11.d4 cxd4**

[11...Bg4 12.dxc5 dxc5 13.Qe2 Qb6 14.Na3 c4 15.h3]

12.cxd4 Bg4

[12...Bg7 13.Nc3 b4 14.Nd5]

13.Nc3 b4 The first new move, varying from Wei Yi's earlier game, which continued

[13...Bxf3 14.gxf3 b4 15.Ba4 bxc3 16.d5]

14.Ne2

[14.Nd5

A) 14...Nxd5 15.exd5 Nb8 16.Ba4+ Bd7 (16...Nd7 17.h3) 17.Qb3;

B) 14...Bg7 15.Ba4 (15.Bg5) 15...0-0 16.Bxc6 Rxc6 17.Qa4]

14...Bg7 According to the official site, Wei Yi thought for almost an hour on this move!

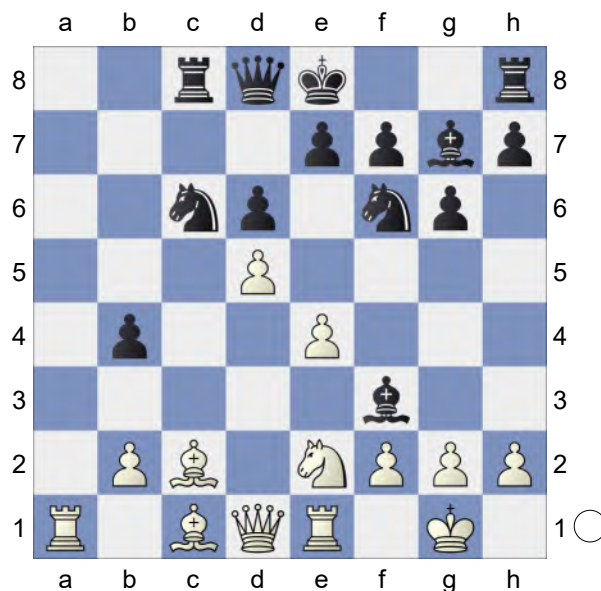
[14...Bxf3 15.gxf3]

[14...d5 15.Ne5 was Ipatov-Cmilyte Nxe5 16.dxe5 Nxe4?!

is the speculative piece sac which worked as a one game weapon in Radjabov-Ivanchuk 17.f3 Rxc2 18.Qxc2 Qb6+ 19.Nd4 Qxd4+ 20.Be3 Qc4 21.Ra8+]

15.d5?! This cedes some key squares to Black's control, and in the long term exposes White's advanced h-pawn to attack from the g6-square **15...Bxf3**

[15...Ne5 16.Nxe5 dxe5 17.Ba4+ Bd7 18.Qd3 0-0 19.Bd2]



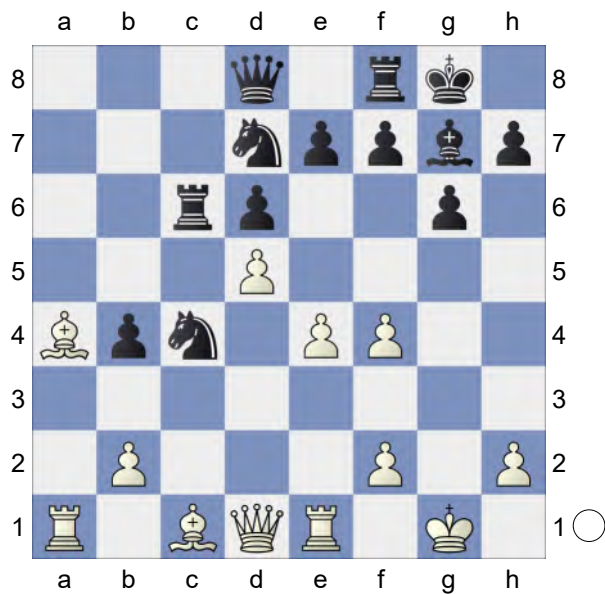
16.gxf3 Ne5 Guarding the b7-bishop before activating the c6-knight **17.Ba4+ Nfd7**

18.Nd4 0-0 19.f4 Nc4

Any slight initiative that Adams had has gone and now it is White that needs to be careful **20.Nc6 Rxc6**

[20...Qe8 was Milov-Sermek 21.Qb3]

(Diagram)



21.dxc6?! Creating more weaknesses

[21.Bxc6 Nxb2 22.Qe2 Nd3]

21...Nc5 22.Qe2

[22.Qc2]

[22.e5]

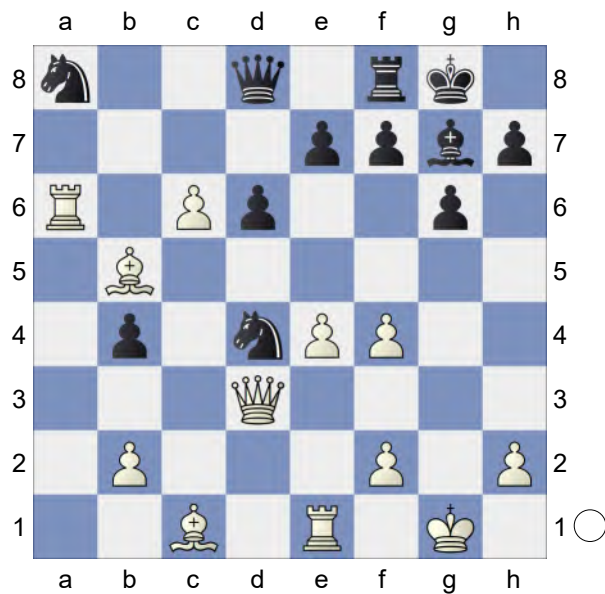
22...Nb6?! 23.Bb5 Relieving some of the pressure, though Black is still somewhat better **23...Nb3 24.Ra6**

[24.Ra7 is another natural reply that leads to lines we have covered in the Archives: Nd4 25.Qd3 Qc8 26.Rb7 Qg4+ 27.Qg3]

24...Nd4 25.Qd3 Na8

[25...Qb8 26.Bd2 winning a pawn]

(Diagram)



26.Ra4

[26.Ra7 Qb6 (26...Nc7 27.Ba4) 27.Rb7 penetrating on the dark squares]

26...Nc7 27.Rxb4

[27.Bc4 Nxc6 puts Black in a tough spot, for example 28.Rd1 or]

27...Qb8

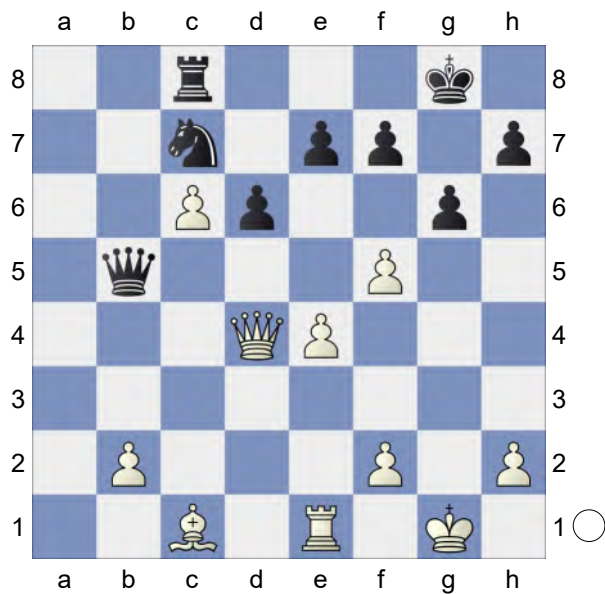
[27...Ncxb5 28.Rxb5 Nxb5 29.Qxb5 Qc7 was a quick draw in Ribli, Z (2610)-Sosonko, G (2545) Amsterdam 1 9 8 0 1 / 2 - 1 / 2 (1 7) 30.Re2!? has not been tested, but may be White's best try. It keeps more tension in the position since after Rb8 31.Qc4 Black cannot simplify as in the main game with Qc8?! since 32.f5!]

28.Rxd4 Bxd4 29.Qxd4 Qxb5 30.f5

[30.Qc3 Rc8 31.b4 Na6 32.Bb2 f6]

30...Rc8

(Diagram)



31.Bh6 White's h6-pawn has dropped off, but he is now able to centralize his pieces and keep Black's advantages within bounds

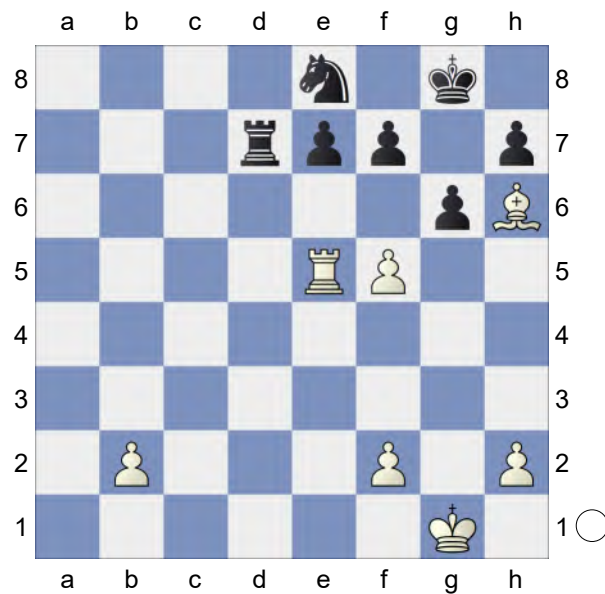
[31.f6 would give White an advantage exf6 is better, and Black should be fine (31...Ne6 32.Qd5) 32.Qxf6 Ne6 (32...Qxc6 33.Bh6 Ne6) 33.Bd2]

31...Ne8 32.e5

[32.Ra1 Qxc6 33.Ra7?! Hillarp Persson, T (2564) - Wiedenkiller, M (2479) Borlange 2014 1-0 (28), and here]

32...Rxc6 33.exd6 Rxd6 34.Qe5 Qxe5 35.Rxe5 Rd7

(Diagram)



36.Rc5

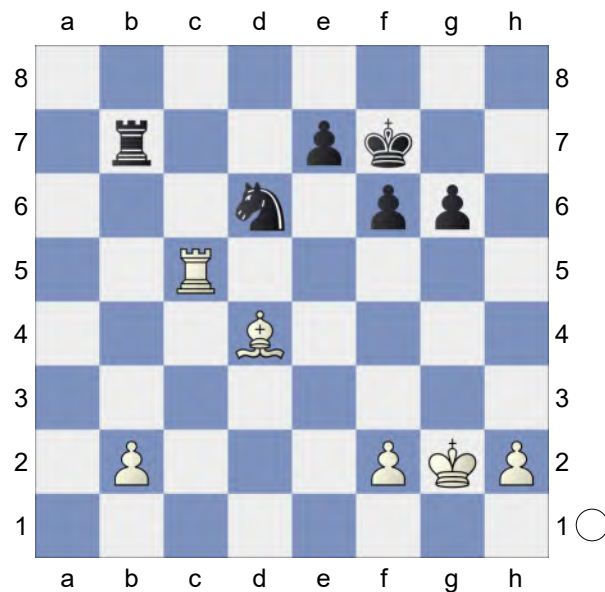
[36.Rb5]

36...f6 37.fxg6 hxg6 38.Be3 Rb7

39.Bd4

[39.Rc2]

39...Kf7 40.Kg2 Nd6



41.Bc3 Black's weak f5-pawn makes it hard for him to improve his position

41...e5 42.Ra5

[42.Rc6]

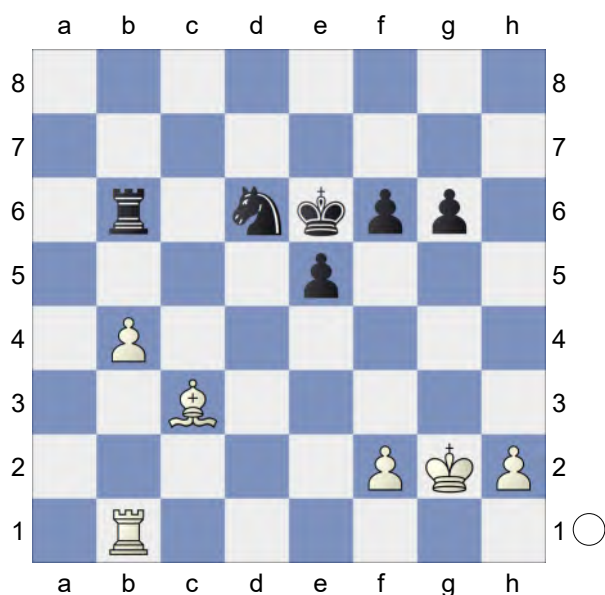
42...Nc4 43.Ra1 Rb6

[43...Nxb2 44.Rb1 when Black's h7-pawn is terminally weak]

44.b4 Nd6 45.Rb1

[45.Kf3]

45...Ke6

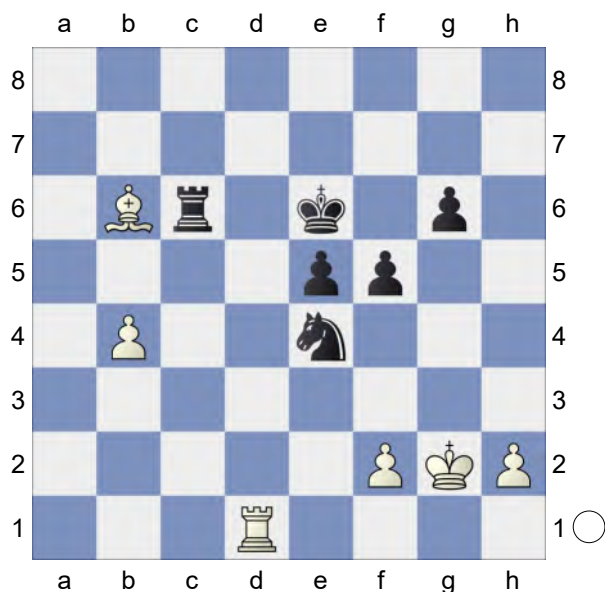


46.Bd2 f5 47.Be3 Rb7 48.Bc5

[48.f3]

48...Ne4 Black has made no progress and he soon decides to call it a day

49.Rd1 Rc7 50.Bb6 Rc6



51.Ba7

[51.Ba5 Rc2 52.Bb6 Rb2 53.Bc5 g5]

51...Ra6 52.Be3

[52.Bc5 Nxc5 53.bxc5 Rc6 54.Rc1

Zeng, C (2541)-Wei, Y (2706) China 2015 1/2-1/2 (33), and here Kd5! would give White a significant edge, for example]

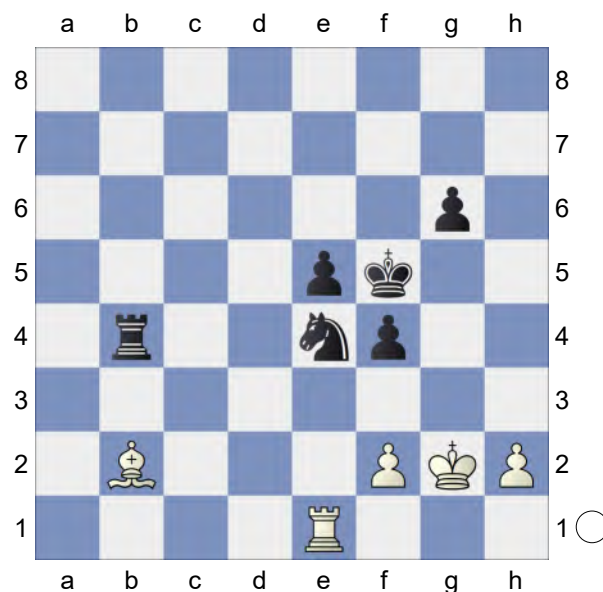
52...f4 53.Bc1

[53.Bc5]

53...Ra4 gives Black a tangible advantage, since here the freeing move

54.Re1 is not an option due to **54...Kf5**

55.Bb2 Rxb4



and Black breaks through **56.Bxe5**

[56.Re2 Rb5]

56...f3+ 57.Kxf3 Kxe5 58.Kg4

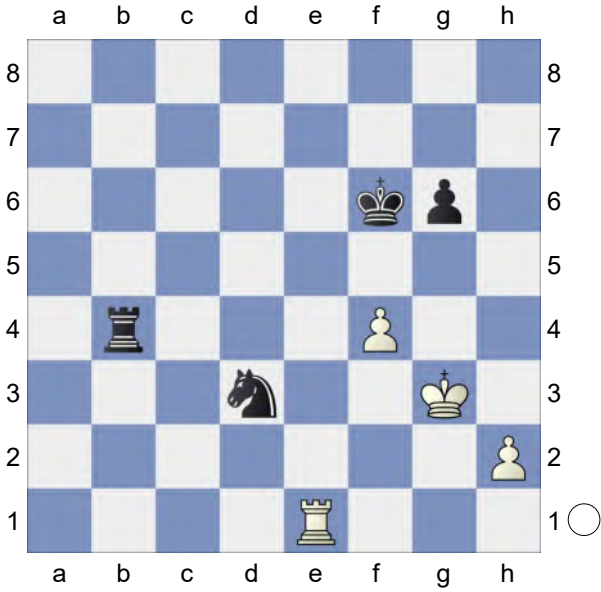
is preferable **58...Kf6** is better, although

Black is OK as long as he plays **59.f4**

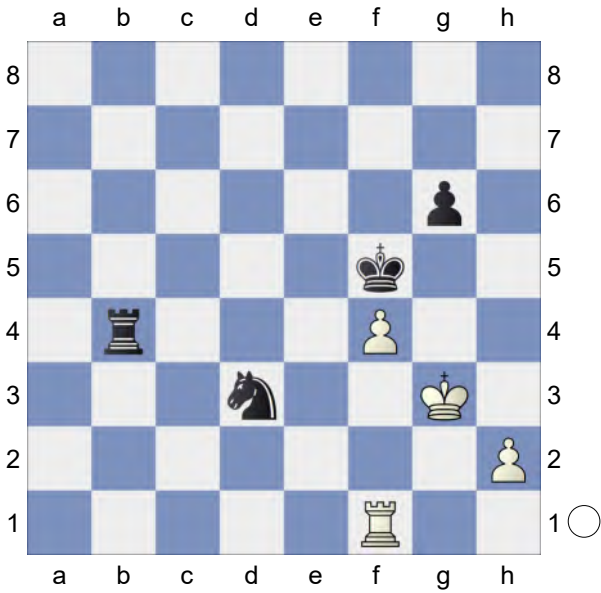
to keep the d-file closed **59...Nf2+**

60.Kg3 Nd3

(Diagram)



61.Rf1 Kf5



1/2-1/2

455

□ Lu,Shanglei

■ Wei,Yi

(ch) 116/86 Chiva

[Dembo,Yelena]

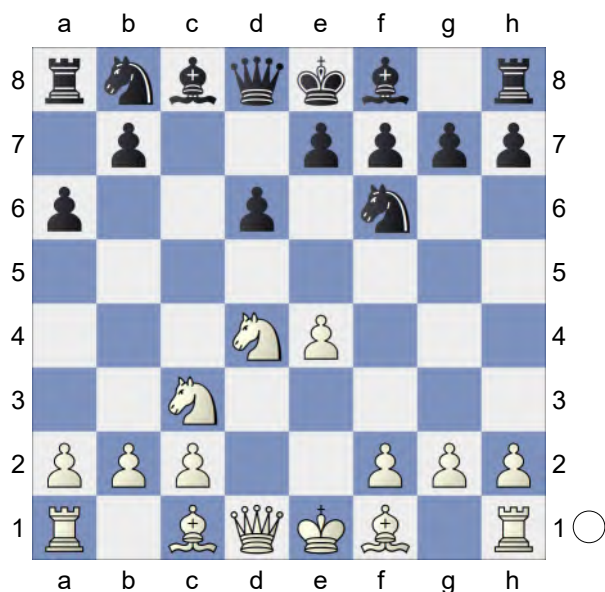
B96

2542

2453

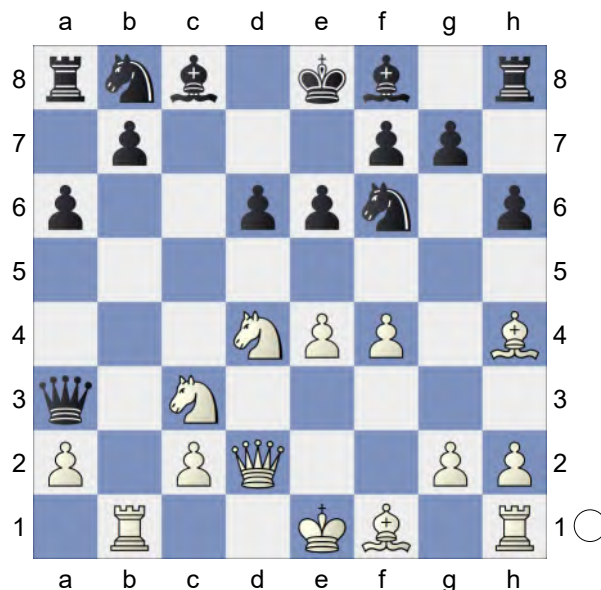
2012

1.e4 Dembo,Y Dembo,Y Dembo,Y:
 'Dembo,Yelena' 1...c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4
 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6

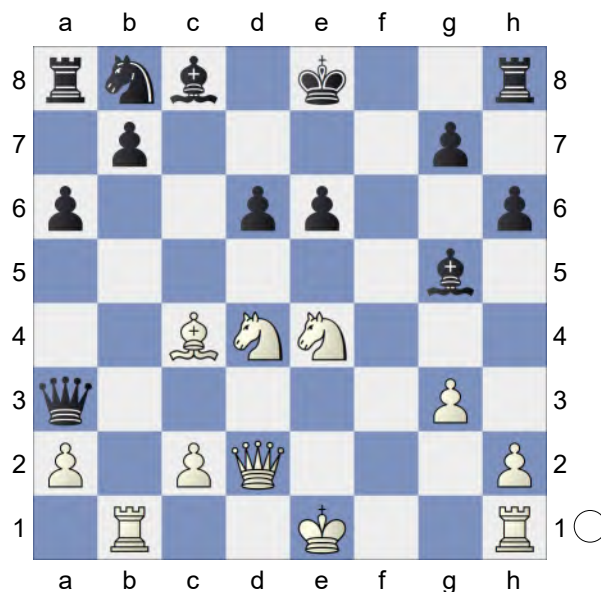


6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 h6 8.Bh4 Qb6 9.Qd2
 [9.Qd3 Ü 114/80 Dembo,Y: '— 114/
 80 Dembo,Yelena: 'Ü 114/80"]
 9...Qxb2 10.Rb1 Qa3

(Diagram)



11.f5 Be7 12.fxe6 fxe6 13.Bc4 Nxe4
 14.Nxe4 Bxh4+ 15.g3 Bg5



16.Nxg5 hxg5 17.Rb3 Qc5 18.Rc3?!N

[18.Bxe6]

[18.Rf1!?]

18...Nc6! 19.Nxc6?!

[19.Bxe6

A) Dembo, Y: 'a)' 19...Qxd4
 20.Qxd4 Nxd4 21.Bxc8 (21.Rxc8+
 Ke7 $\bar{f}$) 21...Rb8 $\bar{f}$;

B) 19...Qe5+ 20.Re3 (20.Qe3
 Bxe6 21.Nxe6 Kd7 22.Qxe5 Nxe5
 23.Nxg5 Rae8 $\bar{f}$) 20...Nxd4 21.0-0

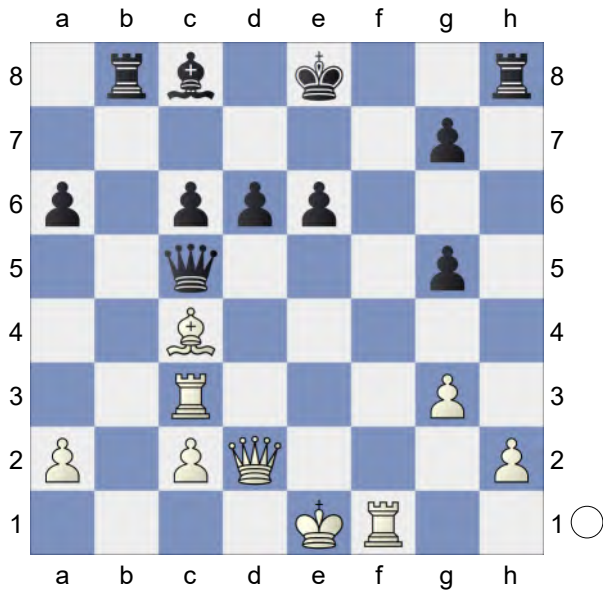
Bxe6 22.Rxe5 dxe5

19...bxc6 20.Rf1

[20.Be2 Qd5 21.Bf3 Qxd2+ 22.Kxd2
Bd7 23.Bxc6 Bxc6 24.Rxc6 Kd7]

20...Rb8

[20...Qe5+!]



21.Bb3 Qe5+ 22.Kd1

[22.Re3 Qa1+-+]

22...Rb4! 23.Kc1?!

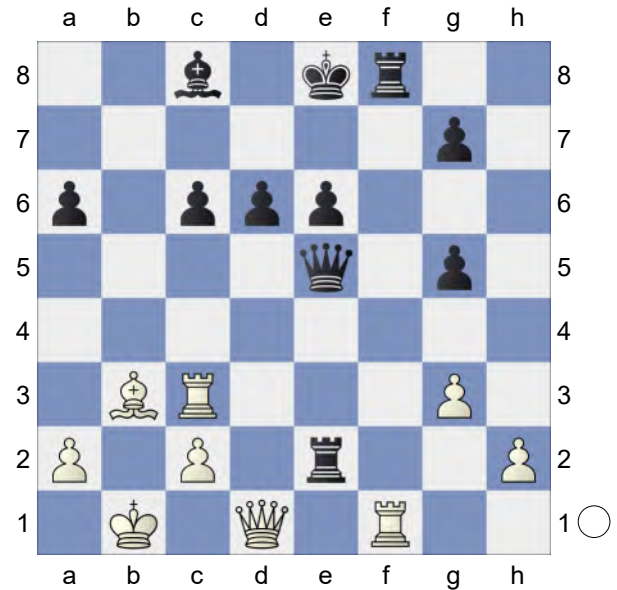
[23.Rf2 a5]

23...Re4!-+ 24.Kb1 Re2 25.Qd1

[25.Qd3 Bd7-+]

25...Rf8!

(Diagram)



26.Rg1 Bd7 27.Rd3

[27.h4 d5-+]

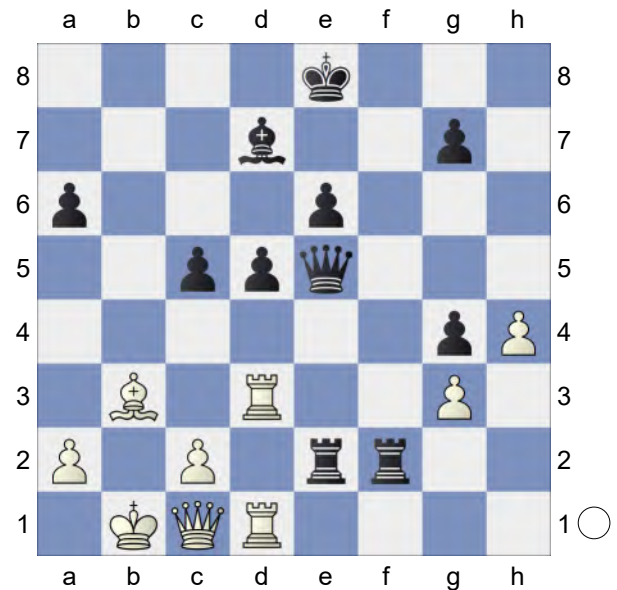
27...d5

[27...Ke7? 28.Rxd6=]

28.h4 g4

[28...Rff2-+]

29.Qc1 c5 30.Rgd1 Rff2



0-1

112

□ Wei, Yi

■ Topalov, Veselin

Abidjan GCT blitz (18)

[Demuth, Adrien]

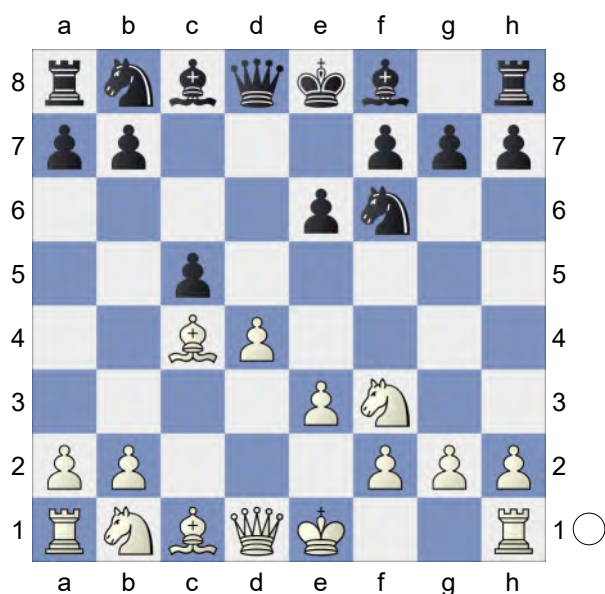
D27

2736

2740

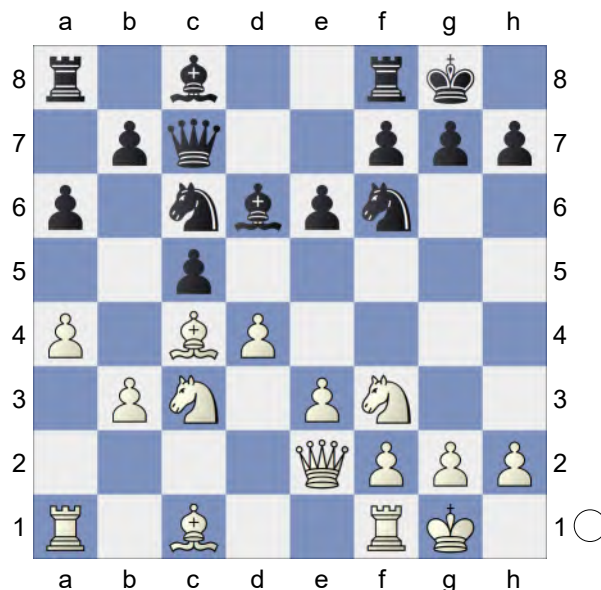
12.05.2019

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 e6
5.Bxc4 c5



6.0-0 a6 7.a4 Nc6 In practice, this move has shown to work well in order to get a draw as Black. 8.Qe2 The most direct path, but there are other possibilities: 8...Qc7 9.Nc3 Bd6 10.b3 0-0

(Diagram)



11.Bb2 b6 12.d5!

[12.Rad1 h6 13.Kh1 Re8= 14.d5!?N I like this quiet continuation, and it would probably be my improvement if I have to face this position over the board. It's a bit provocative, but it's also actually logical since it stops the action of the bishop on d6. exd5 Maybe the only way to try to exploit White's slow development. 15.Nxd5 Nxd5 16.Bxd5 Be6 17.e4! Bxd5 18.Rxd5 Nb4 19.Rh5 Qc6 20.Bxg7 Kxg7 21.Qb2+± We played the strange looking move g2-g3, but the other criteria claims that it is a good version of an isolani for White. Kg8? 22.Rxh6 Be5]

[12.h3± Bb7 13.Rfd1 cxd4 14.exd4 Na5 15.d5 Nxc4 16.bxc4 Rfe8 17.Qd3 Rac8 18.Ng5± h6 19.Nge4 Bh2+ 20.Kh1! Be5 21.d6 Qc6 22.Nxf6+= Bxf6 23.f3 Red8]
[12.Rfd1 Bb7 13.d5 (13.Rac1 Rfd8 14.h3± Na5 15.Ne5 cxd4 16.exd4 Nxc4 17.Nxc4 Bh2+ 18.Kh1 Bf4) 13...Ne5 (13...exd5) 14.Nxe5 Bxe5 15.dxe6± Bxh2+ 16.Kh1 fxe6 17.f4 Bg3 18.Bxe6+ Kh8 19.Bd5]

12...Ne5

[12...exd5 13.Nxd5 Nxd5 14.Bxd5
Objectively equal, but with the rook on a3, Black is the one pressing. Bb7! This is more straightforward in order to achieve a draw. 15.Qc4 Rae8 16.Rad1 Ne5 17.Bxe5 Bxe5 18.Bxb7 Qxb7= 19.Nxe5!? This has been played in the two other games that reached this position, and I think it's more precise. Rxe5 20.Rd6! The only chance for White to get something. b5 21.Qc2 Rfe8 22.Rfd1]

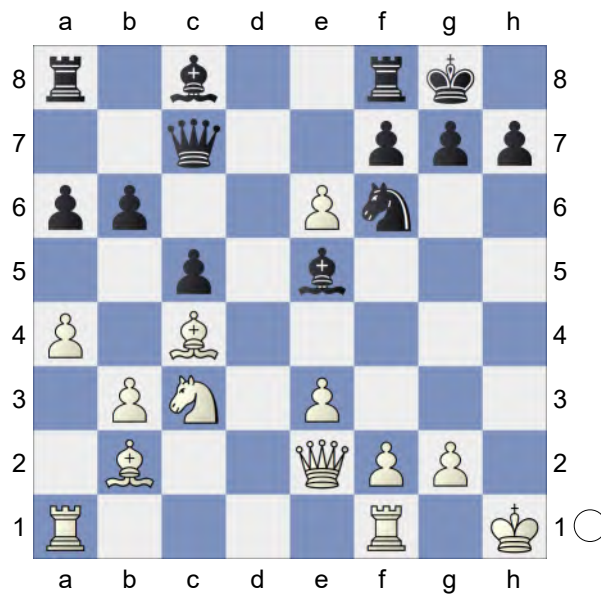
[12...Na5 13.dxe6 (13.e4 Ng4 14.h3 Nh2 15.Rfd1 Nxf3+ 16.Qxf3 Bh2+ 1/2-1/2 (25) Bauer,C (2646)-Ragger,M (2658) Austria 2015 17.Kh1! Black still has to fight a bit to achieve a draw, but the thing is we don't really know how White will make any progress. Be5=) 13...Nxc4 14.exf7+ Qxf7 15.bxc4 (15.Qxc4= I won't go deeper in this line. White had small chances but still couldn't get more than a draw in 1/2-1/2 (54) Topalov, V (2785)-Anand, V (2770) Khanty-Mansiysk 2014. Be6) 15...Bg4]

13.Nxe5 White has gained a pawn. Black finds immediately a solution for his king **13...Bxe5! 14.dxe6?! Bxh2+**

[14...Bxe6! It was important to prevent the rook from invading the second rank. 15.Bxe6! fxe6 16.f4 Bxc3 17.Bxc3 Ne4 18.Be5]

15.Kh1 Be5

(Diagram)



16.exf7+ Kh8 17.f4 Bd6

[17...Bxc3 18.Bxc3 Qe7? This is Black's turn to return the favour, and he lets the White rook on to the d-file

A) 19.a5 b5 20.Bxf6 gxf6!

This was the right rook (20...Qxf6 21.Bd5 Ra7 22.Rac1= This may still be a draw, but White needs precision.) 21.Bd5 Bb7 22.Rad1 Bxd5= The pawn on c4 is going to fall soon, and Black should manage to convert this endgame. 23.Rxd5 Rxf7 24.Rc1 Rc8 25.Qd3;

B) 19.Bxf6 gxf6 (19...Qxf6 20.a5 b5 21.Bd5) 20.Rac1 Be6 21.a5= Now White forces the draw easily. Rab8 22.Bxe6 Qxe6 23.axb6 Rxb6 24.Rxc5 Qxf7 25.Ra5]

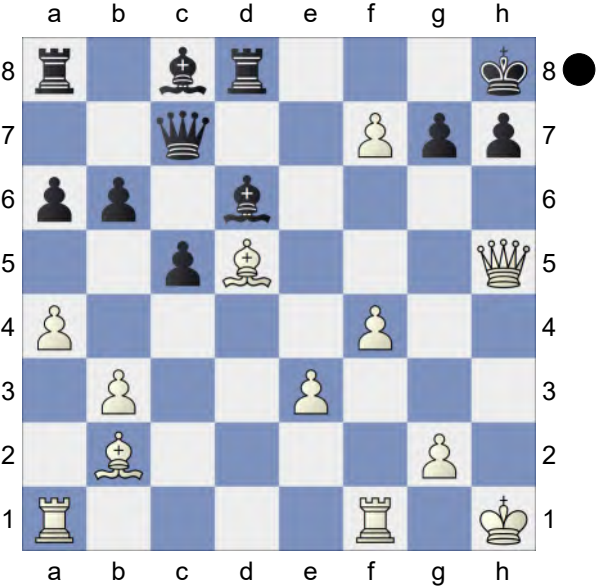
18.Nd5 Nxd5 This is a slightly worse version for White than 14. Qd2 , because the king has castled and is far from the weak queenside pawns.

[18...Bg4 19.Qe1 Nxd5 20.Bxd5 Qe7 21.Qg3? h5! Now, White is in trouble. 22.Bxa8 Rxa8 23.e4]

19.Bxd5 Rd8

[19...Bb7 20.Qg4 Rxf7 21.Bxf7 Qxf7

22.Rad1]
20.Qh5



1/2-1/2

108

□ Wei, Yi

■ Topalov, Veselin

Abidjan GCT blitz (18)

[Demuth, Adrien]

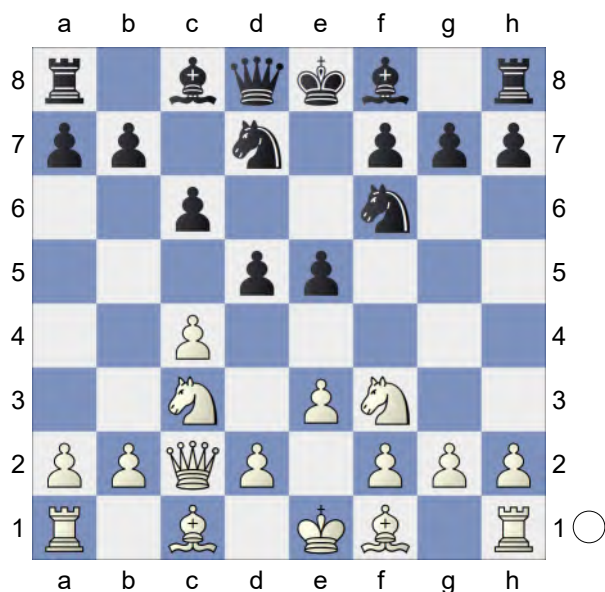
A11

2736

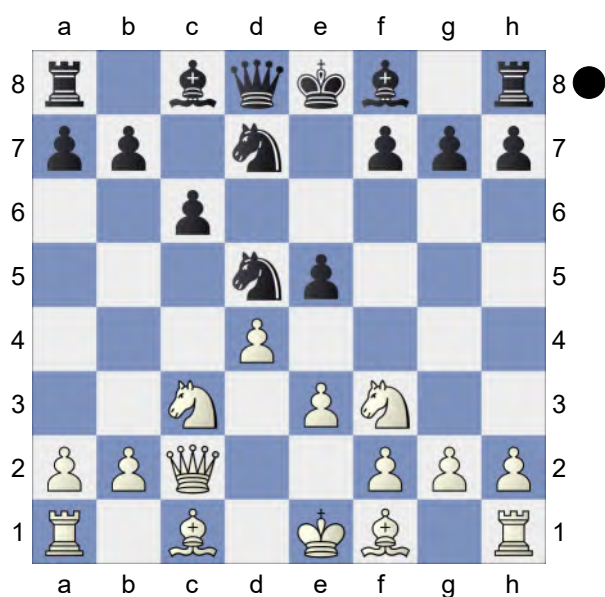
2740

12.05.2019

1.Nf3 Demuth,Adrien 1...d5 2.e3 c6
3.c4 Nf6 4.Nc3 Nbd7 5.Qc2 e5



6.cxd5 Nxd5 Perunovic,Milos: '*' 7.d4
Perunovic,Milos: 'Diagram



' 7...Bd6 Demuth,Adrien: 'In practice,
this move has shown to work well in

order to get a draw as Black.' Perunovic,
Milos: '!' '!' In practice, this move has
shown to work well in order to get a draw
as Black.

[7...exd4 - 90/5]

8.dxe5 Demuth,Adrien: 'The most direct
path, but there are other possibilities.'
The most direct path, but there are other
possibilities:

[8.g3!?N Demuth,Adrien: 'I like this
quiet continuation, and it would
probably be my improvement if I have
to face this position over the board.
It's a bit provocative, but it's also
actually logical since it stops the
action of the bishop on d6.' I like this
quiet continuation, and it would
probably be my improvement if I have
to face this position over the board.
It's a bit provocative, but it's also
actually logical since it stops the
action of the bishop on d6.

A) 8...exd4 9.Nxd4 Nb4 10.Qe4+
Be7 11.a3 Nc5 12.Qb1 Nd5
13.Bg2 Nxc3 14.bxc3±;

B) 8...0-0 9.Bg2 exd4 (9...Nxc3
10.bxc3 f5 11.dxe5 Nxe5
12.Nd4±) 10.Nxd4 Nxc3 11.bxc3
Re8 12.0-0 Qc7 13.a4±;

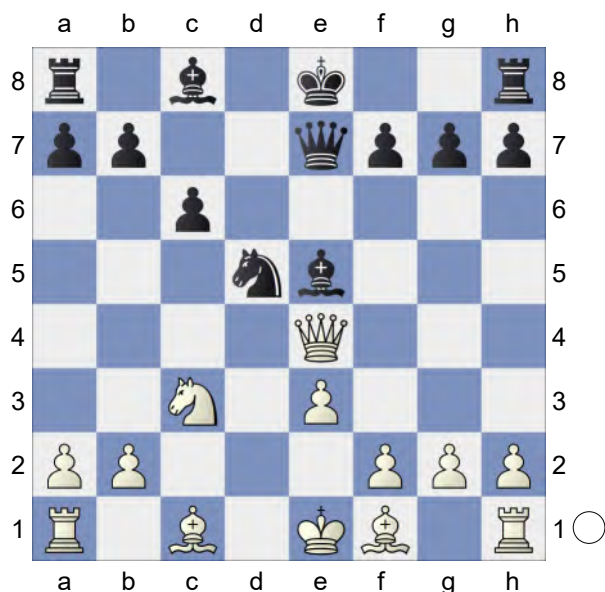
C) 8...Nb4 Demuth,Adrien: 'Maybe
the only way to try to exploit White's
slow development.' Maybe the only
way to try to exploit White's slow
development.

C1) 9.Qb1 exd4 10.Nxd4 c5!
(10...Nc5 11.a3 Nd5 12.Nxd5
cxd5 13.Bg2 0-0 14.b4 Ne4
15.0-0±) 11.Nf3 Ne5 12.Nxe5
Bxe5=;

C2) 9.Qd1 exd4 (9...Qe7
10.a3 Nd5 11.Nxd5 cxd5
12.dxe5 Nxe5 13.Bg2 0-0
14.0-0 Be6 15.Nd4±) 10.Nxd4

Ne5 11.Be2! (11.Bg2? c5
 12.Ndb5 Ned3+) 11...0-0
 12.a3 Nd5 13.Nxd5 cxd5
 14.0-0 Bh3 15.Re1±
 Demuth,Adrien: 'We played the
 strange looking move g2-g3, but
 the other criteria claims that it is
 a good version of an isolani for
 White.' We played the strange
 looking move g2-g3, but the
 other criteria claims that it is a
 good version of an isolani for
 White.]

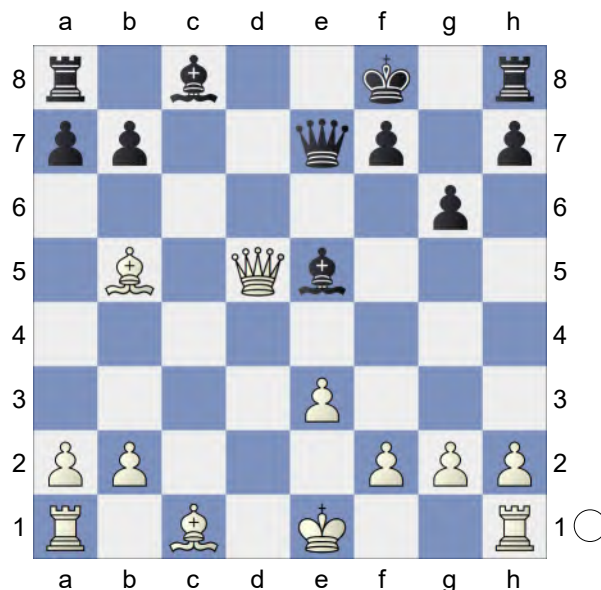
8...Nxe5 9.Nxe5 Bxe5 10.Qe4 Qe7



11.Nxd5 cxd5 12.Bb5+! Kf8 13.Qxd5

Demuth,Adrien: 'White has gained a
 pawn. Black finds immediately a solution
 for his king' White has gained a pawn.
 Black finds immediately a solution for
 his king **13...g6!** Perunovic,Milos:
 'Diagram

(Diagram)



14.0-0?! Perunovic,Milos: 'N' 'N'

[14.Bd2!? Demuth,Adrien: 'This has
 been played in the two other games
 that reached this position, and I think
 it's more precise.' This has been
 played in the two other games that
 reached this position, and I think it's
 more precise. Kg7 15.Qxe5+!
 Demuth,Adrien: 'The only chance for
 White to get something.' The only
 chance for White to get something.
 (15.Rd1 Bxb2 16.Qb3 Bf6=)
 15...Qxe5 16.Bc3 Qxc3+ 17.bxc3
 Be6 18.Ke2 Rac8 19.Rhc1 Rc5
 20.a4 (20.Bd3 Rhc8=) 20...Rhc8

A) 21.Kd2 Rd5+ 22.Ke1 Rdc5
 23.Kd2 (23.Ra3! Demuth,Adrien:
 'Black still has to fight a bit to
 achieve a draw, but the thing is we
 don't really know how White will
 make any progress.' Black still has
 to fight a bit to achieve a draw, but
 the thing is we don't really know
 how White will make any progress.
 b6=) 23...Rd5+ 24.Ke1 Rdc5
 25.Kd2 Demuth,Adrien: '1/2-1/2
 (25) Bauer,C (2646)-Ragger,M
 (2658) Austria 2015' 1/2-1/2 (25)

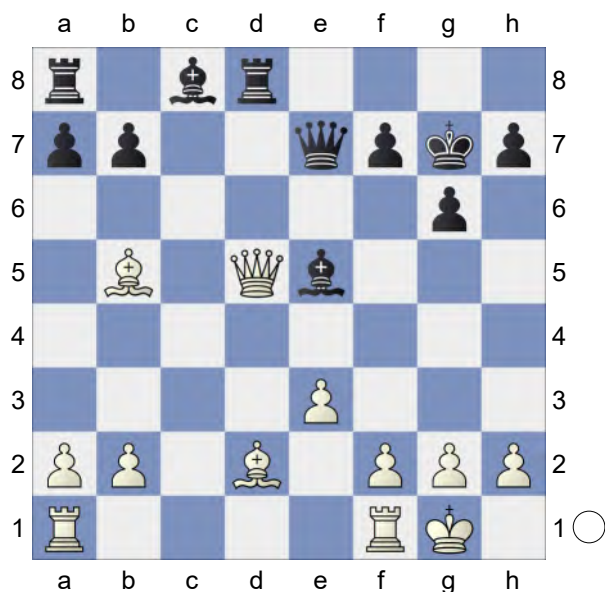
Bauer, C (2646)-Ragger, M (2658) Austria 2015;

B) 21.Ra3= Demuth, Adrien: 'I won't go deeper in this line. White had small chances but still couldn't get more than a draw in $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ (54)

Topalov, V (2785)-Anand, V (2770) Khanty-Mansiysk 2014.' I won't go deeper in this line. White had small chances but still couldn't get more than a draw in $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ (54) Topalov, V (2785)-Anand, V (2770) Khanty-Mansiysk 2014.]

14...Kg7 15.Bd2 Rd8

[15...Bxb2! Demuth, Adrien: 'This is more straightforward in order to achieve a draw.' This is more straightforward in order to achieve a draw. 16.Rab1 Rd8 17.Qb3 Rxd2 18.Rxb2 Rxb2 19.Qxb2+ Qf6=]



16.Qxe5+ Qxe5 17.Bc3 Qxc3 18.bxc3 Be6

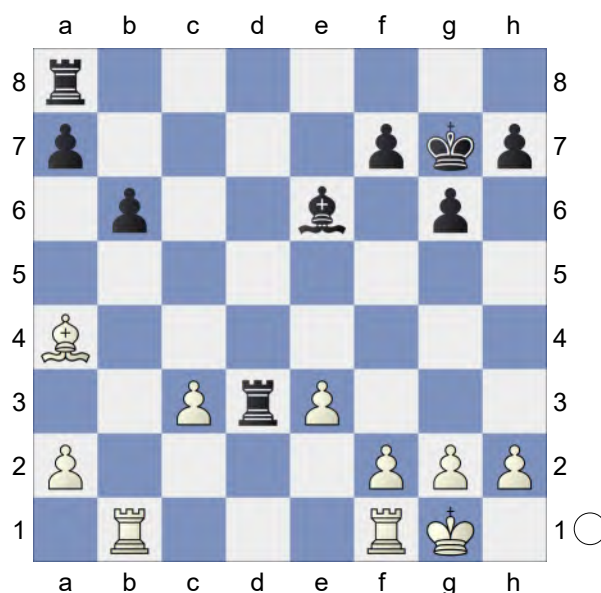
Demuth, Adrien: 'This is a slightly worse version for White than 14. ♖d2, because the king has castled and is far from the weak queenside pawns.' Perunovic, Milos: '♙'♙'♙' This is a slightly worse version for White than 14.

♖d2, because the king has castled and is far from the weak queenside pawns.

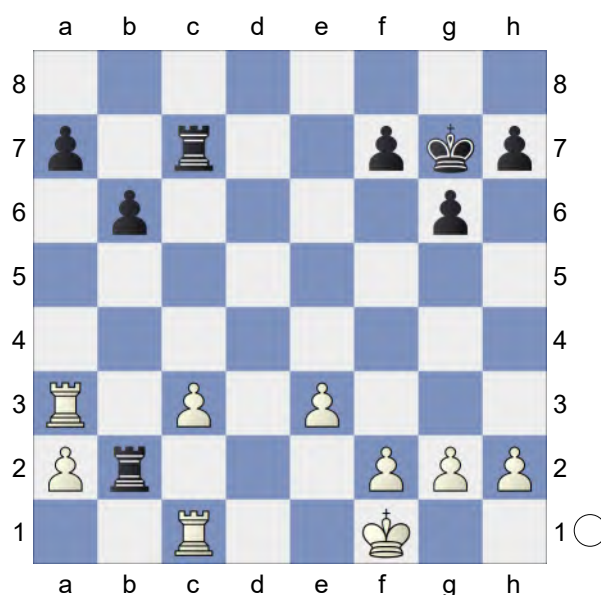
19.Ba4 Rd3

[19...Rac8! 20.Rfc1 Rd3 21.Rab1 b6 22.Bb3 Rdx3 23.Rxc3 Rxc3 24.Bxe6 fxe6 Demuth, Adrien: 'Objectively equal, but with the rook on a3, Black is the one pressing.' Objectively equal, but with the rook on a3, Black is the one pressing.]

20.Rab1 b6



21.Bb3 Bxb3 22.Rxb3 Rc8 23.Rc1 Rd2 24.Ra3 Rc7 25.Kf1 Rb2



26.c4?

[26.Rd1! Demuth,Adrien: 'It was important to prevent the rook from invading the second rank.' It was important to prevent the rook from invading the second rank.]

26...Rd7! Demuth,Adrien: 'Now, White is in trouble.' Now, White is in trouble.

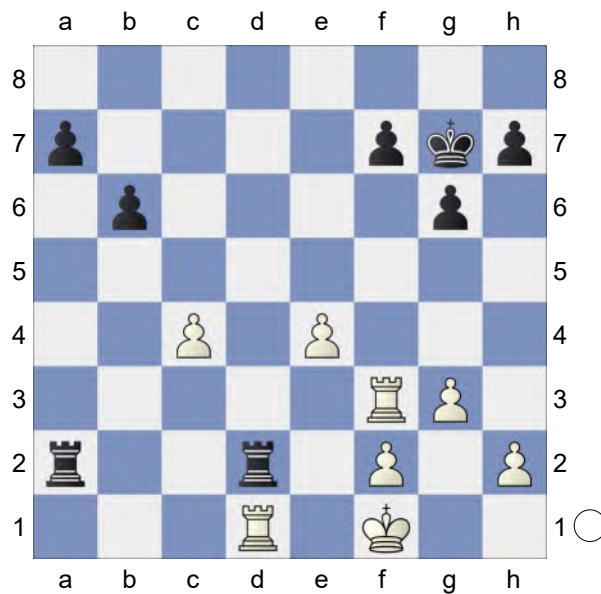
27.e4 Rdd2 28.Rf3 Rxa2 29.g3

Rdc2? Demuth,Adrien: 'This is Black's turn to return the favour, and he lets the White rook on to the d-file' This is Black's turn to return the favour, and he lets the White rook on to the d-file

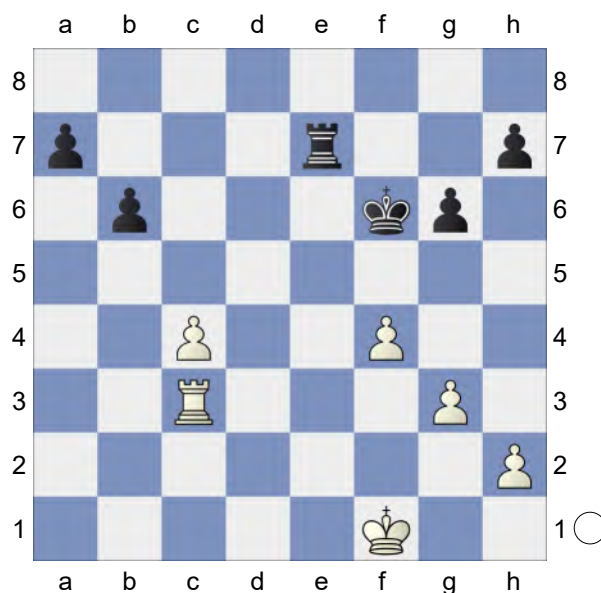
[29...Rac2! Demuth,Adrien: 'This was the right rook' This was the right rook
30.Ra1 (30.Rxc2 Rxc2 31.Ra3 a5
32.Rb3 Rxc4 33.Rxb6 Rxe4
34.Ra6+ Demuth,Adrien: 'This may still be a draw, but White needs precision.' This may still be a draw, but White needs precision.) 30...Rd7
31.Ra4 a5+ Demuth,Adrien: 'The pawn on c4 is going to fall soon, and Black should manage to convert this endgame.' The pawn on c4 is going to fall soon, and Black should manage to convert this endgame.]

30.Rd1 Rd2

(Diagram)

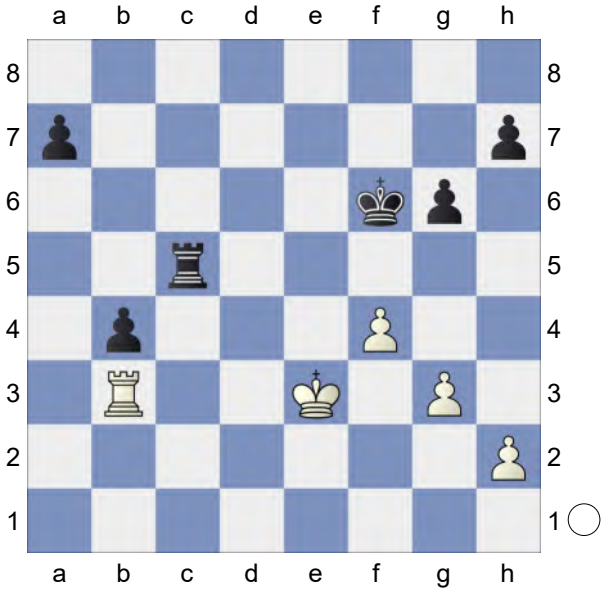


31.Rxd2 Rxd2 32.Rc3=
Demuth,Adrien: 'Now White forces the draw easily.' Now White forces the draw easily. **32...Rd7 33.e5 Re7 34.f4 f6 35.exf6+ Kxf6**



36.Kf2 Rc7 37.Ke3 b5 38.c5 b4 39.Rb3 Rxc5

(Diagram)



$\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$

542

D77

□ Wei, Yixiu

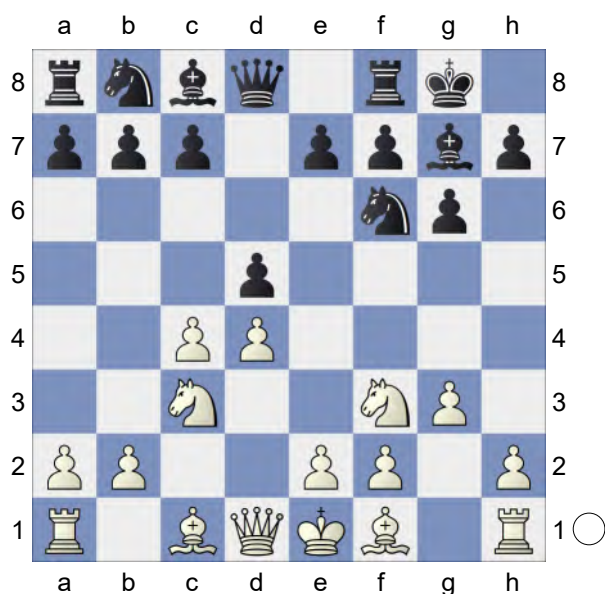
■ Neumann, Frederick

Jugoslavija (ch) (11)

12.07.1959

[Dragan Solak]

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.d4 d5 4.Nf3
Bg7 5.g3 0-0



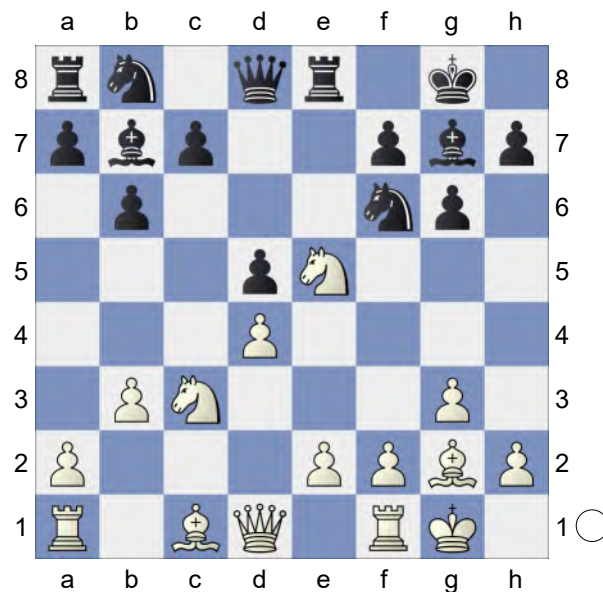
6.Bg2 e6 7.0-0 b6 8.cxd5 exd5
9.Ne5 Bb7 10.b3

[10.Qa4 Ne4 11.h4 c5 12.Nf3 Re8
13.Be3 Bc6 14.Qd1 Nxc3 15.Bg5 f6
16.fxc3 fxc5 17.hxc5 Qd6 18.Kh2
Re3 19.Qd2 cxd4 20.Nd1 Re4
21.Nf2 Nd7 22.Rac1 Bb5 23.Nxe4
dxe4 24.Qc2 Nc5]

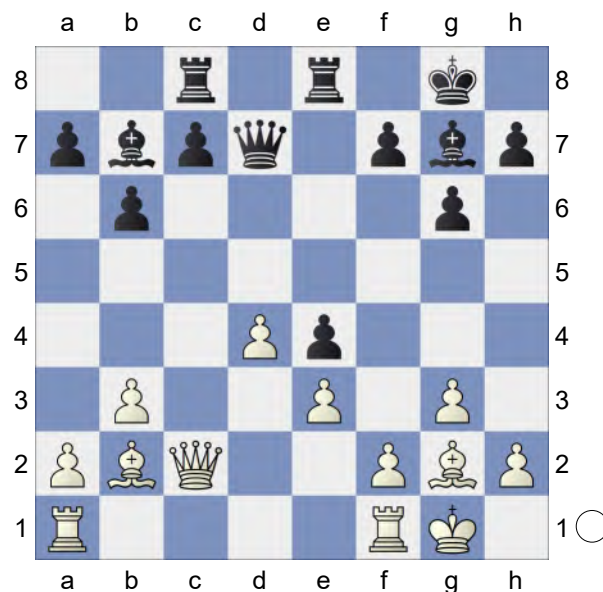
10...Re8

[10...Nbd7]

(Diagram)

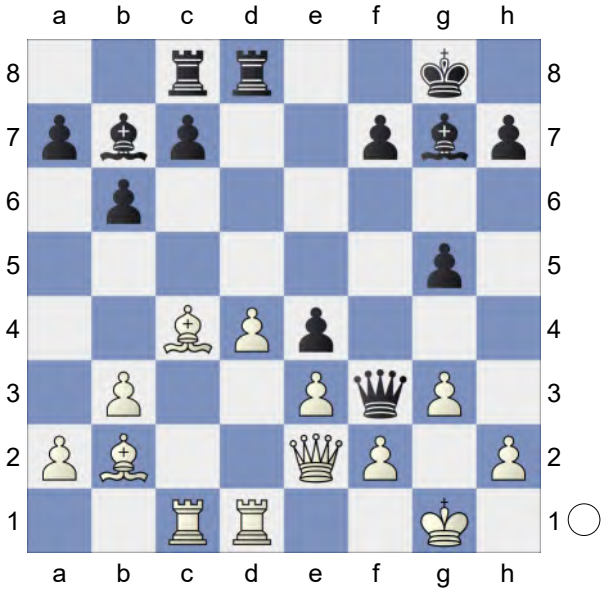


11.e3 Nbd7 12.Nxd7 Qxd7 13.Bb2
Ne4 14.Nxe4 dxe4 15.Qc2 Rac8

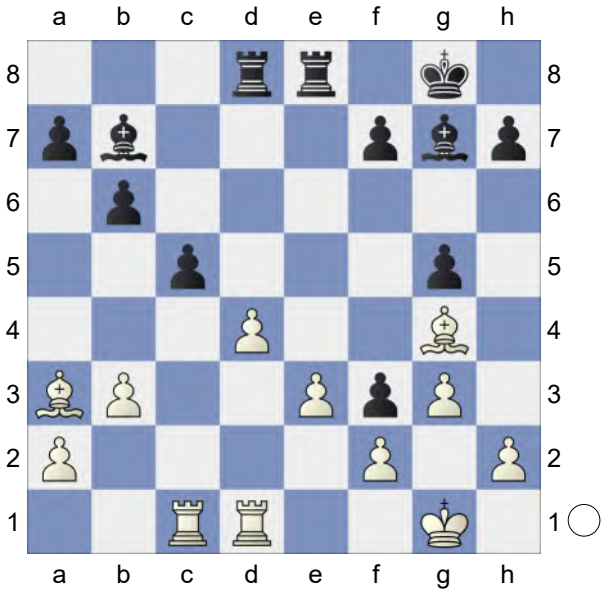


16.Rfd1 Qe6 17.Bf1 Red8 18.Bc4
Qf5 19.Rac1 g5 20.Qe2 Qf3

(Diagram)

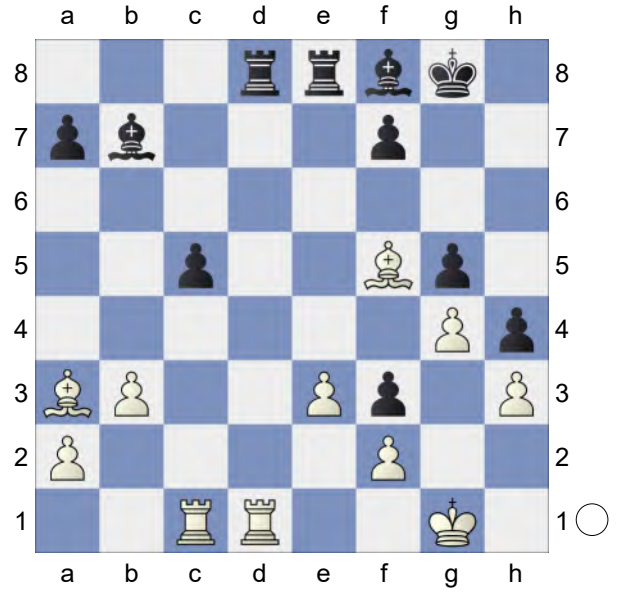


21.Qxf3 exf3 22.Ba3 Re8 23.Bd3 c6
24.Bf5 Rcd8 25.Bg4 c5



26.dxc5 bxc5 27.Bf5 Bf8 28.h3 h5
29.g4 h4

(Diagram)



1/2-1/2

530

□ Steyn, George

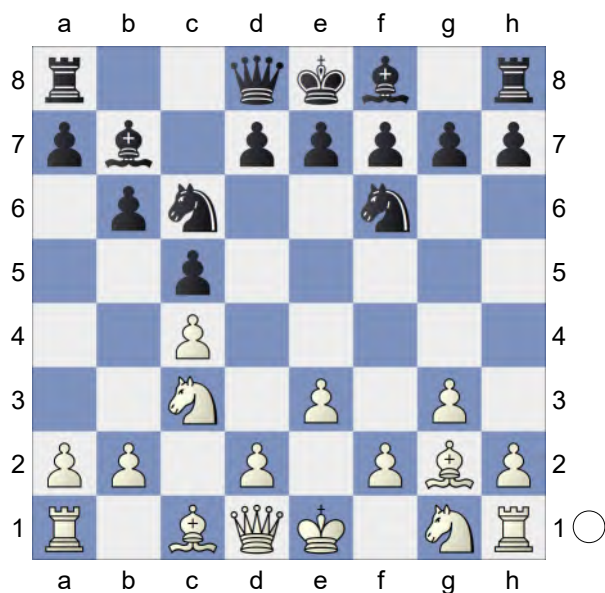
■ Wei, Yixiu

Jugoslavija (ch) (5)

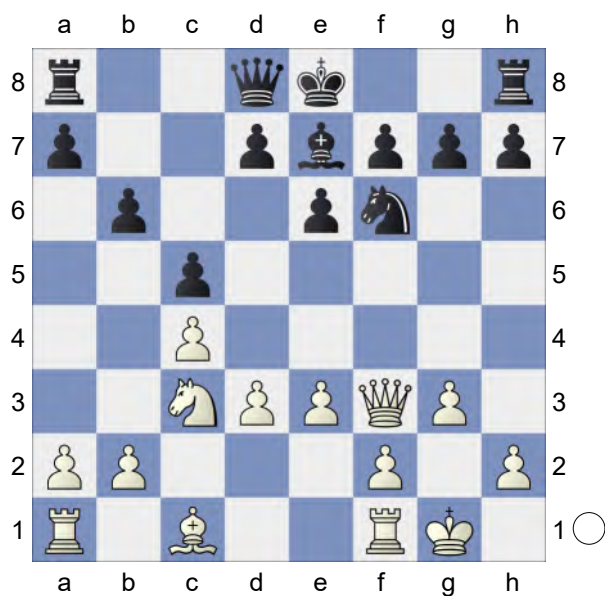
04.07.1959

[Dragan Solak]

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 c5 3.g3 Nc6 4.Bg2
b6 5.e3 Bb7
[5...d5]



6.Nf3 Ne5 7.d3 e6 8.0-0 Nxf3+
9.Bxf3 Bxf3 10.Qxf3 Be7



A36

11.Rd1 Qc8

[11...0-0]

[11...Rc8]

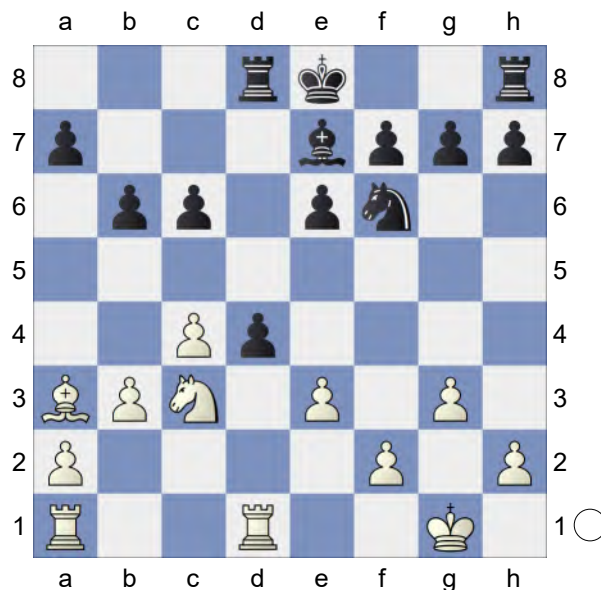
[11...h5]

12.b3 Qc6 13.Qxc6 dxc6 14.Ba3 Rd8

[14...e5 15.f4 (15.Ne4 Nxe4

16.dxe4) 15...Ng4]

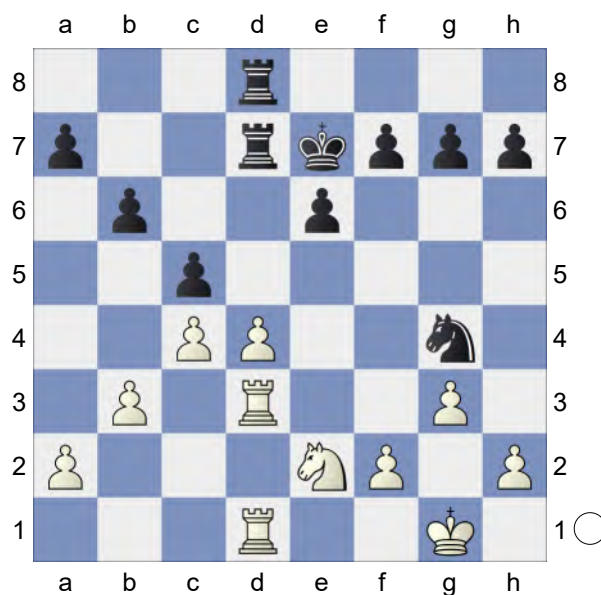
15.d4 cxd4



16.Bxe7 Kxe7 17.exd4 Rd7 18.Rd3
Rhd8 19.Rad1 c5 20.Ne2

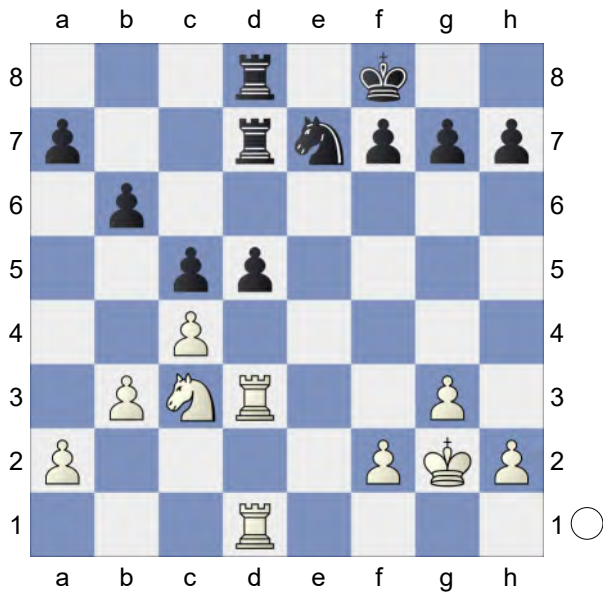
[20.d5]

20...Ng4

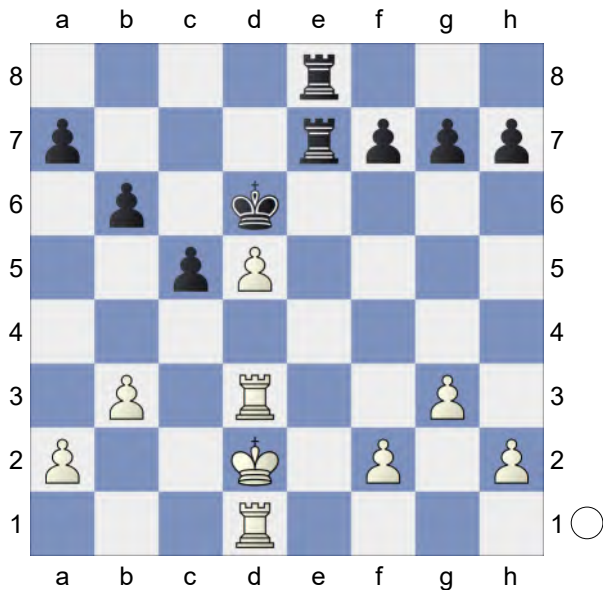


21.Kg2 Ne5 22.Re3

[22.R3d2 cxd4]
22...Nc6 23.d5 Kf8 24.Nc3 Ne7
25.Red3 exd5

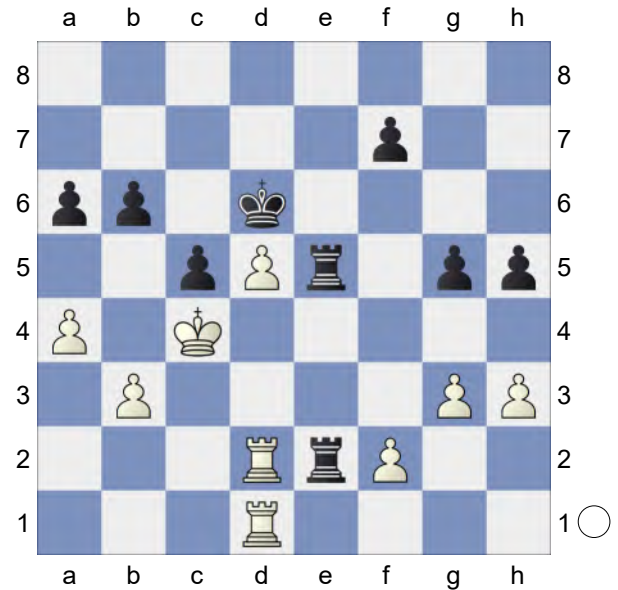


26.Nxd5 Nxd5 27.cxd5 Ke7 28.Kf3
Kd6 29.Ke3
 [29.Re3]
29...Re8+ 30.Kd2 Rde7

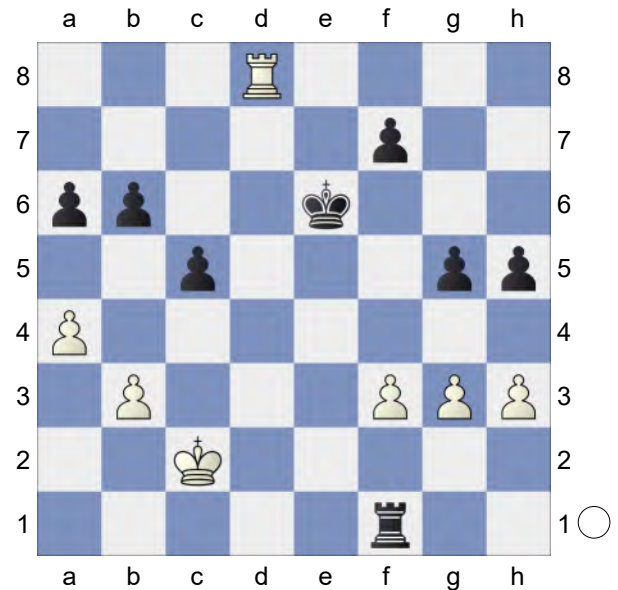


31.Kc3 Re2 32.R3d2 R8e5 33.Kc4 a6
34.a4 g5 35.h3 h5

(Diagram)

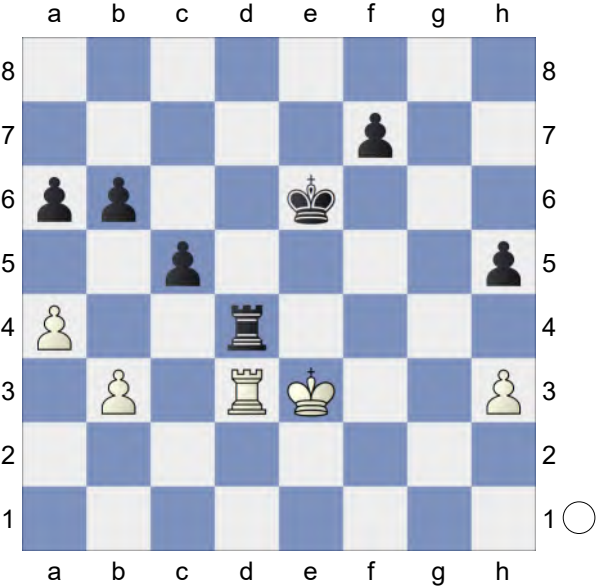


36.f3 Rxd2 37.Rxd2 Re1 38.Kd3
Kxd5 39.Kc2+ Ke6 40.Rd8 Rf1

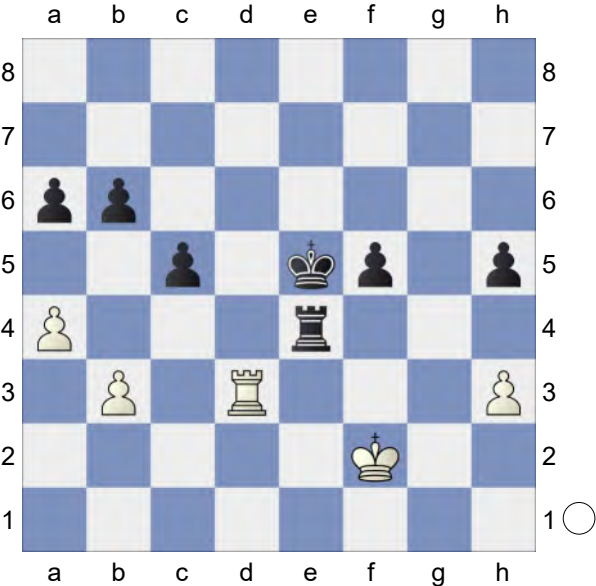


41.Rd3 Rh1 42.f4 gxf4 43.gxf4 Rf1
44.Kd2 Rxf4 45.Ke3 Rd4

(Diagram)



46.Rc3 Kd5 47.Kf2 f5 48.Re3 Re4
49.Rd3+ Ke5



0-1

493

D11

□ Nechepurenko, Roman V

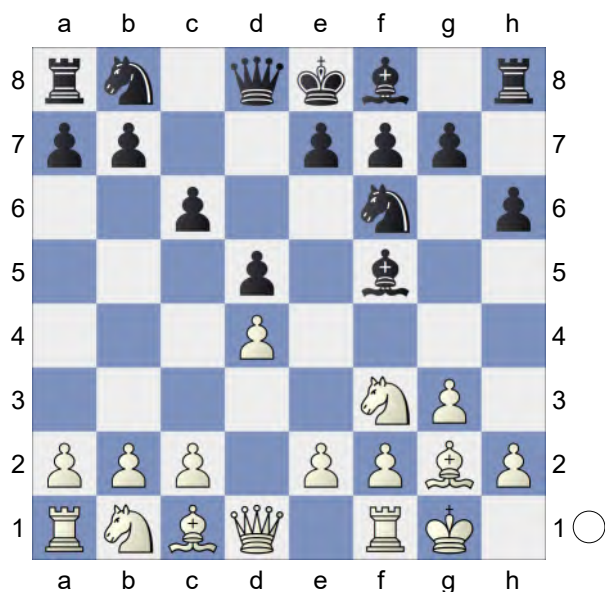
■ Wei, Yixiu

Jugoslavija (ch) (7)

06.07.1959

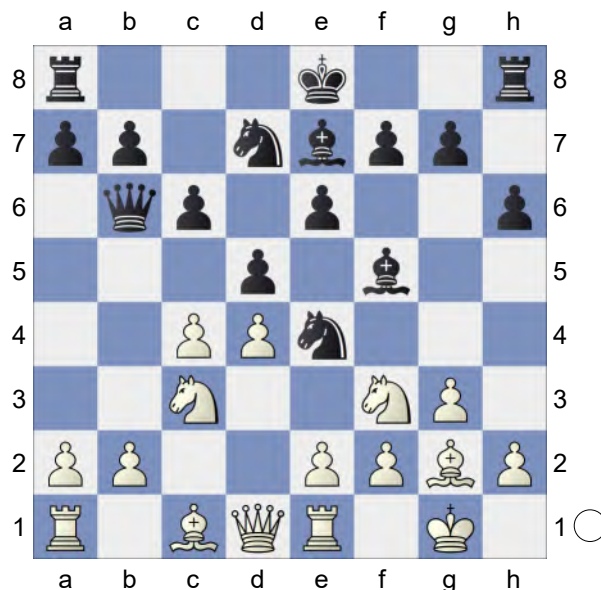
[Dragan Solak]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.g3 c6 3.Bg2 d5 4.Nf3
Bf5 5.0-0 h6**



6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Qb3 Qb6 9.Qd1
 [9.Qxb6 axb6 10.cxd5 exd5 11.Nh4
 Bh7 12.Bd2 b5 13.Rfc1 Nbd7 14.a4
 bxa4 15.Nxa4 0-0 16.Bh3 Ra6
 17.Nc3 Rfa8 18.Rxa6 Rxa6 19.Nf5
 Bf8 20.f3 Nb6 21.b3 Ra3 22.Rb1
 Bb4 23.Bc1 Ra5]
9...Nbd7 10.Re1 Ne4
 [10...dxc4 11.e4]

(Diagram)



11.c5 Qa6

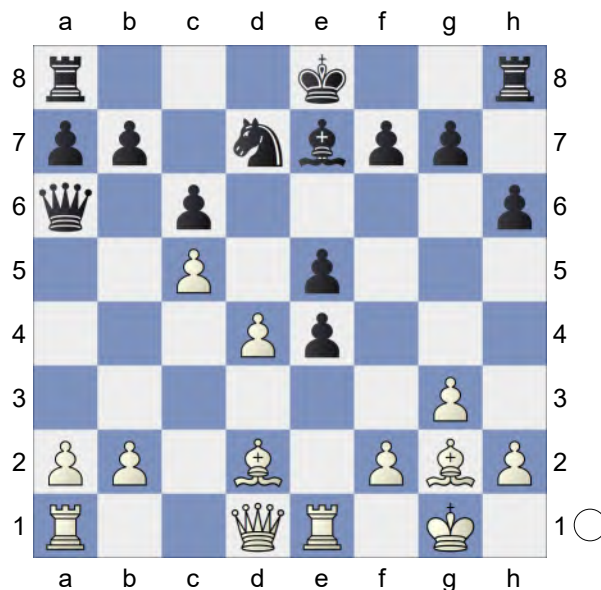
[11...Qc7 12.Bf4]

[11...Nxc3 12.bxc3 Qa6 13.Nd2]

12.Nd2 Nxd2 13.Bxd2 e5

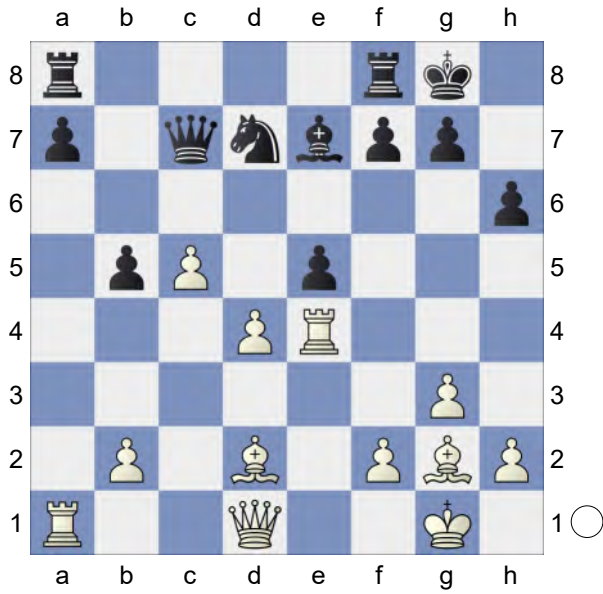
[13...Qc4 14.e4 dxe4 15.Bf1 Qxd4]

14.e4 Bxe4 15.Nxe4 dxe4

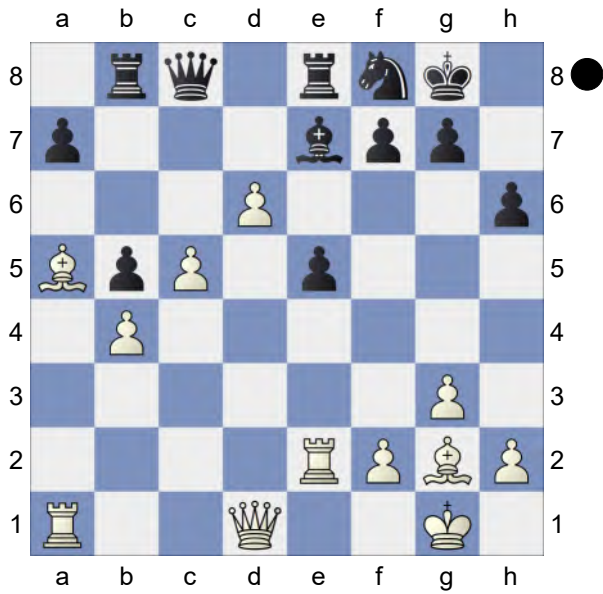


**16.Bf1 b5 17.Rxe4 0-0 18.a4 Qb7
 19.axb5 cxb5 20.Bg2 Qc7**

(Diagram)



**21.Ba5 Qc8 22.Re2 Rb8 23.b4 Re8
24.d5 Nf8 25.d6**



1-0

490

10.Rc1 a6 11.Ne5_13860

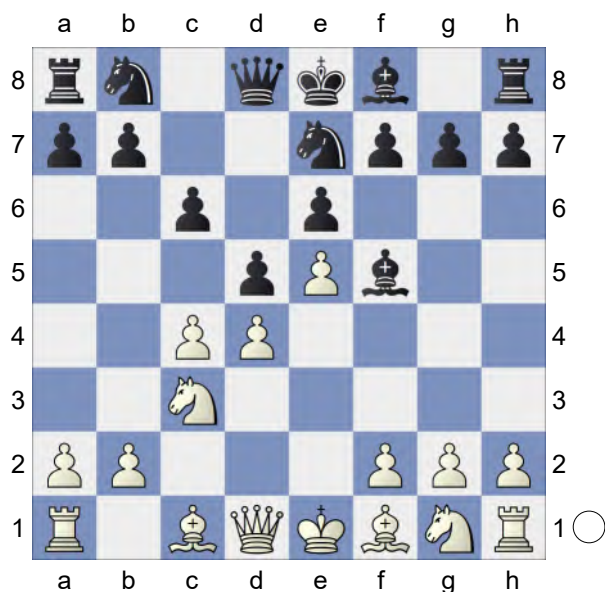
Wei,Yixiu

Jugoslavija (ch) (10)

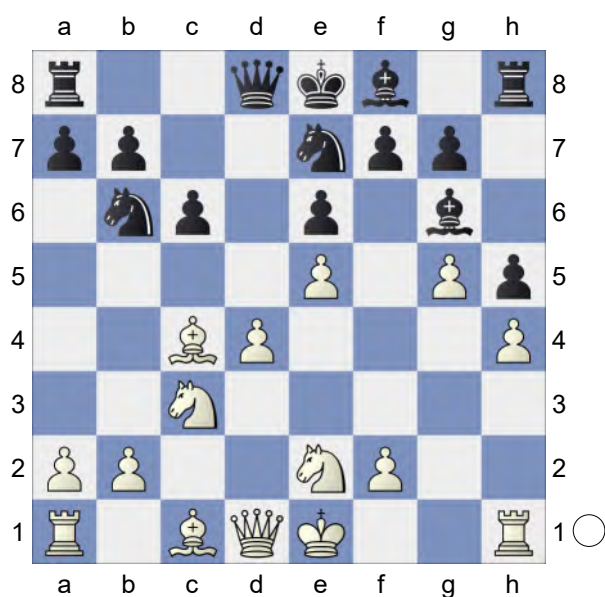
10.07.1959

[Dragan Solak]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.c4 e6
5.Nc3 Ne7



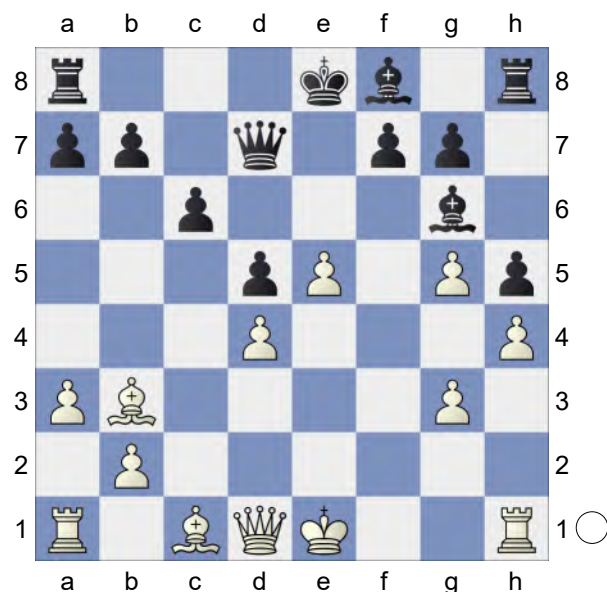
6.g4 Bg6 7.h4 h5 8.g5 dxc4 9.Bxc4
Nd7 10.Nge2 Nb6



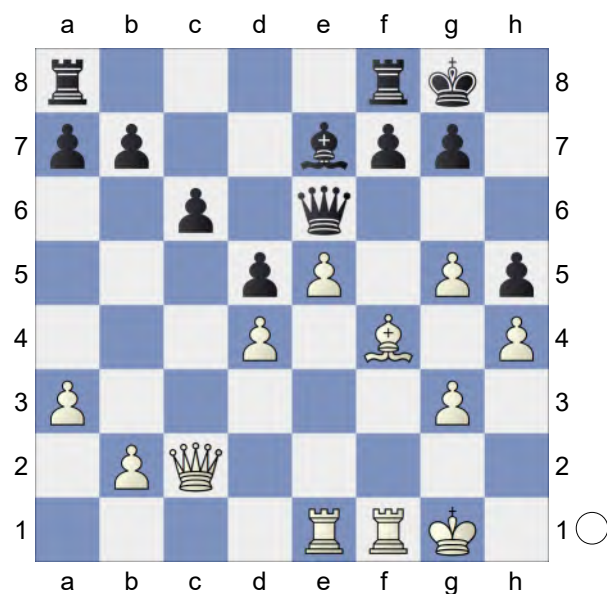
11.Bb3 Nbd5 12.a3 Qd7 13.Ng3 Nf5
[13...0-0-0]

B12

14.Nxd5 Nxg3 15.fxg3 exd5

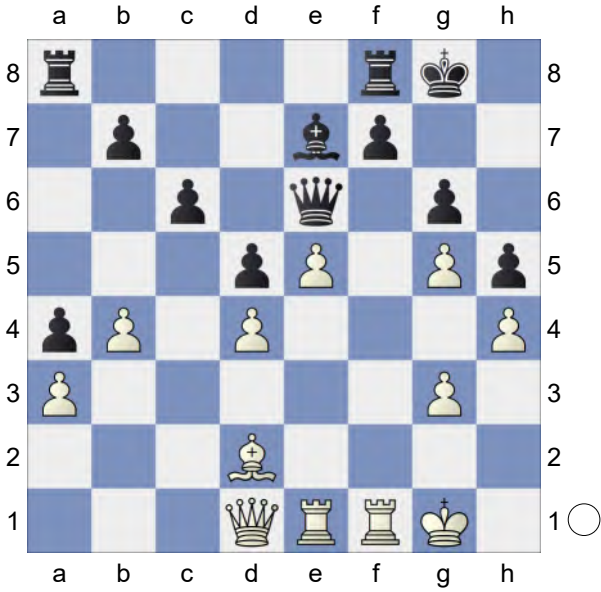


16.Bc2 Bxc2 17.Qxc2 Qg4 18.Bf4
Be7 19.0-0 0-0 20.Rae1 Qe6

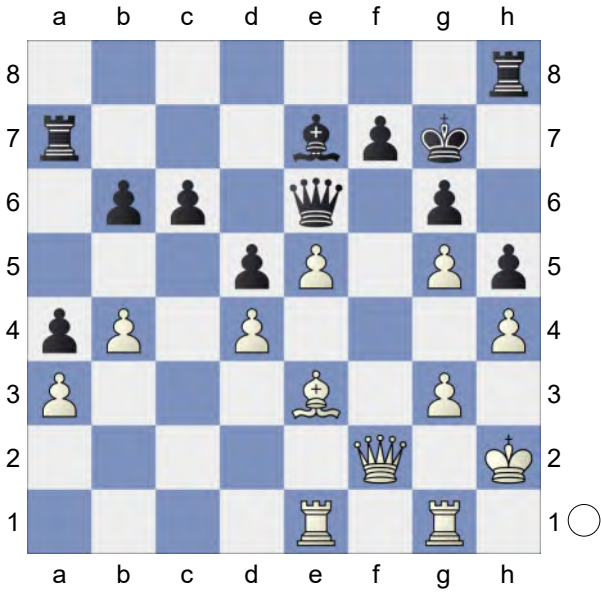


21.Qe2 g6 22.Be3 Rac8 23.b4 a5
24.Bd2 a4 25.Qd1 Ra8

(Diagram)

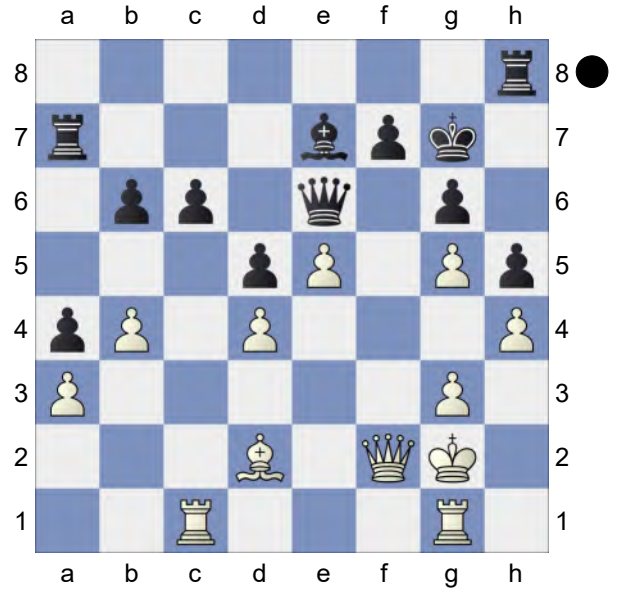


26.Kh2 b6 27.Be3 Rfe8 28.Rg1 Ra7 1-0
29.Qd2 Kg7 30.Qf2 Rh8



31.Rc1 Kh7 32.Kg2 Kg7 33.Bd2

(Diagram)



541

□ Wei,Yi

■ N,N.

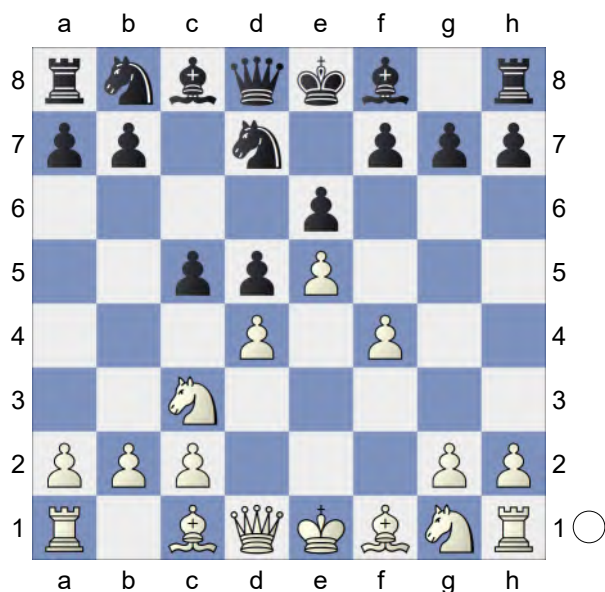
URS-ch Soviet Union

[Dressel]

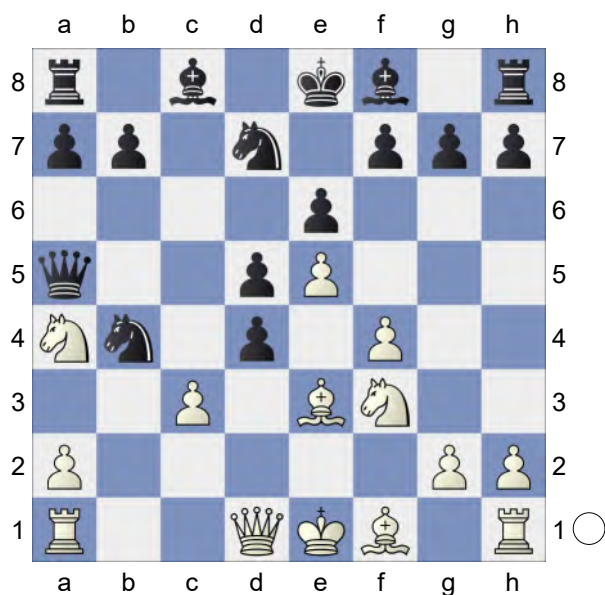
C11

1994

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5
Nfd7 5.f4 c5



6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be3 Qb6 8.Na4 Qa5+
9.c3 cxd4 10.b4 Nxb4



11.cxb4 Bxb4+ 12.Bd2 Bxd2+
13.Nxd2 g5

[13...b6]

14.Rb1

[14.Nb2 b6 (14...gxf4 15.Nd3 0-0
16.Qg4+ Kh8 17.Qxf4 f6 18.Qxd4)
15.Kf2 gxf4 16.Nd3 Ba6 17.Nb3
(17.Nf3 Rc8 18.Nxf4 Nc5 19.g3 d3
20.Bxd3 Nxd3+ 21.Nxd3 Qa3)
17...Qa4 (17...Qa3 18.Be2 Bxd3
19.Qxd3 Nxe5 20.Qxd4 Qd6
21.Qa4+ Ke7 22.Rhf1 Rhc8
23.Rac1 a5 24.Kg1) 18.Nb2 Qa3
19.Qxd4 Rc8 20.Bd3 Bxd3 21.Nxd3
Rc4]

[14.fxcg5 Nxe5 15.Rc1 Bd7 16.Nb2
Qxa2 17.Qb3 Qxb3 18.Nxb3 Ke7
19.Kd2 Bc6 20.Nxd4 Rhg8 21.Bb5
Rxcg5 22.g3 Rg4 23.Nxc6+ bxc6
24.Nd3]

[14.Kf2 d3 15.Nf3 b5 16.Nb2 g4
17.Nd4 Qc3 18.Qxd3 Qxb2+ 19.Be2
Nc5 20.Qxb5+ Qxb5 21.Nxb5 0-0
22.Bxcg4 Rb8 23.Rhb1 Bd7 24.Nd4]

[14.Be2 gxf4 15.0-0 Nxe5 16.Rxf4
Bd7 17.Rxd4 Rc8 18.Rb1 Bxa4
19.Rxa4 Qc5+ 20.Kh1 Rc7 21.Bb5+
Kf8 22.Qe2 Ng6 23.Rf1 e5 24.Nf3]

[14.g3 h5 (14...gxf4 15.gxf4 Rg8
16.Kf2 b5 17.Nb2 Qc3 18.Nd3 Nc5
19.Nb3 Ne4+ 20.Kf3 Qc7 21.Rc1
Qd8 22.Nxd4 Bd7 23.Nc5 Nxc5
24.Rxc5) 15.h4 b5 16.Nb2 Nc5
17.Rc1 Ne4 18.fxcg5 Bd7 19.Nd3
Ke7 20.Nc5 Rac8 21.Ncb3 Qb4
22.Rxc8 Rxc8 23.Bg2 Rc3 24.0-0]

14...gxf4

[14...a6

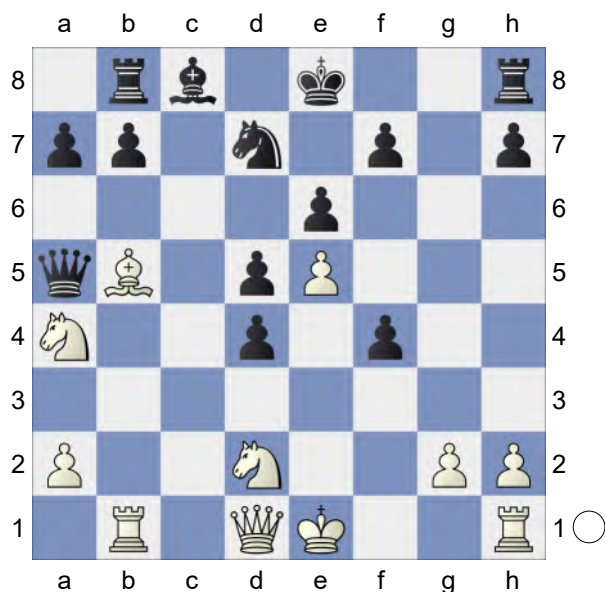
A) 15.Bd3 gxf4 16.0-0 b5
(16...Nxe5 17.Nb6 Rb8 18.Nxc8
Rxc8 19.Rxb7 Nxd3 20.Qh5 0-0
21.Ne4 Rc1 22.Rxc1 Nxc1
23.Nf6+ Kg7 24.Ne8+) 17.Nb2
Nxe5 18.Rxf4 Ng6 19.Bxcg6 hxcg6
20.Nf3 Qb6 21.Nd3 0-0 22.Nfe5

Ra7 23.Qf3 Qd6 24.Rf6;

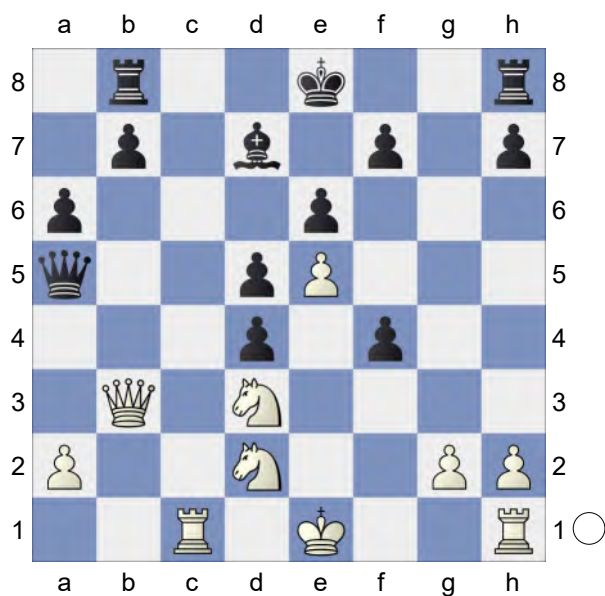
B) 15.Nb2 Nc5 16.Bd3 Bd7
17.0-0 Qxa2 18.fxg5 Qa3]

15.Bb5 Rb8

[15...Kf8 16.0-0 Nxe5 17.Rxf4 a6
18.Qh5 Ng6 19.Qh6+ Ke7 20.Qg5+
Kf8 21.Rbf1 Qxb5 22.Rxf7+ Ke8
23.Rxh7 Rxh7 24.Qxg6+]



16.Nc5 Qc3 17.Nd3 a6 18.Rc1 Qa3
19.Qb3 Qa5
[19...Qxb3 20.Bxd7+ Bxd7 21.Nxb3]
20.Bxd7+ Bxd7



21.Nxf4 Rg8

[21...Ke7]

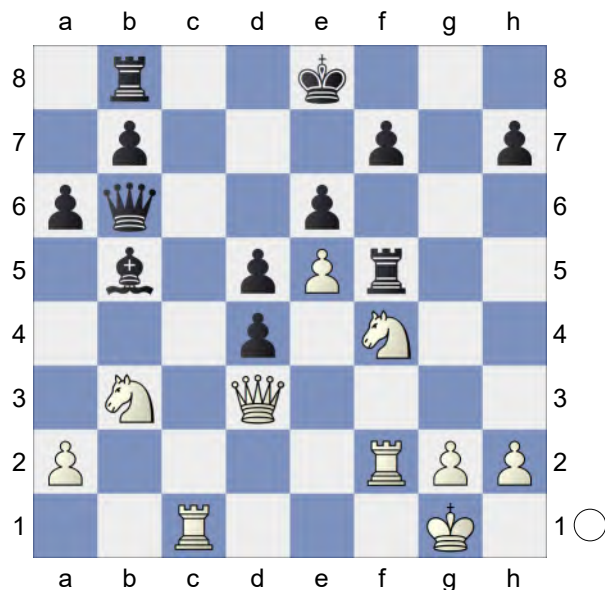
22.Qd3 Rg5 23.0-0

[23.Qxd4 Qxa2 (23...f6 24.exf6 e5
25.Qa7)]

23...Rf5

[23...Rxe5 24.Qxh7]

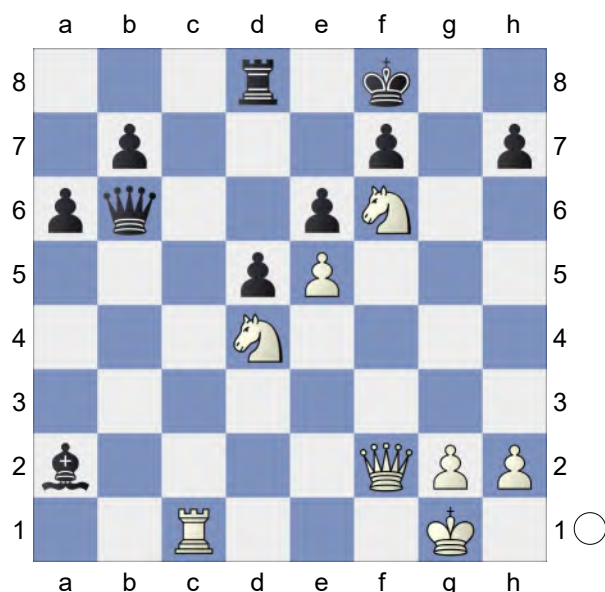
24.Nb3 Qb6 25.Rf2 Bb5



26.Qg3

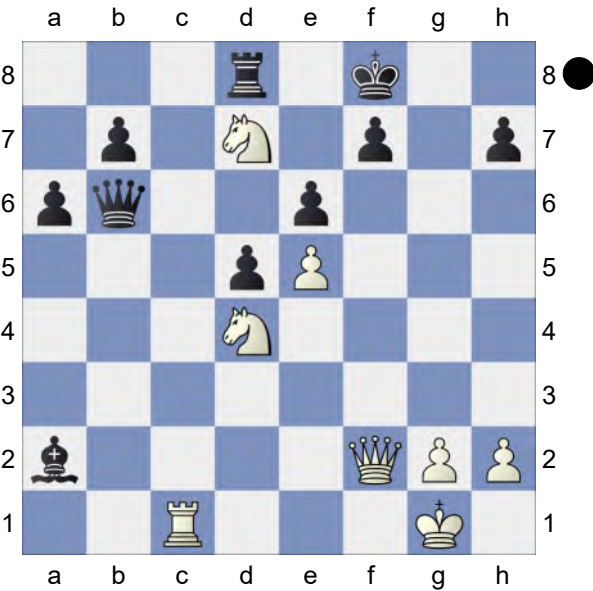
[26.Qxd4 Qxd4 27.Nxd4 Rxe5]

26...Rd8 27.Nh5 Rxf2 28.Qxf2 Bc4
29.Nf6+ Kf8 30.Nxd4 Bxa2



31.Nd7+

[31.Nd7+ Rxd7 32.Rc8+ Rd8
33.Rxd8+ Qxd8 34.Nxe6+]



516

Wei,Yi

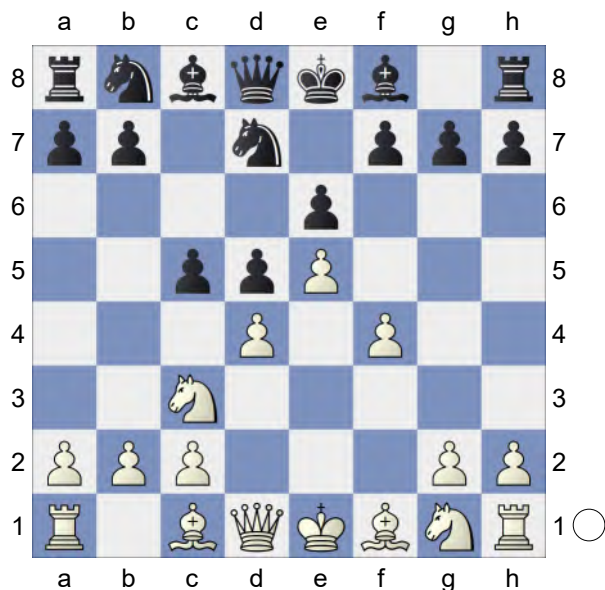
URS-ch Soviet Union

[Dressel]

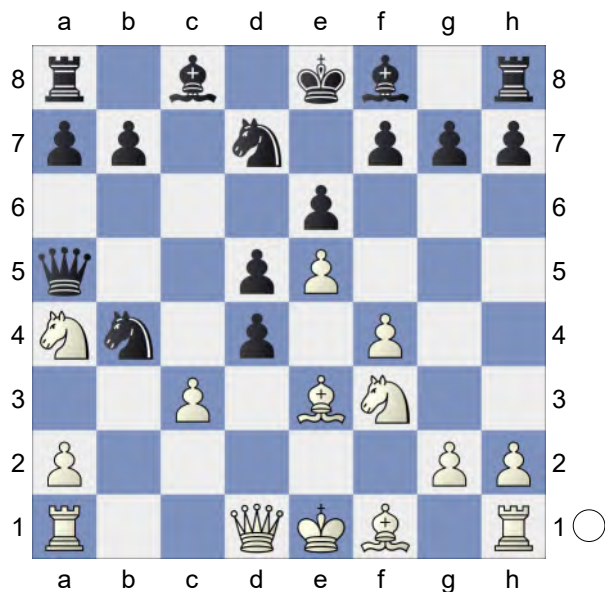
C11

1994

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5
Nfd7 5.f4 c5



6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be3 Qb6 8.Na4 Qa5+
9.c3 cxd4 10.b4 Nxb4



11.cxb4 Bxb4+ 12.Bd2 Bxd2+
13.Nxd2 g5
[13...b6]

14.Rb1

[14.Nb2 b6 (14...gxf4 15.Nd3 0-0
16.Qg4+ Kh8 17.Qxf4 f6 18.Qxd4)
15.Kf2 gxf4 16.Nd3 Ba6 17.Nb3
(17.Nf3 Rc8 18.Nxf4 Nc5 19.g3 d3
20.Bxd3 Nxd3+ 21.Nxd3 Qa3)
17...Qa4 (17...Qa3 18.Be2 Bxd3
19.Qxd3 Nxe5 20.Qxd4 Qd6
21.Qa4+ Ke7 22.Rhf1 Rhc8
23.Rac1 a5 24.Kg1) 18.Nb2 Qa3
19.Qxd4 Rc8 20.Bd3 Bxd3 21.Nxd3
Rc4]

[14.fxcg5 Nxe5 15.Rc1 Bd7 16.Nb2
Qxa2 17.Qb3 Qxb3 18.Nxb3 Ke7
19.Kd2 Bc6 20.Nxd4 Rhg8 21.Bb5
Rxcg5 22.g3 Rg4 23.Nxc6+ bxc6
24.Nd3]

[14.Kf2 d3 15.Nf3 b5 16.Nb2 g4
17.Nd4 Qc3 18.Qxd3 Qxb2+ 19.Be2
Nc5 20.Qxb5+ Qxb5 21.Nxb5 0-0
22.Bxcg4 Rb8 23.Rhb1 Bd7 24.Nd4]

[14.Be2 gxf4 15.0-0 Nxe5 16.Rxf4
Bd7 17.Rxd4 Rc8 18.Rb1 Bxa4
19.Rxa4 Qc5+ 20.Kh1 Rc7 21.Bb5+
Kf8 22.Qe2 Ng6 23.Rf1 e5 24.Nf3]

[14.g3 h5 (14...gxf4 15.gxf4 Rg8
16.Kf2 b5 17.Nb2 Qc3 18.Nd3 Nc5
19.Nb3 Ne4+ 20.Kf3 Qc7 21.Rc1
Qd8 22.Nxd4 Bd7 23.Nc5 Nxc5
24.Rxc5) 15.h4 b5 16.Nb2 Nc5
17.Rc1 Ne4 18.fxcg5 Bd7 19.Nd3
Ke7 20.Nc5 Rac8 21.Ncb3 Qb4
22.Rxc8 Rxc8 23.Bg2 Rc3 24.0-0]

14...gxf4

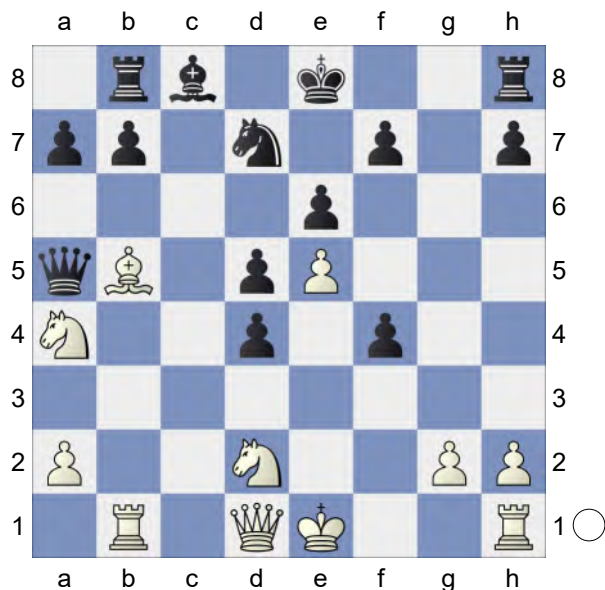
[14...a6

A) 15.Bd3 gxf4 16.0-0 b5
(16...Nxe5 17.Nb6 Rb8 18.Nxc8
Rxc8 19.Rxb7 Nxd3 20.Qh5 0-0
21.Ne4 Rc1 22.Rxc1 Nxc1
23.Nf6+ Kg7 24.Ne8+) 17.Nb2
Nxe5 18.Rxf4 Ng6 19.Bxcg6 hxcg6
20.Nf3 Qb6 21.Nd3 0-0 22.Nfe5
Ra7 23.Qf3 Qd6 24.Rf6;

B) 15.Nb2 Nc5 16.Bd3 Bd7
17.0-0 Qxa2 18.fxg5 Qa3]

15.Bb5 Rb8

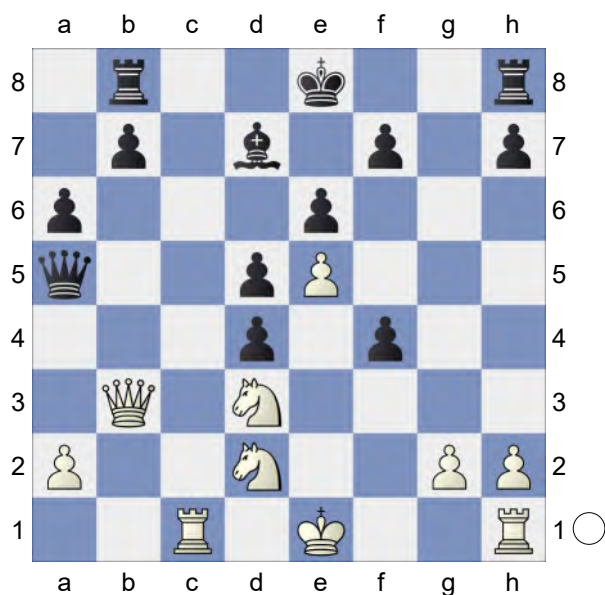
[15...Kf8 16.0-0 Nxe5 17.Rxf4 a6
18.Qh5 Ng6 19.Qh6+ Ke7 20.Qg5+
Kf8 21.Rbf1 Qxb5 22.Rxf7+ Ke8
23.Rxh7 Rxh7 24.Qxg6+]



16.Nc5 Qc3 17.Nd3 a6 18.Rc1 Qa3
19.Qb3 Qa5

[19...Qxb3 20.Bxd7+ Bxd7 21.Nxb3]

20.Bxd7+ Bxd7



21.Nxf4 Rg8

[21...Ke7]

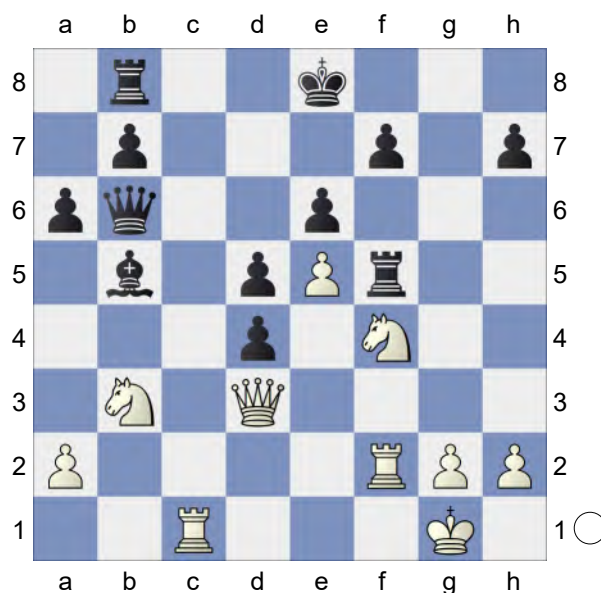
22.Qd3 Rg5 23.0-0

[23.Qxd4 Qxa2 (23...f6 24.exf6 e5
25.Qa7)]

23...Rf5

[23...Rxe5 24.Qxh7]

24.Nb3 Qb6 25.Rf2 Bb5

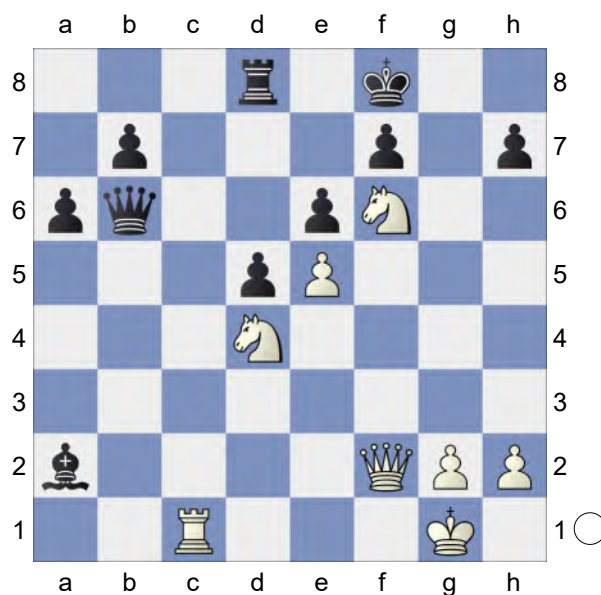


26.Qg3

[26.Qxd4 Qxd4 27.Nxd4 Rxe5]

26...Rd8 27.Nh5 Rxf2 28.Qxf2 Bc4

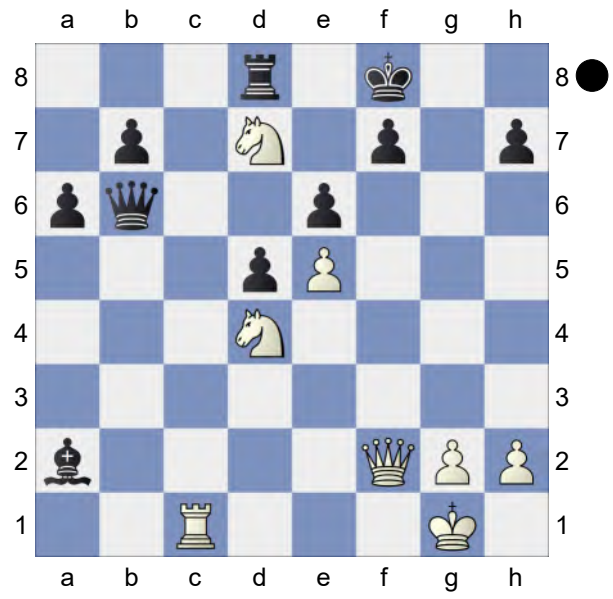
29.Nf6+ Kf8 30.Nxd4 Bxa2



31.Nd7+

[31.Nd7+ Rxd7 32.Rc8+ Rd8

33.Rxd8+ Qxd8 34.Nxe6+]



257

Artemiev, Vladislav

Wei, Yi

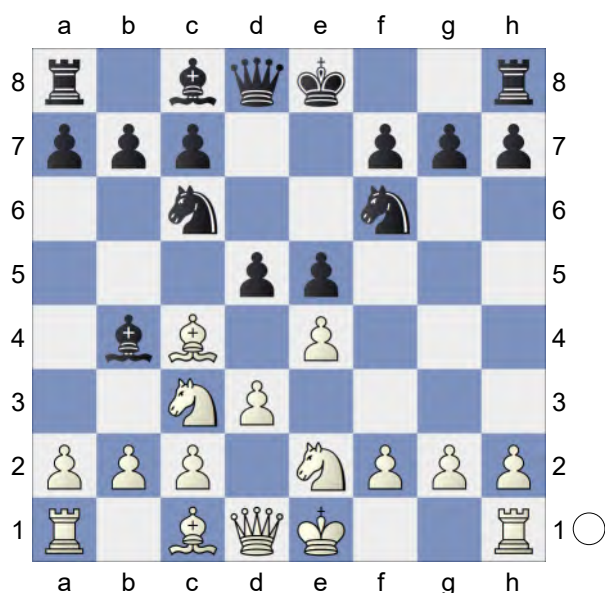
 Nations Cup Online Prelim (3.2) 6.5.20
 [Edouard, Romain]

C28

2716

2732

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bc4 Nc6 4.d3 Bb4

 [4...Na5 5.Nge2 Nxc4 6.dxc4 Bc5]
5.Nge2 d5

6.exd5 Nxd5 7.0-0 Be6

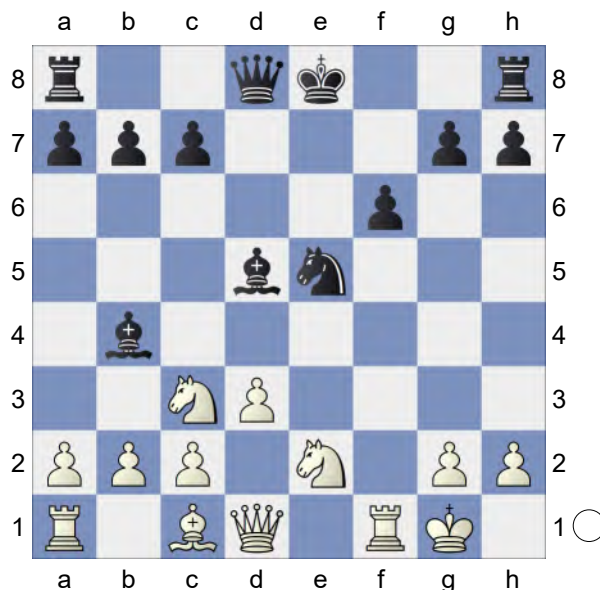
 [7...Nxc3± 0-1 (63) Papin, V (2520)-
 Ponkratov, P (2603) RUS 2010 8.bxc3
 Bd6 9.Ng3 0-0 10.Qh5]

8.Bxd5

 [8.a3 Bxc3 9.bxc3 0-0 10.Bxd5
 Qxd5 11.Be3 b6]

8...Bxd5 9.f4 f6 10.fxe5!? Nxe5N

(Diagram)


11.Nf4!

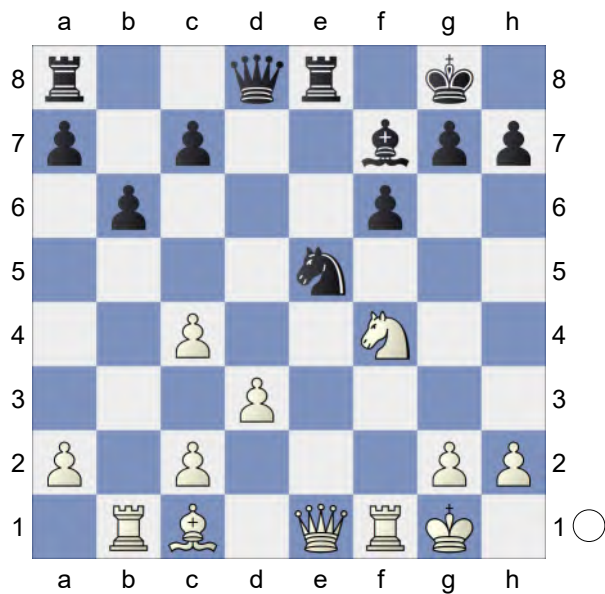
 [11.Nxd5 Qxd5 is also a solid setup
 for Black, and it's difficult to say what
 Artemiev wanted to come up with. The
 engine comes up with the interesting
 12.d4!? which may be worth having a
 look at. Ng6 13.Nf4 Nxf4 14.Bxf4
 0-0-0 15.c3 Bd6]

11...Bxc3

 [11...Bf7 and here I could easily
 imagine an (almost) novelty like 12.d4
 Ng6 13.Re1+ Be7 14.Ne6
 making Black's play slightly
 unpleasant. or Bxe6 15.Rxe6 Qd7
 16.Re1 0-0-0 17.Be3]

**12.bxc3 0-0?! With this move, problems
 start. 13.c4 Bf7 14.Rb1 b6 15.Qe1?!
 Re8?**

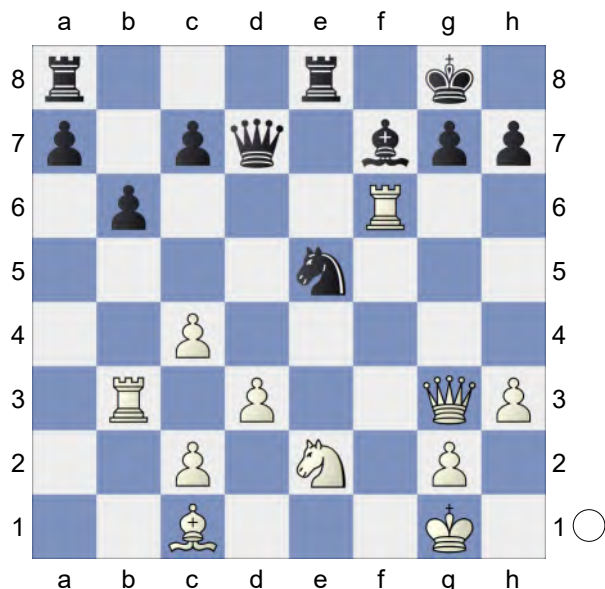
(Diagram)



16.Qg3 Qd7 Now we reach a kind of endgame that is very unpleasant for Black, as the g2-bishop is a true monster. **17.h3 Qa4 18.Rb3 Qxa2 19.Ne2 Qa4**

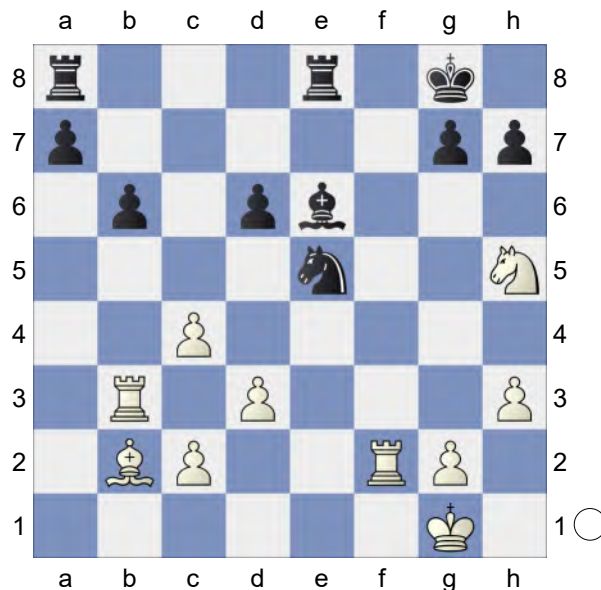
[19...Qxc2 20.Nd4 should be close to a draw The usual Qa2 21.Ra3 hardly brought White any advantage. In the event of Qb1 Artemiev probably had a similar idea: 22.Bh6 Qxf1+ 23.Kxf1!]

20.Rxf6 Qd7

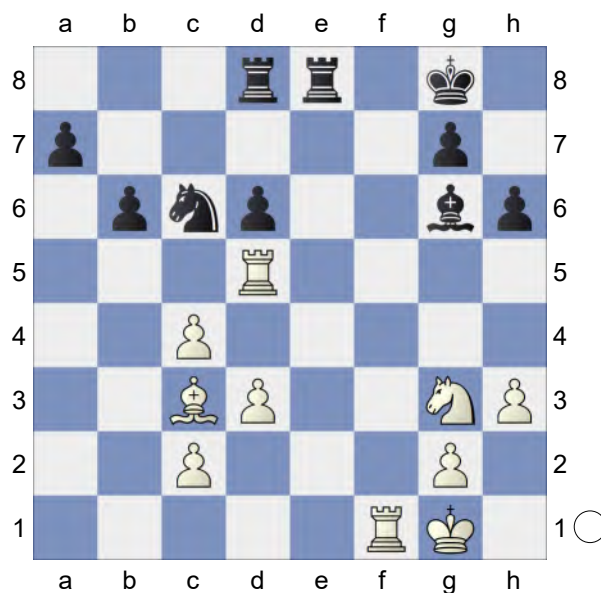


21.Rf2 Ng6 22.Bb2 Qd6 23.Qxd6

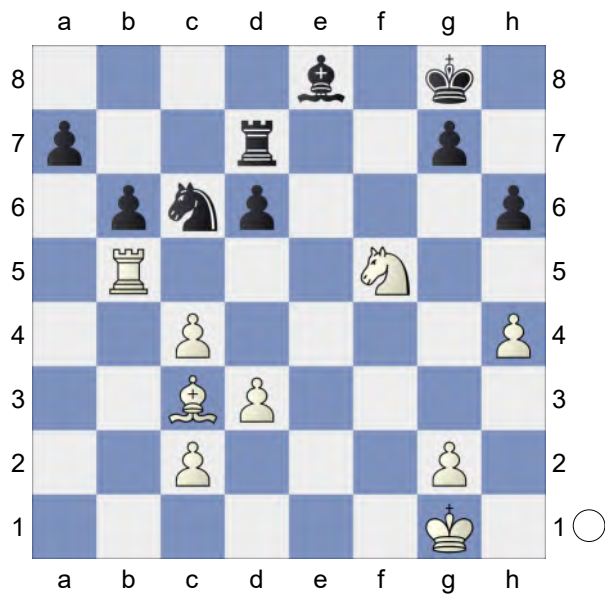
cx d6 24.Ng3 Be6? 25.Nh5!
An elegant finish. Incredible how quickly Black's position became so bad from a very timid line by White. After **25...Ne5**



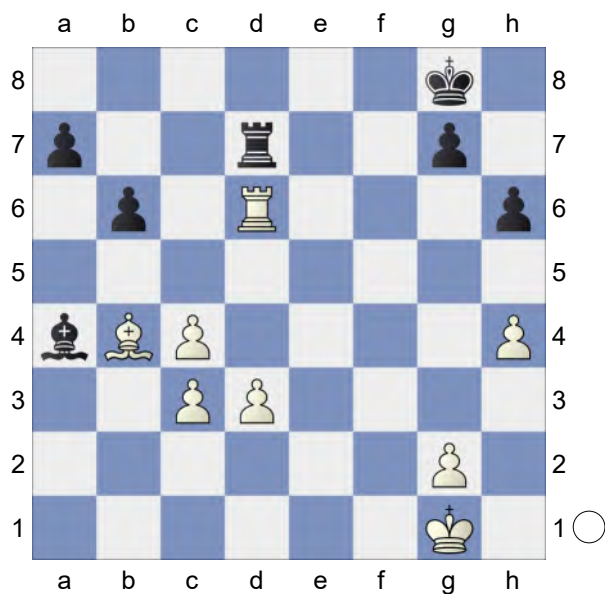
26.Rb5 Bf7 Black would still be in the game, but of course White is close to winning. **27.Ng3 Bg6** is not something Black wants... **28.Rd5!?± Rad8 29.Bc3 h6 30.Rf1± Nc6±**



31.h4± Rf8 32.Re1 Bf7 33.Rb5± Rfe8! 34.Rxe8+ Bxe8 with the idea of ... **Nc3**, should be fine for Black. **35.Nf5!** was more precise. **35...Rd7!**

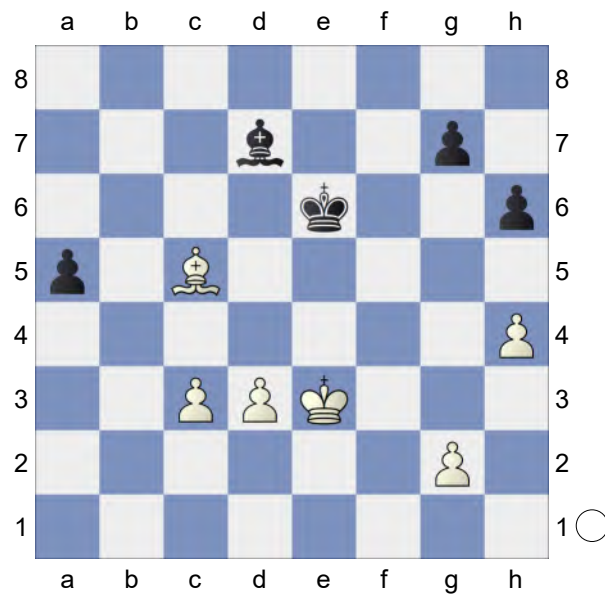


would be fine for Black. It is weird to leave the black queen awkwardly placed on b4, but White can't take advantage of it. **36.Rd5 Ne7!** A nice prophylactic move against Qd6 . **37.Nxe7+ Rxe7 38.Rxd6 Ba4 39.Bb4 Rf7 40.c3 Rd7**

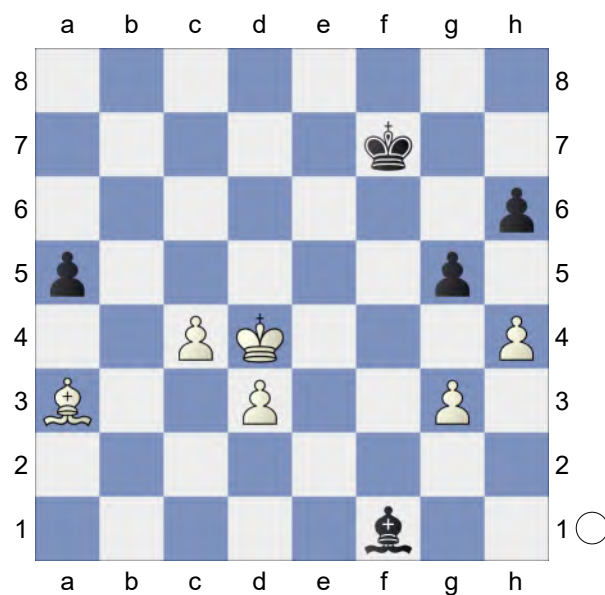


41.c5 bxc5 42.Rxd7 Bxd7= 43.Bxc5!? running away with the queen through a6 is also fine. White can play **43...a5** and win the bishop pair, but Black's activity compensates.

[43...Bf5 44.d4 Kf7]
44.Kf2 Kf7 45.Ke3 Ke6

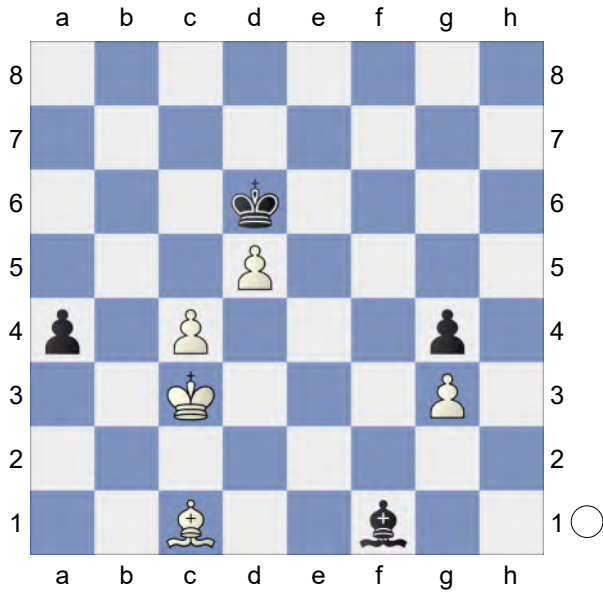


46.c4 Bc6 47.g3 Bg2 48.Bf8 Kf7 49.Ba3 and again the position is about equal. Anand had chosen **49...Bf1** against the same Artemiev, and after **50.Kd4 g5**

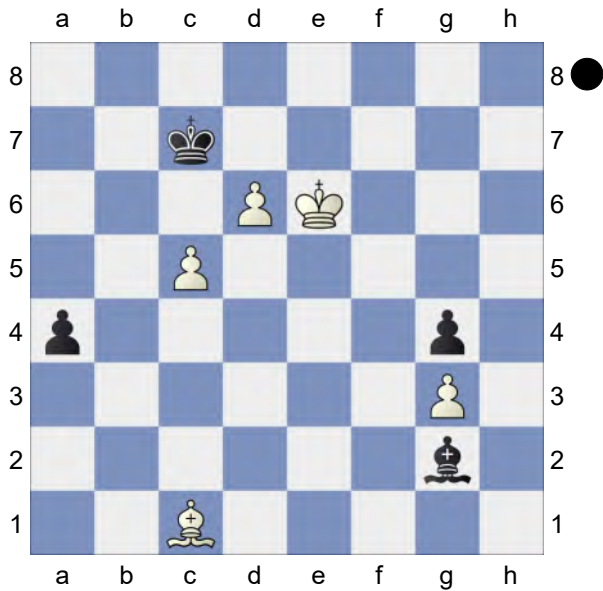


and here perhaps **51.hxg5!?** would be worth having a look at!
51...hxg5 52.Kc3 Ke6 53.d4 g4 54.Bc1 a4 55.d5+ Kd6

(Diagram)



56.Kd4 Bg2 57.c5+ 1-0 (63)
Sargissian, G (2671)-Dominguez, L
(2757) Linares ESP 2013 57...Kc7!?
58.Ke5 Bf3 59.Ke6! Bg2 60.d6+



1-0

259

□ Artemiev, Vladislav

■ Wei, Yi

Nations Cup Online Prelim (3.2) 6.5.20

[Edouard, Romain]

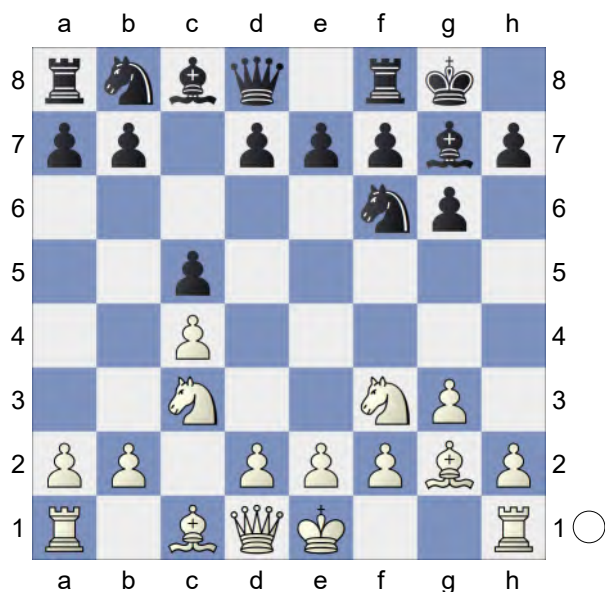
A34

2716

2732

6.5.20

1.c4 g6 2.g3 Bg7 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.Nc3
0-0 5.Nf3 c5



6.0-0 d5 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Qb3 e6

[In the event of 8...Nb6 Artemiev probably had a similar idea: 9.d3 Nc6 10.Qb5!? Nd7 and here I could easily imagine an (almost) novelty like 11.Bd2 (or 11.Bg5 h6 12.Bd2) 11...a6 12.Qa4 Nb6 13.Qh4 making Black's play slightly unpleasant.]

[8...Nc7 9.Qc4 Ne6 10.d3 Nc6 is also a solid setup for Black, and it's difficult to say what Artemiev wanted to come up with. The engine comes up with the interesting 11.Ng5!? which may be worth having a look at.]

[8...Nxc3 9.bxc3 Nc6 10.Ng5 Na5 11.Qb5 c4 12.Ba3 Bd7 13.Qc5 h6 14.Nf3 Re8 15.Ne5 Rc8 16.Qe3± 0-1 (63) Papin, V (2520)-Ponkratov, P

(2603) RUS 2010]

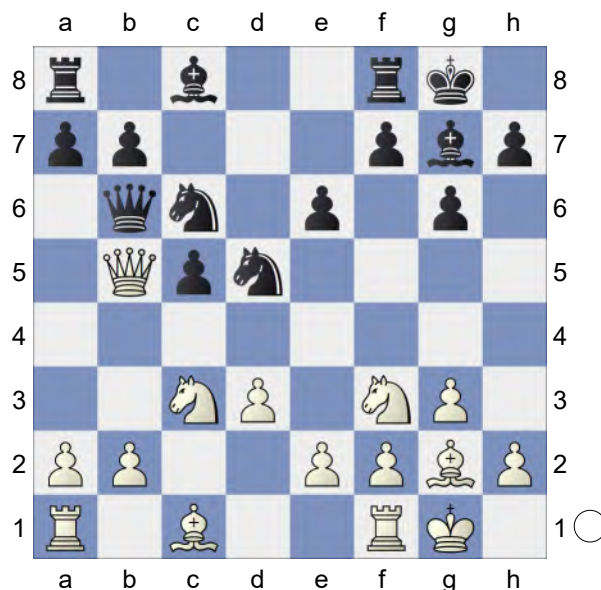
9.d3 Nc6 10.Qb5!?

[The usual 10.Bg5 Qd7 hardly brought White any advantage.]

10...Qb6N

[Anand had chosen 10...Qa5 against the same Artemiev, and after 11.Qxa5 Nxa5 and here perhaps 12.Ng5!?N would be worth having a look at!]

[10...Nxc3 11.bxc3 Bxc3 12.Rb1 Qa5 13.Be3 Qxa2 (13...Qxb5!? 14.Rxb5 b6 15.Bxc5! Rd8 16.Rb3 Bg7 17.Nd4 Nxd4 18.Bxd4 Rb8 should be close to a draw) 14.Qxc5 Bg7 15.Nd2 a5 16.Rfc1± 1-0 (63) Sargissian, G (2671)-Dominguez, L (2757) Linares ESP 2013]



11.Qc4! Qb4 12.Ne4 Qxc4?!

With this move, problems start.

[12...b6! would be fine for Black. It is weird to leave the black queen awkwardly placed on b4, but White can't take advantage of it. 13.Qc2 Rd8! A nice prophylactic move against ♖d6. (13...Qb5!? running away with the queen through a6 is also fine.

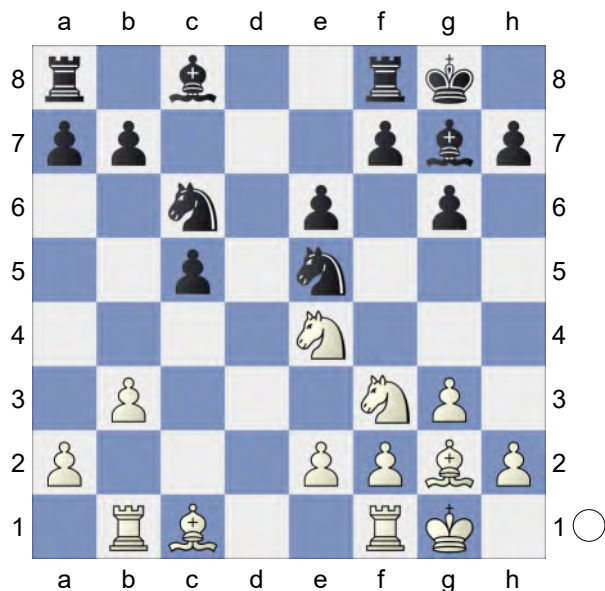
White can play 14.Nd6 and win the bishop pair, but Black's activity compensates.; 13...Nd4 14.Nxd4 Qxd4 15.a3 Bb7 16.Rb1 Qe5 17.b3 Qc7 18.Bb2 Qe7 and again the position is about equal.) 14.a3 Qb5 15.Nc3 Nxc3 16.bxc3 Bb7 17.c4 Qa6 18.Bb2 Nd4 19.Nxd4 cxd4=]

13.dxc4 Nb6 14.Rb1 Nxc4 15.b3?!

[15.Nxc5! was more precise.]

15...N4e5?

[15...Nb6! 16.Nxc5 Nd5 with the idea of ...Nc3, should be fine for Black.]



16.Nxe5 Bxe5 Now we reach a kind of endgame that is very unpleasant for Black, as the g2-bishop is a true monster.

[16...Nxe5 17.Nxc5 Rb8 18.Ba3±]

17.Bh6

[17.Nxc5±]

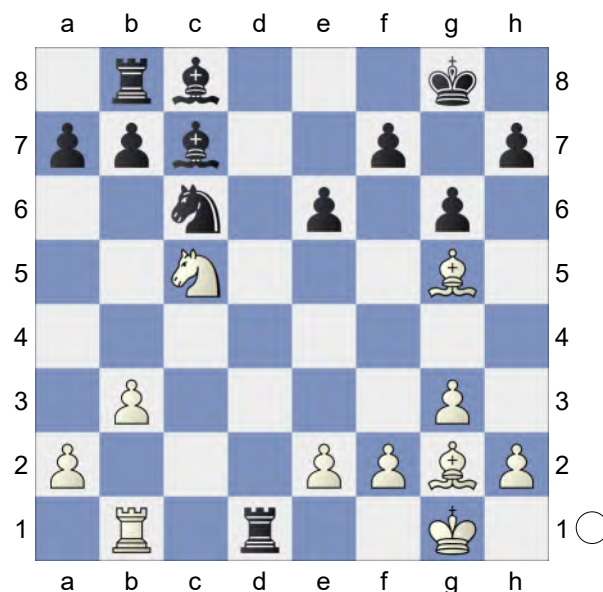
[17.Ba3±]

17...Rd8

[17...Bg7 18.Bxg7 Kxg7 19.Nxc5±]

18.Rfd1 Rb8 19.Nxc5 Bc7 20.Bg5 Rxd1+

(Diagram)



21.Rxd1 Kg7 22.Ne4

[22.Nd7!?±]

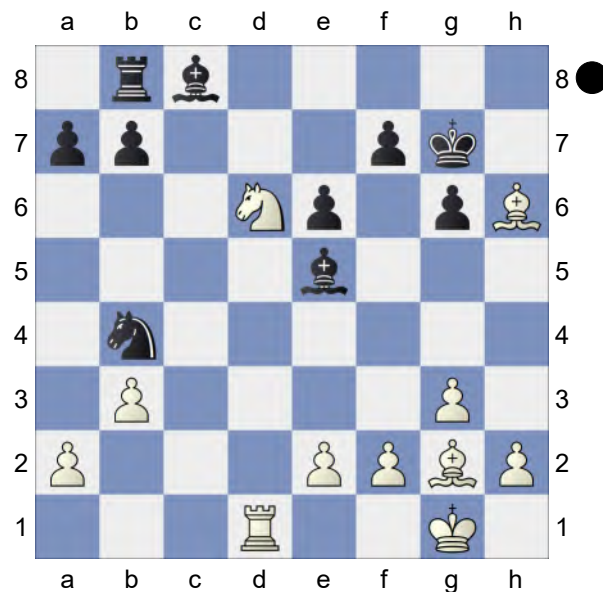
22...Be5 23.Nd6 h6

[23...Bxd6 24.Rxd6 is not something Black wants...]

24.Be3 Nb4?

[After 24...Bxd6 25.Rxd6 e5 Black would still be in the game, but of course White is close to winning.]

25.Bxh6+!



An elegant finish. Incredible how quickly Black's position became so bad from a

very timid line by White.
1-0

255

□ Artemiev, Vladislav

■ Wei, Yi

Nations Cup Online Prelim (3.2) 6.5.20

[Edouard, Romain]

A07

2716

2732

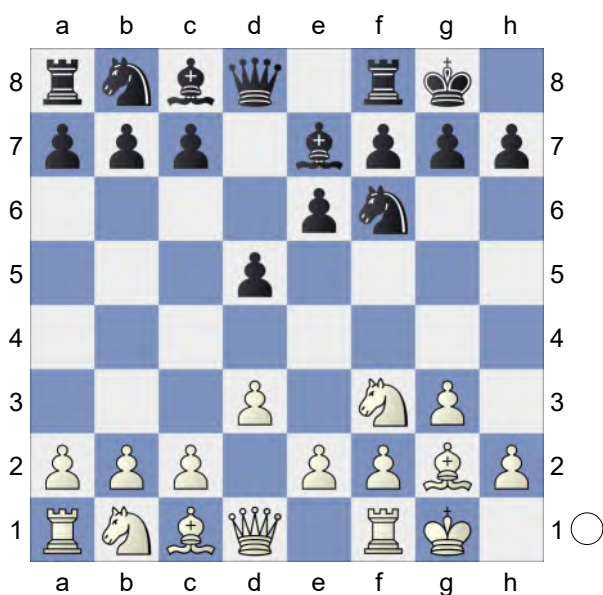
1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 e6 4.0-0

Be7 5.d3

[5.c4]

[5.d4 0-0 6.c4]

5...0-0



6.Bf4

[6.Nbd2]

6...c5 7.e4 Nc6

[7...dxe4 8.dxe4 Nxe4 9.Qe2 Nf6 10.Rd1

A) 10...Qa5 11.Ne5 Nd5 12.Bd2 Qb6 13.Nc3;**B) 10...Qe8** 11.Nc3 Bd7 (11...Nc6 12.Nb5 Nd5 13.Rxd5 exd5 14.Nc7 Qd8 15.Nxa8 Bd6 16.Bxd6 Qxd6 17.Qb5 Qe7 18.Nc7 Qxc7 19.Qxc5);**C) 10...Qb6** 11.Na3**C1) 11...Qxb2** 12.Nb5 Nd5 13.Rab1 Nxf4 14.gxf4 Qf6 15.Nc7 Nc6 16.Nxa8 Qxf4

17.a4 Qb8 18.a5 Qxa8 19.a6 Qb8 (19...bxa6 20.Ne5 Bb7 21.Rxb7 Qxb7 22.Nxc6) 20.axb7 Bxb7 21.Rxb7 Qxb7 22.Ne5 Rd8 23.Nxc6 Rxd1+ 24.Qxd1;

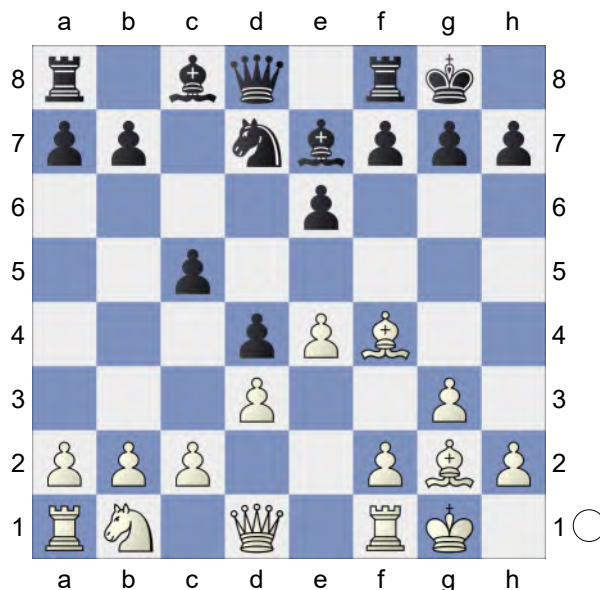
C2) 11...Nc6 12.Nc4 Qa6 13.a4 Bd7 14.Bf1]

8.Ne5 Nxe5 9.Bxe5 Nd7 10.Bf4!?

[10.Bc3]

10...d4N

[10...e5 11.Bd2 d4 12.a4]



11.a4!

[11.e5 g5 12.Bd2 Nxe5 13.f4 Ng6 14.fxg5 Bxg5 15.Qh5 Bxd2 16.Nxd2 f5 17.Rae1 Kg7 18.Nf3

A) 18...Qf6 19.Ng5 h6 20.Bxb7 Bxb7 21.Nxe6+ Kh7 22.g4 (22.Nxf8+ Rxf8 23.Re2 Ne5) 22...f4 23.g5 Qf7 24.Qxh6+ Kg8 25.Nxf4 Nxf4 26.Rxf4 Qxf4 27.Qg6+ Kh8 28.Qh6+ Kg8;**B) 18...h6** 19.Ne5 Nxe5 20.Rxe5 Qd6 21.Rfe1]**11...e5 12.Bd2 Nb8?! With this move, problems start. 13.Na3 Nc6 14.f4 exf4** [14...f6 15.f5

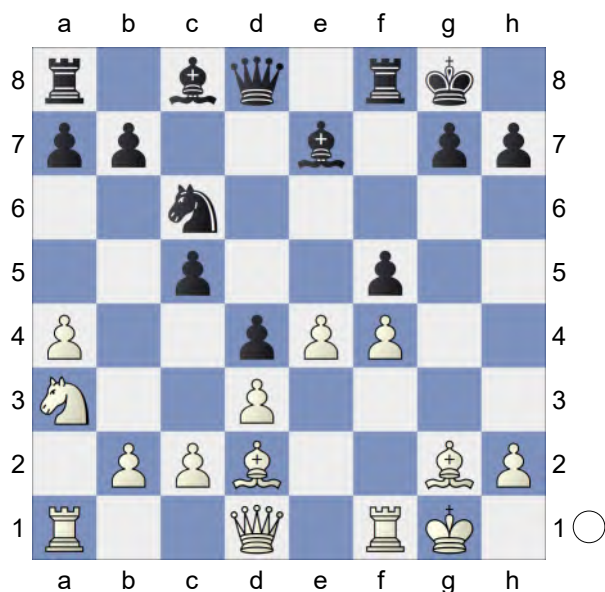
A) 15...b6 16.Bf3 a6

A1) 17.Bh5 Rb8 18.Bg6 Qd7
 19.Bh5 (19.Qh5 hxg6 20.fxg6
 Qh3) 19...b5;

A2) 17.h4 Rb8 18.Bh5 b5
 19.Bg6 Rb7 (19...hxg6
 20.fxg6) 20.Qh5 h6 21.axb5
 axb5 22.b3 Bd6 23.g4;

B) 15...Bd7 16.Nc4 Be8]

15.gxf4?! f5?



16.Nc4 Be6 Now we reach a kind of endgame that is very unpleasant for Black, as the g2-bishop is a true monster. **17.a5**

[17.exf5 Bxf5 18.Qf3 Kh8 19.Rae1 Qc7 20.a5]

17...Qd7

[17...Rc8]

18.exf5 Bd5

[18...Bxf5 19.Qf3 Rab8 20.a6 b5

A) 21.Ne5 Nxe5 22.fxe5

A1) 22...c4 23.Qd5+ Kh8
 24.Qxd7 Bxd7 25.Rxf8+ Bxf8
 (25...Rxf8 26.Ba5);

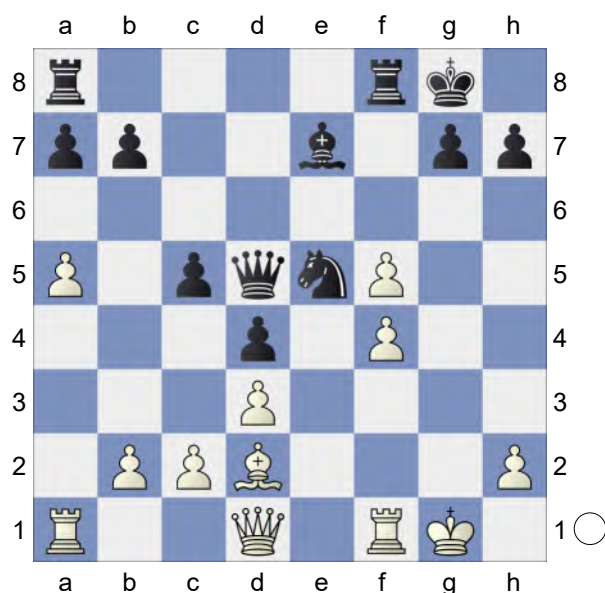
A2) 22...Kh8 23.Qb7 b4
 (23...Rxb7 24.axb7 Rb8
 25.Rxa7) 24.Rxf5 Qxf5 25.Qxe7
 Qf2+ 26.Kh1 Qxd2 27.Qxa7 b3

28.cxb3 Qxb2 29.Rg1 Qxb3
 30.Qxc5;

A3) 22...Be6 23.Qb7 Rfd8
 (23...Rbd8 24.Ba5; 23...Rxb7
 24.Rxf8+ Bxf8 25.axb7 Qc7
 26.Rxa7; 23...Rxf1+ 24.Kxf1
 Rf8+ 25.Kg1);

B) 21.Qd5+ Qxd5 (21...Kh8
 22.Qxd7 Bxd7 23.Ne5 Nxe5
 24.fxe5) 22.Bxd5+ Kh8 23.Ne5
 Nxe5 24.fxe5]

19.Ne5 Nxe5 20.Bxd5+ Qxd5



21.fxe5 Qxe5 22.Qf3 Rad8

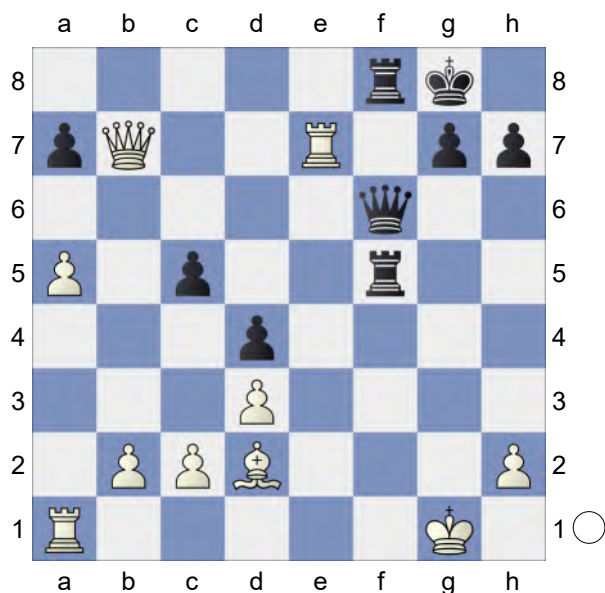
[22...Bh4!? 23.Qxb7 and here I could easily imagine an (almost) novelty like Rae8 (23...Rab8 24.Qxa7 Rxb2 25.Qd7 Rxc2 26.Bf4 Qe2 27.Qe6+ Rf7 28.Qxe2 Rxe2 29.a6) 24.Qxa7 (24.Be1 Qe3+ 25.Kh1 Bxe1 26.Raxe1 Qxe1 is also a solid setup for Black, and it's difficult to say what Artemiev wanted to come up with. The engine comes up with the interesting 27.Rxe1!? which may be worth having a look at. Rxe1+ 28.Kg2 Re5 29.Qxa7 Rexf5 30.Qb7 Rg5+ 31.Kh3 Rf6 32.Kh4 Rg1 33.Qd5+ Kf8 34.Qd8+ Kf7 35.Qd7+±

0-1 (63) Papin,V (2520)-Ponkratov,P (2603) RUS 2010 Kf8) 24...Qe2 25.Bf4 Rxf5 making Black's play slightly unpleasant. or 26.Qd7 Re6]

23.Qxb7 Rxf5

[23...Bd6 24.Bf4 Qf6 should be close to a draw The usual 25.Qd5+ Kh8 hardly brought White any advantage. In the event of 26.Bxd6 Artemiev probably had a similar idea: Rxd6 27.Qb7]

24.Rfe1 Qf6? 25.Rxe7! An elegant finish. Incredible how quickly Black's position became so bad from a very timid line by White. After **25...Rf8**



26.Ree1 Qg6+ Black would still be in the game, but of course White is close to winning.

[26...h6± 27.Qe4± Rf2 28.Rad1 Kh8 29.Qg4± Qd6! 30.Qg3 Qf6 with the idea of ...Nc3, should be fine for Black.

A) 31.b4 Qf5 32.bxc5 Rf6 33.Bxh6 (33.c6 Rf3 34.Qg2 Rg6)

A1) 33...Rxb6 and here perhaps 34.Re5!?N would be worth having a look at! (34.Qxf2 Rg6+± 1-0 (63) Sargissian,G

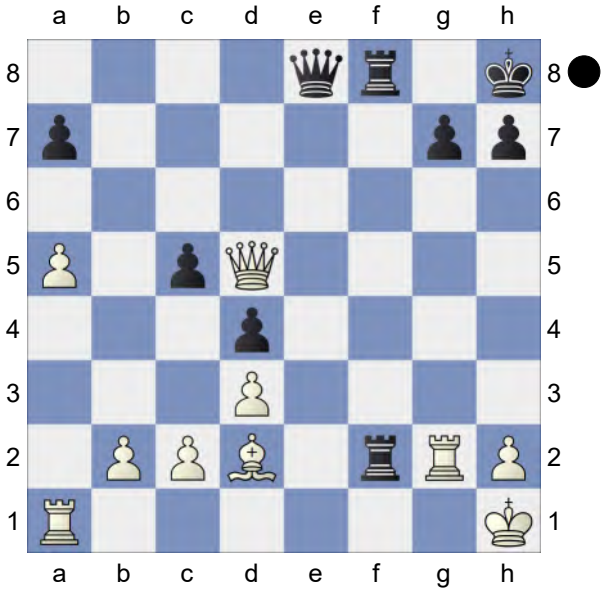
(2671)-Dominguez,L (2757) Linares ESP 2013 35.Qg3!? Rxg3+ 36.hxg3 Qxc5!) 34...Qf6 35.Re8+ Kh7 36.Qxf2 Qg6+ 37.Kh1 Qxe8 38.Qf5+ Kh8 39.Rf1;

A2) 33...Rg6 34.Qxg6 Qxg6+ and again the position is about equal. Anand had chosen 35.Kxf2 against the same Artemiev, and after Qxh6;

B) 31.Kh1! was more precise. 31...Qf7! would be fine for Black. It is weird to leave the black queen awkwardly placed on b4, but White can't take advantage of it. 32.Re4 Rf3! A nice prophylactic move against Qd6. 33.Qg2 Rf2 34.Qg4 h5 35.Qg3 Rf3 36.Qg5 Rf5 37.Rf4 Rxf4 38.Bxf4 Qxf4= 39.Qxh5+!? running away with the queen through a6 is also fine. White can play Kg8 and win the bishop pair, but Black's activity compensates. 40.Qd5+ Kh7 41.Rg1]

27.Kh1 Rf2 is not something Black wants... **28.Qd5+!?± Kh8 29.Rg1 Qe8 30.Rg2±**

(Diagram)



1-0

283

□ Wei, Yi

■ Karjakin, Sergey

131/120 Wijk aan Zee

[Ehlvest, Jaan]

C65

2706

2785

2017

Hillarp Persson, Tiger: 'The last time Wei Yi played against Karjakin, he started out with 1.b3 and it didn't go well. Now he seems to have gained more confidence and his preparation today was surely impressive. ' **1.e4** 0

Hillarp Persson, Tiger Hillarp Persson, Tiger Hillarp Persson, Tiger Mikhalevski, V Hillarp Persson, Tiger: 'Hillarp Persson, T' **1...e5** 5 **2.Nf3** 0 **Nc6** 3 **3.Bb5** 0

Hillarp Persson, Tiger: 'The Scotch is not for everyone and somewhat harsh against mistakes. The Giuoco Piano is like an amarone, in that it is hard to go wrong with it. The Ruy Lopez is more complex with oaky notes. A full bodied opening.' **3...Nf6** 7 **4.d3** 0

Hillarp Persson, Tiger: 'Avoiding the Berlin Defence main lines is the dish of the day for those rated above 2600.'

[Last year's clash continued 4.0-0 Hillarp Persson, Tiger Nxe4 5.Re1 Nd6 6.Nxe5 Be7 7.Bf1 Nxe5 8.Rxe5 0-0 9.Nc3 Ne8 10.Nd5 Bd6 11.Re1 c6 12.Ne3 Be7 13.c4 Nc7 14.d4 and here Karjakin played d6 Wei Yi (2705)-Karjakin, S (2765) 78th Tata Steel GpA 2016; and ended up in a worse position. (Instead 14...d5 15.cxd5 Bb4 16.Bd2 Bxd2 17.Qxd2 Nxd5 has been proved to draw with ease for Black (in about twenty games).)]

4...Bc5 8 **5.c3** 8

[5.Bxc6 Hillarp Persson, Tiger dxc6 6.h3 was played by Magnus Carlsen

in a number of blitz games last year.

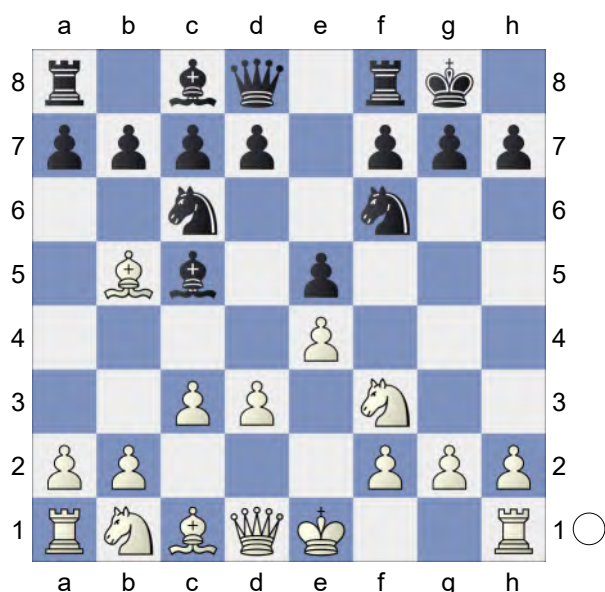
(However, his 6.Qe2 against Wesley So in the Masters Final, indicates that White is scraping the bottom of the barrel for ideas here. Qe7 7.Nbd2 Bg4 8.h3 Bh5 9.a3 Nd7 10.b4 Bd6 11.Nc4 f6 12.Ne3 a5 13.Nf5 Qf8 14.bxa5 Rxa5 15.0-0 Qf7 16.a4 Nc5 17.Qe1 b6 18.Nd2 Rxa4 19.Nc4 Bf8 20.Be3 Kd7 21.Qc3 Nxe4 22.Nxb6+ cxb6 23.dxe4 Qc4 24.Qd2+ Kc7 25.g4 Bg6 26.Rfd1 1-0, Carlsen, M (2855)-So, W (2770) 9th Masters Final 2016)]

[It seems the reason why White often prefers 5.c3 over 5.0-0 Hillarp Persson, Tiger is that Nd4 6.Nxd4 Bxd4 gives Black an easier game. Still, White has been able to squeeze a few wins here too, even on a high level.]

5...0-0 43

[Black has also tried 5...d5 Hillarp Persson, Tiger, which seems very principled. 6.exd5 Qxd5 7.Bc4 Qd6 8.Qe2 0-0 9.Nbd2 a5 10.Ng5 Bf5 (10...Qe7 11.Nde4 Bd6 12.a4 h6 13.h4! Nd8 14.Qf3 Ng4 15.Qe2 Kh8 16.f3 Nf6 17.Nxf6 Qxf6 18.g4 Ne6 19.Qe4! Svidler, P (2745)-Inarkiev, E (2730) 69th ch-RUS 2016. The last move gave White a winning advantage..) 11.Nde4 Nxe4 12.Nxe4 Bxe4 13.dxe4 Nd8 14.Bd2 c6 15.a4 Ne6 16.Rd1 Qe7 17.g3 Topalov, V (2760)-Aronian, L (2790) 4th Sinquefeld Cup 2016, and the bishop pair (especially the strong light-squared bishop) gave White some edge. The game Rozentalis - Smith, Gothenburg 2013, is an excellent example of the challenges that Black faces here.]

[5...d6 Hillarp Persson, Tiger is a please-don't-take-my-pawn move, that leads to a position that very much resembles the Giuoco Piano, but where the bishop is somewhat more annoying on b5. After 6.0-0 0-0 7.Nbd2 Ne7 8.d4 exd4 9.cxd4 Bb6 10.Re1 Bg4 11.h3 Bh5 White has been doing well with 12.a4 lately.]



6.Bxc6 9 Mikhalevski,V: 'An important alternative to 6.0-0, which hasn't been seen on our pages yet.'

[Earlier we only covered the mainline 6.0-0 (Mikhalevski,V) Topalov,V (2816)-Caruana,F (2808)/Saint Louis USA 2015/[Mikhalevski,V].]

[and 6.Bg5 (Mikhalevski,V) Carlsen,M (2853)-Karjakin,S (2772)/New York USA 2016/[Mikhalevski,V].]

6...bxc6 31

[6...dxc6 (Mikhalevski,V) is a pretty rare recapture with only one test at the GM level. 7.Nxe5 Re8 8.Nf3 Bg4 9.h3 Bh5 10.0-0± and Black's compensation seems to be insufficient. Savchenko,B (2567)-Bindrich,F (2594)/Berlin World Blitz championship

2015.]

7.Nxe5 8 Hillarp Persson, Tiger: 'An incredibly prosaic sequence; to stop ♖d4, not castle and then just snatch a pawn. Two decades ago most GMs would have shunned such simplistic (although possibly efficient) moves. Perhaps the change is due to the engines, but also because the Kasparov era was all about keeping the tension.' **7...d5** 13 Mikhalevski,V: 'This idea was first introduced by Adolf Anderssen in 1864(!), and he played it at least four times.' **8.d4** 8

[8.0-0 (Mikhalevski,V) yields Black some choice after dxe4 9.d4 when the latter can either retreat to b6, transposing to the game, or retreat to d6. Bd6 Mikhalevski,V]

[White must stay clear of 8.Nxc6? Hillarp Persson, Tiger Qe8 9.Nd4 dxe4 10.0-0 Ba6]

8...Bb6 16:04 Hillarp Persson, Tiger: 'This is the main line, but Black has tried some alternatives:'

[8...Qe7 Hillarp Persson, Tiger 9.0-0 dxe4 10.Nxc6 Qe6 11.dxc5 Qxc6 12.Bg5 Safarli,E (2644)-Fedorchuk,S (2653) Kocaeli 2015, was rather balanced, but I'm curious as to what Black would have replied to a setup similar to Wei Yi's.]

[8...Qe8 Hillarp Persson, Tiger 9.0-0 Again and again we come to this crossroads, where Black has to decide whether to take with the pawn or the knight on e4. Taking with the knight is usually more solid, but leads to positions where Black lacks dynamic play. It's more challenging to take with the pawn. dxe4 (9...Nxe4 10.Nd2 Nxd2 11.Bxd2 Bd6 12.Re1 f6 13.Nc4 Be6 14.Nxd6 cxd6

looks pretty dull to me, but Black will suffer a bit due to the messed up pawn structure.) 10.Nd2 (10.Qa4!?!; 10.Re1 Bd6 11.Nc4) 10...Bd6 11.Ndc4 Be6 12.Re1 c5 13.Be3 Nd5 (Tari,A (2520)-Fressinet, L (2712) Oslo 2015) was unconvincing for White. I don't understand much of this structure, so my recommendations on move 10 are pretty much 100% silicon based.]

[8...Bd6 Hillarp Persson,Tiger 9.Nxc6 Qe8 10.e5 Qxc6 11.0-0 Ba6 12.Re1 Rfe8 13.Bf4 Qb5 14.Nd2 (14.b3) 14...Qxb2 15.Qb3 Reb8= Tari,A (2520)-Hammer,J (2665) Oslo 2015]

9.0-0 24 dxe4 15:33

[Caruana tried 9...Nxe4 (Mikhalevski, V) in a blitz game, but also lost. 10.Nxc6 (10.Nd2 Hillarp Persson, Tiger Nxd2 11.Bxd2 c5 12.dxc5 Bxc5 13.Qf3 Be6 14.Rfe1 Xu,X (2445)-Malakhov,V (2695) TCh-CHN 2016, was microscopically better for White, since the knight can dream of out-witting the light squared bishop at some point.) 10...Qf6 (10...Qd6 is more accurate. Hillarp Persson, Tiger: 'is the older line, which also seems good enough for Black.' 11.Nb4 Re8 12.Na3 a5 13.Nd3 Ba6 14.f3 Nf6 15.Nc2 c5 with good compensation for the sacrificed pawn in Jamwan,K (2518)-Kuhne,K (2506)/Engine Room 2015.) 11.Nb4 Be6 12.Nd2± So,W (2773)-Caruana,F (2795)/Saint Louis USA 2016. c5 Hillarp Persson,Tiger 13.dxc5 Bxc5 14.Nxe4 dxe4 15.Nd5 Qe5 16.Be3 Bxe3 17.Nxe3 f5 So,W (2770)-Caruana,F (2795) Ultimate Blitz Challenge 2016, left Black with

decent compensation.]

10.Bg5 24 Mikhalevski,V: '!' Mikhalevski, V: 'The mainline.' Hillarp Persson,Tiger: 'White has a clear plan: to use the bind on ♘f6 to attack the pawn on e4. Black needs to undermine White's centre as fast as possible.'

[The first predecessor to the game featured 10.f4? Mikhalevski,V c5 and after 11.dxc5? Bxc5+ 12.Kh1 Mayet, C-Anderssen,A/Berlin 1862 Black could have finished the game by means of Qxd1 13.Rxd1 Bg4 14.Rf1 (or 14.Re1 Bf2 15.Rf1 e3-+) 14...Rad8 and the advance of the e-pawn decides the game.]

[White also tested Hillarp Persson, Tiger: 'After' 10.Nxc6 Mikhalevski,V

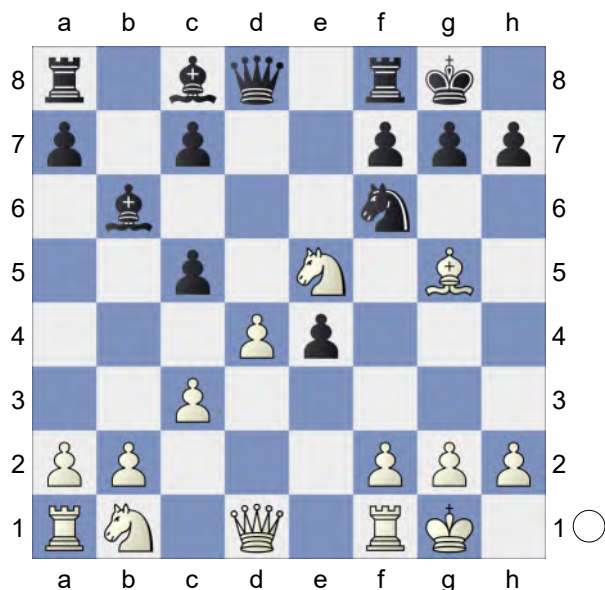
A) 10...Qe8 Hillarp Persson,Tiger 11.Ne5 c5 12.Re1 Qe6 13.Be3 Nd5 (13...Rd8!?!; 13...cxd4 14.cxd4 Nd5) 14.Nd2 f5 15.Ndc4 Bb7 16.dxc5 (The silicon monster indicates that 16.Qb3 is very good for White, so something has gone wrong for Black in the last four moves. Perhaps 13... ♘d5 was a mistake.) 16...Nxe3 17.fxe3 Bxc5 Sokolov,I (2640)-Lorparizangeneh, S (2465) 1st Stars Cup 2016, Black had enough compensation for the pawn.;

B) 10...Qd6 11.Ne5 Ba6 12.Re1 c5 13.Na3 cxd4 (13...Qe6!?!) 14.Nac4 Qe6 15.Nxb6 axb6 16.cxd4 Nd5 17.f3 exf3 18.Nxf3 and a draw was agreed in Anand,V (2792)-Topalov, V (2801)/Monte Carlo 2006. despite White's extra pawn Black's chances are no worse.]

[and 10.b4 Mikhalevski,V Re8! 11.Bg5 a5 12.Nd2 axb4? (12...Qd5

is necessary, with roughly equal chances.) 13.Nxe4 Qd5? 14.Nxf6+ gxf6 15.Bxf6 and Black resigned. Kudrin,S (2607)-Vigorito,D (2372)/ Reno 2004.]

10...c5! 5:49



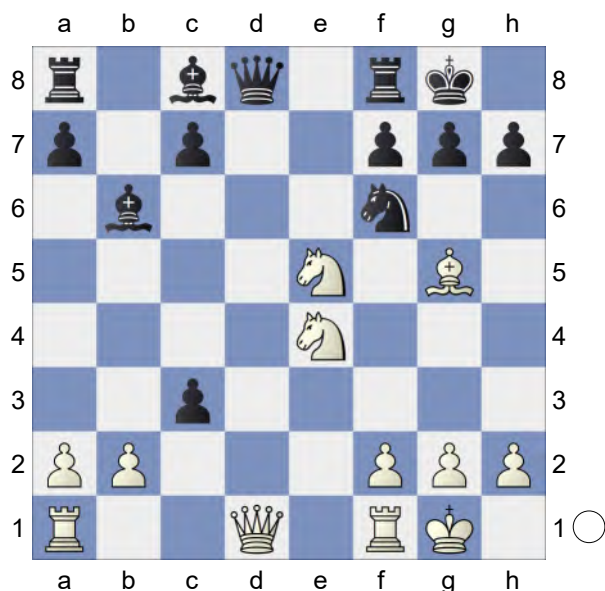
improvements.]

12.Nxe4 9 Mikhalevski,V: '±' Mikhalevski,V: 'Black's position is already highly unpleasant.' Hillarp Persson,Tiger: 'This sets a forced sequence in motion...'

12...dxc3 13 Diagram

[12...Bf5? (Mikhalevski,V) is bad because of 13.Bxf6 gxf6 14.Nc6+-]

[12...Bb7? Mikhalevski,V 13.Nxf6+ gxf6 14.Bh4+- is also hopeless.]



Mikhalevski,V: '!' Mikhalevski,V: 'The best defence.' Ehlvest,Jaan: 'Diagram [#]' **13.Qf3!** 44:19 Mikhalevski,V: 'White puts pressure on f6 and forces' Ehlvest,Jaan: '!' **13...Bb7** 19 Mikhalevski,V: '!' Mikhalevski,V: 'The only defence.' Ehlvest,Jaan: '□'

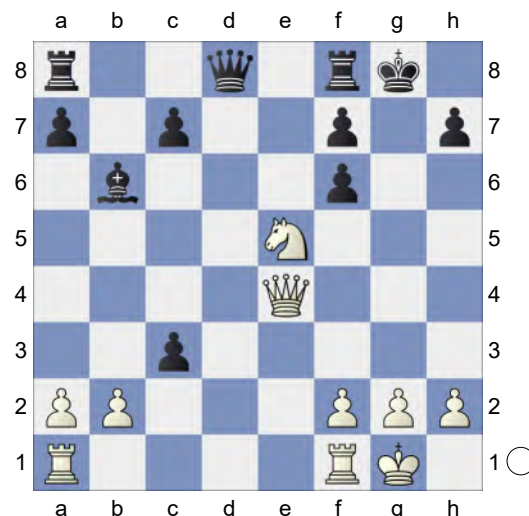
[13...cxb2? 14.Nxf6+ gxf6 15.Bxf6+- (15.Bh6+- (Mikhalevski,V) is resignable.)]

14.Bxf6 3:32 Mikhalevski,V: '!' **14...Bxe4** 7 Mikhalevski,V: '!

[14...gxf6? (Mikhalevski,V) is impossible. 15.Nxf6+ Kg7 (15...Kh8 16.Qf5+-) 16.Nh5+ Kh6 17.Qf5! Qg5 18.Ng4+ Kxh5 19.Nf6+ Kh6 20.Qxh7#]

15.Qxe4 6 Mikhalevski,V: '!' **15...Qxf6?!** 3

[15...gxf6 Diagram



Mikhalevski,V: 'is better, but White's advantage is already beyond question, he has a pleasant choice between' Mikhalevski,V: 'and'

A) 16.Nc6

A1) 16...Qd7 Mikhalevski,V

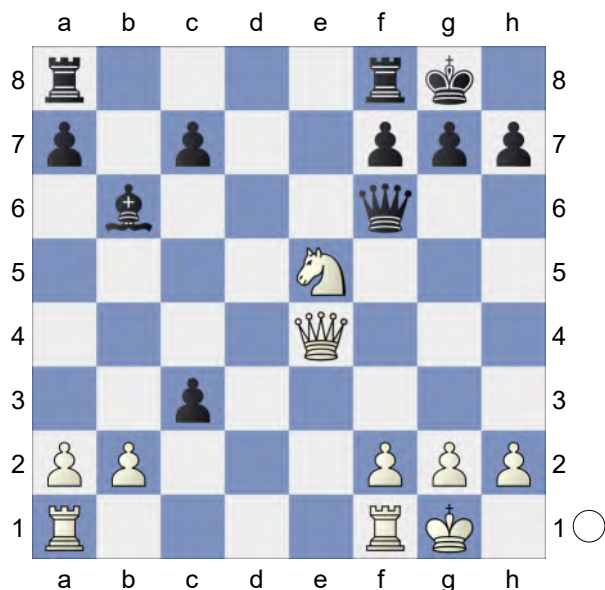
17.Rad1 Qe6 18.Qf3 Rae8! (After 18...cxb2 19.Rfe1 Black's queen is dominated by the white pieces. b1Q 20.Rxb1 Qxa2 21.Ne7+ Kg7 22.Rxb6! cxb6 23.Nf5+ Kh8 24.Qc3 Qe6 25.Rxe6 fxe6 26.Nd4+- and White wins.) 19.Qxc3 Qxa2 20.Rd3 Qe6 21.h3!± with the ideas of 22.Rg3 Kh8 23.Rf3, and 23.Rfd1 and White is clearly better.;

A2) 16...Qd6 Mikhalevski,V 17.Rad1;

A3) 16...Qd2 17.bxc3± Hillarp Persson,Tiger: 'was the better way to fight on. In the game Black gets no chance.';

B) 16.Rad1 Mikhalevski,V Qe7 17.Qg4+ Kh8 18.Nc6 Qe6 19.Qf3 Rae8 20.Qxc3;

C) 16.Ng4! _____ cxb2 (16...f5 Mikhalevski,V 17.Nh6+ Kh8 18.Qe5+ f6 19.Qxc3±) 17.Rad1 f5 18.Nh6+ Kh8 19.Qc6 Qe7 20.Rd7 Qh4 21.g3±]



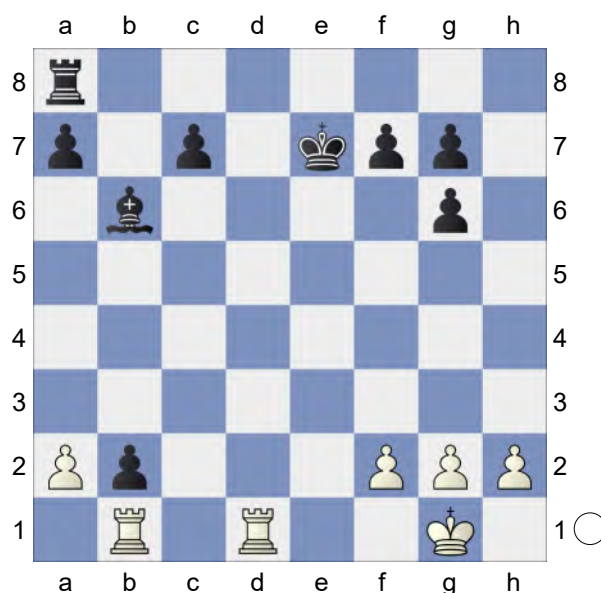
Mikhalevski,V: 'Sergey decides to sacrifice an exchange, but the endgame is technically winning for White.' Ehlvest, Jaan: '?!' Hillarp Persson,Tiger: 'An accident rarely comes alone.' **16.Nd7** 26 **Qg6** 10:36

[16...Qd4 17.Qxd4 Bxd4 18.Rad1+-] **17.Qxg6** 16 **hxd6** 49 [17...fxg6 (Mikhalevski,V) doesn't change much. 18.Nxf8 cxb2 19.Rab1 Rxf8 20.Rxb2+-]

18.Nxf8 9 **cxb2** 9 **19.Rab1** 7 **Kxf8** 1:48 **20.Rfd1!** 1:51 Mikhalevski,V: '+-!' Mikhalevski,V: 'The rest is a matter of technique.' Ehlvest, Jaan: '!' Hillarp Persson,Tiger: 'With an extra couple of pawns on - let's say - e3 and e5, Black would have some chances of holding the position (♖...e6), but with so many open lines, Black's king is stuck on the kingside where it becomes vulnerable to attack. Black is also unable to launch the

c-pawn any further than c5, without losing it, so it is better to keep it in the starting position where it doesn't obstruct the bishop.' **20...Ke7** 12:00

[Hillarp Persson,Tiger: 'It looks like Karjakin had resigned himself to losing, or otherwise he might chosen something more active, like' 20...Re8 21.Kf1 Re4 22.Rxb2± Rc4 Hillarp Persson,Tiger Still, the final result is in little doubt.]



21.Rxb2 17:52 Hillarp Persson,Tiger: 'It's hardly even clear where Black made his mistake, but suddenly he is lost.'

21...g5 32 **22.Rbd2** 3:16 **Rh8** 1:54

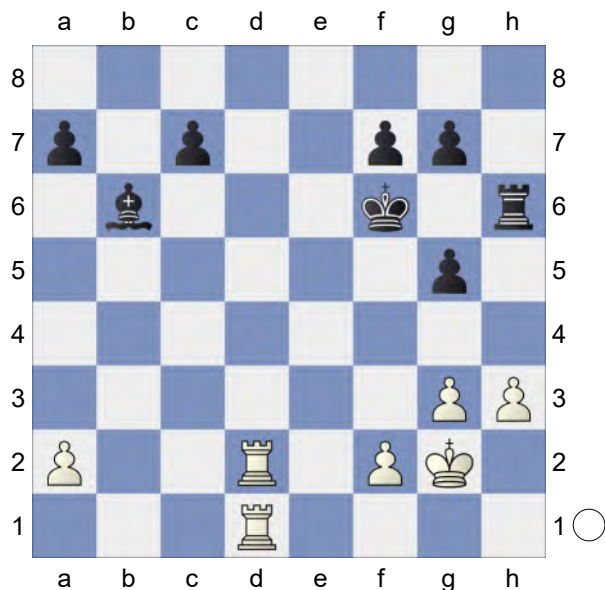
[22...f5 23.Re2+ Kf6 24.Rd7 g4 25.g3 Rf8 26.Kg2 Rh8 27.Rde7 Kg6 28.R2e6+ Kh7 29.Rf7+- Hillarp Persson,Tiger: 'and the f-pawn is lost. Generally speaking, Black's hope in such a position as this is to keep his weaknesses to a minimum and thus not move the pawns too far (unless they can be used to attack something).']

23.g3 57 **Rh5** 2:29 Hillarp Persson,Tiger: 'This looks weird. Perhaps

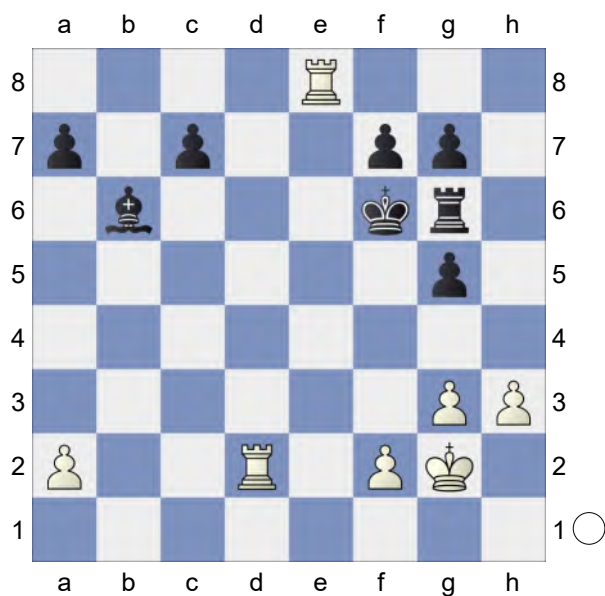
Karjakin was trying to keep his rook from being exchanged. Three rooks on the board or a single one; it doesn't matter since White is winning in both scenarios. ' **24.Kg2 3:08 Kf6 1:33**

[24...Rh6 25.Rd7+ Ke6 26.R7d5 Rf6 27.f3 g4 28.f4+-]

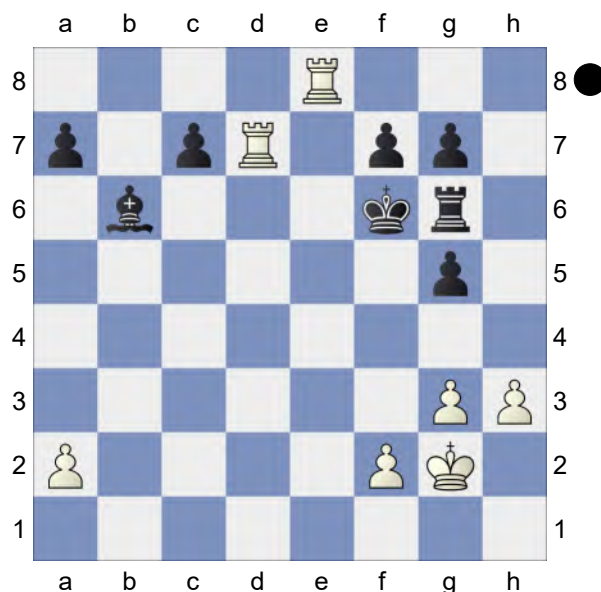
25.h3 4:51 Rh6 3:45



26.Rd8 5:17 Ke7 24 27.R1d7+ 9 Ke6 6 28.Rd2 4 Rf6 2:11 Hillarp Persson, Tiger: 'This makes it easy for White, but the fight was hopeless anyway. ' **29.Rg8 6 Rg6 11 30.Re8+ 18 Kf6 26**



31.Rd7 1:02



Mikhalevski, V: 'and Black resigned as he can't stop 32.Ree7. A surprisingly easy win for the young Chinese GM and a rare case where Karjakin gets a bad position right out of the opening. 11... cxd4? is a clear mistake, as Black should play 11...Bb7.' Hillarp Persson, Tiger: 'There is no defence against ♖f8, so Black resigned.'

1-0

544

□ Vlugt,Frans

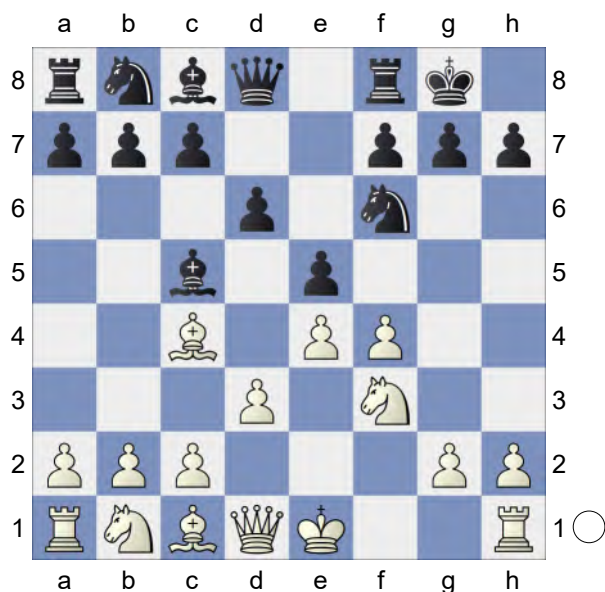
■ Wei,Yi

Candidates f Kortschnoj-Spassky +7-4=7
[FS 10_1178]

C30

1.e4 e5 2.f4 Bc5 3.Nf3 d6 4.Bc4

[4.fxe5 dxe5 5.Nxe5 Qh4+]

4...Nf6 5.d3 0-0**6.Nc3**

[6.fxe5 dxe5 7.Nxe5 Qd4]

6...Ng4 7.Qe2 Nc6

[7...Bf2+]

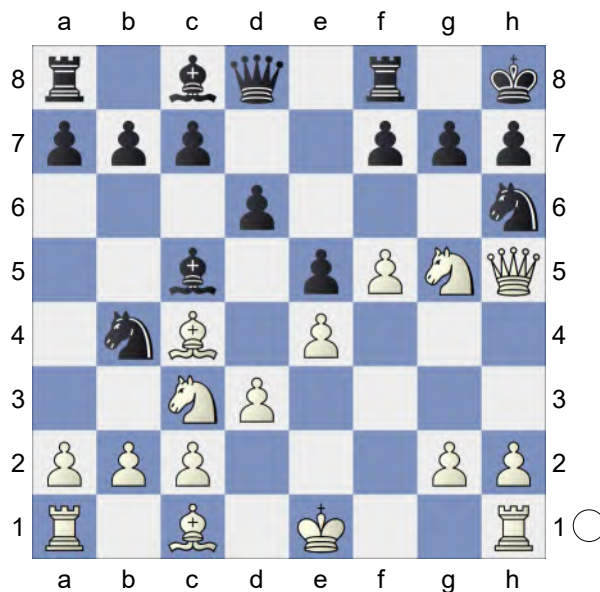
[7...Nf2 8.Rf1]

8.f5 Kh8

[8...Nd4 9.Nxd4 exd4 10.Qxg4]

9.Ng5 Nh6 10.Qh5 Nb4[10...f6 11.Nxh7 Kxh7 12.Qg6+ Kh8
13.Bxh6]

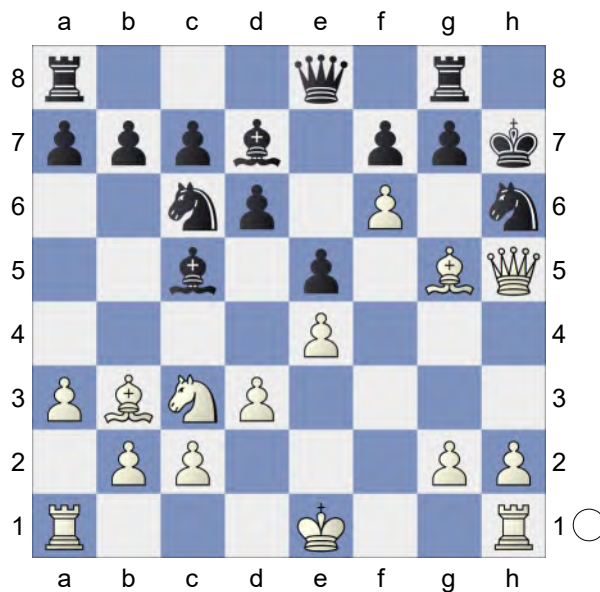
(Diagram)

**11.Bb3 Bd7 12.a3 Nc6 13.Nxh7****Kxh7 14.Bg5 Qe8**

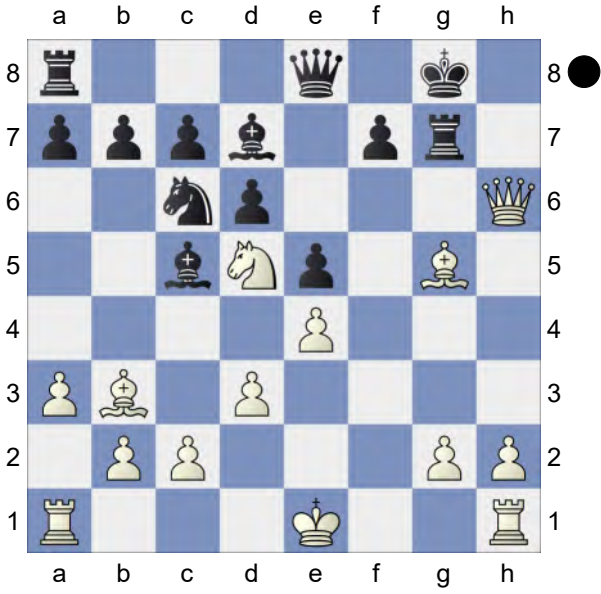
[14...f6 15.Qg6+ Kh8 16.Bxh6]

15.f6 Rg8

[15...Bg4 16.Qh4]

**16.fxg7 Rxg7 17.Qxh6+ Kg8 18.Nd5**

(Diagram)



1-0

70

D91

□ Wei, Yi

2743

■ Svidler, Peter

2768

Tata Steel-A 80th (2)

14.01.2018

[Fernandez, Daniel Howard]

(100min+30sec)/40+(50min+30sec)/20+(15min+30sec)/10

1.d4 0 Fernandez, D Fernandez, D:

'Fernandez, Daniel Howard Fernandez,

Daniel Howard' 1...Nf6 10 2.c4 0 g6 3

3.Nc3 0 d5 5 4.Bg5 9 Ne4 1:53

[4...Bg7 Fernandez, D: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'is the other move, and would be my choice in a game. Following' is the other move, and would be my choice in a game. Following 5.Bxf6 Bxf6 6.cxd5 c6! Fernandez, D: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'Black obtains good compensation.' Black obtains good compensation.]

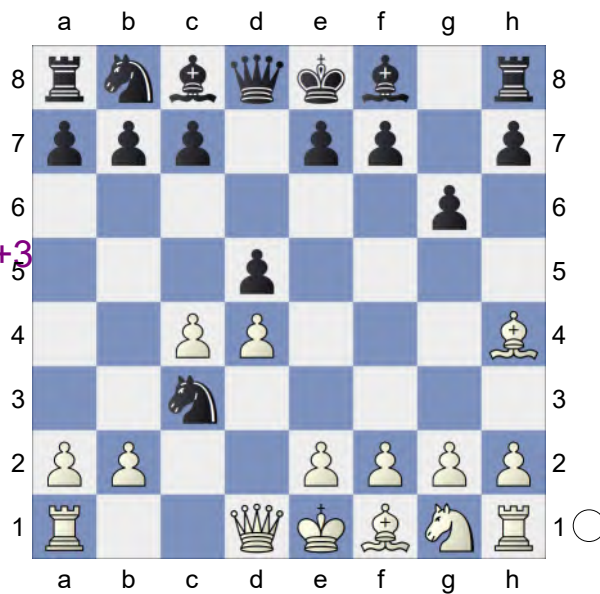
5.Bh4 16 Flear, Glenn: 'The main reply to Black's knight leap.' Fernandez, D: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'Flear, Glenn: 'The main reply to Black's knight leap.'"

[For 5.Nxe4 see Bluebaum, M - Xiong, J Wijk aan Zee 2018, in the same update. Fernandez, D: '(Fernandez, Daniel Howard) see Bluebaum, M - Xiong, J Wijk aan Zee 2018, in the same update.']

5...Nxc3 6

[5...c5!? Fernandez, D: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'is a suitably mental-looking move which however quietens down reasonably soon. It equalises, and is suitable for quick research at home.' is a suitably mental-looking move which however quietens down reasonably soon. It equalises, and is suitable for quick research at home.]

(Diagram)



6.bxc3 6 dxc4 7 7.e3 30 Be6 27 8.Nf3

16 Bg7 1:44 9.Qb1 44 Fernandez, D:

'Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'One of those positions where Black should be equal, but finding clear ways to do so is a little challenging.' One of those positions where Black should be equal, but finding clear ways to do so is a little challenging. 9...Qd5 10:52 Flear, Glenn: '!' Flear, Glenn: 'The most trustworthy at this point.' Fernandez, D: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'Flear, Glenn: '!' Flear, Glenn: 'The most trustworthy at this point.'"

[Flear, Glenn: 'Wei Yi struggled as Black with' Fernandez, D: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'Flear, Glenn: 'Wei Yi struggled as Black with' 9...b6 Flear, Glenn: 'in the game Tran Tuan Minh - Wei Yi, Chengdu 2017, see the archives.' Fernandez, D: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'Flear, Glenn: 'in the game Tran Tuan Minh - Wei Yi, Chengdu 2017, see the archives.'"

A) 10.Be2 0-0 11.0-0 Fernandez, D: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'and now following the inaccurate' and

now following the inaccurate c5?!
 Fernandez,D: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'White obtained a much easier position in a recent practical test, and the game will for obvious reasons have influenced the present one. A logical improvement is ... ♖c6, and that seems to obtain equal chances, but Svidler might have been scared of White's analysis of his own previous game.' White obtained a much easier position in a recent practical test, and the game will for obvious reasons have influenced the present one. A logical improvement is ... ♖c6, and that seems to obtain equal chances, but Svidler might have been scared of White's analysis of his own previous game.
 12.Rd1 Qc7 13.Qb2 (13.d5!?±)
 13...Re8 14.Ng5 Bd5 15.e4 Bb7
 16.Bg3± Tran,T-Wei,Y Chengdu 2017;

B) 10.Ng5 Bd5 11.e4 h6 12.exd5
 hxg5 13.Qb5+ Qd7 14.Qxd7+
 Nxd7 15.Bxg5 b5 16.a4 b4
 17.Rc1 bxc3 18.Rxc3 Rb8
 19.Rxc4 Nb6 20.Rxc7 Nxd5
 21.Rc5 e6 22.Bb5+ Kf8 23.0-0
 Bxd4 24.Rc4 e5 25.Rfc1 Kg7
 26.g3 Rb6 27.Kg2 a6 28.Bc6 Nf6
 29.h3 Rb2 30.R1c2 Rhb8
 ½-½ (30) Radjabov,T (2722)-Van
 Wely,L (2674) Monzon 2016
 Fernandez,D: '½-½ (30) Radjabov,T
 (2722)-Van Wely,L (2674) Monzon
 2016 Fernandez,Daniel Howard:
 '½-½ (30) Radjabov,T (2722)-Van
 Wely,L (2674) Monzon 2016"]

[The cavalier 9...c5?! Fernandez,D:
 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard' 10.Qxb7
 Bd5 11.Qb5+ Nd7 12.Bxc4 Bxf3

13.gxf3 0-0 14.0-0 Rb8 15.Qa6 Nb6
 Antonenko, Vladimir - Savchenko, B
 Sochi Blitz 2017, isn't sound but might
 work at Blitz. Fernandez,D:
 'Antonenko, Vladimir - Savchenko, B
 Sochi Blitz 2017, isn't sound but might
 work at Blitz.']

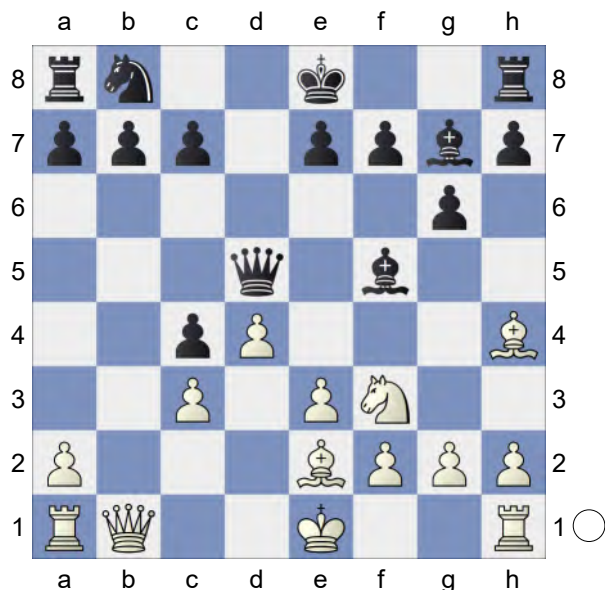
10.Be2 1:45

[Now 10.Nd2?! has been tried but
 hasn't held up to scrutiny: Fernandez,
 D: '(Fernandez,Daniel Howard) has
 been tried but hasn't held up to
 scrutiny:' c5 (10...Nd7 11.Be2 Qxg2
 12.Bf3 Qh3 13.Bg3 c5 14.Qxb7 0-0
 also panned out in Black's favour in
 Colin, V - Ollier, M Avoine 2014
 Fernandez,D: 'also panned out in
 Black's favour in Colin, V - Ollier, M
 Avoine 2014') 11.Be2 cxd4 12.Bf3
 Qa5 13.Qxb7 0-0 14.Bxe7 dxc3
 15.0-0 Nd7 16.Bxf8 Rxf8
 Brinck Claussen, B - Smith, Ax Koge
 2014, with a big advantage to Black,
 the passed c-pawns and active minor
 pieces being more important than a
 rook. Fernandez,D: 'Brinck Claussen,
 B - Smith, Ax Koge 2014, with a big
 advantage to Black, the passed c-
 pawns and active minor pieces being
 more important than a rook.']

[10.e4? is well met by Fernandez,D:
 '(Fernandez,Daniel Howard) is well
 met by' Qa5]

10...Bf5 8:00

(Diagram)



11.Qb4 26

[The less critical 11.Qb2 was examined in Romanov, E - Nepomniachtchi, I St. Petersburg 2009, and is available to see in the archives. Fernandez,D: '(Fernandez, Daniel Howard) was examined in Romanov, E - Nepomniachtchi, I St. Petersburg 2009, and is available to see in the archives.']

11...c5 2:37 Flear,Glenn: '!' Fernandez, D: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Flear, Glenn: '!' 12.Qb5+ 14 Fernandez,D: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Maybe just trying to stop the ... ♘d7 development plan before inevitably capturing on c4.' Maybe just trying to stop the ... ♘d7 development plan before inevitably capturing on c4.

[Otherwise, there is 12.Qxc4 Fernandez,D: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard' Qxc4 13.Bxc4 Nc6 14.0-0 Rc8 15.Rac1 Na5 16.Bb5+ Bd7 17.Be2 Be6 with a quick draw in Moiseenko, A - Eljanov, P Kiev 2013, as neither side wanted to avoid the repetition. However, White could try for more with Fernandez,D: 'with a

quick draw in Moiseenko, A - Eljanov, P Kiev 2013, as neither side wanted to avoid the repetition. However, White could try for more with '18.Nd2 which worked out well for him in Pantsulaia, L - Sutovsky, E Gothenburg 2005 (see the archives). Taking a fresh look, it could be that a good answer is a possible improvement Fernandez,D: 'which worked out well for him in Pantsulaia, L - Sutovsky, E Gothenburg 2005 (see the archives). Taking a fresh look, it could be that a good answer is a possible improvement' f5! which gives the possibility of placing his king on f7 (out of the way of the rooks, whilst still defending e7), after which Black seems to be OK. Fernandez,D: 'which gives the possibility of placing his king on f7 (out of the way of the rooks, whilst still defending e7), after which Black seems to be OK.']

12...Bd7 3:05 13.Qxc4 19 Bc6N 8:14

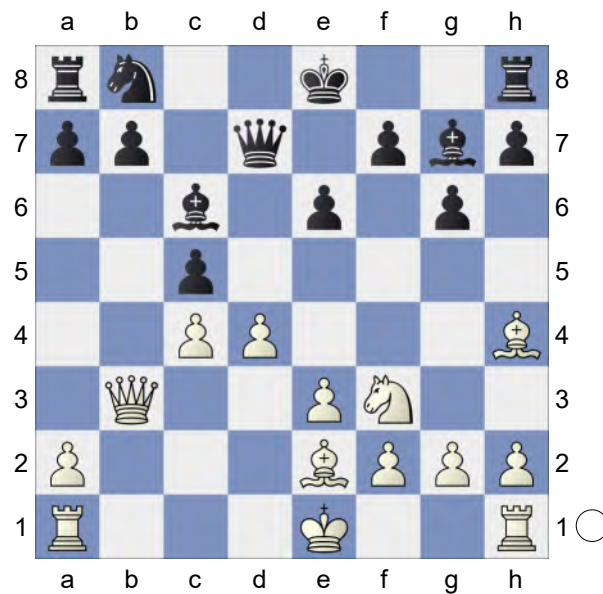
[Flear,Glenn: 'Simpler is' Fernandez, D: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Flear, Glenn: 'Simpler is'' 13...Qxc4 Flear,Glenn: '!' Fernandez, D: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Flear, Glenn: '!' 14.Bxc4 Nc6 Flear,Glenn: '(it's analogous to the previous note with the bishop finding itself on d7 rather than f5, which is no big deal) e.g.' Fernandez,D: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Flear,Glenn: '(it's analogous to the previous note with the bishop finding itself on d7 rather than f5, which is no big deal) e.g.' 15.Rb1 cxd4 16.cxd4 Rc8 17.Be2 Na5 18.Kd2 e6 19.Rhc1 0-0 Flear,Glenn: 'with solid equality, Mitkov, M - Bogdanovski, V Skopje 2011.' Fernandez,D: 'Fernandez,Daniel

Howard: 'Flear, Glenn: 'with solid equality, Mitkov, M - Bogdanovski, V Skopje 2011.'" 20.Be7 Rxc1 21.Rxc1 Rc8 22.Rxc8+ ½-½ (20) Mitkov, M (2401)-Bogdanovski, V (2421) Skopje 2011 Fernandez, D: '½-½ (20) Mitkov, M (2401)-Bogdanovski, V (2421) Skopje 2011 Fernandez, Daniel Howard: '½-½ (20) Mitkov, M (2401)-Bogdanovski, V (2421) Skopje 2011"]

14.Qb3 15:01 Flear, Glenn: '!' Fernandez, D: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'Flear, Glenn: '!' **14...e6 17:46** Flear, Glenn: '?!' Flear, Glenn: 'Neither side wants to be the one that trades queens! I think that Black should have taken his last chance, as what follows turns out to be rather good for White.' Fernandez, D: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'Flear, Glenn: '?!' Flear, Glenn: 'Neither side wants to be the one that trades queens! I think that Black should have taken his last chance, as what follows turns out to be rather good for White.'" **15.c4 13:30** Flear, Glenn: '!?' Fernandez, D: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'This might throw away White's opening edge.' Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'This might throw away White's opening edge. Flear, Glenn: '!?' This might throw away White's opening edge.

[15.0-0 Fernandez, D: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'is more conservative, since Black feels awkward with his queen in the middle anyway. There are some obvious quick lines:' is more conservative, since Black feels awkward with his queen in the middle anyway. There are some obvious quick lines: Qxb3 (15...0-0 16.Be7 Rc8 17.Bxc5±; 15...Nd7 16.c4 Qf5 17.Rad1±) 16.axb3 Nd7 17.b4±]

15...Qd7 2:16



16.Ne5 18:36 Flear, Glenn: '!' Flear, Glenn: 'A clever idea. Wei Yi has seen that it's too risky for his opponent to snatch the g-pawn.' Fernandez, D: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'Flear, Glenn: '!' Flear, Glenn: 'A clever idea. Wei Yi has seen that it's too risky for his opponent to snatch the g-pawn.'" **16...Qc7 34**

[After 16...Bxe5 Fernandez, D: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard' 17.dxe5 Bxg2 18.Rg1 Bc6 it's not just a question of 'dark-square and bishop pair play', but something more concrete: Fernandez, D: 'it's not just a question of 'dark-square and bishop pair play', but something more concrete:' 19.Rd1 Qc7 20.Rd8+ Qxd8 21.Bxd8 Kxd8 22.Qd1+ and although Black is arguably not down on material, he will remain under pressure. Fernandez, D: 'and although Black is arguably not down on material, he will remain under pressure.']

17.0-0!? 35 Fernandez, D: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'Maximalism. White makes Black run the gauntlet for his

equality." Maximalism. White makes Black run the gauntlet for his equality.

[17.Nxc6 Nxc6 18.Rb1 cxd4
19.Qxb7 Qxb7 20.Rxb7 0-0=
Fernandez,D: 'Fernandez,Daniel
Howard: 'is an optical edge only for
White' is an optical edge only for
White]

17...0-0 10:09

[17...cxd4 18.exd4 Bxe5 19.dxe5
Qxe5 Fernandez,D: 'Fernandez,Daniel
Howard: 'is the acid test, and the
computer obviously thinks this is fine
for Black, but I'd prefer White after' is
the acid test, and the computer
obviously thinks this is fine for Black,
but I'd prefer White after 20.Qb4±]

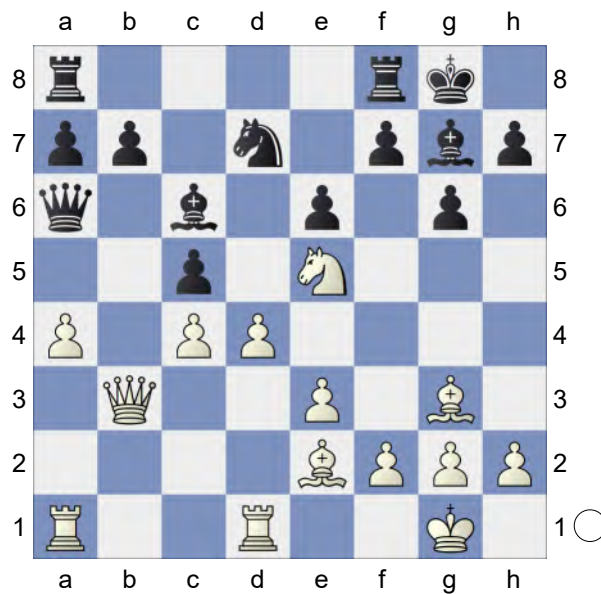
[17...Bxe5!? Fernandez,D:
'Fernandez,Daniel Howard' 18.dxe5
Qxe5 19.Bg3 would yield the sort of
long-term dark-square issues that
Svidler would, by nature, want to avoid.
Fernandez,D: 'would yield the sort of
long-term dark-square issues that
Svidler would, by nature, want to avoid.
']

18.Bg3!± 4:00 Fernandez,D: 'Fernandez,
Daniel Howard: 'Back on track. Black will
be suffering a bit now.' Back on track.
Black will be suffering a bit now.

18...Qb6 42 19.Rfd1 28:14 Flear,Glenn:
'The young Chinese star has been
rewarded for his enterprising play with a
clear central preponderance.' Fernandez,
D: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Flear,
Glenn: 'The young Chinese star has
been rewarded for his enterprising play
with a clear central preponderance.'"

19...Qa6 6:49 20.a4 3:42 Nd7 1:08

(Diagram)



21.Nxc6 8:36 Flear,Glenn: 'Settling for
the bishop pair.' Fernandez,D:
'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Flear,
Glenn: 'Settling for the bishop pair.'"

[Otherwise, the space-gaining
21.Nxd7 Fernandez,D: 'Fernandez,
Daniel Howard' Bxd7 22.a5
is also unpleasant for Black.]

21...bxc6 9 22.Rab1 9

[Maybe more precise is Fernandez,D:
'Maybe more precise is' 22.Ra2!?
keeping an eye on the a-pawn whilst
keeping away from the influence of
Black's bishop. Fernandez,D:
'(Fernandez,Daniel Howard) keeping
an eye on the a-pawn whilst keeping
away from the influence of Black's
bishop.']

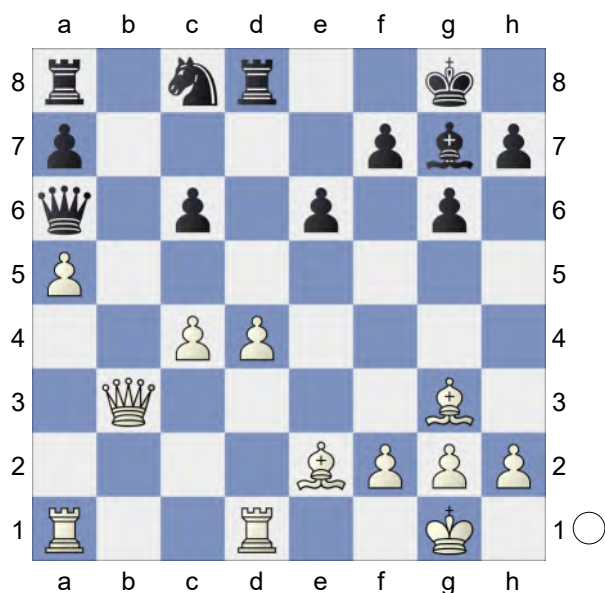
**22...cxd4 7:54 23.exd4 6 Nb6 13
24.Ra1 7:41**

[24.a5!? Qxa5 25.Ra1 Qg5 26.h4
Qe7 27.Ra6± Fernandez,D:
'Fernandez,Daniel Howard:
'deserved consideration too - the a7-
pawn and c6-pawn are both weak.'
deserved consideration too - the a7-
pawn and c6-pawn are both weak.]

24...Rfd8 9:41

[After 24...Qa5 Fernandez,D: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard' 25.Bd6 Rfd8 26.Bb4 White will be able to pursue with a4-a5 anyway. Fernandez, D: 'White will be able to pursue with a4-a5 anyway.']

25.a5 53 **Nc8** 1:50



26.Ra2 2:35 Fernandez,D: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'A tricky move that was probably seen a while in advance. White's threat is c5, trapping the queen, and this serves as a tactical defence of d4 too.'" A tricky move that was probably seen a while in advance. White's threat is c5, trapping the queen, and this serves as a tactical defence of d4 too. **26...Ne7** 49 Fernandez,D: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'Else d5 comes with even more power.'" Else d5 comes with even more power.

[26...Rxd4?? Fernandez,D: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard' 27.Rxd4 Bxd4 looks alright until you notice Fernandez,D: 'looks alright until you notice' 28.c5 trapping Black's queen!]

27.d5 16 Flear,Glenn: '! Flear,Glenn: 'Forceful play.' Fernandez, D: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Flear,Glenn:

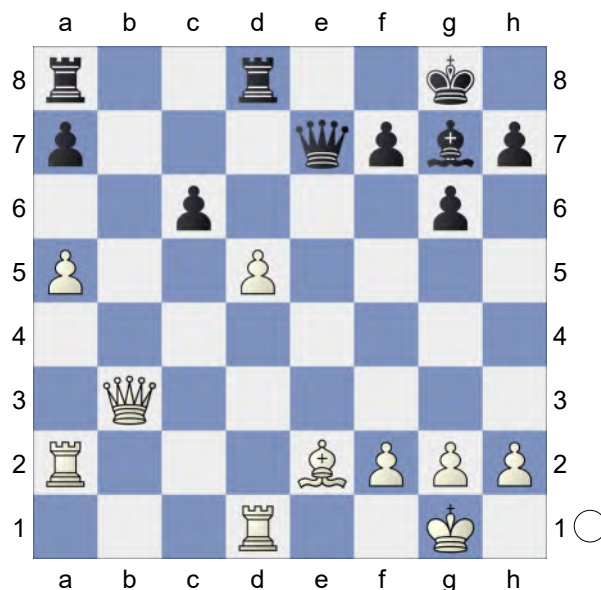
'! Flear,Glenn: 'Forceful play.'" **27...exd5** 6:12 **28.cxd5** 2 **Qc8** 6 **29.Bh4** 54 Flear,Glenn: 'Wei Yi wins material, but with opposite bishops Black will have drawing chances.' Fernandez,D: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Flear,Glenn: 'Wei Yi wins material, but with opposite bishops Black will have drawing chances.' '"

[29.d6!? Fernandez,D: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard' Nf5 30.Bg4 also looks promising.]

29...Qc7 3:44 **30.Bxe7** 1:23

[30.Qa3!? c5 31.Bc4± Fernandez,D: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'kept the same size of advantage but with material level.'" kept the same size of advantage but with material level.]

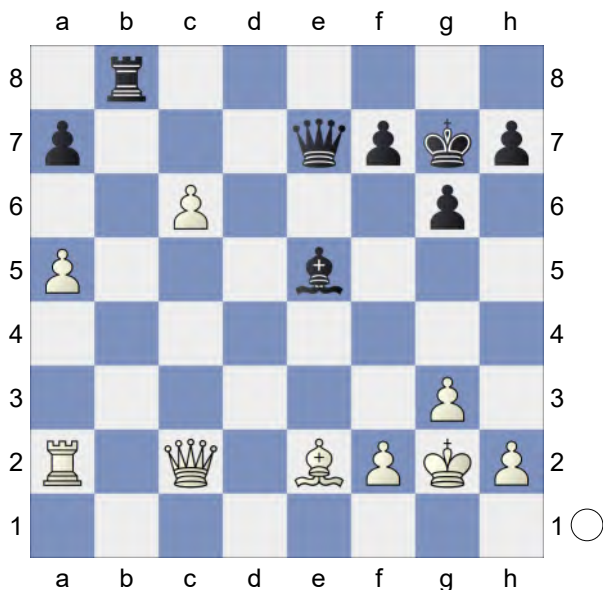
30...Qxe7 1



31.dxc6 7 **Rxd1+** 3:24 **32.Qxd1** 3 **Rd8** 5 **33.Qc2** 3:03 **Be5** 2:07 **34.g3** 17 **Rb8** 16 **35.Kg2** 41 Flear,Glenn: 'The players probably already imagined that this was going to be a long haul, but not quite as long as it turned out to be. Basically White has to find a way to make his c-pawn dangerous which means taking control of the squares around it.'

Fernandez,D: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'As with Anand-Matlakov, this is a thankless defence even if possible in theory - but the difference is Svidler manages it! Although he is lost at various points.' Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'As with Anand-Matlakov, this is a thankless defence even if possible in theory - but the difference is Svidler manages it! Although he is lost at various points. Flear,Glenn: 'The players probably already imagined that this was going to be a long haul, but not quite as long as it turned out to be. Basically White has to find a way to make his c-pawn dangerous which means taking control of the squares around it.'" As with Anand-Matlakov, this is a thankless defence even if possible in theory - but the difference is Svidler manages it! Although he is lost at various points.

35...Kg7 18



36.Qc1 1:52 Rb3 38 37.Bf3 50 Bc7 2:20 38.Qc4 28 Ra3 1:25 39.Qd4+ 36

[After 39.Rxa3 Fernandez,D: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard' Qxa3 40.Qd4+ Kg8 41.Bd5 Qxa5 42.Qc4 Qe1 43.Bxf7+ Kg7 I don't see any

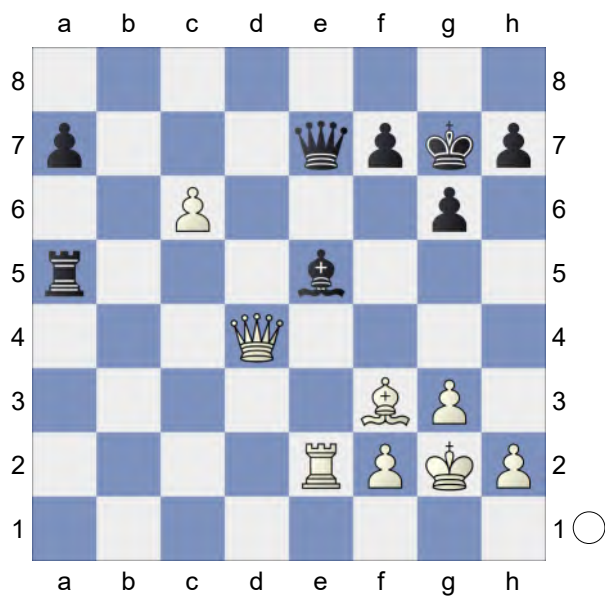
clear path to victory for White, but there is potential for a second passed pawn, which means that opposite-bishop endgames are winable. Fernandez,D: 'I don't see any clear path to victory for White, but there is potential for a second passed pawn, which means that opposite-bishop endgames are winable.']

39...Be5 38 40.Re2 0 Flear,Glenn: ' Fernandez,D: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Flear,Glenn: '!"

[40.Qxe5+!? Fernandez,D: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'is worth a glance or two, but not more:' is worth a glance or two, but not more: Qxe5 41.Rxa3 g5! Fernandez,D: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'This is the only move. Black needs to force g4 and exchange a pair of pawns, so that down the road ♖b7 can be stopped on pain of perpetual by ♜b7. For instance:' This is the only move. Black needs to force g4 and exchange a pair of pawns, so that down the road ♜b7 can be stopped on pain of perpetual by ♜b7. For instance: 42.g4 h5 43.h3 hxg4 44.hxg4 Qc5 45.Rd3 Qxa5 46.Rd7 Qc5 47.c7 Qc4!=]

40...Rxa5 31

(Diagram)

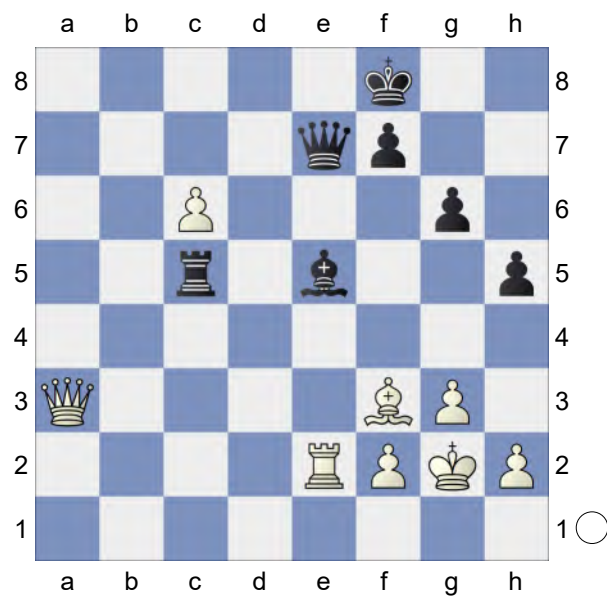


41.Qd7 6:41 Flear,Glenn: 'The a-pawn has been sacrificed in order to make some progress.' Fernandez,D: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Flear,Glenn: 'The a-pawn has been sacrificed in order to make some progress.'" **41...Kf8 8:42 42.Qc8+ 3:44 Qe8 13:09 43.Qb7 27:03 Rc5 52** Flear,Glenn: '!' Flear,Glenn: 'The c-pawn can't be allowed to advance without a fight.' Fernandez,D: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Flear,Glenn: '!' Flear,Glenn: 'The c-pawn can't be allowed to advance without a fight.'" **44.Qxa7 20**

[44.Rd2! Fernandez,D: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'was winning on the spot- there was nothing to be done about ♖d7 and ♔d5.' was winning on the spot- there was nothing to be done about ♖d7 and ♔d5.]

44...Qe7 35 45.Qa3 18 h5 7:47

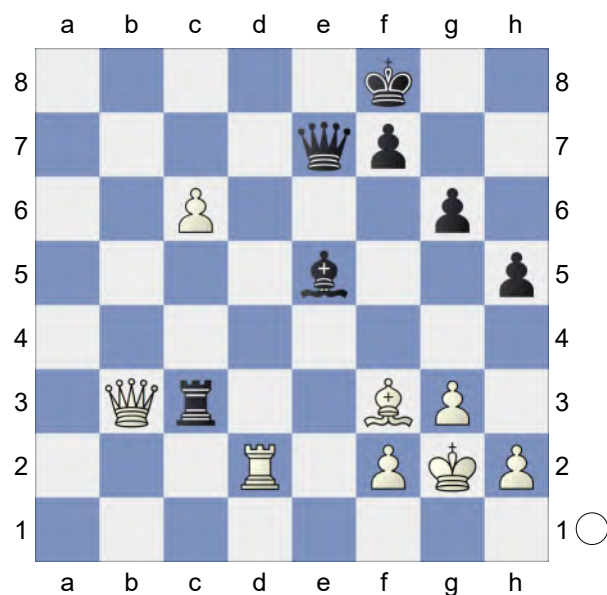
(Diagram)



46.Rd2 4:28

[Reasonable is 46.h4!? as it stops a later ...h4, but it does fix another pawn on a dark square. Fernandez,D: '(Fernandez,Daniel Howard) as it stops a later ...h4, but it does fix another pawn on a dark square.']

46...Bd6 29 47.Qd3 8 Be5 1:55 48.Qa3 49 Bd6 6 49.Qd3 5 Be5 9 50.Qb3 3:12 Rc3 4:19



51.Qd1 1:32

[51.Qb7 could be met by Fernandez,D: '(Fernandez,Daniel Howard) could

be met by' Qf6 threatening the bishop and generally keeping White from use his c-pawn for the time being. Fernandez,D: 'threatening the bishop and generally keeping White from use his c-pawn for the time being.']

51...h4 1:48 52.Rd7 5:13 Qg5 11 53.Qd5 3:11 Qf5 1:10 54.Bg4?! 23

Fernandez,D: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Committing to the next move as otherwise c6 is lost.' Committing to the next move as otherwise c6 is lost.

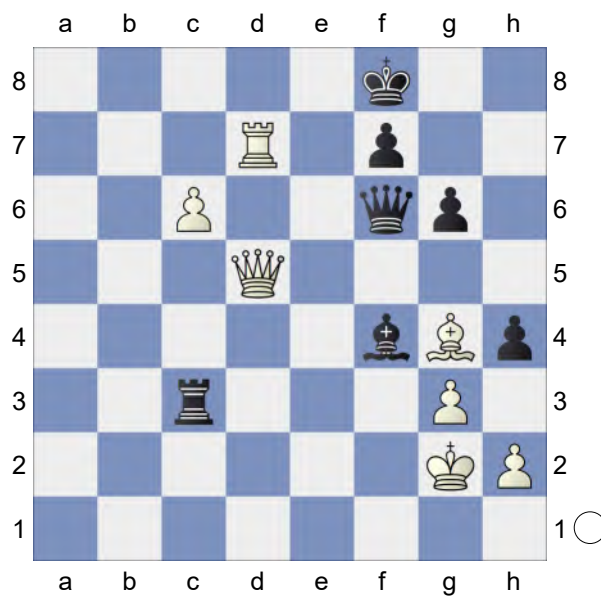
[54.Be4 Fernandez,D: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard' h3+ looks dangerous, but the engines think that White is close to winning following Fernandez,D: 'looks dangerous, but the engines think that White is close to winning following' 55.Kf1]

54...Qf6 44 55.f4 52 Flear,Glenn: 'Forcing the issue.' Fernandez,D: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Not a fantastic call to have to make. Now White has few pawns and the one he might eventually have to win with queens on a square of the wrong colour.' Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Not a fantastic call to have to make. Now White has few pawns and the one he might eventually have to win with queens on a square of the wrong colour. Flear, Glenn: 'Forcing the issue.'" Not a fantastic call to have to make. Now White has few pawns and the one he might eventually have to win with queens on a square of the wrong colour.

[55.Be2 Rxc6 56.Rxf7+ Qxf7 57.Qxc6 hxc3 58.hxc3=]

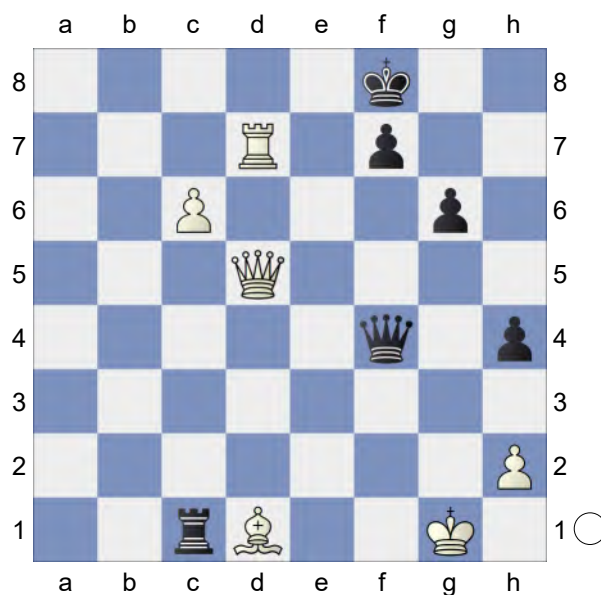
55...Bxf4 3:28

(Diagram)



Flear,Glenn: '!' Fernandez,D: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Flear,Glenn: '!' 56.gxf4 27 Rc2+ 10 57.Kh3 30 Rc3+ 5 58.Kg2 3 Rc2+ 4 59.Kg1 49 Rc1+ 13 60.Bd1 0 Qxf4 15

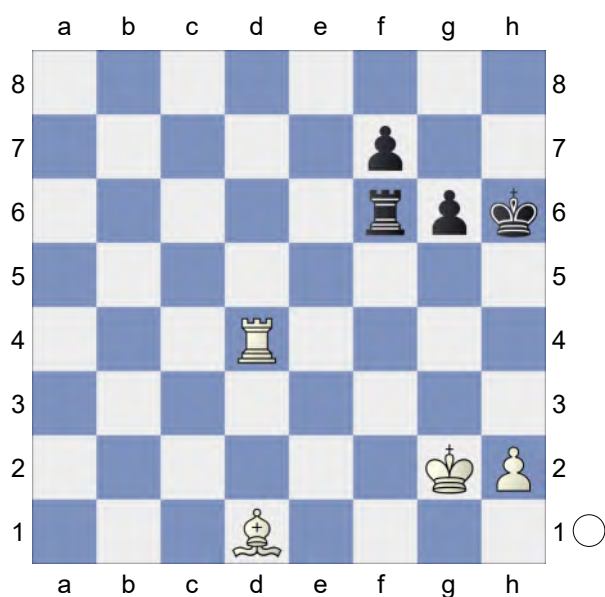
[Even 60...Rxc6 is plausible, but the text looks simpler. Fernandez,D: '(Fernandez,Daniel Howard) is plausible, but the text looks simpler.']



Flear,Glenn: '!' Fernandez,D: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Flear,Glenn: '!' 61.Qd4 15:01 Fernandez,D:

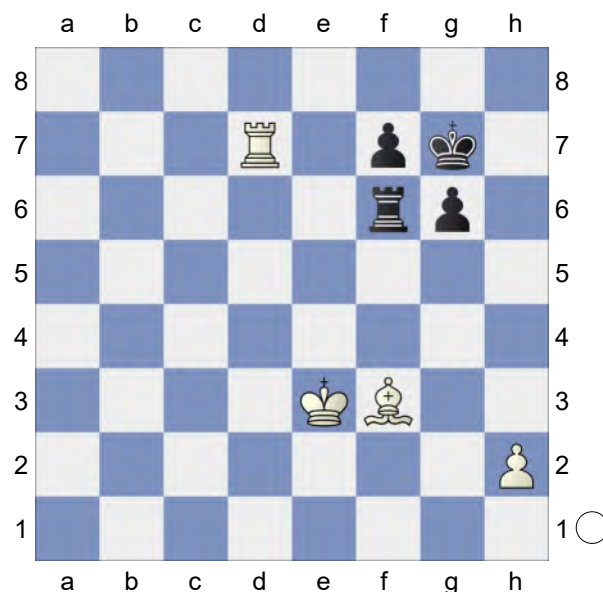
'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Going into a drawn ending.'" Going into a drawn ending. **61...Qxd4+ 4:33 62.Rxd4 3 Rxc6 4:48 63.Rxh4 6** Flear,Glenn: 'The endgame just has to be a draw, as Black can batten down the hatches and hold onto his f7 & g6-based fortress. For the record, more promising is the analogous case with White having a g-pawn, but even then the defender should have enough resources.' Fernandez,D: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Flear,Glenn: 'The endgame just has to be a draw, as Black can batten down the hatches and hold onto his f7 & g6-based fortress. For the record, more promising is the analogous case with White having a g-pawn, but even then the defender should have enough resources.'" **63...Kg7 3 64.Rd4 7 Rf6 1:23** Fernandez,D: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Black has now reached complete safety, though White made him go the distance.'" Black has now reached complete safety, though White made him go the distance.

65.Kg2 3 Kh6 27

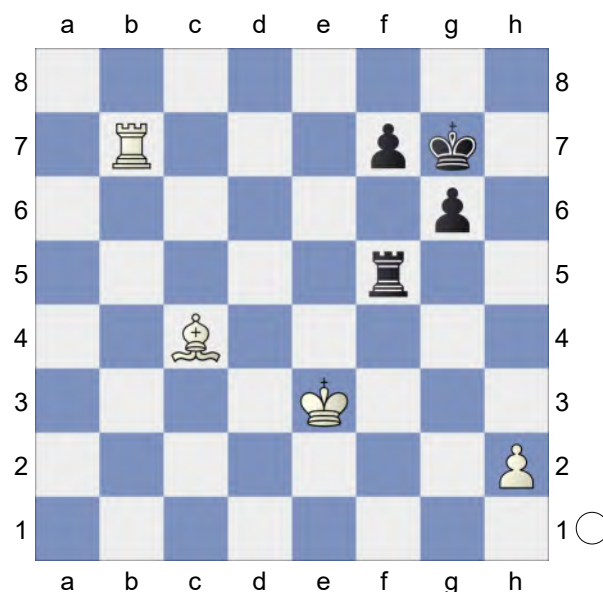


66.Bf3 6 Kg7 2 67.Kg3 3 Kh6 6 68.Kf2 1:05 Kg7 17 69.Rd7 7 Kg8 25

70.Ke3 4 Kg7 3

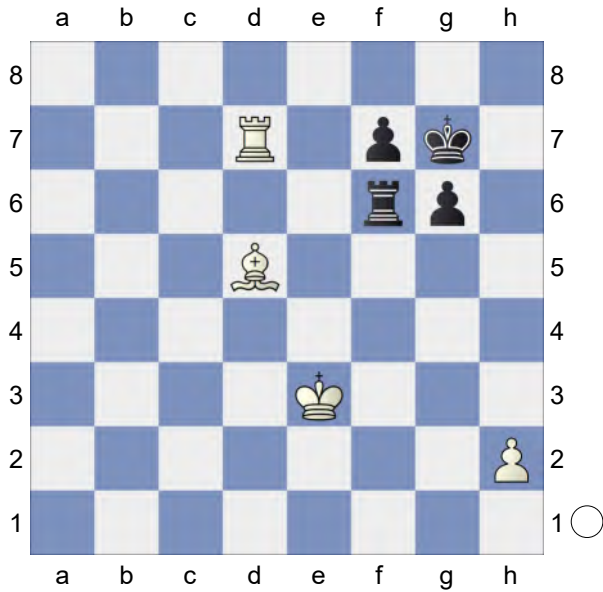


71.Bd5 22 Kg8 21 72.Bc4 1:25 Kg7 13 73.Rc7 4 Rf5 41 74.Ra7 1:04 Rf6 27 75.Rb7 4 Rf5 4

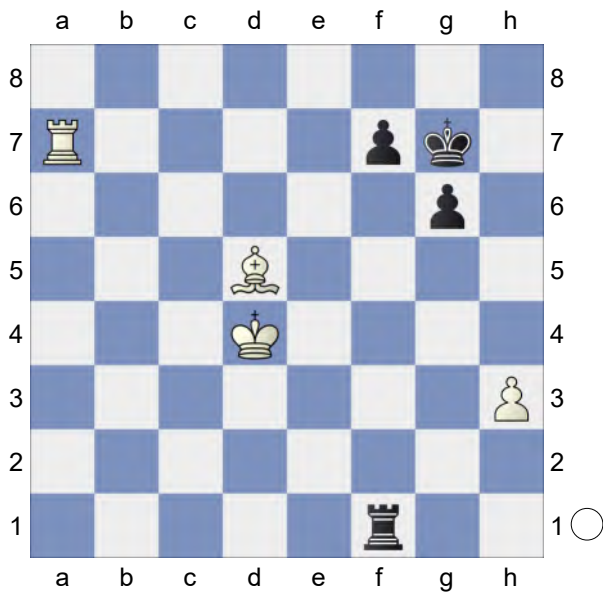


76.Ba2 4 Rf6 6 77.Bb3 5 Rf5 4 78.Rd7 15 Rf6 27 79.Bc4 4 Rf5 4 80.Bd5 3 Rf6 7

(Diagram)

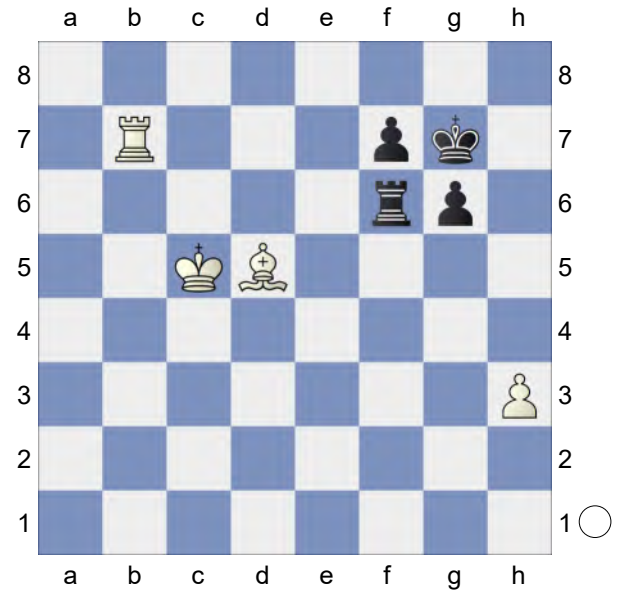


81.Rb7 23 Rf5 13 82.Ke4 21 Kg8 48
83.Ra7 1:06 Kg7 21 84.Kd4 2 Rf2 2:10
85.h3 7 Rf1 28

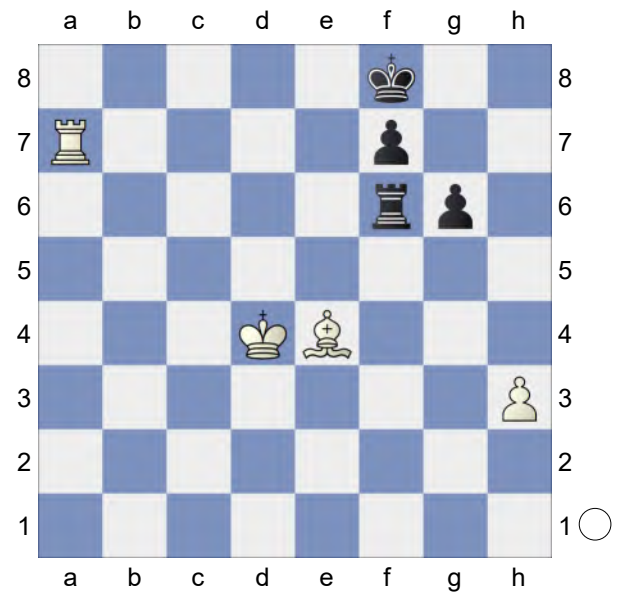


86.Kc5 5 Rf6 27 87.Rb7 39 Kg8 26
88.Kd4 6 Rf5 24 89.Kc4 1:23 Kg7 15
90.Kc5 4 Rf6 5

(Diagram)

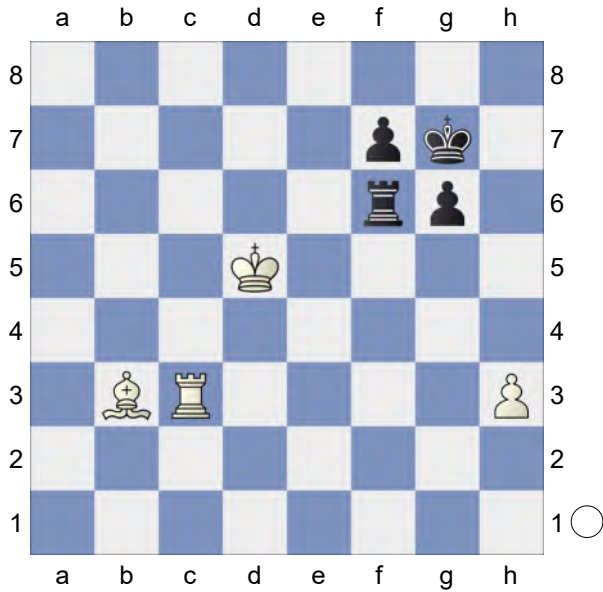


91.Rc7 41 Kf8 1:01 92.Be4 7 Kg7 7
93.Kd5 6 Re6 31 94.Kd4 18 Rf6 16
95.Ra7 12 Kf8 17

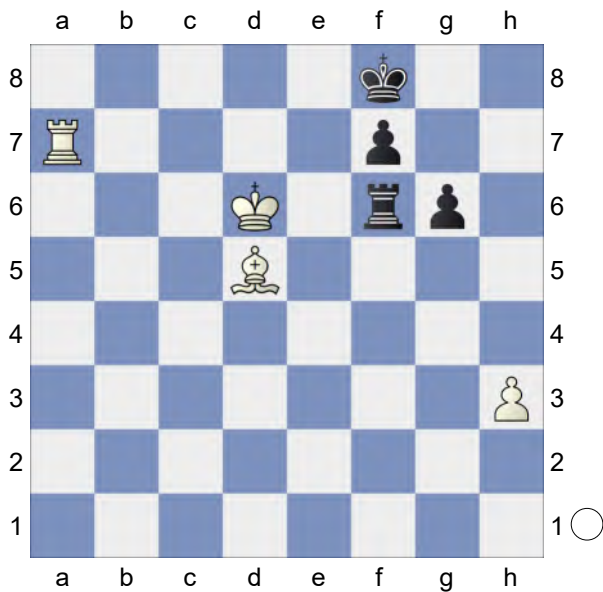


96.Ra3 1:34 Kg7 7 97.Kd5 12 Re6 33
98.Rc3 13 Rf6 5 99.Bc2 3 Kf8 2:48
100.Bb3 5 Kg7 49

(Diagram)

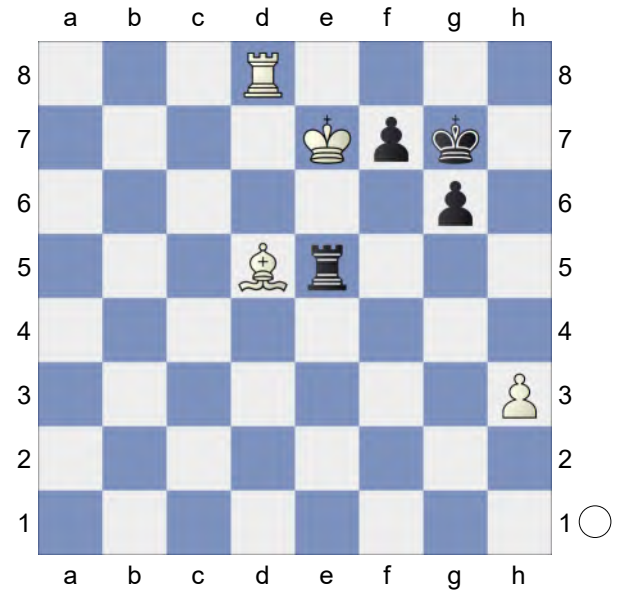


101.Ke5 5 Rf5+ 3 102.Kd6 3 Rf4 27
 103.Bd5 9 Rf5 7 104.Rc7 10 Kf8 16
 105.Ra7 1:59 Rf6+ 1:36

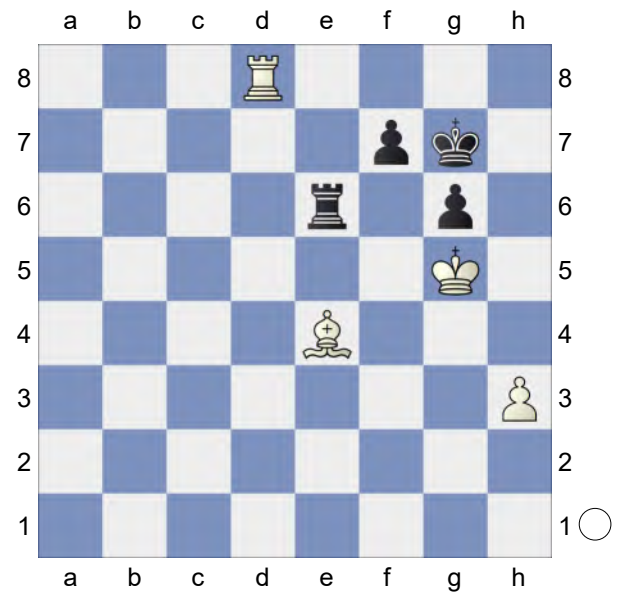


106.Kd7 4 Rf5 4 107.Ra8+ 1:23 Kg7 5
 108.Kd6 2 Rf6+ 1:30 109.Ke7 9 Rf5 5
 110.Rd8 18 Re5+ 12

(Diagram)

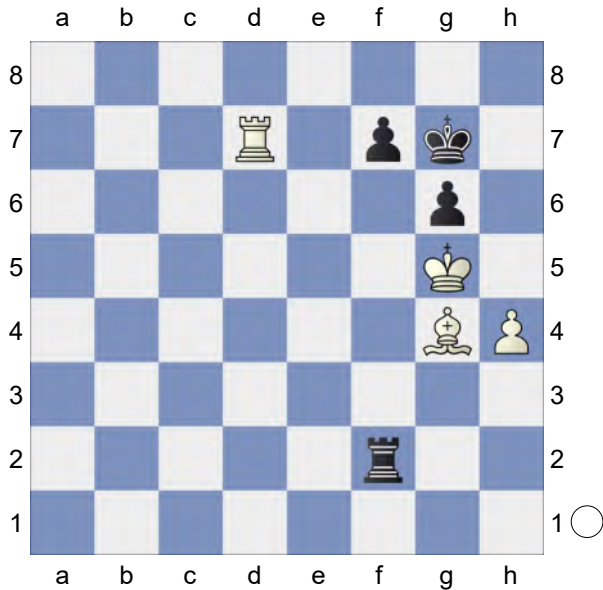


111.Kd6 4 Rf5 7 112.Be4 1:46 Rf6+ 22
 113.Ke5 3 Re6+ 7 114.Kf4 2 Rf6+ 10
 115.Kg5 5 Re6 1:07

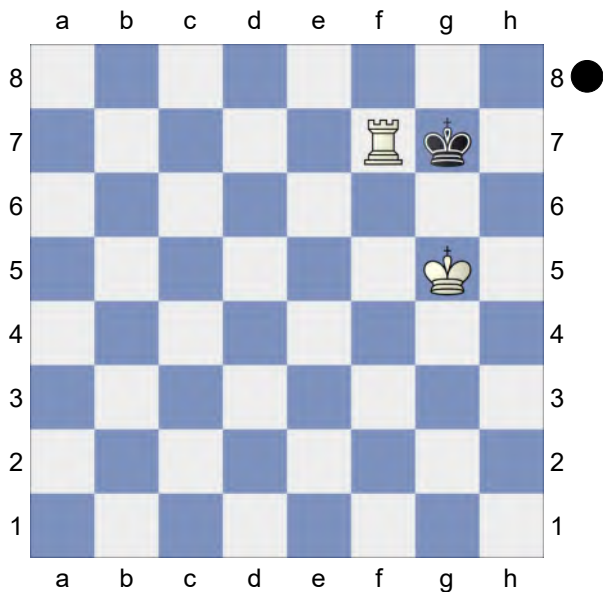


116.Rd4 5 Rf6 24 117.h4 9 Re6 31
 118.Bf3 4 Rf6 27 119.Bg4 6 Rf1 1:09
 120.Rd7 3 Rf2 20

(Diagram)



121.h5?! 3 gxh5 10 122.Bxh5 3 Rf1 44
123.Bxf7 3 Rxf7 3 124.Rxf7+



Flear, Glenn: 'In the second half of the game, Wei Yi never looked as if he was going to break down Black's defences.'
Fernandez, D: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'Flear, Glenn: 'In the second half of the game, Wei Yi never looked as if he was going to break down Black's defences.'"

1/2-1/2

69

A17

□ Wei, Yi

2743

■ Giri, Anish

2752

Tata Steel-A 80th (13)

28.01.2018

[Fernandez, Daniel Howard]

(100min+30sec)/40+(50min+30sec)/20+(15min+30sec)/10

1.Nf3 0 Fernandez, D 1...d5 33 2.e3 0

Nf6 1:09 3.c4 0 e6 2 4.Nc3 11

Probably trying for some clever move-order trick in a Meran. 4...b6 18

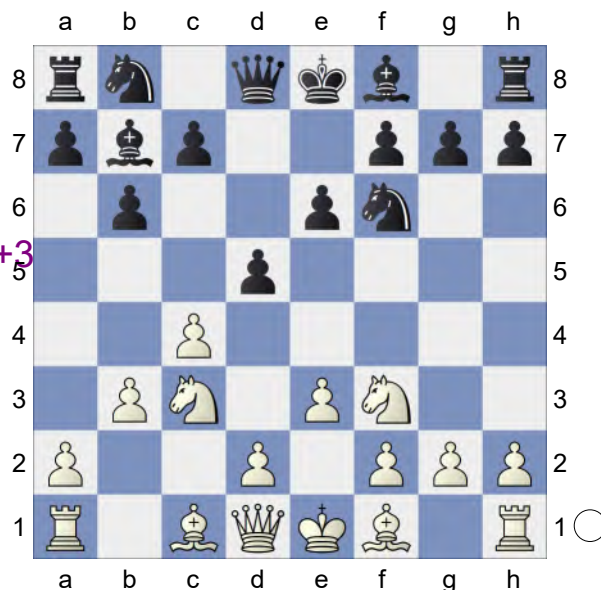
[4...a6 5.b3 Bd6 6.Bb2 0-0 7.g4!?≠ Nepomniachtchi, I-Anand, V London 2017, was an experimental continuation.]

[4...Bb4!? has an equally 'interesting' flavour: 5.a3 (5.Qa4+ Nc6 6.Nd4 a5≠) 5...Bxc3 6.bxc3 0-0 7.Bb2!? Trying to open the long diagonal quickly, but Black has a gambit idea. (7.d4 c5 Via a circuituous route, we have reached a main line Sämisch position.) 7...c5 8.cxd5 exd5 9.c4 d4!?≠]

[4...c5 is of course fine, when White's main independent continuation could be the attempt to force an IQP position with 5.cxd5. However, Black is under no obligation to accept this and can continue Nxd5!? 6.d4 cxd4 7.exd4 Nxc3 8.bxc3 Qc7 9.Bd2 Nd7≠ Aronian, L-Carlsen, M London 2015]

5.b3 55 Bb7 26

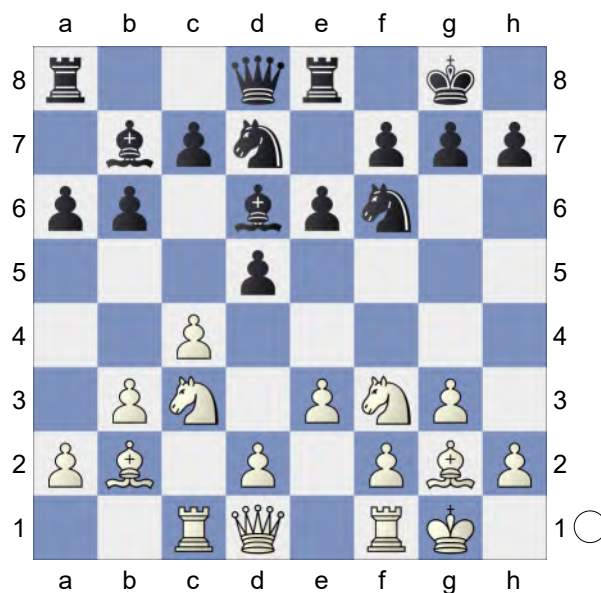
(Diagram)



6.Bb2 21 Nbd7 33 7.g3!? 11:42
Ducking d4 at any cost. 7...Bd6 23:15

[7...dxc4 seems logical to try and punish White's omission. For instance, 8.Bxc4 (8.bxc4 e5 9.Bg2 e4↑) 8...a6 9.0-0 (9.a4 Bb4= is also very comfortable) 9...b5 10.Be2 Be7=]

8.Bg2 2:30 0-0 1:09 9.0-0 4:11 Re8 1:52 10.Rc1 22:12 a6 1:11



11.Qe2 5:29 dxc4 7:12

[11...c5?! was correctly avoided: 12.cxd5 exd5 (12...Nxd5 13.Nxd5 exd5 14.d4 is similar) 13.d4

Black does not have a good version of the hanging pawns position.]

12.bxc4 20 b5!? 2:34 Liquidating.

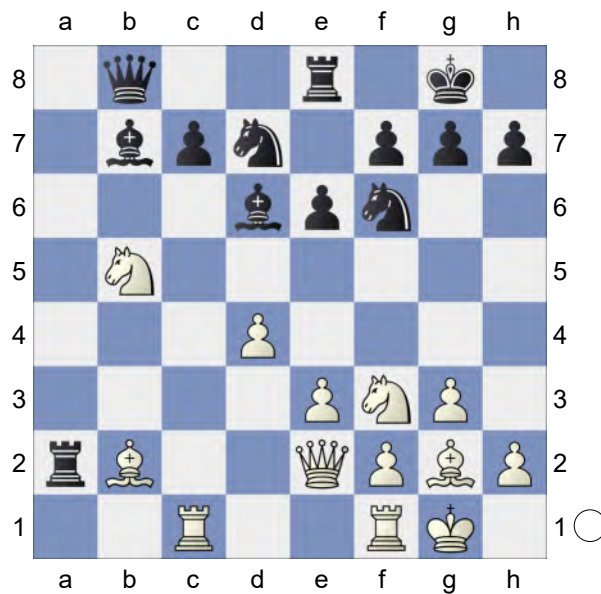
[12...c5 13.Ng5 Bxg2 14.Kxg2 leads to a position reminiscent of the 6.b3 Catalan discussed yesterday; both sides have glaring backward pawns but White is probably slightly more comfortable unless Black hurries to get pieces off with (say) Be5! 15.f4 Bxc3 16.Bxc3 e5=]

13.cxb5 30:32 axb5 11 14.Nxb5 11 Rxa2 27 15.d4 8:18

[It is a running joke in my circle that whenever possible, I will suggest moves like 15.Bxf6 to try and exploit, after a further 50 moves, some perceived superiority of White's compact structure. This may or may not be present, but on objective grounds the move deserves consideration. Play could continue Nxf6 16.Nfd4 Bxg2 17.Kxg2 Ne4 18.Rfd1= when White has the 'threat' of ♖c3, exchanging off more pieces and thus getting closer to the ideal ♖♗ v ♗♘ position, where in theory the backward c-pawn could become a factor.]

15...Qb8 9:27

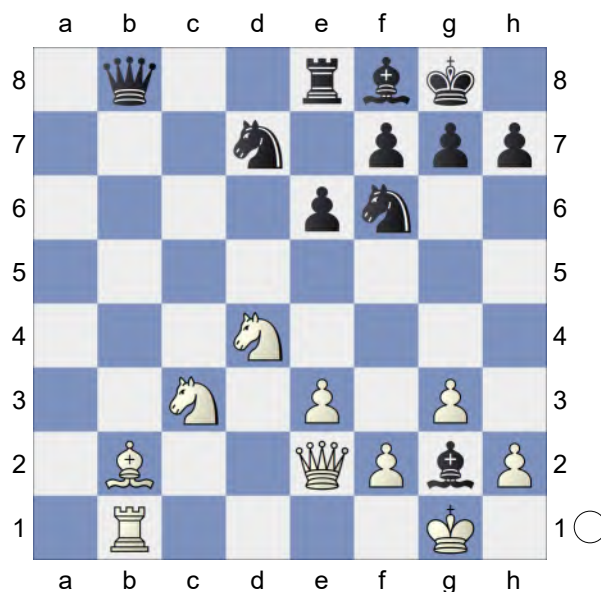
(Diagram)



16.Ra1 43 Rxa1 1:41 17.Rxa1 5 Bf8 18 18.Nc3 1:51 c5 30 19.Rb1 2:34 Maybe a slightly slack move.

[19.Qb5 cxd4 20.Nxd4 Bxg2 21.Kxg2=]

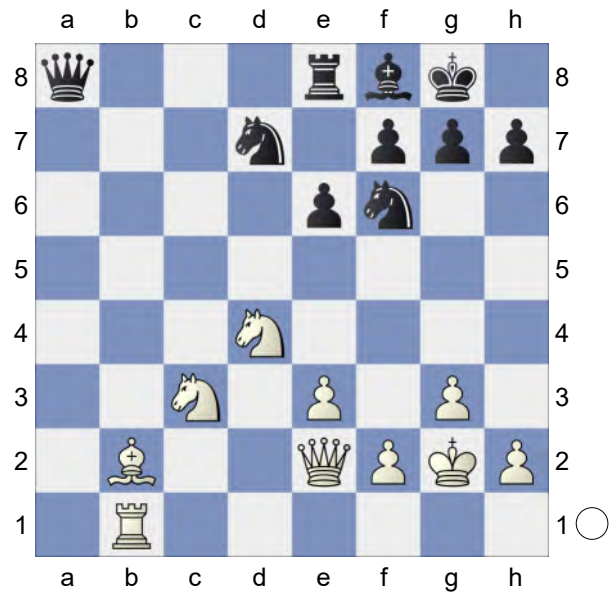
19...cxd4 1:34 20.Nxd4 4 Bxg2 6



21.Kxg2 5 Qa8+ 1:47

[21...Rc8 created a threat and would not have been a totally unreasonable move to play on with. 22.Ba1 Qa8+ 23.Qf3 Qa3 24.Ndb5 Qa6= and while the position is objectively level, White's pieces are a little bit

tangled up and a bit less active.]



$\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$

18

D77

□ Kramnik, Vladimir

2787

■ Wei, Yi

2743

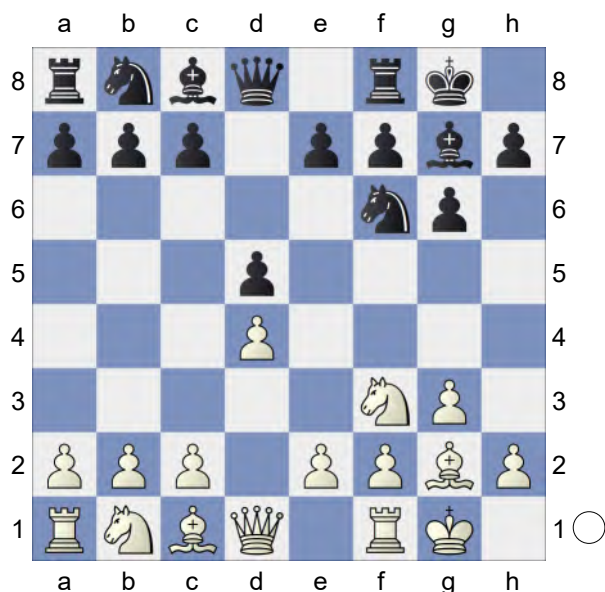
Tata Steel-A 80th (1)

13.01.2018

[Fernandez, Daniel Howard]

(90min+30sec)/40+(30min+30sec)

1.Nf3 0 Arsovic, Goran Arsovic, Goran
 Arsovic, Goran Arsovic, Goran:
 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard Fernandez,
 Daniel Howard: 'Arsovic, Goran Arsovic,
 Goran Arsovic, Goran' 1...d5 0 2.g3 0
 g6 0 3.Bg2 0 Bg7 0 4.d4 0 Nf6 0
 5.0-0 0 0-0 0



6.c4 0 dxc4 0 7.Na3 0 A good move to
 play for a long technical battle! Arsovic,
 Goran: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'A
 good move to play for a long technical
 battle!' 7...c5 0

[7...c3 Arsovic, Goran: 'Fernandez,
 Daniel Howard']

8.dxc5 0 c3 0 The approved method of
 gaining equality, but I think Black might
 have to take the pawn on the next move
 to prove it. Arsovic, Goran: 'Fernandez,
 Daniel Howard: 'The approved method
 of gaining equality, but I think Black
 might have to take the pawn on the next

move to prove it."

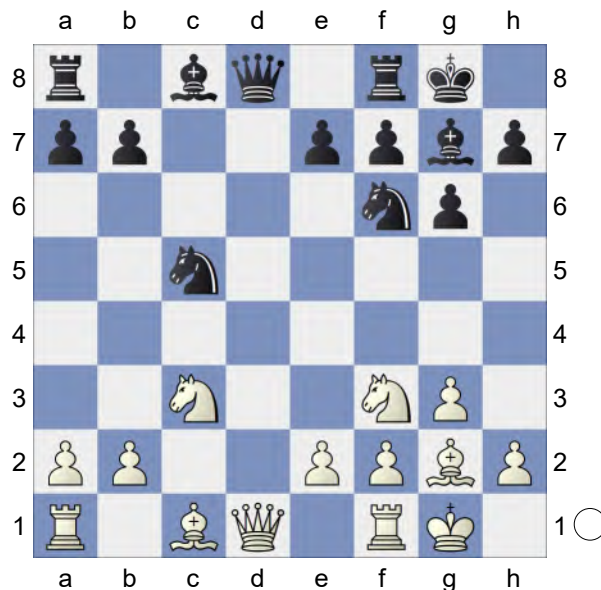
[8...Qxd1 Arsovic, Goran: 'Fernandez,
 Daniel Howard' was tried recently, but
 it is more unpleasant for Black.
 9.Rxd1 Nfd7 10.Nxc4 Nxc5 11.Be3±
 Meier, G-Edouard, R Germany 2017]

9.Nb5! 0 Arsovic, Goran: 'Fernandez,
 Daniel Howard: '!' 9...Na6 1:46

[9...cxb2 Arsovic, Goran: '- 131/152'
 10.Bxb2 Arsovic, Goran: 'Fernandez,
 Daniel Howard' Bd7 11.Qb3 Bc6
 12.Rfd1 was a previous Kramnik
 game: Kramnik, V-Topalov, V London
 2016; here I think ... ♔a5 and then ...
 ♘bd7 offers Black reasonable play.

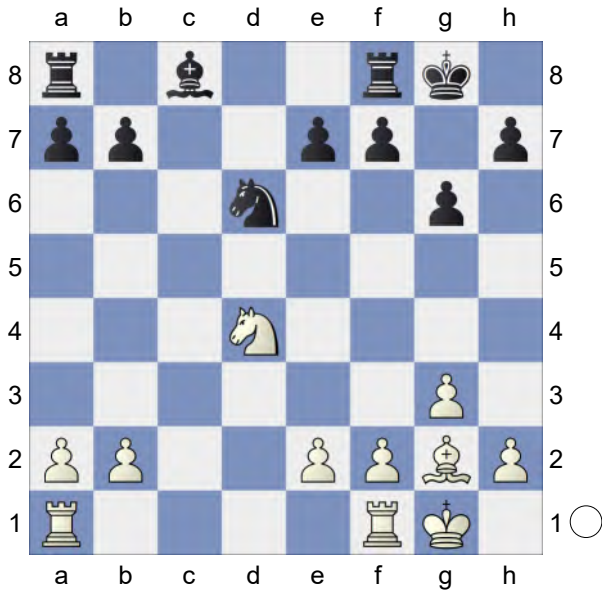
Qa5± (12...Nbd7)]

10.Nxc3 0 Nxc5 1:00



11.Be3 0 Nfe4 10:18 12.Nxe4 0 Nxe4
 7 13.Bd4! 0 Arsovic, Goran: 'Fernandez,
 Daniel Howard: '!' 13...Bxd4 16
 14.Qxd4 7 Qxd4 1:35 15.Nxd4 4:21
 Nd6 8

(Diagram)

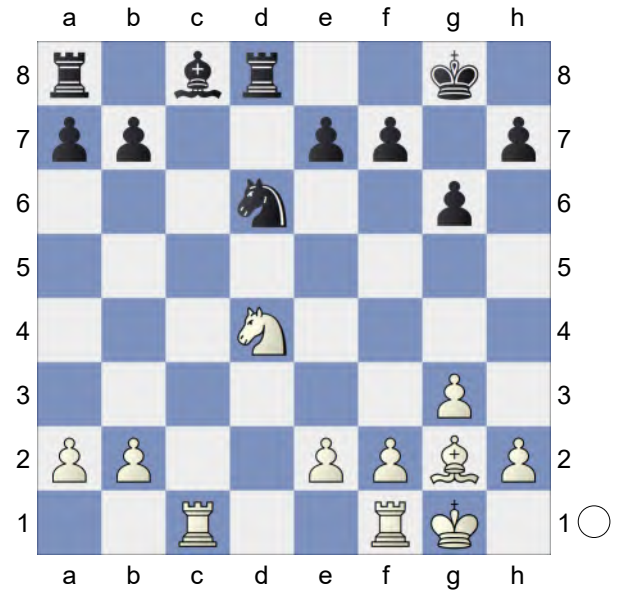


Unbelievably, this had all been seen before, and from Wei Yi's next move, it is clear that he had seen the precedent. Arsovic, Goran: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'Unbelievably, this had all been seen before, and from Wei Yi's next move, it is clear that he had seen the precedent.' **16.Rac1N 3:03**

[16.Rfc1 Rd8 17.Rc7 Kf8 18.Rac1 Ne8 19.R7c4 Nd6 20.Rc5 Arsovic, Goran: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard' Bd7= Ding, L-Giri, A Palma de Mallorca 2017, was equal and ultimately drawn.]

16...Rd8 10:01 Arsovic, Goran: 'Diagram [16...e5 Arsovic, Goran: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard' 17.Nb3 Be6 was now worthy of note, and while I might think it's an equalising route, we will just have to wait for Kramnik to beat another elite player to find out what he had in mind here!]

(Diagram)



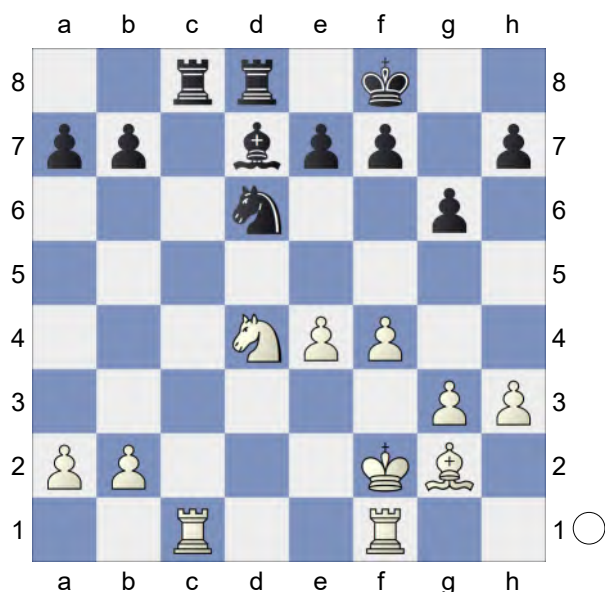
' Arsovic, Goran: 'Diagram [# Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'Arsovic, Goran: 'Diagram [#]' **17.f4 3:19** Arsovic, Goran: '!' '!' '!' Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'Arsovic, Goran: '!' '!' '!' This approach goes better with the rook on f1 than a1, as White wants to bring it to d1 next. Arsovic, Goran: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'This approach goes better with the rook on f1 than a1, as White wants to bring it to d1 next.' **17...Kf8 20:37 18.Kf2 5:11 Bg4 3:04 19.h3 8:32 Bd7 50 20.e4 19:50**

[20.Rc7!? Arsovic, Goran: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard: '!' appeals to me, as I think the e4-e5 push gains in strength from there being no rooks on the board. Arsovic, Goran: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'appeals to me, as I think the e4-e5 push gains in strength from there being no rooks on the board.' Rac8 Arsovic, Goran Arsovic, Goran: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'Arsovic, Goran' 21.Rfc1 Ke8 22.g4 Rxc7 23.Rxc7 Rc8=]

20...Rac8 7:03

[20...Nb5! Arsovic, Goran: '△' '△' '△' Fernandez, Daniel Howard: '!']

Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Arsovic, Goran: ' $\text{♞} \text{ ' ' } \text{♞} \text{ ' ' } \text{♞} \text{ ' '}$ was still objectively equal if a little unpleasant over the board: Arsovic, Goran: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'was still objectively equal if a little unpleasant over the board:" 21.Nxb5 (21.Rfd1 Arsovic, Goran: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard' Nxd4 22.Rxd4 Be6 $\bar{f}$; 21.Nf3 Arsovic, Goran Arsovic, Goran: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Arsovic, Goran" Nd6=) 21...Bxb5 22.Rfd1 Rxd1 Arsovic, Goran: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard' (22...Rac8= Arsovic, Goran Arsovic, Goran: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Arsovic, Goran") 23.Rxd1 Rc8 24.Rd2 f6=]



21.Rxc8 13:34

[21.e5 Arsovic, Goran: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard' may have been good, taking advantage of a moment when Black is not able to reply with ... $\text{♞} \text{ b5}$ and must worry about the b7-pawn. Nf5 22.Ne2 Bb5! This accurate move may be needed to hold the balance. There could follow 23.Rxc8 Rxc8 24.Rc1 Rxc1 25.Nxc1 b6 26.Be4

and Black should just be equal with one or two more good moves.]

21...Rxc8 1:47 22.Rd1 31 The point seems to be that after ... $\text{♞} \text{ b5}$ White now intends $\text{♞} \text{ e2!}$, a4, and $\text{♞} \text{ c3}$. Arsovic, Goran: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'The point seems to be that after ... $\text{♞} \text{ b5}$ White now intends $\text{♞} \text{ e2!}$, a4, and $\text{♞} \text{ c3}$."

22...Ke8 22:30

[22...Nb5 23.Ne2 Ke8 Arsovic, Goran Arsovic, Goran: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Arsovic, Goran" 24.Rd2 f6=]

23.e5 7:21 Nf5 42 24.Nb3 3:29 Arsovic, Goran: ' $\text{♞} \text{ ' ' } \text{♞} \text{ ' ' } \text{♞} \text{ ' '}$ " Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'Arsovic, Goran: ' $\text{♞} \text{ ' ' } \text{♞} \text{ ' ' } \text{♞} \text{ ' '}$ "

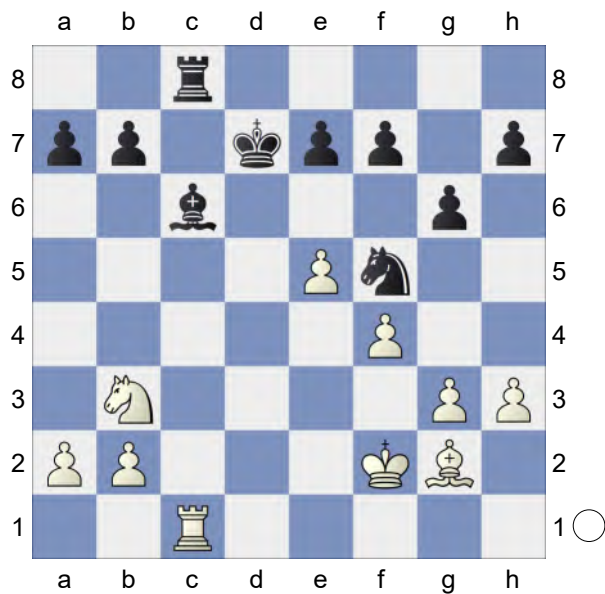
[24.Nxf5 Arsovic, Goran: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard' Rc2+]

24...Bc6 7:27 Arsovic, Goran: '?!' '?!' '?!' Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'Arsovic, Goran: '?!' '?!' '?!' "

[24...Rc2+ 25.Rd2 Rxd2+ 26.Nxd2 b6 would have led to a similar ending to the last note.' Arsovic, Goran: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'would have led to a similar ending to the last note.'" 27.g4 Nd4 28.a3 $\pm$ Arsovic, Goran: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard' (28.Be4 Arsovic, Goran Arsovic, Goran: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Arsovic, Goran" f5 29.Ke3 Nb5 30.Bd3 $\pm$)]

25.Rc1 2:57 Now I think White has a little something! Arsovic, Goran: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Now I think White has a little something!" **25...Kd7 10**

(Diagram)



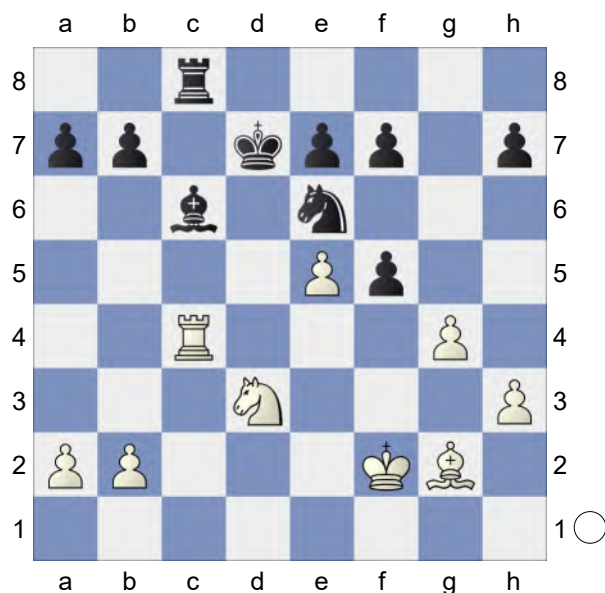
26.Nc5+ 2:27 Ke8 19 27.Nd3 7:15

[27.Na6!? Arsovic,Goran: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard' is rather flashy for a move that is only trying to inflict pawn weaknesses on the opponent, but Black seems to be fine after the accurate Nd4!=]

27...Kd7 1:43 28.g4 7:53 Giving Black a major headache - his best move now requires a wrinkle to make it playable. Arsovic,Goran: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'Giving Black a major headache - his best move now requires a wrinkle to make it playable.'" **28...Nd4?! 8:05** Arsovic,Goran: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard: '?!'

[28...Bxg2 29.Rxc8 (29.e6+ Arsovic,Goran: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard' fxe6 30.Ne5+ Kd8 31.Nf7+ DF Kd7 32.Rxc8 Kxc8 33.Kxg2 Nd6 34.Ng5 looks slightly unpleasant for Black, though the machine notes that he draws with the only move e5! 35.fxe5 h6!=) 29...Kxc8 30.Kxg2± Arsovic,Goran: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard: ' ±" Nd4 Arsovic,Goran: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'Arsovic,Goran" 31.Kf2 Kd7

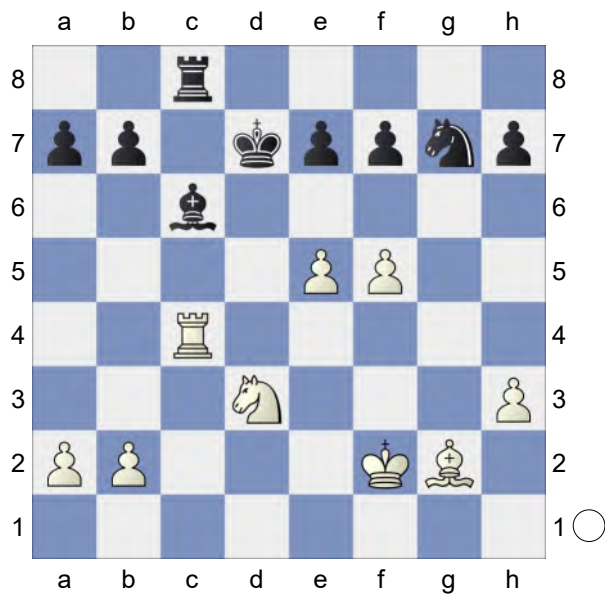
32.Ke3 Ne6 33.Ke4±]
29.Rc4 2:00 Ne6 6 30.f5 1:15 gxf5 2:45



31.gxf5 38 Ng7 2:11 Arsovic,Goran: 'Diagram

[31...Nd8± Arsovic,Goran: '△' '△" Fernandez, Daniel Howard: ' ±' Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'Arsovic, Goran: '△' '△'" limited the damage by not allowing another isolated pawn, though the co-ordination and space deficits are still there. Arsovic,Goran: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'limited the damage by not allowing another isolated pawn, though the co-ordination and space deficits are still there.'" 32.Bxc6+ Arsovic,Goran: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'Arsovic, Goran' Nxc6 (32...Rxc6 33.Rh4 h6 34.Ke3±) 33.Ke3±]

(Diagram)



' Arsovic,Goran: 'Diagram 'Diagram [#]
 Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Arsovic,
 Goran: 'Diagram [#]' 32.Bxc6+ 2:55
 Arsovic,Goran: '!' '!' '!' Fernandez,Daniel
 Howard: 'Arsovic,Goran: '!' '!' '!' "
 32...bxc6 5

[32...Rxc6 33.e6+! Ke8 (33...fxe6
 Arsovic,Goran: 'Fernandez,Daniel
 Howard' 34.Ne5+) 34.exf7+ Kf8
 (34...Kxf7 Arsovic,Goran: 'Fernandez,
 Daniel Howard' 35.Ne5+) 35.Rxc6
 bxc6 36.b4 Arsovic,Goran: '±' '±'
 '±' Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Arsovic,
 Goran: '±' '±' '±' Nxf5 Arsovic,Goran:
 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard' 37.Ne5±
 Nd4 DF 38.a4+-]

33.Nc5+ 2:16 Kc7 6 34.Rh4 3:31
 Arsovic,Goran: ' ±' '±' '±' Fernandez,
 Daniel Howard: 'Arsovic,Goran: '±' '±' '±' "

[34.Rb4 Arsovic,Goran: 'Fernandez,
 Daniel Howard' Nxf5 35.Rb7+ Kd8
 36.Rxa7±]

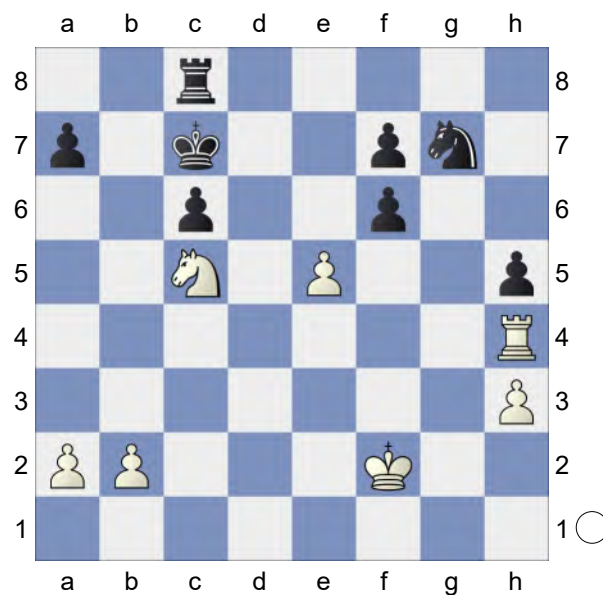
34...h5 2:00

[34...Nxf5 35.Rxh7 Rf8 36.h4±]

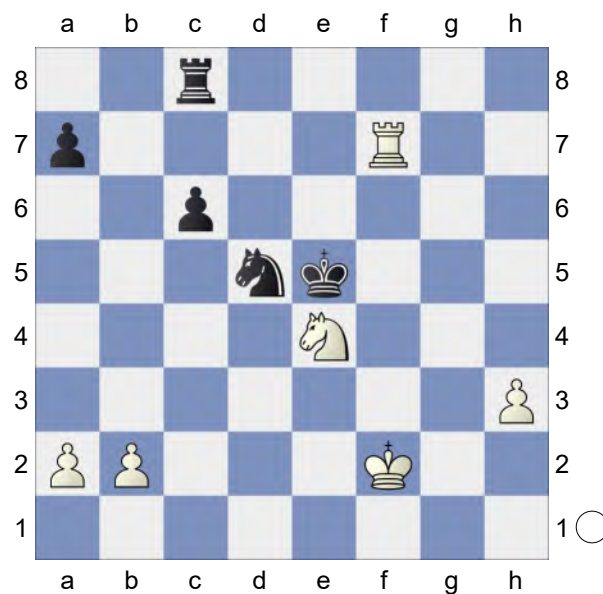
[34...Rh8 Arsovic,Goran: 'Fernandez,
 Daniel Howard' DF 35.Rb4 Nxf5
 36.Rb7+ Kc8 37.Rxa7+-]

35.f6 44 Winning a pawn by force

Arsovic,Goran: 'Fernandez,Daniel
 Howard: 'Winning a pawn by force'
 35...exf6 4



36.exf6 18 Ne8 16 37.Rxh5 1:02 Nxf6
 48 38.Rf5 15 Nd5 49 39.Rxf7+ 1:27
 Kd6 4 40.Ne4+ 0 Ke5 0



41.Nd2 0 a5 0 Black has played these
 last ten moves well, keeping active even
 at the cost of a pawn, but unfortunately
 White's position is probably winning with
 best play. Arsovic,Goran: 'Fernandez,
 Daniel Howard: 'Black has played these
 last ten moves well, keeping active even

at the cost of a pawn, but unfortunately White's position is probably winning with best play." **42.Nc4+ 0 Ke6 0**

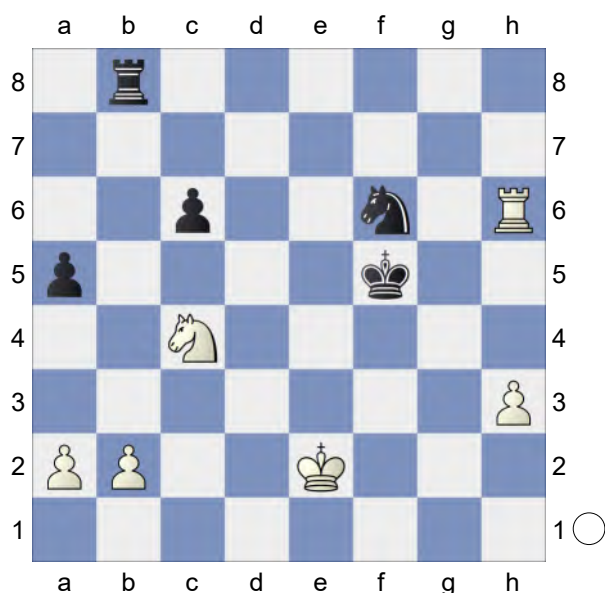
[42...Kd4 Arsovic,Goran: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard' 43.Nxa5]

43.Rh7 3:25 Rb8 10:07 44.Ke2 4:37 Kf5 13:06

[44...Rb4 Arsovic,Goran: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard' 45.Rh6+]

[♠44...a4 Arsovic,Goran: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard']

45.Rh6 6:04 Nf6 5:24



46.h4 1:50 a4 2:27 47.Kd3 1:36 c5 1:30

[47...Rd8+± Arsovic,Goran: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard' would have continued to put up more active resistance]

48.Ne3+ 3:34 Ke5 7 49.h5?! 2:24

[♠49.Rg6!+- Arsovic,Goran: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: ' ♠+-!' forces Black's king back for tactical reasons. The position can't be held anymore. Arsovic,Goran: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'forces Black's king back for tactical reasons. The position can't be held anymore.' Rd8+ Arsovic,Goran Arsovic,Goran:

'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Arsovic, Goran" 50.Kc4 Rb8 51.Rg2±]

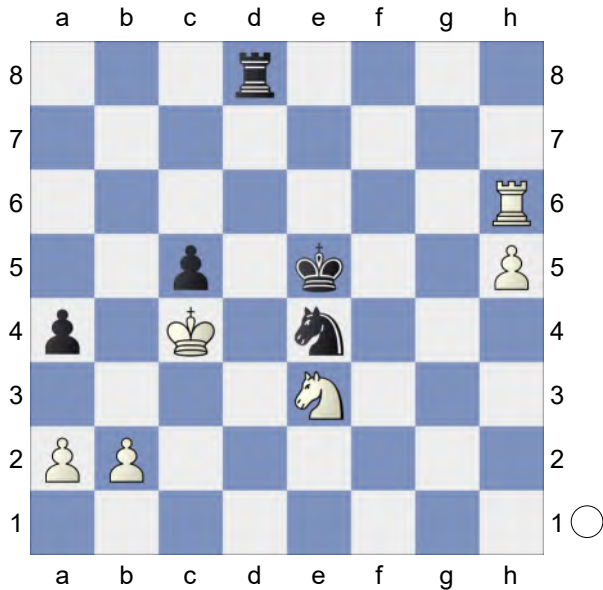
49...Rd8+ 1:08 In the game again! I suspect there was an element of time pressure here. Arsovic,Goran: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'In the game again! I suspect there was an element of time pressure here.'" **50.Kc4?! 2:05** Arsovic,Goran: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: '?!' **50...Ne4?? 28**

[50...Rd2!= Arsovic,Goran: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: '=!' is a sudden draw; the subtlety here is that while Black can't take on b2 immediately, he does have Arsovic, Goran: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'is a sudden draw; the subtlety here is that while Black can't take on b2 immediately, he does have" 51.Kxc5 Ne4+

A) 52.Kb4 Arsovic,Goran Arsovic, Goran: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Arsovic,Goran" Rxb2+ 53.Ka3 Re2 54.Nd1 Kf5 (54...Rd2 55.Nb2±) 55.Rb6±;

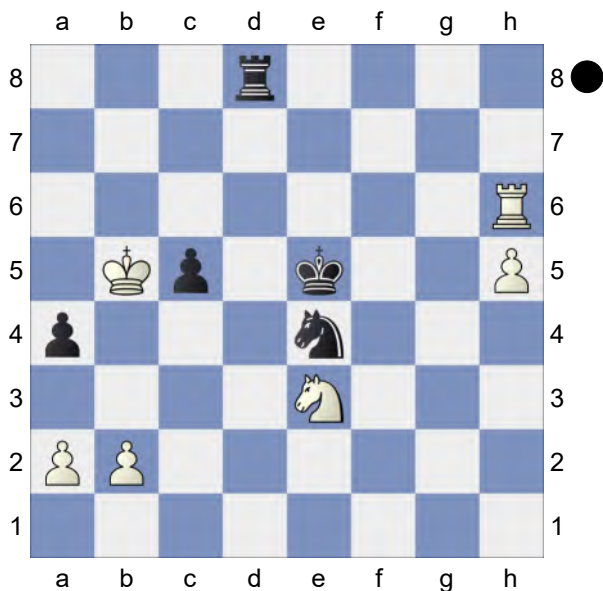
B) 52.Kc6 Kd4! Arsovic,Goran: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: '!' 53.Nf5+ Arsovic,Goran: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard' (53.Ng4 Arsovic,Goran Arsovic,Goran: 'Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Arsovic, Goran" Rc2+ 54.Kd7 Rxb2 55.Rg6 Rxa2 56.h6 Rb2 57.Kc8 Rc2+ 58.Kb8 Rb2+ 59.Ka7 Rc2=) 53...Ke5 The knight has no good way to avoid the attention of the black king, and ... ♠xb2 is always on the cards.]

(Diagram)



Arsovic, Goran: '?' '?' '?' Fernandez, Daniel Howard: '??' Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'Arsovic, Goran: '?' '?' '?'

51.Kb5 2:08 Arsovic, Goran: 'Diagram [51.Ra6 Arsovic, Goran Arsovic, Goran: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'Arsovic, Goran' Rb8 52.h6 Rxb2 53.h7 Rb8 54.Ra7±]



' Arsovic, Goran: 'Diagram 'Diagram [#] Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'Arsovic, Goran: 'Diagram [#]' ' Now White picks up the a-pawn and there should be

no further drama. Arsovic, Goran: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'Now White picks up the a-pawn and there should be no further drama.' **51...Kd4 1:19**

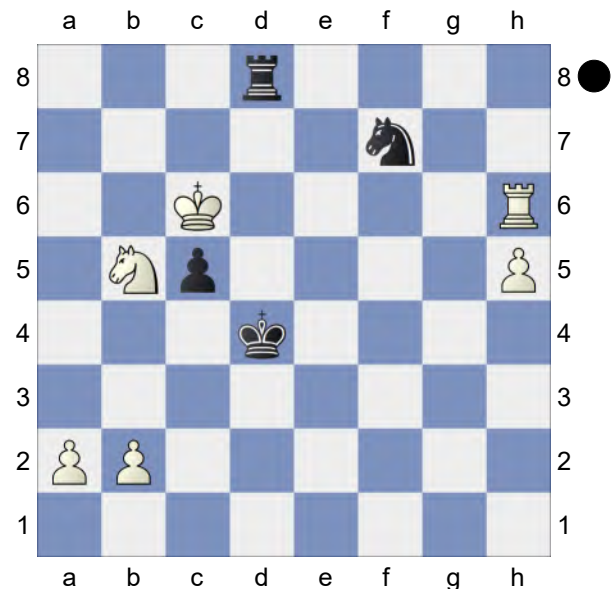
Arsovic, Goran: '?' '?' '?' Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'Arsovic, Goran: '?' '?' '?'

[51...a3 Arsovic, Goran Arsovic, Goran: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'Arsovic, Goran' 52.Nc4+ (52.b3 Nc3+ 53.Kxc5 Nxa2 54.Nc4+ Ke4 55.Nxa3 Nc1 56.Re6+ Kf5 57.Re3 Nxb3+ 58.Rxb3 Rh8=) 52...Kd5 53.Nxa3 Rb8+ 54.Rb6 Nd6+ 55.Ka5 Rh8 56.b3 Rxh5 57.Nb5±]

52.Nc4+- 2:26 a3 22

[52...Ra8 Arsovic, Goran Arsovic, Goran: 'Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'Arsovic, Goran' 53.Rg6+-]

53.Nxa3 53 Nd6+ 1:47 54.Kc6 2:40 Nf7 10 55.Nb5+ 1:37



1-0

56

E11

□ Karjakin, Sergey

2753

■ Wei, Yi

2743

Tata Steel-A 80th (9)

23.01.2018

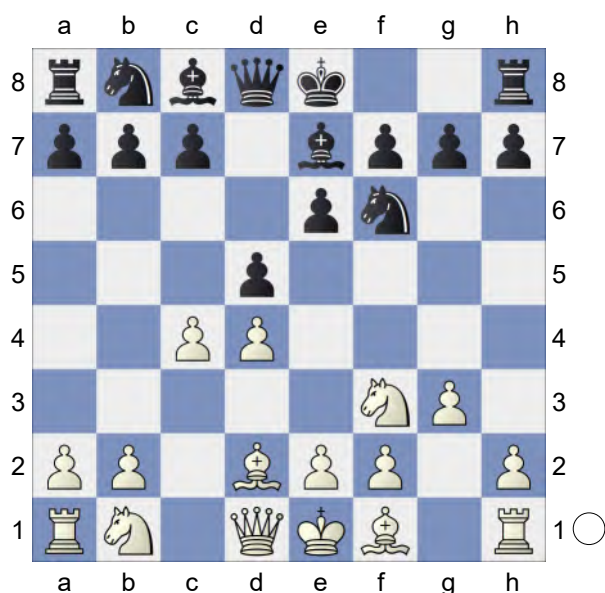
[Fernandez, Daniel Howard]

(100min+30sec)/40+(50min+30sec)/20+(15min+30sec)

1.d4 0 d5 9 2.c4 23 e6 11 3.Nf3 1:35

Nf6 17 4.g3 4 Bb4+ 1:09

Milos Pavlovic: 'One of the best lines against the Catalan, have no doubt about that.' 5.Bd2 38 Be7 12



6.Bg2 5 0-0 8 7.0-0 5 Nbd7 16

[7...c6 is the main move, and it has recently become fashionable to try and make something of White's bishop positioning with 8.Bc3!? which contains some interesting points although 8... ♘ e4 should equalise.]

8.Qc2 3:22

[8.Na3!? Aronian, L-Karjakin, S London 2017, was an interesting new direction.]

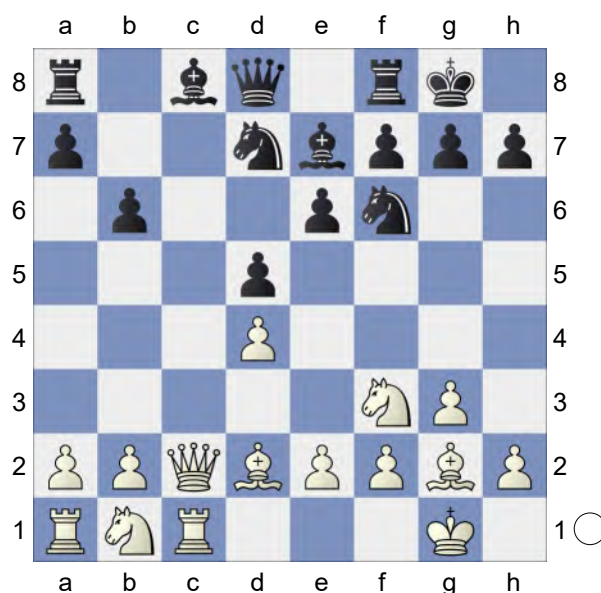
8...c6 54 9.Rc1 1:51 Milos Pavlovic: '!? '!? Milos Pavlovic: 'One of the latest attempts to counter this very solid Black line against the Catalan.'

[9.Bf4 looks the most constructive, but the standard move-repetition offer Nh5 forces White to then think of something new.]

9...b6 2:09

[9...Ne4 might look natural, but completely here White does not need to worry about the threatened swap, e.g. 10.a4 Nxd2 11.Nbxd2 a5 12.e4 with a space advantage.]

10.cxd5 18 cxd5 9



11.Bf4 7 Bb7 15:56

[Black can also try to play more actively: 11...Ba6 12.Nc3 Nh5 13.Qa4!

A) 13...Bb7 14.Bc7 Qe8 15.Nb5 (15.Qb3 Nhf6 16.Nb5 Ne4 17.Be5 White has the initiative.) 15...Nb8 16.Qb3 Nc6 17.Nd6 Qd7 18.Nxb7 Qxc7 19.Ne5 Qxb7 20.Rxc6 Nf6 Slightly better for White, but defendable, Postny, E (2575)-Palac, M (2538) Zagreb CRO 2017 1/2-1/2 (41);

B) 13...Nxf4 14.Qxa6 Nxf4 15.Kxg2 Qc8 16.Qxc8 Rfxc8 17.Nb5 An interesting endgame, it seems that White has some

initiative...

B1) 17...Rxc1 18.Rxc1 a6
19.Rc7 axb5 20.Rxd7 Kf8
21.a3 White has some initiative
here, too. Tkachiev,V (2623)-
Pavlidis,A (2463) Skopje 2014
1-0 (37);

B2) 17...g5 18.h3 h5 19.e3!
(19.Nc7 Rab8 20.Na6 Ra8
21.Nc7 Rab8 22.Na6
1/2-1/2 (22) Saduakassova,D
(2428)-Xu,Y (2540) Ho Chi Minh
City VIE 2017) 19...Kf8 20.Nc7
Rab8 21.Rc6 The knight on c7 is
a powerful asset.;

B3) 17...Bf8 18.Nc7 Rab8
19.a4 Nc5? 20.dxc5 Rxc7
21.cxb6 Rxc1 22.bxa7! Ra8
23.Rxc1 Rxa7 24.b3 g6 25.Nd4
Kg7 26.Nc6 Rb7 27.b4
1-0 Speelman,J (2511)-Ionov,S
(2535) Hersonissos GRE 2017]

12.Qb3 12

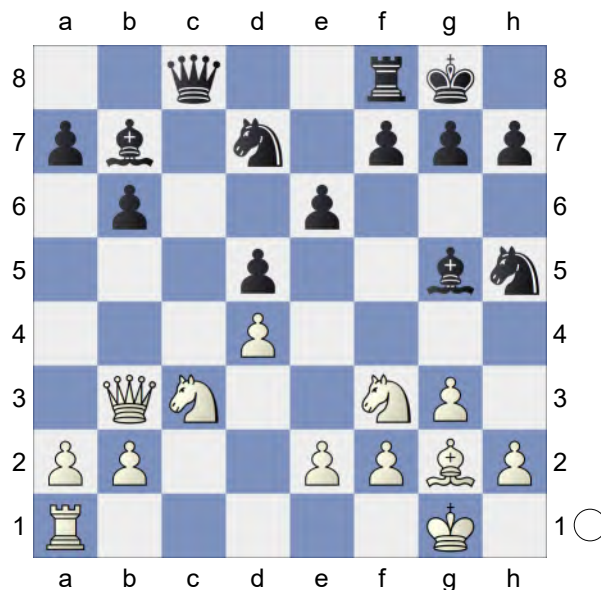
[12.Qa4 was the path followed by a
noteworthy predecessor. a6
(12...Rc8! improves, e.g. 13.Rxc8
Qxc8 14.Na3 a6 15.Rc1 Qa8=)
13.Rc7!? (13.Nbd2 Rc8 14.Qd1
Nh5 15.Rxc8 Bxc8 16.Rc1 Nxf4
17.gxf4 Bb7 18.e3 Qb8=
Ghaem Maghami,E-Wei,Y Tashkent
2016) 13...Rb8 (13...e5 14.dxe5
Qxc7 15.exf6 Bd6 16.fxg7±)
14.Nbd2 b5 15.Qc2 Nh5 16.Rxd7
Qxd7 17.Bxb8 Rxb8 18.Ne5 Qd8
19.Nb3↑ White has a very pleasant
position- but the question of an
advantage is a different one.]

12...Rc8 10:08 13.Rxc8 12 Qxc8 7
14.Nc3 4 Nh5 4:12 A principled reaction,
but not the best.

[14...a6 15.Rc1 Qa8 16.Na4!?
is presumably the wrinkle intended by

12. ♔b3. White could have a little
something here, especially if Black's
best is ... ♔a7, but looking at some
concrete details, my opinion is that
this isn't true: b5 17.Nc5 Rc8!
(17...Nxc5 18.dxc5 Ne4 19.Qe3±)
18.Nxb7 Qxb7=]

15.Bg5 10 Bxg5 4:29



16.Nxg5 20 Qb8 12:23

[Logical is also: 16...Nhf6 17.e3 Ba6
18.a4 Qb8 19.Bf1 Bxf1 20.Kxf1 Rc8
21.Nf3 Ne4 22.Rc1 Ndf6 23.Rc2
Nxc3 24.Rxc3 Ne4 25.Rc2 Rc7
We have equal chances here in
Dragnev,V (2466)-Bluebaum,M (2643)
Munich GER 2018 1/2-1/2 (79)]

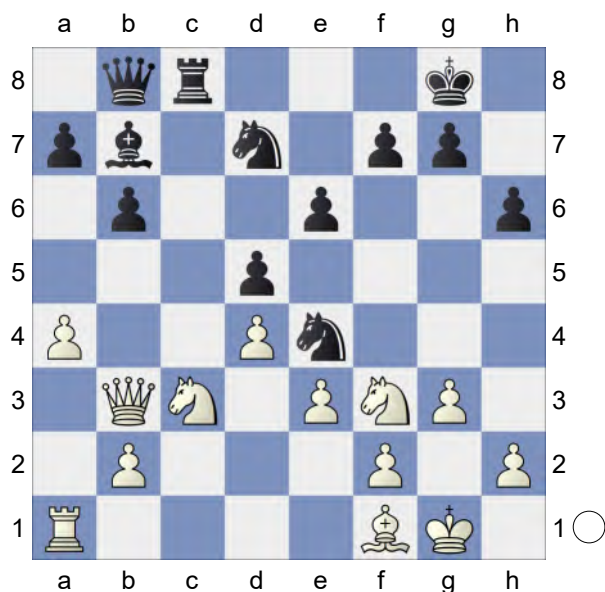
17.e3 2:03 Nh6 1:35 18.Bf1 1:05 h6

17:17 19.Nf3 5 Ne4 1:19
[19...Rc8 20.a4! a5 21.Rc1
It may appear equal but its not a dry
position, there are aspects that can be
used to continue a game, as we will
see... Qa8 22.Rc2 Ba6 23.Bxa6
Qxa6 24.Nb5 Ne4 25.Ne1 Nb8
26.f3 Nf6 27.Nd3 Rxc2 28.Qxc2
Qb7 29.Ne5 Already we see that
White slowly managed to progress,
therefore we can say that White is

slightly better here. Vidit,S (2718)-
Bluebaum,M (2640) Wijk aan Zee
NED 2018 1/2-1/2 (44)]

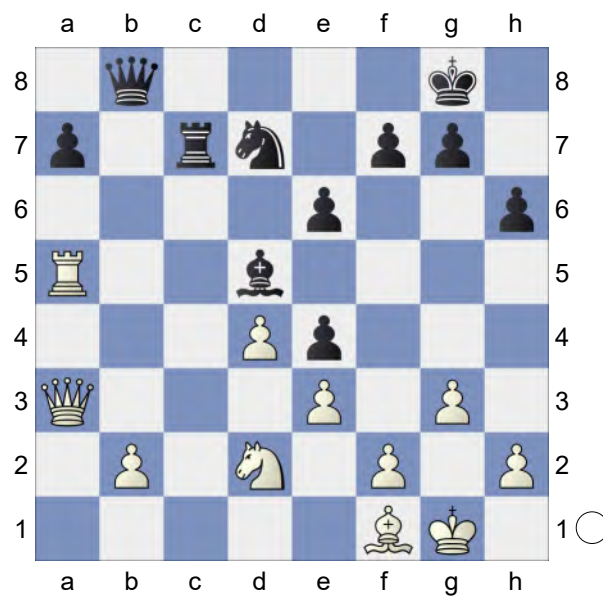
20.a4 7:20 Milos Pavlovic: '!' '!' **20...Rc8**
9:25

[20...a6!?! is now a good reflex,
refusing to allow pawn weaknesses.]



Milos Pavlovic: 'Black ignores the a4-a5
idea, which is an important defensive
idea.' Now White gets a relatively
pleasant game. **21.a5** 14 **bxa5** 7:14
22.Rxa5 58 **Bc6** 39 **23.Qa3** 10:36 **Rc7**
18 **24.Nxe4** 9:49 **dxe4** 6 **25.Nd2** 3
With two pawn weaknesses to White's
none (after b3) Black is reduced to
playing responsive chess. Thankfully for
him, the position is quite solid. **25...Bd5**
4:03

(Diagram)



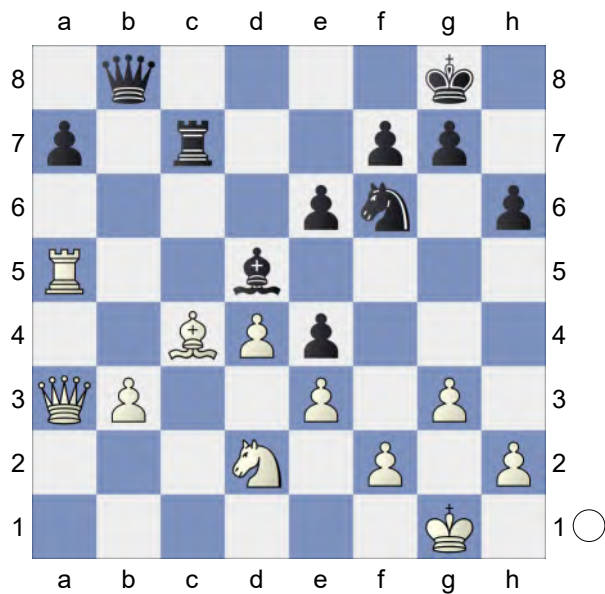
Milos Pavlovic: 'The position is equal, as
although the pawn on a7 is a target
Black has good piece coordination.'

26.b3 27 **Rb7** 6:29 **27.Ba6** 9:20 **Rc7** 7
28.Bc4 24 **Nf6** 4:43 Milos Pavlovic: '!' '!'
Milos Pavlovic: 'Firmly keeping the d5-
square.' **29.Qd6** 7:56 **Ne8** 56 **30.Qa3**
2:54

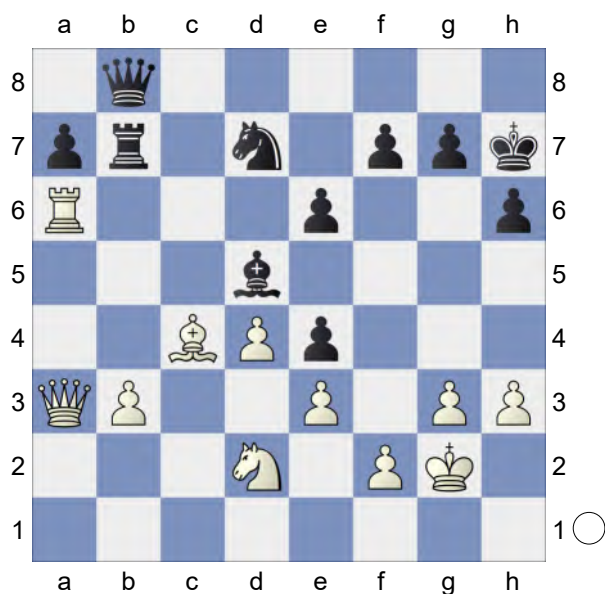
[30.Qe5 Nf6 31.Rc5 Rb7 32.Qxb8+
Rxb8 33.h3± might have been my
choice, given how much easier it is
to outplay someone when there are
few pieces on the board!]

30...Nf6 5

(Diagram)

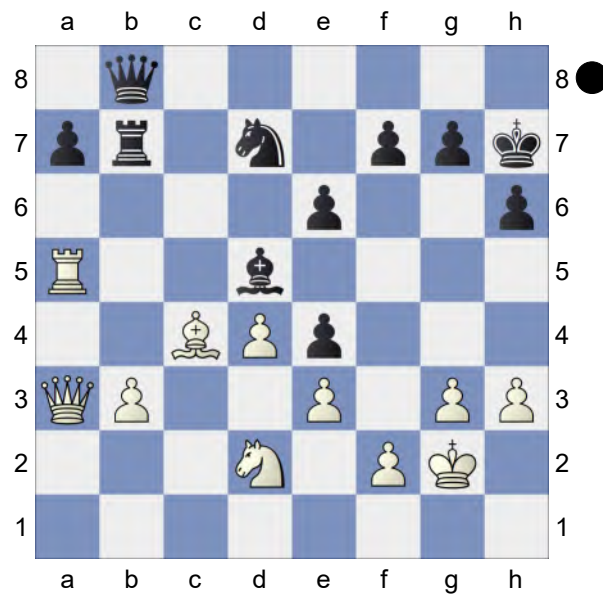


31.Kg2 3 Rb7 19 32.h3 8:09 Kh7 25
33.Ba6 5:49 Rb4 18 34.Bc4 3:40 Rb7
24 35.Ra6 3:27 Nd7 2:03



36.Ra5 11:56
 [36.Qd6 Qxd6 37.Rxd6 Nb6
 38.Bxd5 exd5 39.Rc6 is still slightly
 interesting]

(Diagram)



Karjakin doesn't see a way to continue
 the game.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

347

C42

□ Hou, Yifan

2680

■ Wei, Yi

2743

Tata Steel-A 80th (12)

27.01.2018

[Fernandez, Daniel Howard]

(100min+30sec)/40+(50min+30sec)/20+(15min+30sec)

1.e4 0 Fernandez, D GM Daniel

Fernandez Fernandez, D 1...e5 5 2.Nf3

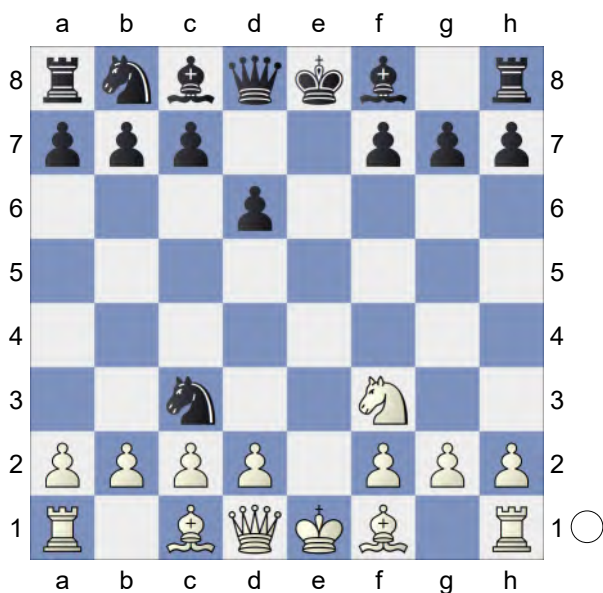
0 Nf6 8 3.Nxe5 0 d6 5 4.Nf3 0 Nxe4 8

5.Nc3 58

[5.c4 Nc6 can, as we now know, lead to a quick repetition of moves... can, as we now know, lead to a quick repetition of moves...]

5...Nxc3 7

[5...Nf6!? was weakly recommended in my analysis to the first round- White needs to get an idea or two and then he is better. was weakly recommended in my analysis to the first round- White needs to get an idea or two and then he is better.]



6.dxc3 4 Be7 7 Be3 8 Interestingly, this is the same system chosen against Hou Yifan herself by Anish Giri. Interestingly, this is the same system

chosen against Hou Yifan herself by Anish Giri. 7...Nc6 8 8.Qd2 6 GM Daniel Fernandez: 'My guess is Yifan wanted to make do without Anish's Bd3 and head directly for Bb5xc6 and the troublesome structure about which we have heard so much!' Trying to make do without Anish's d3 and head directly for b5xc6 to inflict on her opponent the structure that caused her so much trouble back in round 1! Trying to make do without Anish's d3 and head directly for b5xc6 to inflict on her opponent the structure that caused her so much trouble back in round 1!

[8.Bd3 Be6 9.Qe2 Bf6 10.0-0-0 Qe7 11.Kb1 a6 12.Rhe1 0-0-0 13.h3 Rhe8 14.g4 h6 15.Nd2!± Now White is probably a tiny bit better in practical terms, but obviously an incredible amount of technique is needed before White can think about winning. Nevertheless he did in Giri, A-Hou, Y, Tata Steel Masters 2018. Now White is probably a tiny bit better in practical terms, but obviously an incredible amount of technique is needed before White can think about winning. Nevertheless he did in Giri, A-Hou, Y, Tata Steel Masters 2018.]

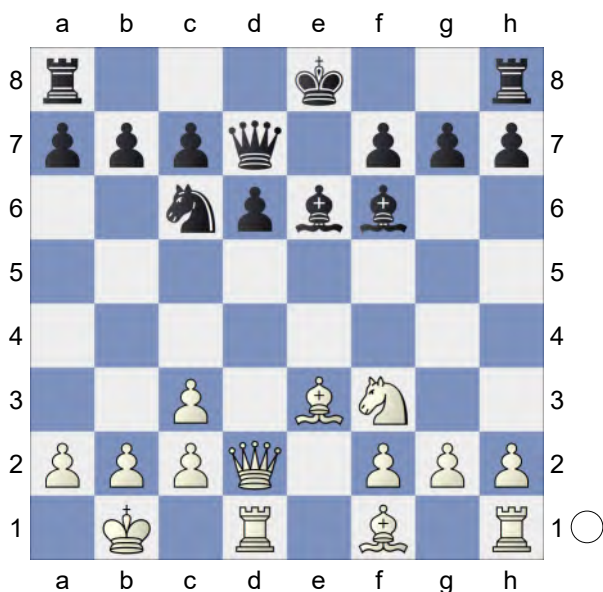
8...Be6 10 9.0-0-0 11 Bf6 2:50 GM Daniel Fernandez: '?!'

[GM Daniel Fernandez: 'I prefer' 9...Qd7 GM Daniel Fernandez: 'first. It shouldn't change the evaluation of the position but it is now a bit less clear how White should exploit his slightly better piece activity.' was the main move, and in fact this was used in a previous Wei Yi game - I wonder what the problem was? was the main move, and in fact this was used in a previous Wei Yi game - I wonder what

the problem was? 10.Kb1 a6
 (10...0-0-0 GM Daniel Fernandez)
 11.h3 0-0-0 12.Be2 Bf6 13.Nd4
 Bxd4 14.cxd4 d5 15.g4 f6 16.Rdg1
 Na7 17.Rg3 Kb8 18.h4 h6 19.Bf4
 g5 20.Be3 Nc8 21.f4 Nd6 22.Qb4
 gxh4 23.Rxh4 f5 24.g5 ½-½ (24)
 Vallejo Pons,F (2705)-Li,C (2741)
 Palma de Mallorca 2017 ½-½ (24)
 Vallejo Pons,F (2705)-Li,C (2741)
 Palma de Mallorca 2017 ½-½ (24)
 Vallejo Pons,F (2705)-Li,C (2741)
 Palma de Mallorca 2017]

[9...0-0 GM Daniel Fernandez: 'is not
 a bad move, but Black will need a plan
 for dealing with the slow kingside
 attack from White:' is not a bad move,
 but Black will need a plan for dealing
 with the slow kingside attack from
 White: 10.Bd3 Qd7 11.h4 Rad8?!
 12.Ng5 Bf5 13.g4→]

10.Kb1 6:39 Qd7 1:39



11.Bg5 6:55 GM Daniel Fernandez: '!'
 GM Daniel Fernandez: 'Pointing out a
 problem with Black's last 2 moves. Note
 ... Qe7 would not have had this problem,
 but it would have made Nd4 look more
 convincing, so I am confident in saying

the problem lies with 9...Bf6.' Pointing
 out a problem with the moves ... ♗f6 and
 ... ♖d7 in conjunction (... ♖e7 would not
 have had this problem, but it would have
 made ♘d4 look more convincing, so
 perhaps the issue lies with ... ♗f6.)
 Pointing out a problem with the moves ...
 ♗f6 and ... ♖d7 in conjunction (... ♖e7
 would not have had this problem, but it
 would have made ♘d4 look more
 convincing, so perhaps the issue lies
 with ...♗f6.)

[11.Ng5 Bxg5 12.Bxg5 f6 13.Bf4
 0-0-0= GM Daniel Fernandez: 'is the
 stereotyped continuation from both
 sides, when White is well advised to
 not develop her f1-bishop quickly, or
 else it will simply be harrassed.' is
 the stereotyped continuation from both
 sides, when White is well advised to
 not develop her f1-bishop quickly, or
 else it will simply be harrassed.]

[11.h4 GM Daniel Fernandez: '! 0-0-0
 (11...h6 GM Daniel Fernandez
 12.Nd4 would be desirable, but
 Black's kingside will have some holes
 poked in it.) 12.Nd4 (12.Bg5±
 GM Daniel Fernandez) 12...Bxd4!?
 GM Daniel Fernandez: '?!' 13.cxd4 d5
 Li,C-Wei,Y China 2017 Li,C-Wei,Y
 China 2017 Li,C-Wei,Y China 2017
 led to the kind of position that the
 present event is making me re-
 evaluate as closer to 'equal' than ±.
 led to the kind of position that the
 present event is making me re-
 evaluate as closer to 'equal' than ±.
 14.f3± (GM Daniel Fernandez) Li,C -
 Wei,Y China 2017 was soon agreed
 drawn, but right here, while Black has
 an amazingly solid position, he is
 slightly worse.]

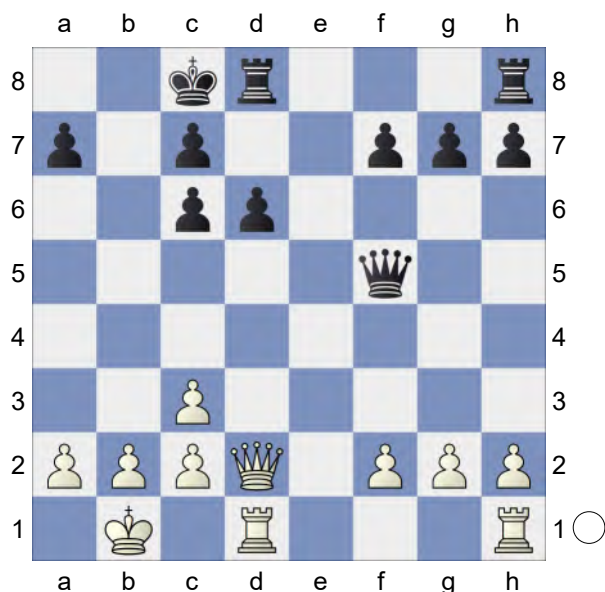
11...Bxg5 30 12.Nxg5 11 0-0-0 8

13.Nxe6 5 Qxe6 31 14.Bb5 8 Qf5N
30:50

[14...Rde8 15.Rhe1 Qf5 16.Bxc6
 bxc6 17.Re3 Rxe3 18.Qxe3 Kd7
 19.Re1 Qe6 20.Qc1 Qg4 21.Qe3
 Qe6 22.Qc1 Qg4 23.Qe3
 ½-½ (23) Yu,Y (2675)-Bu,X (2693)
 Danzhou 2014 ½-½ (23) Yu,Y (2675)-
 Bu,X (2693) Danzhou 2014 ½-½ (23)
 Yu,Y (2675)-Bu,X (2693) Danzhou
 2014]

[14...Ne7 GM Daniel Fernandez
 15.Qd4]

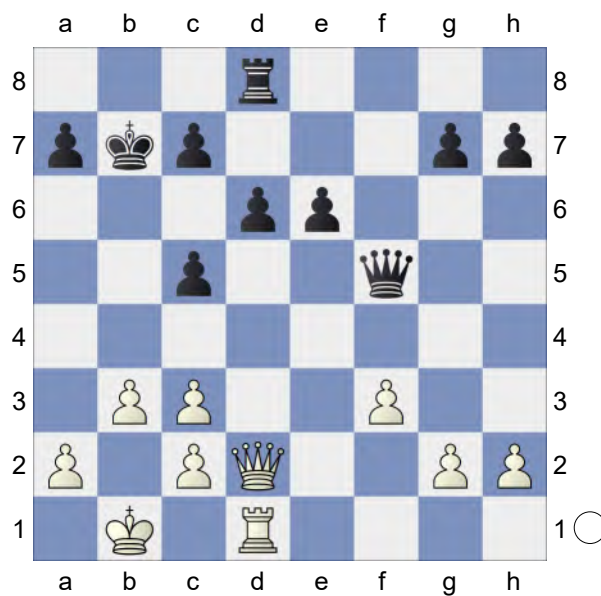
15.Bxc6 21:28 bxc6 7



GM Daniel Fernandez: 'Mission accomplished, kind of. White is now slightly better by virtue of pawn-islands, and it looks very likely that we will reach a queen ending again!' Mission accomplished, kind of. White is now slightly better by virtue of pawn-islands, and it looks very likely that we will reach a queen ending again! **16.Rhe1 4 Rhe8 2:24 17.f3 5:24 c5 10:01 18.b3± 7:28 Kb7 7:58 19.Re2 1:21**

[19.Kb2!?]

19...Re6 17:52 20.Rxe6 1:44 fxe6 13
 (Diagram)

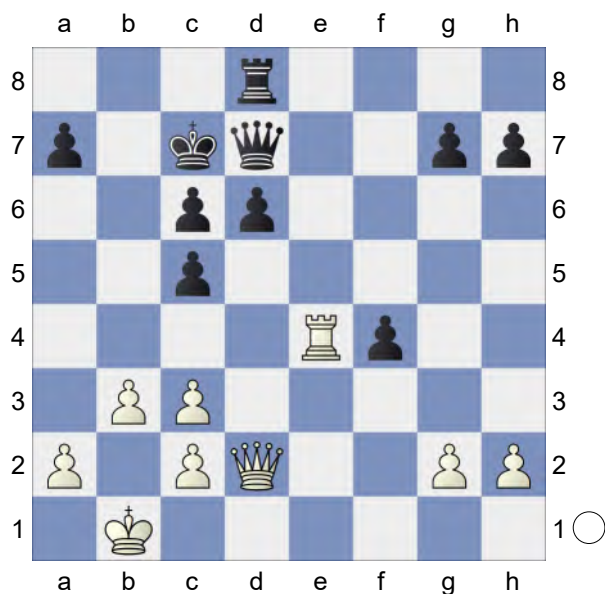


21.Re1 4 e5 10:40 GM Daniel Fernandez: 'The position is slightly reminiscent of Jones-Hou from a later round except White is not a pawn down here. This is a good moment to end the annotation and refer you, if interested, to my earlier notes for CB.' Reaching a position which is similar in essence to Jones-Hou, except White is not a pawn down here. Reaching a position which is similar in essence to Jones-Hou, except White is not a pawn down here. **22.Qd5+ 2:22 c6 1:11 23.Qd2 1:01 Kc7 7:25 24.Re4 1:33 Qd7 2:04 25.f4 11:54**

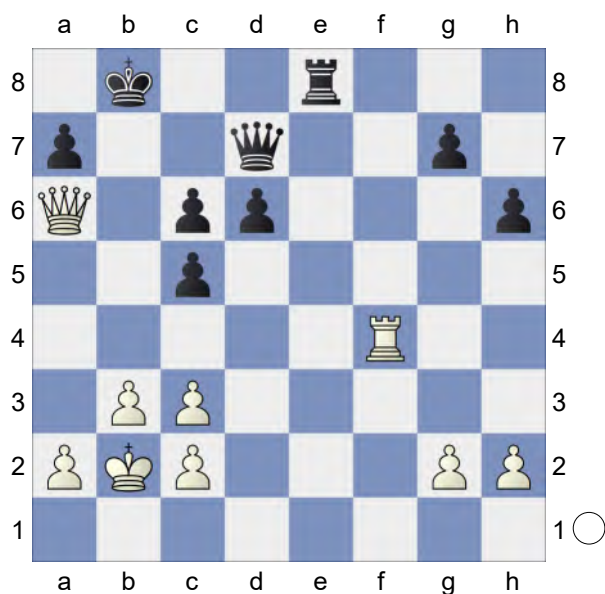
In principle a good break to have made, but maybe White should have concentrated a bit more on the front she had open first. In principle a good break to have made, but maybe White should have concentrated a bit more on the front she had open first.

[25.Qd3± kept probing. kept probing.]
25...exf4 18

(Diagram)



26.Qe2 2:53 Qf5 2:38 27.Ra4 1:42 Kb8 6 28.Qa6 1:38 Qd7 31 29.Rxf4 10 Re8 23 30.Kb2 1:29 h6 4:35



31.Qd3 2:53

[31.h4 was a good idea - none of Black's pieces has much mobility and White can try and arrange b4!? at a good time - or else just push kingside pawns until Black feels he has to do something. was a good idea - none of Black's pieces has much mobility and White can try and arrange b4!? at a good time - or else just push kingside

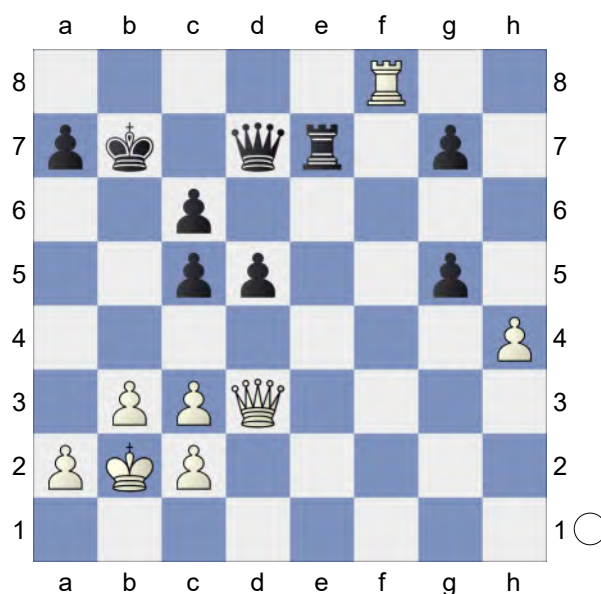
pawns until Black feels he has to do something.]

31...Kb7 53 32.h4 1:25 Re6 1:55

33.Rf8 8:39 Re7 13 34.g4 2:34

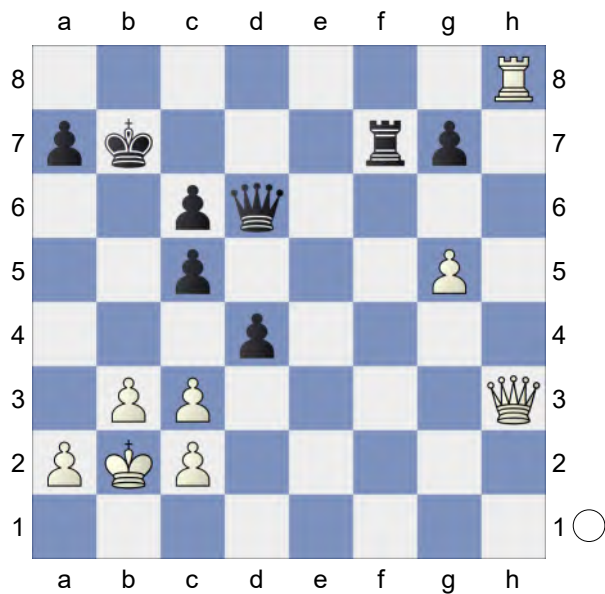
[34.Qg3 keeps Black more tied down. keeps Black more tied down.]

34...d5 1:30 35.g5?! 5:17 Now Black equalises with... Now Black equalises with... 35...hxg5 3:50



36.hxg5 3 Rf7= 15 ...since the position is a little bit too open. Black can try to get counterplay based on the f-file and diagonals a1-h8/ b1-h7 as indeed he proceeds to do. ...since the position is a little bit too open. Black can try to get counterplay based on the f-file and diagonals a1-h8/ b1-h7 as indeed he proceeds to do. 37.Rg8 4:31 Re7 14 38.Rf8 2:49 Rf7 9 39.Rh8 13 Qd6 4:35 40.Qh3 0 d4 32

(Diagram)



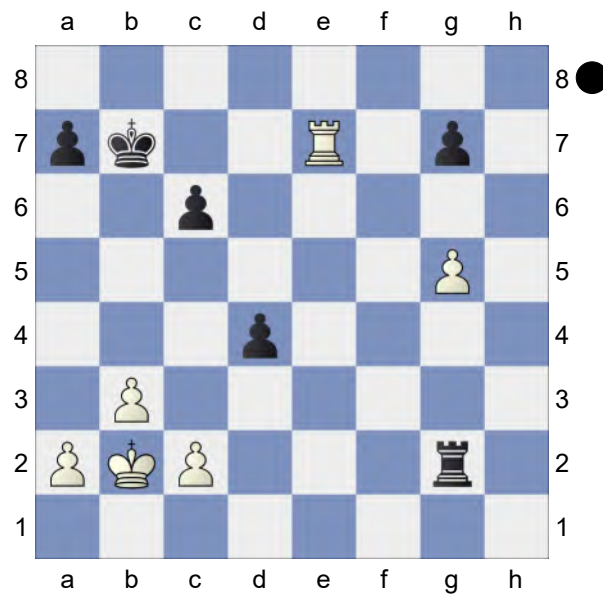
41.Re8 14:16

[41.Qc8+ Kb6 42.Qb8+ Qxb8
43.Rxb8+ Kc7 44.Rg8 might offer
some small chances. might offer some
small chances.]

41...Rf2 22:18 Brave play - Black has
calculated all the necessary checks and
attacking moves from White. Now the
ideas like ...d3 and ... ♖xc2 force White
to take real evasive action. Brave play -
Black has calculated all the necessary
checks and attacking moves from White.
Now the ideas like ...d3 and ... ♖xc2
force White to take real evasive action.

42.Qd3 5:07 Rg2 6:04 43.cxd4 10:58
Qxd4+ 6:25 44.Qxd4 8 cxd4 4
45.Re7+ 43

(Diagram)



$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

279

□ Ding, Liren

■ Wei, Yi

Danzhou 4th (2)

[Fier, Alexandr]

D17

2707

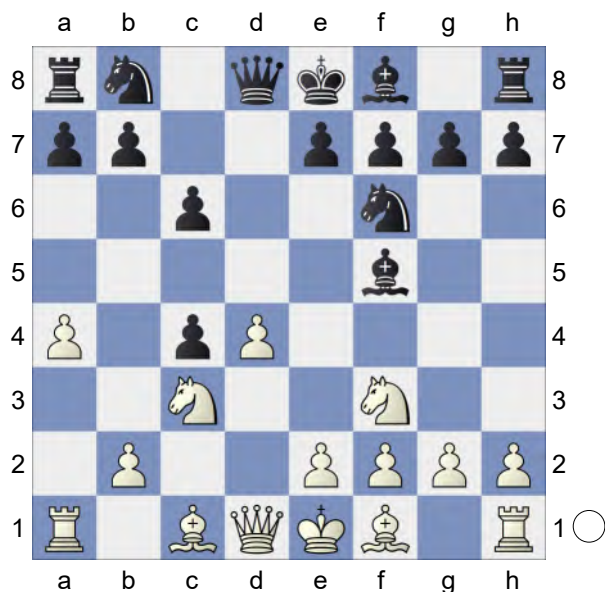
2530

21.05.2013

Ding Liren is another one to try the less played 4.cxd5, which avoids the theoretical mainlines in the Mikenas, and easily got a good position. I think the popularity of this idea should increase a lot in the coming months.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3

This line is increasingly popular since sometimes the positions with 4.e5 are a bit too simple, **4...dxc4 5.a4 Bf5**



6.Ne5 e6 7.f3 Bb4 8.Nxc4 0-0 9.Kf2

This is the main point of waiting to develop the knight. Here it protects c3 and d4 and leaves the f-pawn free to annoy the knight on e4.

[9.e4 Nxe4 10.fxe4 Qh4+ 11.Kd2 Qxe4]

[9.Bg5]

9...e5

[9...b5 10.axb5 cxb5 with a clear positional advantage. 11.Nxb5 Nc6

12.e3 Qb8+- 13.Nc3 e5 14.d5 Rd8 15.Qa4 Ne7 16.e4]

[9...Nd5 10.Na2 b5 tries to keep the bishop but White can claim an edge after 11.Nxb4 bxc4 12.Na2 hitting d5 c5 13.e4 cxd4 14.Bxc4 (14.exd5 makes little sense, d3) 14...Nb6 15.Be2 Bg6 16.a5± White has a clear plan of attacking on the kingside while Black still needs to find something concrete on the queenside. Nc8 17.Nb4±]

[9...Nbd7 10.e4 Bg6 11.Be3 and Black has nothing to worry about. Qb8 12.g3 a5 is also interesting and was analyzed by Watson in the game Korchnoi-Nielsen, see the archives. 13.Be2 is comfortable for White Ne8 14.Rc1]

[9...Bg6 10.e4 Qc7 11.Qb3 c5 (11...a5 12.Na2 looks promising for White, with the bishop pair and better structure. c5 13.Nxb4 axb4 14.dxc5 is also possible Na6? is now answered by 15.Be3±) 12.Na2 Nc6 13.Nxb4 cxb4± San Segundo Carrillo, P (2495)-Mitkov, N (2455)/ ESP-chT Ponferrada 1997. 14.Be3 is the main alternative and has the same idea as 4. e5 d4, but the important difference is that the e-file is now open, giving White the opportunity to play Qe2+ sooner or later, Rfd8 15.Rd1 Rd7!? I prefer this move, developing one more piece before the check 16.Ne5 Nxe5 17.dxe5 Rxd1 18.Qxd1 Qxe5 19.Qd4 Qa5 20.Be2 Qxa4 21.Rc1 h6]

[9...c5 would be natural, but allows White to wait before taking the pawn on c3 10.e4

A) 10...Bxc3 11.bxc3 Bxe4

12.fxe4 Nxe4+ 13.Kg1 Nxc3
 14.Qe1 cxd4 15.Ba3 Nc6
 (15...Re8 16.Nd6 Re7 17.Nb5
 Rd7 18.Nxc3 dxc3 19.Qxc3 Nc6
 20.Rc1 Qh4 21.Bb2 e5 22.h3)
 16.Bxf8 (16.h4 Qd5 17.Bxf8 Rxf8
 18.Rh3) 16...Qxf8 17.h4 Qc5
 18.Nd2 Nb4 (18...Ne5 19.Rh3
 Ng4 20.Bd3 Ne3 21.Nf1) 19.Qf2
 Rd8 20.Rh3 Nbd5 21.Rd3 e5
 22.Re1 Qc7 23.Ne4;

B) 10...Bg6 11.Na2± (11.Be3
 cxd4 12.Qxd4 Qe7) 11...Nc6
 12.Nxb4 Nxb4 13.Qb3 (13.Bd2
 Qxd4+ 14.Be3 Qxd1 15.Rxd1 b6
 16.a5 Rfb8 17.Bf4 Rb7 18.g4)

B1) 13...Bxe4 14.fxe4 Qxd4+
 (14...Nxe4+ 15.Kg1 Qxd4+
 16.Be3 Qd5 17.Rd1 Qh5
 18.Bf4 Rad8 19.Re1) 15.Be3
 Qxe4 16.Be2;

B2) 13...Nxe4+ 14.fxe4 Bxe4
 (14...Qxd4+ 15.Be3 Qxe4
 16.Kg1 Rfd8 17.h4 Nc2 18.Rc1
 Nxe3 19.Nxe3 Qf4 20.Rh3)

B2a) 15.Bf4 Qf6 16.Qe3
 Rad8 17.Kg1 Nc2 18.Qxe4
 Nxa1 19.Be5 Qe7 20.Bd3 f5
 21.Qf4;

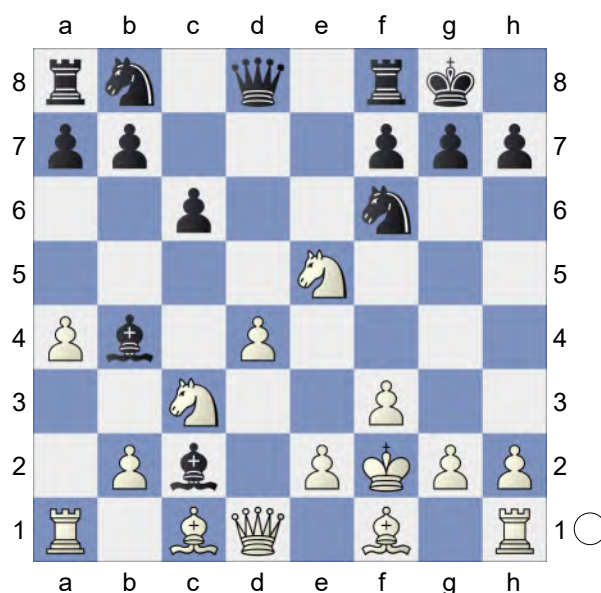
B2b) 15.Bd2 Nc2 16.Rc1
 Nxd4 17.Qe3 Bc6 (17...Qd5
 18.Bc3) 18.a5 Qd5 19.Bc3
 Qf5+ 20.Kg1 Rad8 21.h4;

B2c) 15.dxc5 Nc2 16.Ra3
 (16.Ra2 Rc8) 16...Qd1
 17.Bf4 gives Black nice
 compensation. It's still not
 clear how White is going to
 finish his development. Rfd8
 18.Nd6 Bd5 19.Qd3 Qe1+
 20.Kg1 is much more common
 by far. Nxa3 21.Qxa3 b6
 22.h4 bxc5 23.Rh3]

10.Nxe5

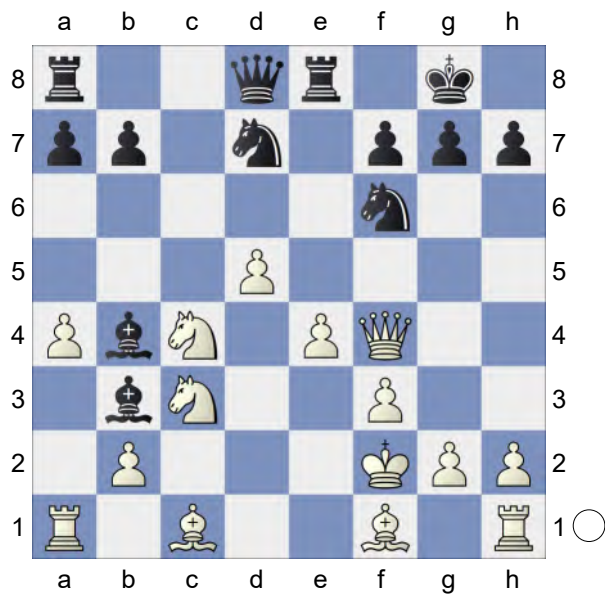
[10.dxe5 Nfd7 11.e4 Be6]
 [10.e4 exd4 11.Na2 Bc5 12.b4
 (12.exf5 b5 13.Nd2 d3+ 14.Kg3
 Nh5+ 15.Kg4 Bf2 16.g3 Nf4 17.Kxf4
 h5 18.Ne4 looks dangerous for Black
 as well. g5+?! 19.Nxg5 Qd6+
 20.Ke4 Qd4#) 12...b5 13.bxc5=
 bxc4 would be an option, to activate
 the bishop, 14.Bxc4 Be6]

10...Bc2



11.Qd2 c5 12.d5 Bb3 13.e4 Re8
 After this move Black is in real danger
 but the position is already more
 pleasant for White. **14.Qf4 c4 15.Nxc4**
Nbd7

(Diagram)



16.Be3 Nf8?! I don't think Black can survive with two white pawns on e5 and f5. 17.Bd4 Ng6 18.Qf5

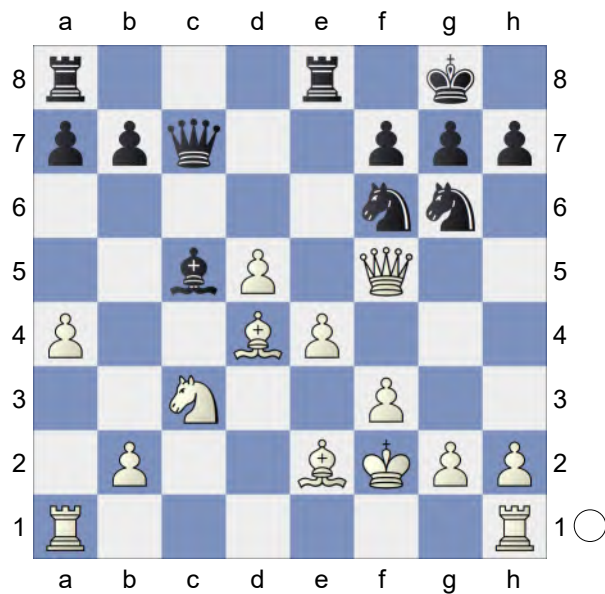
[18.Qc1 Rc8 19.Nd2 Nxe4+ White has a better knight and a passed pawn, but Black can still fight at least. 20.fxe4? is not advisable Bxd5 21.Qd1! White can still draw by finding some good moves Bc6 22.Be3]

18...Bxc4 19.Bxc4 Qc7 20.Be2

[20.Bb5 Bc5 21.Bxc5 Qxc5+ 22.Kf1 Re5 23.Qh3]

20...Bc5

(Diagram)



21.Bxc5! Qxc5+ 22.Kf1 h6

[22...Re5 23.Qh3 is also good for White Qb4 24.Rb1 Nf4 25.Qg3 doesn't change so much N6h5 this should be played]

23.Rd1

[23.g3]

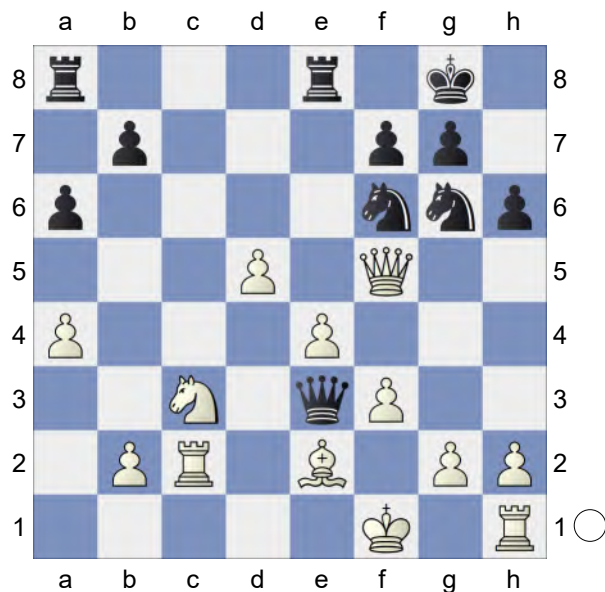
23...Qb6

[23...Qb4 and Black is in trouble.

24.Rd2]

[23...a6]

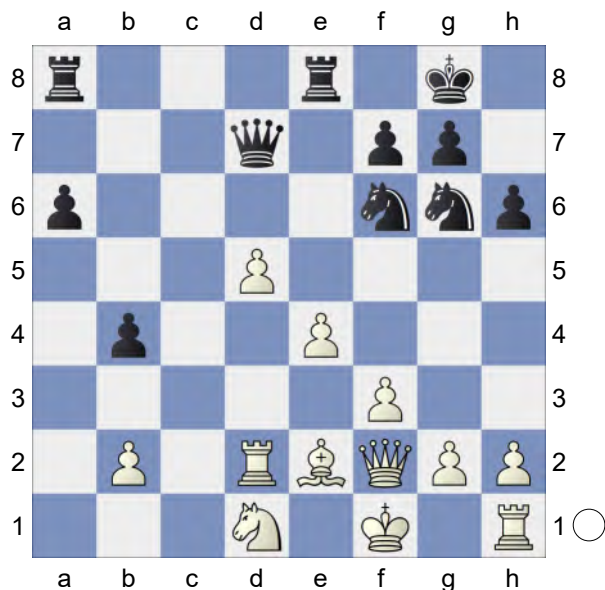
24.Rd2 Qe3 25.Rc2 a6



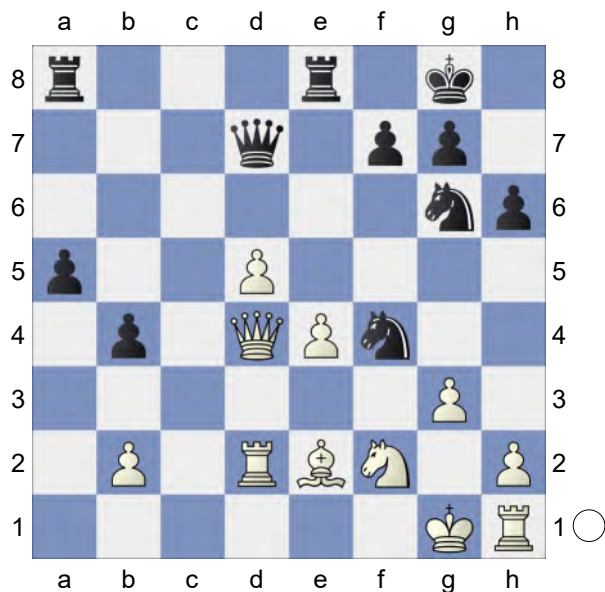
26.Qh3 b5 27.Qg3 b4

[27...Rc8 28.axb5 axb5 29.Nd1
Qd4+- 30.Rxc8+ gives a nice place
for the knight Rxc8 31.Qf2 Qb4
32.Qe3 Rc2 33.g3]

28.Nd1 Qb3 29.Rd2 Qxa4 30.Qf2
Opening the position. White is still better,
but now the endgame requires precision
and a lot of effort. **30...Qd7**

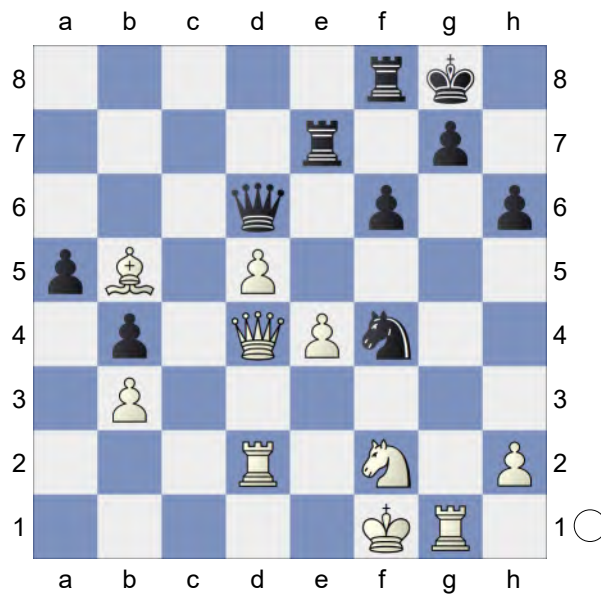


31.g3 Qh3+ 32.Kg1 a5 33.Qd4 Nh5
34.Nf2 Qd7 35.f4 Nxf4

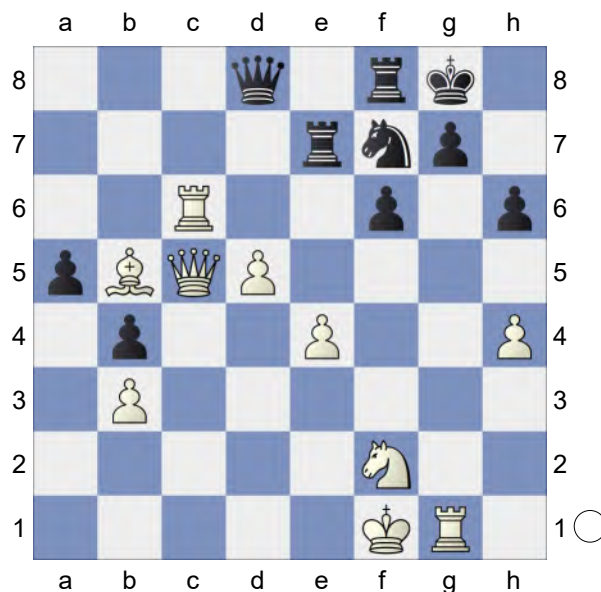


36.gxf4 Nxf4 37.Kf1 Qd6 38.Rg1 f6
39.Bb5 Re7 40.b3 Rf8

(Diagram)

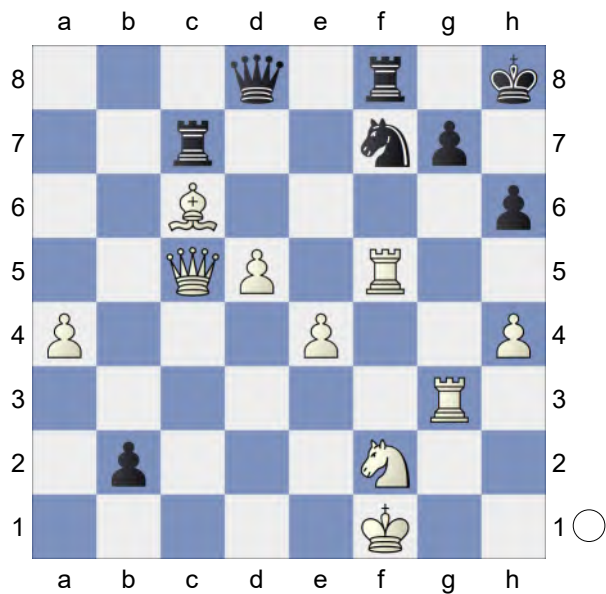


41.Rc2 Ne6 42.Qe3 Ng5 43.h4 Nf7
44.Rc6 Qb8 45.Qc5 Qd8

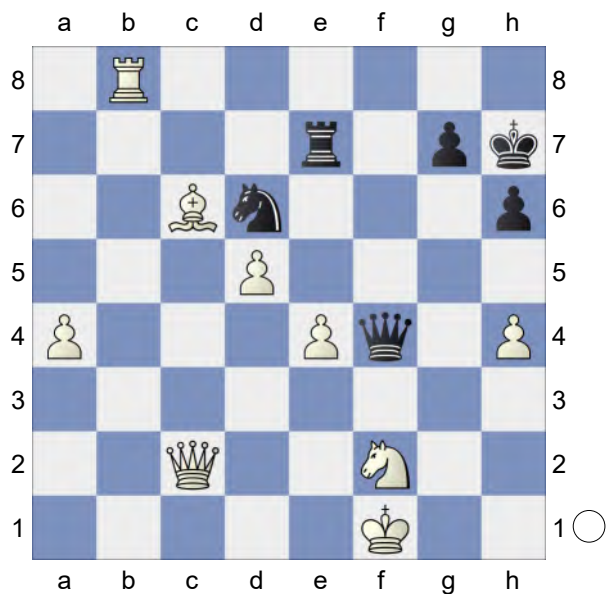


46.Rxf6 Kh8 47.Rf5 Rc7 48.Bc6 a4
49.bxa4 b3 50.Rg3 b2

(Diagram)

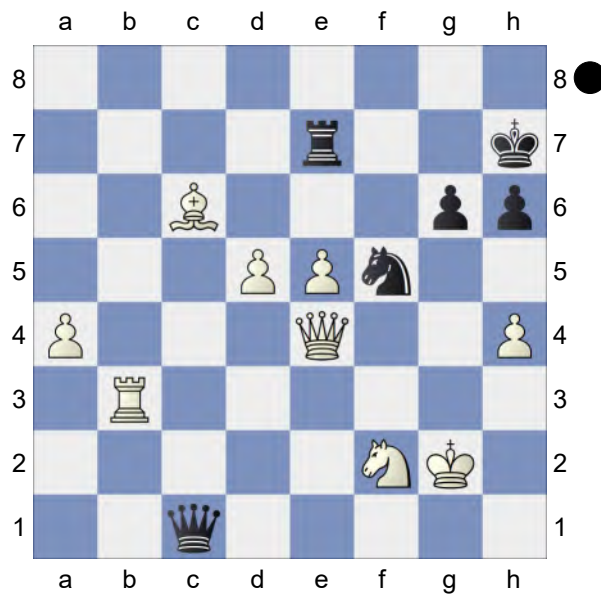


51.Rb3 Nd6 52.Rxf8+ Qxf8 53.Rxb2 Qf4 54.Rb8+ Kh7 55.Qc2 Re7 1-0



56.e5+ Nf5 57.Qe4 Qc1+! would be enough for the win 58.Kg2 g6 59.Rb3

(Diagram)



275 **A18**
 □ **Ding,Liren** **2707**
 ■ **Wei,Yi** **2530**
 Danzhou 4th (2) 21.05.2013
[Fier, Alexandr]

Ding Liren is another one to try the less played 4.cxd5, which avoids the theoretical mainlines in the Mikenas, and easily got a good position. I think the popularity of this idea should increase a lot in the coming months. **1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.e4 d5 4.cxd5** This line is increasingly popular since sometimes the positions with 4.e5 are a bit too simple,

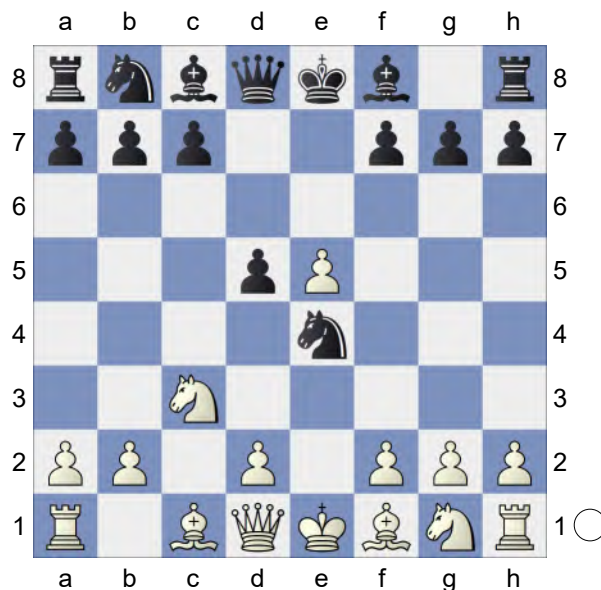
[4.e5 d4 5.exf6 dxc3 6.bxc3 Qxf6 is much more common by far.]

4...exd5 5.e5 Ne4

[5...Nfd7 is comfortable for White 6.d4 c5 7.Nf3 Nc6 8.Bb5 a6 9.Bg5 Qa5 10.Bxc6 bxc6 11.0-0± San Segundo Carrillo, P (2495)-Mitkov, N (2455)/ESP-chT Ponferrada 1997.]

[5...d4 is the main alternative and has the same idea as 4. e5 d4, but the important difference is that the e-file is now open, giving White the opportunity to play Qe2+ sooner or later, 6.exf6 dxc3 7.Bb5+!? I prefer this move, developing one more piece before the check (7.Qe2+ Be6 8.dxc3 Qxf6 9.Qb5+ Nd7 10.Qxb7 Qe5+ 11.Ne2 Bd5 12.Qb5 Bc5 gives Black nice compensation. It's still not clear how White is going to finish his development.) 7...Nc6 (7...c6 would be natural, but allows White to wait before taking the pawn on c3 8.Qe2+ Be6 9.Bc4±) 8.Qe2+ Be6 9.dxc3 (9.Bc4?

is now answered by Nd4±) 9...Qxf6 10.Nf3 Bd6 11.Nd4 0-0 12.Nxe6 Rae8 13.Bc4 (13.Nxf8 Rxe2+ 14.Bxe2 Kxf8 is also possible) 13...fxe6 14.0-0 looks promising for White, with the bishop pair and better structure.]



6.d4

[6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Bb5 is also interesting and was analyzed by Watson in the game Korchnoi-Nielsen, see the archives.]

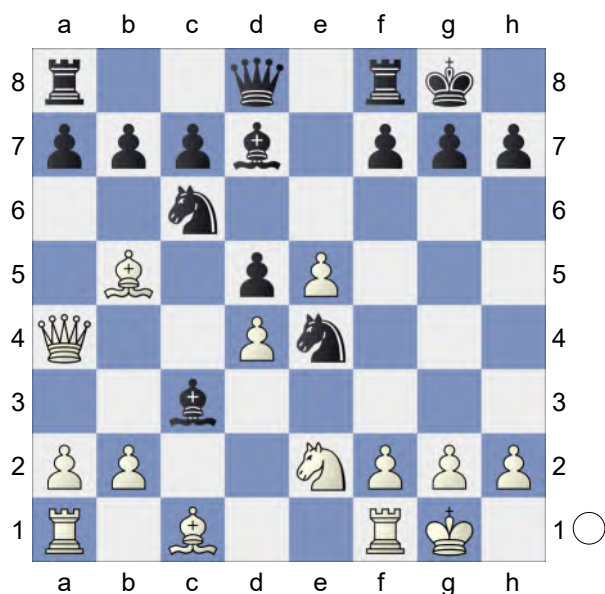
6...Bb4 7.Qa4+ Nc6 8.Bb5 Bd7 9.Nge2 This is the main point of waiting to develop the knight. Here it protects c3 and d4 and leaves the f-pawn free to annoy the knight on e4.

[9.Bxc6 makes little sense, Bxc3+ 10.bxc3 Bxc6 11.Qc2 Bb5 and Black has nothing to worry about.]

9...0-0 10.0-0 Bxc3

[10...Nxc3 tries to keep the bishop but White can claim an edge after 11.bxc3 Be7 12.Qb3 hitting d5 Na5 (12...Be6 13.Bd3±) 13.Qb1 Bxb5 14.Qxb5 c6 15.Qd3 Nc4 16.Ng3±

White has a clear plan of attacking on the kingside while Black still needs to find something concrete on the queenside.]



11.bxc3

[11.Nxc3 Re8 (11...Nxc3 12.bxc3 Re8 13.f4) 12.Bxc6 Bxc6 13.Qc2]

11...a6 12.Bxc6 Bxc6 13.Qc2 f6

After this move Black is in real danger but the position is already more pleasant for White.

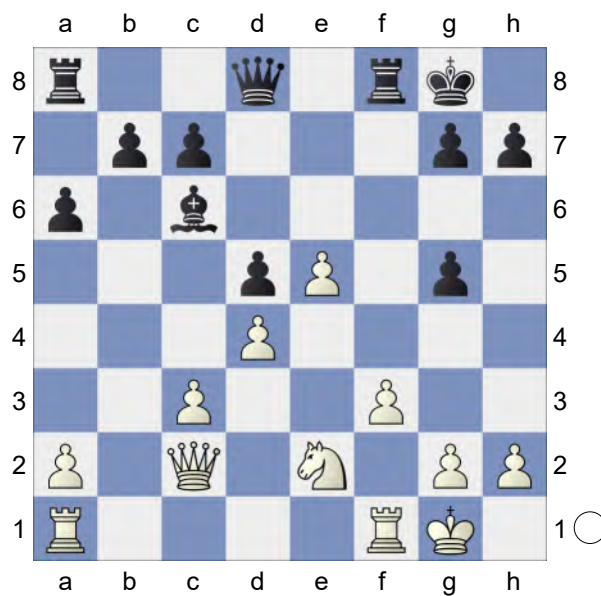
[13...Bb5 would be an option, to activate the bishop, 14.a4

A) 14...Bxe2?! 15.Qxe2 f5
(15...Nxc3 16.Qe3 Ne4 17.f3+-)
16.f3 Ng5 17.Bxg5 Qxg5 18.a5
with a clear positional advantage.;

B) 14...Bc4 15.f3 Ng5 16.Rf2 c5
17.Bxg5 Qxg5 18.f4 Qe7 19.f5
cxd4 20.cxd4 Qh4 21.Nf4
looks dangerous for Black as well.]

14.f3 Ng5 15.Bxg5 fxg5

(Diagram)



16.f4 Qd7?! I don't think Black can survive with two white pawns on e5 and f5.

[16...Bb5 17.f5 g4 18.Rf2
doesn't change so much]

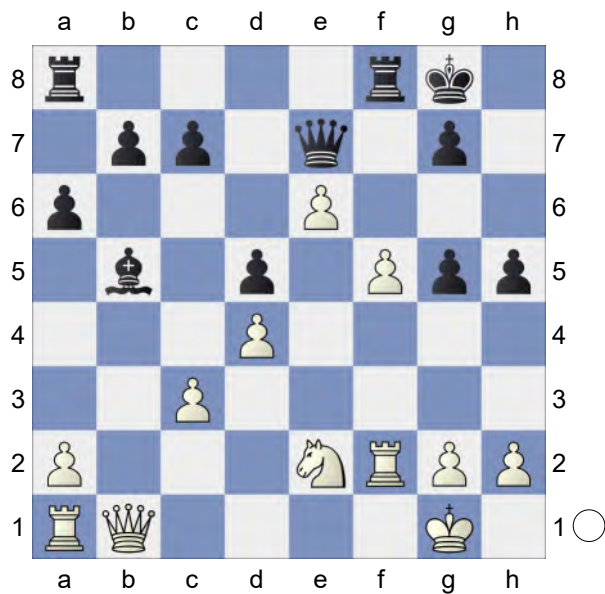
[16...gxf4 this should be played
17.Nxf4 Qg5 18.Ne6 Rxf1+ 19.Rxf1
Qg4 20.Nf4 (20.Nxc7?
is not advisable Rc8 21.e6!
White can still draw by finding some
good moves Rxc7 22.Qf2 h6
23.Qf8+ Kh7 24.Qd8 Bb5 25.Qxc7
Bxf1 26.Kxf1 Qf5+ 27.Kg1 Qxe6=)
20...Rf8 21.h3 Qg5 22.Qd2
White has a better knight and a
passed pawn, but Black can still fight
at least.]

17.f5 Ba4 18.Qb1 Bb5 19.e6

[19.Rf2 Bxe2 20.Rxe2 Qxf5
21.Qxb7 is also good for White]

19...Qe7 20.Rf2 h5

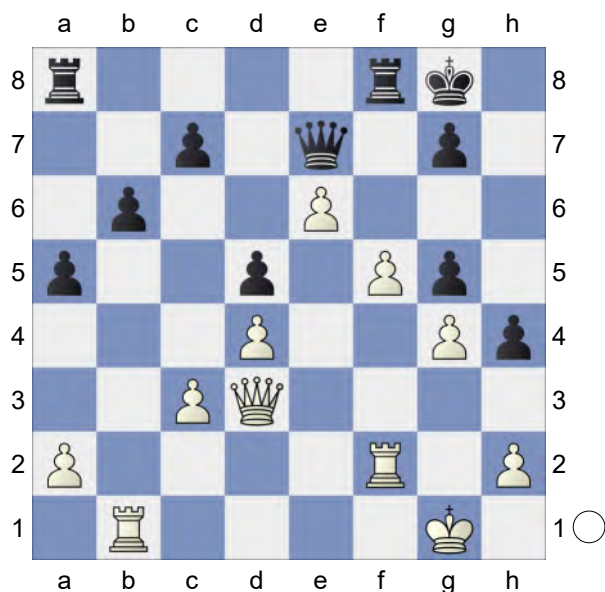
(Diagram)



21.g4! h4

[21...h4 gives a nice place for the knight 22.Ng3 c5 23.Qd1 cxd4 24.cxd4 Rac8 25.Qxg4 and Black is in trouble.]

22.Nc1 Bc4 23.Nd3 Bxd3 24.Qxd3 a5 25.Rb1 b6

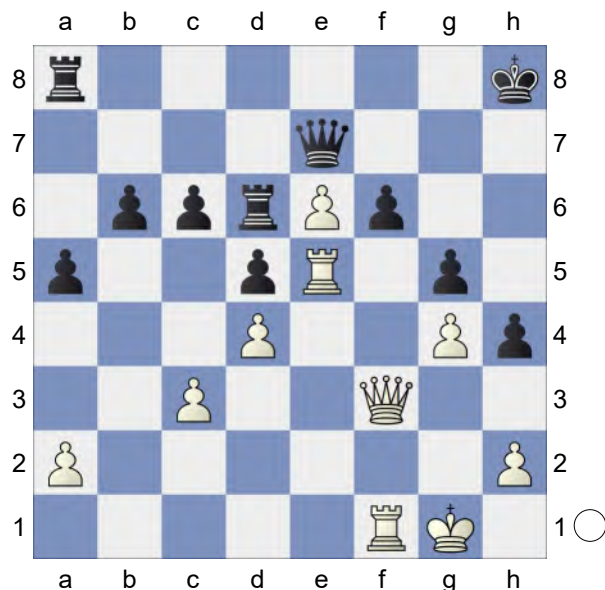


26.Re2 Rfd8 27.Rf1

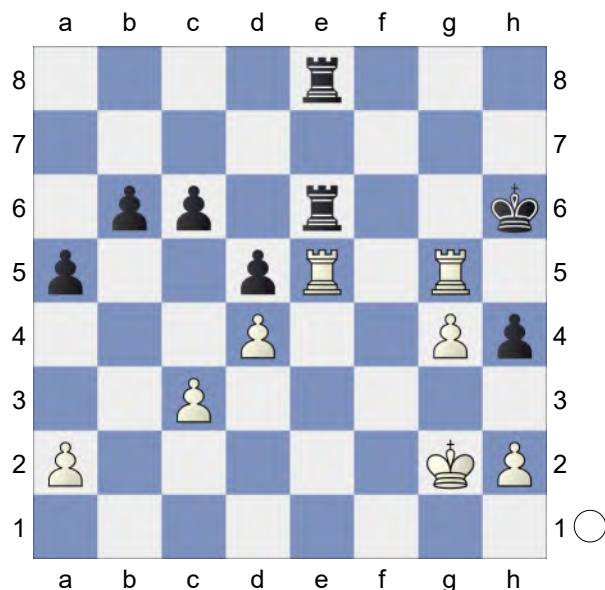
[27.Re5! would be enough for the win Rd6 28.Rb5 Rad8 29.a4 Qe8 30.Qf3 Qc6 31.Kg2+-]

27...Kh8 28.Qf3 c6 29.Re5 Rd6 30.f6
Opening the position. White is still better,

but now the endgame requires precision and a lot of effort. **30...gxf6**

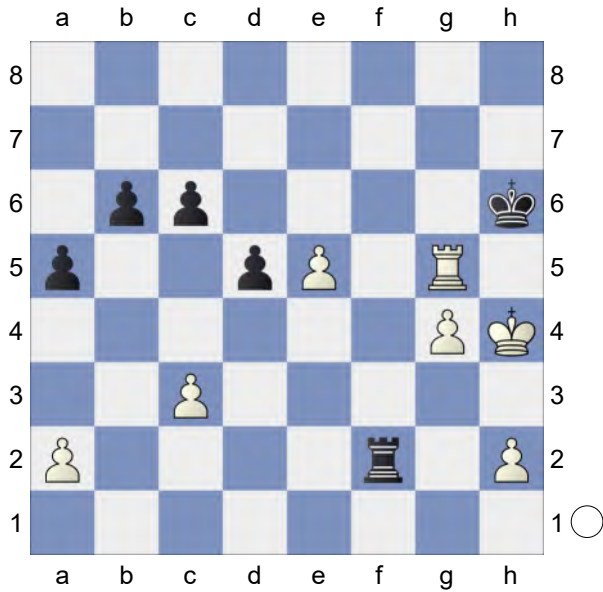


31.Qxf6+ Qxf6 32.Rxf6 Re8 33.Kg2 Kg7 34.Rff5 Rdx6 35.Rxg5+ Kh6

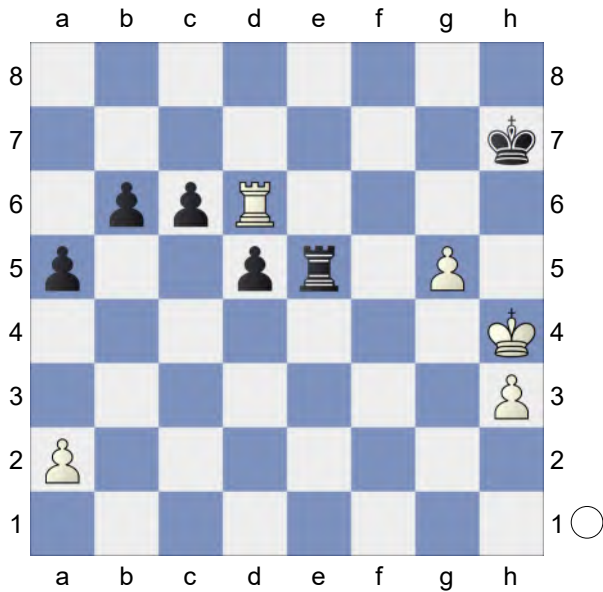


36.Rh5+ Kg6 37.Kh3 Rxe5 38.dxe5 Rf8 39.Kxh4 Rf2 40.Rg5+ Kh6

(Diagram)

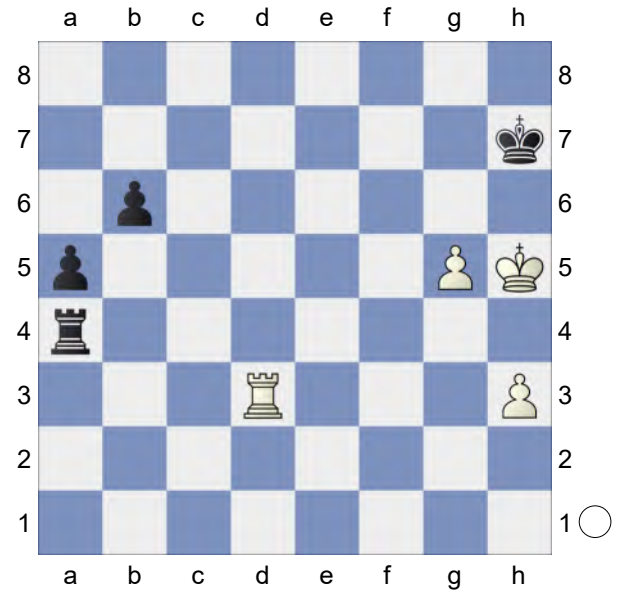


**41.h3 Rc2 42.Rg8 Rxc3 43.g5+ Kh7
44.Rd8 Re3 45.Rd6 Rxe5**

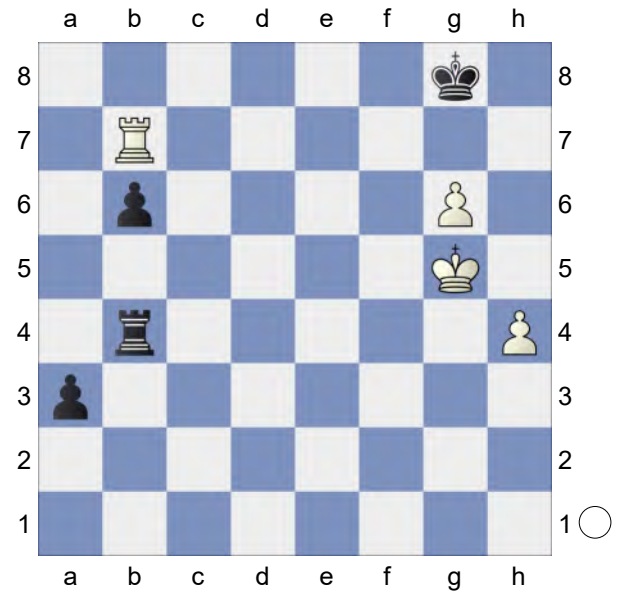


**46.Rxc6 d4 47.Rd6 Re2 48.a4 d3
49.Rxd3 Re4+ 50.Kh5 Rxa4**

(Diagram)

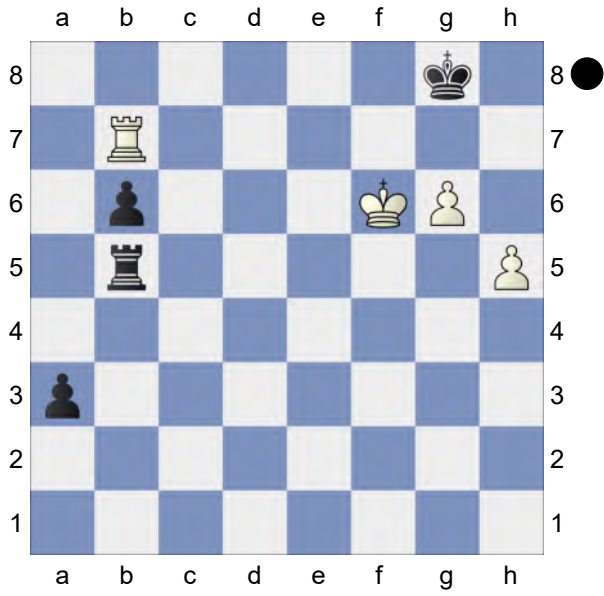


**51.g6+ Kg7 52.Rd7+ Kg8 53.Rb7
Rb4 54.h4 a4 55.Kg5 a3**



56.h5 Rb5+ 57.Kf6

(Diagram)



1-0

106

C66

□ Wei,Yi

2737

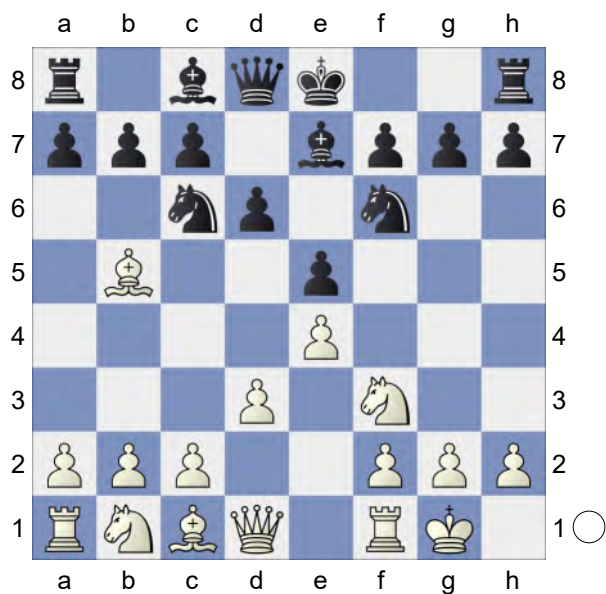
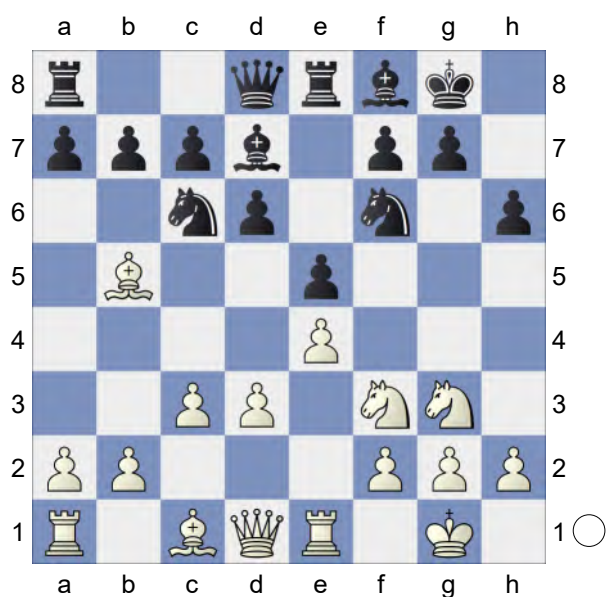
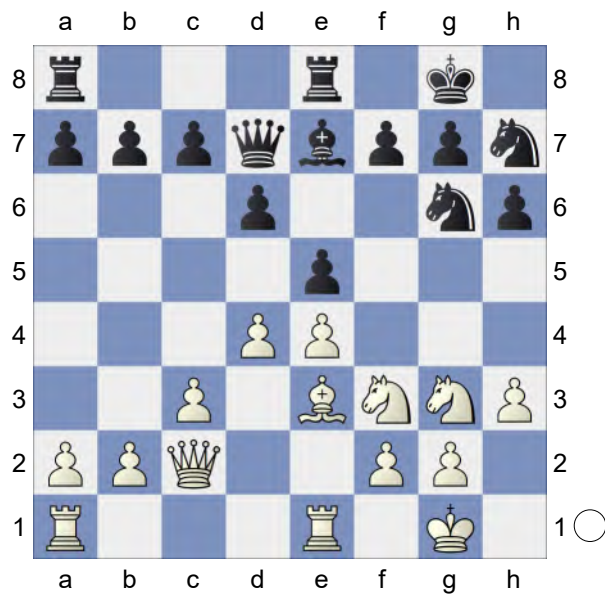
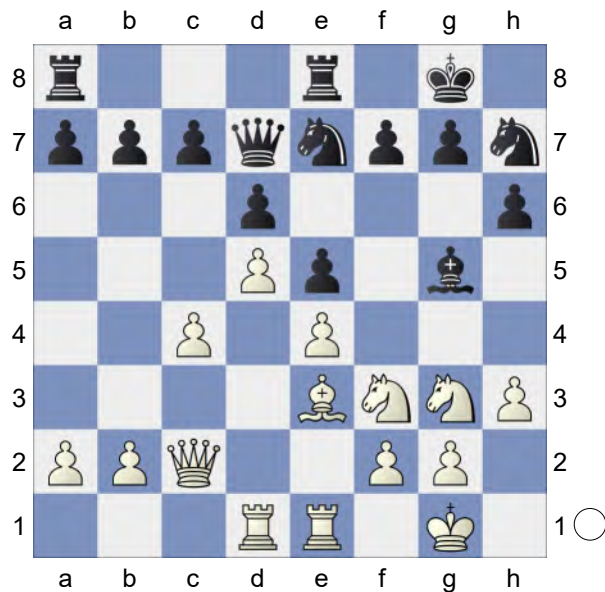
■ Zhao,Jun

2623

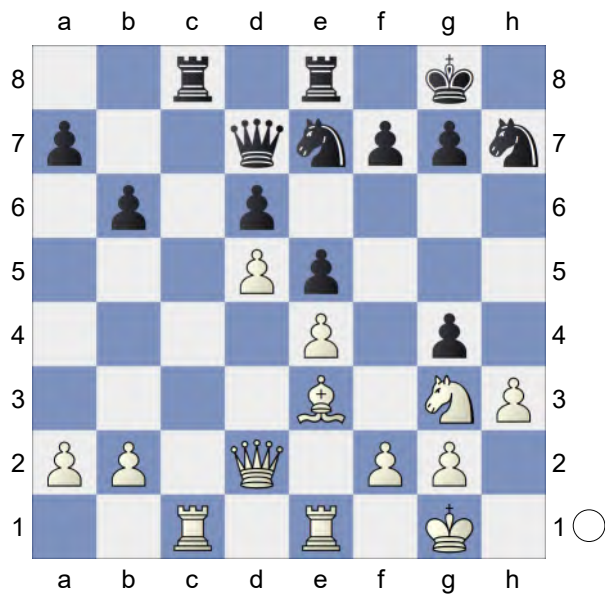
China Chess King 1st (1.2) 25.11.2015

[Fischer,Johannes]

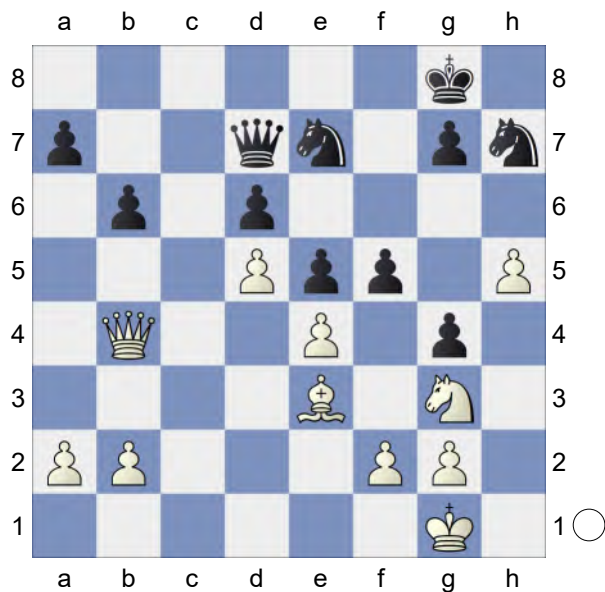
(90min+30sec)/40+(30min+30sec)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3
d6 5.0-0 Be76.c3 0-0 7.Re1 Bd7 8.Nbd2 h6 9.Nf1
Re8 10.Ng3 Bf811.h3 Ne7 12.Bxd7 Qxd7 13.d4 Ng6
14.Qc2 Nh7 15.Be3 Be716.Nf5 Bf6 17.Rad1 Qe6 18.d5 Qd7
19.c4 Ne7 20.Ng3 Bg521.c5 b6 22.Nxg5 hxg5 23.cxd6
cxd6 24.Rc1 Rac8 25.Qd2 g4

(Diagram)

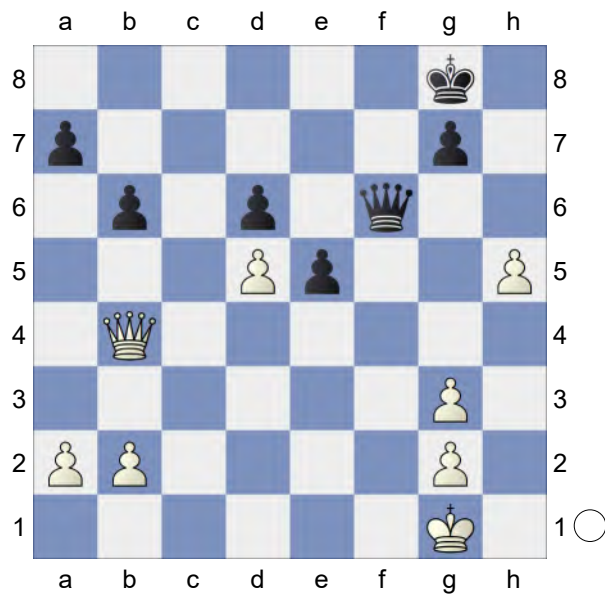


26.h4 Rxc1 27.Rxc1 Rc8 28.Rxc8+ Qxc8 29.Qb4 Qd7 30.h5 White is clearly better and instead of watching quietly how White increases his advantage Black tries to stir up trouble. **30...f5**



31.exf5 Nf6 32.Bg5 Nxf5 33.Nxf5 Qxf5 34.Bxf6 g3 35.fxg3 Qxf6

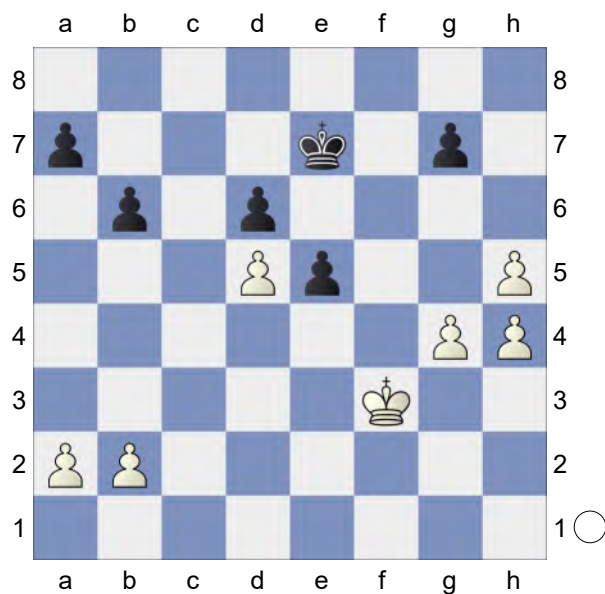
(Diagram)



White is a pawn up but Black's passed e-pawn might become dangerous. **36.Qh4 Qxh4?** The pawn-endgame is lost.

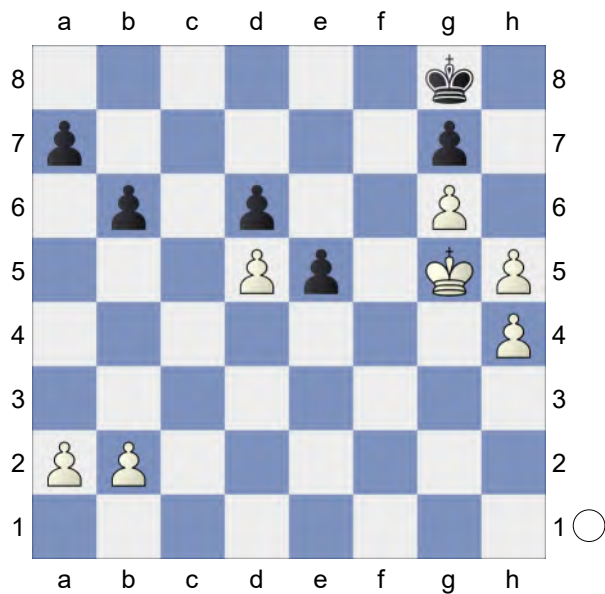
[36...Qh6 offered better practical chances.]

37.gxh4 Kf7 38.Kf2 Kf6 39.g4 Kf7 40.Kf3 Ke7

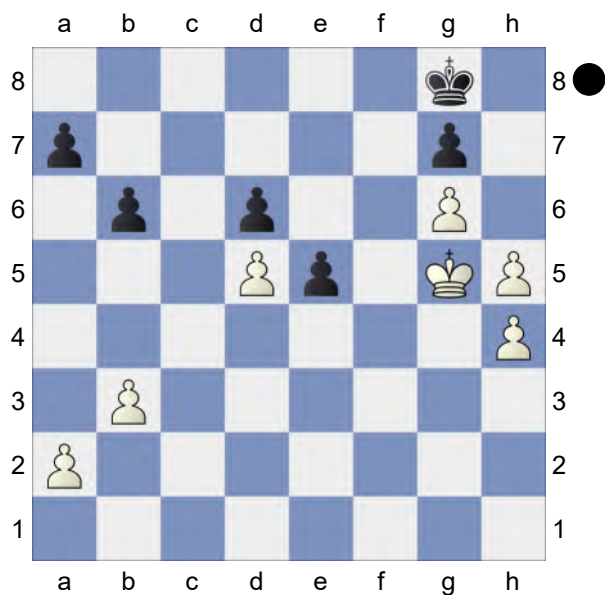


41.Ke4 Kf6 42.g5+ Ke7 43.Kf5 Kf7 44.g6+ Kf8 45.Kg5 Kg8

(Diagram)



46.b3



Black is in zugzwang. After 46. ..Kh8 47. h6 gxh6 48.Kxh6 e4 49.g7+ Kh8 50.Kg6 he will be mated with h5, h6, h7#; and after 46...Kf8 47.h6 gxh6+ 48.Kxh6 White threatens to win with 49.Kh7 followed by g7 and g8Q.

1-0

313

□ Wei,Yi

■ Wang,Chen

CHN-ch Xinghua (7)

[Fischer,Johannes]

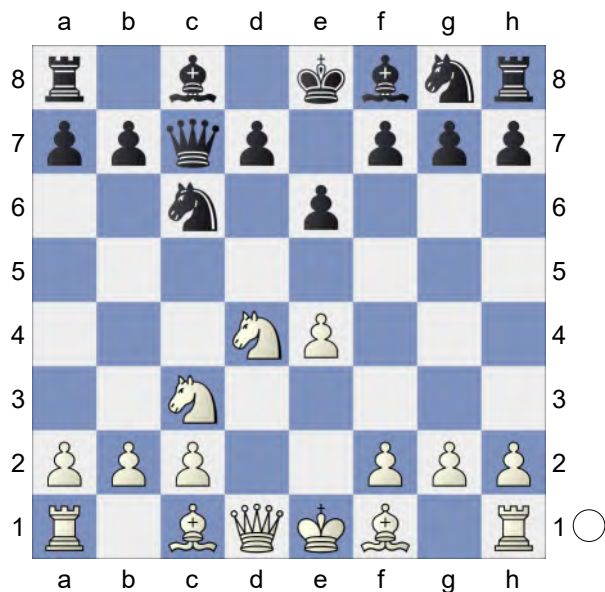
B85

2700

2514

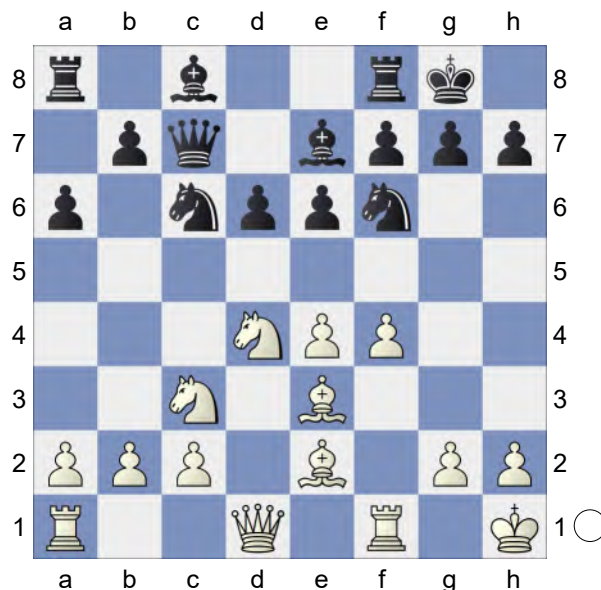
24.04.2016

This year many top players didn't play the Chinese Championship and Wei Yi was the main favourite. He played solidly and even won the title with one round to go. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Qc7**



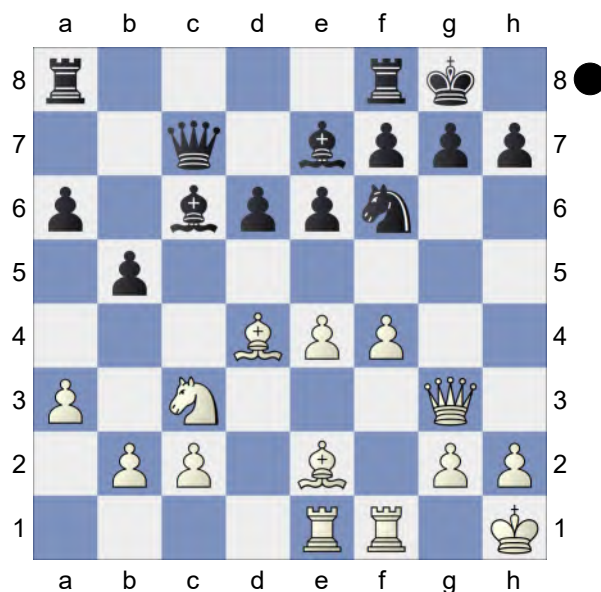
The Paulsen is very common nowadays. **6.Be2 a6 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Be3 Be7 9.f4 d6 10.Kh1 0-0**

(Diagram)

**11.Qe1 Bd7**

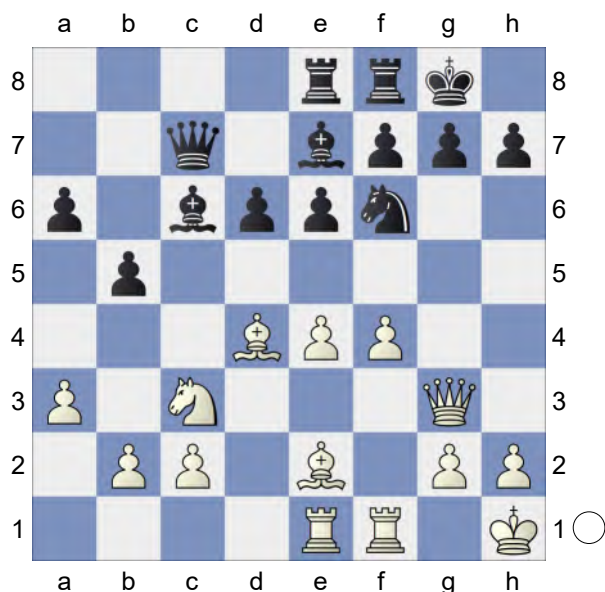
[11...Nxd4 12.Bxd4 b5 13.Qg3 Bb7 14.a3 Bc6]

12.Qg3 Nxd4 13.Bxd4 Bc6 14.Rae1 b5 15.a3 This is the critical position of the 6.Be2 line. My database still has more than 500 games here.



is the usual way to reach the position of the game. **15...Rae8**

(Diagram)



!? A very subtle move, directed against the logical continuation Bd3. **16.Bf3** Not the best square but there is nothing better.

[16.Bd3 is met by e5 ! 17.fxe5 Nh5 and Black is fine: 18.Qh3 dxe5 19.Nd5 Bxd5 20.exd5 exd4 21.Qxh5 g6]

16...Rd8 The rook deviated the bishop and eventually goes to support the d5 push. **17.Re3** !? 17.Nd1 or 17.Re2 are mostly played.

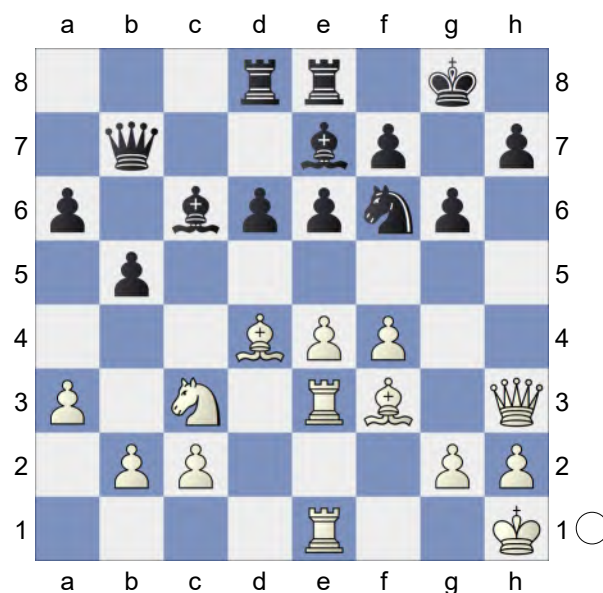
[17.Nd5 is far from being deadly, as after exd5 18.exd5 Ba8 19.Rxe7 Qxe7 20.Re1 Qxe1+ 21.Qxe1 Nxd5 the position seems around equal.]

17...Qb7N ?!

[A previous game finished quickly after Black missed a couple of tactics: 17...g6 There is no reason to delay playing this move. The position is balanced as Black's d5 push is not easy to stop. 18.e5 (18.Rfe1 d5 ! 19.Be5 Qb7) 18...dxe5 (18...Nd7 This position has to be carefully checked, but I don't think White has an advantage.) 19.Bxe5 Qb6 20.Bxc6 Qxc6 21.Qh4 Nd5

22.Qxh7+ 1-0 (22) Bernadskiy,V (2358)-Fedoseev,V (2353) Lvov 2009]

18.Rfe1 g6 19.Qh3 Rfe8 The f8 square has to be freed for the bishop and the rook is well placed to support an eventual e5 push.

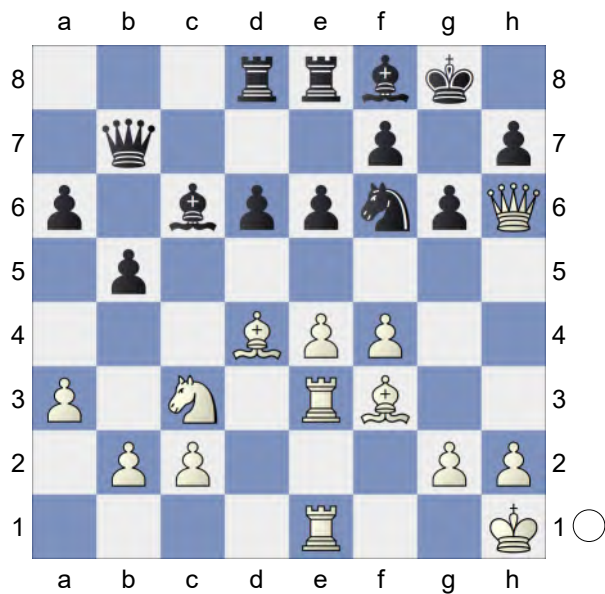


20.Qh6 ?! The next moves seem natural for White but might be parried. There was a very strong continuation that was not easy to see over the board:

[20.b4 ! With the usual idea of closing the queenside and later taking the c5 square. Nd7 21.e5 ! dxe5 (21...Bxf3 22.Rxf3 d5 23.Nd1 ! and soon White will break through on the kingside.) 22.fxe5 Nb6 23.Bxc6 Qxc6 looks fine at first but... 24.Bc5 ! Exchanging bishops opens the f6 square for the knight. Bxc5 25.bxc5 Qxc5 (25...Nd5 26.Rf3 ! Nxc3 27.Rxf7 ! h5 28.Rf6 ±) 26.Rf3 and Black has a tough time coping with both the Ne4 and Rxf7 threats.]

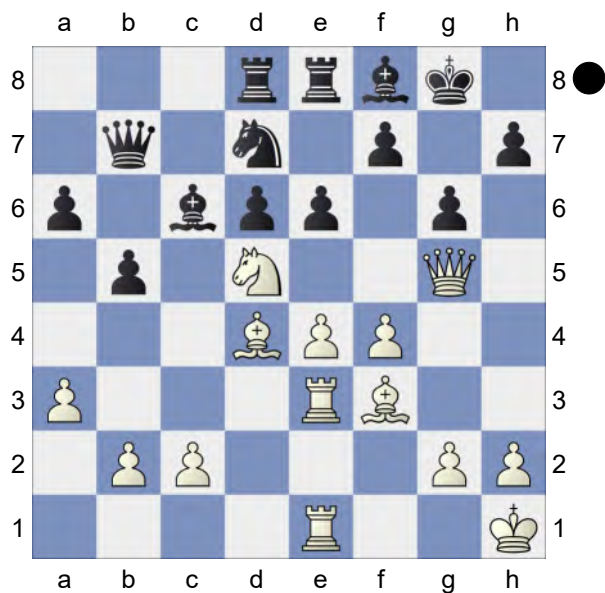
20...Bf8

(Diagram)



21.Qg5 Nd7 22.Nd5

[22.e5 doesn't seem very dangerous here but might still be the best move.]



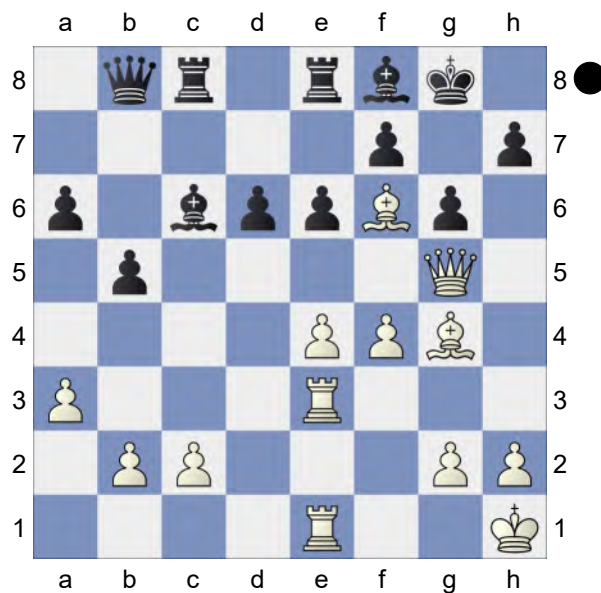
22...Qb8 ? I don't really understand this move, as the usual break seems to work perfectly:

[22...e5 ! 23.fxe5 (23.Bc3 Bxd5 24.exd5 Bg7 25.f5 Rc8 with a pleasant position.) 23...dxe5 24.Bc3 Bxd5 25.exd5 Qc7 Black's position is fine.]

23.Nf6+ Nxf6 24.Bxf6 Rc8 25.Bg4

Very direct play, which will work only thanks to Black's blunder. The best way to get an advantage was

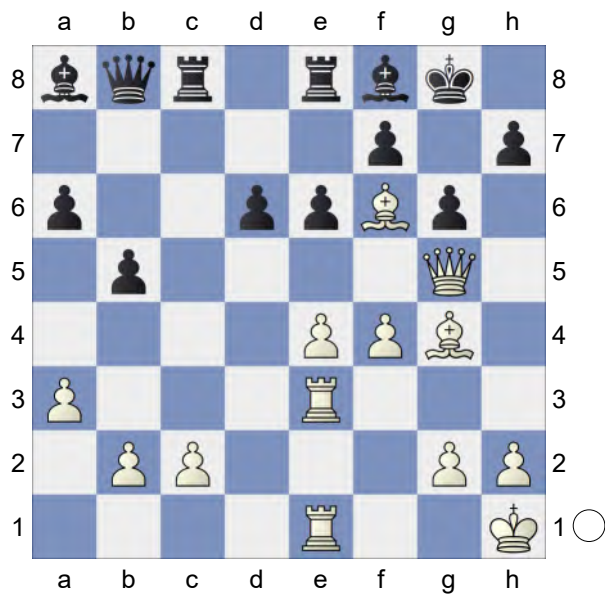
[25.h4 ! Qc7 26.h5 Be7 27.hxg6 fxe6 28.Rd1 ± with a small positional plus.]



25...Ba8? ?? A blunder that is hard to understand. Black should quickly exchange the dangerous bishop and it could easily be achieved:

[After 25...Qb7 26.c3 (26.Qh4 Bg7 27.Bxe7 Kxe7 28.Rh3 h5 ∞) 26...Bg7 (26...Be7) 27.Bxe7 Kxe7 the engines evaluate the position as equal.]

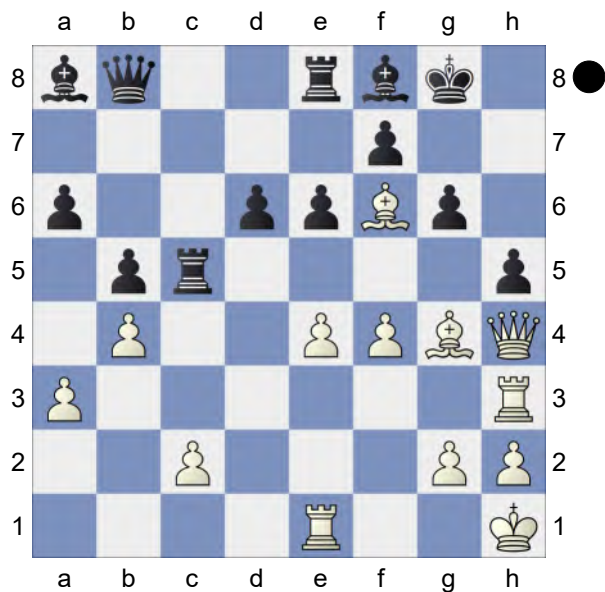
(Diagram)



Now Black's position collapses remarkably quickly. **26.Rh3** Brutally simple. Black is helpless against the attack on the h-file. **26...Rc5**

[26...Rxc2 27.Qh4 h6 28.Qxh6 might be the easy sacrifice missed by Black?]

27.Qh4 h5 28.b4



There is nothing better than resigning. After 28...Rxc2 White plays 29.Bxh5 and Black's king won't survive long.

1-0

278

□ Navara, David

■ Wei, Yi

FIDE Grand Prix (3.2)

[Flear, Glenn]

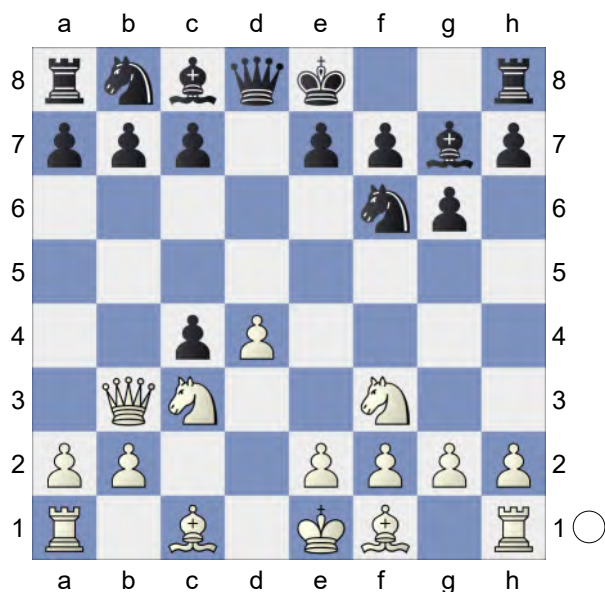
D97

2707

2725

18.12.2019

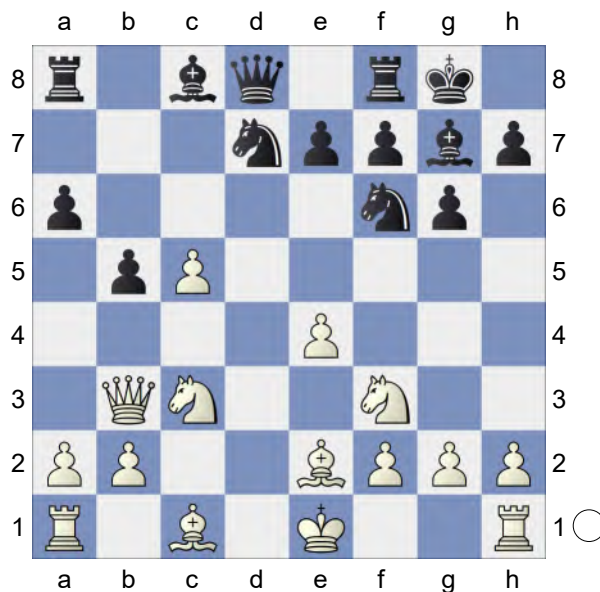
1.c4 g6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3
Bg7 5.Qb3 dxc4



6.Qxc4 0-0 7.e4 a6 8.Be2 b5 9.Qb3
c5 10.dxc5 Nbd7

[In Delchev's new work (The Safest Grünfeld Reloaded, Chess Stars, 2019) he recommends 10...Bb7 which has been covered many times in ChessPublishing.com.]

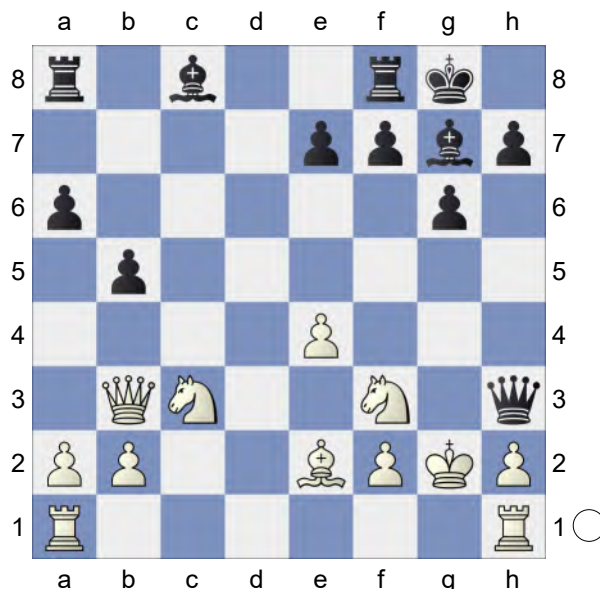
(Diagram)



A provocative move that has come back into fashion over the last couple of years or so. **11.Be3**

[I examined both pawn pushes 11.c6]
[and 11.e5 in Kaczmarczyk, D - Heimann, A Swiss league 2019. The latter might offer a nominal edge according to the engines, but a well-prepared Heimann had no problems to steer the game towards a draw.]

11...Ng4 12.c6 Nxe3 13.cxd7 Nxg2+
14.Kf1 Qxd7 15.Kxg2 Qh3+



16.Kg1 Be6 17.Ng5 When I was

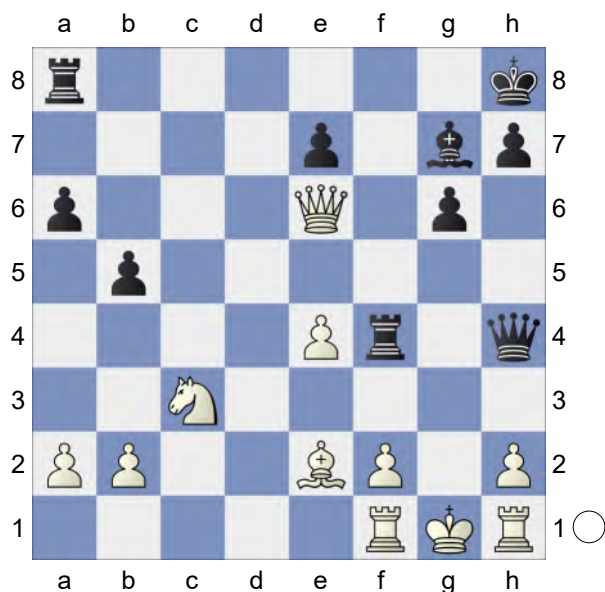
analyzing the Volkov, S - Riazantsev, A encounter from a couple of years ago I described this move "as possible, but evaluating the consequences isn't that evident". Now we have a proper OTB test to help us to better understand the complications..

[I think that Black had enough practical compensation (and did go on to win) after 17.Qc2 Rac8 18.Ng5 , but White was still OK in Volkov, S - Riazantsev, A St.Petersburg 2017 (see the archives) .]

17...Qh4 18.Nxe6 fxe6 19.Qxe6+?!

[I felt (and still feel!) that 19.Nd1 was more prudent i.e. Rad8 20.Bf3 Rd6 Quoting myself again: "White retains his extra piece, but can't unravel, so Black seems to be OK". 21.Kg2 Qg5+ 22.Kf1 Qf4 23.Kg2 Qg5+=]

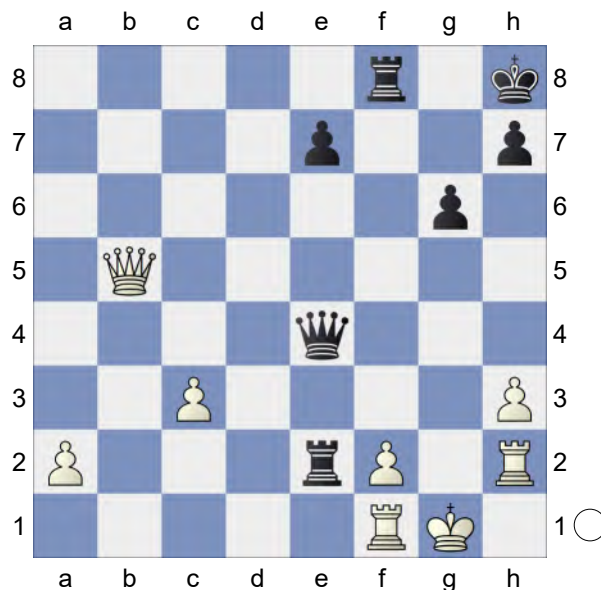
19...Kh8 20.Rf1 Rf4!



I had already considered this position in my ChessPub analysis. I concluded that "Black's pressure is more important than the piece deficit". It looks like Wei Yi (and friends) came to the same conclusion in their prep. **21.h3 Raf8**

22.Rh2 So f2 is well-defended, but not e2 it seems... **22...Bxc3! 23.bxc3 Rxe4** Regaining the piece. **24.Qxa6 Rxe2 25.Qxb5 Qe4!**

[If 25...Rxa2 then 26.Qe5+ virtually forces Qf6 with a likely draw.]



Centralizing the queen and thus keeping up the pressure. White can't hold onto all of his pawn islands. **26.Qb4 Qa8 27.c4**

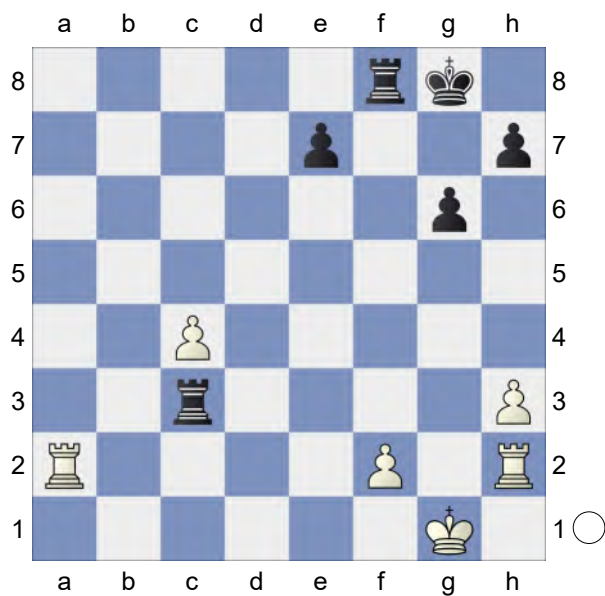
[Or 27.a4 Re4 (or 27...Rf3) 28.c4 Qc6 and Black is not risking very much by building up the pressure on both wings.]

27...Qxa2 28.Qc3+ Kg8 29.Ra1 Rc2

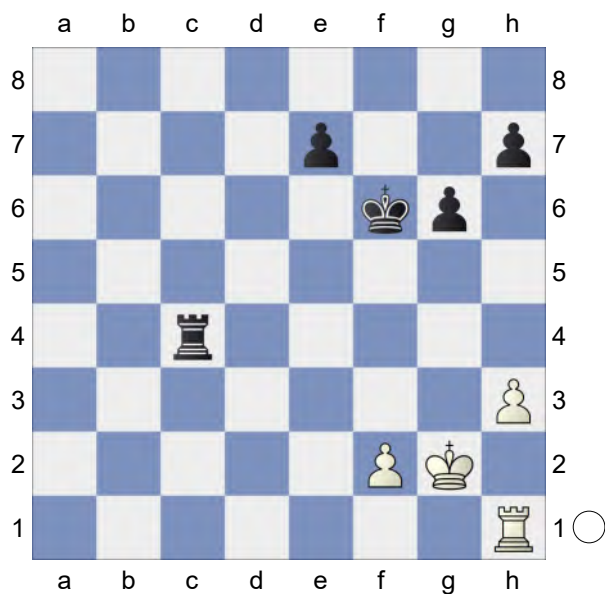
[29...Qc2 30.Qxc2 Rxc2 31.Re1 Kf7 32.Re4 is similar.]

30.Rxa2 Rxc3

(Diagram)

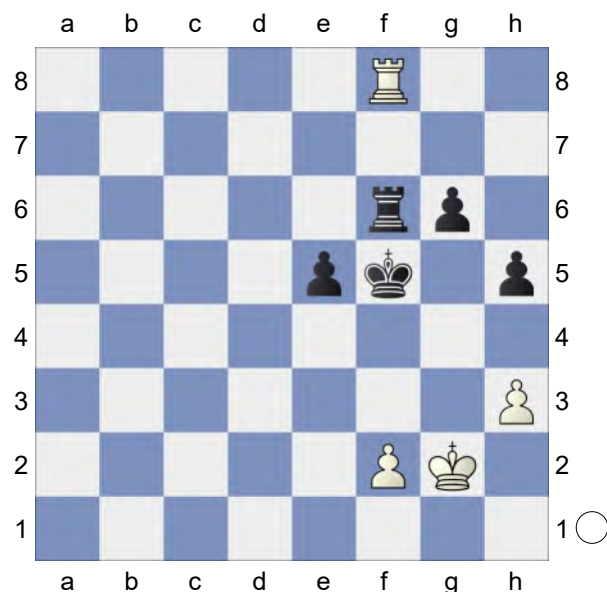


31.Re2 Kf7 32.Re4 Rc8 Black will win a pawn and thus have the better endgame, but Navara decides that it's the moment to improve his h2-rook.
33.Kg2 R8xc4 34.Rxc4 Rxc4 35.Rh1 Kf6



36.Ra1 h5 37.Ra6+ Kf5 38.Ra5+ e5 39.Ra8 Keeping as active and vigilant as possible to stop the opponent making progress. As to the broken pawns: Black's reduce his opportunities to hide and expand, whereas White's are actually quite good in keeping the

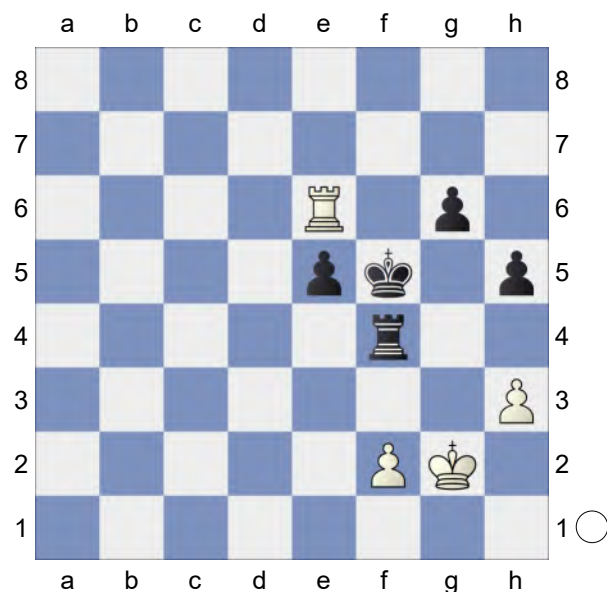
opponent's pieces and pawns at bay.
39...Rc6 40.Rf8+ Rf6



41.Ra8 Kf4 42.Ra4+ Kg5

[After 42...e4 there is 43.f3! Re6 44.fxe4 Rxe4 45.Ra2 when it's hard to create any danger for the opponent.]

43.Ra5 Rf5 44.Ra6 Rf4 45.Re6 Kf5



46.Re8 e4 47.Re7 Kf6 48.Re8 g5 49.Rh8 h4 50.f3!? What an astonishing move!

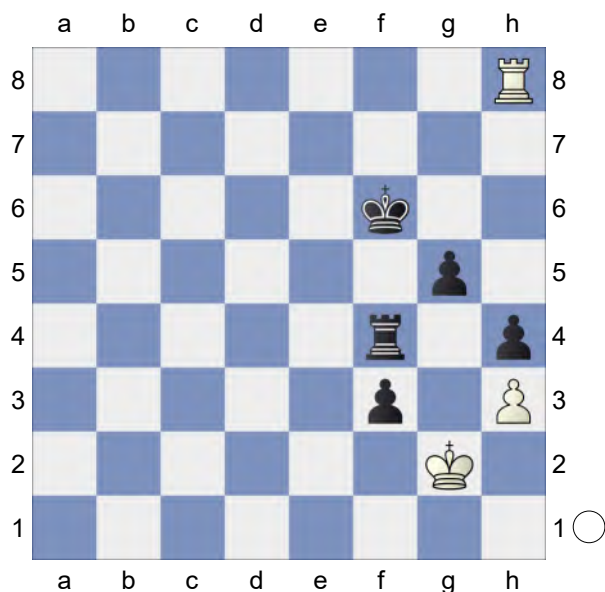
[I think most people would have settled for 50.Re8]

[or 50.Rf8+ disrupting Black's attempts to 'do something constructive'.]

50...exf3+

[Otherwise 50...Rxf3 51.Rf8+ Ke5 52.Rxf3 exf3+ 53.Kxf3 Kf5 54.Ke3!= is just a draw.]

[50...Kg7 51.Re8 doesn't change very much.]

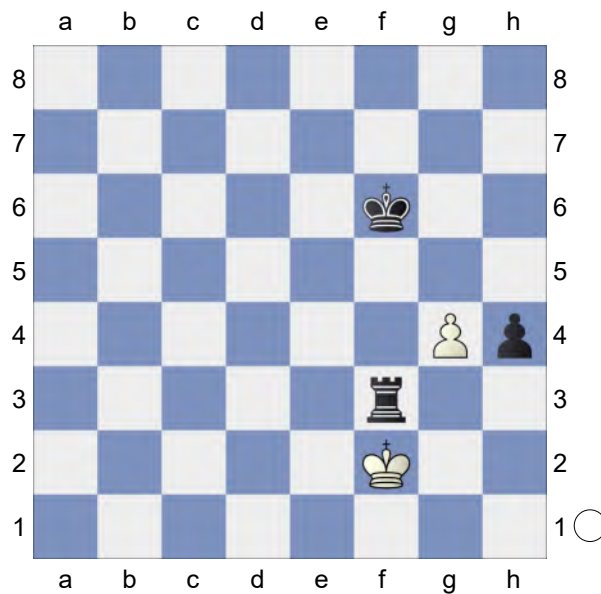


51.Kf2 Ke7 52.Ra8 Rf5 53.Ra3 Kf6 54.Rxf3 g4

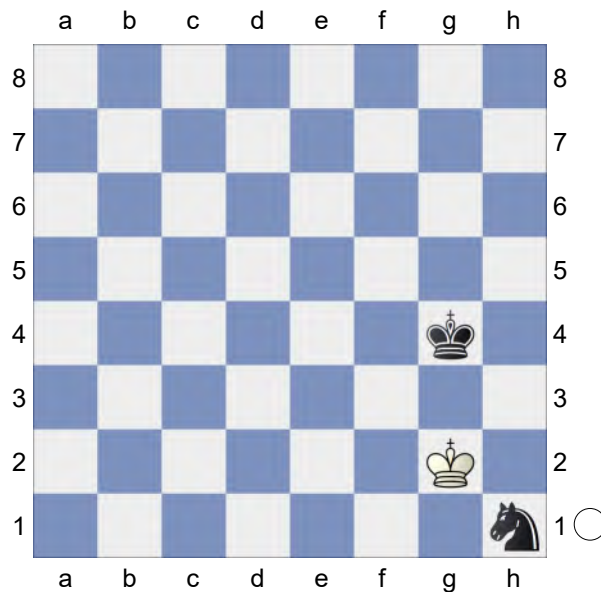
[Or 54...Rf4 55.Kg2 (it's best not to capture and give Black a passed pawn) Ke5 56.Ra3 with a draw in sight.]

55.hxg4 Rxf3+

(Diagram)



56.Kxf3 Kg5 57.Kg2 Kxg4 58.Kh2 h3 59.Kh1 h2 60.Kg2 h1N



1/2-1/2

416

□ Esipenko, Andrey

■ Wei, Yi

Aeroflot Open A 2019 (4.6) 23.02.2019

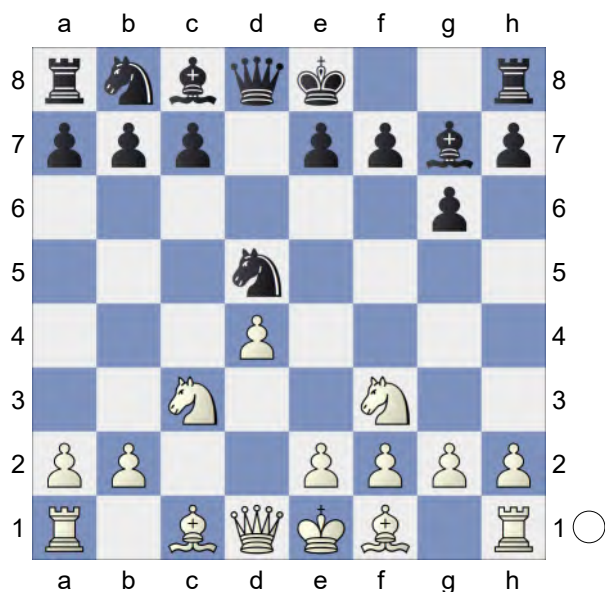
[Flear, Glenn]

D85

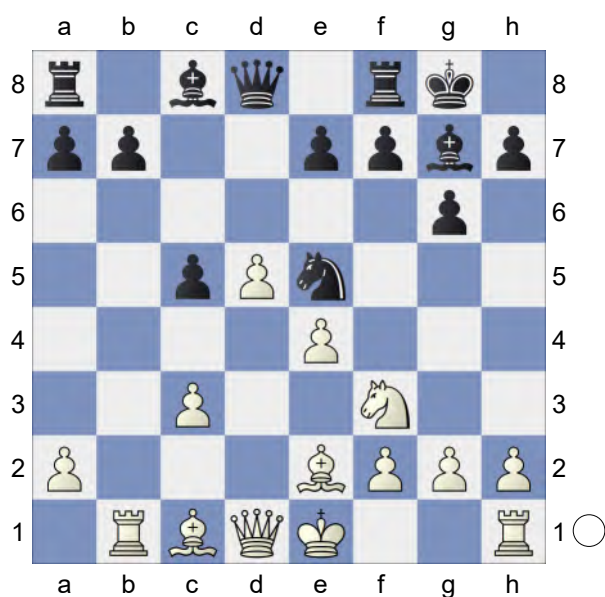
2603

2733

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3
Bg7 5.cxd5 Nxd5



6.e4 Nxc3 7.bxc3 c5 8.Rb1 0-0
9.Be2 Nc6 10.d5 Ne5



11.Nxe5 Bxe5 12.0-0?! White really
seems keen on giving up his c-pawn!

The?! label indicates what I think of it in
objective terms.

[Although 12.Qd2 has been played a
great deal (you can find a couple of
Aronian, L - Vachier-Lagrave, M
games from 2013 in the archives)
other surprise weapons occasionally
get played at this point.]

[The most significant of these is
12.Rb3 see Ding Liren - Ni Hua,
Jiangsu 2009, in the archives (where
Black played the dubious-looking 12...
Qd6). The critical line involves c4
13.Bxc4 Qc7 e.g. 14.Bd3 (14.Be2
Bxc3+ 15.Bd2 Be5 16.Bh6 Rd8
17.Qd2 e6 18.0-0 exd5 19.exd5
Bxh2+ 20.Kh1 Be5 Kozul, Z -
Areshchenko, A Plovdiv 2012)
14...Bxc3+ 15.Bd2 Be5!
(it's definitely a good idea to keep
bishops on for now) 16.Qc1 Qxc1+
17.Bxc1 f5 (17...e6!? is the other
way to hit at the centre) 18.exf5 gxf5
(more precise is 18...Bxf5! 19.Bxf5
Rxf5 20.Rxb7 Bd6 and Black picks
up the d-pawn with a fully satisfactory
game) 19.0-0 b6 Sokolov, I - Fier, A
Dubai 2016, with near equality, but
White keeps some nagging pressure
with 20.Ba3]

12...Bxc3 13.Bh6

[The alternatives also come into the
'experimental' category: 13.Rb3 Bg7
14.Rg3 (is this rook really effective
here?) e6 15.Bc4 exd5 16.Bxd5
Qc7 17.h4 Be6 18.Bxe6 fxe6 19.h5
Qf7 20.hxg6 hxg6 21.Qg4∞
Pak, Y - Marin, Mi Almaty Blitz 2016]

[13.Be3 b6 14.f4 e6!? 15.Bc4 Bb7
16.Qd3 (16.dxe6 Qxd1 17.Rbxd1
Bxe4 18.exf7+∞) 16...exd5 17.exd5
Qf6 18.Bxc5 bxc5 19.Rxb7 Rfb8
Drenchev, P - Erturan, Y Albena 2013,

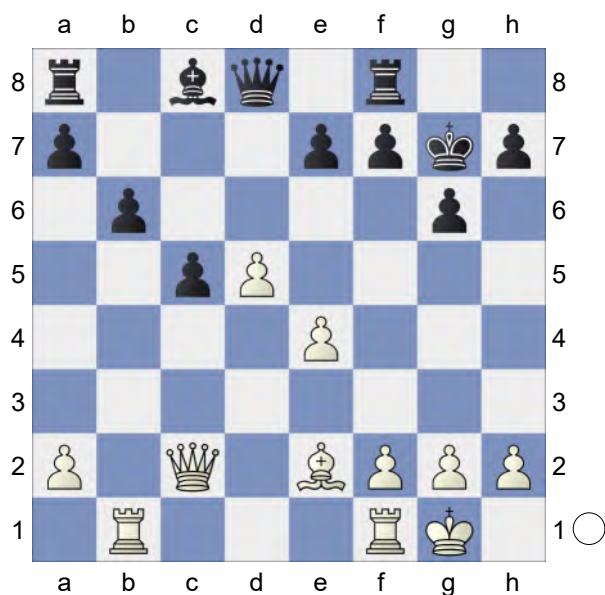
with easy equality.]

[13.Bc4 Qc7 14.f4 a6 15.a4 (sure, White has a lead in development and some active intentions, but Black shouldn't be in too much danger) Bd4+ 16.Kh1 Bd7 17.Bd2 Rab8 (17...b5 18.axb5 axb5 19.Bxb5 Bxb5 20.Rxb5 Ra1 with a very comfortable game) 18.a5 b5 19.axb6 Rxb6 20.Qe2 Rxb1 21.Rxb1 a5 Pham Chuong - Lei Tingjie, Ho Chi Minh City 2017, and White lacks real compensation.]

13...Bg7

[Previously 13...Re8!? had been played: 14.Qb3 Bd4 15.Be3 e5!? (15...Bxe3 16.Qxe3 b6 is akin to the main game continuation) 16.Bb5 Rf8 17.Bh6 a6 18.Bxf8 Qxf8 19.Be2 b5 and a draw was agreed in Ferreira, J - Tomazini, A Albena 2011, but that wonderful bishop on d4 ensures more than enough compensation for the small material investment.]

14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.Qc2 b6

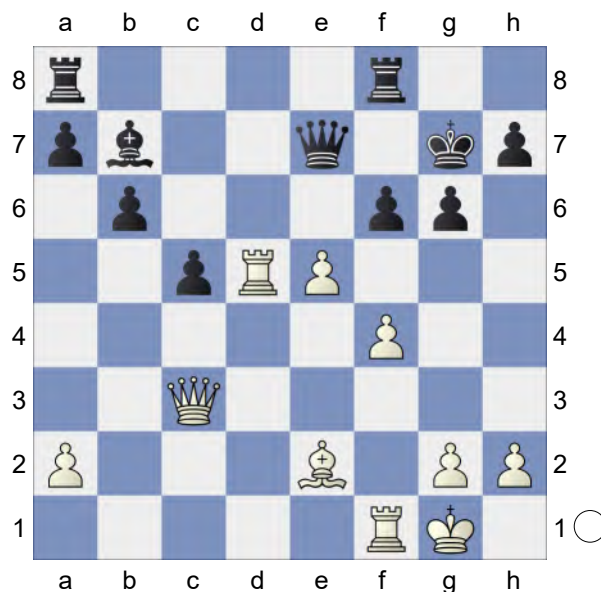


16.Qc3+ f6 17.f4 e6! I think that Black should aim for this counter, if at all reasonable, before White gets his attack

underway. **18.Rbd1 exd5 19.Rxd5**

[After 19.exd5?! Qd6 Black keeps everything under control.]

19...Qe7 20.e5 Bb7

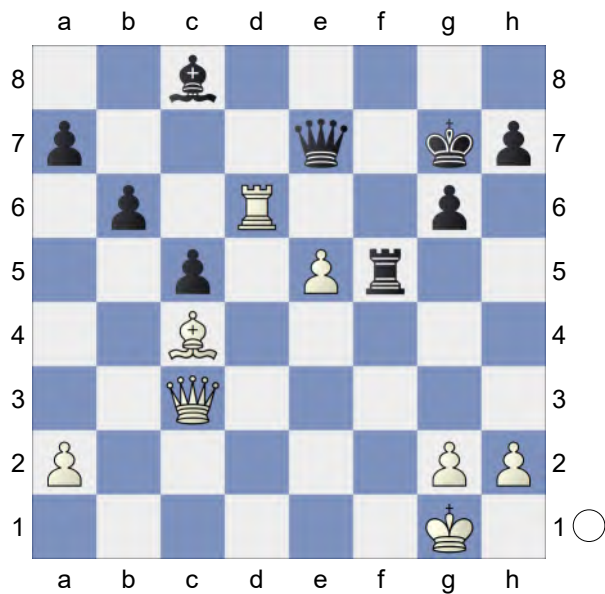


21.Rd6 Rad8 22.Rfd1 Rxd6 23.Rxd6 Wei Yi has limited any problems associated with the d-file, but now needs to resolve the tension in the central arena. **23...Bc8 24.Bc4 fxe5 25.fxe5 Rf5?!**

[The engine suggests the more ambitious 25...Qh4!]

[A superior rook move could be 25...Rf4 when the options of ...Re4 and ...Rd4 might offer some chances for a durable advantage.]

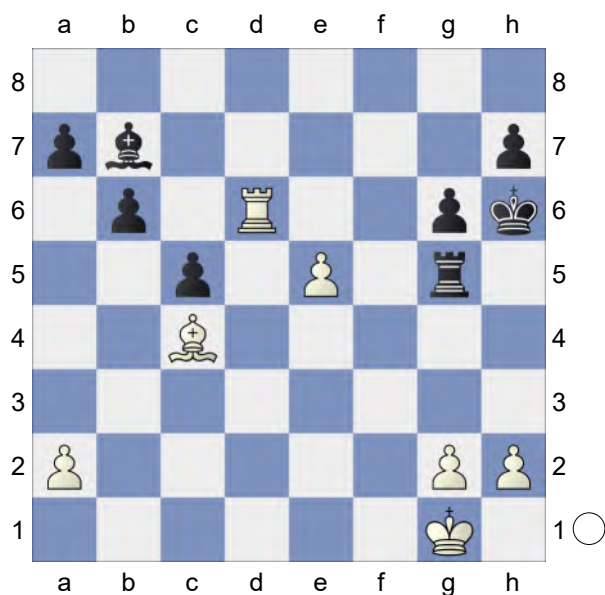
(Diagram)



26.Rc6! Maximizing his capacity to cause mischief. **26...Bb7 27.Rd6 Kh6 28.Qh3+ Rh5 29.Qe3+ Qg5 30.Qxg5+?!**

[With Black's king being so draughty, 30.Qf2!? comes to mind e.g. Qxe5 31.Qf8+ Kg5 32.Qd8+ and I think that most humans would accept a repetition with Kh6 etc.]

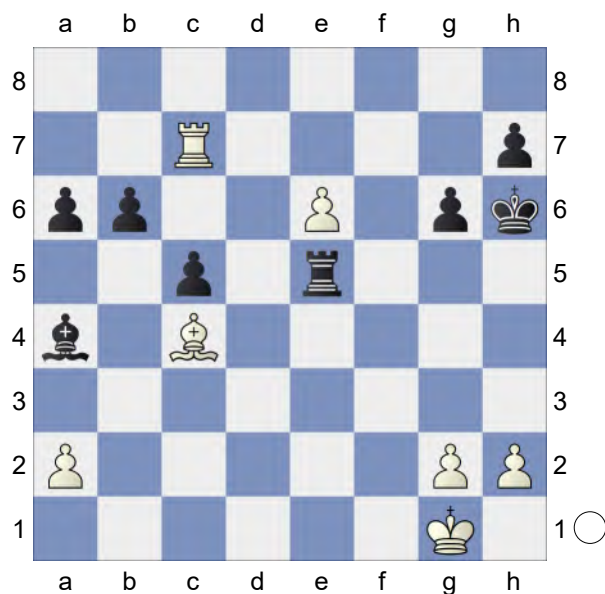
30...Rxxg5



31.e6 Re5 32.Rd7 Bc6 33.Rc7

[33.Rxa7? allows Black the time for b5!]

33...Be8 34.Rc8 Ba4 35.Rc7 a6

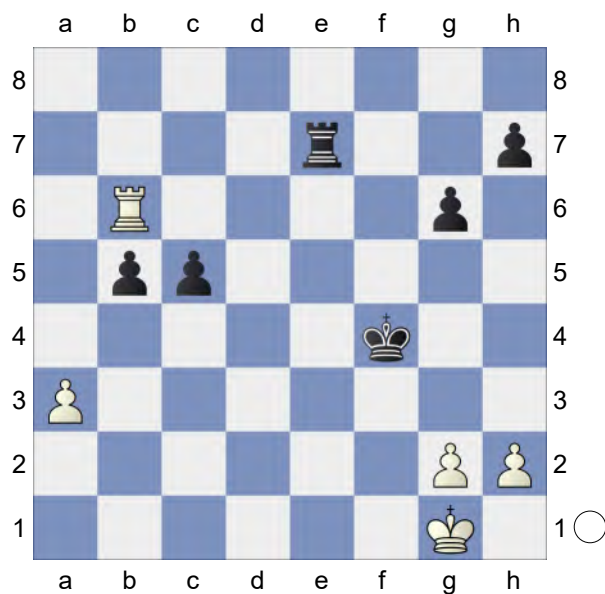


36.e7 Bb5! It all holds together!

37.Bxb5 There is nothing better.

37...axb5 38.a3 Kg5 39.Rb7 Kf4!

Wei Yi hopes that a more active king will keep his winning chances alive. **40.Rxb6 Rxe7**

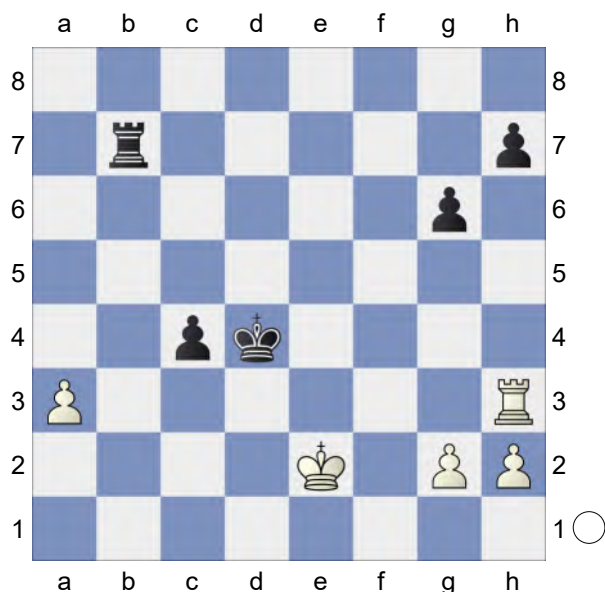


41.Rxb5 Rc7 Thee rook is ideally placed behind the passed pawn. **42.Kf2 Ke4 43.Ke2 Kd4 44.Rb3**

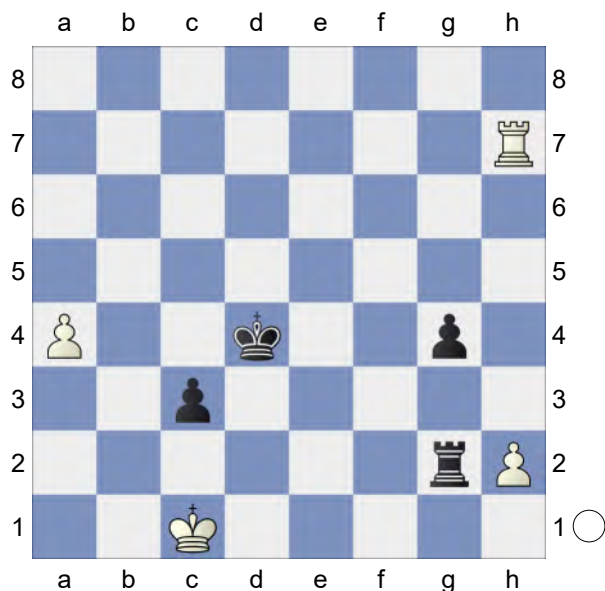
[Switching the king to the queenside doesn't solve all his problems: 44.Kd2 Rd7 45.Kc2 Rf7 and a rook invasion

follows.]

44...c4 45.Rh3 Rb7



The rook will penetrate the white camp via the b-file. **46.Kd1 c3 47.Kc2 Rb2+ 48.Kc1 Rxc2 49.Rxc2 g5 50.a4 g4**

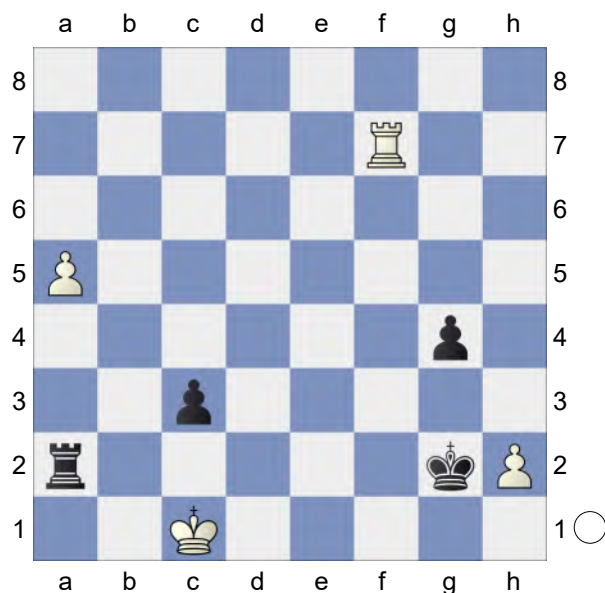


51.a5 Ra2 There are only two pawns each remaining, but defending such a position requires precision. **52.Rg7 Kd3 53.Rd7+ Ke3 54.Rg7 Kf3 55.Rf7+**

[I prefer 55.Rc7! after which I believe that the draw becomes relatively straightforward: Kg2 56.Rc4 Ra1+ (56...Kh3 57.Rxc3+ Kxh2

58.Rc2+=) 57.Kc2 Kh3 58.Rc5 Kxh2 59.Rh5+ Kg2 60.Kxc3 etc.]

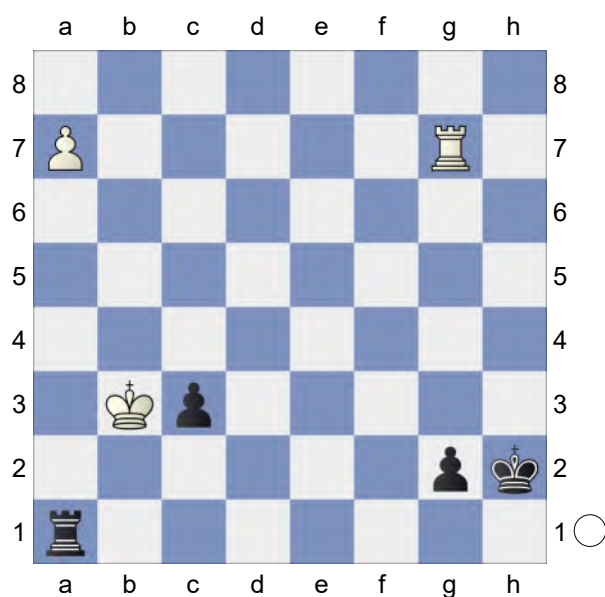
55...Kg2



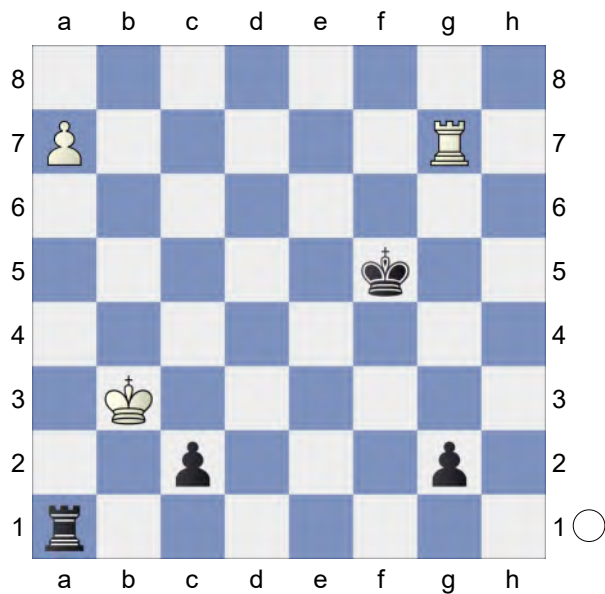
56.Rg7 Ra4 57.a6? Losing the plot. The h-pawn needs to be retained for now.

[57.Rh7 Rxa5 58.Rh4 Kf3 59.Kc2 Rc5 60.Rh8+ and I don't see how Black makes progress.]

57...Kxh2 58.a7 g3 59.Kc2 g2 60.Kb3 Ra1



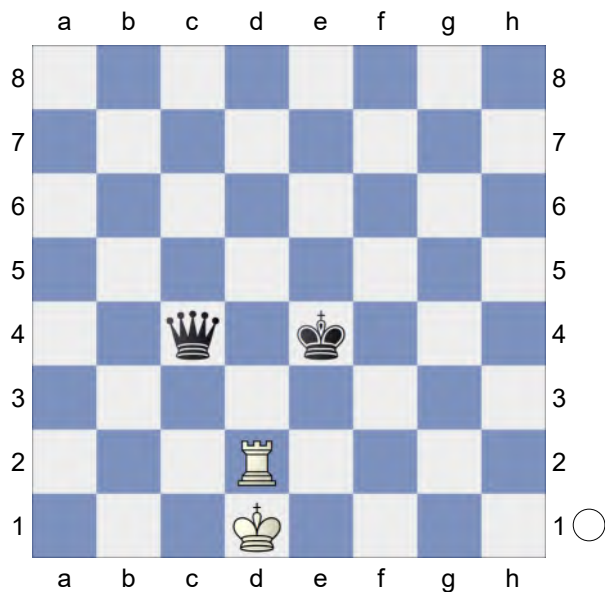
61.Rh7+ Kg3 62.Rg7+ Kf3 63.Rf7+ Ke4 64.Re7+ Kf5 65.Rg7 c2!



This fine move must have been what Esipenko had overlooked. **66.Kxc2 Rxa7! 67.Rxa7**

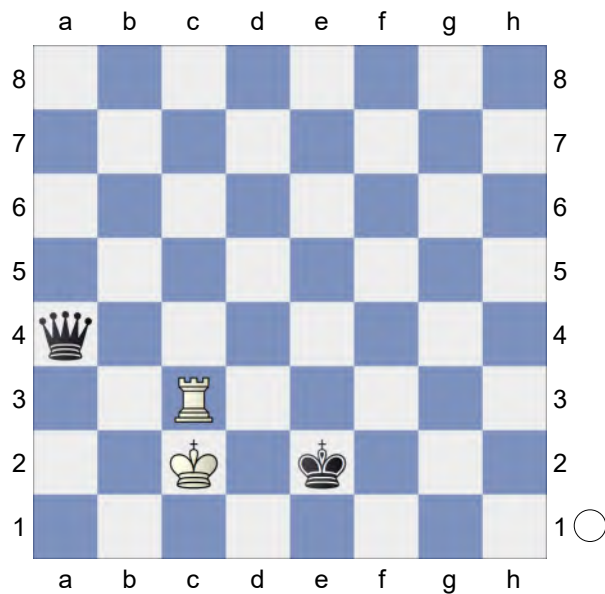
[67.Rxg2 Ra2+]

67...g1Q 68.Rd7 Qc5+ 69.Kd1 Ke4 70.Rd2 Qc4

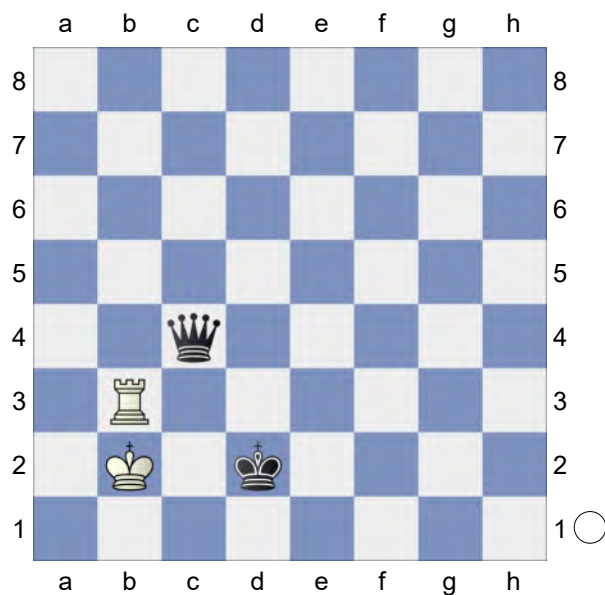


71.Rh2 Qf1+ 72.Kc2 Ke3 73.Rh6 Qf4 74.Rh3+ Ke2 75.Rc3 Qa4+

(Diagram)



76.Rb3 Qc4+ 77.Kb2 Kd2



White resigned a little early, but he is about to be squeezed into the corner, at which point he runs out of acceptable defensive moves.

0-1

354

□ Wei,Yi

■ Haast,Anne

Tata Steel-B 77th (12)

[Ftacnik,Lubomir]

B48

2675

2352

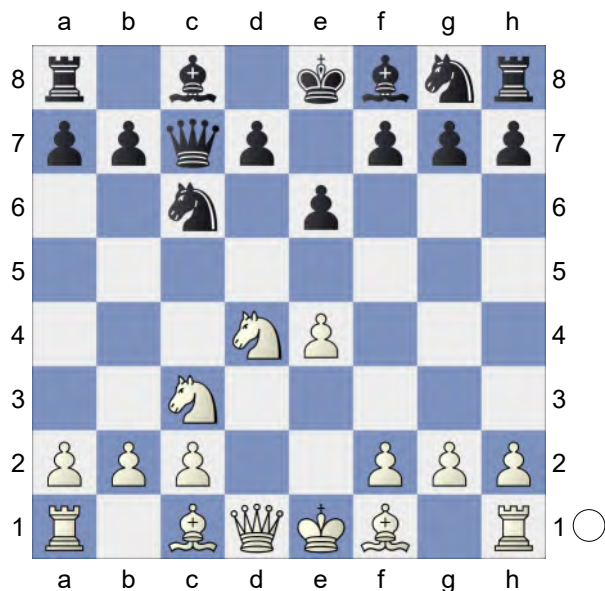
24.01.2015

The winner of the Wijk aan Zee Challengers is the 15-year old Chinese Wei Yi! He was simply crushing through the field. It is worth looking at his brilliant victory in the penultimate round.

1.e4 Ftacnik,L Arsovic,Goran 1...c5

2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6

5.Nc3 Qc7



The recently very popular Sicilian Paulsen variation. 6.Be3 a6 Diagram 7.Qf3

A somewhat unexpected move that has been going through a surprising boom in last few months. White players are probably tired of the intricacies of the main line with 7. Q d2 and want something fresh and less well analysed. A relatively new alternative to the main lines with Qd2 and 0-0-0. The idea is to castle queenside here again and White often intends to play Qg3, offering the

trade of queens after which Qxg3 hxg3 improves his pawn structure, opens the h-file for the rook and it usually yields a better and more easy to play endgame. A somewhat unexpected move that has been going through a surprising boom in last few months. White players are probably tired of the intricacies of the main line with 7. Q d2 and want something fresh and less well analysed.

[7.Qd2 Nf6 8.0-0-0]

7...Ne5 If you ever witnessed a true exception to the rules please prepare yourself for the repetition. Black will ignore the first rule of the opening strategy - "Develop the pieces" at his peril. If you ever witnessed a true exception to the rules please prepare yourself for the repetition. Black will ignore the first rule of the opening strategy - "Develop the pieces" at his peril.

[7...Nf6 8.0-0-0 (8.Be2 h5 9.Qg3 Ne5 10.f4 h4 11.Qh3 Nc4 12.e5 Nxb2 13.Bc1 Bb4 14.Bd2 Nc4 15.exf6 Nxd2 16.fxg7 Rg8 17.Kxd2 Qxf4+ 18.Kd3 e5 19.Qg4 Qxg4 20.Bxg4 exd4 21.Nd5 Rxg7 22.Nc7+ Kd8 23.Nxa8 Rxg4 24.Nb6 d5 25.Nxc8 Kxc8= 1-0 (54) Durarbayli,V (2635)-Izzat,K (2424) Baku 2015 '=' Ftacnik,L: '=') 8...Ne5 (8...Be7 9.Kb1 d6 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.g4 Rb8 12.g5 Nd7 13.Qg3 Qa5 14.Bc1 d5 15.h4 Qb4 16.h5 Bd6 17.f4 Nc5 18.Qe3 0-0 19.e5 Be7 20.Rh3 Na4 21.Nxa4 Qxa4= 1-0 (34) Popov,I (2622)-Lazarev,V (2387) Chennai 2015 '=' Ftacnik,L: '=') 9.Qg3 b5 10.f4 Neg4 11.Bg1 h5 12.e5 b4 13.Na4 Nd5 14.Nb3 Bb7 15.Nac5 Rc8 16.Bd3 a5 17.Kb1 Bc6 18.Na6 Qd8 19.Nd4±

1/2 (109) Nepomniachtchi, I (2714)-
Wang, Y (2720) Beijing 2014]

8.Qg3 h5 `<xmlX:en>`This move was probably invented by Giri and any idea prepared by one of the youngest and strongest GM in the world deserves serious attention.`</:en X/xml>` The young Dutch lady follows the path of her countryman Anish Giri, who played two interesting games with good results in the same tournament, but in the A group. This move was probably invented by Giri and any idea prepared by one of the youngest and strongest GM in the world deserves serious attention.

[8...Nf6 9.f4 Nc4 10.e5 Nxb2 11.Bd2 Nd5 12.Nxd5 exd5 13.Nf5 g6 14.Nd6+ Bxd6 15.exd6 Qb6 16.Qb3 Qxd6 17.Qxb2 Qe6+ 18.Kf2+- 1-0 (18) Wei, Y (2641)-Lei, T (2421) Zhongshan 2014]

9.0-0-0

[9.Nf3 Bd6 10.Qg5 Ne7 11.Be2 b5= '=' Ftacnik, L: '=']

[9.f3 b5 10.0-0-0 d6 11.f4 Ng4 12.e5 dxe5 13.fxe5 Nxe3 14.Qxe3 Bd7 15.Be2 g6 16.Qf3 Rc8 17.Rhf1 Rh7 18.Kb1 Bb4 19.Ne4 Qxe5 1-0 (42) Karjakin, S (2767)-Giri, A (2768) Tashkent 2014 20.Qd3 f5 21.Ng5±]

[9.f4 Ng4 10.Bd2 b5= '=' Ftacnik, L: '=']

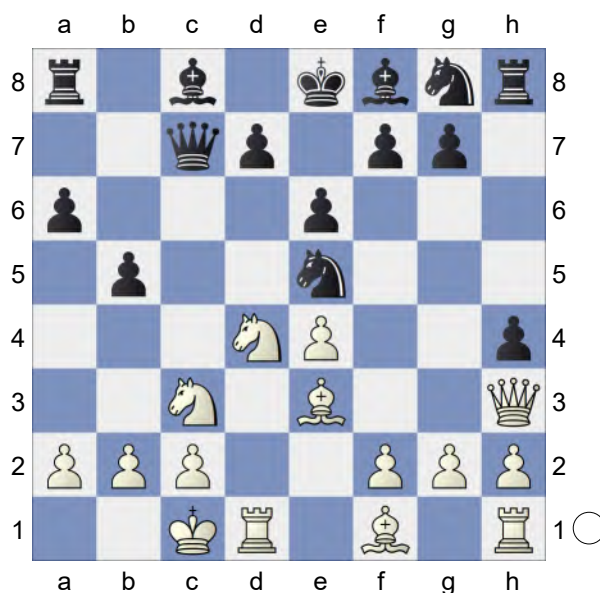
9...h4 10.Qh3 `<xmlX:en>`Both players in this game are repeating the moves from the game that was played in Wijk 2015 in group A. The white queen would be surprisingly lost after any other (reckless) retreat.`</:en X/xml>` Both players in this game are repeating the moves from the game that was played in Wijk 2015 in group A. The white queen would be surprisingly lost after any other

(reckless) retreat.

[10.Qf4? g5! 11.Qxg5 f6 12.Qf4 Bh6-+]

10...b5

[10...Ng6!? 11.Bd3 b5 12.Nde2 Ne5= '=' Ftacnik, L: '=']



`<xmlX:en>`Personally I am a great fan of the plan of preventing main ideas of the opponent. The modest retreat of the knight to g6 would have been surprisingly efficient.`</:en X/xml>` A standard Sicilian game. The black king stands in the center, therefore White launches a central attack with f4-f5 and Black looks for counterplay on the queenside. Personally I am a great fan of the plan of preventing main ideas of the opponent. The modest retreat of the knight to g6 would have been surprisingly efficient. **11.f4 Nc4**

[11...Ng6?! 12.e5 Bb7 13.Bd3±]

[11...b4 is a known counterattacking motif, but it makes no sense this time, because after 12.Na4 the b6 square becomes vulnerable!]

12.Bxc4 Qxc4

[12...bxc4!? `<xmlX:en>`Haast trusts

the great predecessors, but she might have considered also recapturing with the pawn with a solid position with shared chances. </en X/xml> Haast trusts the great predecessors, but she might have considered also recapturing with the pawn with a solid position with shared chances. 13.g4 Rb8 14.Nde2 Ne7 15.Rhf1 Nc6= '=' Ftacnik,L: '=']

13.f5 White has already arrived, but the e6 pawn is well protected at the moment, he still needs to increase the pressure to execute a blow. It is time to finish the development for Black... **13...Bb7** ! A typical move in some Sicilian lines. Black delays the development of his kingside and brings his bishop and the a8 rook into the game.

[13...b4 14.Na4 Qc7 (14...Qxa2 loses too many tempi. Black gives up the b6 square and the queen alone cannot create any serious threats. 15.Nb6 Rb8 16.Nb3 ! Trapping the queen and securing the b6 square for the knight! Black is in trouble... Nf6 17.fxe6 dxe6 18.e5 +□-) 15.e5±]

14.Rhf1 e5 <xmlX:en>The line with 14... <sym>R</sym>c8 that Giri chose against Radjabov is very interesting. White can open up the position and put Black under severe pressure with a rook sacrifice on f7.</en X/xml> ! Anne Haast follows Giri's improvement over his own game. The line with 14... ♖c8 that Giri chose against Radjabov is very interesting. White can open up the position and put Black under severe pressure with a rook sacrifice on f7.

[14...b4 15.Na4 Qxa2 16.Nb6 Be7 (16...Rd8 17.Nb3+-) 17.e5±]

[14...Rc8 and the game finished in a spectacular way:

A) 15.Nf3 ! The knight is heading to e5, from where it attacks the two most critical targets on d7 and f7. Probably the only move is 15...f6, but to weaken the e6 square cannot lead to anything good either. Nf6 (15...b4 is too slow 16.Ne5 Qc7 17.fxe6 +□- and White is coming faster!) 16.Ne5 Qc7 17.Nxd7 ! Nxd7 18.fxe6 +□- Black collapses.;

B) 15.fxe6 dxe6 Diagram 16.Rxf7!? (16.Nf3 Nf6 is not the same anymore as in the 15.Nf3 line, because White cannot sacrifice on d7 followed by taking on e6!) 16...Kxf7

B1) 17.Nf3

B1a) 17...Qc7? 18.Ng5+ Ke8 (18...Kg6 19.Qxe6+ Kh5 20.g4+-) 19.Qxe6+ Qe7 20.Qg6+-;

B1b) 17...Rh5!

B1b1) 18.g4 Ba3 19.Bd4 (19.gxh5 Bxb2+ 20.Kb1 Bxc3+-) 19...Rhc5 20.Qxh4 Bxe4 21.Bxc5 Rxc5 22.Ng5+ Rxg5 23.Nxe4= '=' Ftacnik,L: '=';

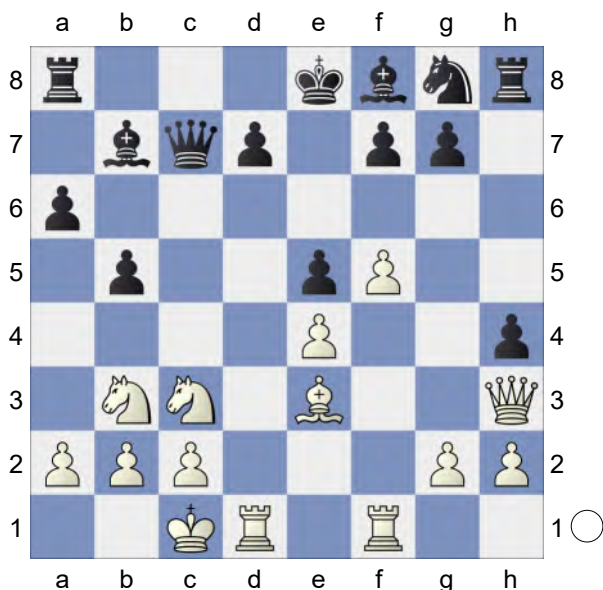
B1b2) 18.Rd7+ Be7 19.g4 Bxe4 20.gxh5 Bxf3 21.Qxf3+ Nf6= '=' Ftacnik,L: '=';

B2) 17.b3 Deflecting the queen from the e6 square. Fortunately for Black, he has 17...Ba3+ ! Black frees the f8 square for the king with an intermediate check. 18.Kb1 Qxc3 19.Qxe6+ Kf8 Diagram White had nothing more than forcing a perpetual check with 20.Rf1+ Nf6 21.Rxf6+ ! gxf6 22.Qxf6+ Kg8 23.Qg6+

Kf8 24.Qf6+ Kg8 (24...Ke8
 25.Qg6+ Kd7 26.Qe6+ Kc7
 27.Bf4+ Kd8 28.Bg5+=
 '=' Ftacnik,L: '=') 25.Qg6+ Kf8
 26.Qf6+ 1/2 (26) Radjabov,T
 (2734)-Giri,A (2784) Wijk aan
 Zee 2015 1/2 Radjabov-Giri, Wijk
 aan Zee 2015]

15.Nb3 Qc7

[15...Nf6 Allowing Na5 leads to
 serious positional problems after
 16.Na5 Qc7 17.Nxb7 Qxb7 18.Bg5
 ! White is going to take on f6 and
 install his knight to d5, which will
 dominate the entire game. Black is
 positionally lost there, while Nxe4
 loses tactically to 19.Nxe4 Qxe4
 20.Rfe1 +□- and the e5 falls.]



Arsovic,Goran: '*' Black must cover the
 a5 square. **16.Kb1N** <xmlX:en>In case
 you had some problems believing the
 first part of the game do not despair.
 Your annotator has been equally
 amazed by the modern form of treating
 opening problems by Black. The king
 move in the game is the first
 independent idea of this battle.</:en X/

> This is Wei Yi's improvement over
 the Saric-Giri game. Quite a deep idea,
 which was missed by Black in this game.
 In case you had some problems
 believing the first part of the game do
 not despair. Your annotator has been
 equally amazed by the modern form of
 treating opening problems by Black. The
 king move in the game is the first
 independent idea of this battle.

[16.Bg5 when Black had time to play
 Rc8 17.Rf2 Be7 ! 18.Bxe7 Kxe7
 ! securing and excellent square for
 the knight on f6! 19.Rfd2 Nf6 20.a3
 Rh6= 0-1 (47) Saric,I (2666)-Giri,A
 (2784) Wijk aan Zee 2015 '=' Ftacnik,
 L: '=' ! With the idea to drive the king
 into safety with Kf8-g8. He could not
 do it with the rook on h8 because
 White had g4-g5, using the fact that
 Black cannot take en passant on g3.
 21.Qe3 Kf8 and Black was fine in
 Saric-Giri, Wijk aan Zee 2015.]

[16.f6 fails right away, because of the
 hidden point... Nxf6 17.Rxf6 gxf6
 18.Bb6 and Black has Bh6+
 ! freeing the f8 square for the king!
 This is the point of playing 16.Kb1!
 19.Kb1 Qxb6 20.Qxd7+ Kf8 -□+]

16...Rc8? <xmlX:en>My explanation for
 the disaster that will now befall the
 second player is connected with the
 symmetries on the board. Black has so
 far only used the pieces of the
 queenside and seriously breached the
 balance between both sides of the board.
 </:en X/xml> ? Black fails to recognize
 the differences and falls into the
 prepared trap! Diagram My explanation
 for the disaster that will now befall the
 second player is connected with the
 symmetries on the board. Black has so
 far only used the pieces of the

queenside and seriously breached the balance between both sides of the board.

[16...Nf6! ! which was most probably Giri's preparation. He is already threatening to take on e4 and he seems to be doing well. 17.Nd5 It seems like White has nothing better than this, but I believe that if White cannot take with a piece on d5 and he is forced to change the structure with exd5, he cannot hope for an advantage.

A) 17...Bxd5 18.exd5 a5 (18...Rc8 Arsovic, Goran 19.c3 with mutual chances. Black might go for a balanced endgame with Qc4-g4 for instance. Rh5∞) 19.Rfe1±;

B) 17...Nxd5 18.exd5 Rc8 19.Rf2 Ba8 (19...f6 20.d6 Qc4= ' '= Ftacnik, L: ' '=) 20.f6 gxf6 21.Qf5 Qd6 22.Bc5 Rxc5 23.Nxc5 Qxc5 24.Qxf6 Bxd5 25.Qxh8 Qxf2 26.Qxe5+ Be6 27.Qb8+ Ke7 28.Qd6+= ' '= Ftacnik, L: ' '=]

[16...b4 was also wrong, because after 17.Nd5 Bxd5 18.Rxd5 Nf6 19.Ra5 ! deprives Black from his counterplay with a5-a4 and White wants to enter a good knight vs. bad bishop position with Bg5 and the d5 square is very weak! Nxe4 ? tactically fails to 20.Qf3 !]

17.f6! Introduction to a shockingly swift punishment centred around the weakness of the d7 spot. Opening the h3-c8 diagonal! A series of sacrifices are coming and Black loses because he cannot defend the d7 square. Introduction to a shockingly swift punishment centred around the weakness of the d7 spot.

17...Nxf6

[17...d6 18.fxg7 Bxg7 19.Qg4 Bf8 20.a3±]

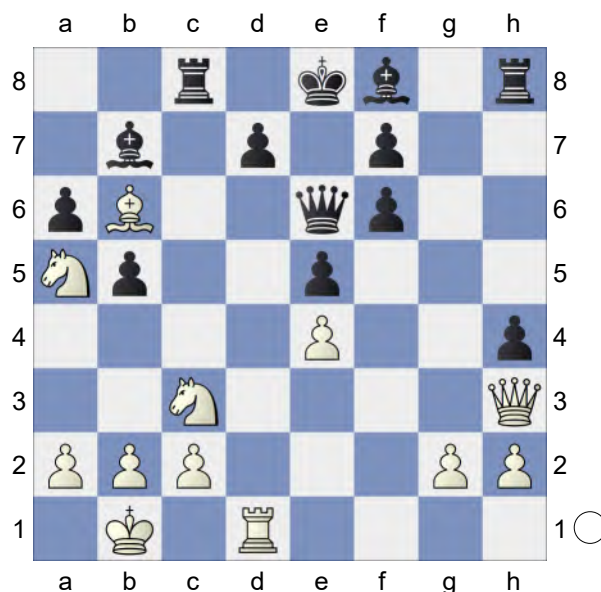
18.Rxf6! ! Eliminating the defender of the d7 weakness! **18...gxf6** **19.Bb6** Arsovic, Goran: '!' ! Deflecting the other defender of the d7 pawn. Bh6 is not a check anymore thanks to 16.Kb1. Black has nothing better than **19...Qc6**

[19...Qd6 20.Rxd6 Bxd6 21.Bf2+-]

[19...Qxb6? 20.Qxd7#]

20.Na5 ! The haunt of the queen continues! The d7 square is still the key!

20...Qe6



21.Nxb7 White has won material. He gained two pieces for the sacrificed rook and all his pieces are standing very well. The knight is soon coming to d5 with decisive threats. Black must try to win back the material with Rb8, otherwise he is lost. **21...Rb8?** The Dutch women's champion did not want to suffer in the ending with rook against the two mighty minor pieces for White. Her honest ambition to punish White for the excessive aggressivity will backfire in the most charming way. Diagram The Dutch women's champion

did not want to suffer in the ending with rook against the two mighty minor pieces for White. Her honest ambition to punish White for the excessive aggressivity will backfire in the most charming way.

[21...Qxh3 22.gxh3 Rb8 23.Nd6+ ! saves the piece and guarantees a winning endgame. Bxd6 24.Rxd6 +□- Rc8 (24...Ke7 25.Bc7+-) 25.Be3 Rc6 26.Rd2 f5 27.exf5 Rh5 28.Rf2±]

22.Nd5! ! This is the only way to victory!

22...Rxb7 <xmlX:en>A sad necessity as the exchange of the queens is not possible any more.</:en X/xml> Diagram A sad necessity as the exchange of the queens is not possible any more.

[22...Qxh3 23.Nc7+ ! Ke7 White could give a perpetual check with Nd5-c7, but he can play for more with 24.Bc5+ ! d6 Diagram 25.Rxd6! Arsovic,Goran: '+-!' !! As simple as that! Black is more than a queen up, but he cannot avoid getting mated! f5 trying to open an escaping route to f6 does not change anything... (25...Qe6 26.Rd8+ Qd6 27.Bxd6#; 25...Qd7 26.Re6#; 25...Qe3 26.Rd4#; 25...Rxb7 26.Rd1# is quite a pretty mate!) 26.Nd5+ Ke8

A) 27.Nf6+ Ke7 28.Rxa6#
(28.Rc6# Another awesome mate!);

B) 27.Rd8+ Rxd8 28.Nf6#]

23.Qc3 ! The only move to win again! White switches his queen to the queenside and creates the decisive threat of Qc8. **23...Qc6** Other moves are also losing quickly:

[23...d6 24.Qc6+ Qd7 (24...Rd7 25.Qc8+ +□-) 25.Nxf6+ +□- Ke7 26.Nxd7 Rxd7 27.Ba5+-]
[23...Rb8 24.Nc7+ +□-]

24.Nxf6+! <xmlX:en>The spirit and energy of White's final attack are truly charming. Black will not get a single tempo to recover from the blows from every side and angle.</:en X/xml> ! The firework continues! The spirit and energy of White's final attack are truly charming. Black will not get a single tempo to recover from the blows from every side and angle.

[24.Qxc6? dxc6 25.Nc7+ Rxc7 26.Bxc7 Be7±]

24...Ke7 Diagram

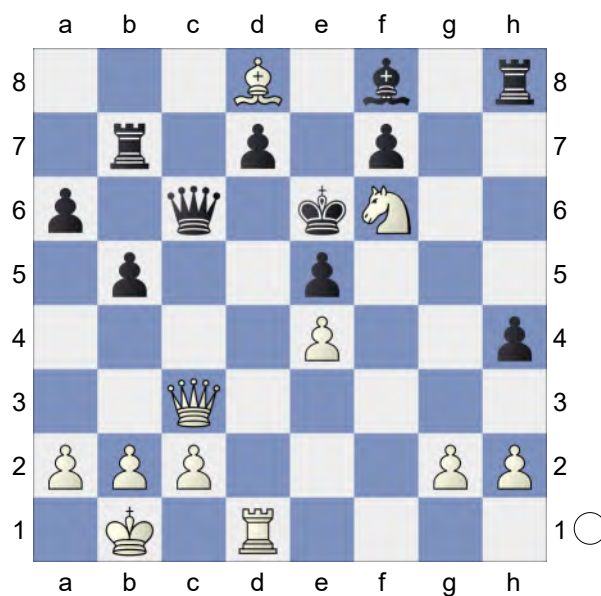
[24...Qxf6 25.Qc8+ Ke7 26.Bc5+ Arsovic,Goran: '+-' (26.Bd8+ Ke6 27.Bxf6 Kxf6 28.Qxb7+-) 26...d6 (26...Ke6 27.Qe8+ Qe7 28.Rd6#) 27.Qxb7+ Ke6 (27...Ke8) 28.Qc8+ Ke7 29.Qc7+ Ke8 30.Qc6+ Kd8 31.Bb6+-]

25.Bd8+! ! Not the only, but the most spectacular win!

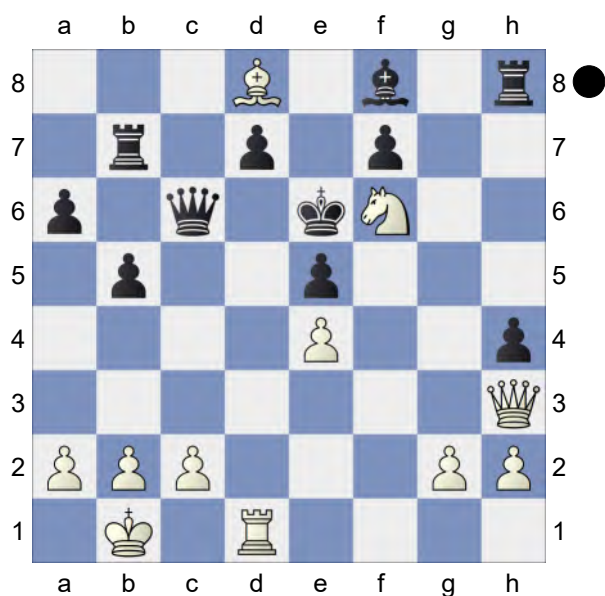
[25.Rxd7+ Rxd7 26.Qxc6 Rd1#]
[25.Qxe5+ Qe6 26.Nd5+ Ke8 27.Qxh8+-]

25...Ke6

[25...Kxd8 26.Qxc6+- +□-]



26.Qh3#



Arsovic, Goran: '#' <xml X:en>In a nice gesture Haast has decided to recreate the flavour of historical attacking games to the full - mate of the black king in the centre. Fascinating and to my understanding beautiful game!</en X/xml> ! Mate! What a game! It will be very interesting to see Wei Yi participating in the A-group next year! In a nice gesture Haast has decided to recreate the flavour of historical attacking games to the full - mate of the black king in the centre. Fascinating and to my understanding beautiful game!

1-0

124

□ Wei, Yi

■ Areshchenko, Alexander

FIDE World Cup (3.2)

[Ftacnik, Lubomir]

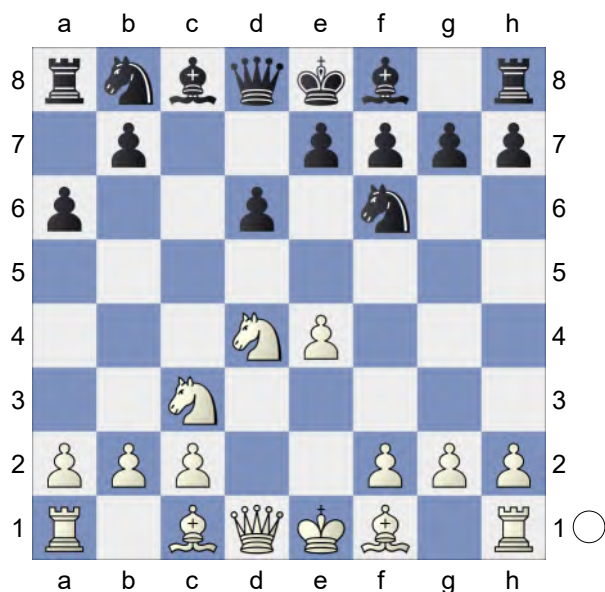
B97

2734

2661

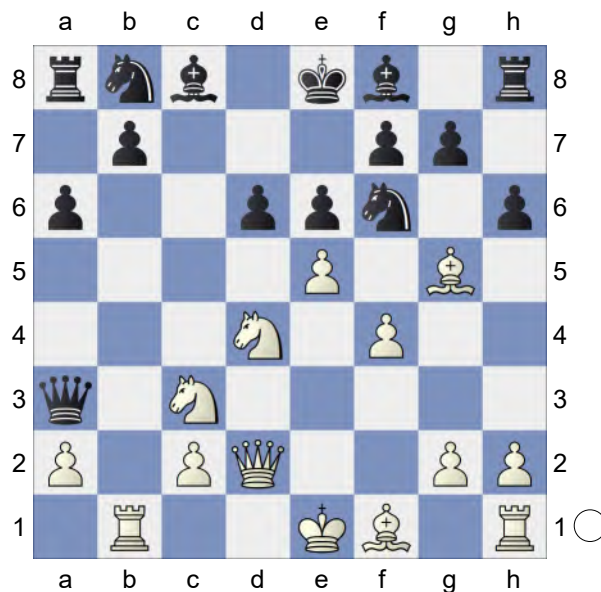
18.09.2015

1.e4 Arsovic, Goran Ftacnik, L 1...c5
 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
 5.Nc3 a6



6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Qb6 The Poisoned Pawn Variation is widely tested in computer games, but some brave players are trying to master the labyrinth as humans. 8.Qd2 Qxb2 9.Rb1 Qa3 10.e5 h6

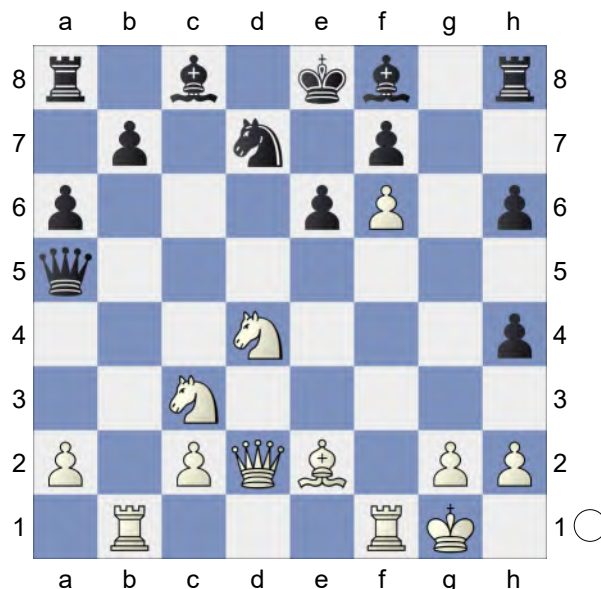
(Diagram)



The modern era of chess has favoured this line as opposed to the immediate 10...dxe5. 11.Bh4 dxe5 12.fxe5 g5 13.exf6 gxh4 14.Be2 Qa5 The great exception to the rule continues. White is diligently developing his pieces while Black is only using his queen. The serious alternative 14...h3!? is less tested, but does not change the general picture.

[14...h3!?

15.0-0 Nd7



16.Rbd1!?

For the sake of sanity only

the games by humans in this position are quoted. Negi's book on 6. ♔g5 in the Najdorf variation has introduced the cunning move 16. ♖bd1!? to the general public as a special suggestion of a promising line.

[16.Kh1 Arsovic,Goran: '- 122/86' Qg5 17.Qe1 (17.Qd3 Nc5 18.Qf3 Bd7; 17.Rf4 e5 18.Nd5 exd4 19.Qxd4 Kd8 0-1 (39) Nisipeanu,L (2673)-Wojtaszek,R (2711) Aix les Bains 2011) 17...Nxf6 (17...h3 18.gxh3 Qe5 19.Qf2 Qc7 20.Qe3 Qe5 21.Qg1 Nxf6 22.Rbe1 Qg5 23.Qxg5 hxg5 24.Rxf6 Bg7 25.Ne4 Ke7 26.Ref1 Bxf6 27.Rxf6 Bd7 1/2 (40) Swiercz,D (2608)-Areshchenko,A (2701) Gorzow Wielkopolski 2014) 18.Nf3 Qc5 19.Na4 Qc7 20.Nb6 Rb8 21.Qxh4 Be7 22.Qd4 Rg8 23.Ne5 Rg5 24.Ng4 Nxg4 25.Bxg4 f5 26.Bxf5 exf5 27.Rbe1 0-1 (43) Yu,Y (2697)-Robson,R (2628) Las Vegas 2014]
[16.Qd3?! Qe5 17.Ne4 (17.Kh1? h3; 17.Rbd1 Nc5) 17...Nc5?]

16...h3 17.g3

[17.Bg4!?]

[17.Qd3!?]

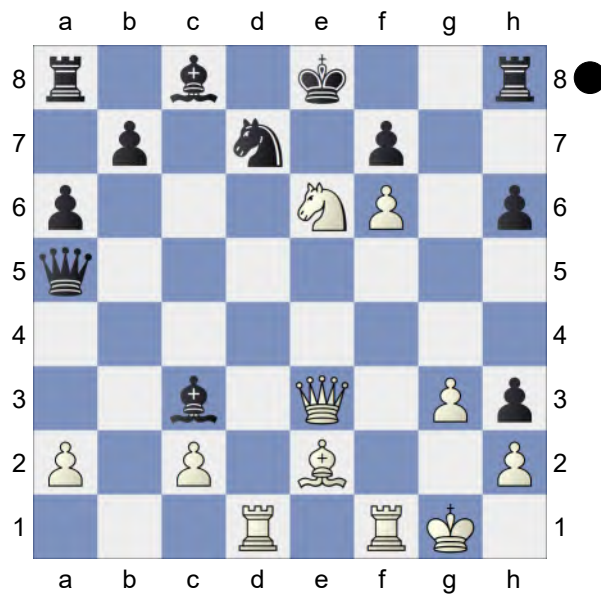
17...Bb4 Arsovic,Goran: 'N'

[17...Ne5 Arsovic,Goran]

18.Qe3 Arsovic,Goran: '!' **18...Bxc3**

19.Nxe6 Arsovic,Goran: 'Diagram

(Diagram)

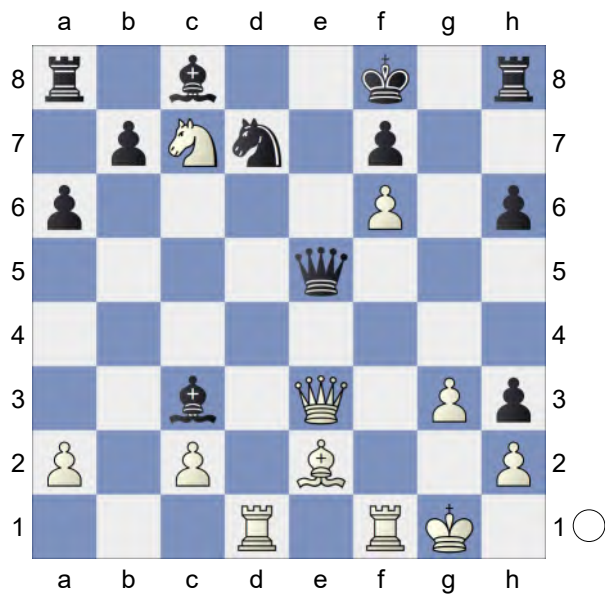


' **19...Qe5?!N** Arsovic,Goran: '?' Areschenko deserves great credit for the willingness to take the risk and play the position for a win with this new move. Accepting the sacrifice of the knight seems to be dangerous, but White will actually have to settle for a draw.

[19...fxe6!? 20.Qxe6+ Kd8 21.Qe7+ Kc7 22.Qd6+ Kd8 23.f7 Bg7 24.Bg4 (24.f8Q+ Bxf8 25.Rxf8+ Rxf8 26.Qxf8+ Kc7 27.Qd6+ Kd8=) 24...Qb5 25.f8Q+ Rxf8 26.Rxf8+ Bxf8 27.Qxf8+ Kc7 28.Qd6+ Kd8 29.Qf8+ Kc7 30.Qd6+ Kd8 31.Qf8+ Kc7 1/2 (31) Czarnota,P (2523)-Moranda,W (2588) Poland 2015]

20.Nc7+ Kf8

(Diagram)



21.Qxe5 Bxe5 22.Nxa8 Arsovic,Goran: '±' **22...Nxf6** Black will struggle to achieve complete equality. The problems after the alternative capture of the f6-pawn with the bishop are not an encouraging sign.

[22...Bxf6? 23.Bh5! Kg7 24.Rd6 Rf8 25.Nb6 Bd4+ 26.Rxd4 Nxb6 27.Bg4+-]

23.Nb6 Kg7

[23...Be6 24.Nc4! Bxc4 (24...Bc3 25.Rf3+-) 25.Bxc4 Kg7 26.Rfe1 Arsovic,Goran: '+-' Rc8 27.Bf1 Bb8 28.Re2 Rc4 29.Bxh3±]

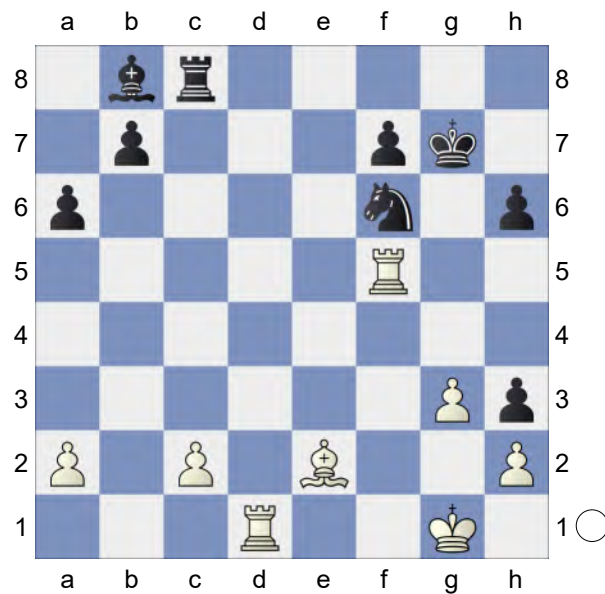
24.Nxc8 Rxc8 25.Rf5

[25.c4 Arsovic,Goran Rc5 26.Kh1 b6 27.Rf3±]

25...Bb8

[25...Bb2!? 26.Bf1 (26.c4 Ba3 27.Kh1 Ne4 28.Rd7 Nd6 29.Rf1 b6 30.Bg4 Rxc4 31.Be6±) 26...Ba3 27.Rd3 Bb2 28.Bxh3 Rxc2 29.Rf2±]

(Diagram)



With hindsight the whole bishop manoeuvre via a7 back to d4 makes a truly artificial impression. It should have stayed on a1-h8 diagonal in the first place, even though White would have enjoyed better chances anyway. **26.Rdf1 Ba7+**

[26...Rxc2 27.Rxf6 Ba7+ 28.Kh1 Rxe2 29.Rxf7+ Kg6 30.Rxb7 Bf2 31.Rfb1±]

27.Kh1 Bd4 28.Bd3 Rc6 29.g4 Arsovic,Goran: '!' **29...Rc7**

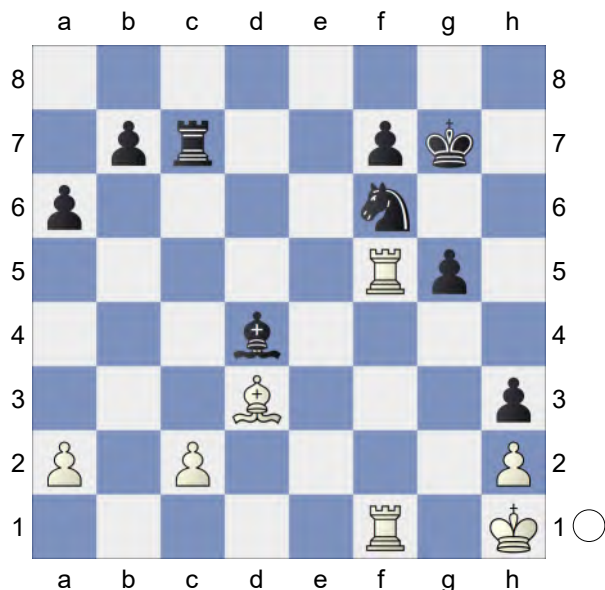
[29...Be3 Arsovic,Goran 30.R1f3 Bg5 31.Rxh3+-]

30.g5! An excellent decision by Wei to trade the g-pawn opens up the position and enables access to the black king.

30...hxg5

[30...Ng8 31.R1f3+-]
[30...Ng4? 31.R5f4 Nxh2 32.Kxh2 Be5 33.gxh6+ Kxh6 34.Kxh3+-]

(Diagram)



31.Rxg5+ Kf8

[31...Kh6 32.Rg3 Be5 33.Rxh3+ Kg7 34.Rf5±]

32.Rg3 Arsovic,Goran: '+-' **32...Nd5**

[32...b5 33.Rxh3 Ng4 34.Rh4 Nf2+ 35.Kg2 Nxd3 36.cxd3 Rc2+ 37.Kf3±]

33.Rxh3 Ne3

[33...Rd7 34.Rh4 Be5 35.Rf5±]

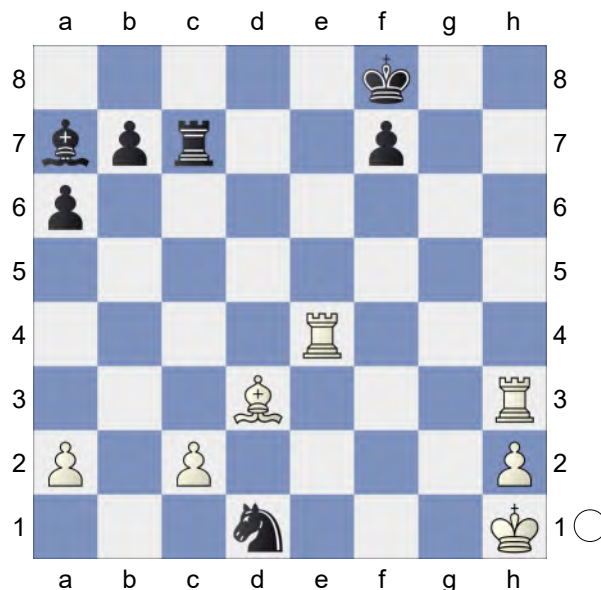
34.Rf4! The defender is fighting an exchange down for no material compensation. All the white pieces are actively taking part in the game. **34...Ba7**

[34...Bb6 35.Rh6 Ba7 36.Rh8+ Kg7 37.Rh7+ Kg8 38.Re4+-]

35.Re4 Nd1

[35...Nxc2 36.Rh8+ Kg7 37.Rh7+! Kxh7 38.Rc4+-]

(Diagram)



36.Rh8+ Kg7 37.Rh7+ Arsovic,Goran: '!' 37...Kf8

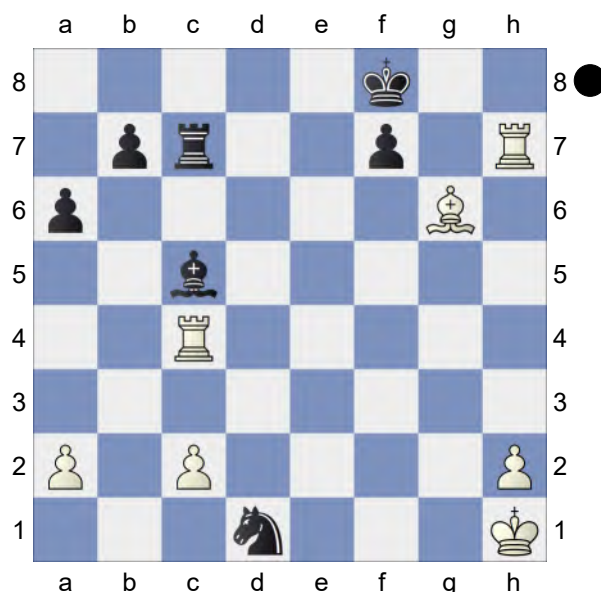
[37...Kxh7 38.Rc4+ Kg7 39.Rxc7 Nf2+ 40.Kg2 Nxd3 41.cxd3+-]
[37...Kf6 38.Rf4+ Ke5 39.Rf5+ Kd4 40.Rhxf7+-]

38.Rc4! Bc5

[38...Rd7 39.Bg6 Ne3 40.Rc8+ Ke7 41.Rxf7+-]

[38...Rxc4 39.Bxc4 Ke7 40.Rxf7+ Kd6 41.Rxb7+-]

39.Bg6



An excellent performance by the

Chinese player and a true setback for any player, who is hoping to play for a win with Black in this line.

1-0

344

Firouzja, Alireza

Wei, Yi

chess.com Junior Speed blitz (3.18)

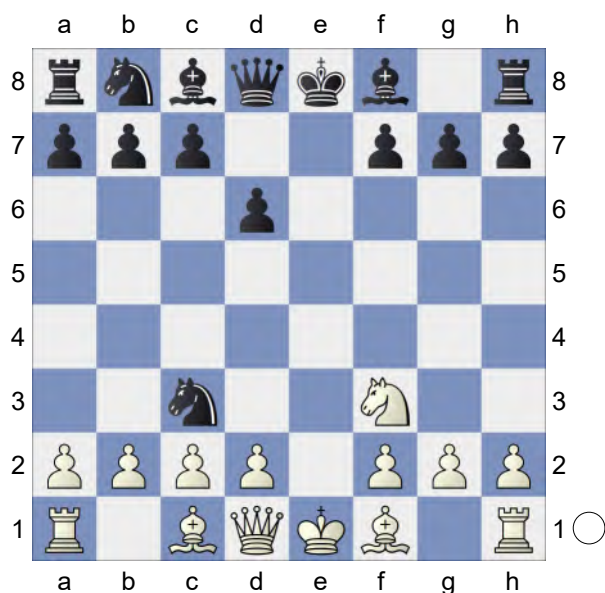
[GM Alex Colovic]

C42

2682

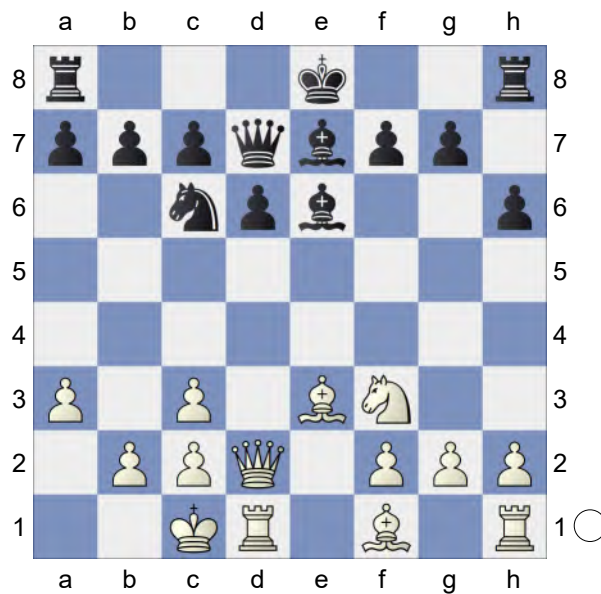
2736

The following games were played as part of the speed-chess online match-up on 28 July 2019. Even though they were blitz games and the quality cannot be expected to be too high, these games featured two of the brightest young talents in the world. Additionally, in speed chess the intuition and easiness of play comes to the fore, thus giving us a better idea how it feels to play these positions with both colours. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Nc3 Nxc3**



6.dxc3 Be7 7.Be3 Nc6 8.Qd2 Be6 9.a3 A peculiar move-order, but soon leading to what we analysed. **9...Qd7 10.0-0-0** Now we reach the position from the famous Karjakin-Caruana game from the Berlin Candidates, analysed in the theoretical section. **10...h6**

(Diagram)



Wei Yi follows Caruana. The main alternative is the move **10...a6. 11.Nd4 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 0-0** In case if **10... a6** this is the right way to play, but here the hook on h6 gives White something to latch onto. I criticised this move in the analytical section, but perhaps things are not that simple. **13.c4** This is a slower approach and it allows Black to consolidate.

[**13.Rg1** is the move I recommended, without going into more depth. White's play is simple: **g4-g5**.]

13...Rae8 Black's plan is to play **...f5** followed by **...Bf6**, thus concentrating all his forces on the kingside. **14.Qc3**

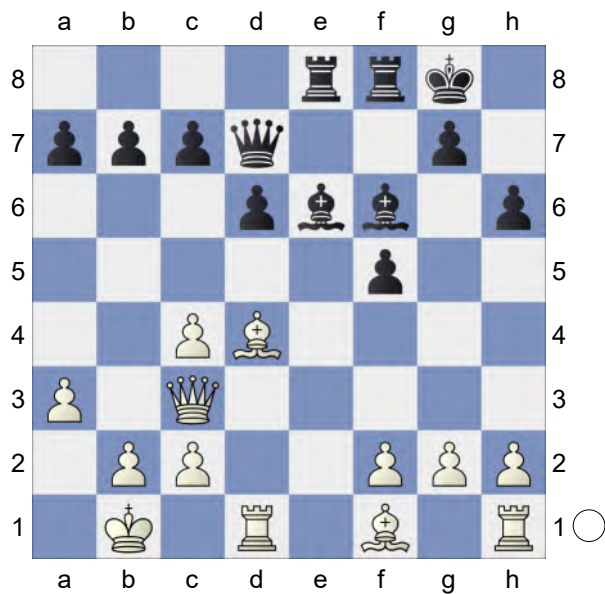
[**14.h4 f5 15.Be2 ΔBh5** is what the engine suggests and then after **...Bf7** to return to **f3**.]

14...f5 15.Kb1[**15.Bxg7?? Bg5+**]

[**15.f4!? Bf6 16.c5** is how the engine pushes forward and it does look annoying for Black with the uncomfortable pressure on the d-file.]

15...Bf6

(Diagram)

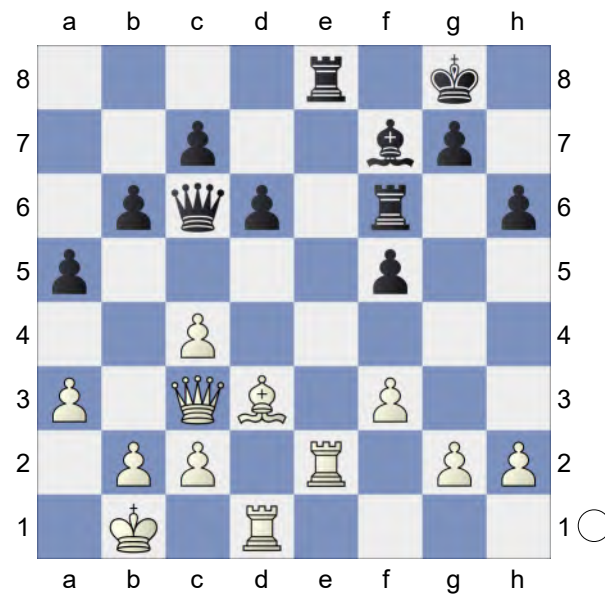


16.Bxf6 Rxf6 17.Bd3 All three games reached this position. **17...Qc6**

[17...b6 was played in the third game and we can assume it should have been an improvement. Black doesn't waste time on ...Qc6 and then recapturing ...Qc6xe8. 18.Rhe1 a5 19.Re2 (19.f3 Bf7 20.Rxe8+ Qxe8 21.Qd4 looks around equal.; 19.b3 is the engine's suggestion, again with an equal position.) 19...Bf7 20.Rxe8+ Qxe8 21.f3 Bg6 (21...Qe3! would have been more annoying for White.) 22.Qd2 Qe7 23.b3 Kf8 24.h4 Re6 25.Rh1 (25.g4!? fxe4 26.Bxe4 Rxe4 27.h5 Rg5 28.fxe4 is again around equal, though White's king is safer than Black's.) 25...Qf6 26.h5 Bf7 27.Qf4? (27.g4) 27...Re5 28.a4 Be6? (28...Bxh5! wins a pawn in view of the back-rank problems White has.) 29.Rd1 Qg5 30.Qxg5 hxe5 31.Rh1 with an equal endgame that eventually Black won. 0-1 (50) Firouzja,A (2682)-Wei Yi (2736) chess.com INT 2019]

18.f3 b6 19.Rhe1 a5 20.Re2 Bf7

(Diagram)



21.Rxe8+ Qxe8 We have the same structure with the same material balance in all 3 games. The position is equal, though playing White seems a tad easier. **22.f4**

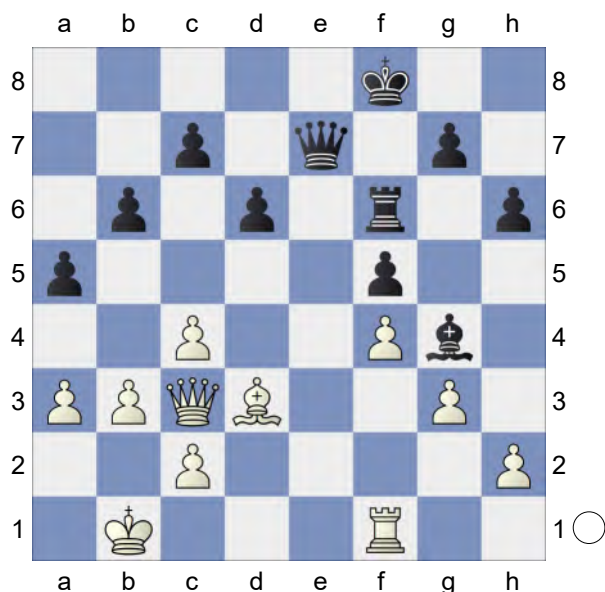
[22.b3 Qe5? This attempt at immediate simplification is a blunder: 23.Qxe5 dxe5 24.Re1 wins a pawn e4 25.fxe4 fxe4 26.Rxe4 Rf2 27.Re7 c5 28.Rb7 Rxe7 (28...Kf8 29.Rxb6 Rxe7 30.h3 Rg3 31.Bf5+-) 29.Rb8+ 1-0 (29) Firouzja,A (2682)-Wei Yi (2736) chess.com INT 2019]

22...Qe7

[22...Qe3!]

23.g3 Kf8 24.b3 Bh5 25.Rf1 Bg4

(Diagram)



This game is the most characteristic one, as in the maneuvering phase White manages to outplay Black from an equal position. **26.Qd4 Re6 27.Qd5 Re1+? Impatience.**

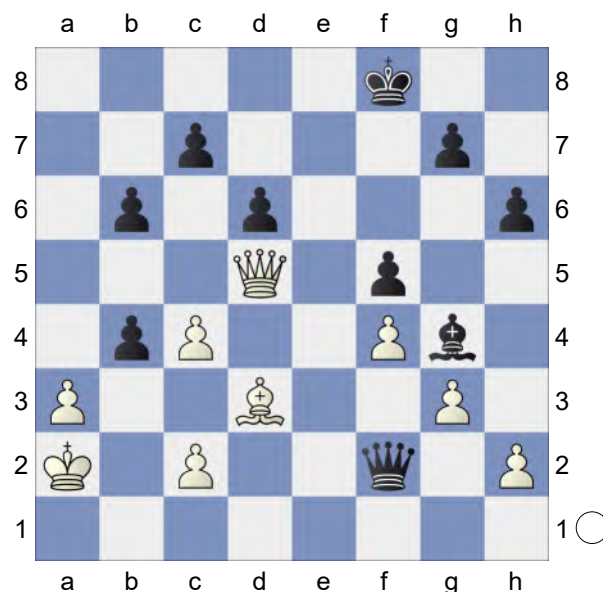
[27...Qf6 28.c5!? dxc5 29.Bc4 poses some problems Be2 (29...Re4 looks scary to allow the check from g8, but Black is OK 30.Qg8+ Ke7 31.Qc8 Qd6) 30.Qxe6 Qxe6 31.Bxe6 Bxf1 32.Bxf5=]

28.Rxe1 Qxe1+ 29.Ka2± The endgame is difficult for Black because of his more exposed king and weak queenside pawns. **29...Qf2 30.b4** This is also possible.

[30.Qc6 Qc5 31.Qd7 Black is paralysed to the defence of c7 and f7. Bh3 32.a4! preventing ... a4 ideas. Bg4 33.Qe6 Bh3 34.Be2! ΔBh5 Bg4 35.Bxg4 fxg4 36.Qxg4 winning a pawn with what should be a winning endgame.]

30...axb4

(Diagram)



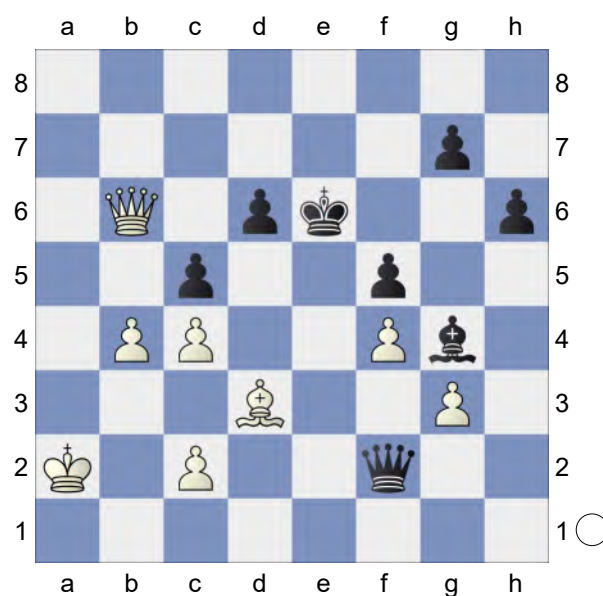
31.axb4 Qxh2? This leaves the queen offside. Even taking on g3 won't help Black much because his kingside pawns are more difficult to set in motion than White's on the queenside. **32.Qa8+**

[32.Qb7!+-]

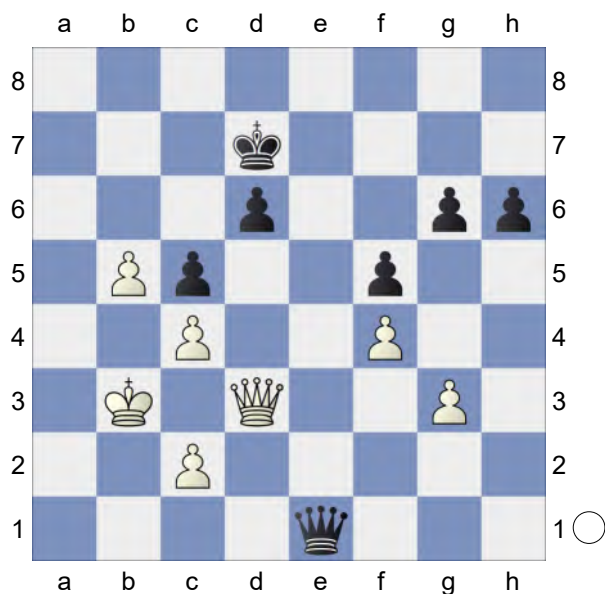
32...Ke7 33.Qc8?!

[33.c5!]

33...c5! 34.Qc7+ Ke6 35.Qxb6 Qf2



36.b5 Be2 37.Qc6 Bxd3 38.Qd5+ Kd7 39.Qxd3 g6 This should be around equal, but still easier for White with the protected passed pawn. **40.Kb3**

Qe1

41.c3 Qc1 42.Qc2 Qxc2+?

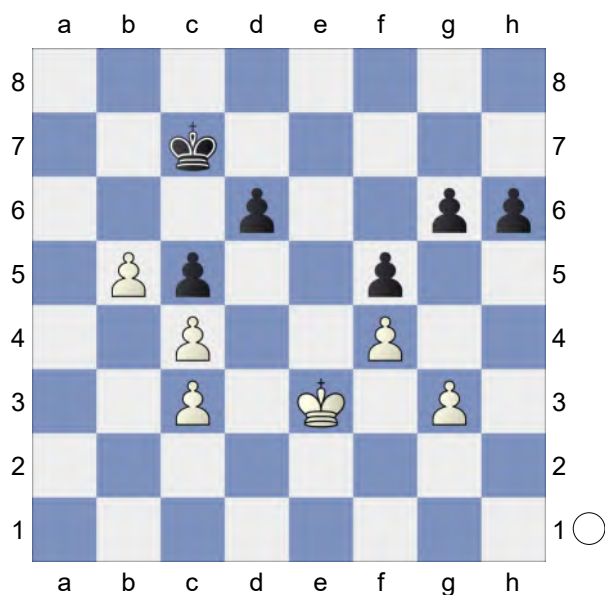
Making things more complicated for himself.

[42...Qf1=]

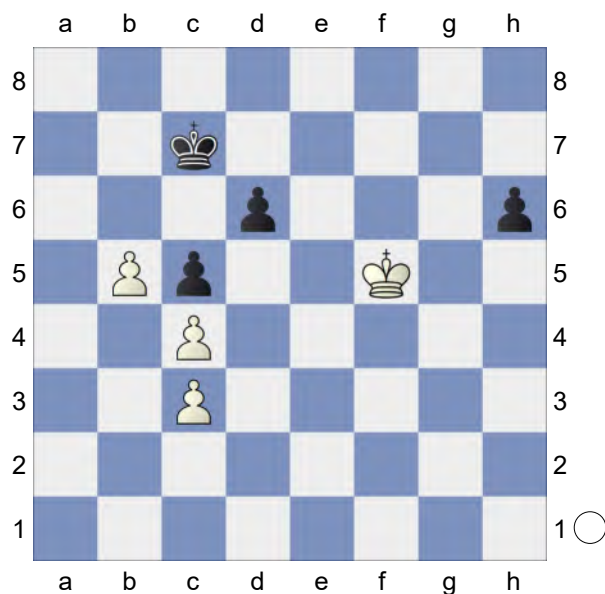
43.Kxc2 Kc7??

[43...g5 44.g4! fxc4 45.fxc5 g3 46.gxh6 g2 47.h7 g1Q 48.h8Q Qf2+ 49.Kb3 Qf1 with a probably drawn queen endgame.]

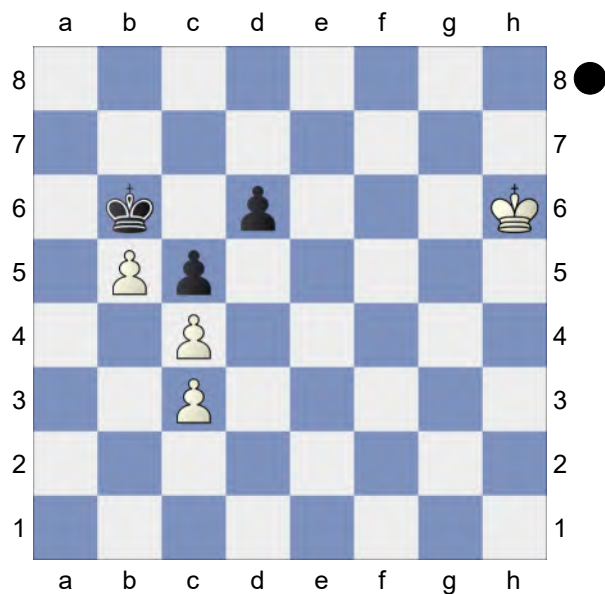
44.Kd3+- Kb6 45.Ke3 Kc7



46.Kf3 Δg4 46...g5 47.g4! fxg4+ 48.Kxg4 gxf4 49.Kxf4 Kb6 50.Kf5

Kc7

51.Kg6 Kb6 52.Kxh6

**1-0**

161

□ Wei, Yi

■ Bromberger, S.

Masters Open 2015 (6.29)

[GM Davorin Kuljasevic]

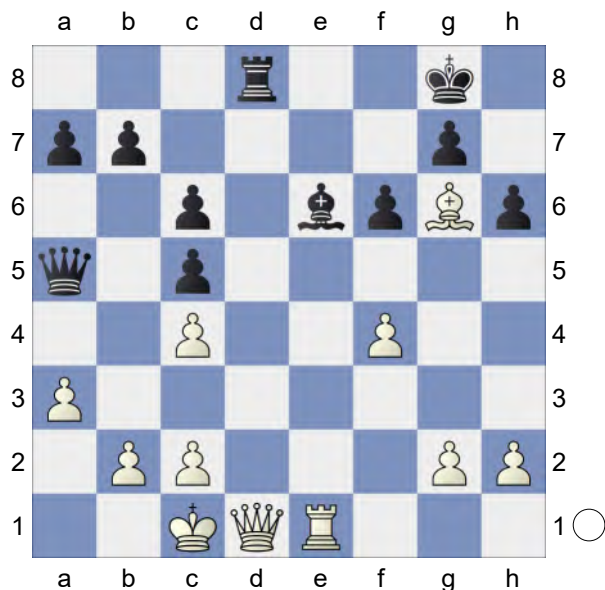
C42

2730

2521

26.12.2015

Diagram



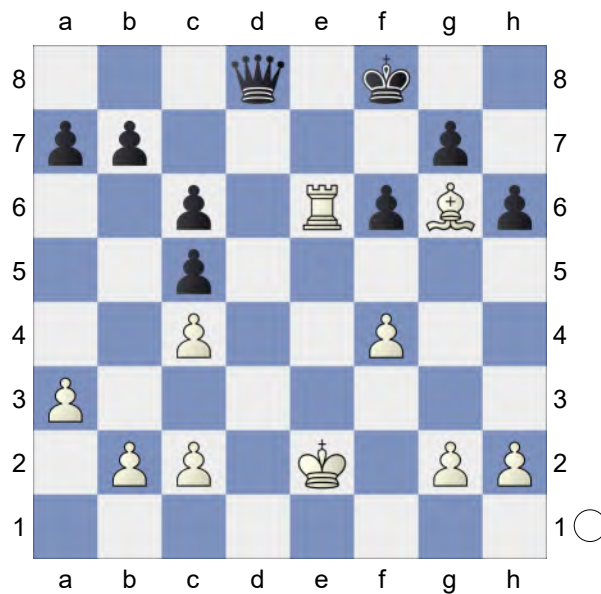
In this position most mere mortals would simply continue 22.Qe2 with a much better position, indeed (see variation 22.Qe2). But Wei Yi proves once more his exceptional calculation abilities with the stunning queen sacrifice: **22.Rxe6!!**

[22.Qe2 Bf7 23.Bxf7+ Kxf7 24.Qe7+ Kg6 25.c3 etc. should be winning for white with proper play.]

22...Rxd1+ 23.Kxd1 Qd8+ 24.Ke2 Kf8

Diagram

(Diagram)

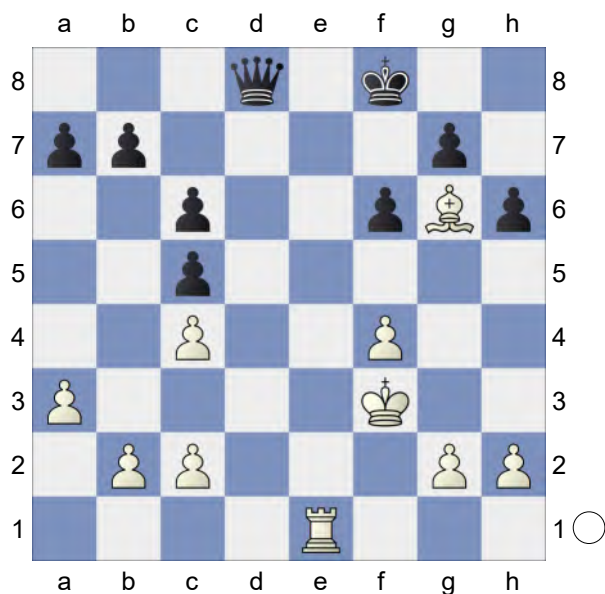


The point of queen sacrifice was that black queen and king are completely tied down to the 8th rank. But how does white improve his position in this symmetrical pawn structure? The answer is: **25.Kf3!** intending to march his king to h5, trade into the pawn endgame on e8, and invade g6 square. A brilliant concept! **25...Qd7**

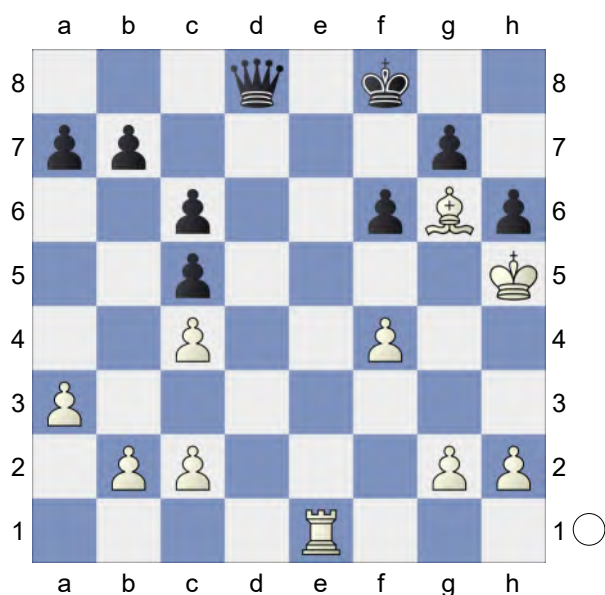
[The check 25...Qd1+ does not change anything. The game could continue 26.Kg3 Qd7 27.Re1 Qd8 28.Kh4 with Kh5 regardless.]

26.Re1 Qd8

(Diagram)



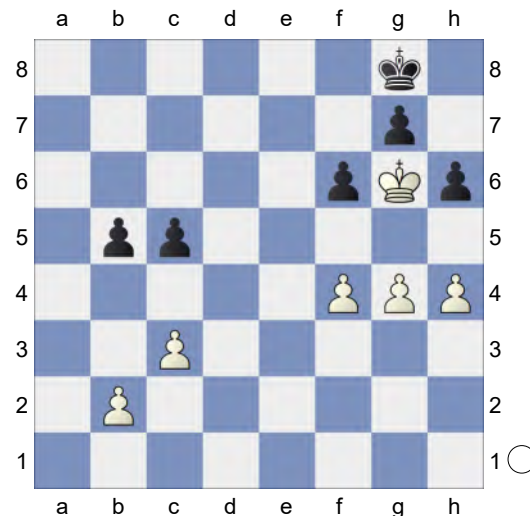
27.Kg4 Qd7+ 28.Kh5 Qd8 Diagram



White has achieved his ideal setup, but before he completes the last step of his plan, he makes sure to restrict black's pawn tempi in the upcoming pawn endgame with: **29.a4!**

[However, direct 29.Re8+!? Qxe8 30.Bxe8 Kxe8 31.Kg6 was winning as well. For example: Kf8 32.g4 Kg8 33.h4 b6 34.a4 a6 35.c3 b5 36.cxb5 cxb5 37.axb5 axb5 Diagram

(Diagram)



38.b3! b4 39.c4+- and black is in zugzwang.]

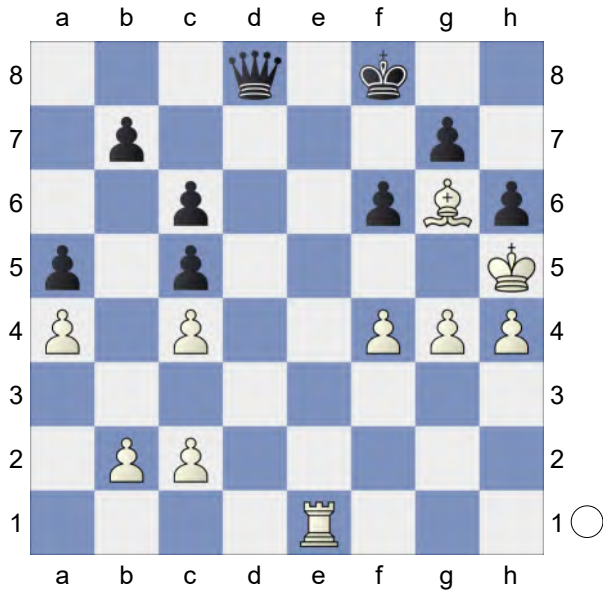
29...a5 Nothing could save black any more.

[Two other possibilities were: 29...b6 30.g4 Qd7 31.h4 Qd8 32.Re8+ Qxe8 33.Bxe8 Kxe8 34.Kg6 Kf8 35.Kh7 Kf7 36.g5 hxg5 37.hxg5 fxg5 38.fxg5 a6 39.b3 a5 40.c3+-] [and 29...Qd7 30.a5 b6 31.a6 Qd8 32.g4 b5 33.Re8+ Qxe8 34.Bxe8 Kxe8 35.Kg6 Kf8 36.h3 Kg8 37.h4 Kf8 38.Kh7 Kf7 39.g5 fxg5 40.fxg5 hxg5 41.hxg5 bxc4 42.c3+- In both cases black's fate is decided by the saved pawn tempo c2-c3.]

30.g4 Qd7 31.h4 White has all the time in the world to improve his position.

31...Qd8 Diagram

(Diagram)

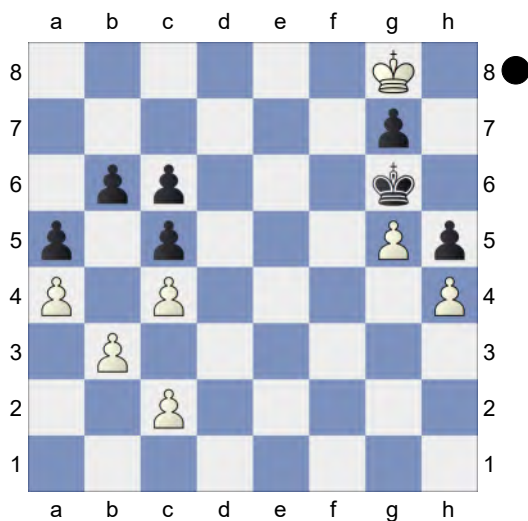


32.Re8+ Qxe8 33.Bxe8 Kxe8 34.Kg6 Kf8 35.Kh7! King's invasion has been successful. **35...Kf7 36.g5**

[The winning variations are a mirror image of the game Gledura-Anand: 36.g5

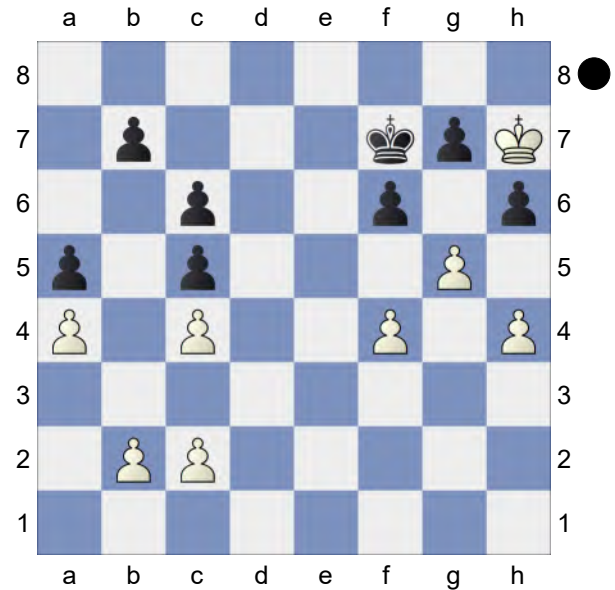
A) 36...hxc5 37.hxc5 f5 38.Kh8! Kg6 (38...Kf8 39.g6+-) 39.Kg8+-;

B) 36...fxg5 37.fxg5 h5 (37...hxc5 38.hxc5+-) 38.Kh8 b6 39.b3 Kg6 40.Kg8+- Diagram



]

(Diagram)



and black finally resigned.
1-0

135

□ Wei, Yi

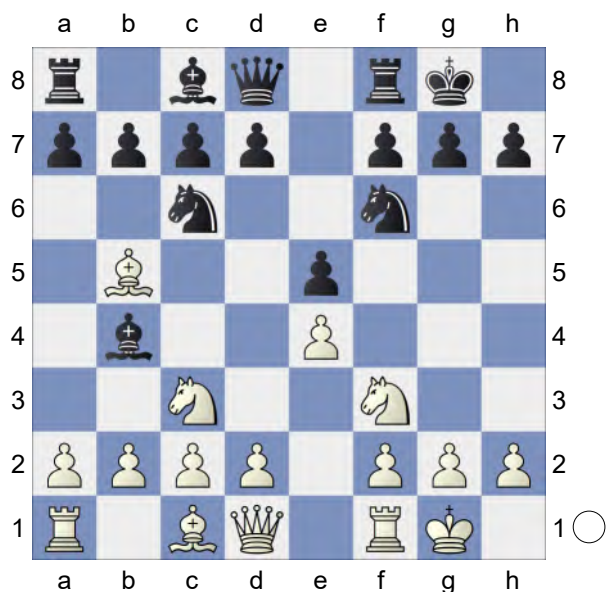
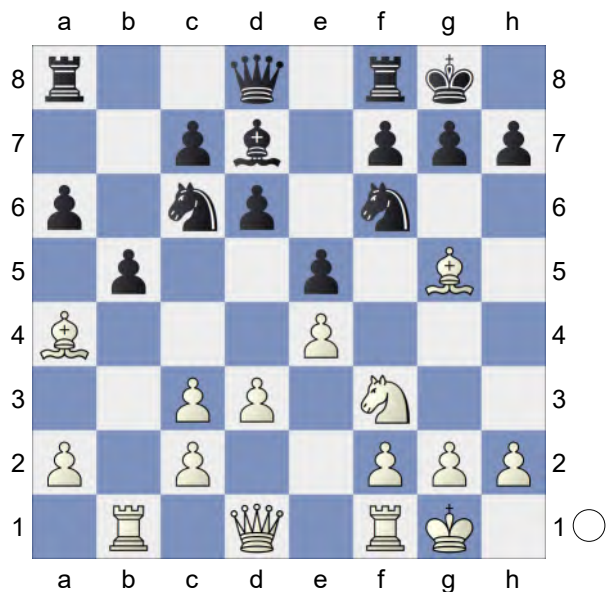
■ Bu, Xiangzhi

Yinzhou Cup 2018 rapid (4.2) 27.06.2018
[GM Ioannis Papaioannou]

C49

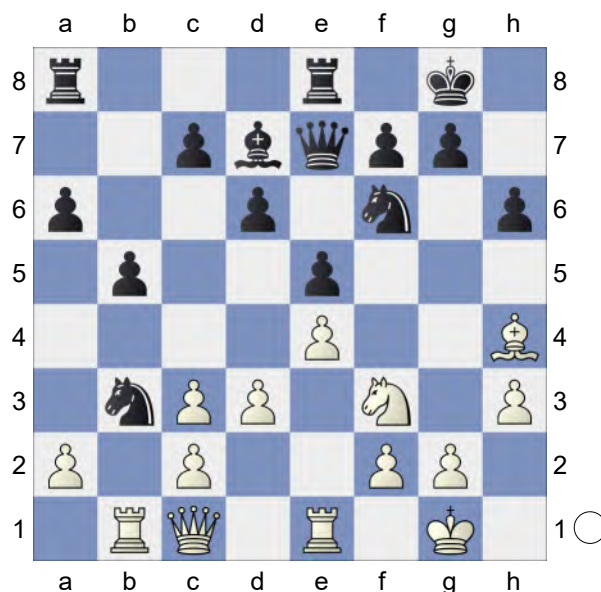
2734

2718

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bb5
Bb4 5.0-0 0-06.d3 Bxc3 7.bxc3 d6 8.Bg5 Bd7!?
9.Rb1 Preventing Ne7 for the moment.
9...a6 10.Ba4 b5

11.Bb3 h6 12.Bh4 Na5 13.h3 Re8

14.Qc1 Qe7 15.Re1 Nxb3



16.cxb3 Qe6 17.Qd1

[17.d4?! Nh5↑]

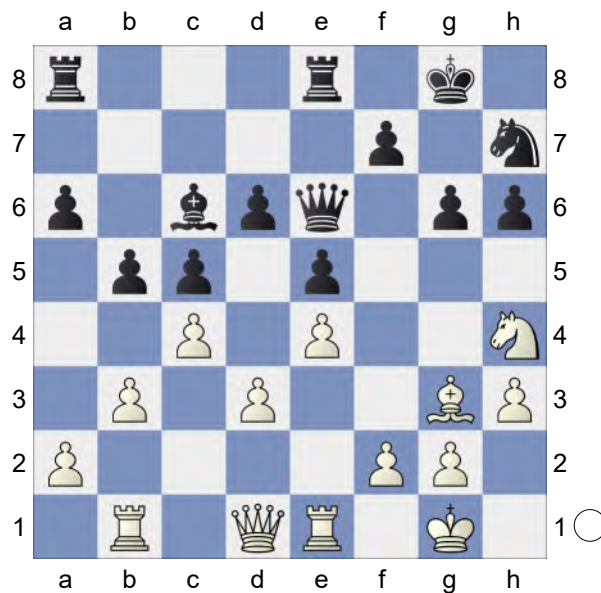
17...c5 18.Bg3 Bc6

[18...a5!↑]

19.c4 Nh7?!

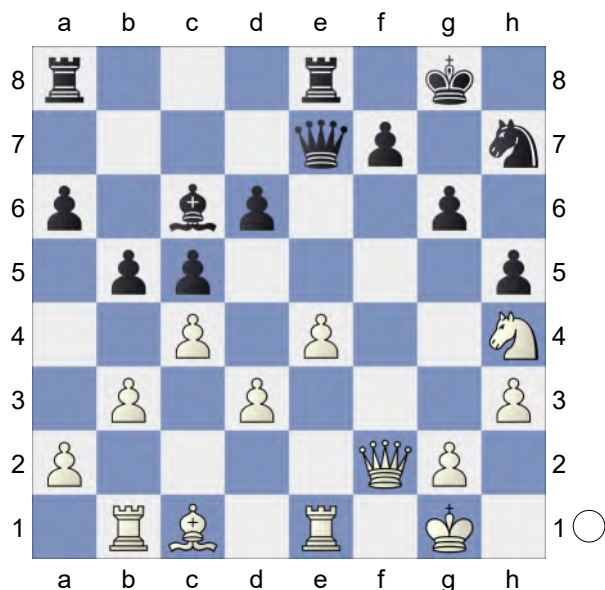
[19...b4!↗]

20.Nh4 g6?

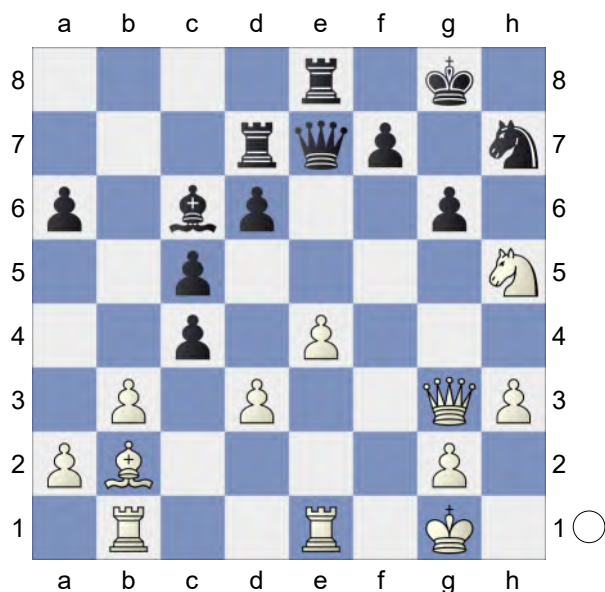
[20...Nf8! 21.Nf5 Ng6= , followed by
an eventual Ne7 to challenge
White's dominant knight, would still
have been good enough for equality.]

21.Qd2 h5? With these two pawn moves, Black has weakened the dark squares around his king considerably.

22.f4!± White now has an irresistible attack. **22...exf4 23.Bxf4 Qe7 24.Qf2 Kh8 25.Bc1 Kg8**

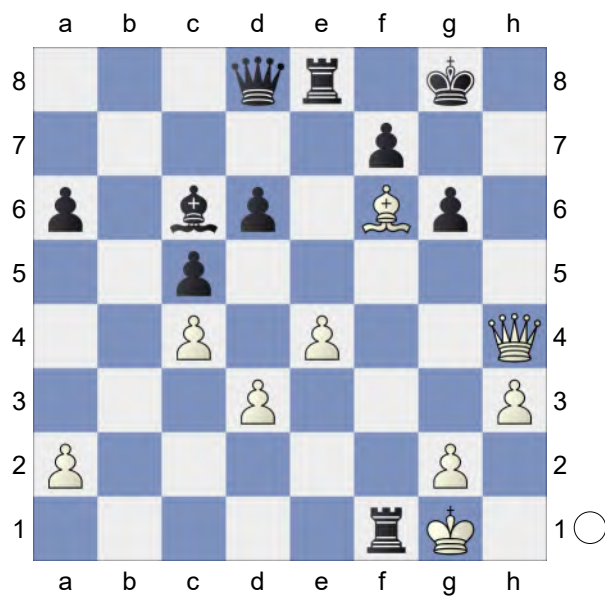


26.Qg3 Rad8 27.Nf5 Qe6 28.Bb2+- Rd7 29.Ng7 Qe7 30.Nxh5 bxc4

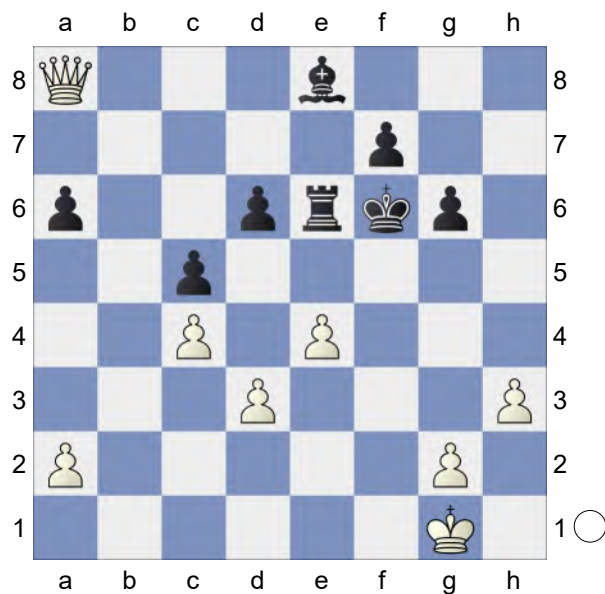


31.bxc4 Rb7 32.Rf1 Qd8 33.Nf6+ Nxf6 34.Bxf6 Rxb1 35.Qh4 Rxf1+

(Diagram)

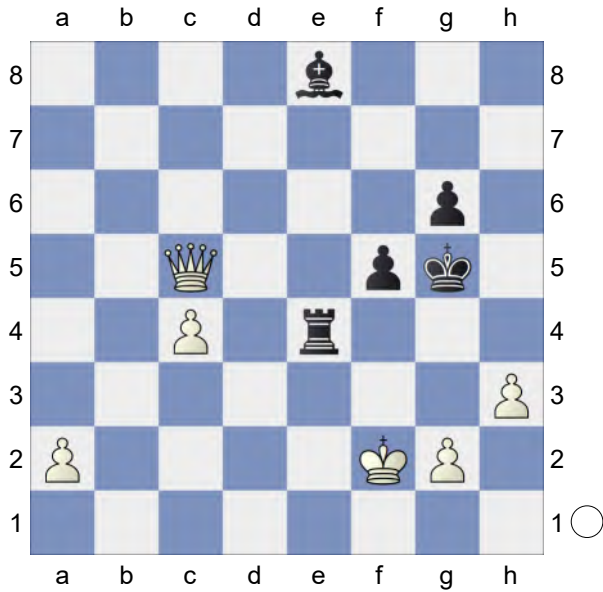


36.Kxf1 Qxf6+ 37.Qxf6 Re6 38.Qd8+ Be8 39.Qa8 Kg7 40.Kg1 Kf6

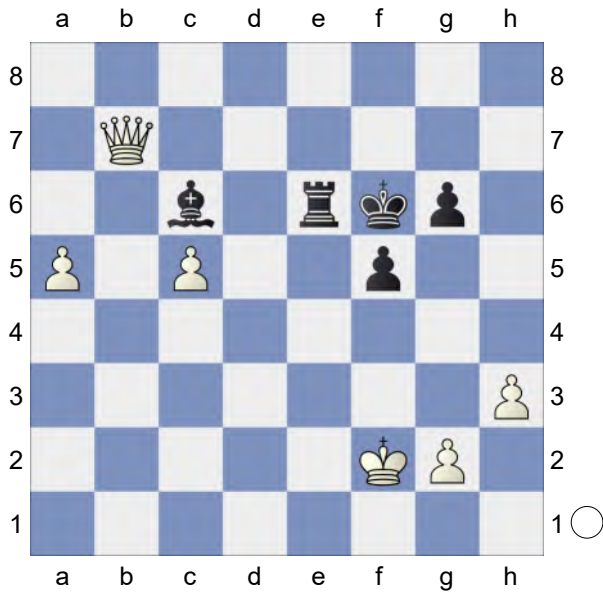


41.Kf2 Kg5 42.Qxa6 d5 43.Qc8 dxe4 44.Qxc5+ f5 45.dxe4 Rxe4

(Diagram)

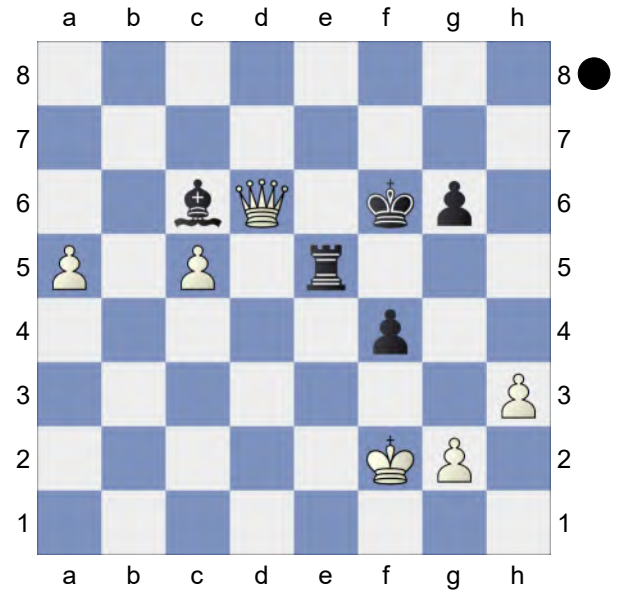


46.Qd5 Kf6 47.c5 Re6 48.a4 Ke7 1-0
49.Qb7+ Kf6 50.a5 Bc6



51.Qb2+ Re5 52.Qd4 f4 53.Qd6+

(Diagram)



434

□ Zhao Zong Yuan

■ Wei, Yi

Chinese Teams 2013 (22.4) 24.12.2013

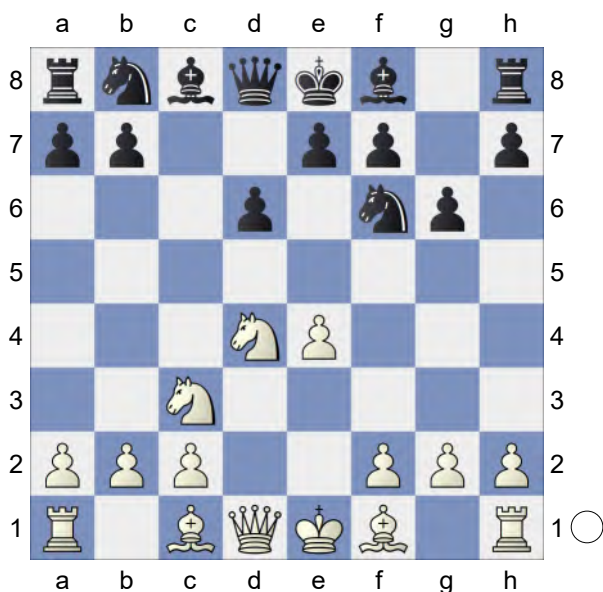
[GM Nikolai Ninov]

B70

2579

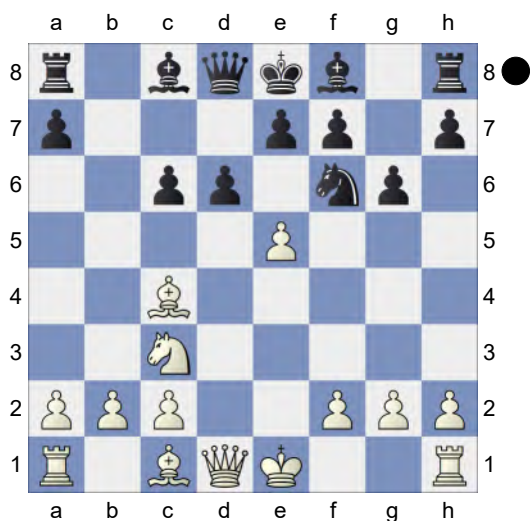
2604

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 g6



At the end of our series on Dragon, we are going to examine the move 6.Bc4 followed by 0-0. **6.Bc4 Bg7**

[Black should avoid the move 6...Nc6 because of 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.e5 Diagram



It's difficult to say that Black is in trouble here but there is no point in studying additional information.]

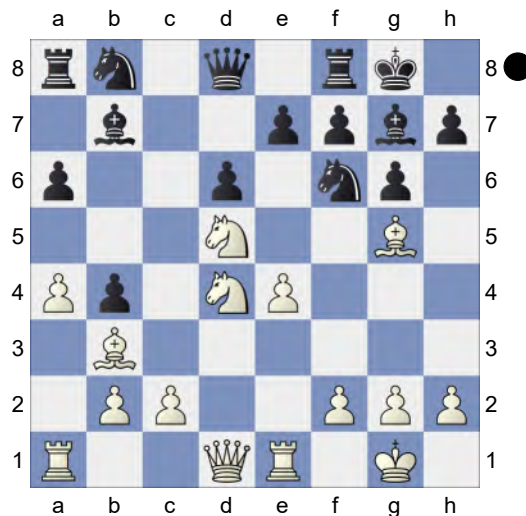
7.0-0 0-0 8.Re1

[Sometimes, White gives preference to 8.h3 which leads to transposition to the main line after Nc6 9.Re1 Nevertheless, Black could have played 8...a6 with the idea "b7-b5" followed by Bb7 and Nbd7. In this case, Black's position is very flexible.]

8...Nc6

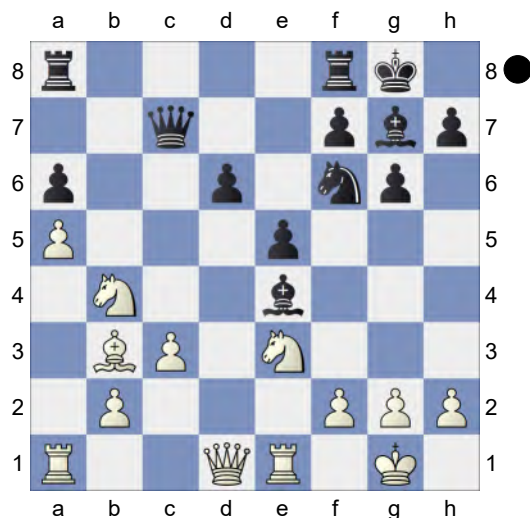
[8...a6 is possible here. Nevertheless, Black should take into consideration the fact that in the fight for the center, the move 8.Re1 is much more useful than 8.h3. Here is a fresh example: 9.Bg5

A) Black often plays 9...b5 but after 10.Bb3 Bb7 11.a4 b4 12.Nd5 Diagram



White's initiative shouldn't be underestimated. I bring to you attention two victories of the English grandmaster Emms: Nbd7 13.Nxb4 Qb6 14.c3 Bxe4 (14...e5 15.a5 Qc7 16.Bxf6 Nxf6 17.Ndc2 Bxe4 18.Ne3 Diagram

(Diagram)



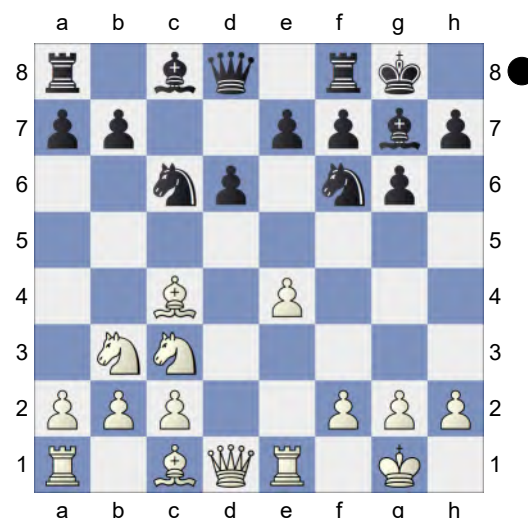
Black's weakness on "a6" has decided the outcome of the game, Emms - Trent, 2002 Qc5 19.Ng4 Nxg4 20.Qxg4 Bb7 21.Red1 Ra7 22.Bd5 Bc8 23.Qf3 Qc7 24.Qe3 Kh8 25.Qb6 f5 26.Bf3 e4 27.Qxc7 Rxc7 28.Be2 Be5 29.Bxa6) 15.a5 Qc5 16.Qd2 Rfe8 17.Ba4 Bb7 18.Ndc6 e6 19.Be3 Ne4 20.Qc2 Qf5 21.Nd4 Bxd4 22.Bxd4 e5 23.Be3 Rec8 24.f3 Nec5 25.Qxf5 gxf5 26.Bxd7 Nxd7 27.Rad1 White has a tremendous pressure, Emms - Mestel, 1997.;

B) 9...Qc7 10.Bb3 e6 A suspicious idea. Generally, we should avoid the combination "g7-g6" and "e7-e6". 11.Qd2 Nc6 12.Nf3 b5 13.Rad1 Rd8 14.Qf4 In addition to the weak pawn on "d6", White has managed to create an annoying pin along the "h2-b8" diagonal. Qe7 15.Bd5! Bb7 16.Bxc6! Bxc6 17.e5! dxe5 18.Nxe5 Bb7 19.Rxd8+ Qxd8 20.Rd1 Qe7 21.Rd7! Nxd7 22.Bxe7 Bxe5 23.Qd2 White has managed to convert his material advantage in the game Solodovnichenko - Hauge, Oslo,

2014.]

9.h3

[The alternative 9.Nb3 Diagram



illustrates one of the subtleties of White's move order. White is ready to play the standard Bf1 while the central break "d6-d5" is impossible. Maybe, Black should play a5!? (If 9...a6 then 10.Bf1) Δ10.a4 Be6 In the game Zagratsky - Afek, White followed with 11.Bxe6 fxe6 12.Nb5 and here, instead of the anti-positional e5?! which takes the "e5" square from the knight and at the same time kills the bishop on "g7" (Black should have played 12...Qc8 overprotecting the "e6" pawn which controls the key "d5" square. Later, Black can go for a maneuver like Nh5-f4. The move 13.N3d4 is well met by Nxd4 14.Nxd4 Ng4! With favourable for Black complications.)]

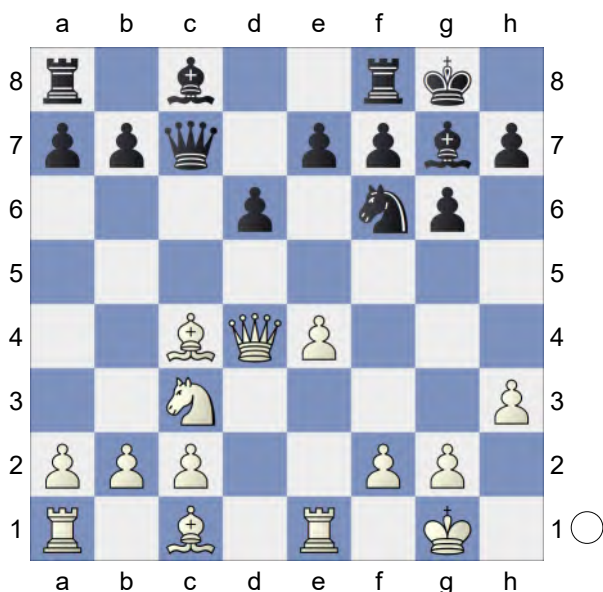
[The straightforward 9.Bb3 doesn't pose problems for Black. Good option is Na5 followed by b7-b6 and Bb7.]

9...Nxd4

[Like in the most of the cases in Dragon variation, Black tries to exchange a pair of knights. In the

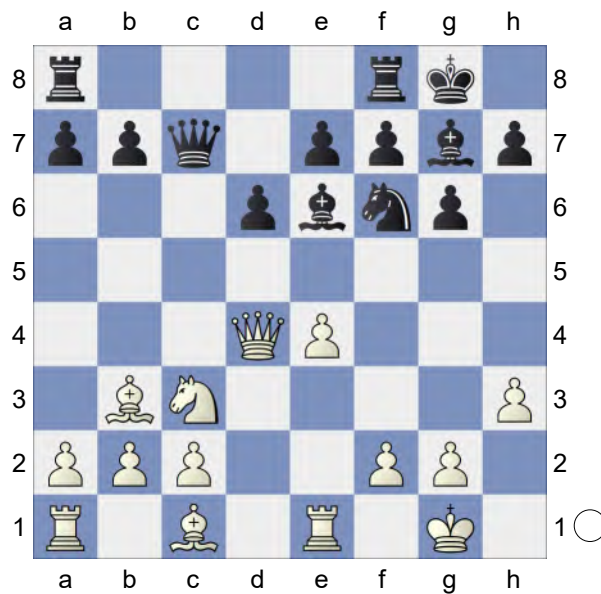
game Kveynis - Migo, 2014, he proceeded with normal developing moves but didn't manage to go out of the opening after: 9...a6 10.Bb3 (10.Bf1!?) 10...Bd7 (10...Na5) 11.Bg5 Rc8 12.Nxc6 Bxc6 13.Qd2 Re8 14.Rad1 b5 15.Nd5 Nd7 16.Nxe7+! Rxe7 17.Qxd6 Bf8 18.e5!! A quite and beautiful continuation of the attack. Re6 19.Qxe6 fxe6 20.Bxe6+ Kg7 21.Bxd8 Rxd8 22.Bxd7 Rxd7 23.Rxd7+ Bxd7 24.e6 1-0]

10.Qxd4 Qc7

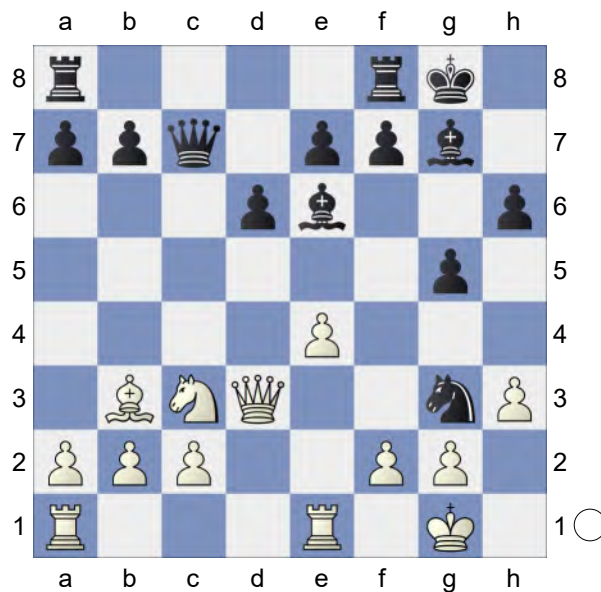


11.Bb3 Be6 Diagram

(Diagram)

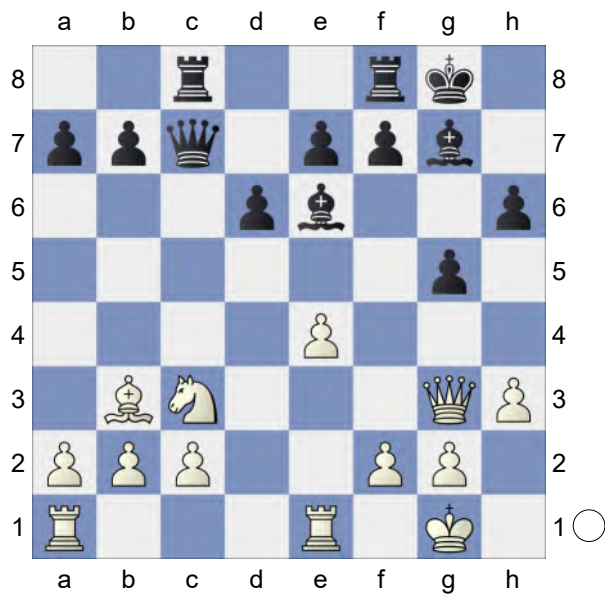


Again, the bishop goes to it's normal position. As shows the game Grozpeter - Kan, 1999, this move is justified from a tactical point of view. The game followed with 12.Bg5 h6 13.Bh4 g5! 14.Bg3 Nh5 15.Qd3 Nxg3



16.Qxg3 Rac8 Diagram

(Diagram)



Black has very comfortable position. "d5" square is under control and Black's dark-squared bishop has no opponent along the long diagonal. With this nice position, we finish our series on Dragon. I wish you a lot of success in your own games!

1-0

31

□ Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar

■ Wei, Yi

FIDE World Cup (3.3)

[GM Swapnil Dhopade]

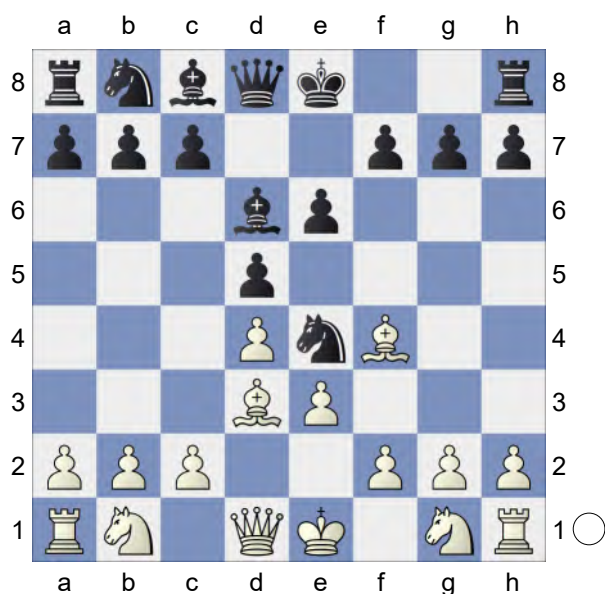
A45

2775

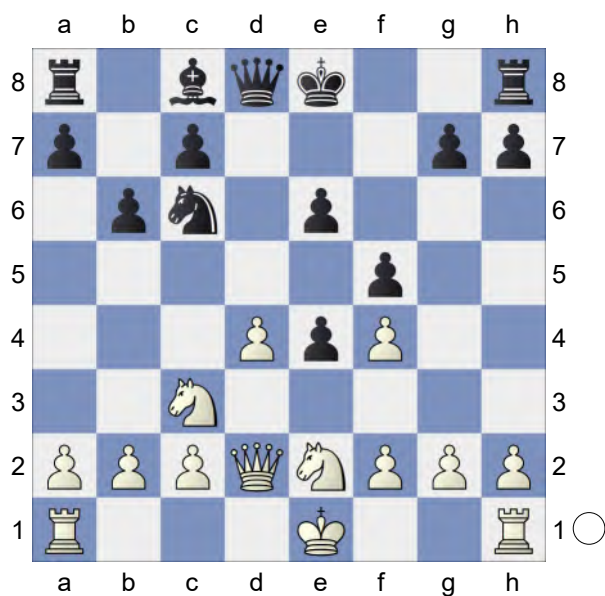
2551

19.08.2013

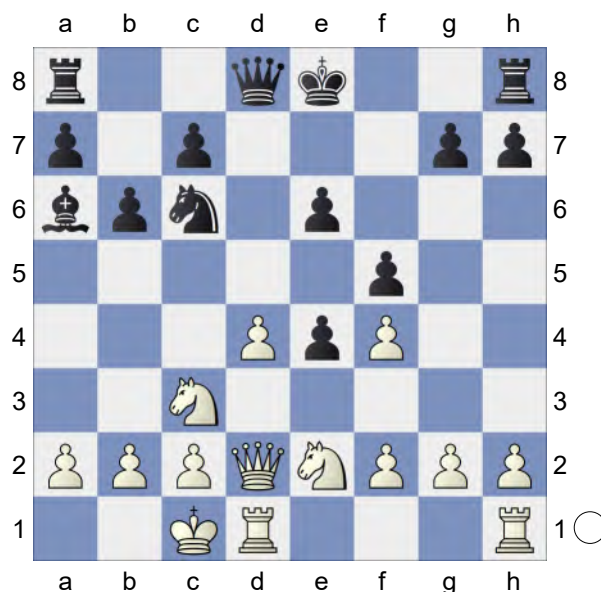
1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 Ne4 3.Bf4 d5 4.e3
e6 5.Bd3 Bd6



6.Bxe4! This exchange always creates an imbalance. 6...Bxf4 7.exf4 dxe4 8.Nc3 Nc6 9.Nge2 f5 10.Qd2 White prepares to 0-0-0. 10...b6



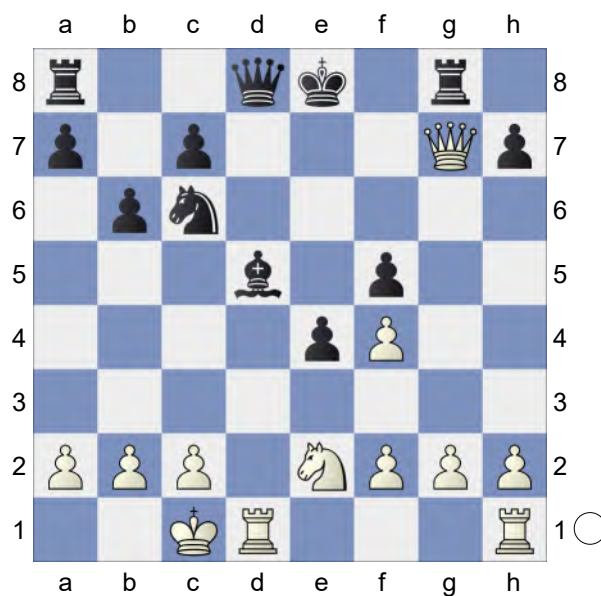
11.0-0-0 Ba6



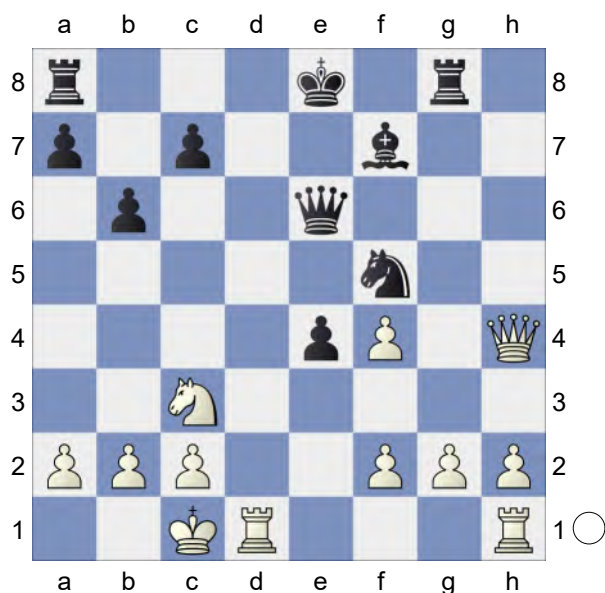
12.d5! It is generally advised to open up the centre if your king is stuck in the centre. 12...exd5 13.Nxd5 Bc4 14.Qc3?!

[14.Nec3 was simpler and stronger to continue for White. The next plan is to play Qe3 followed by f3. For example, 0-0 15.Qe3 Qc8 16.f3 exf3 17.Qxf3+- White enjoys a huge advantage due to the dominating knight on d5.]

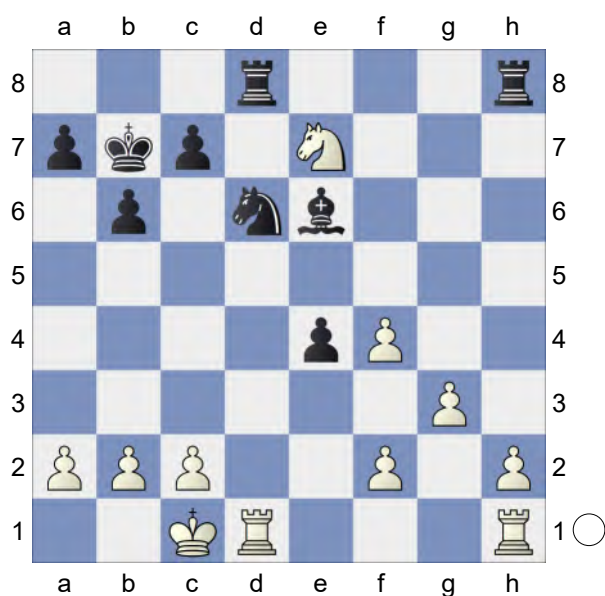
14...Bxd5 15.Qxg7 Rg8



16.Qxh7 Qd6 17.Qxf5 White has won a lot of pawns but things are not so clear yet. **17...Ne7 18.Qh5+ Bf7 19.Qh4 Qe6** Black is in control and this position is clearly better for Black, but after a lot of ups and downs White finally managed to win it. **20.Nc3 Nf5**

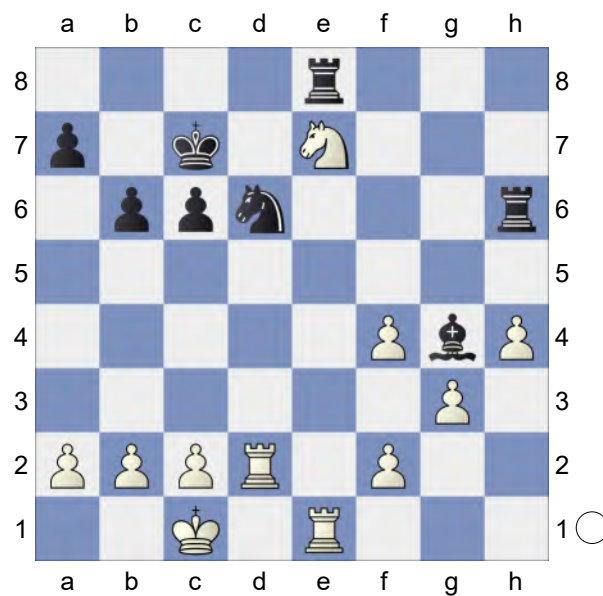


21.Qh3 Nd6 22.Qxe6+ Bxe6 23.g3 0-0-0 24.Nd5 Rh8 25.Ne7+ Kb7

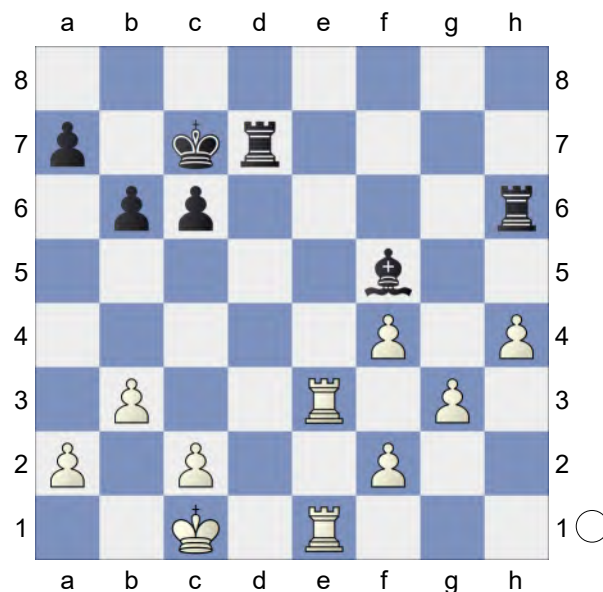


26.h4 Bg4 27.Rd2 Rh6 28.Re1 c6 29.Rxe4 Re8 30.Re1 Kc7

(Diagram)

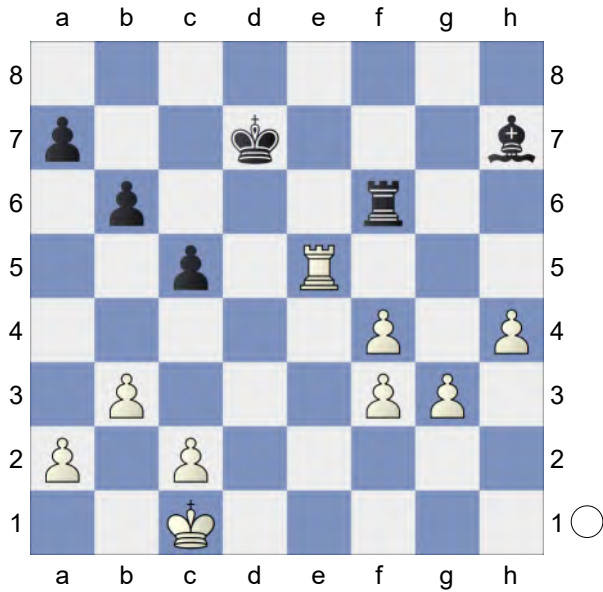


31.Rd3 Be6 32.Rxd6 Rxe7 33.Rd3 Rg7 34.b3 Bf5 35.Rde3 Rd7

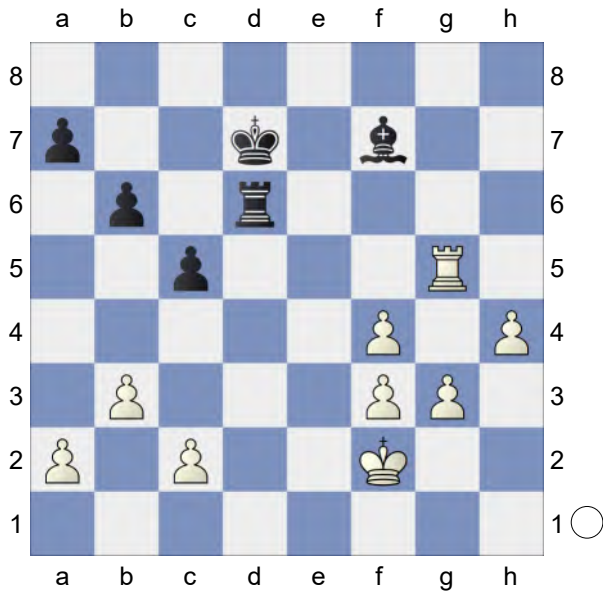


36.Re5 Rf6 37.f3 Bh7 38.Re7 Kd6 39.Rxd7+ Kxd7 40.Re5 c5

(Diagram)

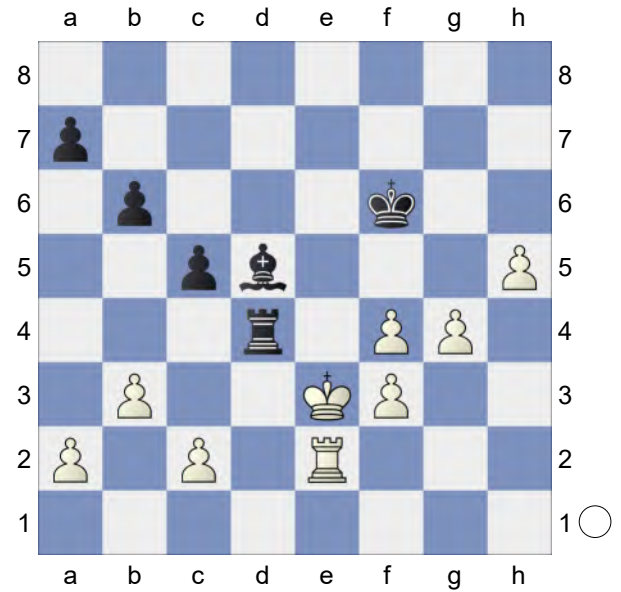


**41.Rh5 Bg8 42.Kd2 Rd6+ 43.Ke3
Re6+ 44.Kf2 Rd6 45.Rg5 Bf7**

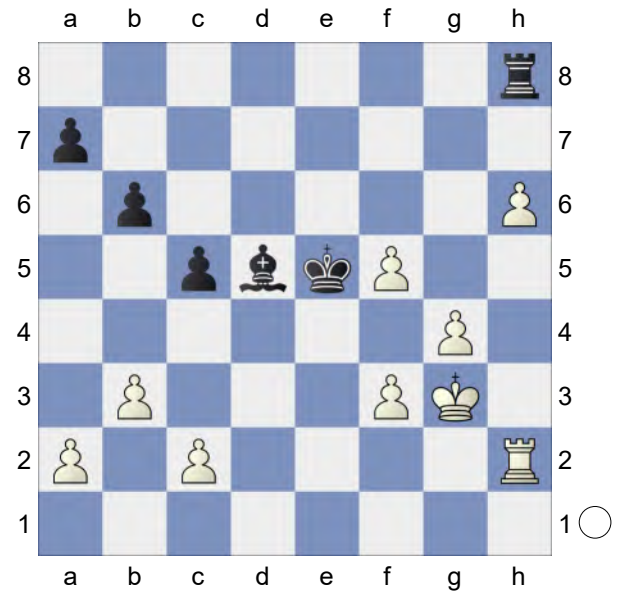


**46.Re5 Rd2+ 47.Re2 Rd4 48.Ke3
Ke6 49.g4 Kf6 50.h5 Bd5**

(Diagram)

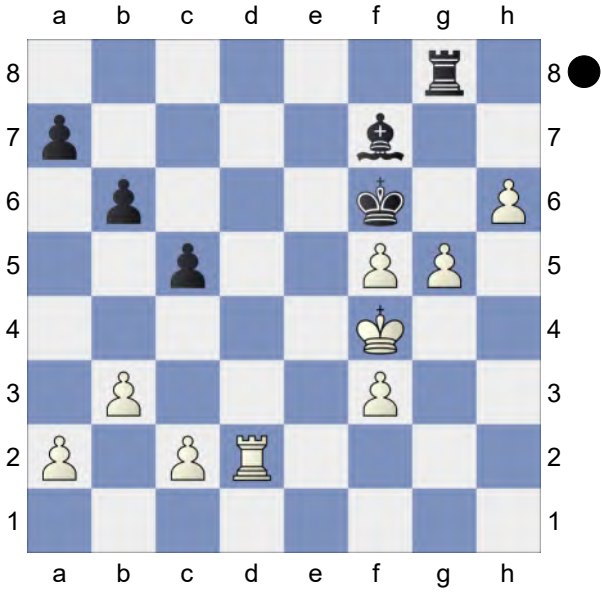


**51.Rh2 Rd1 52.h6 Re1+ 53.Kf2 Re8
54.f5 Rh8 55.Kg3 Ke5**



**56.Re2+ Kf6 57.Kf4 Rg8 58.Rd2 Bf7
59.g5+**

(Diagram)



1-0

522

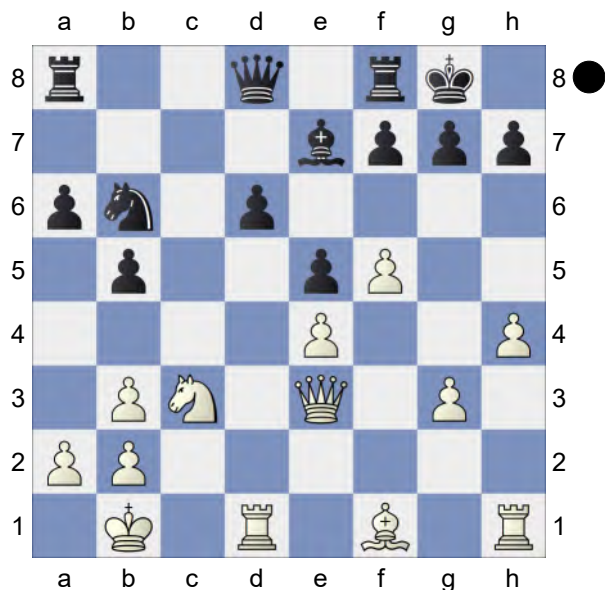
□ Ni, Hua

■ Wei, Yi

CHN-chT 6th Chiva

[GM Valeriy Aveskulov]

2010



Older engines evaluated this position as $\pm$ but Stockfish 14 is more confident and gives about +2.5 for White. Nevertheless, the following Black's move is a huge strategic mistake. **16...b4?** GM Grigorov/GM Aveskulov

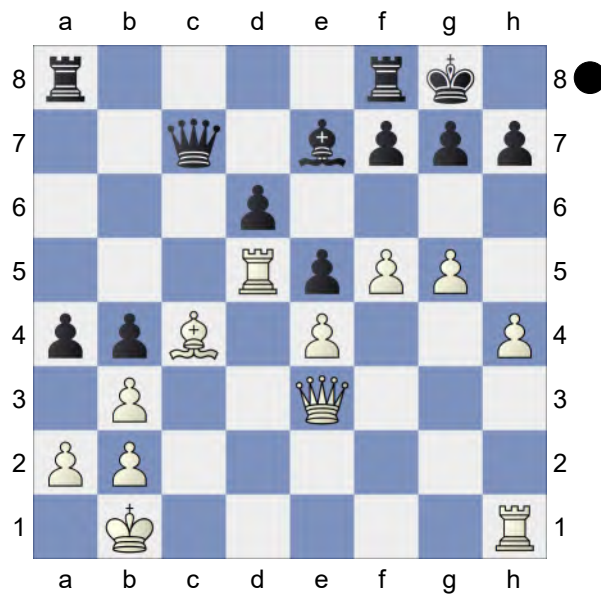
[16...Rc8 17.g4 f6 was the better way to defend.]

17.Nd5 Nxd5 18.Rxd5 a5 There are no chances to get a severe attack on the queenside. A more critical factor is a loss of control over the c4-square. From there White bishop will strongly support the kingside attack. **19.g4** White simply pushes his pawns forward. **19...Qc7**

[Surely, the pawn on h4 can not be taken for free: 19...Bxh4? 20.Qh3+-]

20.g5 a4 21.Bc4

(Diagram)



Ra5? Simplifies the White's attack.

[Black had to try 21...Kh8 with an idea of f7-f6. Of course, it also does not save the game, but White would have at least some difficulties with a choice.

A) after 22.f6 Black already can take the pawn. GM Grigorov/GM Aveskulov: 'Black already can take the pawn.' gxf6 23.gxf6 (instead 23.Rd2! gives White has a strong initiative; fxg5 is never good due to the opening of the h-file. GM Grigorov/GM Aveskulov: 'gives White a strong initiative; fxg5 is never good due to the opening of the h-file.') 23...Bxf6 with practical chances to survive.;

B) 22.h5 f6 23.g6 h6 24.Rc1+- Black's position is so terrible that even the endgame with only bishops left on the board will be lost for him (White will easily organize a passed pawn on the queenside). GM Grigorov/GM Aveskulov: 'Black's position is so terrible that even the endgame with only bishops left on the board will be lost for him (White will easily organize a

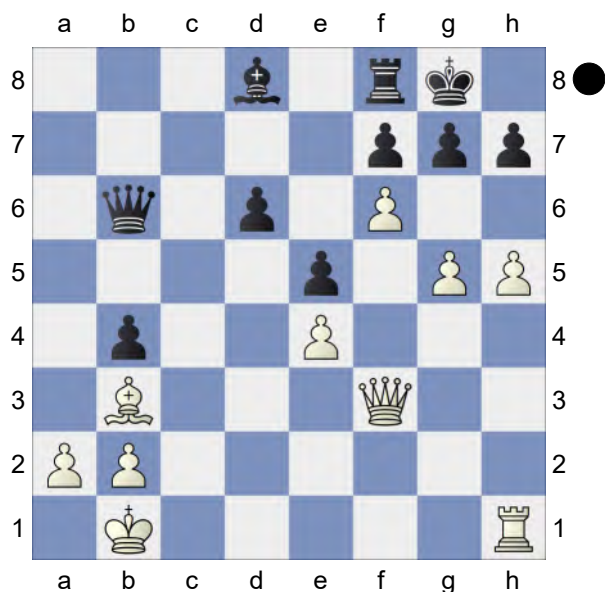
passed pawn on the queenside).']

22.f6! The following lines are easy and do not require comments. GM Grigorov/GM Aveskulov: 'The following lines are easy and do not require comments.'

22...Bd8

[22...gxf6? 23.gxf6 Bxf6 24.Rg1+ Kh8 25.Qh6 Qd8 26.Rxa5+-]

23.h5 Rxd5 24.Bxd5 axb3 25.Bxb3 Qb6 26.Qf3



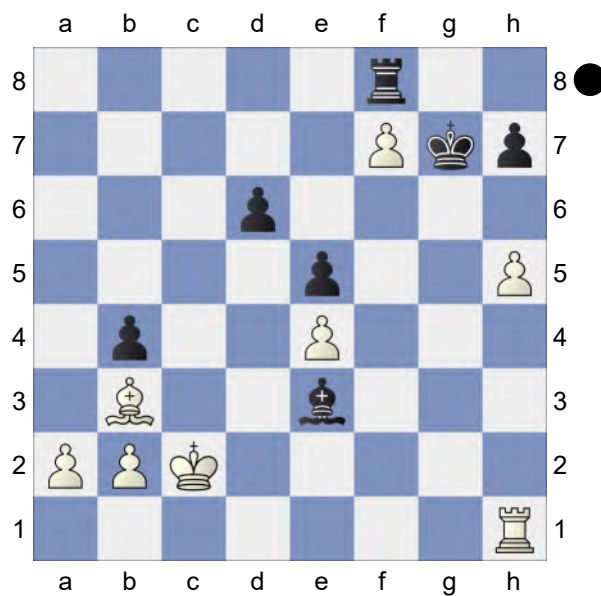
g5-g6 is a threat. GM Grigorov/GM Aveskulov: 'g5-g6 is a threat.' **26...Kh8**

27.fxg7+ Kxg7 28.g6! Bg5

[28...fxg6?? 29.h6+ Kh8 30.Qxf8#]

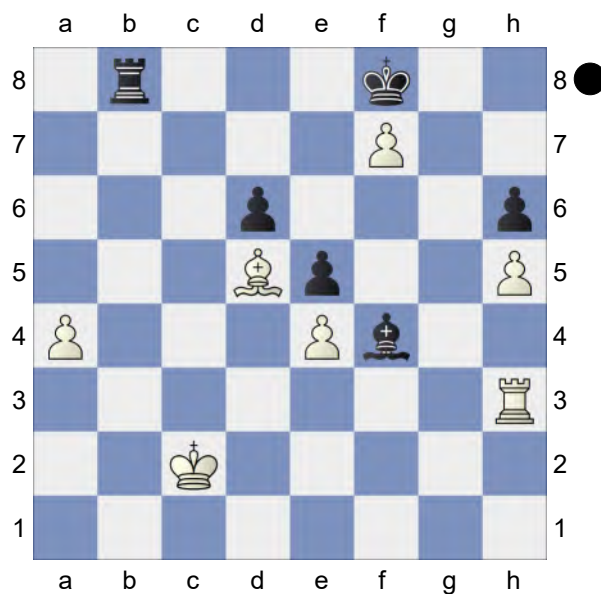
29.gxf7 Qe3 30.Qxe3 Bxe3 31.Kc2

(Diagram)



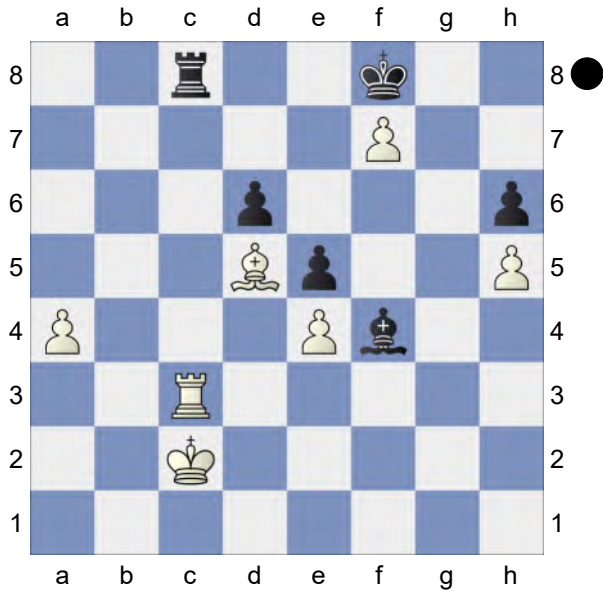
The f7-pawn and a pawn majority on the queenside guarantee White an easy win. GM Grigorov/GM Aveskulov: 'The f7-pawn and a pawn majority on the queenside guarantee White an easy win.'

31...h6 32.Bd5 Rb8 33.Rh3 Bf4 34.a4 bxa3 35.bxa3 Kf8 36.a4



Rc8+ 37.Rc3

(Diagram)



Black resigned.

1-0

524

□ Adams

■ Wei, Yi

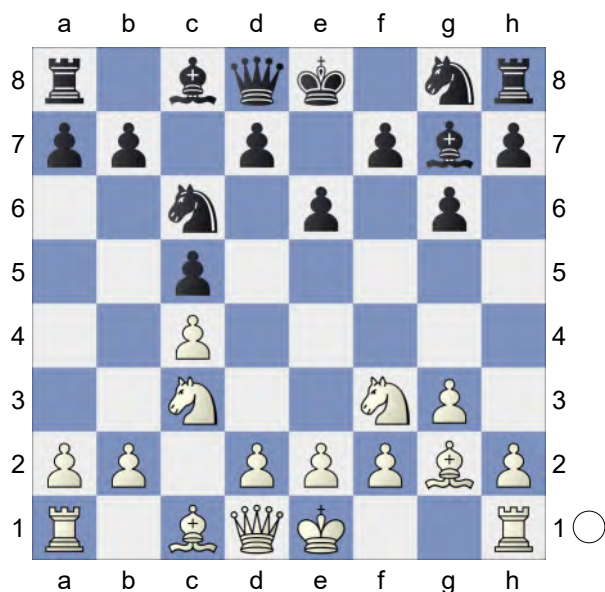
Wijk aan Zee

[Game 14]

A37

2016

1.c4 g6 2.g3 Bg7 3.Bg2 c5 4.Nc3
Nc6 5.Nf3 e6



6.h4 David Cummings: 'One of White's many attempts to try and gain an edge against the 5...e6 Fischer system' **6...d5** David Cummings: '!?' David Cummings: 'A typical move in the Fischer system, but a bold one to play before completing development. Wei Yi had played the same move in 2015, so presumably Adams was prepared for this. Instead'

[6...h6 is another natural reply that leads to lines we have covered in the Archives:

A) 7.d3 Nge7 8.Bd2 b6 9.a3 (9.h5 g5 10.Nxg5?! is the speculative piece sac which worked as a one game weapon in Radjabov-Ivanchuk) 9...Bb7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Rb1 d5 12.Qc1 Kh7 13.b4 was Ipatov-Cmilyte;

B) 7.a3 d5 8.b4 dxc4 9.0-0 Nge7 10.bxc5 Qa5 11.Bb2 0-0 12.Qc2 e5 13.Ne4 was Milov-Sermek]

7.h5 Nge7 8.d3 David Cummings: 'White has also played:'

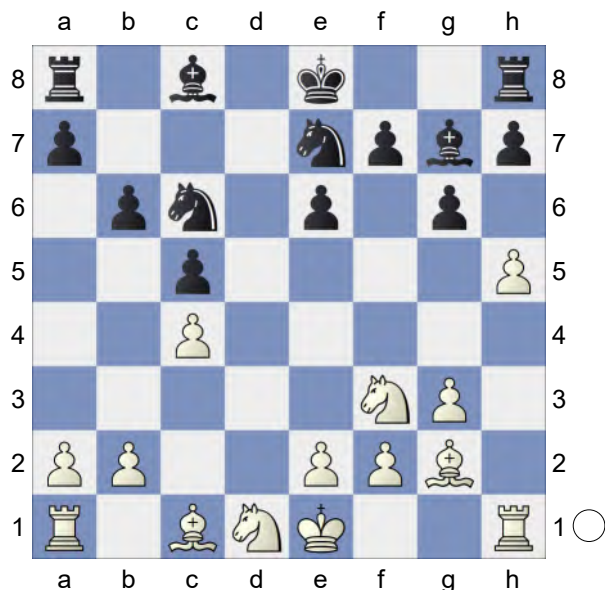
[8.Qa4 Bd7 9.cxd5 Nxd5 10.Qc4 Nxc3?! Hillarp Persson, T (2564) - Wiedenkiller, M (2479) Borlange 2014 1-0 (28), and here (10...Na5 is better, and Black should be fine) 11.dxc3 would give White an advantage]

[8.cxd5 exd5 9.d3 h6 10.hxg6 fxg6 11.Bd2 g5 12.Qa4 Bd7 13.0-0 Nd4 14.Qd1 Be6 15.Rc1 0-0 16.a3 Qd7 17.b4 was a quick draw in Ribli, Z (2610)-Sosonko, G (2545) Amsterdam 1980 1/2-1/2 (17)]

[8.h6!? has not been tested, but may be White's best try. It keeps more tension in the position since after Bf6 9.d3 Black cannot simplify as in the main game with dxc4?! since 10.Ne4! Nf5 11.dxc4 puts Black in a tough spot, for example Qxd1+ or (11...0-0 12.Qxd8 Bxd8 13.Nxc5 winning a pawn) 12.Kxd1 Be7 13.Bg5 penetrating on the dark squares]

8...dxc4 9.dxc4 Qxd1+ 10.Nxd1 b6

(Diagram)



11.h6 Bf6 12.Bg5 Bxg5 13.Nxg5 Bb7
David Cummings: 'The first new move, varying from Wei Yi's earlier game, which continued'

[13...0-0 14.Nc3 f6 15.Nge4 Ba6 16.b3 Rad8 17.f4 Rd7 18.Kf2 Kf7 19.g4 Rfd8 Zeng, C (2541)-Wei, Y (2706) China 2015 1/2-1/2 (33), and here 20.g5! would give White a significant edge, for example f5 21.Nf6 Rd4 22.Kg3 e5 23.Ncd5 Bb7 24.e3 Rd2 25.Rad1 when Black's h7-pawn is terminally weak]

14.Ne3! White has created a very unpleasant concrete threat - Ne3-g4-f6.

14...Nf5 David Cummings: 'According to the official site, Wei Yi thought for almost an hour on this move!'

[Black can also hold this position with the move 14...Rd8!? 15.Ng4 Nf5 16.Rc1 (The attractive tactical strike (16.Nxf7 Kxf7 17.Bxc6 Bxc6 18.Ne5+ Kf6 19.Nxc6 Rd7 20.e4 Ne7 21.e5+ Kf5 22.Nxe7+ Rxe7 , would have led to a drawish endgame. The activity of Black's king compensates fully the pawn lost by him.) 16...Nd6 17.Nf6+ Ke7

18.Ngxh7 Ne8 This resource enables Black to regain quickly his pawn. 19.Nxe8 Rxh7 20.Nc7 Rdh8 21.Nb5 a6 22.Nc3 Kd7! White cannot save his h6-pawn, so Black is not in a hurry to capture it and sends his king to protect the b6-pawn. 23.Kd2 Kc7 24.b3 , draw, Korogodski - Postupa, Email 2015.]

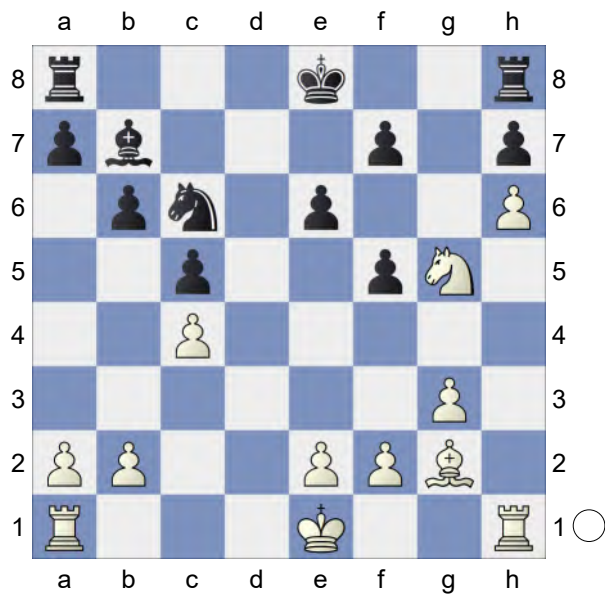
15.Nxf5?! After this exchange, it is White who is fighting for equality. David Cummings: 'This cedes some key squares to Black's control, and in the long term exposes White's advanced h-pawn to attack from the g6-square'

[He had to play instead 15.Ng4 Ke7 16.0-0-0 (16.Nxf7 Kxf7 17.Bxc6 Bxc6 18.Ne5+ Kf6 19.Nxc6 Rhc8↑ Black regains his pawn and can hope to obtain an advantage thanks to the great activity of his king.) 16...Raf8 17.Rd2 f6 18.Rhd1 (White cannot break his opponent's position after (18.Ne4 Ncd4 19.e3 Bxe4 20.Bxe4 Nd6 21.Bg2 N4f5) 18...Rd8 19.Rxd8 Nxd8 20.Bxb7 fxg5 21.Bg2 Nf7 22.Rh1 Rd8 The weakness on h6 has been reliably protected.]

[15.0-0-0 is better, although Black is OK as long as he plays Nfd4 to keep the d-file closed]

15...gxf5

(Diagram)

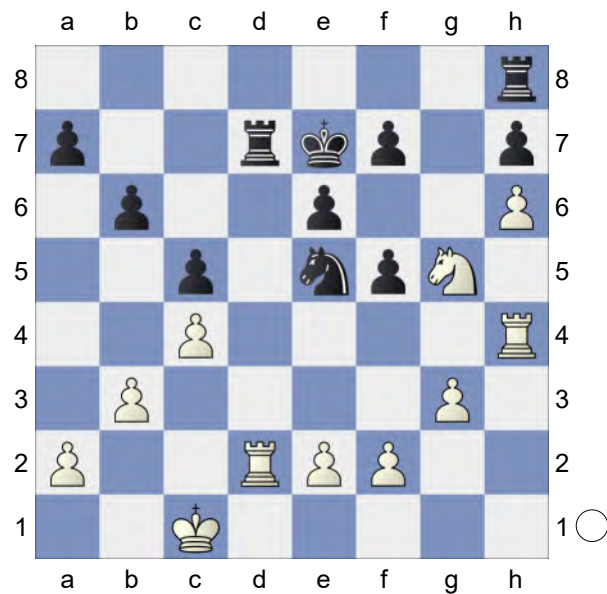


16.0-0-0 Rb8! David Cummings: 'Guarding the b7-bishop before activating the c6-knight' **17.Rd2**

[White would not equalise with 17.Bxc6+!? Bxc6 18.Nf3 Ke7
The main plus of Black's position is his more active king and it is headed to the h6-square in order to capture the weak enemy pawn there.]

17...Ne5 18.Bxb7 Rxb7 19.b3 Ke7
David Cummings: 'Any slight initiative that Adams had has gone and now it is White that needs to be careful' **20.Rh4 Rd7**

(Diagram)



21.f4? David Cummings: '?!' David Cummings: 'Creating more weaknesses'

[White would have had more chances of a successful defence after 21.Rxd7+ Nxd7 22.Nh3]

[21.Nh3 Rxd2 22.Kxd2 Rd8+ 23.Kc2 is preferable]

21...Rxd2 22.Kxd2 Ng4?
David Cummings: '?!'

[Black was winning after 22...Rd8+ 23.Kc2 (23.Ke1 Ng4 gives Black a tangible advantage, since here the freeing move 24.e4 is not an option due to f6 25.Nf3 Rd3 and Black breaks through) 23...Ng4, the pawn on h7 is untouchable due to f7-f6.]

23.e4 David Cummings: 'Relieving some of the pressure, though Black is still somewhat better' **23...f6?!'**

[Black's king had to go to the h6-pawn along another route - 23...Kf6 24.exf5 exf5 25.Rh1 Kg6 26.Re1 Nf6 27.Nf3 (The seemingly active line: (27.Re7 Rd8+ 28.Kc2 Rd7, would have enabled Black to protect all his weaknesses and to have real chances of winning the game.) 27...Rd8+ 28.Kc1 Kxh6]

Black's extra pawn is weak, but White's g3-pawn is also weak and after Black captures it, he will have a very serious trump - his outside passed h-pawn.]

24.Nf3?

[White could have made a draw with the not so obvious line: 24.exf5 exf5 25.Ne4! Rd8+ 26.Ke2 Kf7 27.Nc3 Kg6 28.Rh1 Nxh6 29.Nd5 Black cannot capture the enemy pawn on g3 and White's powerful knight on d5 guarantees his survival in this position.]

24...Kf7

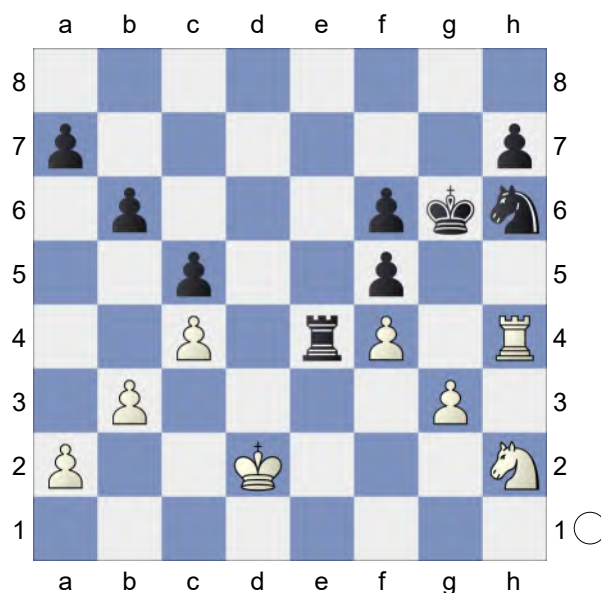
[It is preferable for Black to play here 24...Nf2 25.exf5 Ne4+ 26.Kc2 Rg8 27.g4 exf5 28.gxf5 Nd6 White's king is too far from the fighting operations on the kingside.]

25.Ke2 Rg8

[Before the opening of the e-file, it would very strong for Black to choose 25...Re8! 26.Nd2 Kg6 White had to try to bring his rook into

the action here with the move - 30.Rh1 (=+) 30...Nxh6?

[Following 30...Ne3 31.Rh3 Kf7 , White would be incapable of activating his stalemated kingside without material losses.]

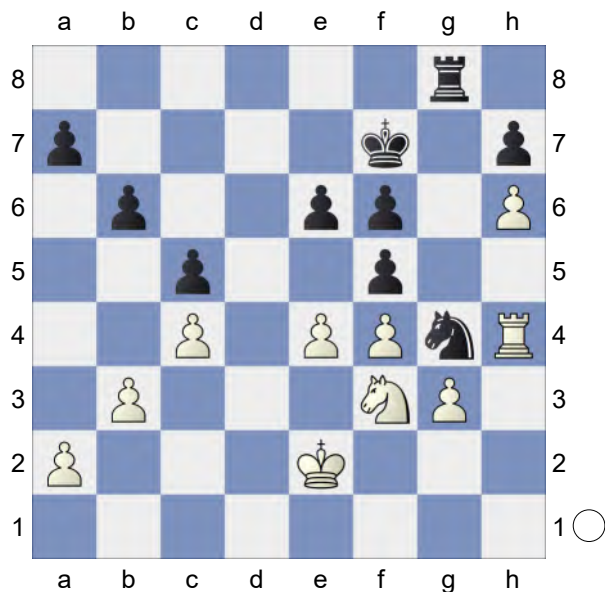


31.Nf3 David Cummings: 'White's h6-pawn has dropped off, but he is now able to centralize his pieces and keep Black's advantages within bounds' 31...Nf7 32.Rh1 Nd6 33.Nh4+ Kg7 34.Rf1?!

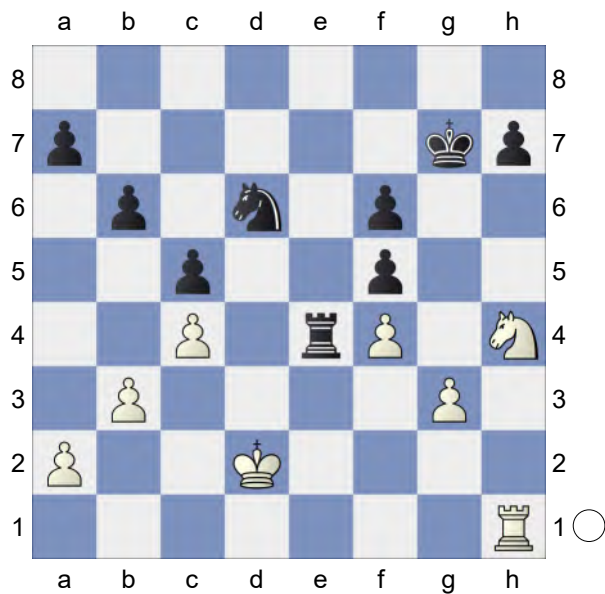
[It was useful for White to fix his opponent's queenside pawns with 34.a4 a5 35.Rh2]

34...Kh6 35.Rh1 Kg7

(Diagram)

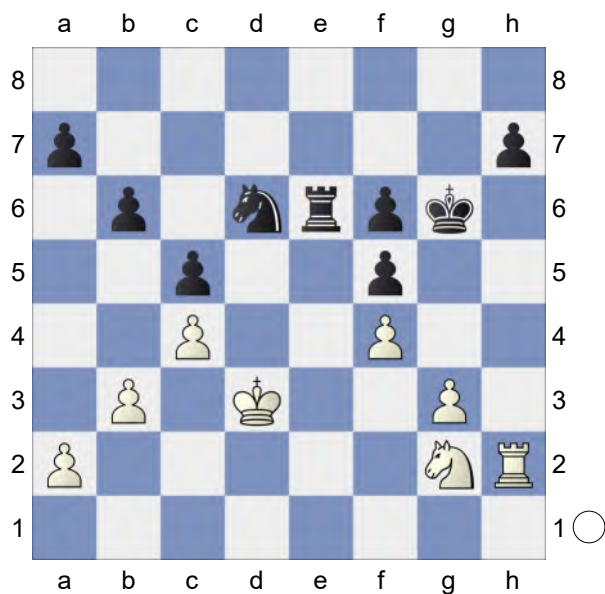


26.Nd2 Kg6 27.exf5+ exf5 28.Nf1 Re8+ 29.Kd2 Re4 30.Nh2? White had to try to bring his rook into



**36.Rf1 Re6 37.Kd3 Re8 38.Rh1 Kf7
39.Ng2 Kg6 40.Rh2 Re6?!**

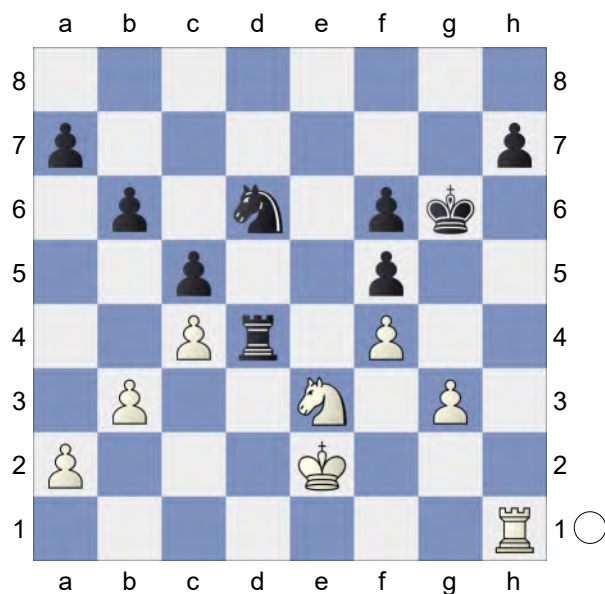
[Black could have improved his position with the line: 40...h5 41.Nh4+ Kf7 42.Nf3 Rh8]



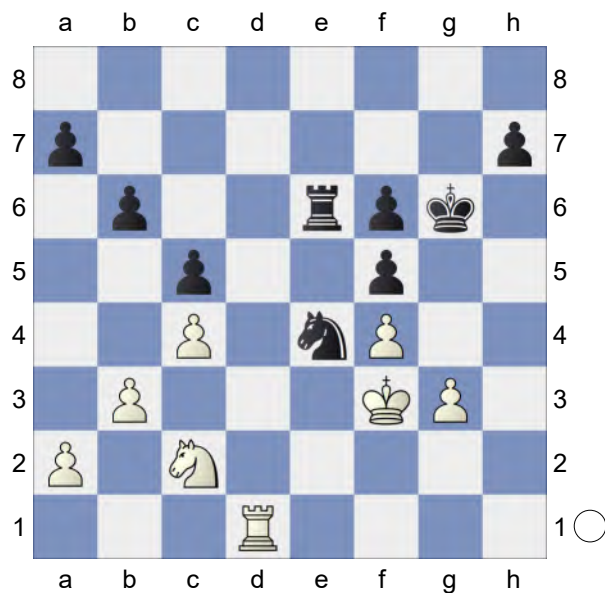
41.Nh4+ David Cummings: 'Black's weak f5-pawn makes it hard for him to improve his position' 41...Kg7 42.Ng2 Re8 43.Ne3 Kg6 44.Ke2 Re4?!

[That was the right time for Black to open a second front with 44...b5 45.cxb5 Nxb5]

45.Rh1 Rd4



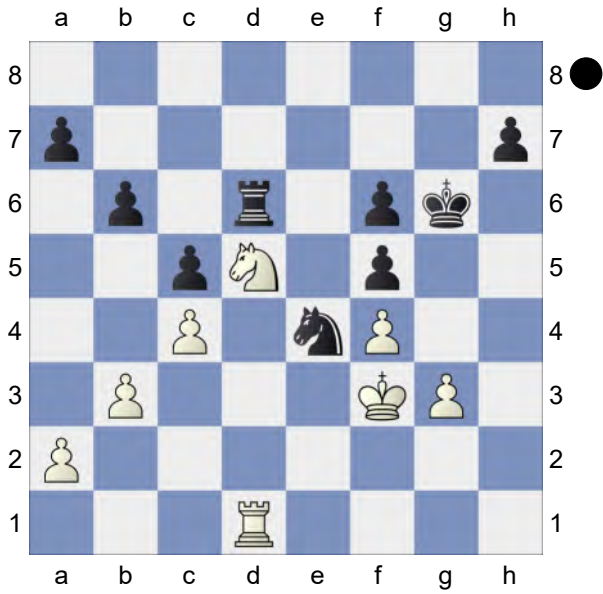
46.Nc2 Re4+ 47.Kf3 Re6 48.Ne3 Re4 David Cummings: 'Black has made no progress and he soon decides to call it a day' 49.Nc2 Re6 50.Rd1 Ne4



51.Ne3 Rd6 52.Nd5

[It was a simple draw after 52.g4 Rxd1 53.gxf5+ Kf7 54.Nxd1 Nd6 55.Ne3 Meanwhile, even here Black decided not to prolong the fight, draw.]

(Diagram)



$\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$

531

□ Wei, Yi

■ Yankowsky

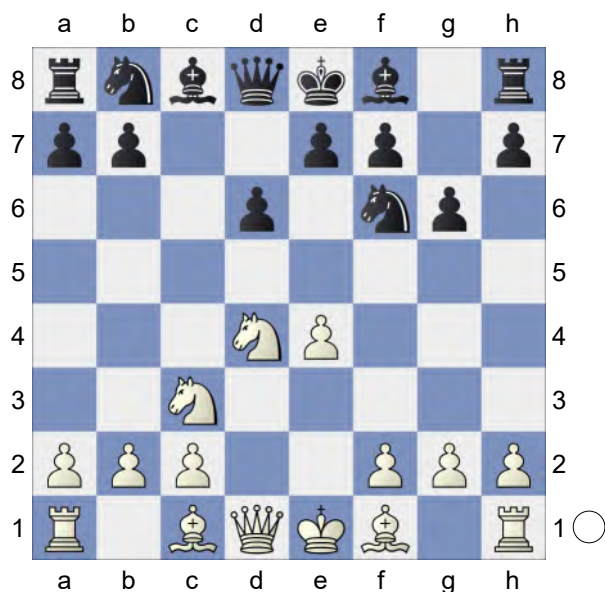
North American Open

[Game 26]

B76

2013

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 g6



6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6
9.0-0-0 d5 This central strike is widely
considered to be Black's main response
to 9.0-0-0, preempting White's kingside
pawn storm. The drawback of this move
is that White has a pleasant choice of
lines here, and can either sharpen the
struggle or play for a nagging positional
edge. Moreover, Black won't always be
able to attain thematic Dragon
counterplay, and must be ready to
patiently defend a slightly worse position
in some lines, which is not to everyone's
taste-especially not a Dragon player!
After some review, we're big fans of:
10.Qe1!? e5

[The point of this move is to maintain
the tension in the center- 10...dxe4
loses instantly to 11.Nxc6 , while]

[10...Nxd4 11.Bxd4 leaves Black
under a lot of pressure. Instead, Black
has two serious options, the flexible
10...e6 and the forcing 10...e5, the
latter of which is currently considered
to be the main line. White's other
alternatives include 10.Kb1, 10.Nxc6,
and 10.exd5, all of which are serious
attempts to fight for an advantage.]

[But let's first cover the flexible 10...e6
:Black has strengthened his center
and would like to play either Qc7 or
Qe7 next, followed by Rd8. We
consider both 11.g4?! and the much
better 11.h4.

A) _____ White's most challenging
response is the direct 11.h4
: a) Now,

A1) b) In case of 11...Re8
White has a strong response in
12.Bb5!N (12.h5 Nxd4 13.Bxd4
e5≠) 12...Bd7 13.Bxc6 Bxc6
(13...bxc6? 14.e5) 14.h5!
. White is very close to a decisive
attack, for instance e5
(14...Nxe5 15.g4 Nf6 16.Bg5)
15.Nxc6 bxc6 16.exd5 Nxd5
17.hxg6 hxg6 18.Ne4
. The open h-file and threat of c2-
c4 means White is close to the
full point.;

A2) c) Most common is 11...Qc7
and now 12.Kb1! , which has
only been played once, is
astoundingly strong. c1) Firstly,
(12.h5 Nxe5 13.g4 Nxd4
14.Bxd4 Bxd4 15.Rxd4 Ng3
16.Rh3 Qe5 White is still
planning on playing h4-h5, but
now the king isn't susceptible to
potential checks-this will be an
important detail in certain lines.
This position is quite complex

and play will be concrete in nature, but it appears that Black has no clear way to equalize. Let's take a look at four lines, 12...dxe4, 12...a6, 12...Nxd4, and 12...h5:)

A2a) c2) Next, 12...a6 seems like a useful move, but now 13.h5! is even more dangerous with the king on b1. Nxb5 14.exd5! c21) After

A2a1) c22) More critical is 14...Nxd4 15.Bxd4 Bxd4 16.Rxd4 Ng3 17.Ne4! With the king still on c1 Black could refute this idea with Qf4+, but here White is nearly winning, for instance Nxb1 (17...Nxe4 18.Qh4 h5 19.fxe4±) 18.d6 Qd8 19.d7!± . After capturing the bishop White will eventually play Qh4, winning the knight on h1 and continuing the attack.;

A2a2) 14...exd5 15.Nxd5 Qe5 16.Bc4! Black is in danger of losing a lot of material. c211) Now Be6 is strongly answered by (c212) Also bad is 16...Re8 17.Qf2 with the threat of either g2-g4 or Rhe1, depending on what Black plays. Na5 runs into the beautiful shot: 18.Rxh5! Qxh5 19.g4 Qh3 20.Bf1 Qh1 21.Nc7 . After taking on a8 White can trap Black's queen with Re1 and Bg2.; c213) The only way to stay alive is 16...Nxd4 17.Bxd4 Qxe1 18.Rhxe1

Bxd4 19.Rxd4 b5 20.Bb3± . Black has managed not to lose any material but this endgame is fantastic for White, whose pieces could not be better placed.) 17.f4! Nxf4 18.Qh4 Nh5 19.Bf4 Qe4 20.Rhe1 winning Black's queen.;

A2b) c3) Exchanging with 12...Nxd4 13.Bxd4 dxe4 14.Nxe4 allows Black to avoid immediate capitulation: But White still has a clear pull: c31) After e5 (c32) Or 14...Nxe4 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.fxe4 e5 17.h5 h6 18.hxg6 fxg6 19.Rd3↑ .) 15.Bc5 Rd8 16.Rxd8+ Qxd8 17.Bc4± it's doubtful that Black will be able to equalize anytime soon.;

A2c) c4) Lastly, in case Black panics and plays 12...h5 White can launch the thematic b r e a k t h r o u g h 13.g4!? (13.Ndb5 Qb8 14.exd5 Nxd5 15.Bf2±) 13...hxg4 14.h5 gxh5 (14...Nxb5?! 15.fxg4 Ng3 16.Rh3 Nxf1 17.Qh4) 15.Be2!↑ : Obviously this position deserves further analysis, but it's clear that the kingside is about to open up, much to Black's dismay. It will take extreme precision for Black to avoid losing within the next several moves. Now back to our main game, after Black's ;;

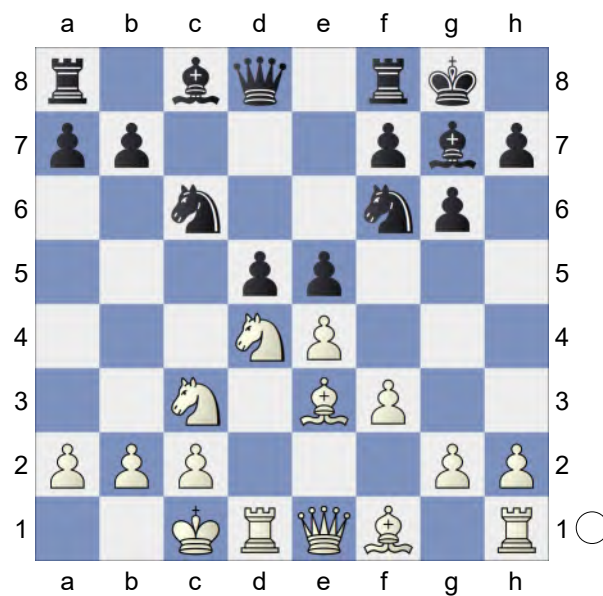
A2d) 12...dxe4 should be met with 13.Ndb5! And now: c11) Qa5 (c12) After 13...Qb8

14.Bc5 Black is forced to give up the exchange and will remain in a passive position.; c13) If 13...Qe7 then 14.Bf4! threatening Bd6. This time, Black should probably give up the exchange, since e5 15.Bg5 Be6 16.Nxe4 Rfd8 17.Be2± leaves White in full control of the position.) 14.h5! , looks very dangerous for Black.;

A3) 11...Qe7 is unsatisfactory for Black in view of 12.h5! dxe4 (12...Nxb5 13.g4 Nxd4 14.Bxd4 Bxd4 15.Rxd4±) 13.hxg6 fxg6 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.Nxe4 Nxe4 16.fxe4± . Next is c2-c4 and Bc4- White is clearly better.;

B) 11.g4?! would be a good move if not for 11...e5! leading to an improved version for Black of the line 10...e5. Specifically, after 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.exd5 cxd5 14.Bg5 Bb7! 15.Bc4 d4± as played in Dvoirys-Tolnai, Balatonbereny 1993, White would like to continue 16.Qxe5 , but the problem is that after Nxb4 17.Qf4 Qa5± , 18.fxg4 hangs the rook on h1, and otherwise this line just doesn't work for White.]

(Diagram)



Black's most natural move, forcing White to trade on c6 and release the tension in the center. **11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.exd5 Nxd5**

[Recapturing with the knight is more popular and more dynamic than 12...cxd5 , where Black will struggle to maintain the center. Black's center may look quite menacing, but fortunately for White we have a series of precise moves that lead to an advantage, starting with 13.Bg5! Black must now choose between 13... b7?! discussed here, and 13... e6 analyzed on . We answer

A) More solid is **13...Be6 14.Bc4!** And now: a) In case of

A1) b) A theoretical is reached after **14...Qc7 15.Bxf6 dxc4 16.Bxg7 Kxg7** With the exchange of several pieces one might think that Black's position is relatively safe, but this is not the case after 17.h4!? b1) Let's examine some of Black's most natural options, starting with (**17.Nd5 Bxd5 18.Rxd5 Rfe8 19.Qc3 Kg8**

20.Qa5!±)

A1a) _____ b2) GM Yangyi Yu demonstrated his class with a nice victory after 17...Rab8 18.Ne4 (18.h5) 18...f6 19.g4! Now White can choose between attacking Black's structure with h4-h5-h6 or g4-g5. Rb5 (19...Rfd8 20.Qc3!±) 20.h5 g5 21.h6+ Kg8 22.Rd6 Rb6 23.Qa5! threatening Rxe6, and Black's position soon collapsed, Y.Yu-Pham, Kazan 2013.;

A1b) b3) Finally, after 17...h5 t h e d i r e c t 18.g4!N is very strong: And if hxg4 then 19.h5 . While this is a risky way for White to play, it is even riskier for Black, since one misstep could mean getting checkmated on the spot! For instance gxf3?! seems to lose in view of 20.Qh4! Qb6 21.Qg5! preventing Qe3+ and threatening hxg6, winning. Now Bf5 loses quite spectacularly: 22.Nd5 f6 23.Qg3 Qe6 24.hxg6 Bxg6 25.Ne7! Simply opening up the d-file. After Qxe7 26.Rhg1 Qf7 27.Rd7 it's all over. Now we return to our main game, after ;;

A1c) 17...Qa5 18.h5 Rab8 : Best is 19.Rd6!N cutting off Black's queen-now Qe3 can't be met with Qb6. (19.hxg6 hxg6 20.Qe3 Rh8 21.Rxh8 Rxh8 22.g4± Black is already in serious trouble, for after) 19...Rfd8 20.Rxd8 Rxd8

21.Qh4 White has threats of hxg6, as well as h5-h6+ followed by Qf6, with a decisive attack.;

A2) 14...Qb6 15.Bxf6 Bxf6 Black doesn't get quite enough compensation after 16.Bxd5 (16.Nxd5 Bxd5 17.Rxd5 e4 18.Rb5 Qc7 19.Qxe4 Rae8 20.Qd3±) 16...Rab8 17.Bb3 a5 18.Na4! Qb5 19.Kb1 Rfc8 20.Rd6± . White can follow up with either Qe3 or Nc3-e4, and Black's counterplay should slowly fade out.;

B) 13...Bb7?! with 14.Bc4! Another precise move, otherwise Black would be able to consolidate his center. And now: a) The tactics work out for White after

B1) b) Instead, after 14...Qc7 White continues 15.Bxf6 Bxf6 (15...dxc4 16.Nb5! Qc5 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Nd6±) 16.Bxd5± . It's difficult to believe Black has enough compensation for the lost pawn, Boudre-Rafiee, Bad Zwesten 2002.;

B2) 14...d4 15.Qxe5! Ng4 16.Qf4! Analyzing the following lines over a physical chess board would not only be helpful, but entertaining as well! Qa5 (16...Qb6 17.Na4 Qc6 18.Rxd4!) 17.fxg4 Rac8 (17...dxc3 18.Rd7! cxb2+ 19.Kb1) 18.Bb3 dxc3 19.Be7! cxb2+ 20.Kb1 . Black must give up the exchange and afterwards will still be tied down to defending the f7 pawn.]

13.Bc4 The structure that has arisen is quite interesting. By capturing with the

knight Black strives for active piece play in the center, while also looking to play f7-f5 and e5-e4 if possible. Meanwhile, White would like to secure a firm grip over the center and slowly exploit Black's weaknesses on the queenside. The moves Kb1, Ne4, and Bc5 are definitely part of White's plan. At some point advancing on the kingside would also be logical, not necessarily to launch a mating attack but rather to gain space and restrict Black's counterplay. **13...Be6** Black defends the knight and puts the bishop on its most natural square. **14.Kb1!**

[For the majority of this line's existence, the move 14.Ne4 has been played almost exclusively, aiming to setup a positional bind with Bc5, h2-h4, and g2-g4. While that remains a decent attempt of fighting for an opening advantage, in a few games in 2013 White opted to first secure the location of his king before carrying out this standard plan. This fresh approach to the position seems quite promising, and the king move is our wholehearted recommendation. But first, to provide a brief theoretical overview of the older move, we look at the position after Qc7 15.Bc5 Rfd8. Now White has a choice: Caruana tried

A) White has also had success with 16.h4 h6 17.g4 :And now:

A1) 17...Nf4 18.Bxe6 Nxe6?! (18...Rxd1+ 19.Qxd1 Nxe6 20.Be3±) 19.Bd6 Qb6 20.g5 Nd4?! (20...h5 21.Nf6+ Bxf6 22.gxf6±) 21.h5! , and White soon had a decisive attack in Durik-Dobias, Trnava 1994.;

A2) 17...f5?! This is generally

too loose if White already has g2-g4 in. 18.gxf5 gxf5 19.Ng3 Qf7 20.Qa5! Kh7 21.Bb3 Bf6 22.Qa6 Qc7 23.Nxf5! Bxf5 24.Bxd5 cxd5 25.Qxf6± , Matsuura-Delgado Ramos, Havana 2008.;

B) 16.Qh4 and was able to quickly outplay his opponent: 16...Qa5?! (16...h6 17.g4 Nf4) 17.Ba3! h6 18.Nc5 Bf5 19.Bb3 g5 20.Qf2 Qb6 21.g4 Bg6 22.Rd2 Nc7?! 23.Ne4! Qxf2 24.Rxf2± . White's better structure and more active pieces was enough to press for a win, Caruana-Mamedov, Plovdiv 2012.]

14...Rb8 The main upside of 14.Kb1 is that it delays Black from achieving his optimal setup with Qc7 and Rfd8. Instead, Black has to make a different, less useful move and wait for White to play Ne4.

[Black simply doesn't get enough for the pawn after 14...Qc7?! 15.Nxd5 cxd5 16.Bxd5 Rab8 17.b3± .]

[Exchanging with 14...Nxc3+ 15.Qxc3 allows White to play for only two results-Black can only be worse with the weakened queenside. Qe7 16.Bb3± , Pavlidis-Goumas, Porto Rio 2014. (16.h4N was also a thought.)]

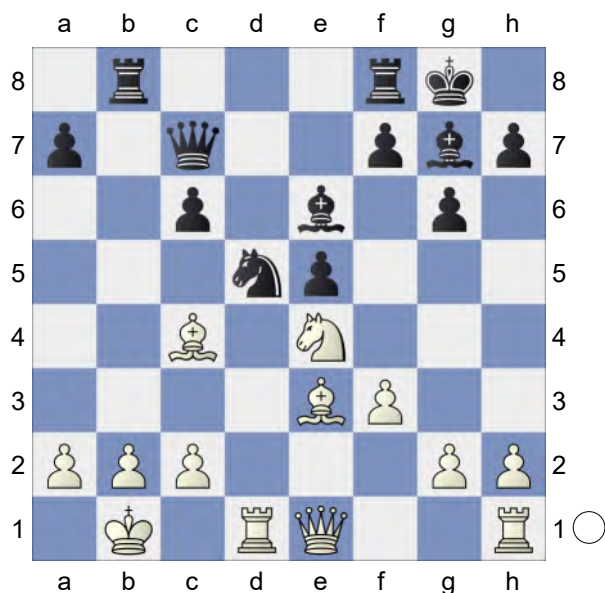
[Another game saw 14...Re8 15.Ne4 a5

a) White obtained a clear advantage after (15...Qc7 16.Bc5 Nf4 17.Bxe6 Nxe6 18.Bd6 Qb6 19.g4± And now:) 16.h4 (b) White should usually start with 16.g4! to discourage f7-f5, for instance after Qc7 17.Bc5 f5?! 18.gxf5 gxf5 19.Ng5 White is nearly winning, the critical variation being e4 20.fxe4 Nc3+ 21.Qxc3! Bxc3 22.Nxe6

, and Black is either losing material or just getting mated by White's pieces.) 16...h6?! (16...Qc7 17.Bc5 f5 18.Ng5 e4) 17.Qd2! Kh7 18.h5± , Popilsky-Polzin, Paleochoira 2013.]

15.Ne4 Black was threatening e5-e4, so White cannot delay this move any longer. **15...Qc7**

[15...f5!? would be an interesting attempt at sharpening the struggle, although White seems to get the better of it after 16.Ng5 Bc8 17.h4 h6 18.Ne4!± -a typical motif when there's a pin along the d-file.]



16.Bc5 Rfd8 17.g4 In this game the young Chinese GM Wei Yi is able to squeeze his opponent's position and nurse a small advantage. His last move controls the important f7-f5 advance, which is Black's main source of counterplay. **17...a5**

[17...Nf4? allows 18.Bxe6 Nxe6 19.Bd6±, winning the exchange.]

[An earlier game of Wei Yi continued 17...h6 18.h4 (18.Bb3±) 18...f5 19.gxf5 gxf5 20.Ng3 Qf7 21.Bb3 Rd7 22.Qa5 Rbd8 23.Rd3 Nf4?!]

A bad misjudgment. (23...Kh7 24.Rg1 Nf4 25.Rxd7 Rxd7) 24.Qxd8+ Rxd8 25.Rxd8+ Kh7 26.Rhd1 Bd5 27.Ra8 . After Rxa7 and Rg1, White should be completely winning, Y.Weï-Gagare, Chongqing 2013.]

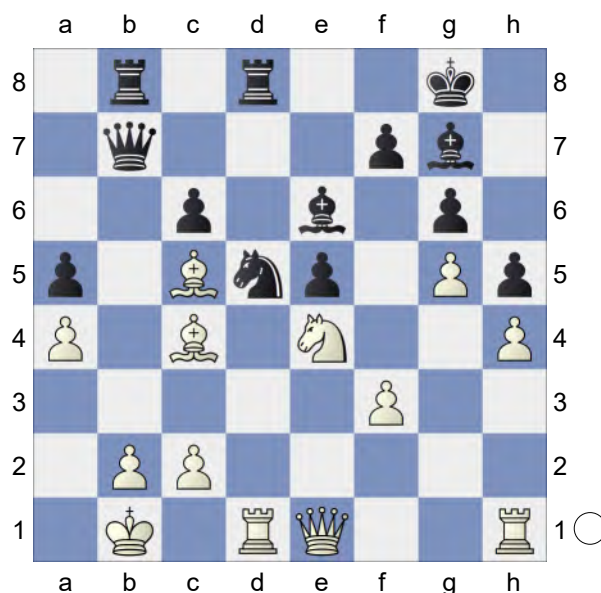
18.h4 h6 19.g5 A common advance, fixing the f6 square.

[19.h5?! would be an error as after f5 20.gxf5 gxf5, White cannot play Ng5 and will soon lose control over the position, since Black's next move will be e5-e4.]

[However 19.Bb3! might have been more testing, since f5 20.gxf5 gxf5 21.Nc3! Nxc3+ (21...Kh7 22.Na4 Nf4 23.Qf2±) 22.Qxc3 Bxb3 23.axb3± is certainly more pleasant for White, who has the safer king and a healthier structure.]

19...h5 20.a4 Qb7?!

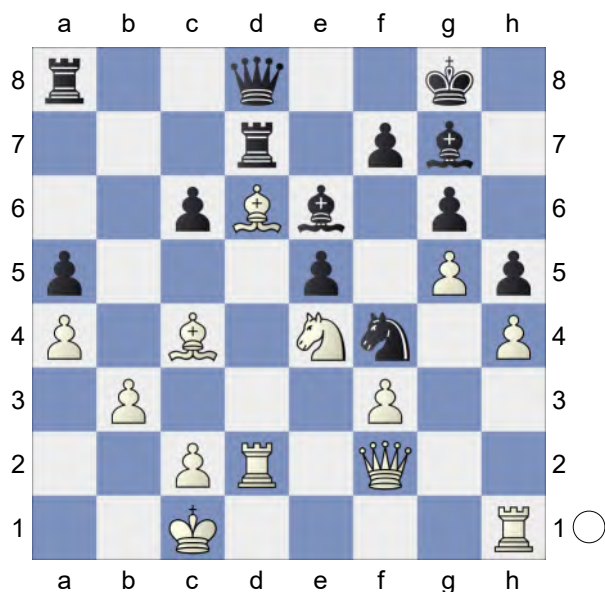
[Black would have had better chances to equalize with 20...Bf8! trading off the problem dark-squared bishop, though after 21.Qf2 White would still retain a small edge.]



21.b3 It's clear that White is gearing up for a long, positional struggle. **21...Ra8**

[Now 21...Bf8? is just a blunder due to 22.Bxd5 cxd5 23.Nf6+ Kg7 24.Qxe5 :]

22.Kc1 Qc7 23.Qf2 Rd7 24.Rd2 Nf4 Not exactly necessary, but it would be difficult for any player to just sit on the position. **25.Bd6 Qd8**

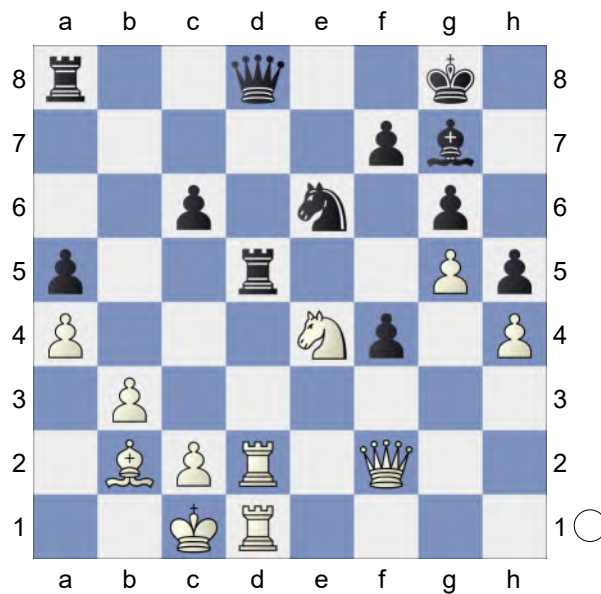


26.Bxe6 Nxe6 27.Rhd1 Nd4 28.Ba3 Rd5 29.f4

[The immediate 29.Nc3! was stronger, forcing the rook to an undefended square. After Rd7 30.f4! Qe8 (30...exf4? 31.Bc5) 31.Ne4 Rad8 32.Re1±, Black is under a lot of pressure.]

29...exf4 30.Bb2 Ne6

(Diagram)

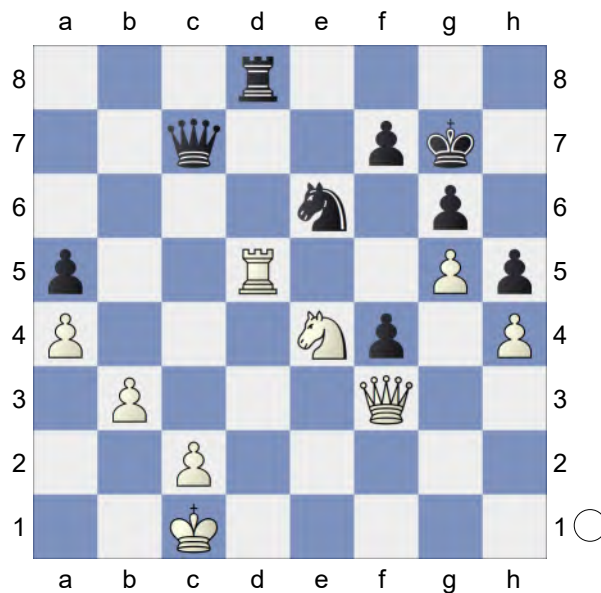


31.Bf6 Again missing the best way to put pressure on Black.

[Better was 31.Rxd5 cxd5 32.Nf6+ Bxf6 33.Bxf6 Qd6 34.Qf3±. After winning the d5 pawn, White will have a clear advantage thanks to his powerful bishop.]

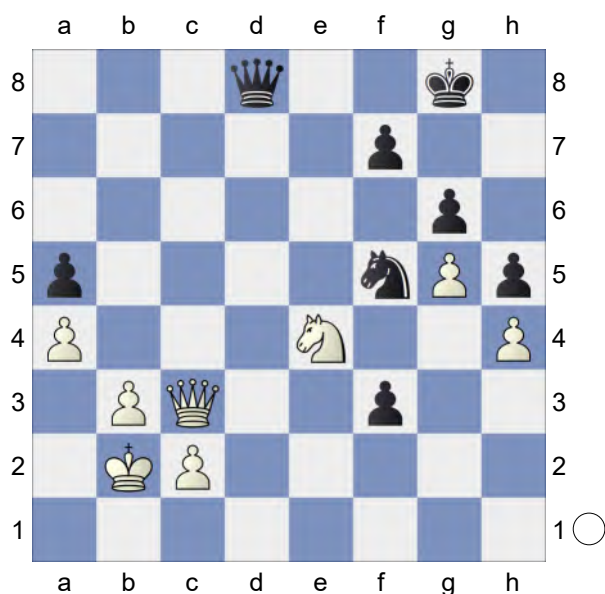
31...Qd7 32.Bxg7 Kxg7 33.Qf3

The point of White's previous play, threatening Qc3+ and Nf6. **33...Qc7** The only move, preparing to meet Qc3+ with Qe5. **34.Rxd5 cxd5 35.Rxd5 Rd8!**



Correctly trading off White's more active rook. **36.Rxd8 Qxd8 37.Qc3+ Kg8**
 White has definitely let his advantage slip, and now Black is well within the drawing zone. **38.Qe5 f3 39.Qc3 Nd4 40.Kb2 Nf5?**

[After 40...Kg7 White would find it difficult to make progress.]

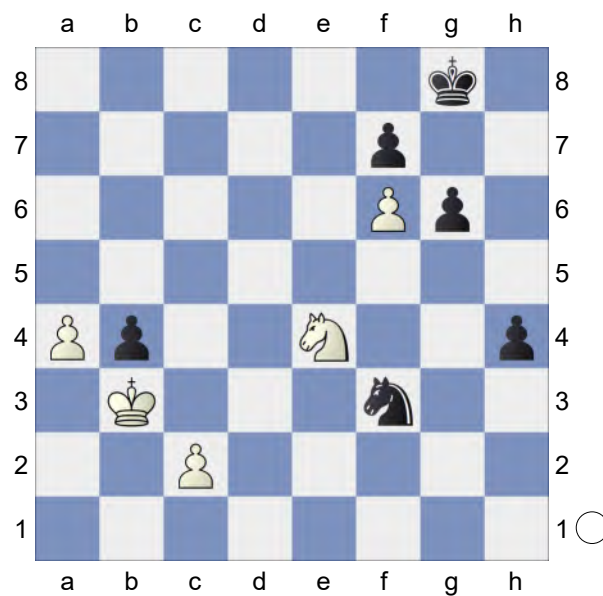


Tragically, Black makes a losing blunder on the 40th move. **41.Qxf3 Nxh4 42.Qf6!** Without the f3 pawn, any knight endgame is simply lost for Black. **42...Qxf6+**

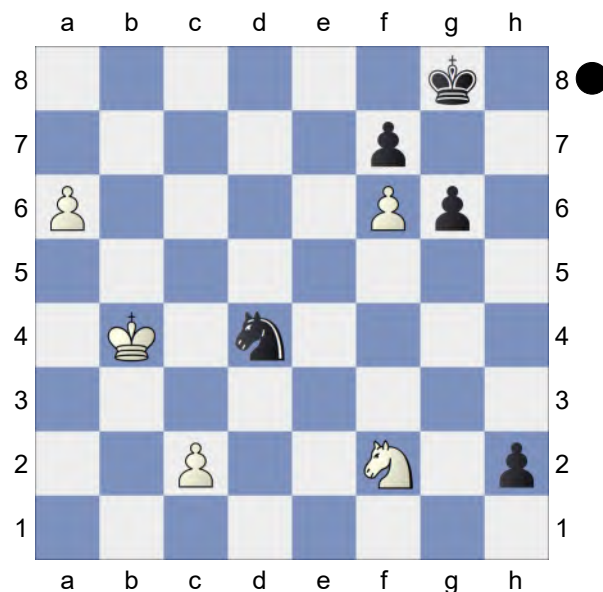
[White answers 42...Qc7 with 43.Qc3! , forcing a trade of queens due to the threat of Nf6+. After Qxc3+ 44.Kxc3 Kf8 45.Kc4 , White is winning, with his more active king.]

43.gxf6 Nf3 44.b4! axb4 45.Kb3
 [45.a5 was also good enough.]
45...h4

(Diagram)



46.a5 h3 47.a6 Nd4+ 48.Kxb4 h2 49.Nf2

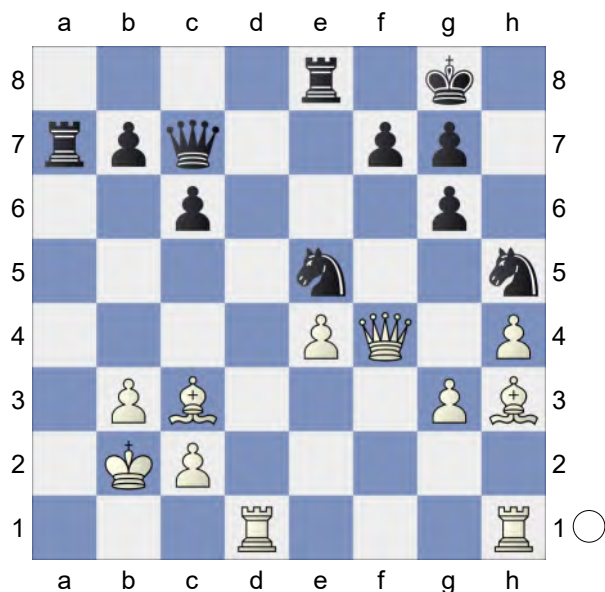


Black's knight can deal with the a-pawn, but once the c-pawn joins the action, it will all be over. Meanwhile, Black's king is too far away to support the h-pawn. Realizing the hopelessness of the situation, Black resigned.

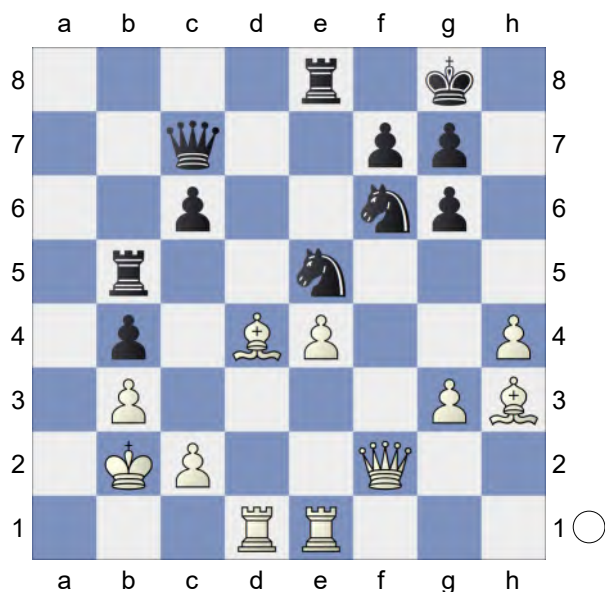
1-0

*Nd3+ 26.Rxd3 Qa1+ 27.Kc2 Qxh1;
25.b3 Qc3) 25...Ra8 26.c3 Nc4
27.Qc1 Nxe4]*

24...Ra7 25.Kb2 Nh5



**26.Qf2 b5 27.Bd4 Rb7 28.Kb1 Nf6
29.Rhe1 b4 30.Kb2 Rb5**

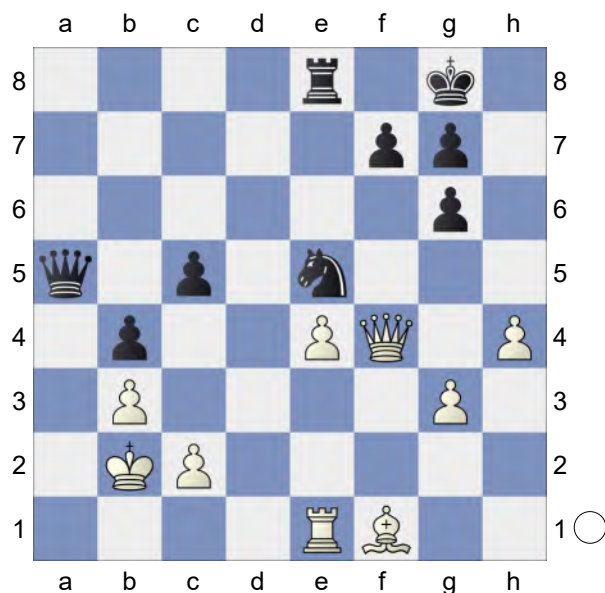


**31.Bf1 Nfg4 32.Qf4 Ra5 33.Ra1 c5
34.Bxe5**

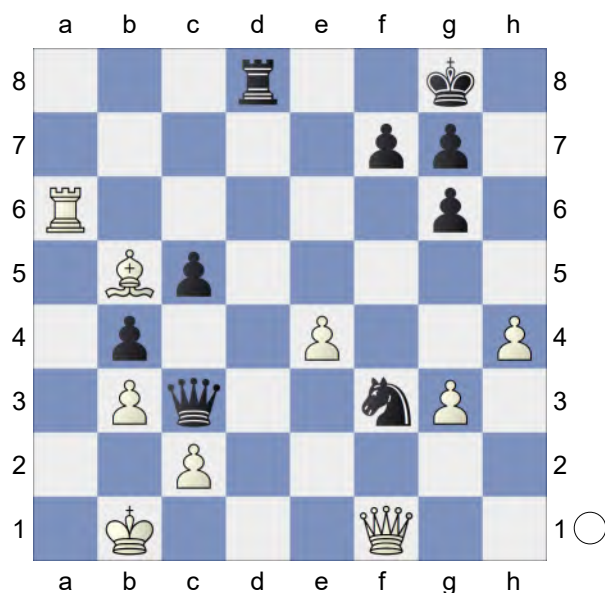
*[34.Rxa5 cxd4 35.Rea1 (35.Raa1
Qc3+ 36.Kb1 Qxe1+) 35...Ne3 36.c4
(36.Qf2 Qxa5 37.Rxa5 Nd1+;
36.Bd3 Nxd3+ 37.cxd3 Qc2#; 36.Bc4
N3xc4+ 37.bxc4 Nxc4+ 38.Kc1*

*Qxf4+ 39.gxf4 Nxa5 40.Rxa5 Rxe4)
36...bxc3+]*

34...Nxe5 35.Rxa5 Qxa5



**36.Ra1 Qd8 37.Bb5 Qd4+ 38.Kb1
Rd8 39.Ra6 Qc3 40.Qf1 Nf3**



41.Qc1 c4

[41...c4

**A) 42.bxc4 Nd2+ 43.Ka2 b3+
44.Ka3 b2+;**

**B) 42.Qb2 Rd1+ 43.Ka2 cxb3+
(43...Qxb2+ 44.Kxb2 c3+ 45.Ka2
Ne1 46.Bd3 Nxd3 47.cxd3 c2)
44.cxb3 Rd2;**

D) 42. Bxc_4 Nd^{2+} 43. Ka_2 Nxc_4
44. bxc_4 Qxc_4^+]

442

□ Ghaem Maghami,Ehsan

■ Wei,Yi

Sharjah 121/163

[Ghaem Maghami,Ehsan; Idani,Pouya]

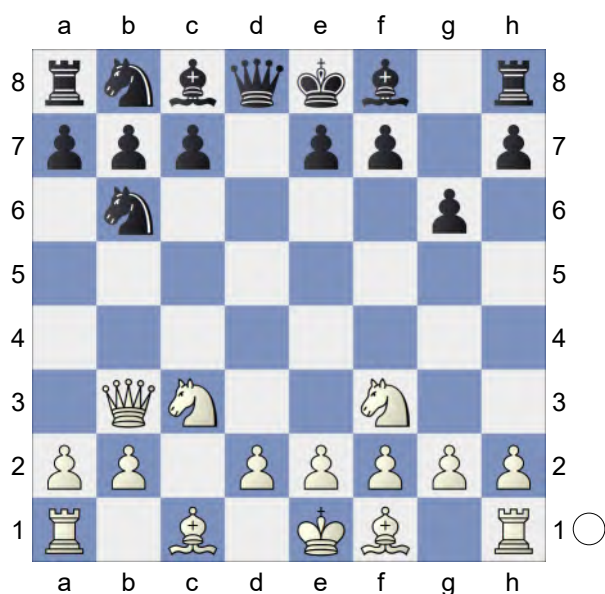
D90

2556

2629

2014

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5
Nxd5 5.Qb3 Nb6



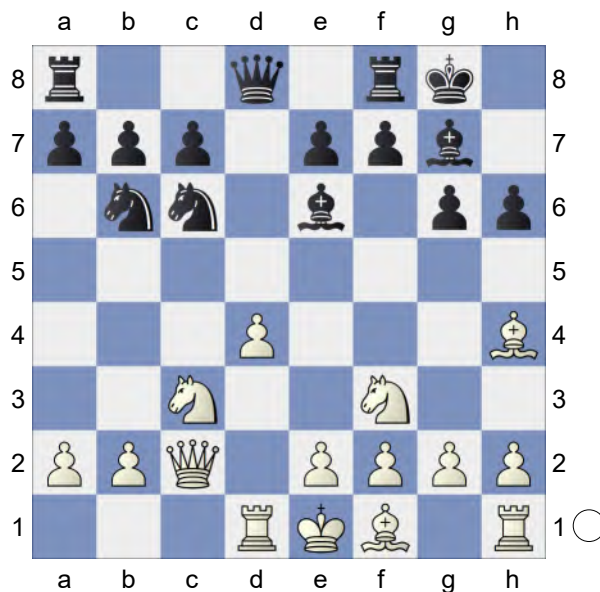
6.d4 Bg7 7.Bg5 Be6 8.Qc2 h6 9.Bh4
[9.Bf4!?]

9...Nc6

[9...c5!? 10.dxc5 (10.e3 cxd4
11.Nxd4 Bxd4 12.Rd1 Nc6 13.Bb5
0-0 14.Bxc6 Bxc3+ 15.Qxc3 Qc7)
10...Nc4!? (10...N6d7)]

10.Rd1 0-0

(Diagram)



11.e3 Nb4 12.Qb1 Bf5

[12...N6d5 13.Be2 (13.Rc1!?)

13...c5 14.0-0±]

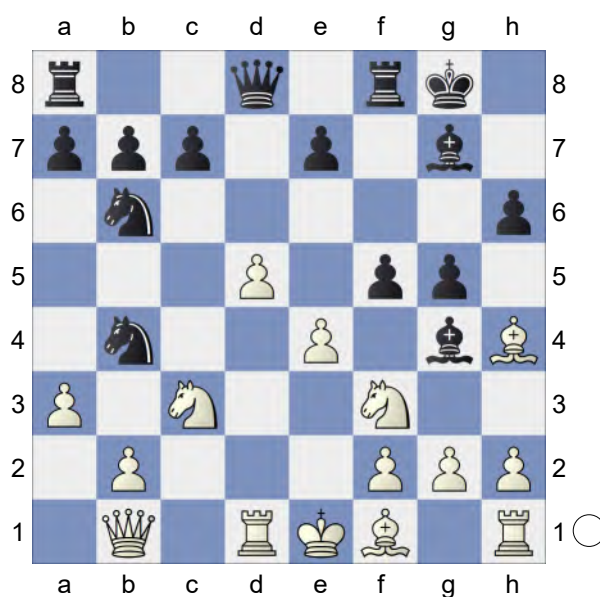
[12...N4d5 13.Ne4 Nd7 14.Be2±]

13.e4 Bg4 14.d5 f5

[14...Bxf3 15.gxf3 Qd7 16.Be2!±
(16.a3 - 89/(409))]

15.a3 g5

[15...Na6 16.exf5 Bxf5 17.Qc1 Nc5
18.Be2 Qd7 19.0-0±]



16.Bg3

[16.Bxg5!? hxg5 17.axb4 Qd6

18.Be2 Qxb4 19.Nxg5∞]

16...f4 17.axb4 fxg3

[17...Qd6!?]

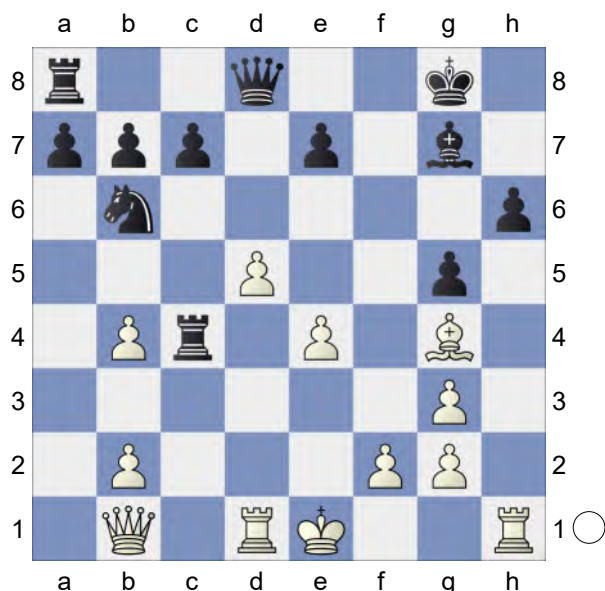
18.hxg3 Rxf3 19.Be2! Rxc3

[19...Rxc3!? 20.fxc3 Bxe2 21.Kxe2 Qd6 22.e5 Qxb4 (22...Qxe5+?! 23.Qe4 Qxc3 24.Rh3!±) 23.Qg6 Qxb2+ 24.Kd3 c5! 25.Qe6+ Kh7 26.Rxh6+ Bxh6 27.Qxe7+=]

[19...Rxf2!? 20.Bxc3 Qf8 21.e5 Kh8 22.Ne4 Rxc3 23.Rf1 Qg8 24.Be6 Qh7 25.Bf5 Qg8 26.Be6=]

20.Bxc3 Rc4?

[20...Rb3 - 90/414]



21.Be6+ Kh8 22.e5!!→ [Δ ♔g6, ♜h6]

22...Qe8 23.Qf5 Rd8N

[23...a5? 24.f3 Qf8 (24...g4 25.Qg5 Qf8 26.Qg6 gxf3 27.gxf3 Rf4 28.gxf4 Qxf4 29.Qe4 Qxe4+ 30.fxe4 axb4+-) 25.Qg6+-]

[23...c6?]

A) 24.b3? Rxb4 25.Qxg5 Re4+ 26.Kf1 Qf8 27.dxc6

A1) 27...Rxe5? 28.Rxh6+ Bxh6 29.Qxe5+ Qg7 30.Qxg7+ Kxg7 31.c7 Rf8 32.f4 Kf6 33.Re1 Nc8 34.Bd5 Bg7 35.Kf2

Nd6+- (35...Kg6 36.Bxb7 Nd6 37.Ba6 Bd4+ 38.Kf3 Bb6 39.Rxe7+-);

A2) 27...bxc6 28.Re1 Rxe1+ 29.Kxe1 Nd5 30.Qg6 Nf6 (30...Nf4 31.gxf4 Qxf4 32.Rh5+-) 31.Bf5 Qe8 32.Rxh6+ Kg8±;

B) 24.f3 Nxd5 25.Qxg5 Qf8+-]

[23...Rxb4 24.f3 Nxd5 25.Qxg5 Qf8 26.Rxd5 Rb6 27.Qg4±]

[23...g4 24.f3!! Rd8 - 23...♞d8]

24.f3!!

[24.Qxg5 Re4+ 25.Kf1 Qf8]

[24.b3! Rxb4 25.f3!! Nxd5 26.Qxg5 Qf8 27.Rxd5 Rxd5 28.Bxd5 Rb5 29.Be4 Qf7±]

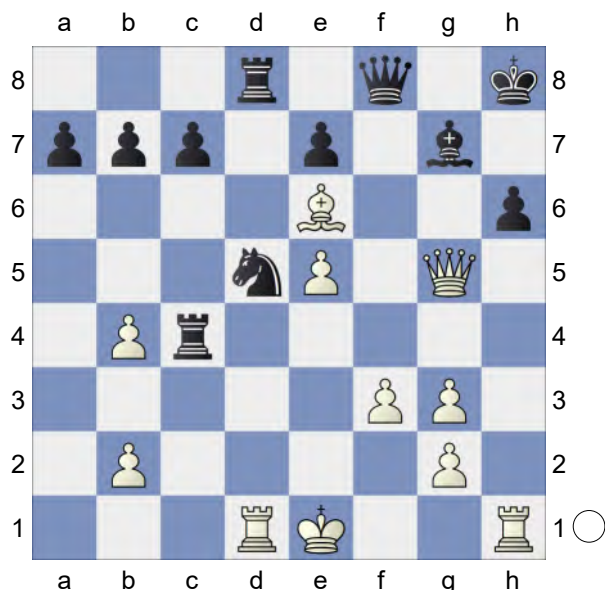
24...Nxd5?

[24...c6? 25.Qxg5 Qf8 26.b3!! (26.Qg6? Rxd5 27.Rxd5 Nxd5 28.Bf5 Qxf5 29.Qxf5 Rc1+ 30.Kf2 Rxh1 31.Qc8+ Kh7 32.f4 Rc1 33.Qxb7 a6 34.Qd7) 26...Rxb4 (26...Rc3 27.Rd4!! Nxd5 28.Rdh4+-) 27.Kf2 Rxb3 28.Rxh6+ Bxh6 29.Rh1 Rb2+ 30.Ke3 Nxd5+ 31.Bxd5 cxd5 32.Rxh6+ Qxh6 33.Qxh6+ Kg8+-]

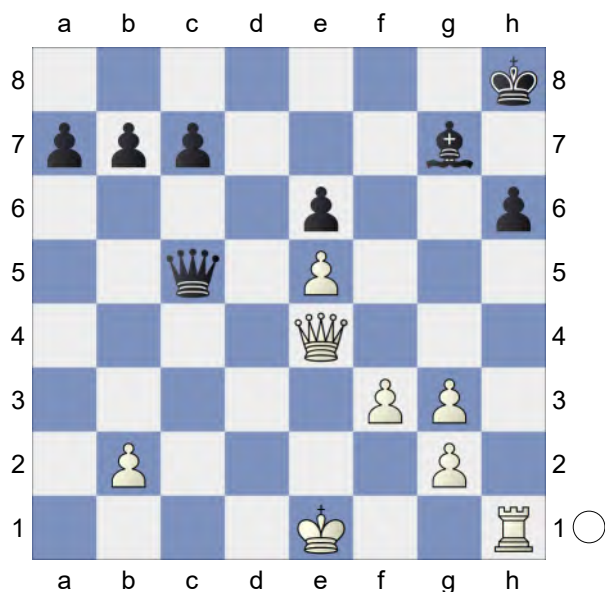
[24...g4□ 25.Qg5! (25.f4? Qb5 26.Rxh6+ Bxh6 27.Qg6 Qxb4+ 28.Kf1 Rxf4+ 29.Kg1 Rf7!! 30.Bxf7 Qc5+ 31.Kh2 Qe3 32.d6 cxd6 33.exd6 Bf4 34.gxf4 Qxf4+ 35.Kh1 g3=; 25.Rh5? Rxd5 26.Rxd5 Nxd5 27.Qg5 Qf8 28.Bxd5 Rxb4 29.Qg6 gxf3 30.gxf3 Rb6 31.e6 Qg8±) 25...Qf8□ 26.Qg6 Rxd5 27.Rxd5 (27.Bxd5?! Nxd5 28.Rxd5 Rc1+ 29.Rd1 Rxd1+ 30.Kxd1 gxf3 31.Qe4 fxg2 32.Qxg2 Qf5!) 27...Nxd5 28.Bf5 Qxf5 29.Qxf5 Rc1+ 30.Ke2 Rxh1 31.Qxg4 Rc1 (31...c6 32.Qc8+ Kh7 33.f4 Rc1 34.Qxb7 Rc2+ 35.Kf3 a6

36.Qxa6 Nxb4 37.Qa3 c5 38.Qb3±)
 32.Qc8+ Kh7 33.Qxb7 c6 34.f4 a6
 35.Kf3]

25.Qxg5 Qf8



**26.Rxd5 Rxd5 27.Bxd5 Rxb4 28.Qg6!
 e6 29.Be4 Rxe4+ 30.Qxe4+- Qc5**



31.Kd1! Qf2 32.Kc1! Qxg3

[32...Qxg2 33.Rd1+-]

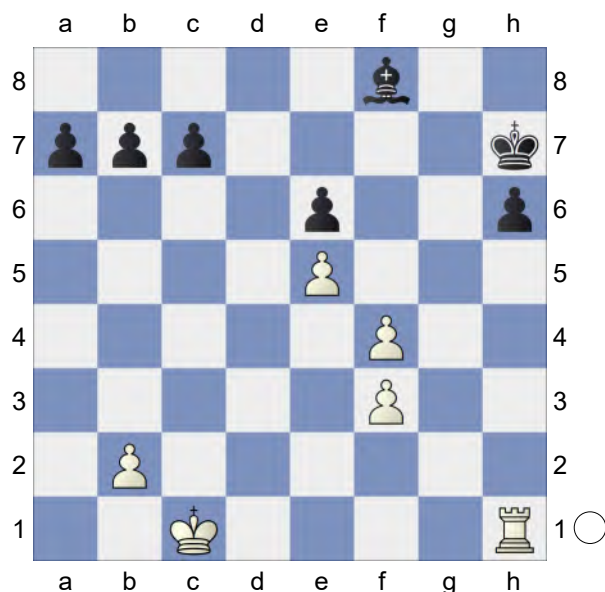
33.f4!

[33.Rd1? Bxe5]

33...Bf8 34.Qf3?

[34.Rd1! Qg7 35.Qxb7+-]

34...Qxf3 35.gxf3 [2/j] 35...Kh7



36.Rd1!

[36.f5!? exf5 37.Rg1! Bc5 38.Rg2

**A) 38...a5 39.Kd2 a4 40.Kd3 a3
 41.bxa3 Bxa3 42.Ke3+-;**

**B) 38...h5 39.Kd2 Kh6 40.f4 a5
 (40...b6 41.Rg5 Be7 42.Rg8 Bc5
 43.Ke2 Bd4 44.b3 Bc5 45.Rc8
 h4 46.Kf3 Kg6 47.Rxc7+-; 40...h4
 41.Ke2 a5 42.Rg5 Be7
 43.Rg8+-) 41.Kd3 c6 42.e6 Bd6
 43.Re2 Be7 44.Kd4+-;**

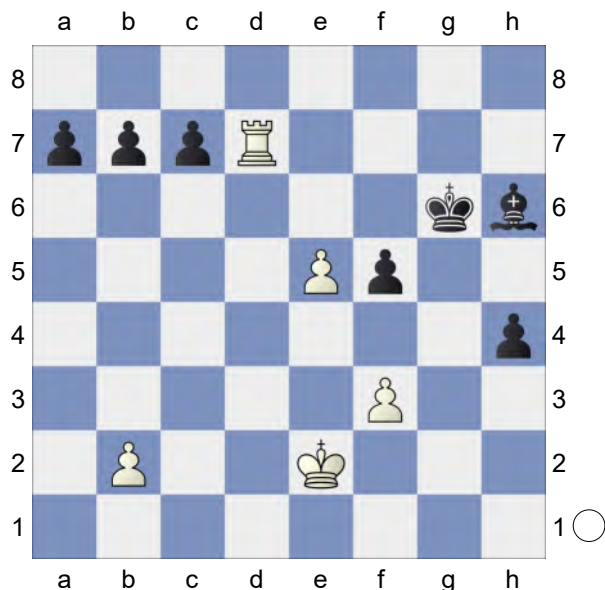
**C) 38...b6 39.Kd2 a5 (39...Bd4
 40.e6 Bc5 41.Kc3 a5 42.Re2
 Be7 43.Kd4 Kg6 44.Kd5 Kg5
 45.Kc6 Kf4 46.Kd7+-) 40.Kd3 h5
 41.Rg5 Kh6 42.Rxf5 h4 43.Rf4
 Kh5 44.Rg4 h3 45.Ke4 h2
 46.Rg8 Kh4 47.Rh8+ Kg3 48.f4
 Kg2 49.f5 h1Q 50.Rxh1 Kxh1
 51.f6+-]**

**36...Kg6 37.Rd7 h5 38.Kd2 h4
 39.f5+! exf5 40.Ke2**

[40.f4 Bh6 41.Ke3 h3 42.Rxc7 h2
 43.Rc1 Bf8 44.Kf3 Bc5 45.Kg2 Bg1
 46.Rd1 a5 (46...Be3 47.Re1)
 47.Rd6+ Kg7 48.Rf6+-]

40...Bh6

(Diagram)

**41.Rxc7**

[41.e6

A) 41...h3 42.Kf2 (42.Kf1!? Bg5 43.f4 h2 44.Kg2 Bxf4 45.Rh7 Kxh7 46.e7 b6 47.e8Q Kg7 48.Qe6 Bd6 49.Qxf5 a5 50.b3+-) 42...Bg5 43.Rxc7 Kf6 (43...b6 44.Rxa7 Kf6 45.Rb7 Bh4+ 46.Kg1 h2+ 47.Kxh2 Bf2 48.e7 Kf7 49.Kg2 Bc5 50.Kg3+-) 44.e7 Kf7 45.Rxb7 a5 46.Kg3 Bxe7 47.Ra7 Ke6 48.Rxa5+-;

B) 41...Bg5 42.f4! (42.Rxc7+-)

B1) 42...Bf6 43.Rxc7 h3 (43...Bxb2 44.Rh7!) 44.Kf3 Bh4 45.Rxb7 a5 46.Ra7+-;

B2) 42...Bxf4 43.Rh7!]

41...Bf4 42.Re7 h3 43.Kf1 b6

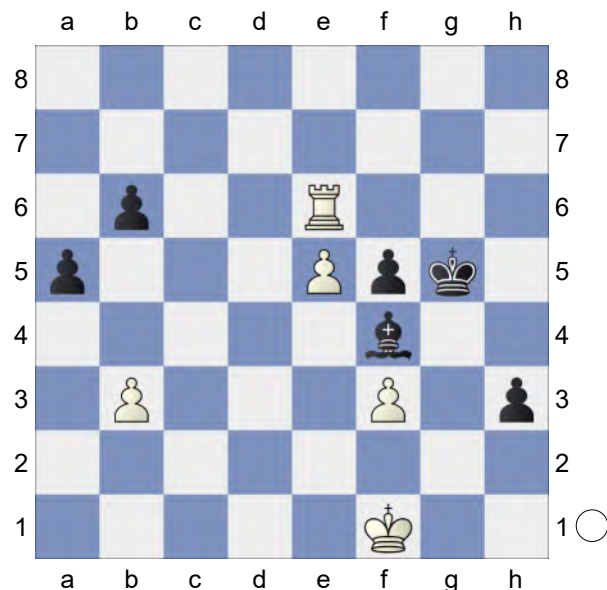
[43...a5 44.e6 Kf6 45.Rxb7 Kxe6 46.Rb6+-]

44.b3??⊕

[44.e6 Kf6 45.Rxa7 h2 46.Kg2 Kxe6 47.b3 Kd5 48.Rf7 Ke5 49.Rb7 Be3 50.Kxh2 Kf4 51.Kg2 Bc5 52.Rd7 Ke5 53.Kg3+-]

44...a5 45.Re6+ Kg5

(Diagram)

**46.Re8 Kg6 47.Re7 b5**

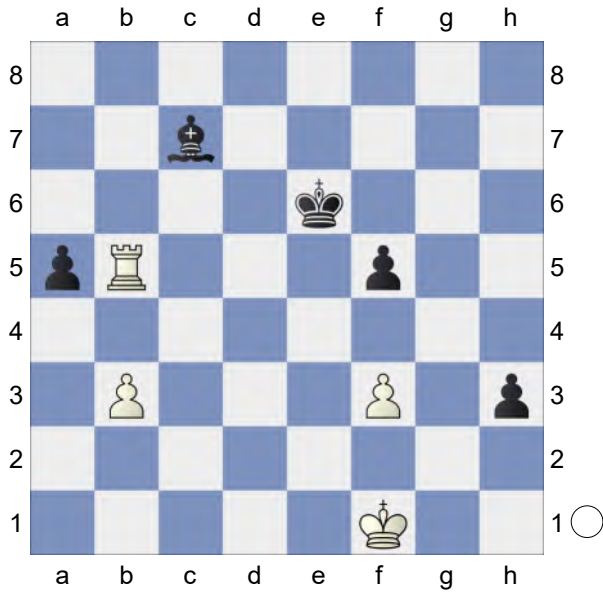
[47...Be3!? 48.Rd7 (48.Re6+ Kg5 49.Rd6 f4 50.Rf6 Bd4) 48...f4 49.e6 Kf6 50.e7 Kf7 51.e8Q+ Kxe8 52.Rh7 h2 53.Rxh2 Kd7 54.Rh6 Bc5 55.Ke2 Bd6 56.Kd3 Kc6 57.Kd4 b5 58.Rh2 Bc5+ 59.Ke5 Bd6+ 60.Ke6 Bc5 61.Rc2 Kb6 62.Kd5 Be3 63.Rg2 Kb7 64.Rg7+ Kb6 65.Rg6+ Kb7±]

48.e6 Kf6??⊕

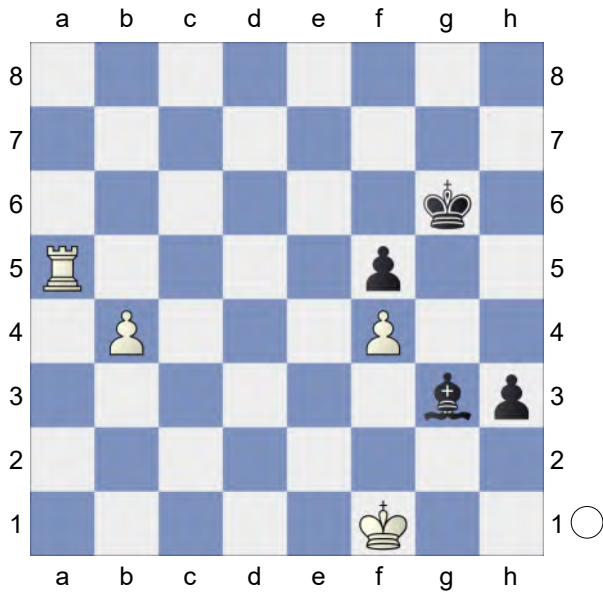
[48...Bd6 49.Rd7 Ba3 50.Ra7 a4 51.bxa4 bxa4 52.Rxa4 Bc5 53.Rh4 Kf6 54.Rh6+ Ke7 55.Ke2 h2 56.Rxh2 Kxe6±]

49.Rb7 Kxe6 50.Rxb5 Bc7

(Diagram)

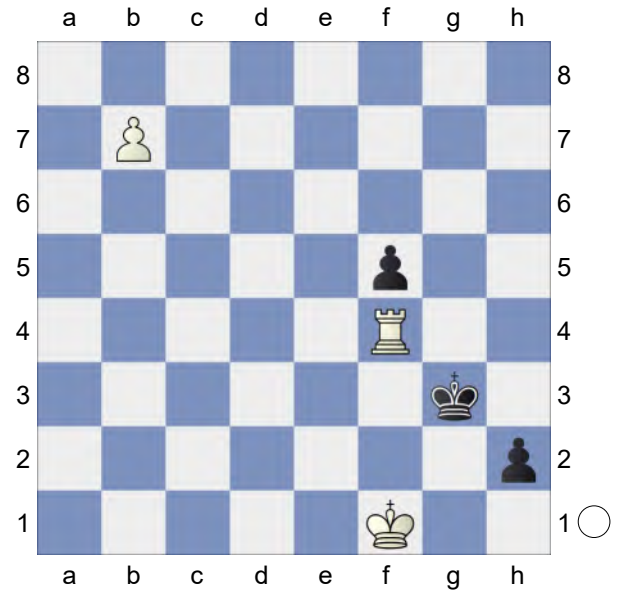


**51.Rc5 Bd8 52.f4 Bh4 53.Re5+ Kf6
54.Rxa5 Kg6 55.b4 Bg3**

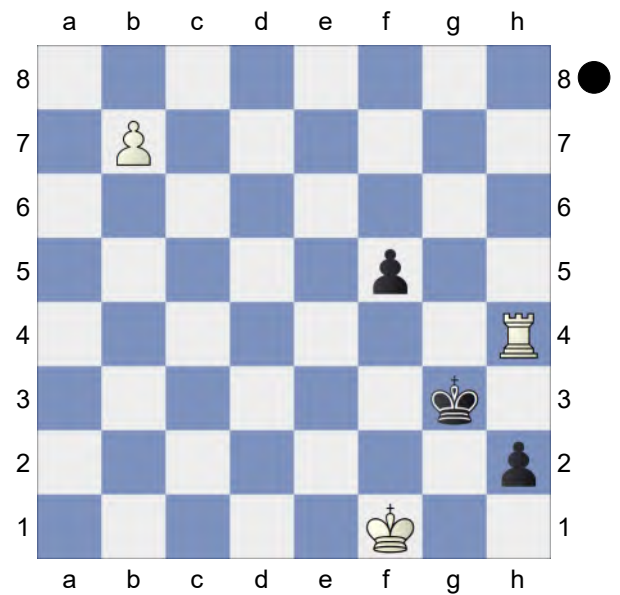


**56.b5 Bxf4 57.b6 Kg5 58.b7 Kg4
59.Ra4 Kg3 60.Rxf4! h2**

(Diagram)



61.Rh4!



1-0

184

□ Wang, Yue

■ Wei, Yi

TCh-CHN 2015 (19.2)

[Glenn Flear]

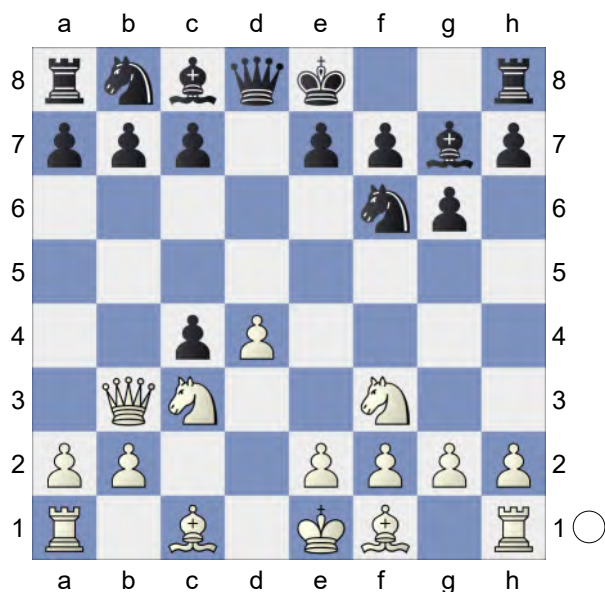
D97

2726

2706

08.12.2015

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3
Bg7 5.Qb3 dxc4



6.Qxc4 0-0 7.e4 Be6 A popular move in the last few years. As White has been unsuccessful with d4-d5, to challenge Black's idea, he has to move his queen again. So Black arguably gains time for development. 8.Qd3

[Instead 8.Qb5 Bd7 9.Qb3 c5 10.d5 Qb6 (best is the dynamic option: 10...b5! 11.e5 Ng4 12.Bf4 Qb6 13.Qc2 Bf5= as in Checa, N-Mikhalevski, V Rockville 2015) 11.Bc4 Bg4 12.Be3 Nbd7 13.Nd2 occurred in Svidler, P-Wei Yi, Baku 2015, when White was somewhat better. Maybe the improvement on move ten (see the bracket) indicated to Wei Yi that ...b5 is the right approach for Black in this line.]

8...c5 9.d5 There are differences with

this advance compared to on the previous move. Now, with Black's c-pawn on c5, he doesn't have the ...c6 counter available to nibble at the centre.

9...Bg4

[Instead going back with 9...Bc8 has been the most common here. Then 10.Be2 e6 11.Bg5 h6 12.Be3 exd5 13.exd5 Na6 (13...Bf5!) 14.Rd1 Ng4 was seen in Potkin, V-Nepomniachtchi, I Yaroslavl rapid 2014. This looks very much like a type of Prins Variation (where Black plays with 7...Na6 and typically follows-up with ...c5).]

10.Bg5 This seems to be new.

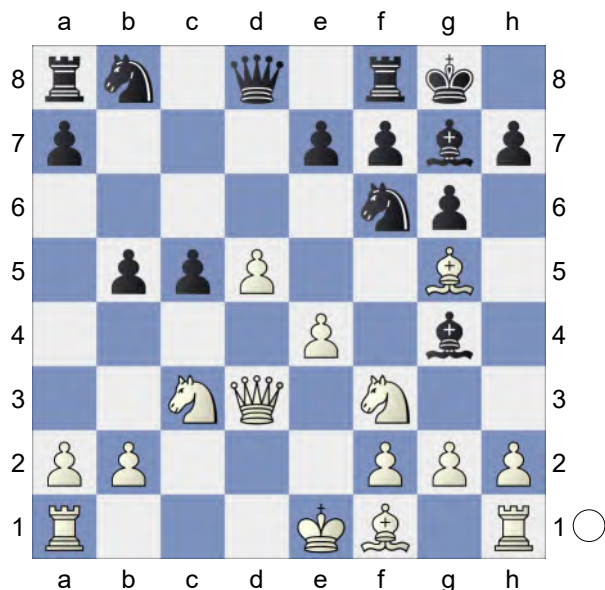
[Instead 10.Be3 'developing with a threat' looks normal: Nbd7 11.Nd2 e6 12.d6 e5! 13.Be2 Be6?! (with less space Black should not be afraid to trade pieces: 13...Bxe2! 14.Qxe2 Qb6 15.Nc4 Qc6) 14.0-0 Ne8 15.Rfd1 Rc8 16.Nc4 Vidit, S-Khusnutdinov, R Al-Ain 2015, and Black was cramped.]

10...b5!?

[Although the engines may suggest 10...Bxf3 11.Qxf3 Nbd7 to me this still looks more comfortable for White (although the engines give it as only 0.2). However there may be nothing better.]

[Instead, after the routine 10...Nbd7 White removes the knight with 11.Nd2 and Black's bishop is in danger.]

(Diagram)

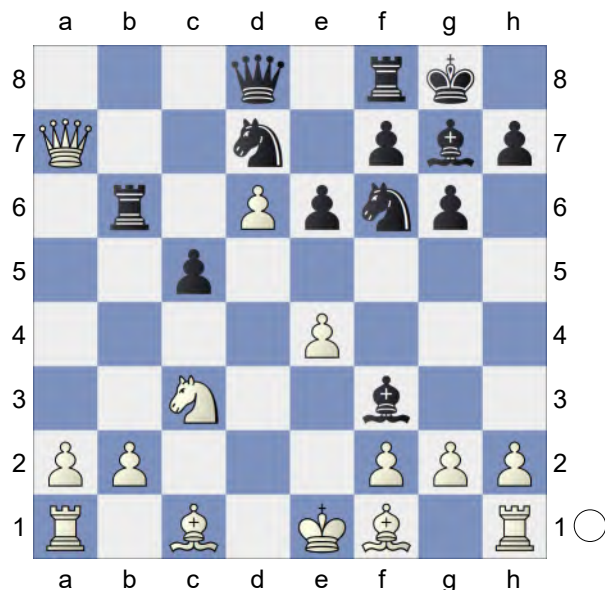


Time is an important factor in this variation. If White can 'settle things down' and hold onto his central preponderance he can count on a middlegame advantage. So Wei Yi aims to complicate matters with this pawn sacrifice. **11.Qxb5 Nbd7 12.Bc1!?** A remarkable 'anti-development' move in order to hold onto his queenside. **12...Rb8 13.Qa6!?**

[13.Qd3 is less greedy.]

13...Rb6 14.Qxa7 Wang Yue is really waving the red rag by going for the second pawn. **14...e6!** Cracking open the centre just has to be good. **15.d6!?** **Bxf3**

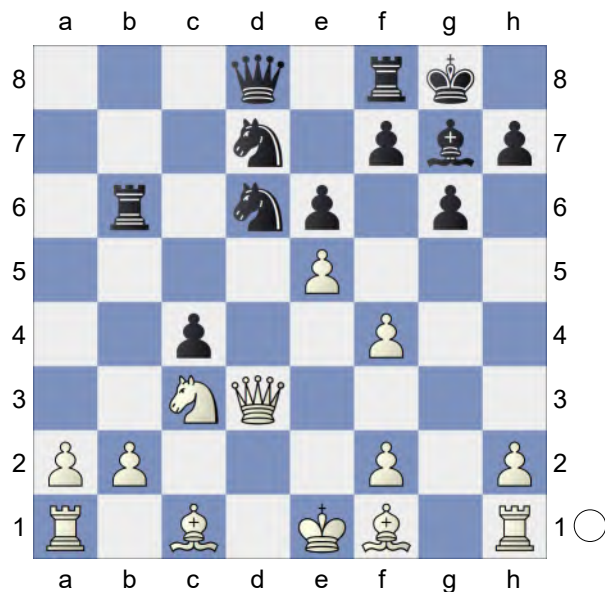
(Diagram)



16.gxf3 Ne8 Wei Yi regains one pawn and has easier piece play, so it seems that he has enough compensation. **17.f4 Nxd6 18.e5 Rb7?!**

[There is no need to 'aid and abet' White to get his queen back to civilization. Instead 18...Nf5! with ...Nd4 should yield excellent play. The engines even prefer Black.]

19.Qa6 Rb6 20.Qd3 c4

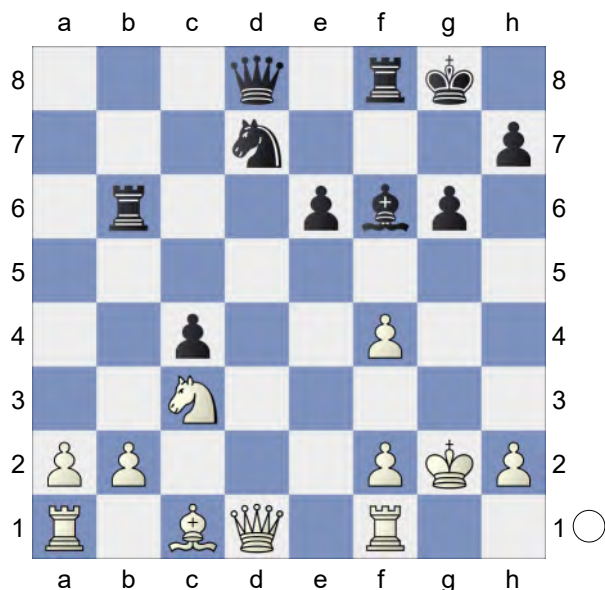


21.Qd1 Nf5 Not quite as effective now that the white queen is on d1 and when there is no access to d4. **22.Bg2 Nh4**

23.0-0 Nxg2 24.Kxg2 f6 Opening lines is still in Black's interest.

[Instead 24...g5 undermining the e5-pawn, is another way for Black to get good play.]

25.exf6 Bxf6



26.Qf3 Qa8 Trading queens may come as a surprise to many, but exchanging White's best placed piece is certainly a reasonable idea.

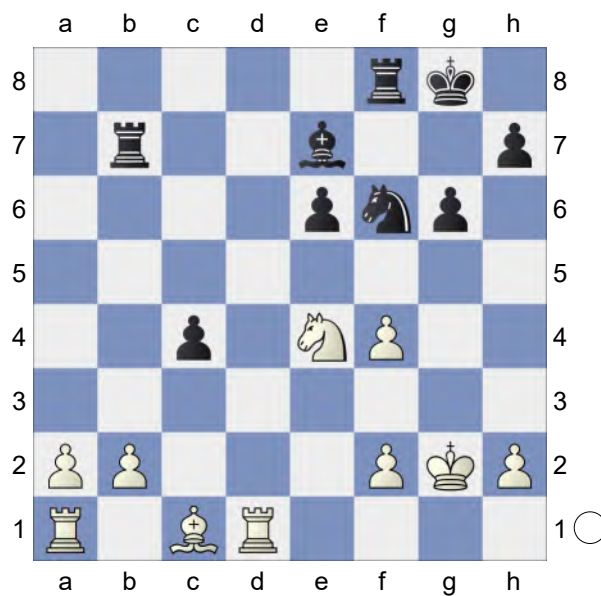
[As an alternative, improving the knight with 26...Nc5!? would have been the choice of many.]

27.Rd1 Qxf3+ 28.Kxf3 Rb7

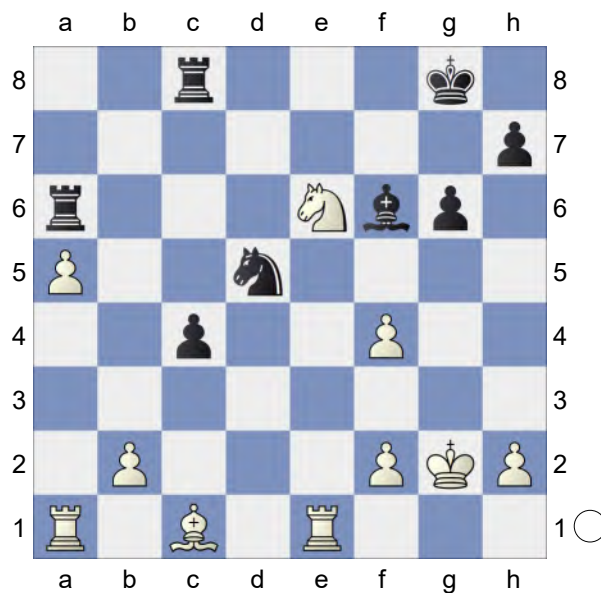
[Again 28...Nc5 comes into consideration, when the following moves give Black somewhat the worst of a draw: 29.Be3 Rc6 30.Bxc5 Rxc5 31.Ne4 Rf5 32.Nxf6+ R5xf6 33.Rd4 c3 34.bxc3 e5 35.Re4 Rxf4+ 36.Rxf4 Rxf4+ 37.Ke3 Ra4]

29.Ne4 Be7 White's extra pawn may not look that thrilling, but Black also has weaknesses. **30.Kg2 Nf6?**

[Now I'm sure that 30...Nc5 would be a better choice, avoiding the game continuation.]

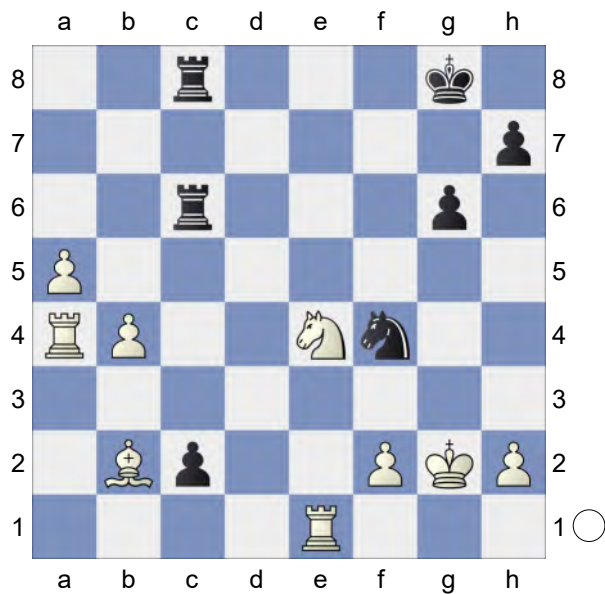


31.Ng5 Rb6 32.Re1 Here e6 is doomed. White now has an undisputed, if not decisive, advantage. **32...Nd5 33.Nxe6 Rc8 34.a4 Bf6 35.a5 Ra6**



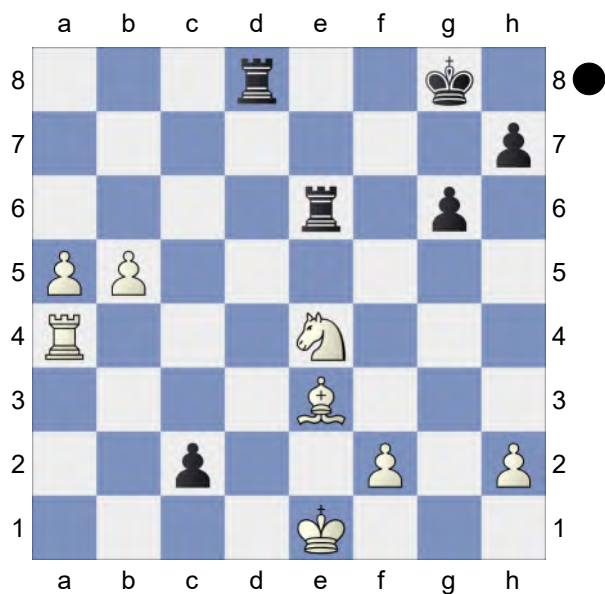
36.Ra4 From Black's point of view, it looks like a Benko gone wrong. Note that the bishop is actually quite happy on c1! **36...c3** Activity, or simply frustration? **37.b4 c2 38.Nc5 Rac6 39.Ne4** Wang Yue is ready for b4-b5. **39...Bb2** Definitely desperate stuff! **40.Bxb2 Nxf4+**

(Diagram)



**41.Kf1 Nd3 42.Bc1 Re6 43.b5 Rd8
44.Be3 Nxe1 45.Kxe1**

[e.g. 45.Kxe1 Rd3 46.Bd2 Rc3
47.b6 c1Q+ 48.Bxc1 Rxc1+ 49.Kd2
Rc8 50.b7 Rd8+ 51.Ke3 Ra6
52.Rc4 Rxa5 53.Rc8]



The queenside pawns constitute a
decisive advantage.

1-0

266

□ Wang, Yue

■ Wei, Yi

TCh-CHN Division A 2014 (19.2) 6.12.14

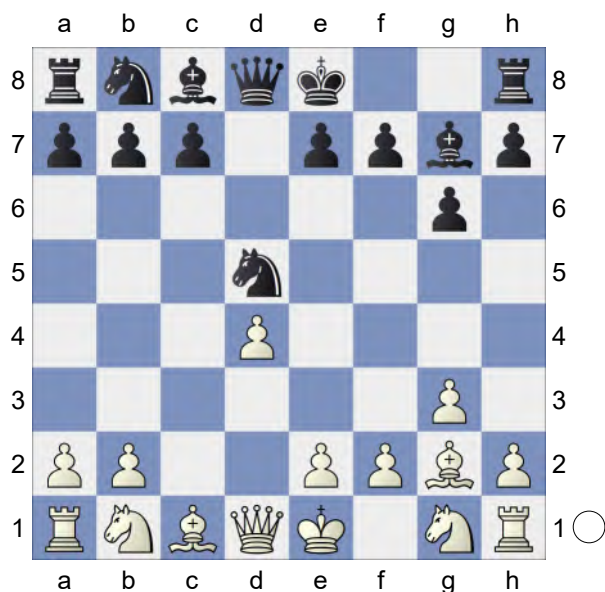
[Glenn Flear]

D72

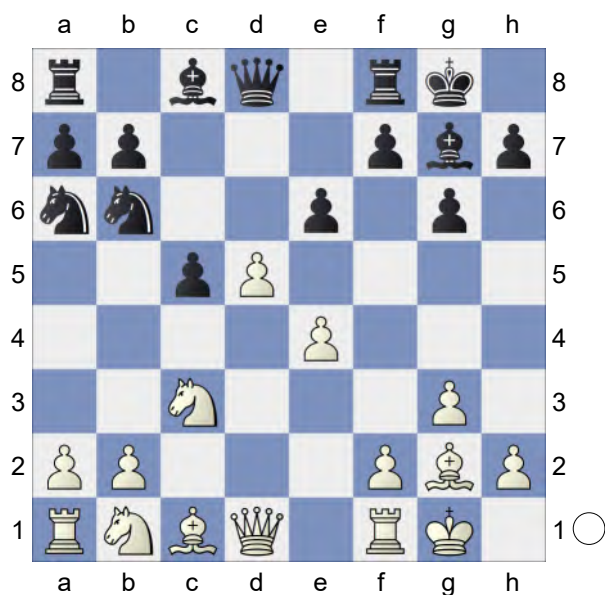
2711

2649

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 d5
5.cxd5 Nxd5



6.e4 Nb6 7.Ne2 c5 8.d5 0-0 9.0-0 e6
10.Nec3 Na6



11.Na3

[Previous updates have been mainly

concerned with 11.a4 (see the archives).]

11...exd5 12.exd5 Bf5 13.Be3

[The rather flamboyant 13.g4?! soon rebounded on White in the following: Bd7 14.h3 f5! 15.d6 fxe4 16.Bxb7 Qh4 17.Ne4 Rae8 Jobava, B-Bacrot, E Spanish league 2011, and Black was better.]

13...Qd7 14.Qb3

[Although 14.Qd2 has been played a few times, White has been unable to obtain any advantage with it. Here is a recent example: Bh3 15.Bh6 Bxg2 16.Kxg2 Bxh6 17.Qxh6 Rae8 18.Qd2 Nb4 19.Rfd1 Re5 Gemy, J-Huerta Leache, M Barcelona 2014, and Black had the initiative.]

14...Rfe8 A sensible developing move, but there is more than one way to obtain an acceptable game:

[14...Bd3 15.Rfd1 c4 16.Qb5 Rfd8 17.d6 Qxd6 18.Bxb6 Qxb6 19.Bxb7 Luch, M-Zakharov, V Leiden 2012, would be about equal following Qxb5!? 20.Naxb5 Rab8 21.Bxa6 Rb6]

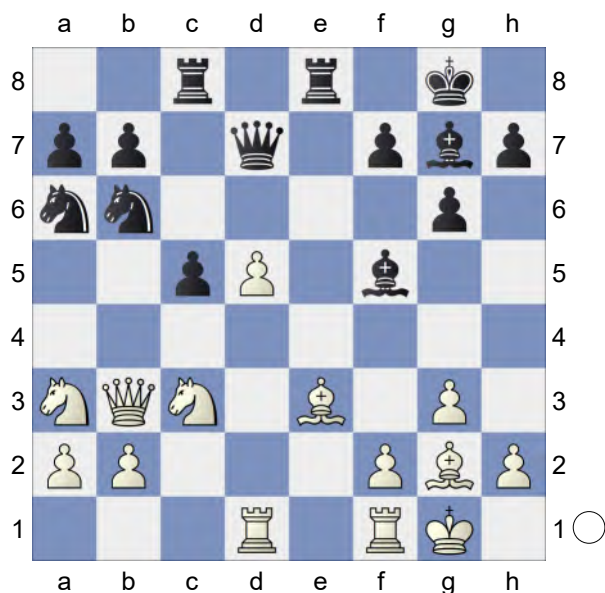
[14...Rac8 15.Nab5 Nb4 16.Bxc5!? (winning a pawn at the cost of the bishop pair) Rxc5 17.Qxb4 Rc4 18.Qa3 Ra8 19.d6 a6 20.Nc7 Rd8 21.Rad1 Bc2 Navara, D-Grandelius, N Reykjavik 2013, with enough counterplay.]

15.Rad1

[15.Rfd1 Rxe3!? (a bit optimistic, but maybe OK) (15...Rac8 looks normal) 16.fxe3 Nb4 17.Ne4 N4xd5? (Black could justify his exchange 'sac' with 17...Bxe4! 18.Bxe4 Na4 19.Rd2 a5 with ...b5 and ...c4 in mind) 18.Nxc5 Qe7 19.Bxd5 Qxc5 20.Bxf7+ Kh8 21.Nc4 Lenderman, A-

Robson, R St.Louis 2014, with a big advantage.]

15...Rac8



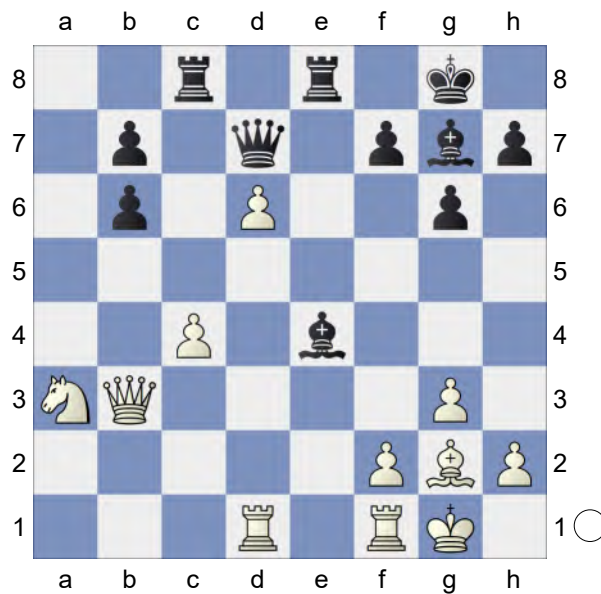
16.d6 Nb4!? The threat of coming into d3 forces White into action. **17.Bxc5! Nxa2! 18.Bxb6 Nxc3 19.bxc3 axb6**

[Alternatively 19...Rxc3 seems OK e.g. 20.Qb4 axb6 21.Nc4 Bd3 22.Nxb6 Qb5=]

20.c4 Be4?!

[The dynamic 20...Re2 21.Qxb6 Rb2 is another, and possibly better, way of handling the position. Then Black's active pieces fully compensate for the pawn minus.]

(Diagram)



21.Qxb6?! Taking the pawn only leads to a balanced game.

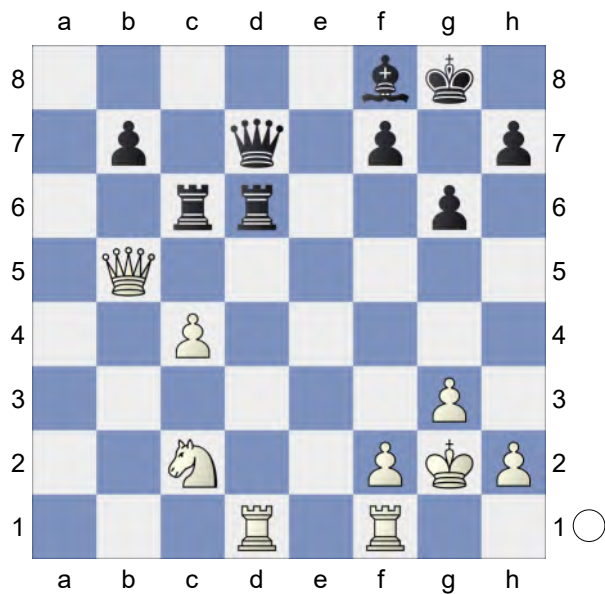
[Instead 21.Rfe1! Bxg2 22.Rxe8+ Rxe8 23.Kxg2 is interesting (the d-pawn is a handy trump), and after Qc6+ 24.Kg1 Bd4! 25.Nb5! I prefer White.]

21...Rc6 22.Qb4

[22.Qb5 Bxg2 23.Kxg2 Re5 eventually leads to Black picking off the passed pawn e.g. 24.Qa4 Bf8 25.Rd3 b6! 26.Nb5 Rxd6! 27.Rxd6 Bxd6 28.Rd1 Qc6+=]

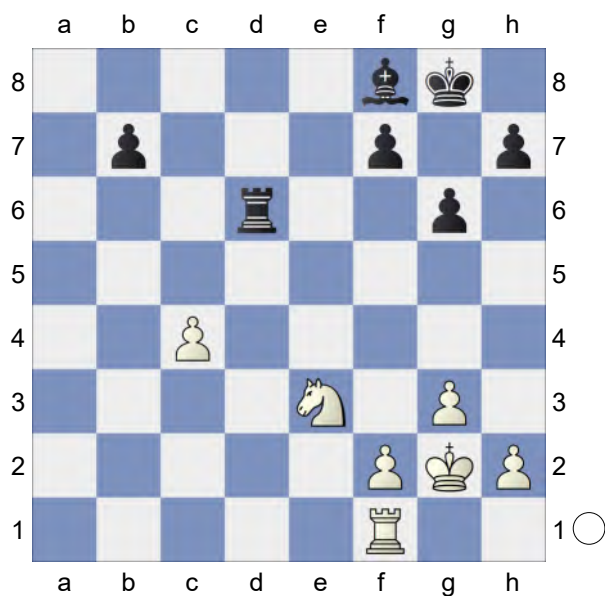
22...Bxg2 23.Kxg2 Bf8 24.Qb5 Re6 What a pile-up on the d6-pawn! **25.Nc2 Rxd6**

(Diagram)

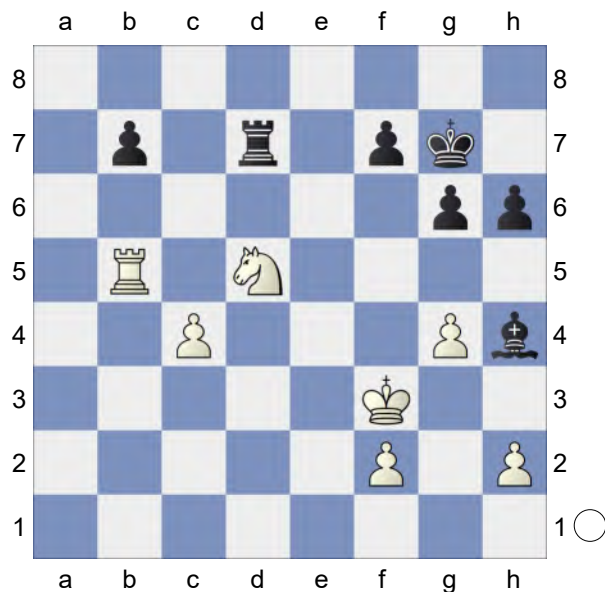


26.Ne3 Rc7 27.Qxd7 Rcx d7 28.Rxd6 Rxd6 29.Rb1 Rd7= Wang Yue now tries to win, perhaps the match situation dictated this course of action. **30.Rf1?!** I really don't understand this, and suspect that another move was played in the game. **30...Rd6**

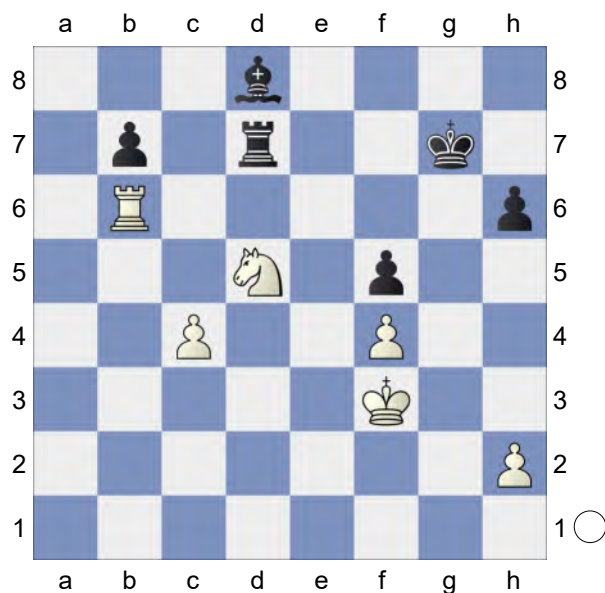
[This position may not have occurred, but nevertheless, the standard way of reducing White's chances is 30...h5! when Black has less risk of being cramped.]



31.Rb1 Rd7 32.Nd5 Kg7 33.g4! h6 34.Rb5 Be7 35.Kf3 Bh4



36.Ke3 White's pieces are well-placed, but I'm not sure he can really make progress if Black sits tight. **36...f5!?** This avoids being squeezed for space, at the risk of weakening his structure. **37.gxf5 gxf5 38.f4 Kg6 39.Rb6+ Kg7 40.Kf3 Bd8**

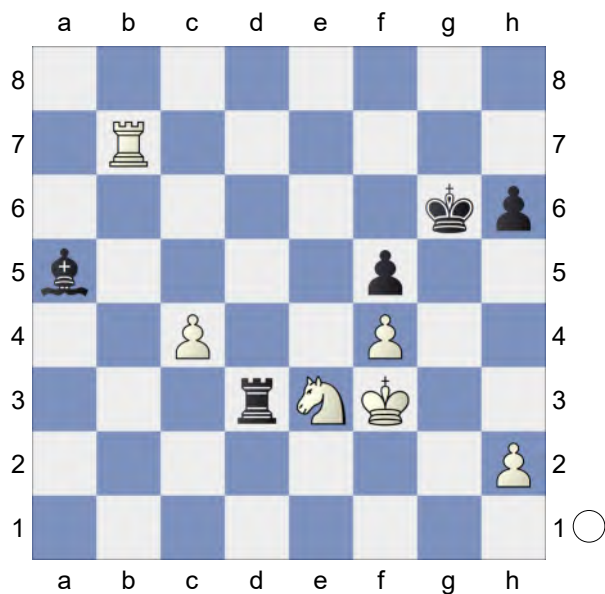


41.Rb5 Kg6 42.Ne3 Rd3!? Wei Yi again decides to go active.

[After the passive 42...Rf7 Black looks as if he is close to being

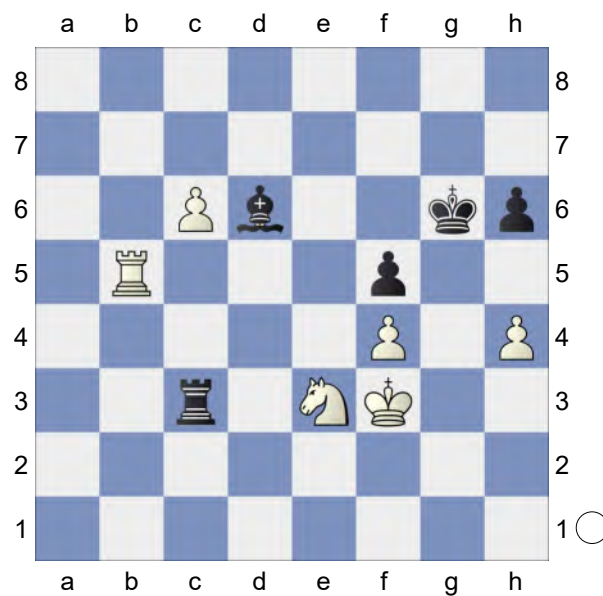
in Zugzwang. However I can't see White 'pulling it off' as Black has ... Bh4-d8 to temporize. If White places his king on g3 (stopping ...Bh4) then ... Be7 holds for tactical reasons. If White instead places his king on h3... 43.Kg2 (43.Kg3 Be7 44.Kh3 Bf8 45.Ng2 Rc7 46.Nh4+ Kh7 47.Rxf5 Be7 48.Rb5 Bxh4 49.Kxh4 Rxc4 should be drawn) or 43...Bh4 (even 43...Bc7 might be OK: 44.Rxb7 Bxf4 45.Rxf7 Kxf7 46.Nxf5 Ke6 47.Ng3 Kd6 48.Kf3 Ke5 is fairly drawish despite White winning a pawn) 44.Kh3 Bf2 and the pressure on Black's position is released.]

43.Ke2 Rd4 44.Kf3 Rd3 45.Rxb7 Ba5

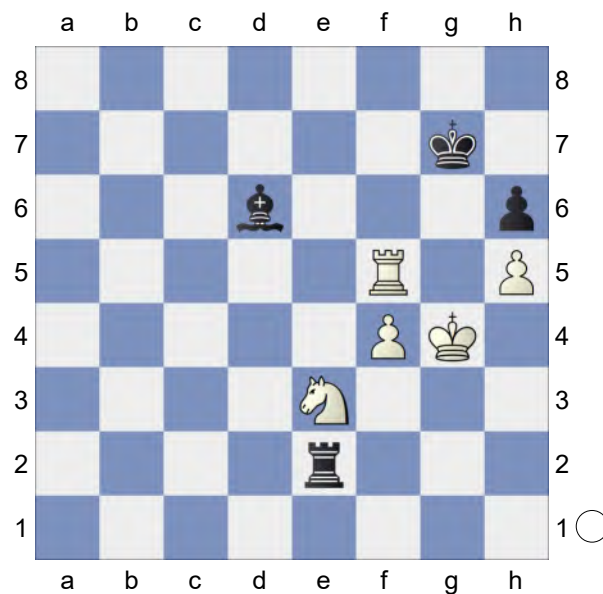


Having the initiative is handy, but is it worth a pawn? **46.c5 Rc3 47.Rb5 Bc7 48.h3 Kh5 49.c6** Wang Yue wants to trade the sickly c-pawn for Black's f-pawn. With all the play then on one wing the knight will be at least equal to the bishop. **49...Kg6 50.h4 Bd6**

(Diagram)

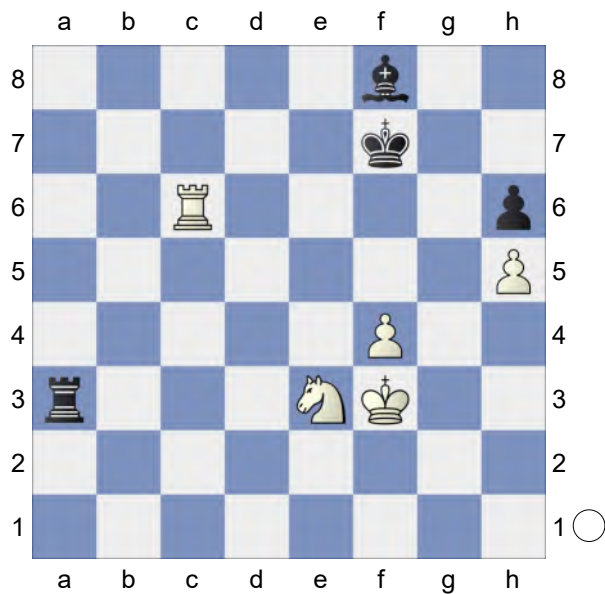


51.Ke2 Rxc6 52.Rxf5 Rc2+ 53.Kf3 Rh2 54.Kg4 Re2 55.h5+ Kg7



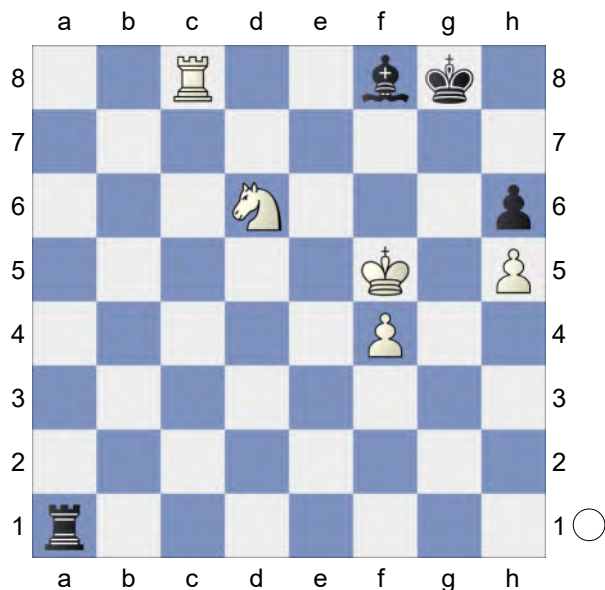
56.Kf3 Ra2 The extra pawn is consolidated, so it's now a question of whether he can break Black's defences. **57.Rd5 Bf8 58.Rd7+ Kf6 59.Rc7 Ra3 60.Rc6+ Kf7**

(Diagram)



**61.Ke4 Ra4+ 62.Nc4 Bg7 63.Kf5 Ra1
64.Nd6+ Kg8 65.Rc8+ Bf8**

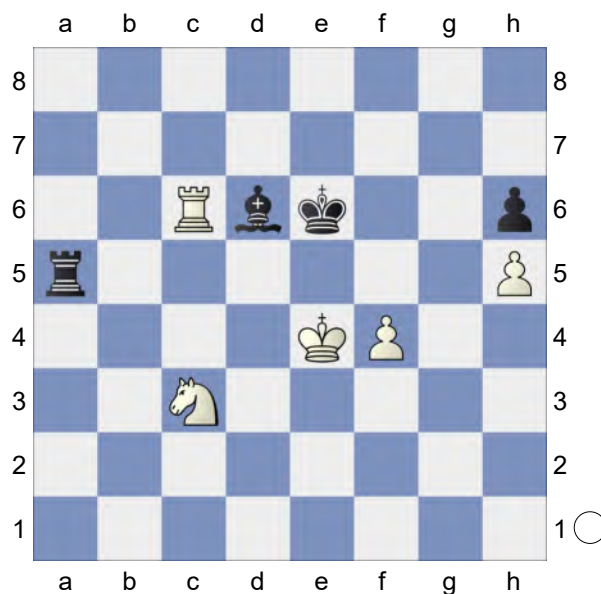
[65...Kh7 66.Ne8 Bb2 67.Rc7+ Kg8
68.Nf6+ Bxf6 69.Kxf6 Ra6+ 70.Kf5
Ra5+ 71.Kg4 is probably a draw, but
White has some practical winning
chances.]



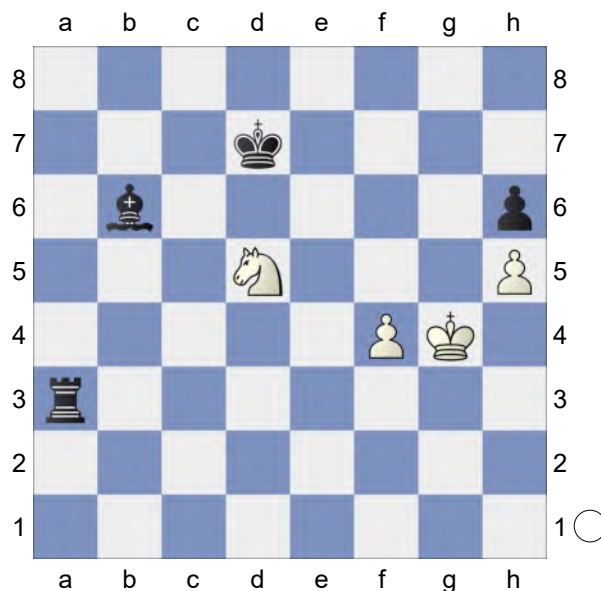
66.Ne4 Kf7 67.Rc7+ Be7 68.Nc3?!

[68.Nd6+! Kf8 69.Nc4 looks stronger
with Ne5 to follow. This looks like
serious progress and might even be
winning.]

68...Ra5+ 69.Ke4 Ke6 70.Rc6+ Bd6

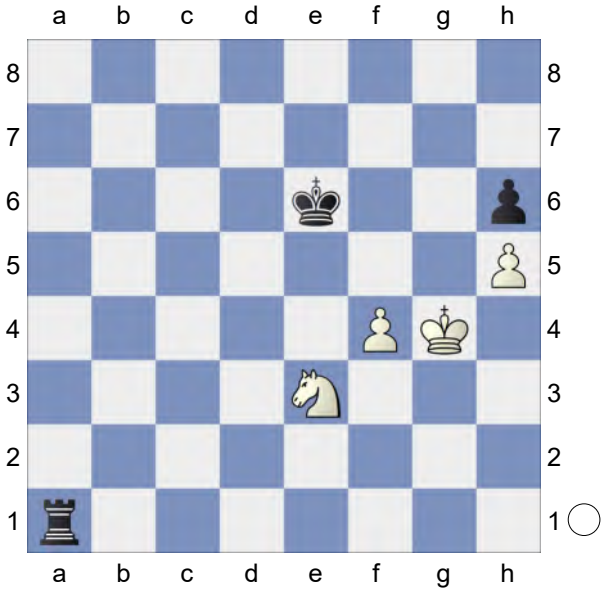


**71.Rb6 Kd7 72.Nd5 Ra4+ 73.Ke3?
Bc5+ Whoops! Fortunately for White this
didn't change the result. 74.Kf3 Ra3+
75.Kg4 Bxb6**

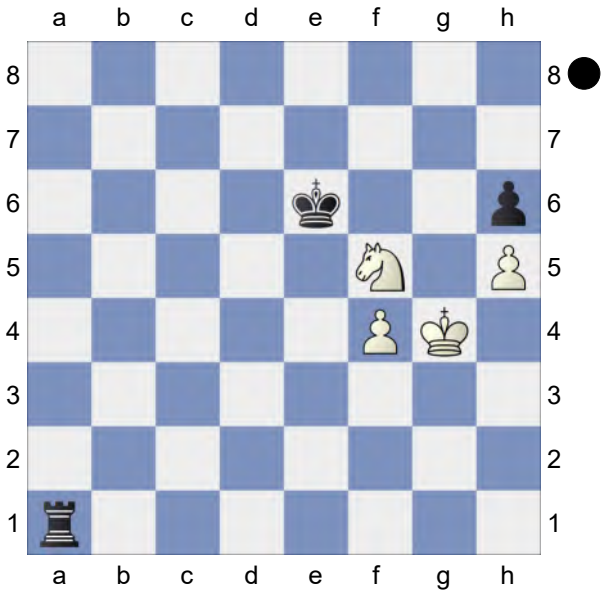


**76.Nxb6+ Ke6 77.Nc4 Ra1 78.Ne3
Rg1+ 79.Kf3 Rh1 80.Kg4 Ra1**

(Diagram)



81.Nf5



1/2-1/2

422

D91

□ Timman, Jan H

2593

■ Wei, Yi

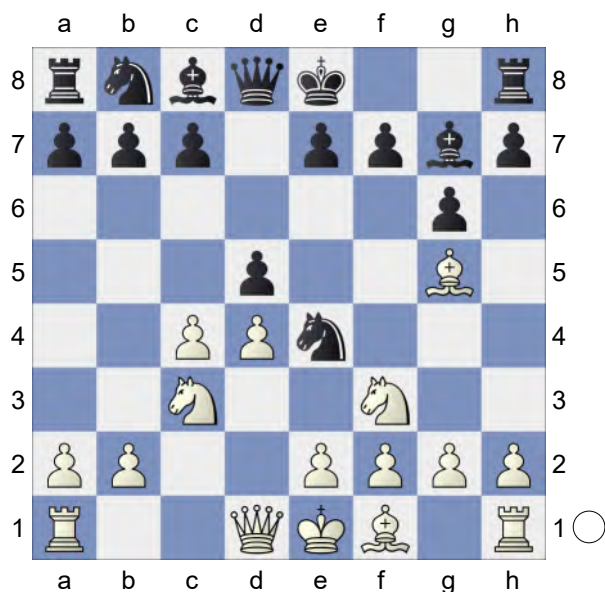
2675

77th Tata Steel GpB (7.1)

17.01.2015

[Glenn Flear]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3
Bg7 5.Bg5 Ne4



6.Bf4 Nxc3 7.bxc3 dxc4 8.e3

[For 8.Qa4+ , as in Sokolov, I-Aronian, L Wijk aan Zee 2013, see the archives.]

8...Be6 Wei Yi decides to hold onto the c4-pawn for now.

[The alternative way to attempt to keep the booty involves 8...b5 . Here is a recent example: 9.a4 c6 10.Qb1 Bf5 11.e4 Bd7 12.Bxc4 bxc4 13.Qb7 Na6 14.Qxa6 c5 15.Qxc4 cxd4 16.cxd4 Rc8 17.Qa6 Be6 18.Qb5+ Bd7 19.Qa6 Andreikin, D-Vachier Lagrave, M Tashkent 2014, with a repetition.]

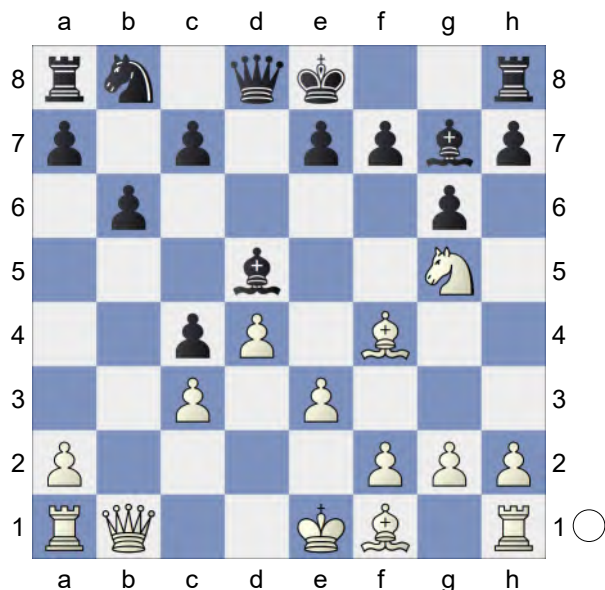
9.Qb1 Although 'hitting' the bishop with Ng5 is typically part of White's plans, there are several ways of implementing the knight leap.

[If 9.Ng5 Bd5 10.e4 h6 11.exd5 (after 11.Nf3 Bxe4 12.Bxc4 Nd7 13.0-0 Nb6 I don't think that White has full compensation) 11...hxg5 12.Qa4+ Qd7 13.Qxd7+ Nxd7 14.Bxc7 (14.Bxg5 Nb6 Bryzgalin, K-Khismatullin, D Ulan Ude 2009, and Black was more than comfortable, as he was soon able to capture on d5, without the loss of the c4-pawn) 14...Rc8 15.d6 (15.Bg3 f5!? with good play for Black) 15...exd6?! (instead 15...Nf6! 16.Bxc4 exd6 17.Bb5+ Ke7 18.Ba5 b6 19.Bb4 a5 favours Black) 16.Bxd6 Nb6 17.Be2 Kd7 18.Ba3 Nd5 19.Kd2 Matko, O-Zufic, M Zagreb 2012, with a tense and fairly balanced middlegame in prospect.]

[Another way is 9.Rb1 b6 10.Be2 (10.Ng5 Bd5 11.e4 h6 12.exd5 hxg5 13.Qa4+ Kf8 14.Bxg5 Qxd5 15.Be3 Qe4 (gaining a tempo against the rook, thus demonstrating the downside of 9.Rb1) 16.Rd1 Bh6 Plachetka, J-Piesina, G Eger 1984, is promising for Black) 10...0-0 11.0-0 Nc6 (hitting back at the centre with 11...Nd7 12.e4 c5 looks acceptable when 13.Ng5 cxd4 14.cxd4 Nf6 15.Nxe6 fxe6 16.Bxc4 Nxe4 is double-edged) 12.Ng5 Bd7 (better than 12...Bd5? 13.e4 h6 Aguetaz, M-Lokander, M Pardubice 2011, and then 14.exd5! hxg5 15.Bc1! Qxd5 16.Bf3 Qd6 17.Qa4 enables White to gain material and the advantage) 13.Bxc4 e5 14.dxe5 Nxe5=]

9...b6 10.Ng5 Bd5

(Diagram)



11.e4 h6

[Keeping the bishop with 11...Bb7 has also been played. Here's a recent example... 12.Bxc4 0-0 13.Qb3 e6 14.Bxe6!? fxe6 15.Qxe6+ Kh8 16.Nf7+ Rxf7 17.Qxf7 Nd7 18.f3 Ba6 Lizak, P-Garcia Roman, D Budapest 2013, which wasn't clear.]

12.Nf3

[Capturing on d5 is also a serious option: 12.exd5 hxg5 13.Qb5+ Qd7 14.Qxd7+ Nxd7 15.Bxg5 (here, compared to the immediate 9. Ng5 variation, Black has the extra move ...b7-b6. This is a negative feature from his point of view, as he is denied access to b6 for the knight, and furthermore his queenside light-squares could become targets) b5 16.a4 Nb6 17.axb5 0-0-0 18.Kd2 Rhe8 19.Kc2 Rxd5 20.Be3 Kb8 0.5-0.5 Knezevic, M-Ftacnik, L Trencianske Teplice 1985. Although the draw is reasonable, White's bishop pair offers him the slightly better options.]

12...Be6 13.Be5 f6

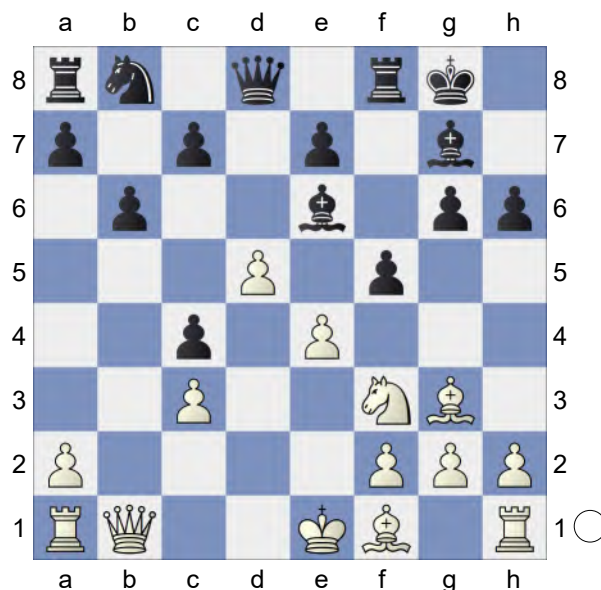
[Solid, but perhaps less ambitious, is

13...0-0 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.d5 Bc8 16.Bxc4 c6 17.0-0 Bb7 18.Bb3 cxd5 19.exd5 Nd7 (more to the point is 19...e6!? 20.dxe6 Bxf3 21.gxf3 fxe6=) 20.c4 Nc5 Frog, I-Baikov, V Moscow 1995, when Black is solid but White has a small pull due to his centre.]

14.Bg3

[Or perhaps 14.d5 e.g. Bf7 15.Bg3 0-0 (15...f5! 16.Be5 Bxe5 17.Nxe5 0-0 18.Bxc4 Qd6 transposes to the main game) 16.Bxc4 c5 17.0-0 Nc6 18.Qd3 Na5 Maris, Iv-Leenhouts, K Vlissingen 2014, and now White keeps a central bind by retaining his bishop with 19.Ba6!]

14...0-0 15.d5 f5!



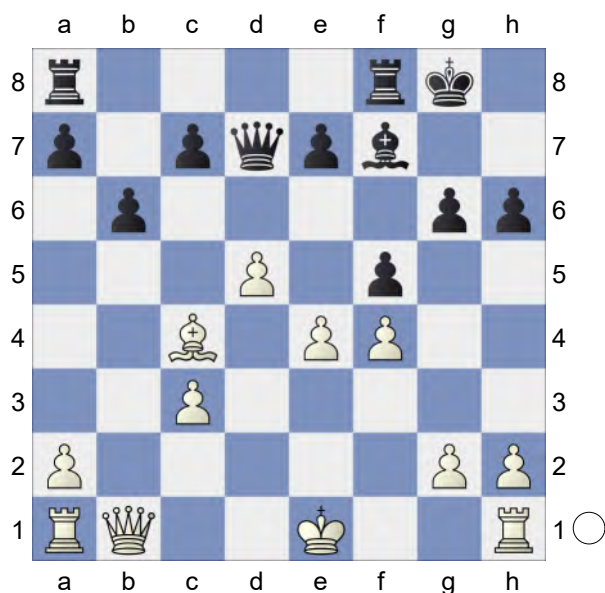
16.Be5

[Instead after 16.dxe6? Black has Bxc3+ when White is gummed-up and soon hopelessly down on material e.g. 17.Ke2 f4 18.Bh4 g5 19.e5 Qd3+ 20.Qxd3 cxd3+ 21.Kxd3 Bxa1]

16...Bf7 17.Bxc4 Bxe5 18.Nxe5 Qd6
White has regained his gambited pawn, but his centre comes under pressure.
19.f4 Nd7 20.Nxd7

[If instead 20.Nxf7 Rxf7 21.e5 Black has an interesting piece offer available: Nxe5!? (21...Qc5 22.Qd3 Rff8 also looks playable) 22.fxe5 Qxe5+ 23.Be2 Qxc3+ with enough compensation.]

20...Qxd7

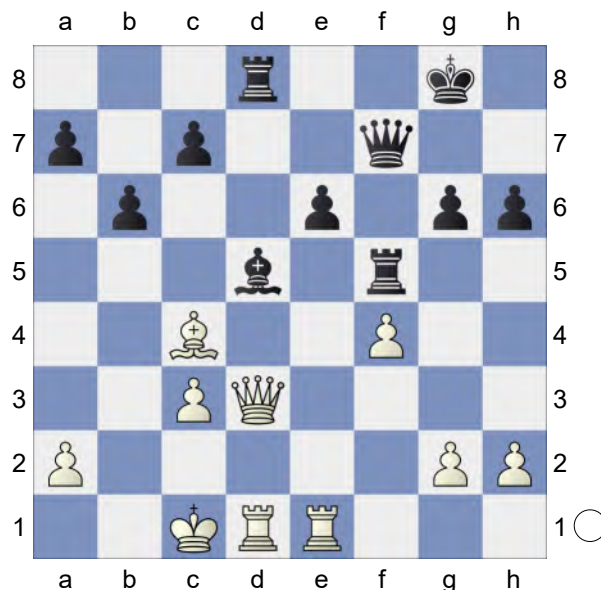


21.exf5? An oversight?

[Or 21.0-0 c6! and the centre will soon be dissolved. Nevertheless, this was White's best option, whereupon 22.exf5 gxf5 23.dxc6 Qxc6 24.Bxf7+ Rxf7 25.Qd3 would be more or less equal.]

21...Bxd5! 22.Qe4 Rxf5 Defending everything whilst snatching a pawn.
23.0-0-0 e6 24.Rhe1 Qf7
 White's threats have come to nought and Timman is reduced to fiddling about looking for swindling opportunities.
25.Qd3 Rd8

(Diagram)



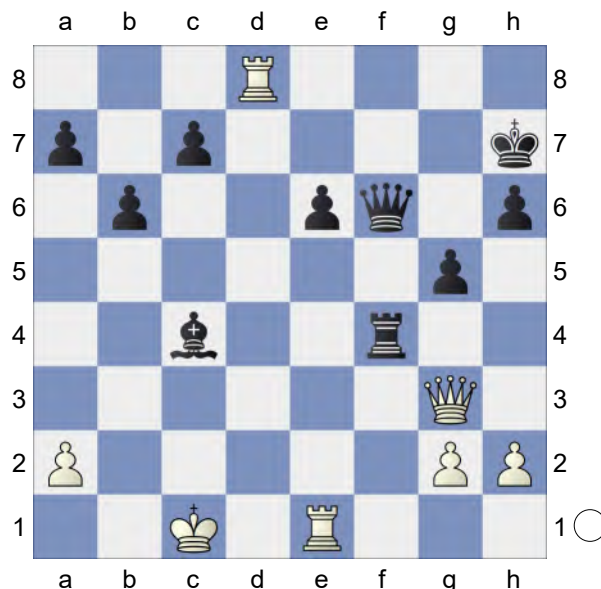
26.Qg3?

[26.g3 limits the damage to only one pawn.]

26...Rxf4 27.Bd3 g5 28.c4 Desperate stuff. **28...Bxc4**

[Another strong move is 28...Qf6 as 29.cxd5 Qc3+ 30.Bc2 Qa1+ 31.Bb1 Rc4+ gives Black a winning attack.]

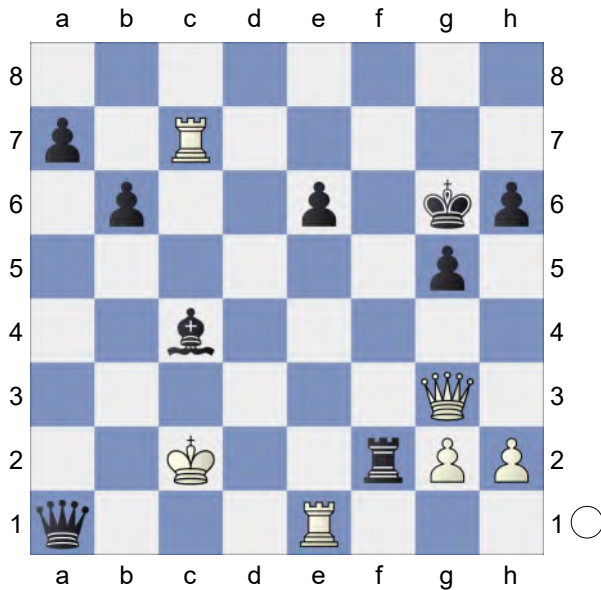
29.Bh7+ Kxh7 30.Rxd8 Black has given up the exchange in order to concentrate his efforts on cashing-in on White's exposed king. **30...Qf6**



31.Rd7+ Kg6 32.Rxc7 Qa1+ 33.Kc2

Qxa2+ 34.Kc1 Qa1+ 35.Kc2 Rf2+!

[After 35...Rf2+ 36.Qxf2 Qa2+
37.Kd1 Qxf2 38.Rxc4 Qxg2
the queen, plus a fistful of pawns,
will beat the two rooks.]

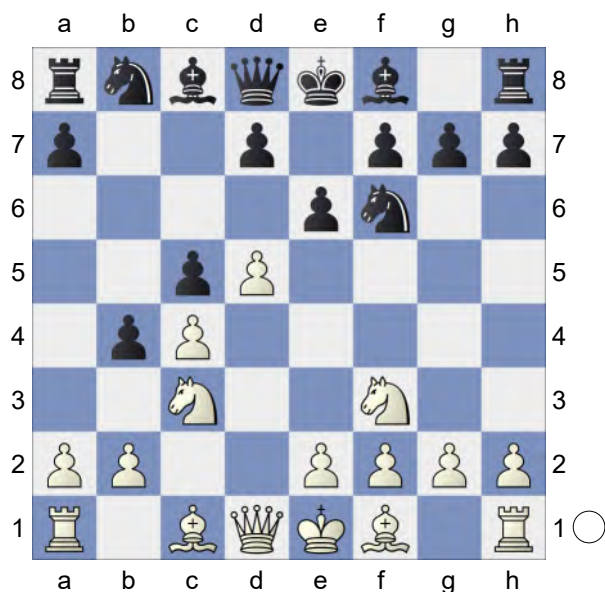


0-1

475 **E10**
 ☐ **Gagare,Shar** **2470**
 ■ **Wei,Yi** **2730**
 Masters Open 2015 (1.12) 20.12.2015
[Glenn Flear]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c5 4.d5 b5
5.Nc3!? Sagar,Shah/CB Website: 'Glenn
Flear: '!' '!' 5...b4

[Instead 5...bxc4 somehow misses the point, as White then obtains easy development. Nevertheless, it is sometimes tried e.g. 6.e4 d6 7.Bxc4 e5 (Black has a solid albeit passive Benoni) 8.0-0 Be7 9.Ne1 0-0 10.Nd3 Nbd7 11.b3 Rubene, I-Palos, O Tuzla 1991, with a manoeuvring game in prospect where White has more space.]



The natural move 'punishing' White for having dared place his knight on c3. Sagar,Shah/CB Website: 'Glenn Flear: 'The natural move 'punishing' White for having dared place his knight on c3.'
6.Na4

[The main problem with 6.Nb1

is that it is too slow. Two lost tempi in the opening is a serious issue, and consequently White can't maintain his centre: Bb7 7.dxe6 (7.Bg5 h6 8.Bxf6 Qxf6 Vigo Allepuz, D-Vocaturro, D Barcelona 2013, leaves Black with all the trumps) 7...fxe6 8.g3 Be7 9.Bg2 0-0 10.0-0 Nc6 11.Qc2 Qc7 12.Nbd2 Rae8 13.b3 d5 Bauer, A-Lako, L Hungarian league 1999, and Black has a lead in development.]

6...Bb7

[Releasing the tension by 6...exd5 has been played: 7.cxd5 d6 8.a3 a5 9.Bg5 Be7 10.e3 0-0 11.Bc4 Nbd7 12.h3 Nh5 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.0-0 Nhf6 Kekki, P-Postny, E Gibraltar 2005, and White's c4-outpost is useful, but the knight on a4 would be happier elsewhere.]

[Another sensible move is 6...d6 in order to meet 7.Bg5 with Be7 (when ...Nxd5 is a theme) and the knight on a4 starts to look seriously misplaced.]

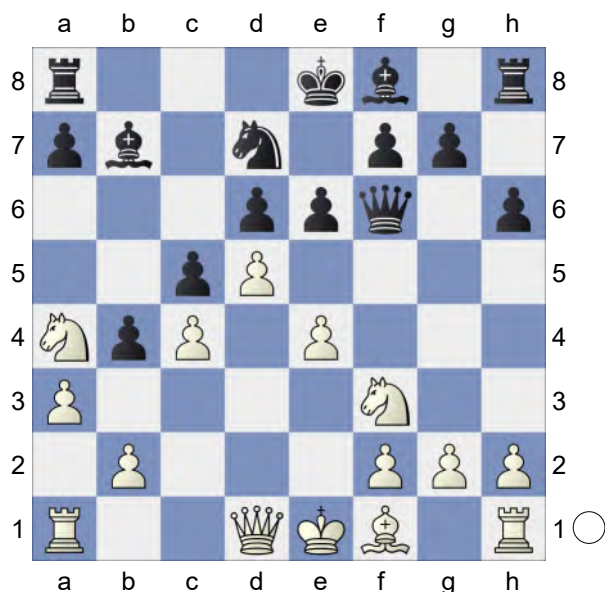
7.Bg5 h6 8.Bxf6 Qxf6 9.e4
 White has a fine centre Sagar,Shah/CB Website: 'Glenn Flear: 'White has a fine centre' **9...d6 10.a3!** This move creates tension on the queenside which in turn gives the offside knight on a4 a certain relevance. Sagar,Shah/CB Website: 'Glenn Flear: '!' '!' Glenn Flear: 'This move creates tension on the queenside which in turn gives the offside knight on a4 a certain relevance.'

[Delaying this move can have negative consequences: 10.Bd3 Nd7 11.0-0 g5! 12.Re1 g4 13.Nd2 Ne5 14.Bf1 h5 15.a3 h4! Mona, K-Adly, A Chania 2014, and Black had already generated a strong attack. In the game continuation, the sidelined

knight on a4 was a mere spectator as White was duly mated.]

10...Nd7

[Previously 10...Na6 (to perhaps recapture on b4 with the knight) has been tried: 11.Bd3 e5 12.0-0 Be7 13.Nd2 0-0 14.Be2 bxa3 15.bxa3 Qg5 Lombardy, W-Wilder, M Lone Pine 1981, with a fairly balanced game, but White's space advantage shouldn't be underestimated and may well be more relevant than Black's bishop pair.]

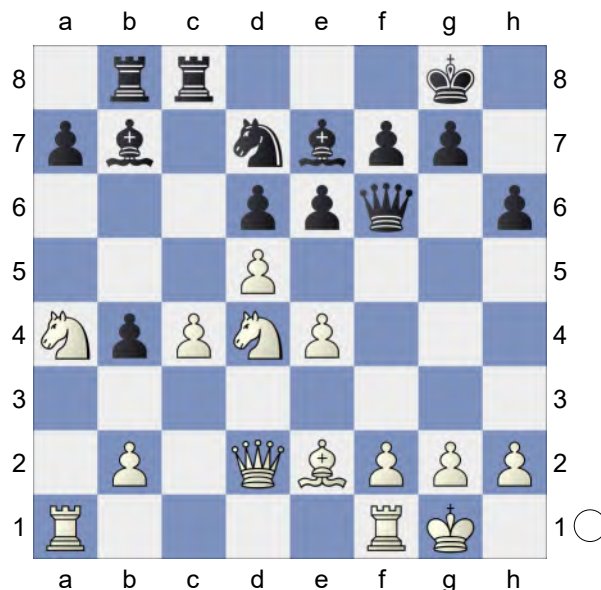


11.axb4 cxb4 12.Qd2 Rb8!?
Sagar,Shah/CB Website: 'Glenn Flear: '!?' '!'?"

[The natural 12...a5 provoked a violent reaction in the following: 13.c5!? dxc5 14.Bb5 exd5 15.0-0 0-0-0 16.exd5 Nb6 Boensch, U-Votava, J Bad Woerishofen 1993, with chances for both sides.]

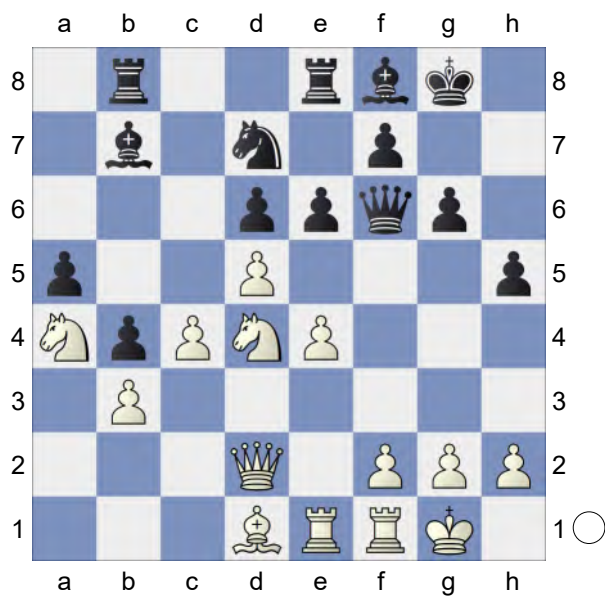
13.Be2 Be7 14.0-0 0-0 15.Nd4 Rfc8

(Diagram)



16.b3 White consolidates his centre and even gives the wayward knight a route towards the centre via b2. You may notice however that the knight actually holds it's ground on a4 until it is captured late in the game. Sagar,Shah/CB Website: 'Glenn Flear: 'White consolidates his centre and even gives the wayward knight a route towards the centre via b2. You may notice however that the knight actually holds it's ground on a4 until it is captured late in the game.' **16...Bf8 17.Rae1 Re8 18.Bd1 g6 19.Nc2 a5** Finally Wei Yi accepts that he has to play this move. Black's bishop pair are not able to do much about White's central grip. Sagar,Shah/CB Website: 'Glenn Flear: 'Finally Wei Yi accepts that he has to play this move. Black's bishop pair are not able to do much about White's central grip.' **20.Nd4 h5**

(Diagram)



21.g3 Rbc8 22.f4! A sign of confidence. Sagar,Shah/CB Website: 'Glenn Flear: '!' '!' Glenn Flear: 'A sign of confidence.'
22...e5! A necessary reaction. Sagar, Shah/CB Website: 'Glenn Flear: '!' '!' Glenn Flear: 'A necessary reaction.'
23.Nb5 exf4 24.gxf4 Ba6?! Provocative, but maybe too much so. Sagar,Shah/CB Website: 'Glenn Flear: '?!' '?!' Glenn Flear: 'Provocative, but maybe too much so.'

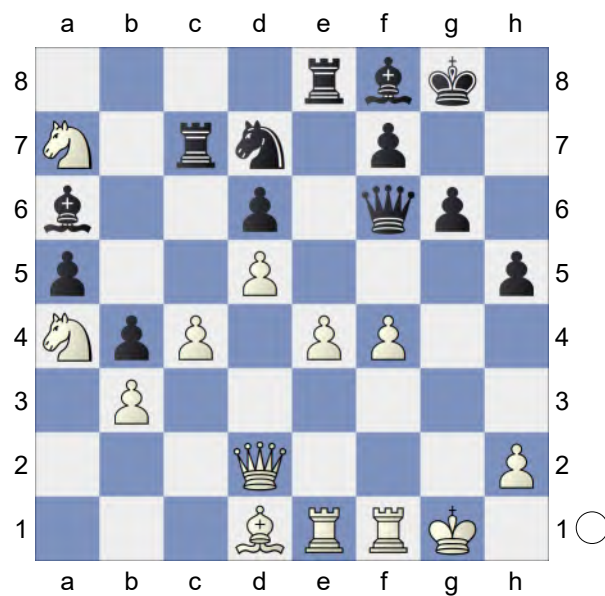
[Possibly 24...Bh6 when any exchanges (such as) 25.Qd4 Qxd4+ 26.Nxd4 Bg7 make Black's position easier to handle.]

25.Na7

[The engines cry out in unison for 25.e5! when the pawns expand to great effect. After the plausible continuation dxe5 26.fxe5 Qg7 27.Nd6 Bxd6 28.exd6 White is better.]

25...Rc7

(Diagram)



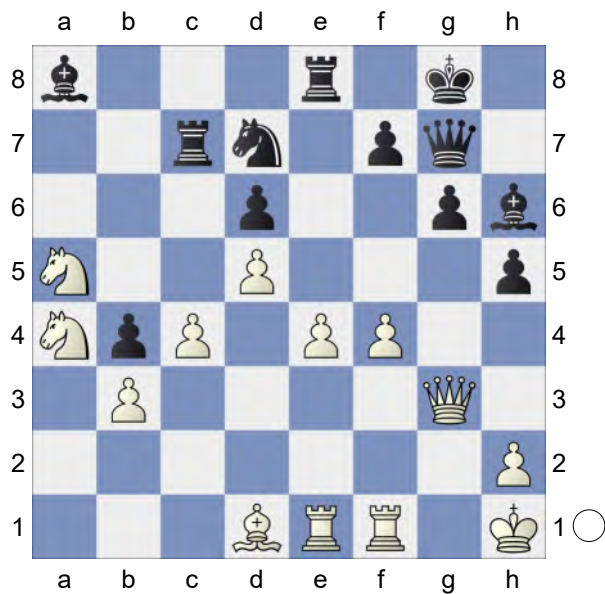
26.Nc6 A fine outpost from where the noble steed can pick off the a-pawn at leisure. Sagar,Shah/CB Website: 'Glenn Flear: 'A fine outpost from where the noble steed can pick off the a-pawn at leisure.'" **26...Bh6 27.Qf2 Bc8 28.Kh1 Qg7 29.Qg3**

[It's perhaps the best moment to capture on a5, as then the knight can come back into play via c6. So 29.Nxa5! is best.]

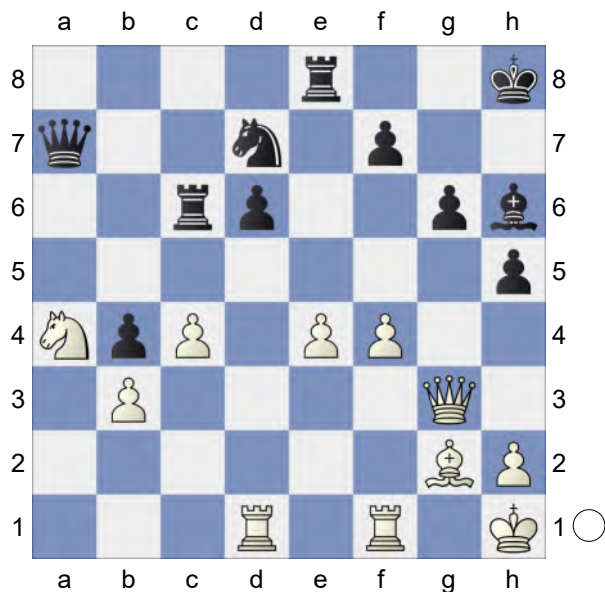
29...Bb7 30.Nxa5 Finally! The 'doubled knights' on the a-file are a strange sight, but White doesn't suffer from their lack of presence elsewhere. Sagar,Shah/CB Website: 'Glenn Flear: 'Finally! The 'doubled knights' on the a-file are a strange sight, but White doesn't suffer from their lack of presence elsewhere.'

30...Ba8

(Diagram)



With the bishop here it will take some preparation before White can play Nc6 under favourable circumstances. Sagar, Shah/CB Website: 'Glenn Flear: 'With the bishop here it will take some preparation before White can play Nc6 under favourable circumstances.' **31.Bf3 Kh8 32.Bg2 Qd4** There is nothing to hit here. Sagar,Shah/CB Website: 'Glenn Flear: 'There is nothing to hit here.' **33.Rd1 Qa7 34.Nc6 Bxc6 35.dxc6 Rxc6**



36.e5 Hence the reason for placing the

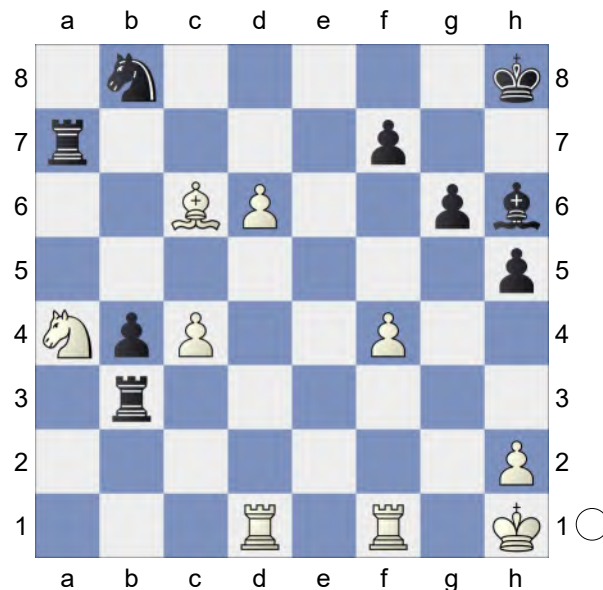
bishop on the long light-squared diagonal. Sagar,Shah/CB Website: 'Glenn Flear: 'Hence the reason for placing the bishop on the long light-squared diagonal.' **36...Ra6 37.exd6 Re3** Finally some counterplay, but the passed pawns in the centre still give White a big advantage. Sagar,Shah/CB Website: 'Glenn Flear: 'Finally some counterplay, but the passed pawns in the centre still give White a big advantage.' **38.Qf2**

[Or attacking mode with 38.Qh4! Rxb3 39.f5 should see White home.]

38...Rxb3 39.Qxa7 Rxa7 40.Bc6

[40.c5! Rxa4 41.c6 wins material.]

40...Nb8



41.Bb5 Ra3 42.Rfe1

[Again 42.c5! is direct and strong.]

42...Kg7 43.Re8 Rb7 44.Re7?

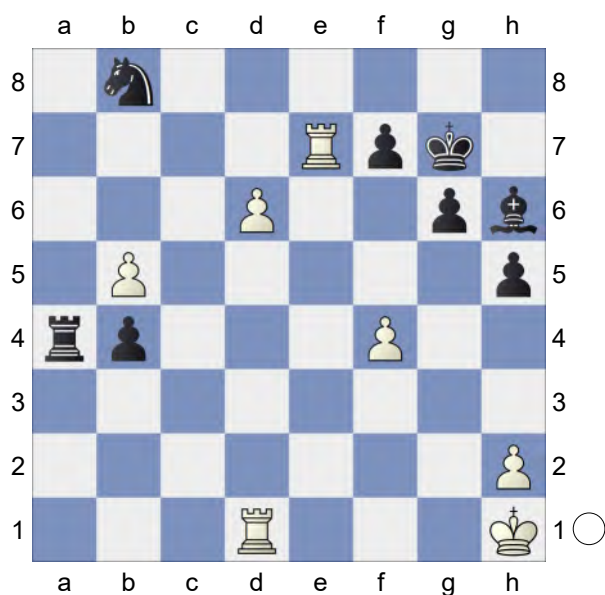
Letting things slip rather too far. Sagar, Shah/CB Website: 'Glenn Flear: '?' '?' Glenn Flear: 'Letting things slip rather too far.'

[44.Nc5 Rb6 45.d7 Nxd7 46.Nxd7 is strong, but there are technical difficulties.]

[More sophisticated is 44.f5!

(exposing Black's king!) gxf5
 (44...Re3 45.fxg6 fxg6 46.Rxe3
 Bxe3 47.Kg2 Kf6 48.d7 Nxd7
 49.Bxd7 and the knight on a4 is
 ideally-placed (!) to support the
 advance of the c-pawn while
 restraining the black b-pawn) 45.Rg1+
 Kf6 46.Nc5 Rb6 47.d7
 winning easily.]

44...Rxb5! Sagar,Shah/CB Website:
 'Glenn Flear: '!' '!' **45.cxb5 Rxa4**



46.Rb7 Ra8 47.d7 Nxd7 48.Rbxd7

[Maybe Gagare saw too late that
 48.Rdxd7? is strongly met by b3!]

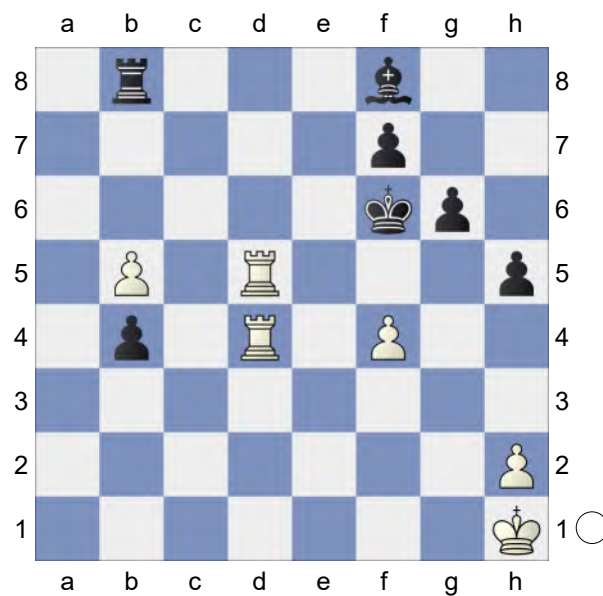
48...Rb8 49.R7d5 Now Black has
 realistic drawing chances. Sagar,Shah/
 CB Website: 'Glenn Flear: 'Now Black
 has realistic drawing chances.' **49...Kf6**

[Possibly 49...Bxf4 50.R1d4 g5
 51.Rxb4 Kf6 when there is still an
 ongoing fight.]

50.R1d4 Bf8?!

[Again I can't be sure that White is
 able to win after 50...b3 51.Rb4 b2
 52.Rd2 Kf5 53.Rdxb2 Rb6]

(Diagram)



Sagar,Shah/CB Website: 'Glenn Flear:
 '?!' '?!' **51.Rd8!** Sagar,Shah/CB
 Website: 'Glenn Flear: '!' '!' **51...Bc5**
52.Rxb8 Bxd4 53.Rd8

[After Sagar,Shah/CB Website: 'Glenn
 Flear: 'After' 53.Rd8 Life isn't so easy
 after the astonishing Sagar,Shah/CB
 Website: 'Glenn Flear: 'Black resigned,
 but was it premature?' Glenn Flear:
 'Life isn't so easy after the
 astonishing' Sagar Shah/CB Website:
 'Wei Yi resigned the game at this
 point seeing that his bishop is
 attacked, and if he moves it, b6
 followed by b7-b8 is threatened. After
 b6 he cannot play ... ♖xb6, as then
 ♜d6+ will pick up the piece. Yet, here
 Black has a miraculous defence which
 was overlooked by the Chinese
 grandmaster.' Sagar,Shah/CB
 Website: 'Wei Yi resigned the game at
 this point seeing that his bishop is
 attacked, and if he moves it, b6
 followed by b7-b8 is threatened. After
 b6 he cannot play ... ♖xb6, as then
 ♜d6+ will pick up the piece. Yet, here
 Black has a miraculous defence which
 was overlooked by the Chinese

grandmaster. Wei Yi resigned the game at this point seeing that his bishop is attacked, and if he moves it, b6 followed by b7-b8 is threatened. After b6 he cannot play ... ♖xb6, as then ♜d6+ will pick up the piece. Yet, here Black has a miraculous defence which was overlooked by the Chinese grandmaster. Glenn Flear: 'Sagar Shah/CB Website: 'Wei Yi resigned the game at this point seeing that his bishop is attacked, and if he moves it, b6 followed by b7-b8 is threatened. After b6 he cannot play ... ♖xb6, as then ♜d6+ will pick up the piece. Yet, here Black has a miraculous defence which was overlooked by the Chinese grandmaster.'"

A) the normal-looking Sagar,Shah/CB Website: 'Glenn Flear: 'the normal-looking' 53...Be3 Sagar Shah/CB Website: '?' Sagar, Shah/CB Website: '?' '?' '?' '?' Sagar,Shah/CB Website: 'Glenn Flear: 'Sagar Shah/CB Website: '?'" 54.b6 Sagar Shah/CB Website: '!' Sagar,Shah/CB Website: '!' '!' '!' '!' Sagar,Shah/CB Website: 'Glenn Flear: 'Sagar Shah/CB Website: '!' Bxf4 (54...Bxb6 55.Rd6+ Sagar Shah/CB Website: '+-' Sagar, Shah/CB Website: '+-' '+-' '+-' '+-' Sagar,Shah/CB Website: 'Glenn Flear: 'Sagar Shah/CB Website: '+-"; 54...b3 55.b7 b2 56.b8Q+-) 55.b7 Kg7 56.b8Q Bxb8 57.Rxb8 is a straightforward win for White;

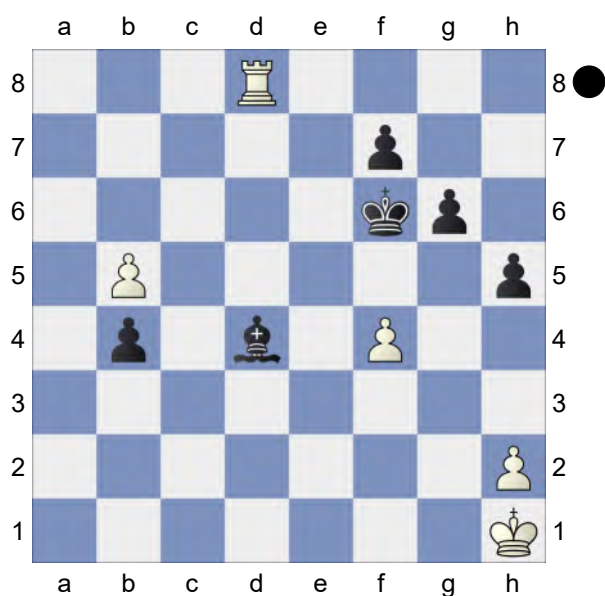
B) 53...--;

C) 53...b3? 54.Rxd4 b2 55.Rb4+-;

D) 53...Bb6!! (what a move!) Sagar, Shah/CB Website: 'Glenn Flear: '(what a move!)" Sagar Shah/CB

Website: 'Can you believe this! This is the only way in which Black can fight on, although most probably even this is objectively lost. But it is not so easy to prove it.' Sagar,Shah/CB Website: 'Can you believe this! This is the only way in which Black can fight on, although most probably even this is objectively lost. But it is not so easy to prove it. Can you believe this! This is the only way in which Black can fight on, although most probably even this is objectively lost. But it is not so easy to prove it. Glenn Flear: 'Sagar Shah/CB Website: 'Can you believe this! This is the only way in which Black can fight on, although most probably even this is objectively lost. But it is not so easy to prove it.'" 54.Rd6+ Ke7 and now Sagar,Shah/CB Website: 'Glenn Flear: 'and now" 55.Rxb6? is not good because of Sagar,Shah/CB Website: 'Glenn Flear: 'is not good because of" (Necessary is 55.Rd3! Ke6 56.Kg2 followed by bringing the king into play. White would probably still be able to win with best play.; 55.Rd2 Ke6 56.Kg2 Slowly White should win this as he will activate his king and break the fortress. However, this sequence starting with ... ♖b6 was definitely worth trying over the board by Wei Yi.) 55...b3 and White cannot come back to stop the b-pawn, and would have to give perpetual check with Sagar Shah/CB Website: '!' Sagar, Shah/CB Website: '!' '!' '!' '!' Sagar, Shah/CB Website: 'Glenn Flear: 'and White cannot come back to stop the b-pawn, and would have to

give perpetual check with' Glenn Flear: 'and White cannot come back to stop the b-pawn, and would have to give perpetual check with Sagar Shah/CB Website: '!' Sagar Shah/CB Website: 'The a- and c-files are useless as a1 and c1 will be covered after b2. And there are no other squares available.' Sagar, Shah/CB Website: 'The a- and c-files are useless as a1 and c1 will be covered after b2. And there are no other squares available. The a- and c-files are useless as a1 and c1 will be covered after b2. And there are no other squares available. Glenn Flear: 'Sagar Shah/CB Website: 'The a- and c-files are useless as a1 and c1 will be covered after b2. And there are no other squares available.'" 56.Rb7+ Kd8 (56...Ke8 57.Rb8+ Ke7=) 57.Rb8+ Kd7 58.Rb7+ Kd8=]



Black resigned, but was it premature?

1-0

444

D93

□ Alekseenko, K.

2554

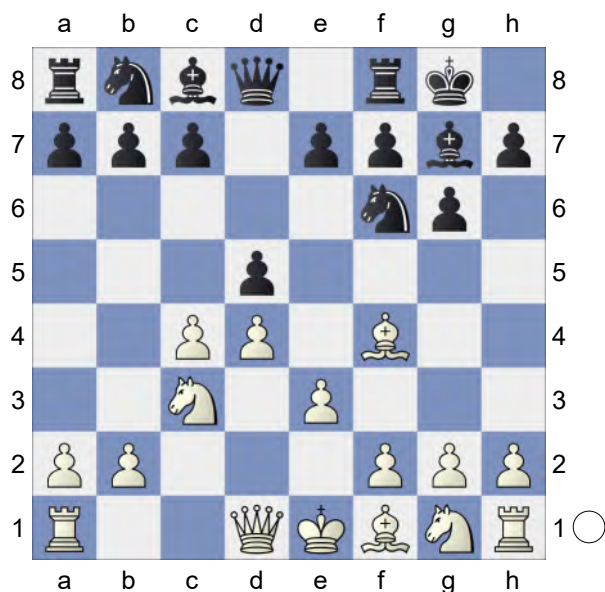
■ Wei, Yi

2714

Aeroflot Open A 2016 (7.20) 07.03.2016

[Glenn Flear]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bf4
Bg7 5.e3 0-0

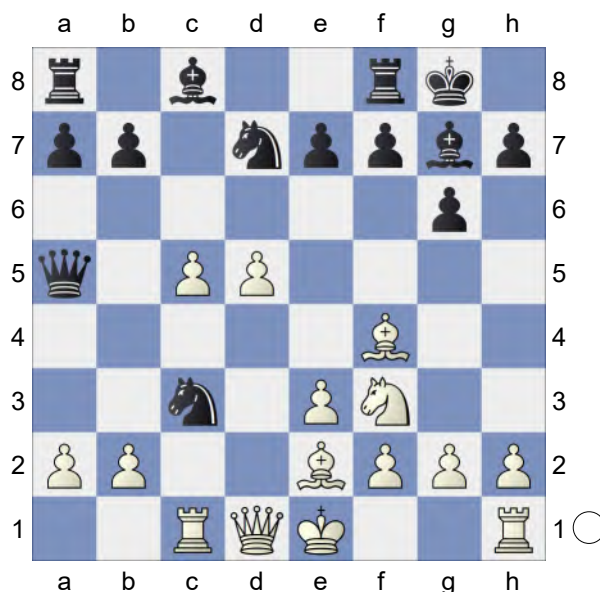


6.Nf3 c5 7.dxc5 Ne4 8.Rc1 Nd7
9.cxd5 Qa5 10.Be2!?

[10.Nd4 is better known, especially since the following high-level encounter: Nxc3 11.bxc3 Qxa2 12.c6 Nc5 13.Be2 Qxd5 14.Bf3 Qc4 15.Be2 and a draw with repetition followed in Ivanchuk, V-Gelfand, B London Candidates 2013.]

10...Nxc3

[I can't see any advantage in allowing White to castle into safety, so 10...Ndxc5?! 11.0-0 Nxc3 12.bxc3 Ne4 13.c4 Qxa2 isn't really a great idea. Black offered a draw which was accepted in Purnama, T-Vakhidov, T Penang 2015, but White's centre should be of a higher value than Black's queenside.]



11.bxc3 Bxc3+ 12.Kf1 Nxc5 13.h4

[Trading bishops doesn't seem to be worrisome for Black: 13.Be5 Bxe5 14.Nxe5 Ne4 15.Qd4 Nd6 16.h4 Bf5 (Black is already equal according to the engines) 17.g4?! (17.f3 Rac8 18.Kf2= is safer) 17...Rac8?!

(Speculative. Instead, Black has the more comfortable game after 17...Be4 18.Bf3 Bxf3 19.Nxf3 Rac8 20.Kg2 Qa3! competing for the c-file) 18.Rxc8 Rxc8 19.gxf5 Rc1+ 20.Bd1 Nxf5 Golod, V-Charochkina, D Yerevan 2014. Objectively Black's compensation is a little unconvincing, but in a practical game White will have his work cut out to untangle. Black went on to win.]

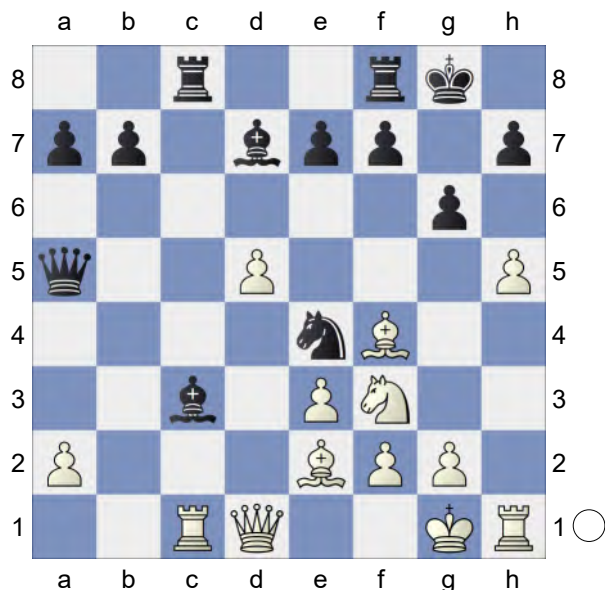
13...Bd7

[Retreating with the bishop is a shade too slow: 13...Bg7 14.h5 Bd7 (14...Ne4 to come over to the kingside to bolster the defences might be better) 15.hxg6 hxg6 16.Be5 (16.d6!) 16...Ne4 17.Qd4 Nf6 18.d6! Riazantsev, A-Sychev, K Moscow Blitz 2015, with a big advantage for White.]

14.Kg1 Rac8

[Another recent game varied with 14...Ba4 15.Qf1 (an unusual use of f1 in the Grünfeld!) f6 (15...h5!?) 16.g4 (16.Nd4!?) 16...Rae8 (why this square? Surely 16...Rac8 looks more natural?) 17.g5! Rf7 18.h5 gxh5 19.Rxh5 Rg7 20.Kh2 Szabo, G-Shishkin, Va Alba Iulia 2016, and White's kingside play was starting to look dangerous.]

15.h5 The principled move leading to an exciting struggle. **15...Ne4**

**16.hxg6 fxg6!?**

[The engines prefer 16...hxg6 and, if White isn't causing any mischief on the h-file, might be objectively best, but opening the f-file has its merits and certainly 'feels' more comfortable for the king.]

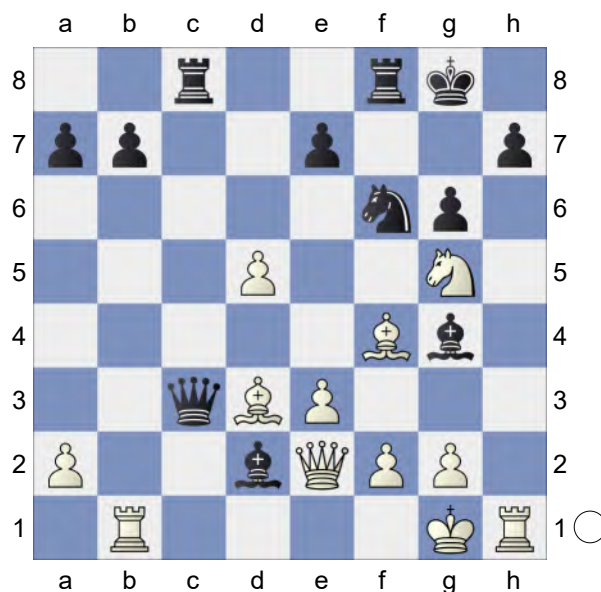
17.Bd3 Nf6

[Now, grabbing the d-pawn comes into consideration: 17...Ba4 18.Qe2 Qxd5 but then White can win two pieces for a rook with 19.Bh6 Rfd8 20.Bxe4 Qxe4 21.Rh4 Qc6 22.Rxc3 Qxc3 23.Rxa4 and must then be favourite.]

18.Ng5 Wei Yi has to react to the threat of Nxh7 which looks dangerous.

18...Bd2! 19.Rb1 Qc3!?

[Here 19...Bg4 gives White a difficult choice: 20.Qb3 (20.f3 Bf5!?: 20.Nf3 Bxf3 21.gxf3 Nxd5∞) 20...Qxd5 21.Nxh7 Qxb3 22.Nxf6+ Rxf6 23.Rxb3 b6=]

20.Qe2 Bg4

21.Qf1 Nxd5? This definitely hands the initiative (and advantage!) to White.

[The complications after 21...Rfd8 22.Rh4 are difficult to judge, but Black seems to be OK following Rxd5!]

22.Ne4 Qa5 23.Bc4 Be6

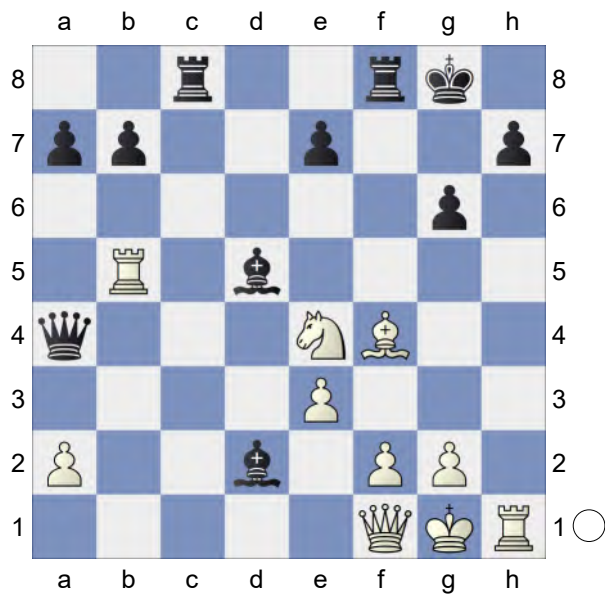
[Or 23...e6 24.Rb5 Qxb5 25.Bxb5 Rc1 26.Nxd2 and White picks off a piece.]

24.Rb5? Missing a golden opportunity to beat the rising star of the East.

[Here 24.Bh6! Rfd8 25.Nxd2 Qxd2 26.e4 would be clearly winning.]

24...Qa4 25.Bxd5 Bxd5

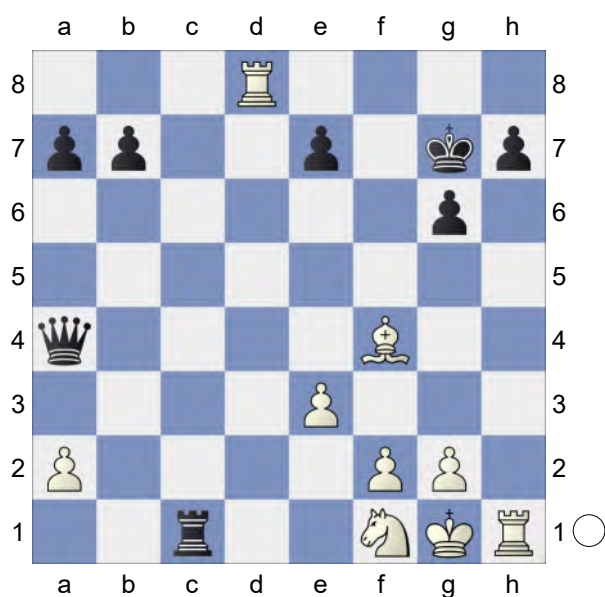
(Diagram)



26.Rxd5 Rc1 27.Nxd2 Rxf1+ 28.Nxf1 Rc8 Over the years, I have come across so many examples where the queen (plus a couple of pawns) can stave off the combined forces of a rook and a couple of minor pieces. It takes time for the multi-piece army to get organized and sometimes one just can't find it... **29.Rd2 Rc1 30.Rd8+?! 30...Kg7**

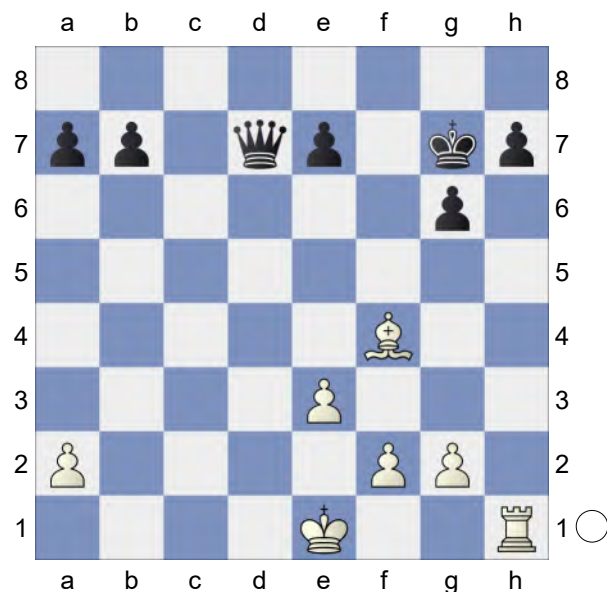
[30.f3 keeps everything solid.]

30...Kg7

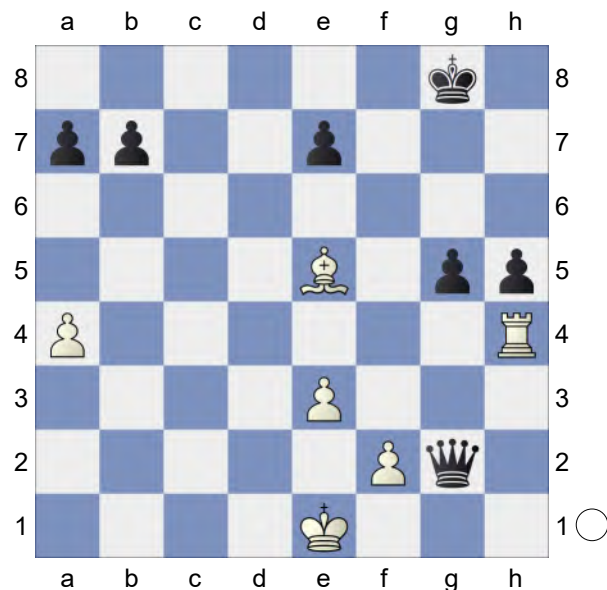


31.Kh2?? Suddenly the tactics work for Black... **31...Qa5!** With threats against

both rooks! **32.Rd7 Qh5+ 33.Kg1 Rxf1+ 34.Kxf1 Qb5+** Wei Yi naturally prefers to capture the most active white rook. Now Black is winning at a canter. **35.Ke1 Qxd7**



36.Be5+ Kg8 37.Rh4 Qd5 Another handy fork. **38.Bc3 Qxg2 39.a4 h5 40.Be5 g5**



If White captures on h5 he loses at least a piece, whereas if not, the h-pawn will keep going.

0-1

443

C84

□ Alekseenko, K.

2554

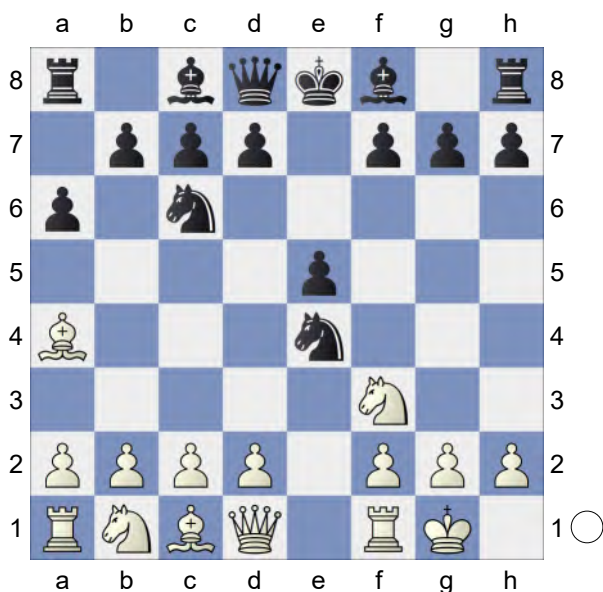
■ Wei, Yi

2714

Aeroflot Open A 2016 (7.20) 07.03.2016

[Glenn Flear]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4
Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



6.d4 Be7

[6...b5]

[6...exd4 7.Re1 d5

A) 8.Nxd4 Bd6 9.Nxc6 Bxh2+
10.Kh1 Qh4 11.Rxe4+ dxe4
12.Qd8+ Qxd8 13.Nxd8+ Kxd8
14.Kxh2 Be6 15.Be3 f5 16.Nc3
Ke7 17.g4 g6 18.Kg3 (18.g5)
18...h5 19.g5 h4+ 20.Kh2 Rad8
21.Ne2;

B) 8.Bg5

B1) 8...Be7 9.Bxe7 Qxe7
(9...Kxe7 10.Bxc6 bxc6
11.Qxd4) 10.c4 Be6 (10...b5
11.cxb5 Nd8 12.Qxd4 0-0
13.Nc3) 11.cxd5 Bxd5 12.Nc3
0-0-0 13.Nxe4 Bxe4 14.Bxc6
bxc6 15.Nd2;

B2) 8...Qd6 9.c4 (9.Nxd4

Be6)

B2a) 9...Be6 10.cxd5 Qxd5
11.Bb3 Qf5 12.Bc2 Ne5
(12...Nxf2 13.Kxf2 Qc5
14.Bb3) 13.Nbd2 d3 14.Ba4+
b5 15.Nxe4 Nxf3+ 16.gxf3
Bb4 (16...bxa4 17.Qxd3 Qa5
18.Qd4) 17.Qxd3 0-0
18.Bc2;

B2b) 9...dxc3 10.Nxc3 Be6
11.Nxe4 dxe4 12.Nd4

B2b1) 12...Qd5 13.Nxe6
fxe6 14.Qh5+ g6 15.Qh4;

B2b2) 12...h6 13.Bh4 b5
14.Rxe4 bxa4 15.Qf3
(15.Qxa4) 15...Rb8
(15...Ne7 16.Rxe6 fxe6
17.Qxa8+) 16.Nxe6 fxe6
17.Rd1;

B2b3) 12...Bd5 13.Rc1 f6
14.Bf4 Qxf4 15.Nxc6 Bxc6
16.Rxc6;

B2b4) 12...f5 13.Bf4
(13.f3 Bd7 14.Bxc6 Bxc6
15.fxe4) 13...Qxf4
(13...Qd5 14.Nxc6 bxc6
15.Qh5+ g6 16.Qh3)
14.Nxe6 Qe5 15.Qb3 b5
16.f4 bxa4 17.Qc4 Qd6
18.Rad1;

B3) 8...f6 9.Nxd4**B3a) 9...Bd7** 10.Nc3;

B3b) 9...Qd6 10.Nd2 fxg5
11.Nxc6 bxc6 (11...Kf7
12.Bb3) 12.Nxe4 dxe4
13.Qxd6 Bxd6 14.Bxc6+;

B3c) 9...Bc5 10.Nxc6 Bxf2+
11.Kf1 Qd7 (11...bxc6
12.Bxc6+ Ke7 13.Rxe4+
dxe4 14.Qxd8+ Rxd8
15.Kxf2) 12.Nc3 bxc6
13.Nxe4 Bxe1 14.Nxf6+ gxf6
15.Qh5+ Kf8 16.Rxe1

(16.Bh6+ Ke7 17.Rxe1+ Kd8
18.Qf3 Qf5 19.Qxf5 Bxf5
20.Bxc6)

B3c1) 16...fxg5 17.Kg1
Bb7 18.Qxg5 Qg7 19.Qf5+
Qf7 (19...Kg8 20.Re3)
20.Qe5 Rg8 21.Rf1 Qxf1+
22.Kxf1;

B3c2) 16...Qf5+ 17.Kg1
Qg6 18.Qe2 Qxg5 19.Bxc6
Kg7 20.Bxa8 h5 21.Qe7+
Kg6 22.Rf1]

7.Re1 b5

[7...f5 8.dxe5 0-0 9.Bb3+ Kh8

A) 10.Nbd2 Nc5 11.Nc4 (11.Bc4
d6) 11...f4;

B) 10.Nc3

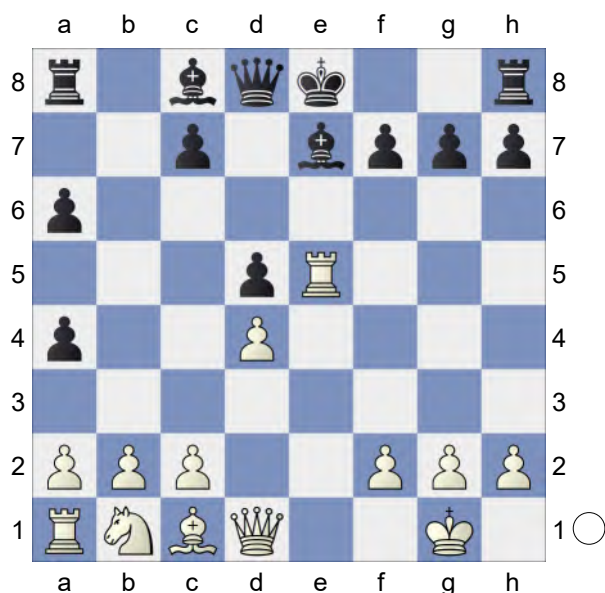
B1) 10...Nc5 11.Nd5 Nxb3
(11...b6 12.c3 Bb7 13.Bc2)
12.axb3 b6 13.h4 Bb7 14.Bg5;

B2) 10...Nxc3 11.bxc3 Qe8
(11...b6 12.Bd5 Bb7 13.Bf4
Na5 14.e6) 12.Nd4 Nd8
(12...Qg6 13.Bd5) 13.Bd5 Ne6
14.a4]

8.Rxe4 d5

[8...bxa4 9.d5 Nb8 10.Nxe5]

9.Nxe5 Nxe5 10.Rxe5!? bxa4



11.Qe2

[11.Nc3 0-0 12.Re1 (12.Rxd5 Bd6)
12...Bd6 13.Qh5 a3]

[11.b3 Be6 (11...0-0 12.Ba3 Bxa3
13.Nxa3 axb3 14.cxb3 Qd6 15.Nc2)
12.Ba3 Bxa3 13.Nxa3 0-0 14.Nb1
Qd6 15.Nc3]

[11.Qe1 f6 (11...c6 12.Bd2) 12.Re3
c5 13.Qd1 (13.dxc5 d4 14.Re2 Kf7
15.Nd2 Re8) 13...0-0 14.Nc3 Rb8]

11...Be6

[11...f6 12.Re3 c5 13.dxc5
Szabo, G-Shishkin, Va Alba Iulia 2016,
and White's kingside play was starting
to look dangerous. why this square?
Surely

A) 13...Kf7 14.Nc3 Bxc5 15.Rd3
Golod, V-Charochkina, D Yerevan
2014. Objectively Black's
compensation is a little
unconvincing, but in a practical
game White will have his work cut
out to untangle. Black went on to
win. Speculative. Instead, Black has
the more comfortable game after
Re8 16.Qh5+ (16.Be3!
competing for the c-file Bxe3
17.Rxe3 Rxe3= is safer I can't see
any advantage in allowing White to
castle into safety, so 18.Qxe3?!)
16...Kg8 17.Bf4 Qe7 18.h3;

B) 13...d4 looks more natural?
14.Rg3!? Kf7!? Retreating with the
bishop is a shade too slow: 15.Bh6
g6 (15...gxh6?! 16.Qh5+?! Kf8
17.Nd2) 16.Nc3 (16.c3
(Black is already equal according to
the engines)) 16...dxc3 (16...Re8
17.Nxa4 Bd6 18.Qd1 Bxg3
19.hxg3) 17.Re1 cxb2 18.Re3
Ra7 19.Qc4+ Ke8! Riazantsev, A-
Sychev, K Moscow Blitz 2015, with
a big advantage for White.

20.Qxa4+! Rd7 to come over to the kingside to bolster the defences might be better Trading bishops doesn't seem to be worrisome for Black: 21.Qc6]

[11...c6 12.Nc3 Ra7

A) 13.Nxa4 0-0

A1) 14.Bd2 Bd6 15.f4 (15.Re3 Qh4);

A2) 14.Qd3 Bd6 15.Re1 Qf6 16.c3 Bf5 17.Qf1 Qg6 18.f3;

A3) 14.Qf3 Bf6 15.Re2 Bxd4 16.Be3;

B) 13.Bf4 a3 (13...0-0 14.Re1 Be6 and a draw with repetition followed in Ivanchuk, V-Gelfand, B London Candidates 2013. 15.Re3) 14.bxa3 isn't really a great idea. Black offered a draw which was accepted in Purnama, T-Vakhidov, T Penang 2015, but White's centre should be of a higher value than Black's queenside. (14.b3 0-0 15.Re3 Bb4) 14...0-0 is better known, especially since the following high-level encounter: 15.Re1 Be6 16.Re3]

12.f4 g6

[12...Bf6 and must then be favourite. The engines prefer 13.f5 and, if White isn't causing any mischief on the h-file, might be objectively best, but opening the f-file has its merits and certainly 'feels' more comfortable for the king.]

[Another recent game varied with 12...Qd7 13.Nc3 (an unusual use of f1 in the Grünfeld!) g6 (13...Bg4 14.Qe3) 14.f5 gxf5 15.Bf4!]

13.Nc3 a3 14.b3

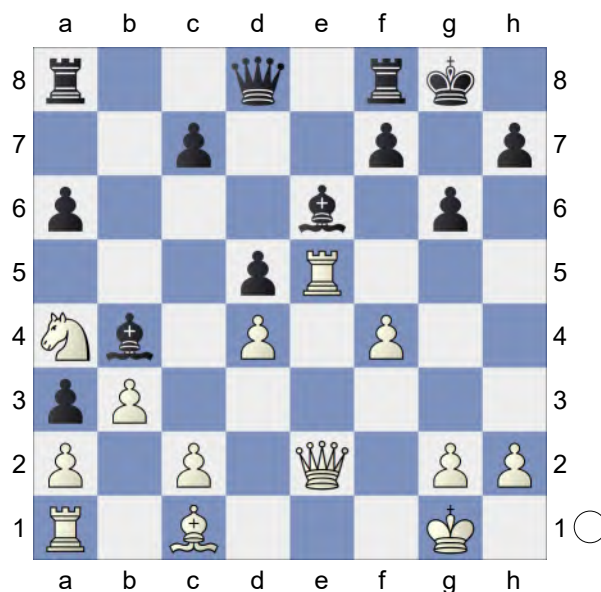
[14.bxa3 Bd6 15.f5 gxf5∞ Now, grabbing the d-pawn comes into consideration: 16.Bf4 Bxe5 17.Qxe5 but then White can win two pieces for

a rook with Rg8 18.Re1 Qd6 19.Nxd5 0-0-0 20.Qxd6 cxd6 21.Ne7+]

14...Bb4

[14...Bd6 15.f5 gxf5 16.Bf4 (The complications after 16.Rxf5 Qh4 are difficult to judge, but Black seems to be OK following) 16...Bxe5 If White captures on h5 he loses at least a piece, whereas if not, the h-pawn will keep going. 17.Qxe5 keeps everything solid. Here Rg8! 18.Re1 Qd6 (18...c6 19.Na4 and White picks off a piece.) 19.Nxd5 (19.Qxd5) 19...0-0-0 would be clearly winning. Or 20.Qxd6 cxd6 21.Ne7+] [14...0-0! Here 15.f5 gives White a difficult choice: gxf5 16.Bf4 Bd6 17.Rf1 Kh8 18.Re3 Rg8 19.Qf2= Bxf4 20.Qxf4!?]

15.Na4 The principled move leading to an exciting struggle. **15...0-0**



16.Bd2

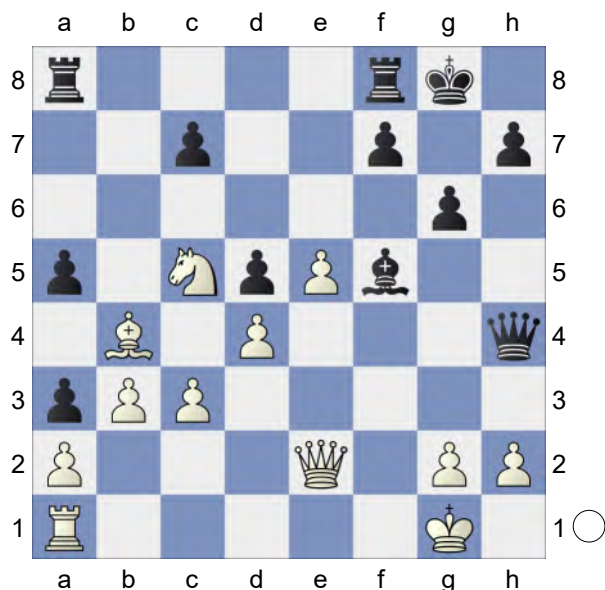
[16.c3 Bd6 17.Nc5 Bxe5 (17...Bf5 Another handy fork. 18.Rxd5) 18.fxe5]

16...Bd6!? 17.Nc5 Bf5 18.Bb4 Wei Yi has to react to the threat of Nxh7

which looks dangerous.

[18.Rxd5 Bxc2 Wei Yi naturally prefers to capture the most active white rook. Now Black is winning at a canter.]

18...Bxe5! 19.fxe5 Qh4!? 20.c3 a5



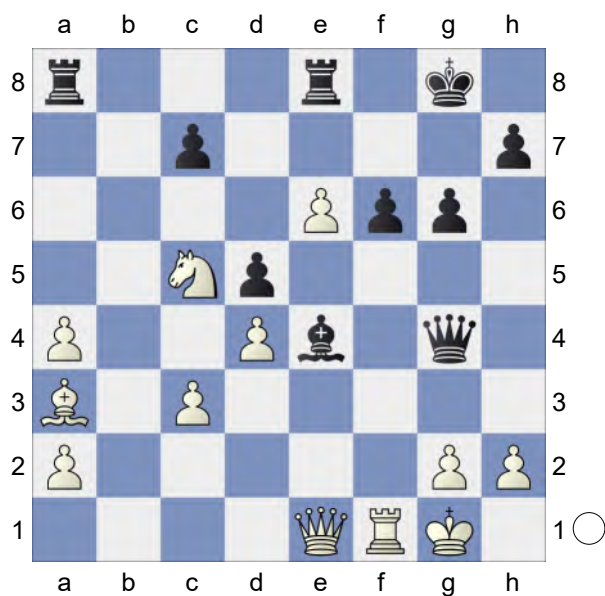
21.Bxa3 Rfe8? This definitely hands the initiative (and advantage!) to White.

22.Rf1 f6 23.e6 a4

[23...Re7]

24.bxa4? Missing a golden opportunity to beat the rising star of the East.

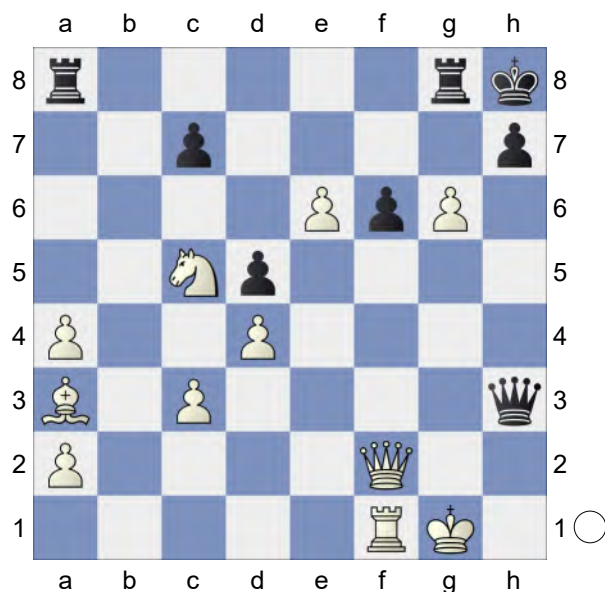
24...Qg4 25.Qe1 Be4



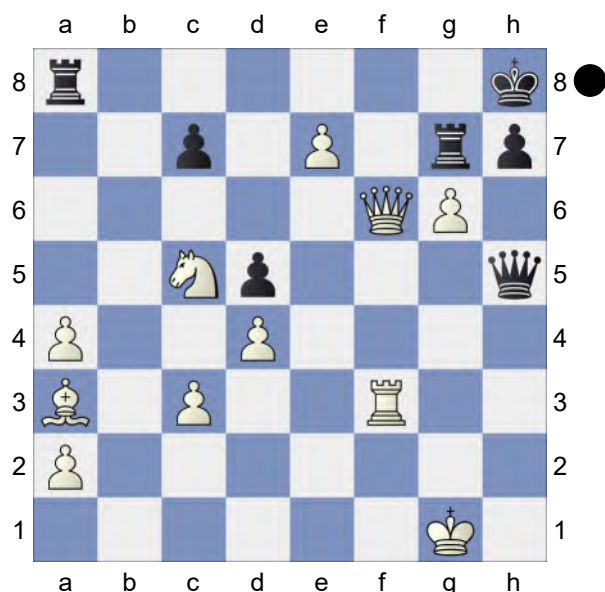
26.Qf2 Bf5 27.h3 Qh5 28.g4 Qxh3

Over the years, I have come across so many examples where the queen (plus a couple of pawns) can stave off the combined forces of a rook and a couple of minor pieces. It takes time for the multi-piece army to get organized and sometimes one just can't find it...

29.gxf5 Kh8 30.fxg6?! Rg8



31.Qxf6+?? Suddenly the tactics work for Black... **31...Rg7!** With threats against both rooks! **32.Rf3 Qh5 33.e7**



0-1

380

□ Wei, Yi

■ Grover, Sahaj

Wch U20 53rd (6)

[Grover, Sahaj]

D37

2641

2491

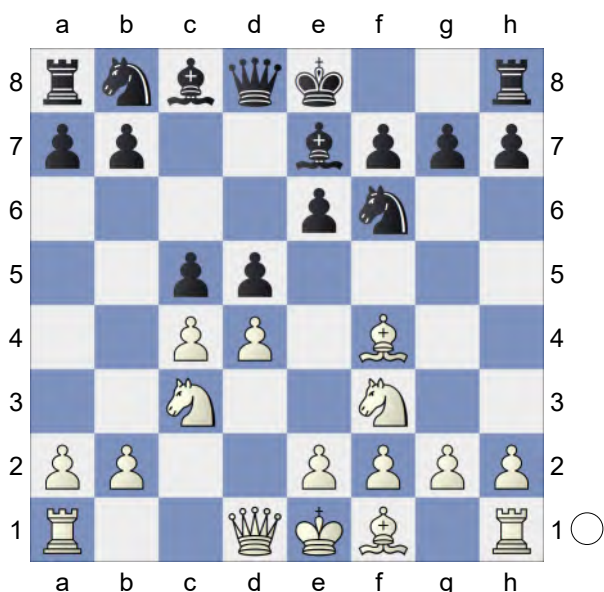
11.10.2014

This game was played in the sixth round of the World junior. I was doing about ok here and was pitted against one of the top stars. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bf4

[5.Bg5]

5...c5

[5...0-0 6.e3 c5 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.a3 Nc6 9.cxd5 (9.Qc2 Qa5 10.Nd2 Bb4 11.cxd5 exd5 12.Bd3 d4 13.0-0 Bxc3 14.Nc4 Qh5 15.bxc3 Nd5 16.Bg3 dxe3 17.Rae1 Be6 18.fxe3 Nde7 19.Nd6 b6 20.Rb1) 9...Nxd5 10.Nxd5 exd5 11.Bd3 Bb6 12.0-0 d4 13.e4 Bc7 14.Bxc7 Qxc7 15.h3 Qb6 16.b4 Be6 17.Rc1 h6 18.Qd2]



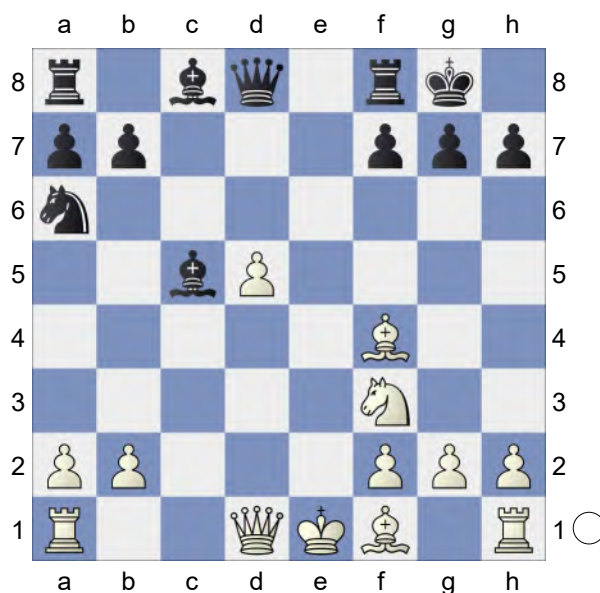
6.dxc5 Na6 A relatively newer idea, it's seldom played and quite effective for 1 game purposes. 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Nxd5

exd5 9.e4! I think bxd4 is more obvious, but White doesn't achieve much there.

[9.e3 Nxc5 10.Bb5+ Bd7 11.Bxd7+ Qxd7 12.0-0 0-0]

9...0-0 Black needs to be precise here.

10.exd5 Bxc5



11.Be2

[11.Bxa6 Qa5+ 12.Nd2 Qxa6 13.Qe2 b6]

[11.Bc4 Re8+]

11...Bb4+

[11...Nc7 12.Bxc7 (12.d6 Ne6 13.Bg3 Qa5+ 14.Nd2 Qb4)

12...Bb4+ 13.Nd2 Qxc7 14.0-0]

[11...Qb6 12.0-0 Qxb2 13.Be5]

[11...Qa5+ 12.Bd2 Qb6 13.0-0 Qxb2 14.Rc1]

[11...Nb4 12.d6 Be6 13.Ng5 Qf6]

12.Kf1!? Bd6 13.Bg5

[13.Be3 Bf5]

13...Qa5

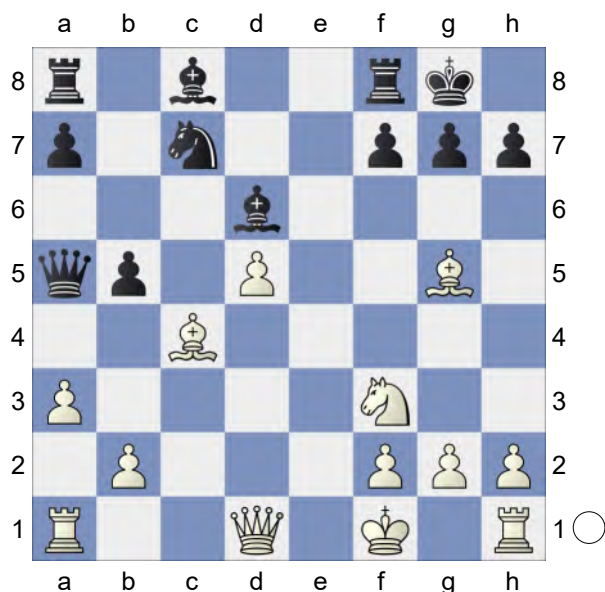
[13...Qb6 14.Nd2 Qxb2 15.Nc4 Qb4 16.Rc1]

[13...f6]

[13...Qd7]

14.a3 Nc7

[14...Bd7 15.b4 Qa4 16.Nd2]

15.Bc4 b5

16.b4!? This was a new move, but it transposed to what I had prepared, White's main threat is to take on e6 now.

16...Qb6 17.Bb3 a5 18.Be3

[18.Rc1 Bb7 19.Be3 Qa6 20.Ng5 h6 21.h4]

18...Qb7 19.Bc5 I had this position at home with my king on g8, here I thought for a while if I should go for it via f5, but after a long thought I decided to go with what I had already seen.

[19.Ng5 Bf5 20.g4 Bg6 21.h4 Rfe8 22.h5 Be4 23.Nxe4 Rxe4 24.Qf3 Nxd5 25.Qxe4 Nxe3+]

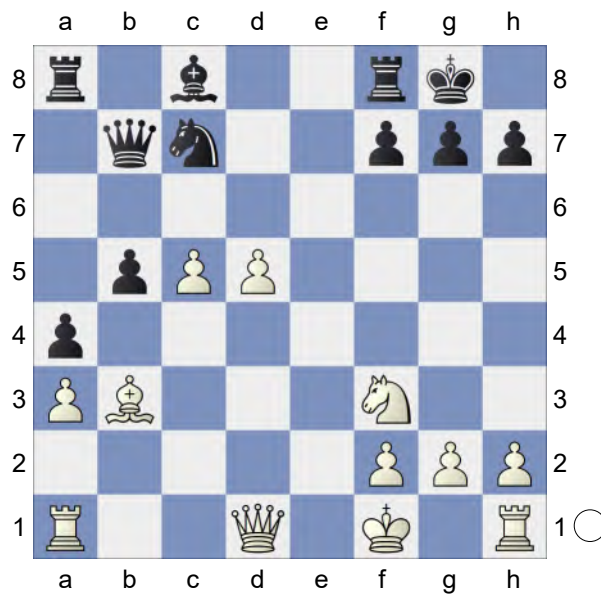
19...Bxc5

[19...Rd8 20.Ng5! The whole point behind delaying ... ♖f6, since now White doesn't have tricks like playing ♕g5-♕xf6, or ♖f3-♖e5, I think Black is very happy here. Bf5 21.Nxf7 Kxf7 22.Qf3 g6 23.g4 Bxc5 24.d6+]

[19...Ra6 20.Qd3 h6 21.h4 axb4 22.Ng5 f5 23.Bxb4 Bxb4 24.d6+ Kh8 25.d7 Bxd7 26.Qxd7 Qc8]

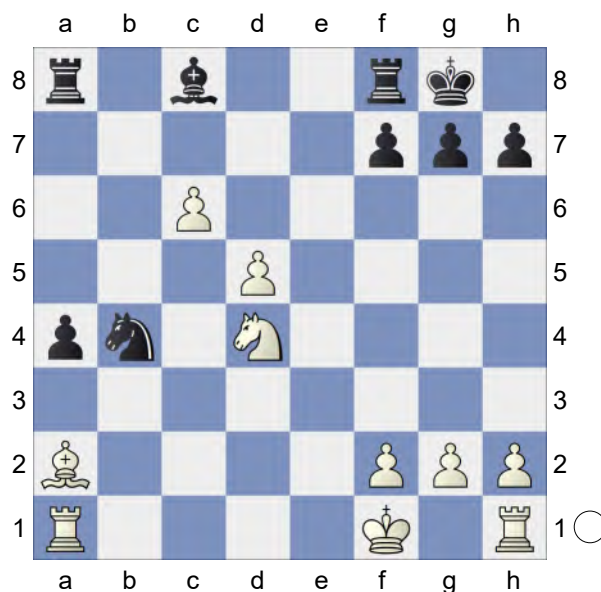
20.bxc5 a4

(Diagram)



21.Ba2 b4 22.axb4 Qxb4 23.Qd4 Na6 This was where my preparation ended. I had concluded that this position was about equal. White is a pawn up, but I think Black's pawn structure is just too solid, so it should just be a draw.

24.c6 Qxd4 25.Nxd4 Nb4

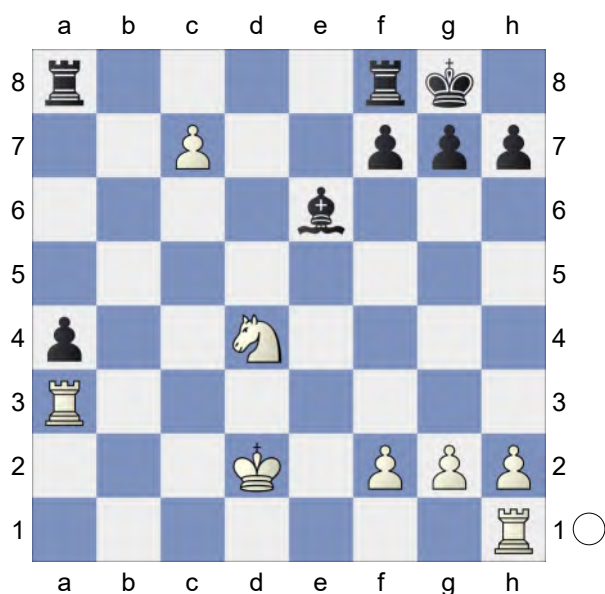


26.Ke2

[26.d6 Rd8 27.d7 Bxd7 28.cxd7 Rxd7 29.Nf3 Nxa2 and although this endgame looks very dynamic, Black should be able to hold the fort together. 30.Rxa2? Rd1+ 31.Ne1

Re8 32.Re2 Ra8 33.f3 Ra1 34.Kf2 a3 and White can generate an attack on the kingside. 35.Rf1 a2 36.Nc2 Rxf1+! 37.Kxf1 a1Q+]

26...Nxa2 27.Rxa2 Ba6+ 28.Kd2
 Not much can go wrong for Black now.
28...Bc4 29.Ra3 Bxd5 30.c7 Be6
 [30...Bxg2]



31.Nb5 Bd7 It was not difficult to find a couple of correct moves here.

[31...Ra5 32.Rb1 Bd7 33.Nd6 Ra6]

32.Nd6 g6

[32...Ra6 33.Rd3 a3 34.Nc4 Be6 35.Nxa3]

33.Rc1 Kg7 34.Rc4

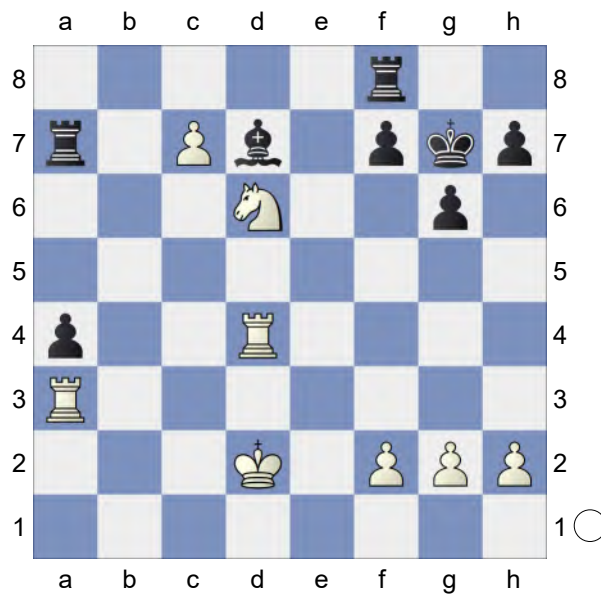
[34.Ke3 Kf6 35.Kd4 Ke7 36.Kc5 Ra6= Black is active enough here. 37.Re1+ is also playable I think, but somehow I wasn't so sure about this]

34...Ra6 35.Rd4

[35.c8N Rd8]

35...Ra7

(Diagram)



I offered him a draw here, he accepted, as neither one of us had any improvement. **36.Ne8+ Rxe8 37.Rxd7 Raa8**

[37...Rc8 38.Rf3 a3 39.Rdxf7+!-+ Kh6 (39...Kg8 40.Rf8+= Usually in such structures White's light-coloured bishop poses a lot of problems. with it having been traded-off, Black's completely fine here.) 40.Rh3+ Kg5!? 41.f4+ Kg4 42.Rg3+]

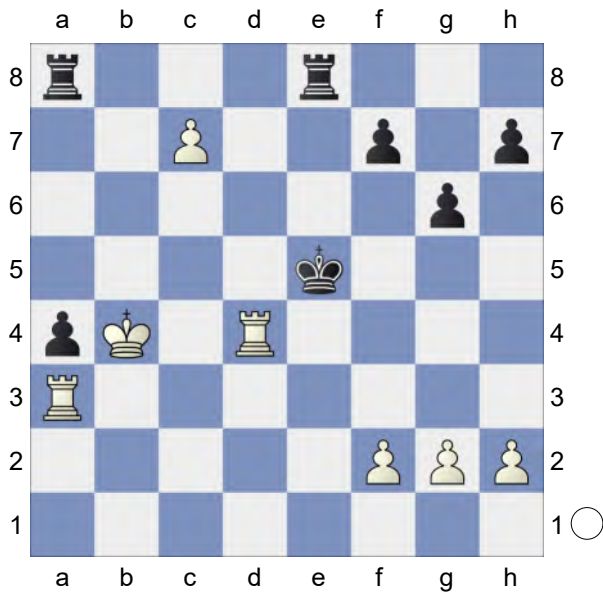
38.Kc3 Kf6 39.Kb4 Ke6 40.Rd4

[40.Rad3 a3 41.Rd8= and because of the d4 invasion, Black probably survives. a2? 42.Rxe8+ Rxe8 43.Re3+ Kf6 44.Rxe8-+ a1Q? 45.c8Q]

40...Ke5

[40...Rec8 41.Re3+ Kf6= Had I seen one more move, I would have played 42.Rf4+ as it's precise Kg7 43.Re7 a3 (43...Rf8 44.Ka3!=) 44.Rxf7+= Kg8 (44...Kh6 45.Rxh7+ Kg5 46.h4+ Kg4 47.Re4+ Kf5 48.Rhe7) 45.Rg7+ Kf8 46.Rxh7 Kg8 47.Reg7+ Kf8 48.Rd7 Kg8 49.Rhe7 a2 50.Re1=]

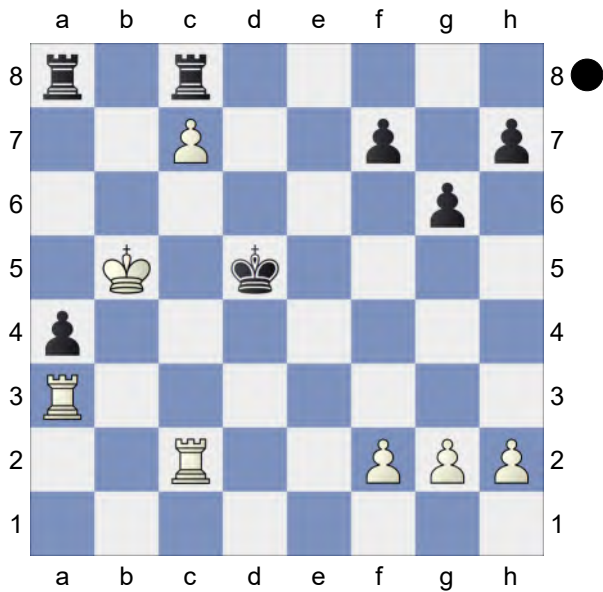
[40...f5!? 41.Re3+! Kf7 42.Rd7+ Kf8
43.Rxe8+ Kxe8 44.Rxh7]



41.Rc4 Rec8

[41...Ke6 42.Kc5 Kd7 43.Kb6 Kc8
44.Re3]

42.Kb5 Kd5= 43.Rc2



1/2-1/2

378

□ Wei, Yi

■ Grover, Sahaj

Wch U20 53rd (6)

[Grover, Sahaj]

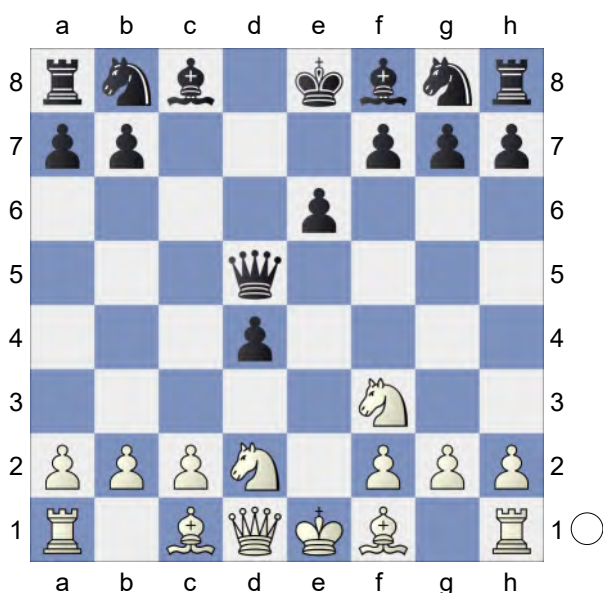
C07

2641

2491

11.10.2014

This game was played in the sixth round of the World junior. I was doing about ok here and was pitted against one of the top stars. 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.Ngf3 cxd4



6.Bc4 Qd8 A relatively newer idea, it's seldom played and quite effective for 1 game purposes. 7.0-0 a6 8.Nb3 Nc6 9.Qe2! I think ♖bxd4 is more obvious, but White doesn't achieve much there.

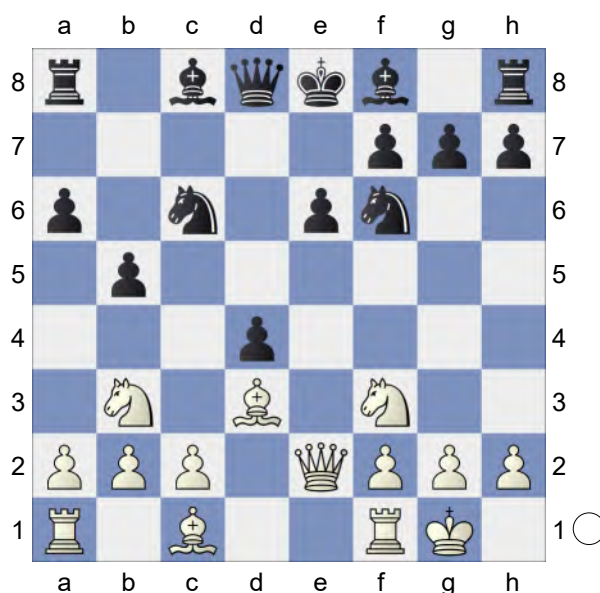
[9.Nbxd4 Nxd4 10.Nxd4 Qc7! 11.Qe2 Bd6 12.g3 Ne7! The whole point behind delaying ... ♗f6, since now White doesn't have tricks like playing ♕g5- ♕xf6, or ♗f3- ♗e5, I think Black is very happy here.]

9...b5 Black needs to be precise here.

[9...Nf6? 10.Rd1 b5 11.Nbxd4 Nxd4 12.Rxd4 Qc7 13.Bd3 Bc5 14.Rh4 and White can generate an attack on the kingside.]

10.Bd3 Nf6

[10...Bb7 is also playable I think, but somehow I wasn't so sure about this 11.Rd1 Qc7 12.Nbxd4 Nxd4 13.Nxd4 Nf6 14.Bf4 Qxf4 15.Bxb5+ Ke7 16.Bc6 Ng4 17.g3 Qxf2+ 18.Qxf2 Nxf2 19.Kxf2 Bxc6 20.Nxc6+ Ke8 and although this endgame looks very dynamic, Black should be able to hold the fort together.]



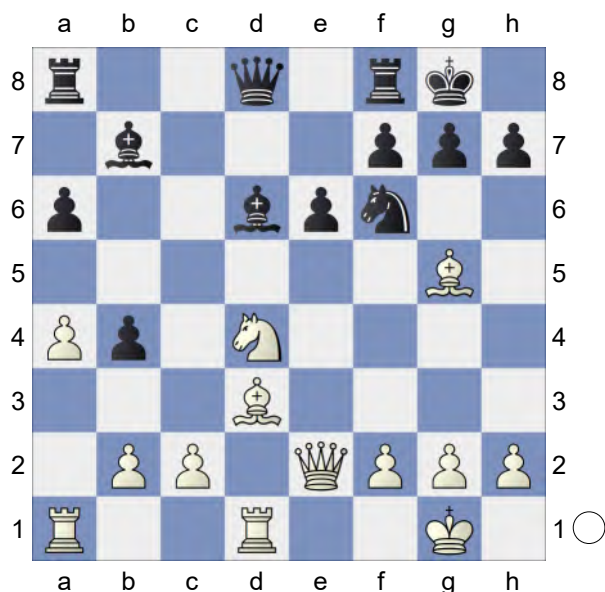
11.Rd1 Bd6 12.a4!?

[12.Bg5 Bb7 13.Be4!? 0-0 14.Bxc6 Bxc6 15.Nbxd4 Bd5= Usually in such structures White's light-coloured bishop poses a lot of problems. with it having been traded-off, Black's completely fine here.]

[12.Nbxd4 Nxd4 13.Nxd4 0-0 14.c3 Bb7 15.a4 b4= Black is active enough here.]

12...b4 13.Bg5 Bb7 14.Nfxd4 Nxd4 15.Nxd4 0-0

(Diagram)



16.Bh4!? This was a new move, but it transposed to what I had prepared, White's main threat is to take on e6 now.

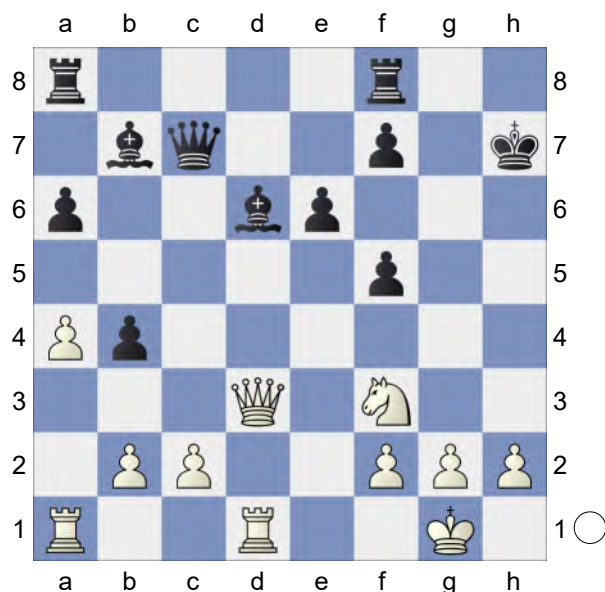
[16.Nxe6? fxe6 17.Qxe6+ Kh8 18.Bf1 Qa5!-+]

16...Kh8 17.Nf3 Qc7 18.Bxf6 gxf6 19.Bxh7 I had this position at home with my king on g8, here I thought for a while if I should go for it via f5, but after a long thought I decided to go with what I had already seen. **19...Kxh7**

[19...f5!? 20.Rd4! (20.Ng5? Qc6 21.f3 Bf4 22.Nh3 Bh6-+) 20...Kxh7 21.Qd2 Be7 22.Rd7 Qb6 23.Rxe7 Bxf3 24.gxf3 Rad8= and because of the d4 invasion, Black probably survives.]

20.Qd3+ f5

(Diagram)



21.Qxd6 Qxd6 22.Rxd6 Bxf3 23.gxf3 a5

This was where my preparation ended. I had concluded that this position was about equal. White is a pawn up, but I think Black's pawn structure is just too solid, so it should just be a draw.

24.Rc1 Rfc8

[Had I seen one more move, I would have played 24...Rg8+ as it's precise

A) 25.Kf1 Kg6 26.c4 (26.Rd4 Rh8 27.h4 Rad8 28.Rxd8 Rxd8 29.Ke2 Rd4 30.Rh1 b3!=) 26...bxc3 27.bxc3 Rh8 28.Kg2 Kf6 29.c4 Rag8+ 30.Kh1 Rh4=;

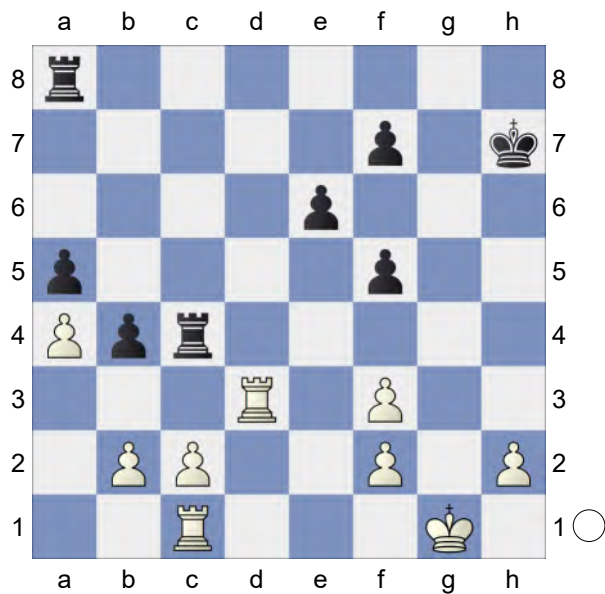
B) 25.Kh1 Rad8 26.Rxd8 Rxd8=]

25.Rd3

[25.c4 bxc3 26.Rxc3 Rxc3 27.bxc3 Rc8 28.Ra6 Rxc3 29.Rxa5 Rxf3=]

25...Rc4

(Diagram)

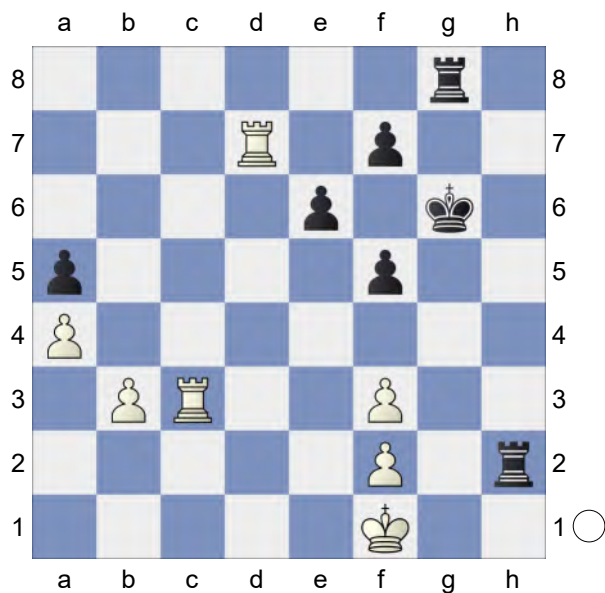


26.b3 Rh4 27.c4 bxc3 28.Rcxc3

Not much can go wrong for Black now.

[28.Rdxc3 Rb4 29.Rd3 Kg6 30.Rc7 Kf6=]

28...Rg8+ 29.Kf1 Rxh2 30.Rd7 Kg6

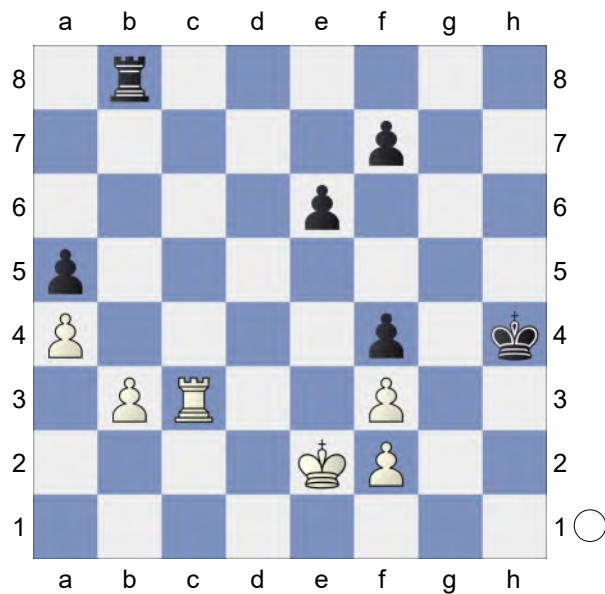


31.Ke2 f4 It was not difficult to find a couple of correct moves here. **32.Rc5 Rb8 33.Rd3**

[33.Rb5 Rxb5 34.axb5 Rh5 35.Rb7 Rd5 36.b6 Kf6]

33...Rh5 34.Rxh5 Kxh5 35.Rc3 Kh4

(Diagram)



I offered him a draw here, he accepted, as neither one of us had any improvement.

1/2-1/2

10

Caruana, Fabiano

Wei, Yi

chess.com (Internet-rapid)

[Harikrishna, Penteala]

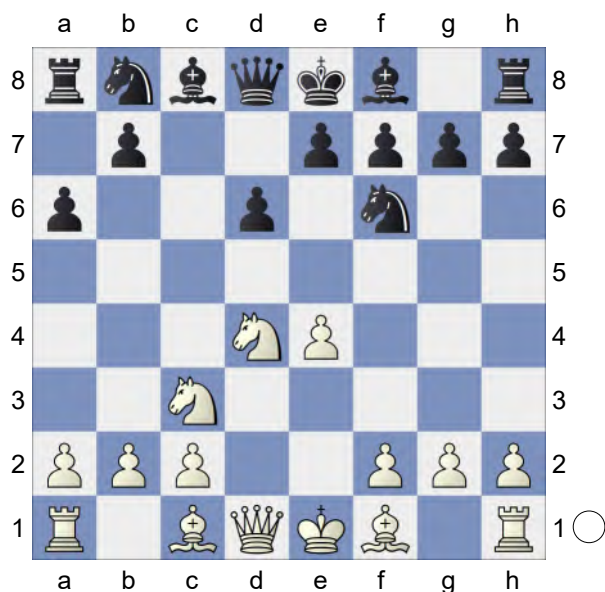
B90

2835

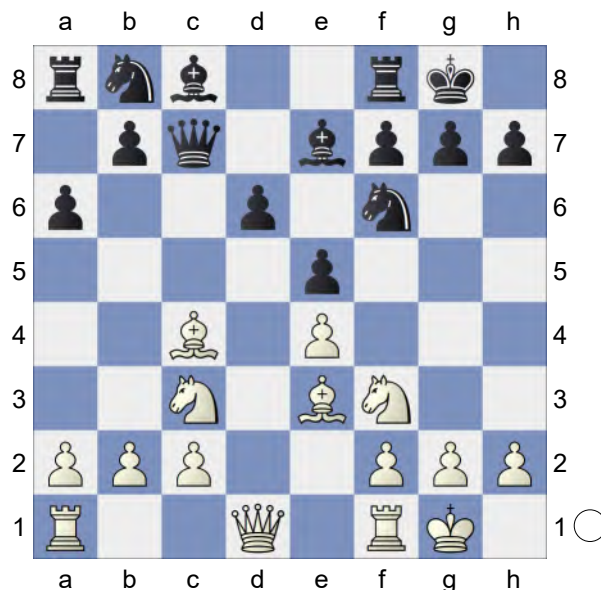
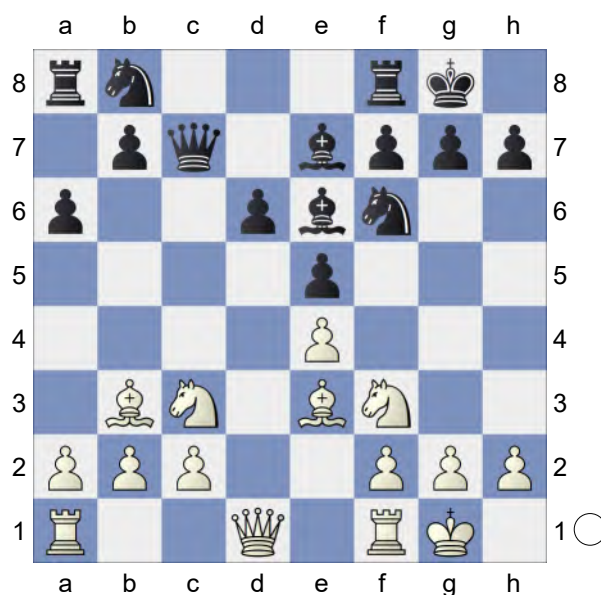
2732

2020

The final match between USA and China was a thriller with Fabiano Caruana defeating Wei Yi and Yu Yangyi defeating Wesley So. Since China had more points in the round robin stage, 2 : 2 was enough for them to win the title. Fabiano played important role in bringing USA to the finals and scoring important point for the team. In this game he outplayed Wei Yi who opted for the Scandinavian! It would have been a really brave decision if he had managed to draw the game. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4** Black has four other queen moves apart from the move in the game. **3...cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6**



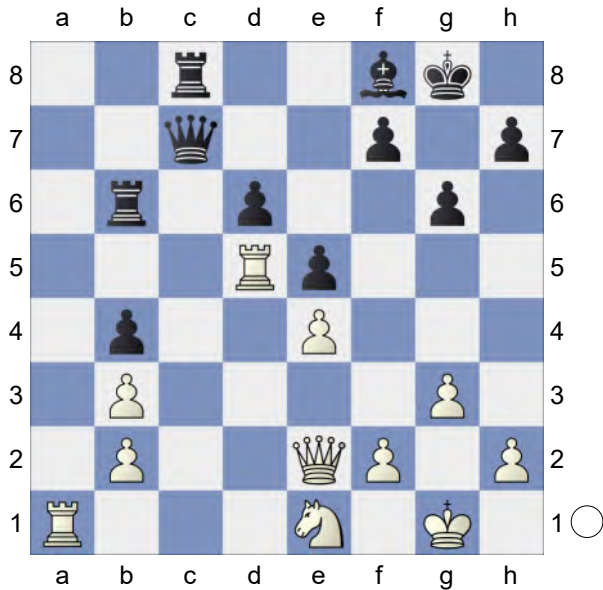
6.Be3 e5 7.Nf3 Be7 8.Bc4 I like this move as White stops Black from playing Bg4 and exchanging the f3 knight. **8...0-0 9.0-0 Qc7?!N** Diagram
(Diagram)

**10.Bb3! Be6**

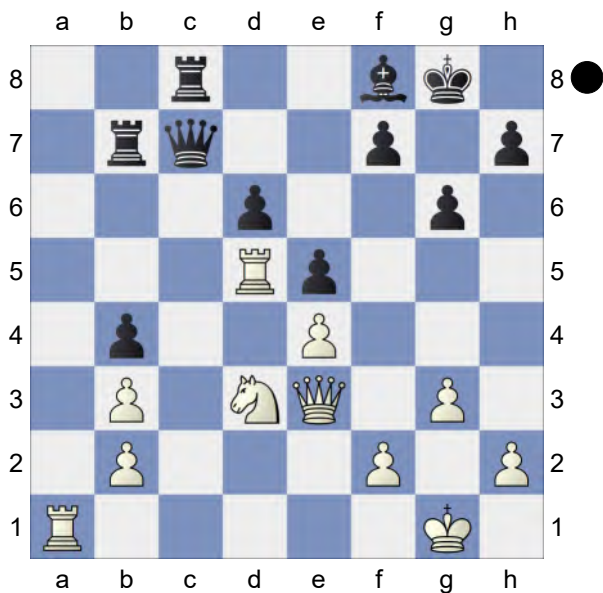
11.Nh4 White intends to play b4. White intends to play b4. [b4] **11...g6 12.Bh6 Re8 13.Qd2 Ng4 14.Nf3 Nd7**
Diagram

(Diagram)

(Diagram)

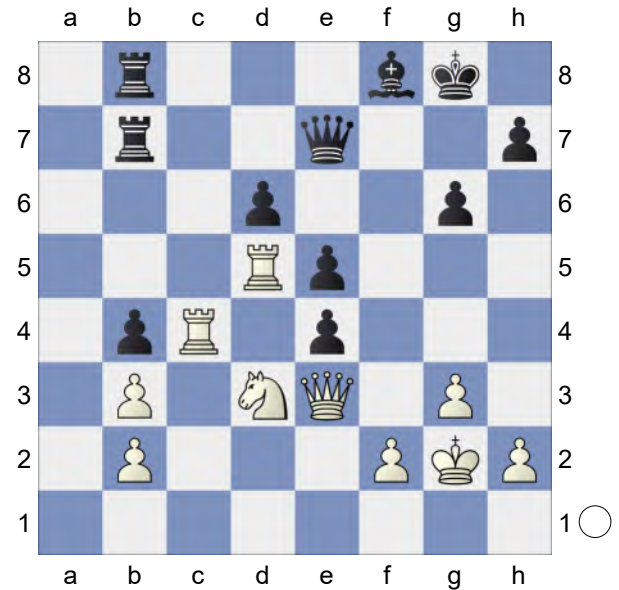


26.Qe3 Rb7 27.Nd3 Diagram

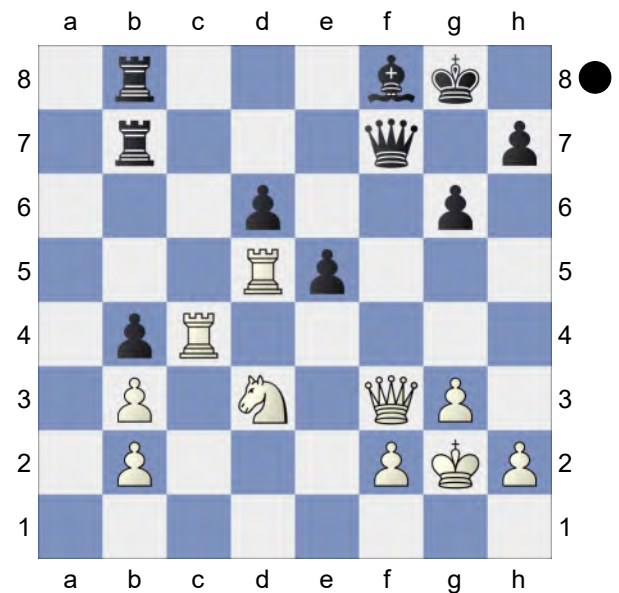


**27...Rcb8 28.Rc1 Qe7 29.Rc4 f5
30.Kg2 fxe4**

(Diagram)

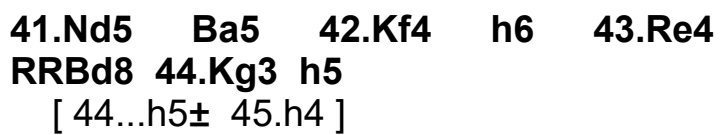


31.Qxe4 Qf7 32.Qf3 Diagram

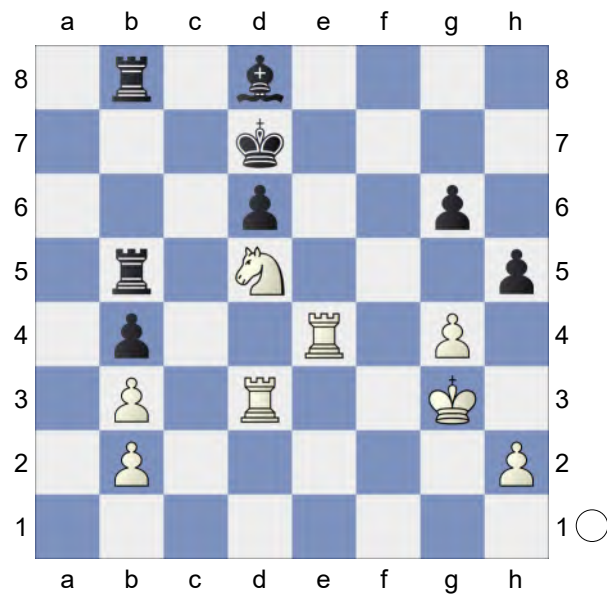


32...Be7? The final mistake in already very difficult position. Black has no chances to save the game. Fabiano plays the rest of it accurately, and takes home the crucial point for Team USA.
33.Ra5+- Qxf3+ 34.Kxf3 Bd8 35.Rd5 Rb6

(Diagram)



1-0



9

□ Caruana, Fabiano

■ Wei, Yi

chess.com (Internet-rapid)

[Harikrishna, Penteala]

B01

2835

2732

2020

The final match between USA and China was a thriller with Fabiano Caruana defeating Wei Yi and Yu Yangyi defeating Wesley So. Since China had more points in the round robin stage, 2 : 2 was enough for them to win the title. Fabiano played important role in bringing USA to the finals and scoring important point for the team. In this game he outplayed Wei Yi who opted for the Scandinavian! It would have been a really brave decision if he had managed to draw the game. **1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3** Black has four other queen moves apart from the move in the game.

3...Qd8

[3...Qd6]

[3...Qe5+]

[3...Qe6+]

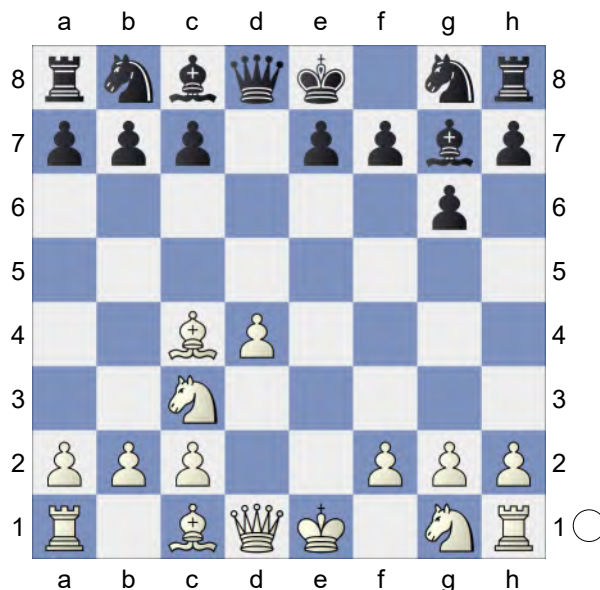
[3...Qa5]

4.d4 g6

[4...Nf6 - 138/42 5.Nf3 Bg4 is another way of addressing the position.]

5.Bc4 Bg7

(Diagram)



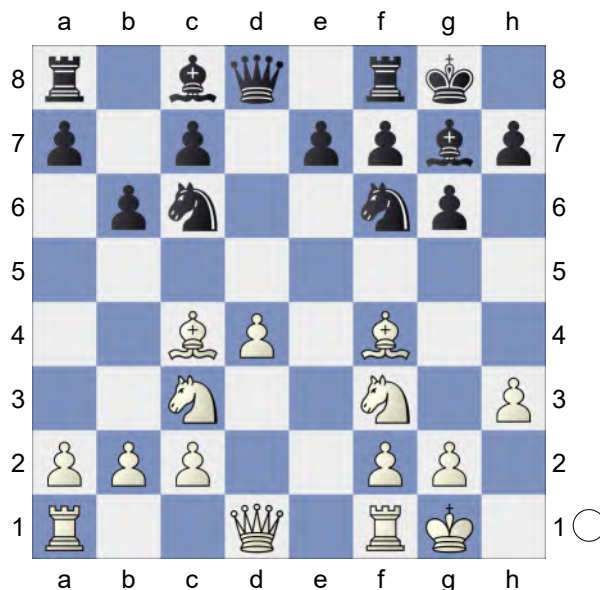
6.Nf3 Nf6 7.0-0 0-0 8.h3 I like this move as White stops Black from playing Bg4 and exchanging the f3 knight.

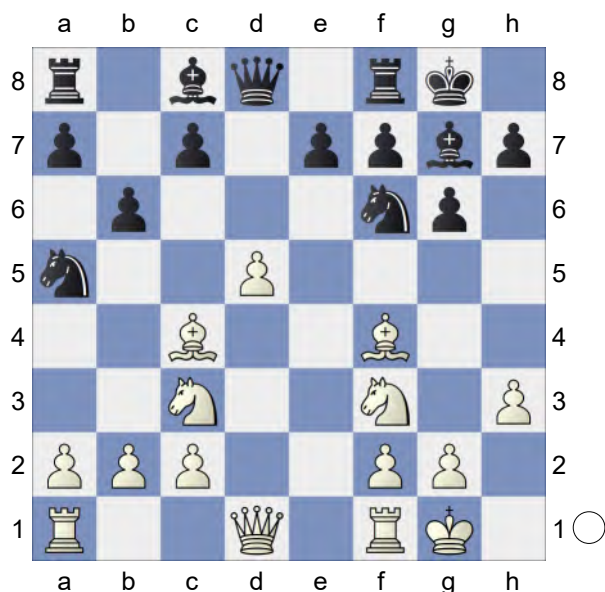
8...Nc6

[8...a6!? 9.a4 Nc6 I am not entirely sure if the inclusion of a6 and a4 is in Black's favour. I am not entirely sure if the inclusion of a6 and a4 is in Black's favour. Xb4]

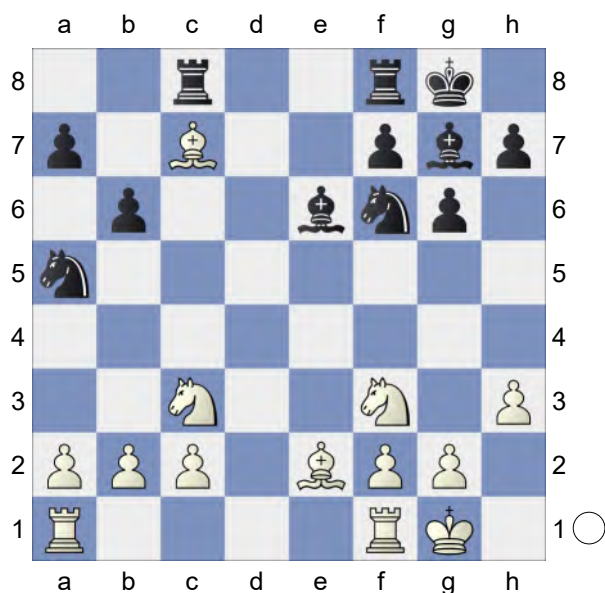
9.Bf4 b6?!N Diagram

[9...e6 Black should have played e6 first, before playing b6.]



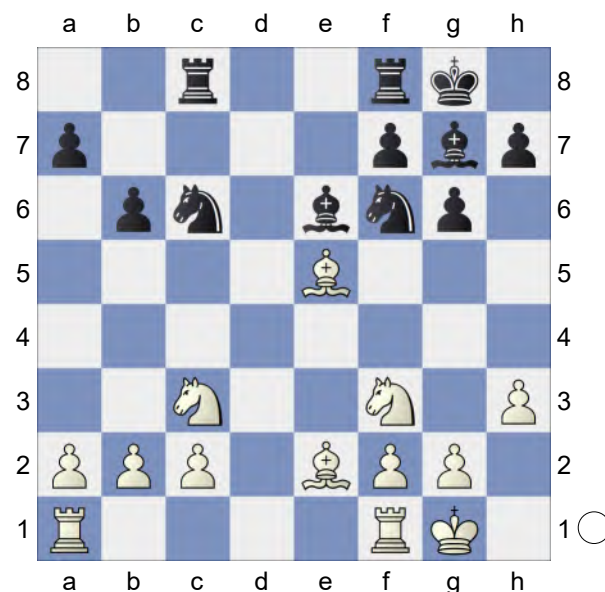
10.d5! Na5

11.Be2 White intends to play b4. White intends to play b4. [Δ b4] **11...e6**
12.dxe6 Bxe6 13.Qxd8 Raxd8
14.Bxc7 Rc8 Diagram

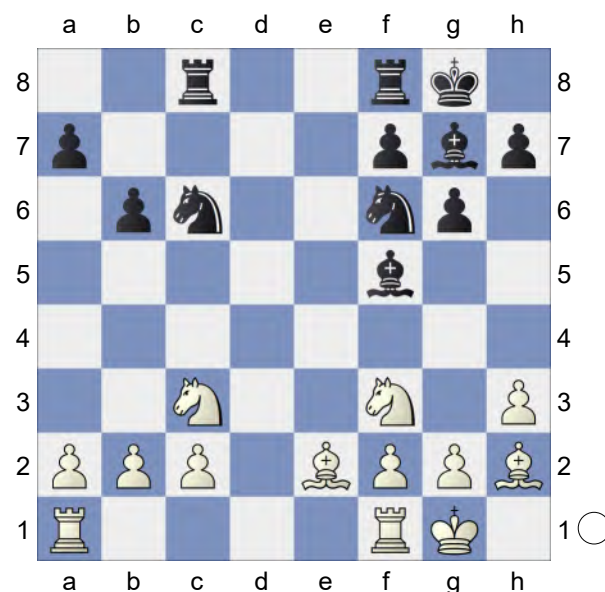


15.Be5! This move forces Black to retreat to c6.
 [15.Bh2 Nc4 16.Bxc4 Rxc4±]
15...Nc6
 [15...Nc4 16.Bxc4 Rxc4 17.Rad1±]

(Diagram)

**16.Bh2 Bf5** Diagram

[16...Na5 is one of the engine's top choices. 17.Ba6 Rcd8 18.Rad1±]

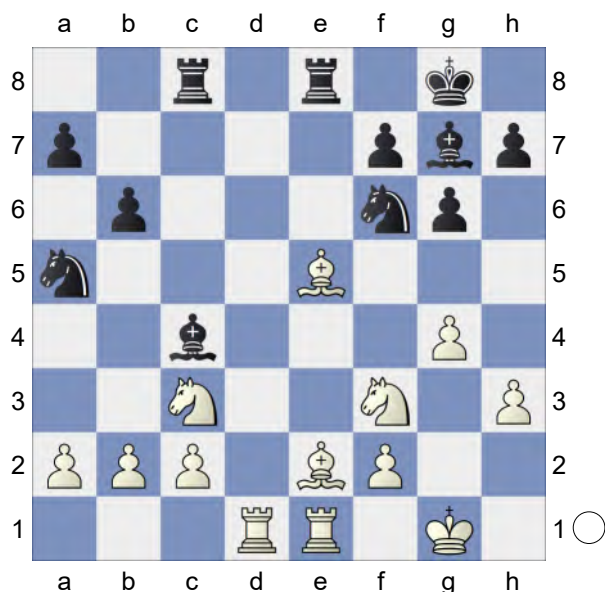
**17.g4!** Black must have overlooked this move. **17...Be6**

[17...Bxc2 Black is lost after taking the pawn. 18.Ne1 Be4 (18...Nd4 19.Ba6 Rcd8 20.Be5+-) 19.g5+-]

18.Rad1 Na5 19.Be5 Bc4 20.Rfe1

[20.Bxc4! Nxc4 21.Bxf6 Bxf6 22.Nd5+-]

20...Rfe8

**21.Nb5**

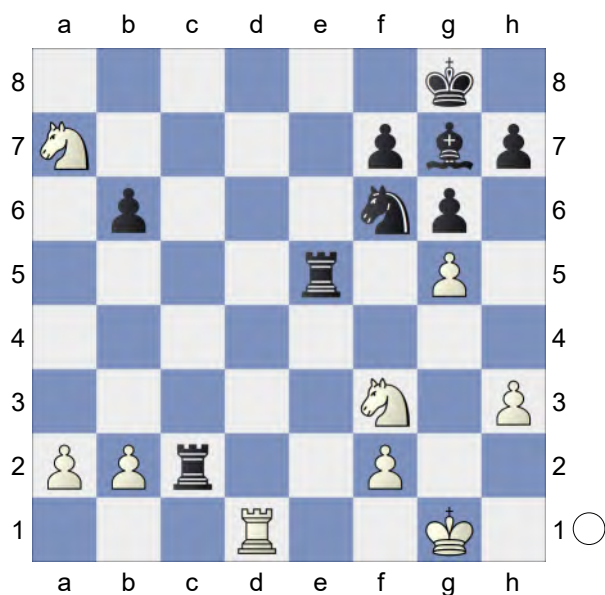
[21.Bxc4! Nxc4 22.Bxf6 Bxf6
23.Nd5+-]

21...Bxe2 22.Rxe2 Nc4 23.Nxa7?

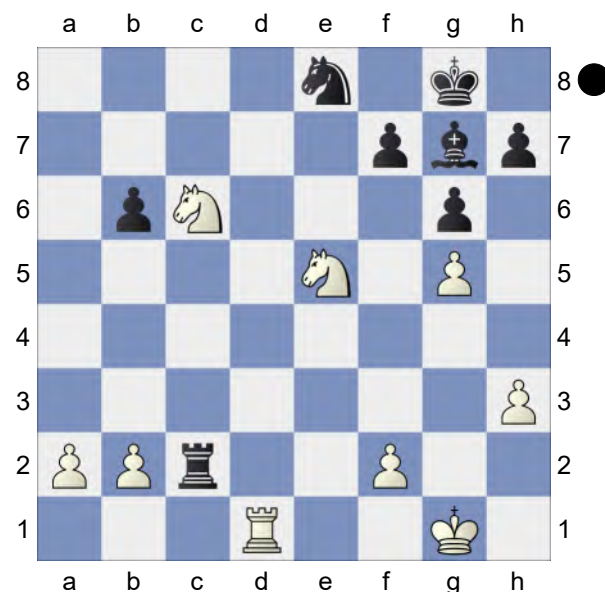
This is a rather greedy move. White throws away large advantage.

[23.Nd6 Nxd6 24.Rxd6 h5
25.Rd4±]

[23.Rde1! Nxe5 24.Nxe5+-]

23...Nxe5 24.Rxe5 Rxc2 25.g5 Rxe5**26.Nxe5 Ne8 27.Nac6 Diagram**

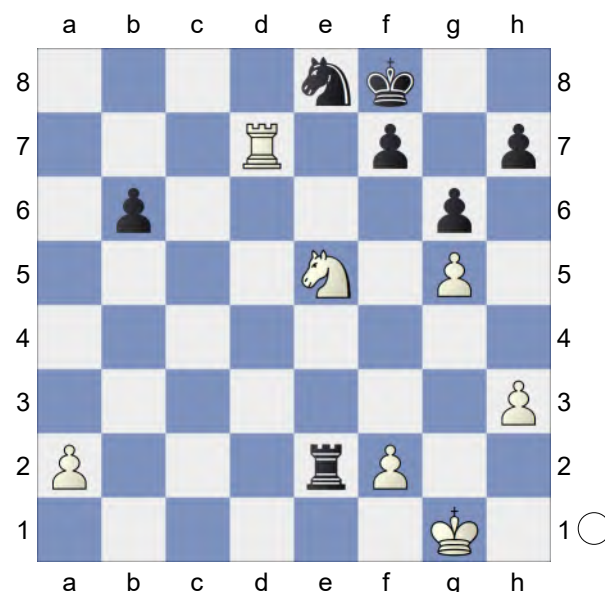
(Diagram)

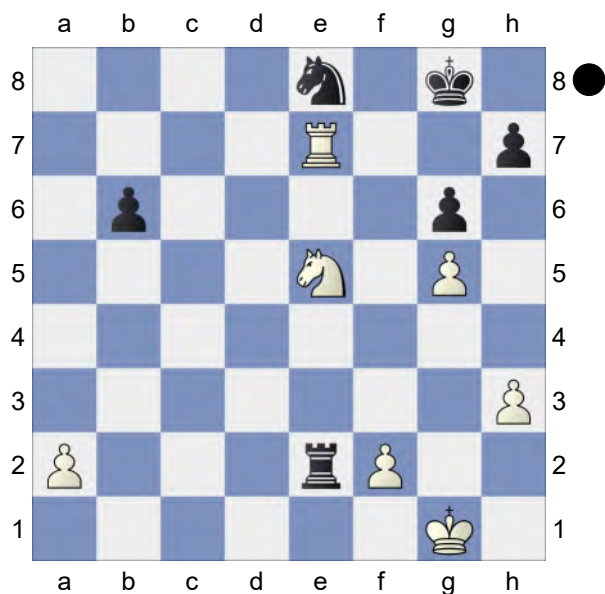
**27...Bxe5**

[27...f6! Black could have saved the game with the f6 push. 28.Rd8 fxe5
29.Rxe8+ Kf7 30.Re7+ Kg8 31.Nxe5
Bxe5 32.Rxe5 Rxb2=]

28.Nxe5 Rxb2 29.Rd8 Kf8 30.Rd7 Re2

[30...Ng7 31.Rxf7+ Kg8 32.Ra7
Ne6 33.Nf7 Kf8± even though Black is a pawn down he has a really good chances of holding this position.]

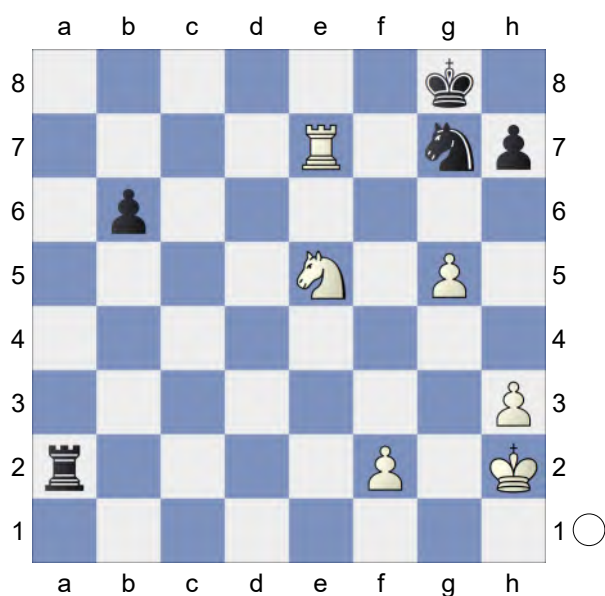
**31.Rxf7+ Kg8 32.Re7 Diagram**



32...Re1+? The final mistake in already very difficult position. Black has no chances to save the game. Fabiano plays the rest of it accurately, and takes home the crucial point for Team USA.

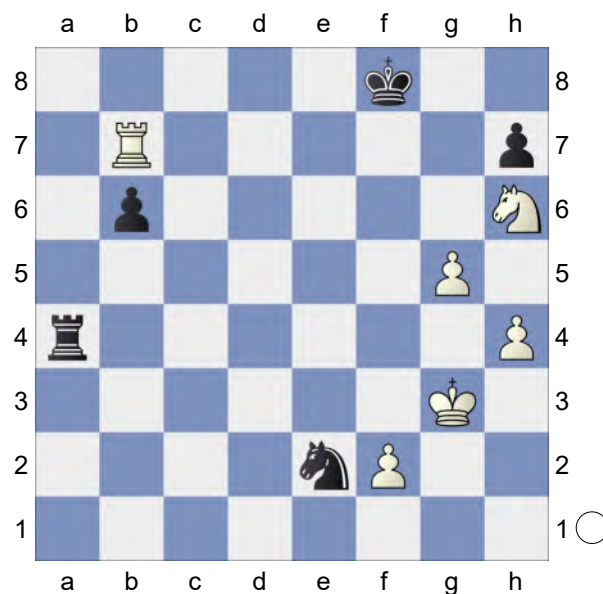
[RR32...Ng7 33.Nxg6 Rxa2 34.Ne5±]

33.Kh2+- Ng7 34.Nxg6 Ra1 35.Ne5 Rxa2

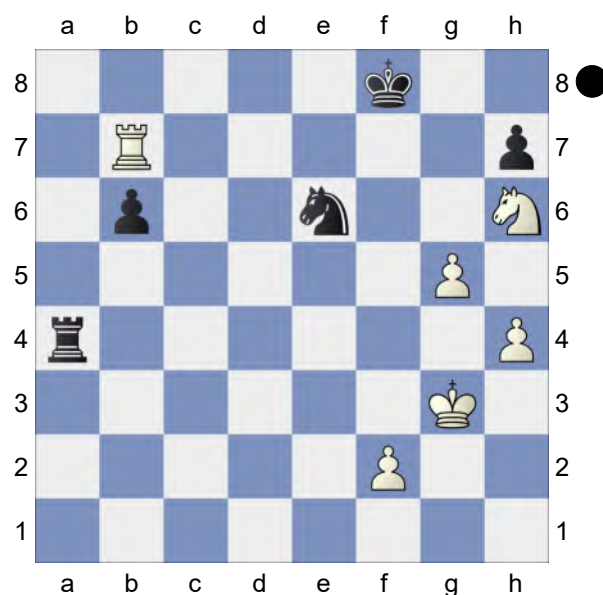


36.Ng4 Kf8 37.Rb7 Ne6 38.h4 Ra4 39.Kg3 Nd4 40.Nh6 Ne2+

(Diagram)



41.Kf3 Nd4+ 42.Kg4 Ne6+ 43.Kg3



1-0

440

□ Xu,Yinglun

■ Wei,Yi

CHN-ch Xinghua (7)

30.04.2017

[Havasi,Gergo_11589]

D41

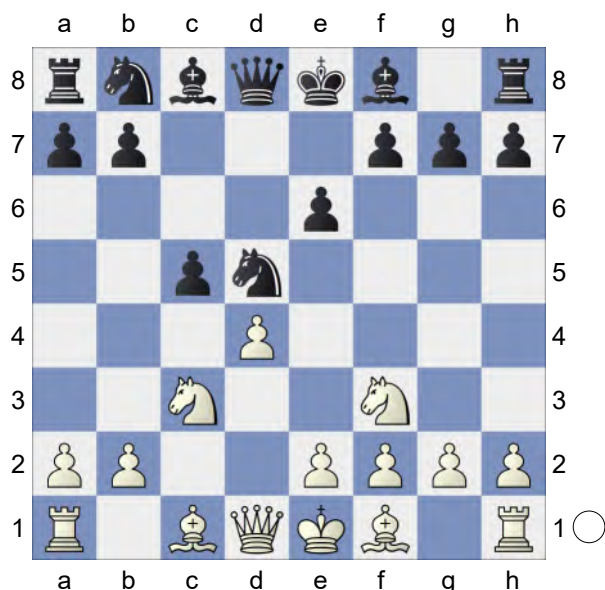
2557

2727

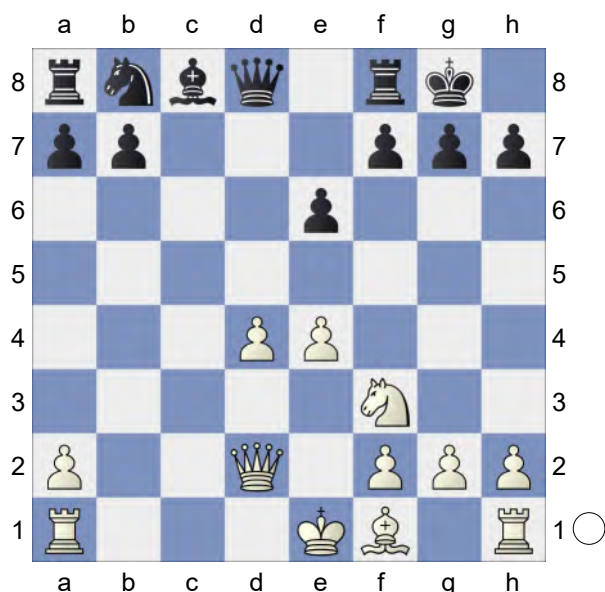
1.Nf3 Havasi,Gergo Havasi,G 1...d5

2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 c5 5.cxd5

Nxd5



6.e4 Nxc3 7.bxc3 cxd4 8.cxd4 Bb4+
9.Bd2 Bxd2+ 10.Qxd2 0-0



11.Bc4 Nd7

[11...Nc6 was played by Lysyj and it was annotated by Shagar Shah in CBM 168 12.0-0 b6 13.Rad1 Na5 14.Bd3 Bb7 15.h4 Rc8 16.h5 h6 17.Rfe1 Qe7 18.d5 Nc4 19.Bxc4 Rxc4 20.Ne5 Rc5 21.d6 Qd8 22.Qf4 f6 23.Ng6 Rf7 24.e5↑ 1-0 (40) Tomashevsky,E (2747)-Lysyj, I (2673) Chita 2015 CBM 168 [Sagar Shah]]

12.0-0 b6 13.Rfe1

[13.a4 and]

[13.Rad1 are the main alternatives.]

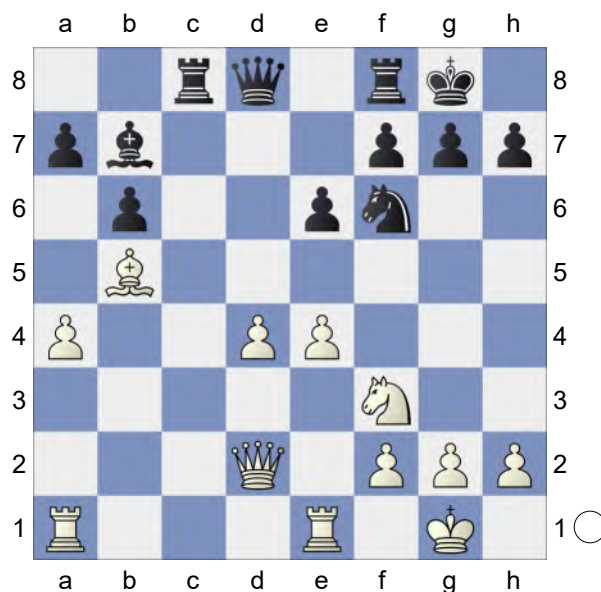
13...Bb7 14.a4

[14.Rad1 Rc8 15.Bb3 Qf6 16.Qe3 Rfd8 17.h3 h6 1/2 (33) Ponomarev, R (2714)-Wang, Y (2720) Beijing 2014]

14...Rc8 15.Bb5

[15.Bd3 is the other line.]

15...Nf6

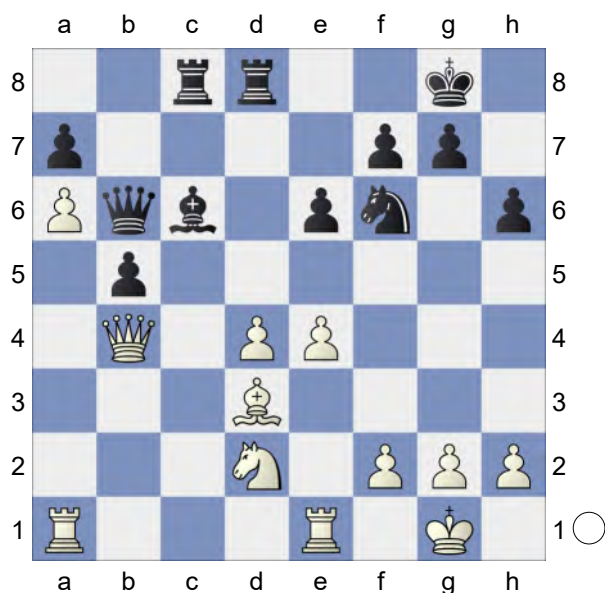


16.Bd3 h6 17.a5 b5N This is a novelty.

[17...Qc7 18.axb6 axb6 19.Rac1 Qb8 20.Rb1 Nd7 21.Qb4± 1-0 (41) Janssen,R (2498)-Levin,F (2484) Netherlands 2011]

18.a6! This is an important move to prevent a6, because it would stabilise

Black's position. **18...Bc6** **19.Qb4**
 Overprotecting the d4-pawn, to free the knight and make it possible to move it.
19...Qb6! Protecting b5 and pushing the d4-pawn.
20.Nd2 The logical move, because the ♘ will be good on b3.
20...Rfd8



21.Nb3 e5

[21...Be8 is also possible, just a waiting move as it is hard to make progress for both sides.]

22.d5 Bd7 **23.Na5!** An active move, getting the knight to b7. **23...Rc7!** And a good reaction, because Black chooses the strategy of putting the ♖s on the c-file. **24.Nb7**

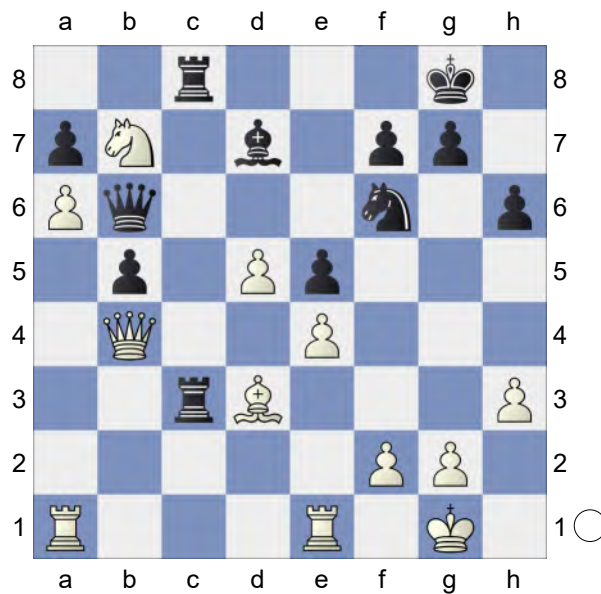
[24.d6 seems to be better to prevent Black from playing ♖dc8: Rcc8 25.Nb7 Re8 26.Reb1]

24...Rdc8 **25.h3** Good move, preventing ♘g4.

[25.Nd6 Ng4! 26.Rf1 Rc1!↑]

25...Rc3!

(Diagram)



♘d6 was threatening and Black neutralises this plan, because now ♘d6 won't be dangerous **26.Red1 R8c7!** Havasi,G: '=' Havasi,Gergo: '=' This move may look like a simple position-improving, waiting move, but it has the point of preventing ♖d6 or ♖e7, because of ♖d6 ♖xb7 or ♖e7 ♗xh3

[26...Bg4!? is a spectacular move, but it's likely, that it is hard to make progress after 27.Rd2! (27.hxg4 Nxg4↑ 28.Ra2 Rxd3!)]

27.Nd6

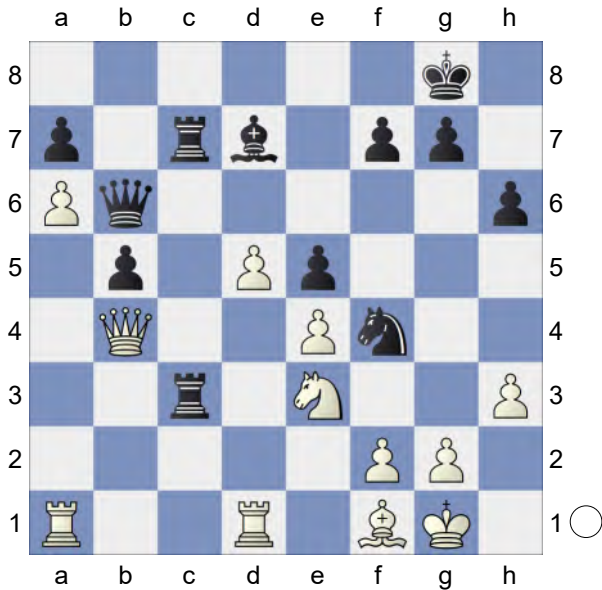
[Maybe 27.Na5 is more accurate, when Black should repeat with R7c5 28.Nb7 Rc7=]

27...Nh5! Now Black starts to get some initiative. **28.Nf5!** But White also finds this important defensive move to close the diagonal of the ♗. **28...Nf4** **29.Bf1 Rc2**

[29...R7c5 is also good, as the move played in the game lost a tempo because of ♘e3.]

30.Ne3 R2c3

(Diagram)



31.d6

[One of the suggestions of the computer is 31.Kh2 and it seems, that it's equal.]

31...Rc8 32.Ra2

[32.Kh2 is a bit more accurate.]

32...Rxe3! A brave attacking sacrifice.

33.fxe3 Qxe3+ 34.Rf2?! This move overlooks the next move.

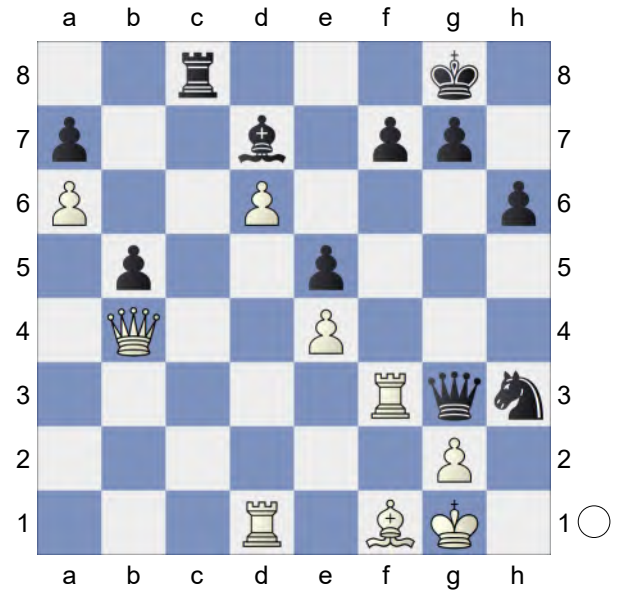
[In the event of 34.Kh2! Ne6 Black would have enough compensation.]

34...Qg3! 35.Rf3

[35.Rxf4 Qxf4+]

35...Nxh3+

(Diagram)



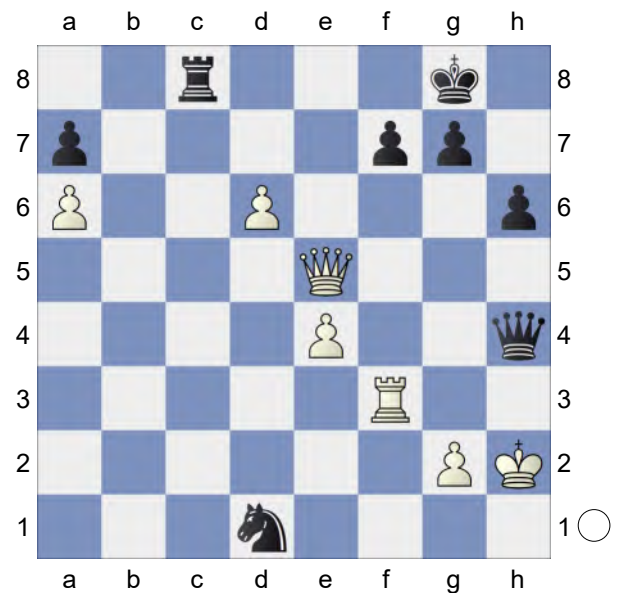
36.Kh1 Qg4! And Black continues the attack. There was the possibility of a repetition with ♖f2. **37.Bxb5**

[37.Qe1 was better to hold the position, but Black has a good attack after Ng5 38.Rg3 Qf4→]

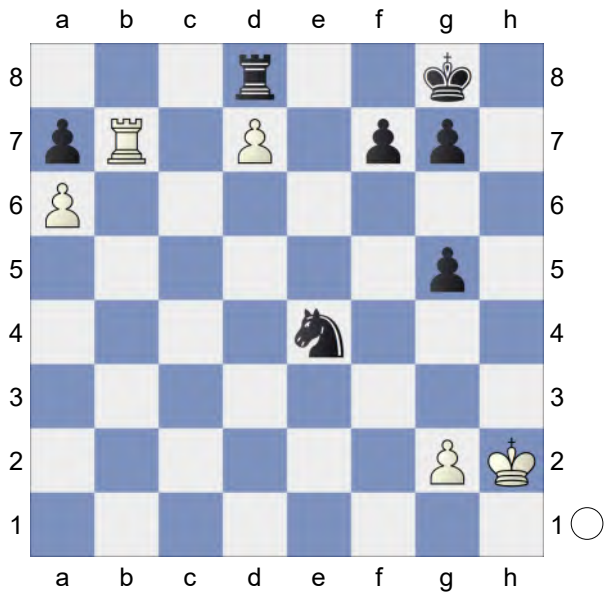
37...Bxb5 38.Qxb5 Nf2+ 39.Kh2 White wants to try a last practical chance, but Black exploits his advantage accurately.

[Of course 39.Rxf2 Qxd1+ 40.Kh2 Qxd6 41.Qb7 Qc7+ is also winning.]

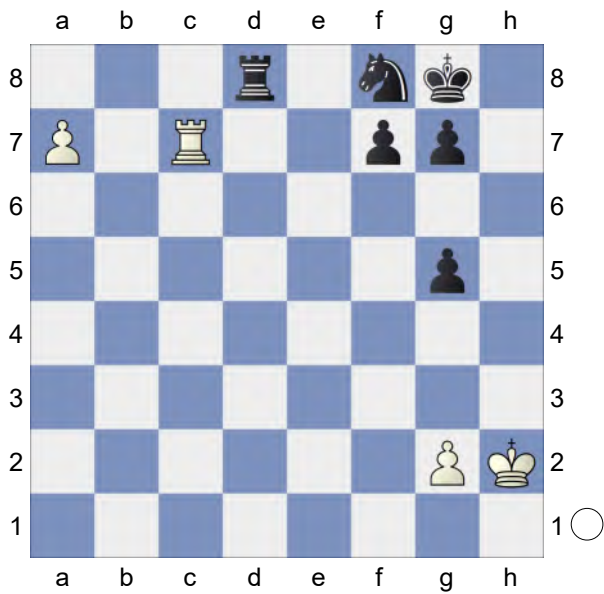
39...Nxd1 40.Qxe5 Qh4+



41.Rh3 Qg5 42.Qxg5 hxc5 43.Rb3
Nf2 44.Rb7 Nxe4 45.d7 Rd8



46.Rxa7 Nc5 47.Rc7 Nxd7 48.a7 Nf8



0-1

295

□ Wei, Yi

■ Nepomniachtchi, Ian

Tata Steel-A 79th (3)

[Hillarp Persson, T]

B96

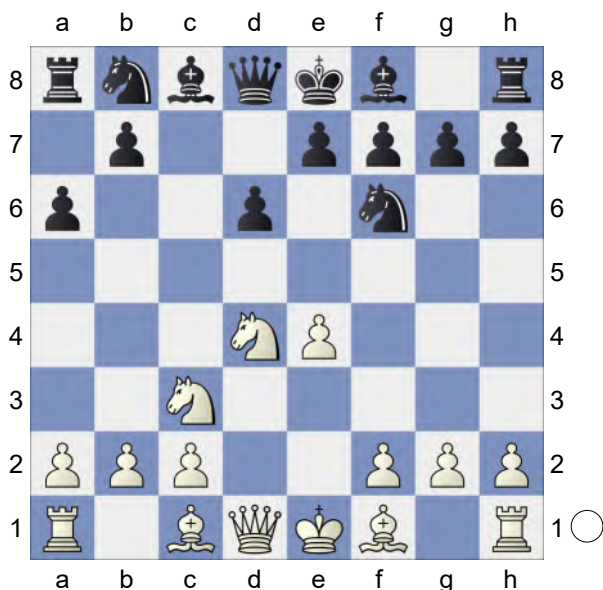
2706

2767

16.01.2017

1.e4

Hillarp Persson, Tiger Hillarp Persson, Tiger Hillarp Persson, Tiger Hillarp Persson, Tiger Hillarp Persson, Tiger: 'Hillarp Persson, T' Hillarp Persson, Tiger: 'Arsovic, Goran' 1...c5 Already at this stage I felt inclined to comment on this game. It's nice to see that there are some who still seek asymmetry. 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6



6.Bg5 Finally someone who is prepared to play a principled move.

[Karjakin came up with 6.a3 in the first round against Giri. I guess this move is inspired by a kind of psychic prophylaxis: "I'll stop you from playing b5-b4 because the cards say that you will play b7-b5." Then Carlsen followed suit in round 2, and won. "Principled" is so yesterday.]

6...e6 7.f4 h6 This line has ascended from obscurity into the limelight in only a few years. Compared to the normal poisoned pawn lines (without h6 and ♗h4) I can only find one small difference (but possibly I've missed something).

[7...Qb6 8.Qd2 (8.Qd3!?!; 8.a3 Nc6 is much better for Black now that there is no ♗f2.) 8...Qxb2 9.Rb1 Qa3 10.e5 (10.f5 is one option that is unique to this move order.) 10...h6 leads to the same position described after 9.♖d2. I'm still not much wiser as to why Black prefers h6 to the direct ... ♗b6.]

8.Bh4 Qb6 This move is played in many Sicilian scenarios, with the idea of luring White to place ♗d4 on a more passive square. White is not in the habit of cooperating. 9.a3 This is the latest fashion.

[9.Qd2 Qxb2 10.Rb1 Qa3 11.e5 dxe5 12.fxe5 If you go down the rabbit hole, you will be likely to meet something like Nfd7 13.Ne4 Qxa2 14.Rd1 Qd5 15.Qe3 Qxe5 16.Be2 Bc5 17.Bg3 Qd5 18.c4 Bxd4 19.Rxd4 Qa5+ 20.Rd2 0-0 21.Bd6 f5 22.Bxf8 Nxf8 23.Nd6 Nbd7 where Black is currently doing all right. Wei Yi has tried this twice with White, with no success.]

[After 9.Qd3 Qxb2 10.Rb1 Qa3 I get the feeling that ...h6/ ♗h4 favours Black somewhat.]

[Without ...h6/♗h4, White could consider 9.Nb3 , although it would be a terribly passive move. Here it is just bad because of Qe3+ winning a pawn.]

9...Nbd7 This is a first step off the most trodden paths, and a step that I like.

[The normal 9...Be7 almost forces

White to play 10.Bf2 , when Qc7 11.Qf3 Nbd7 12.0-0-0 b5 13.g4 featured in three absolute top games in 2016. The last game saw: Bb7 14.Bg2 Rc8 15.Kb1 g5 16.Qh3 Nc5 17.Rhe1 h5 18.Nf5! Ncxe4 19.Bxe4 Nxe4 20.Bd4 Nakamura,H (2775)-Vachier Lagrave,M (2800) 8th London Classic 2016, with a huge attack for White. It has been clear since then that Black needed to find an improvement.]

[9...Nc6 10.Bf2 with splendid chances for White, is the main difference to the usual poisoned pawn lines (7...♞b6).]

[9...Qxb2 10.Na4 and as we all know; the knight on the rim is dim.]

10.Be2 This move doesn't quite fit with the usual narrative of "queen goes to f3, long castle, g4, bam!", but it isn't obviously wrong. I'm very curious as to how far Wei Yi's preparation stretched. When I read his comments, I get the feeling that he has an exceptional "feeling" for what goes on in the Najdorf and that his preparations are more conceptual than they are detailed.

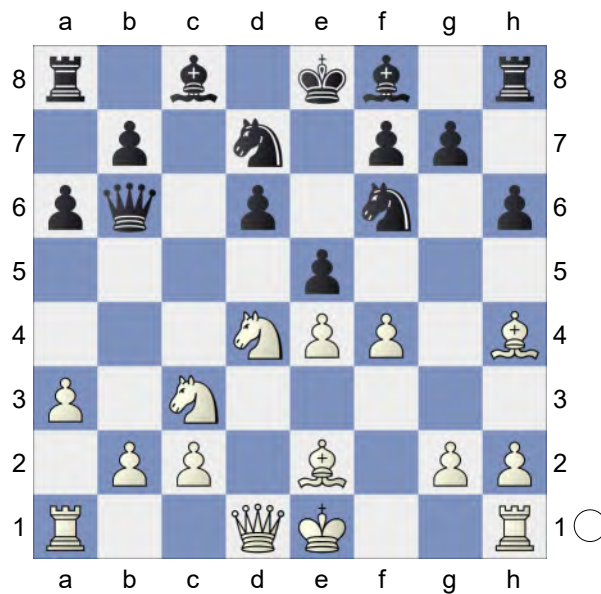
[After 10.Bf2 Qc7 11.Qf3 , hoping for 11... ♜e7, Black can instead play b5 , which seems a bit more active.]

[10.Bc4 Hillarp Persson,Tiger: 'Arsovic,Goran: '- 117/79" e5!?]

10...e5

[However, now that the queen's route to f3 is obstructed, it is again possible to play 10...Be7 11.Bf2 Qc7 White should continue with 12.Bf3 and then either g6 (or 12...Nb6 , intending e6-e5, seems possible.)]

(Diagram)



Hillarp Persson,Tiger: 'Arsovic,Goran: 'N" As far as I can tell, this is a novelty.

11.Nf5! White's minor pieces start swarming and the knight is on the road towards d5. Still, Black cannot tolerate the knight on f5 and has to kick it towards its goal. **11...g6 12.Bf2!?** This means either a) that Wei Yi has prepared the position deeply and seen that the 12. ♞e3 is less clear than the engines indicate, or b) that he didn't prepare the position and played ♜f2 on instinct. Considering how the game continues and the fact that he spent quite a lot of time on this move, it seems more likely that b) was the case.

[The engine likes 12.Ne3 Hillarp Persson,Tiger: 'Arsovic,Goran: '!" better, intending

A) 12...Be7 (Hillarp Persson,Tiger) Arsovic,Goran 13.Bf2!

A1) 13...exf4 14.Ned5 Qd8 15.Qd2 Nxd5 (15...g5 16.0-0-0±) 16.Nxd5 Bh4 17.Qxf4 Bxf2+ 18.Qxf2 Ne5 19.0-0-0±;

A2) 13...Qc6 14.Bf3±;

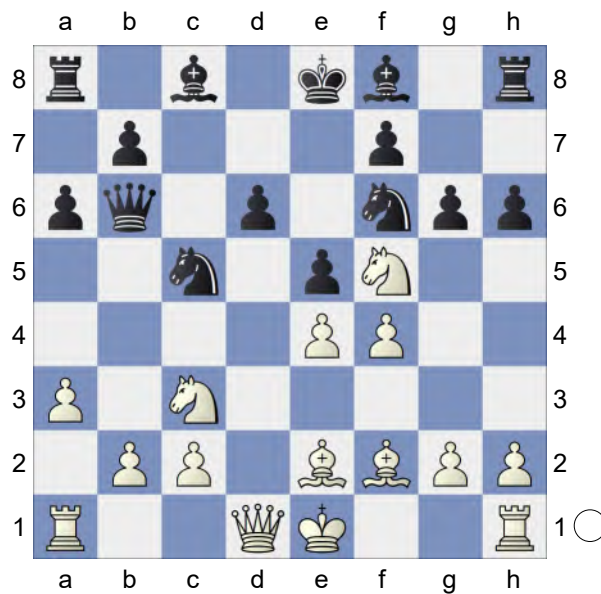
B) 12...Qxe3 13.Bf2 At first sight it

seems that Ng4 (13...Qxf4 14.g3 Hillarp Persson,Tiger: 'Arsovic, Goran: '+-' Qxe4 15.Nxe4 Nxe4 16.Bf3 Nxf2 17.Kxf2 h5 is another possibility, but the bishop on f3 looks strong here.) 14.Bxe3 Nxe3 15.Qd2 Nxg2+ 16.Kd1 Nxf4 is fine for Black, but when you evaluate this kind of line you must first of all look for forced lines. Indeed, in this case there is such a one: 17.Rf1! Intending Rxf4. If Black is allowed to solidify his position then the sacrifice will be less effective. (17.Bc4± (Hillarp Persson,Tiger) Arsovic, Goran) 17...Be7 (17...g5 18.Nd5) 18.Rxf4 exf4 19.Nd5 Bd8 20.Qxf4 Ne5 21.c4 and Black is definitely under pressure. I wonder if Wei Yi considered this line and chose not to enter it?]

12...Nc5 Hillarp Persson,Tiger: 'Arsovic, Goran: 'Diagram

[12...Qc7?! 13.Ne3 exf4 14.Ned5↑]
 [12...Qc6!? 13.fxe5 dxe5 14.Ne3 Bc5 15.0-0 Hillarp Persson,Tiger: 'Arsovic,Goran: '±"]

(Diagram)



" After this move we seem to be on a one way road, so if Black is to find an improvement (apart from 10... ♔e7), then this is the place to look for it. **13.b4!** Being ahead in development, it's the initiative, not the pawns, that count. **13...gxf5 14.0-0!?**

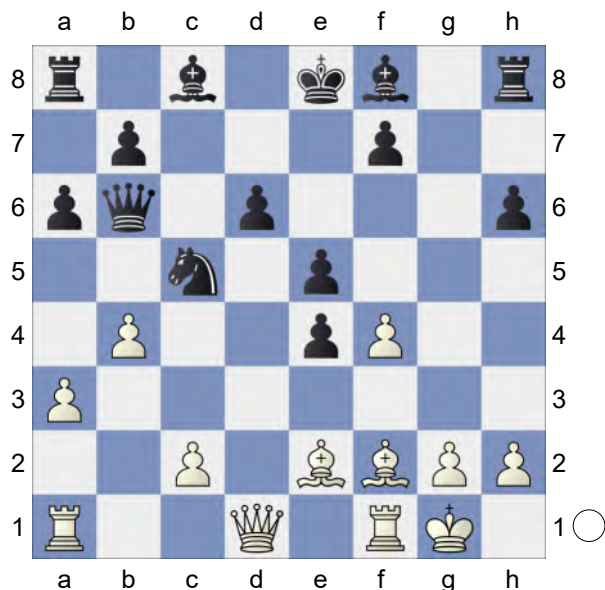
[There was nothing wrong with 14.bxc5 Hillarp Persson,Tiger: 'Arsovic,Goran: ' ♘" and it is far from clear that Wei Yi's move is the better one. It keeps things simple and allows for Black to be a bit surprised. Qc7 (Hillarp Persson,Tiger) Arsovic, Goran]

14...Nfxe4

[14...Qc7 leads to the same position as after 16... ♔c7. 15.bxc5 (Hillarp Persson,Tiger) (Arsovic,Goran) - 14. bc5 Nxe4 Arsovic,Goran 16.Nxe4]

15.Nxe4 fxe4

(Diagram)



16.bxc5 dxc5

[16...Qc7! Hillarp Persson,Tiger: 'Arsovic,Goran: ' ♠' Arsovic,Goran: '- 14.bc5" 17.Qd5 (17.Rb1!? Be6 18.Bg4) 17...Qc6 18.Bc4 Be6 19.Qxc6+ bxc6 20.Bxe6 fxe6 21.cxd6 exf4 22.Bd4 Rg8 23.Rxf4 Bxd6 24.Rxe4 leads to a slightly better endgame for White, but there are other promising alternatives on move 17. Rg6 (Hillarp Persson,Tiger) Arsovic,Goran 25.Be3±]

17.fxe5?!

[Here 17.Qd5 Hillarp Persson,Tiger: 'Arsovic,Goran: '!' was the strongest move. After something like Bg7 (17...Qe6 (Hillarp Persson,Tiger) Arsovic,Goran 18.Qxe4 exf4 19.Qxf4! Bd6 20.Qh4 Be7 21.Qh5 Rg8 22.Rae1±) 18.Rad1 Be6 19.Qxe4 exf4 20.Qa4+ Qc6 21.Qxc6+ bxc6 22.Bxc5 White has good winning chances. Bf8 (Hillarp Persson,Tiger) Arsovic,Goran 23.Bxf8 Rxf8 24.Rxf4±]

[17.Bh4 Rg8 is less clear.]

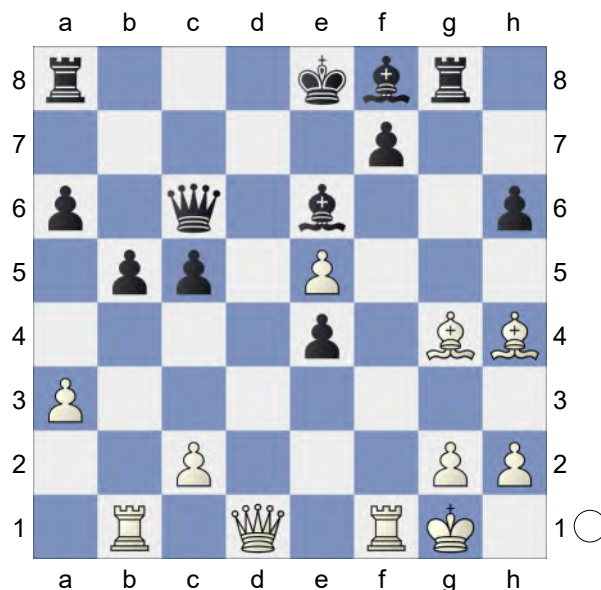
17...Be6 18.Rb1 Qc6 19.Bg4
The bishop on e6 is the linchpin of

Black's position, so White must challenge it. **19...b5**

[Black can also consider 19...Rd8 20.Qe2 Be7 21.Bxe6 fxe6 22.a4 h5±]

20.Bh4! The most active place for the bishop that also opens the route for the rook to f6. **20...Rg8?!**

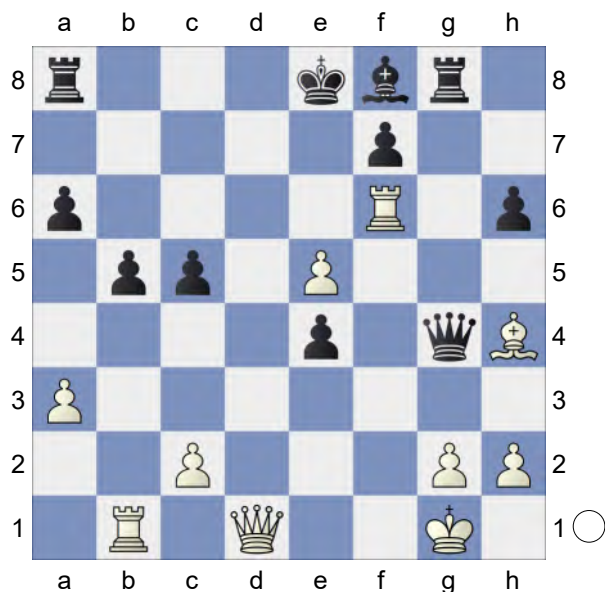
[Black should keep the rook out of f6: 20...Bg7! 21.Bf6 Bxf6 22.Rxf6 Rd8 is unclear. The queenside structure gives Black some reasons to be optimistic. 23.Qe2 (Hillarp Persson, Tiger) Arsovic,Goran Rg8 (23...h5!?) 24.Bxe6 (24.Bh3 Rg6 25.Rxg6 fxe6 26.Bxe6 Qxe6 27.Qxe4 Rd4 28.Qa8+ Rd8=) 24...fxe6 25.g3 Rd7 26.Rxh6 Kd8!∞]



21.Bxe6 Qxe6 22.Rf6! Qg4!
Hillarp Persson,Tiger: 'Arsovic,Goran: 'Diagram

[22...Qxe5 23.Rxa6! Rc8 24.Rc6! Ra8 25.Qe2 c4 26.a4 Hillarp Persson,Tiger: 'Arsovic,Goran: '!' Rg6 27.Bf6 Hillarp Persson,Tiger: 'Arsovic,Goran: '!' Rxf6 28.Rxf6 Rxa4 (28...Qxf6 29.Qxe4+) 29.Rbf1

is close to winning for White.
(29.Rff1± (Hillarp Persson,Tiger)
Arsovic,Goran)]



" 23.Qd2 Hillarp Persson,Tiger: 'Arsovic,
Goran: '!" 23...Be7

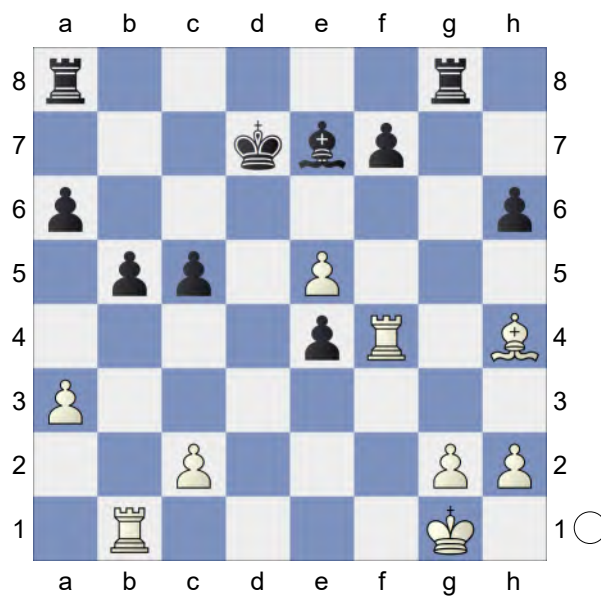
[23...Qxh4? (Hillarp Persson,Tiger)
Arsovic, Goran 24.Qd5 Ra7
25.Rd1+-]

24.Rf4 Qd7

[Black seeks salvation in exchanges,
falls into a trap. A better move was
24...Qe6 25.Bxe7 Qxe7 26.Rxe4
Hillarp Persson,Tiger: 'Arsovic,Goran:
'±" Rg6 , when White is better, but no
more.]

25.Qxd7+ Kxd7 Hillarp Persson,Tiger:
'Arsovic,Goran: 'Diagram

(Diagram)



" 26.e6+! There's the trap.

[After 26.Rxf7 Rae8 Black is doing
very well. For instance: (26...Rge8
(Hillarp Persson,Tiger) Arsovic,Goran
27.Re1 Ke6 28.Rxe7+ Rxe7
29.Bxe7 Kxe7 30.Rxe4 Ke6=) 27.c4
e3 28.cxb5 axb5 29.Rxe7+
(29.Rxb5? Kc6-+) 29...Rxe7
30.Bxe7 Kxe7 31.Rxb5 e2 32.Kf2
(32.Rb1 Ke6) 32...Rxb2+ 33.Ke1
Rxb2 with equality. With a c-pawn and
such a centralised king, Black is
happy to enter almost any rook
endgame.]

26...fxe6

[26...Kxe6? 27.Rxe4+]

27.Rf7 Rg5

[A neccessity since 27...Rae8
28.Rd1+ loses a piece.]

28.Rd1+ Ke8 29.Rh7 Hillarp Persson,
Tiger: 'Arsovic,Goran: '±" 29...b4

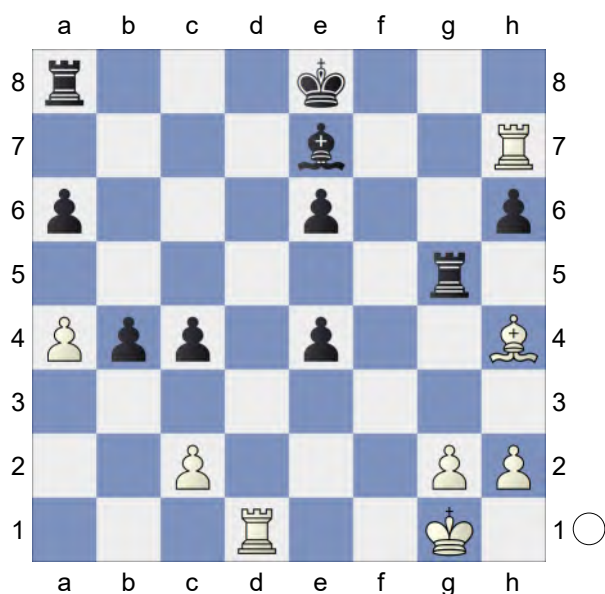
[Black gets some more chances with
29...c4 aiming to pick up the a-pawn
for nothing. Still, after 30.Bxg5 hxg5
31.Kf2 (31.Rh8+ (Hillarp Persson,
Tiger) Arsovic,Goran Bf8 32.Rf1 Ke7
33.Rg8± e3 34.Rf3 a5 35.Rxe3±)
31...Bxa3 32.Ke3 a5 33.Kxe4 a4

34.c3 Black is struggling to survive but White's advantage is not a comfortable one. Black's pawns look menacing and a small mistake might cost the game.]

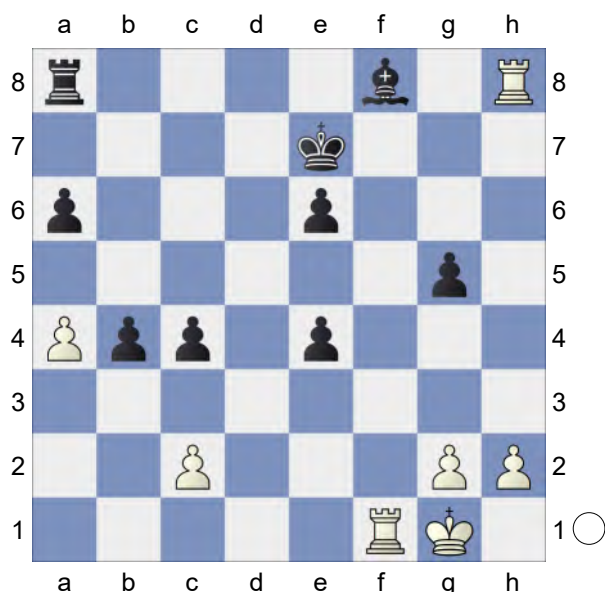
30.a4

[30.Bxg5! (Hillarp Persson,Tiger) Arsovic,Goran hxg5 31.Rh6 bxa3 32.Rxe6±]

30...c4



31.Bxg5 hxg5 32.Rh8+ Bf8 33.Rf1 Ke7 34.Rh7+ Kd6 35.Rh8 Ke7



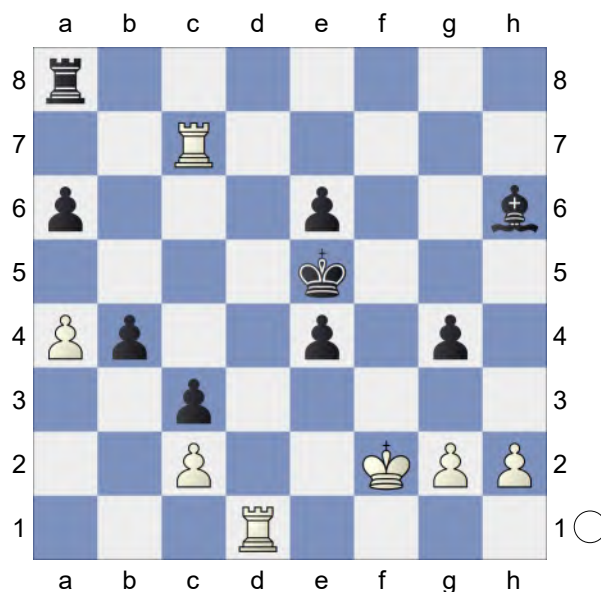
36.Rh7+ White's next few moves are

anything but random. The point is that he gets a rook to the c-file, which makes it easier to handle Black's queenside pawns. **36...Kd6 37.Rhf7 Bh6 38.Rd1+ Ke5 39.Rc7 c3** Black hopes to be able to make b4-b3 work at some point. The downside is that Black's queenside pawns are robbed of most of their dynamism.

[Perhaps Nepomniachtchi didn't have enough time to calculate the consequences of 39...b3!? 40.Rc5+ Kf4 After 41.Rxc4 b2 42.Re1 Hillarp Persson,Tiger: 'Arsovic,Goran: '±' Ke5 43.Rxe4+ Kd6 44.Rcd4+ Ke7 45.Rb4 Bg7]

40.Kf2 g4

[40...Rb8!? 41.Rc5+ Kf6 42.Ke3 (42.Rb1? Rd8) 42...g4+ 43.Kxe4 b3 44.cxb3 Rxb3 45.g3 and the engine assures me that White is winning. Still not a problem free situation.]



41.Rc5+ Kf6 42.Ke2 Hillarp Persson, Tiger: 'Arsovic,Goran: '?!'

[42.Rd4 (Hillarp Persson,Tiger) Arsovic,Goran Rb8 43.Rxe4±]

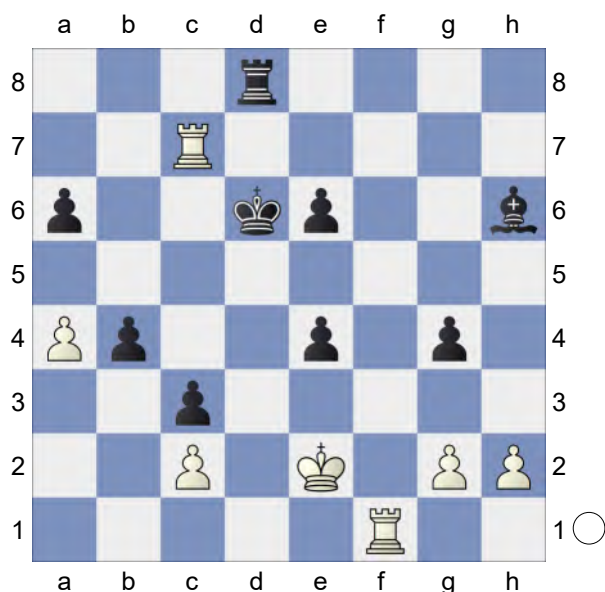
42...Rb8 Hillarp Persson,Tiger: 'would

again lead to the position where White needs to play' Hillarp Persson,Tiger: 'Hillarp Persson,T: 'would again lead to the position where White needs to play'

43.Rb1?!

[43.Rd4 Hillarp Persson,Tiger: '!' '!' '!' '!' '!' Hillarp Persson,Tiger: 'Hillarp Persson,T: '!' Hillarp Persson,Tiger: 'Arsovic,Goran: '!' ' ±' Arsovic,Goran: '- 43.Rd4' was better, although I can symphatise with Wei Yi's handling of the situation. He doesn't risk anything by taking it easy. a5 (Hillarp Persson, Tiger) Arsovic, Goran (43...b3 (Hillarp Persson,Tiger) Arsovic,Goran 44.cxb3 Rxb3 45.Rxe4±) 44.Rxe4 Rd8 45.Kf2±]

43...Rd8 44.Rf1+ Ke7 45.Rc7+ Kd6



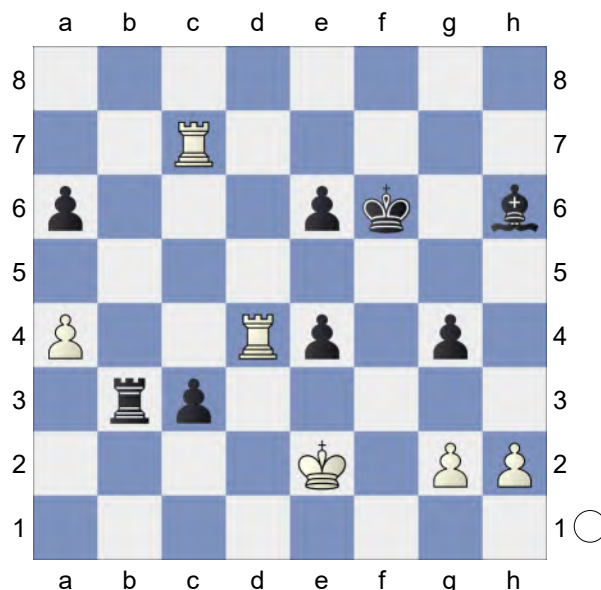
46.Rc4 Ke7?!

[46...Ke5! 47.Rd1 Rb8 48.Rc5+ (48.Rb1 (Hillarp Persson,Tiger) Arsovic,Goran Rd8 49.Rbxb4 Rd2+ 50.Ke1 Rxc2 51.Rxe4+ Kf5∞) 48...Kf6 would again lead to the position where White needs to play 49.Rd4!]

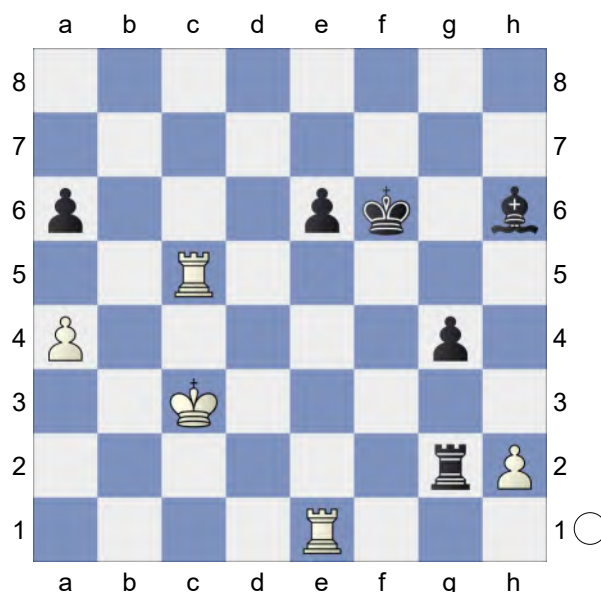
47.Rd1 Rb8 48.Rdd4 b3 49.cxb3 Rxb3 50.Rc7+

[50.Rxe4 (Hillarp Persson,Tiger) Arsovic,Goran Rb2+ 51.Kd3 Rxc2 52.Rc6±]

50...Kf6



51.Rxe4 Rb2+ 52.Kd3 White's dream comes true. All of Black's active pawns gets liquidated within the next few moves. In the resulting endgame, the e-pawn is of little consequence, whereas the a4-pawn becomes a hero. **52...Rd2+ 53.Kxc3 Kf5 54.Re1 Rxc2 55.Rc5+ Kf6**



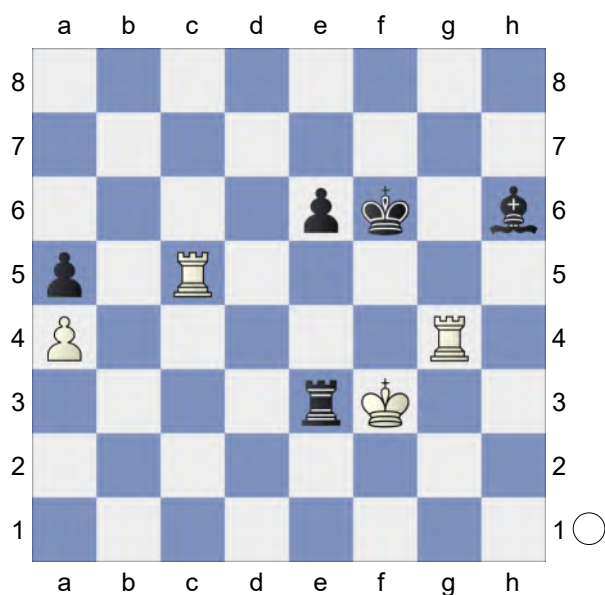
56.Re4 Rxh2 57.Rxc4 a5 Black is able

to save the a-pawn by tactical means, but now he is left with two weaknesses: the a-pawn and the e-pawn. **58.Kd3**

Rd2+

[58...Rh3+ 59.Kc4 Bd2 60.Re4 (60.Kb5 e5) 60...Rc3+ 61.Kb5 Rxc5+ 62.Kxc5 Bb4+ 63.Kc6 Kf5 64.Re2 Bc3 65.Kd6 Bb4+ 66.Kd7 e5 67.Kc6 Ke6 68.Re4 Bd2 69.Kc5 Bb4+ 70.Kc4 Be7 71.Re3 Bb4 72.Rh3 and the e-pawn will fall.]

59.Ke4 Re2+ 60.Kf3 Re3+

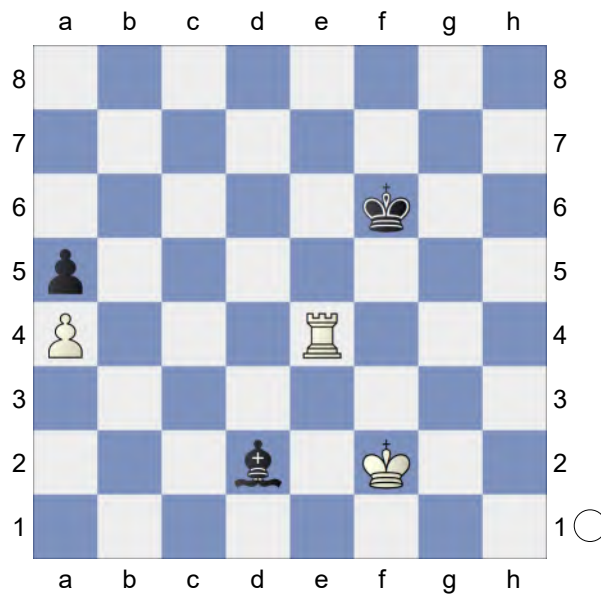


61.Kf2 Re5? This makes matters simple for White.

[61...Ra3 (Hillarp Persson,Tiger) Arsovic, Goran 62.Rxa5 Bd2 63.Rb5±]

62.Rg6+ Hillarp Persson,Tiger: 'Arsovic, Goran: '!' 62...Kxg6 63.Rxe5 Bd2 64.Rxe6+ Kf7 65.Re4 Hillarp Persson, Tiger: 'Arsovic,Goran: '+-' 65...Kf6

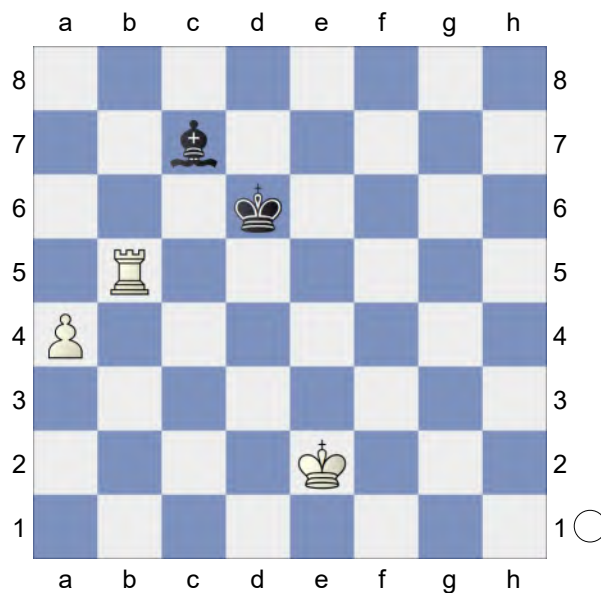
(Diagram)



66.Ke2 Bc3 67.Rc4 Be5

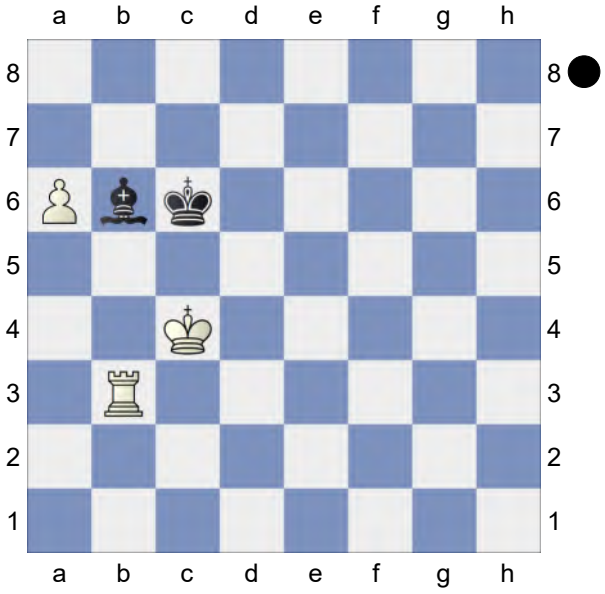
[67...Bb4 68.Rxb4 axb4 69.a5]

68.Rc5 Ke6 69.Rxa5 Bc7 70.Rb5 Kd6



71.Kd3 Kc6 72.Kc4 Bb6 73.a5 Ba7 74.a6 Bb6 75.Rb3

(Diagram)



1-0

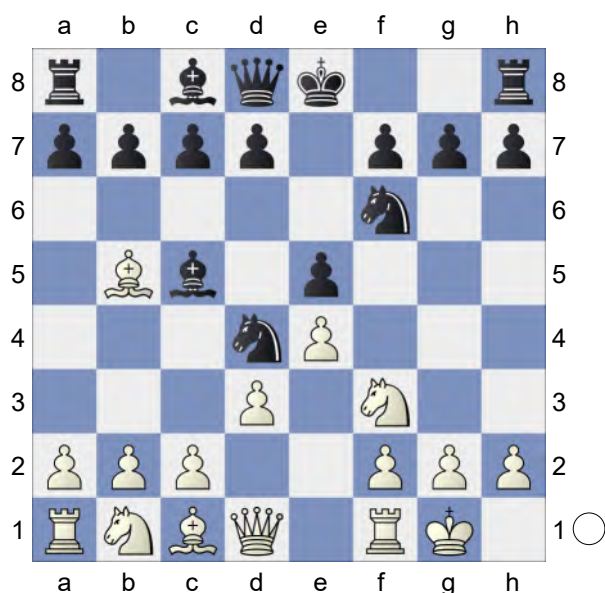
307 **C65**

□ **Erigaisi, Mon Hokmome** **2702**

■ **Wei, Yi** **2722**

Global Chess League rapid (8.3) 29.6.23
[Hokmome, Naruemon]

C65: Ruy Lopez: Berlin Defence (3...Nf6),
unusual lines and 4 0-0 Bc5 1.e4 e5
2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.0-0
Nd4



6.Nxd4 Bxd4 7.c3 Bb6 8.Ba4
8.Na3 is a critical line. 8.Sa3 ist die
kritische Fortsetzung. 8...c6 9.Bc2N
The position is equal.

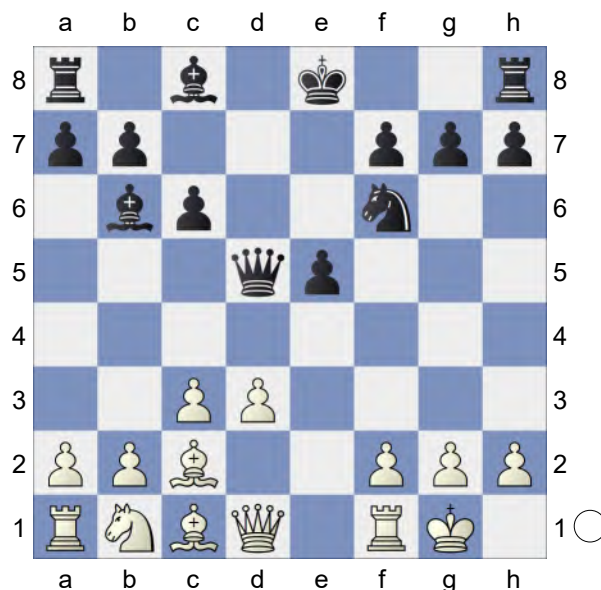
[9.Na3 d6 10.Bb3 (10.Bc2 Be6
11.Qe2 h6 12.Kh1 g5 13.Nc4 Bc7
14.Ne3 d5 15.Re1 Qe7 16.a4 0-0-0
17.Rb1 d4 18.Nf1 Bb6 19.Bd2 Bg4
20.f3 Be6 21.Ng3 Rhg8 22.b4 g4
23.a5 dxc3 24.Bxc3 Bd4 Chapter
Middlegames (3)-Game 3 Game 3
(48)) 10...Be6 (10...a5 11.Nc4 Bc7
12.Bg5 h6 13.Bh4 g5 14.Bg3 h5
15.f3 Be6 16.Ne3 h4 17.Bf2 d5
18.Re1 Kf8 19.h3 Bb6 20.Qc2 Nh5
21.d4 exd4 22.cxd4 Nf4 23.Ng4 a4
24.Bxa4 dxe4 25.Rxe4 10.♔a3 b6 11.

ba5 ♖h5_7469 (2760)-Deslandes,P
(2811) Palma de Mallorca 2015 LEX-
CD [FS1981/67] ½-½ (41)) 11.Bxe6
fxe6 12.Nc4 0-0 13.Qb3 Re8
14.Bg5 Qc7 15.Kh1 Bc5 16.Qd1 d5
17.Nd2 Rf8 18.Qe2 a5 19.Bh4
Rae8 20.Rae1 Bd6 21.a4 Nd7
22.Nb3 b5 23.Ra1 Nb6 13.♔c2 ♖e5
14. ♔e5 (2586)-R--- of B,F (2550)
Budapest 2023 CHECK99 [John
Watson] ½-½ (53)]

9...d5N

[Predecessor: 9...0-0 10.Bg5 h6
11.Bh4 Re8 12.Nd2 d5 Prevents
Nd2-c4. 13.h3 dxe4 14.dxe4 Bc7
15.a4 a5 ½-½ Nechaev,A (2303)-
Chen,F (2302) RUS-ROW email 2018
[50]]

10.exd5 Qxd5



11.Bb3 Qd6 0.23/20

[♜11...Qd8 -0.08/21]

12.Na3= And now Na3-c4 would win.

12...Be6 13.Bg5 Bxb3 0.54/21

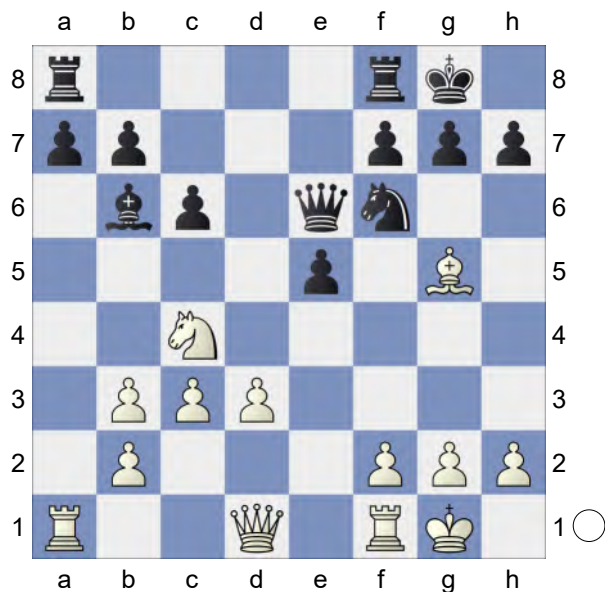
[13...Nd7= 0.13/20 is superior.]

14.axb3 0.23/23

[14.Qxb3± 0.54/21 0-0 15.Nc4]

14...0-0 15.Nc4 Qe6

(Diagram)



16.Qe2 -0.27/21

[16.Re1± 0.36/21]

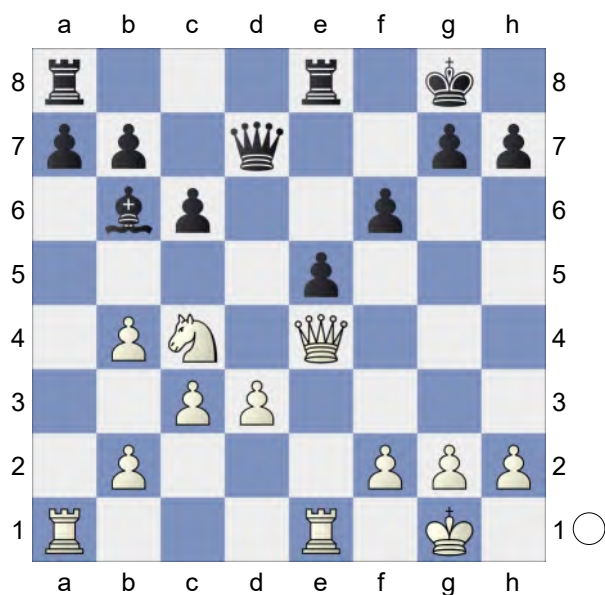
16...Rfe8 0.16/20

[16...Nd5 -0.27/21
is more appropriate.]

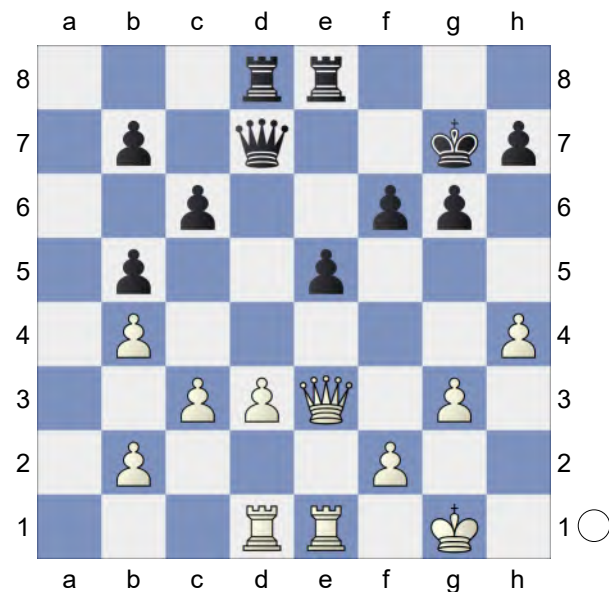
17.Bxf6 Qxf6 18.Rfe1 Qd8 Inhibits d3-d4. 19.b4

[19.Nxe5? f6 20.d4 fxe5 21.Qc4+ Kh8 22.Rxe5 Rxe5 23.dxe5 Qg5+-]

19...f6 20.Qe4 Qd7



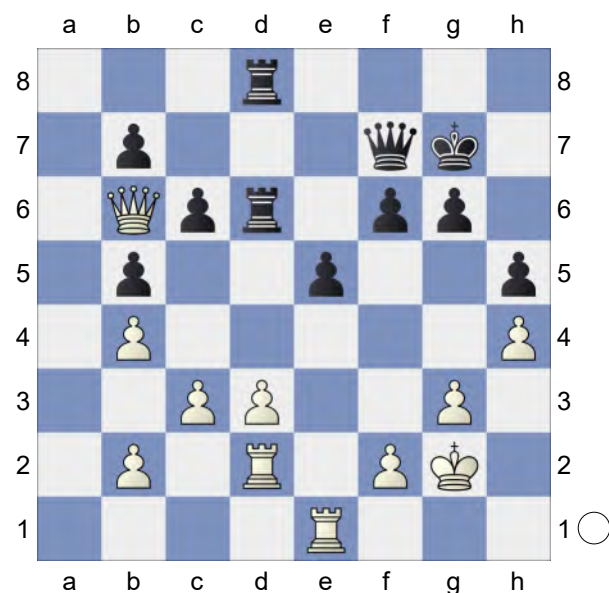
**21.g3 Rad8 22.Rad1 g6 23.Nxb6
axb6 24.h4 Kg7 25.Qe3 b5
(Diagram)**



26.Qb6

[26.Kg2 is interesting. h5 27.Rd2 Re7 28.f3]

**26...Re7 27.Qc5 Re6 28.Rd2 Rd6
29.Qb6 h5 30.Kg2 Qf7**



31.Qe3 R8d7 32.f3 Qb3 -0.01/21

[32...Qe8± -0.43/24]

33.Qe2 -0.36/23

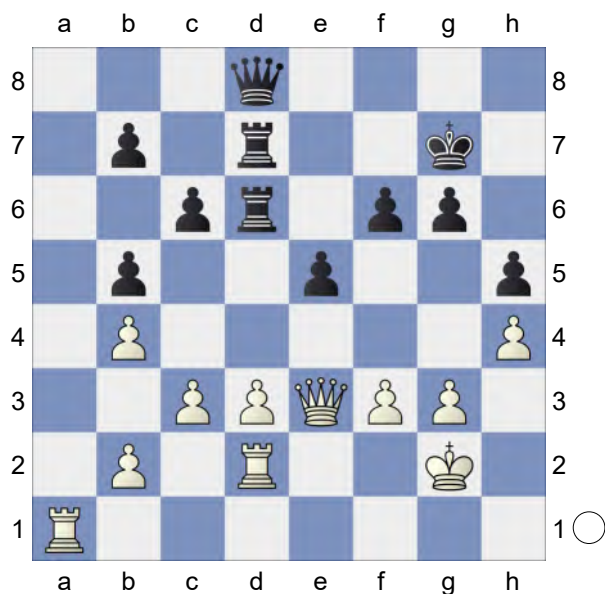
[33.Ree2= -0.01/21 was preferable.]

33...Qe6 34.Ra1 -0.55/24

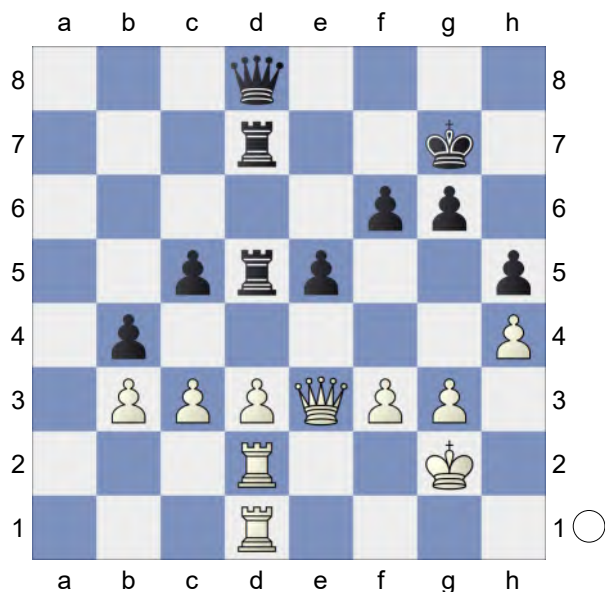
[34.f4= -0.18/22]

34...Qg8 35.Qe3 Qd8

(Diagram)



**36.Rad1! b6 37.Kh2 Rd5 38.Kg2 c5
39.bxc5 bxc5 40.b3 b4**



41.cxb4 cxb4 42.f4 -1.60/20

[42.Rc2 -0.63/25]

42...Re7 -0.69/23

[42...Qa8 -1.60/20 43.Qf3 exf4
44.gxf4 Qd8]

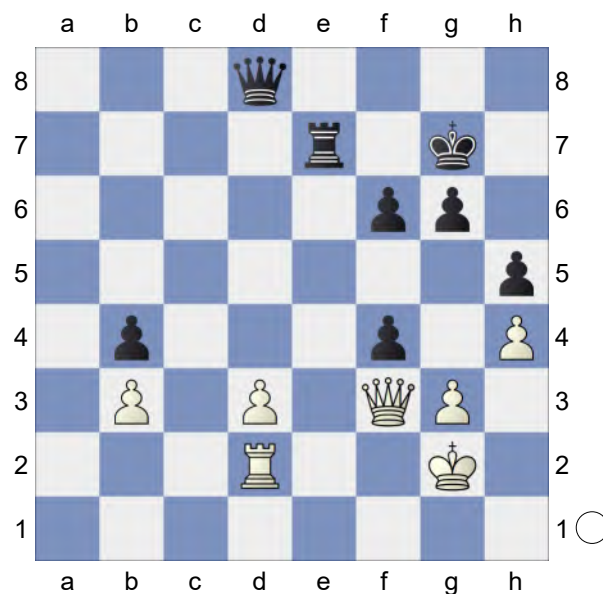
43.Re1 Rdd7 -0.40/23

[43...Rd4 -0.78/22 White must now
prevent ...e5-e4! 44.Ree2 Rdd7]

44.Qf3 -1.08/24 White is on the road to
losing.

[White should play 44.Ree2 -0.40/23]

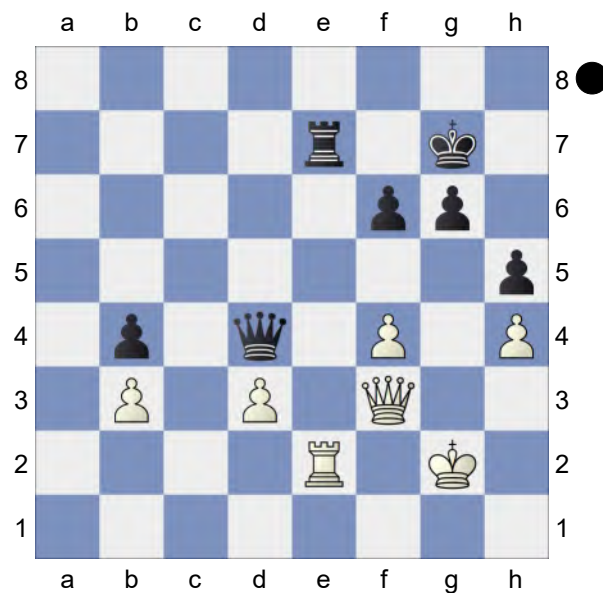
44...exf4 45.Rxe7+ Rxe7



46.gxf4 -1.57/23 Endgame KQR-KQR

[White should try 46.Rf2 -0.86/24]

46...Qd4 47.Re2



Rd7

[Stronger than 47...Rxe2+ 48.Qxe2
Kf8 49.Qe4 Qb2+ 50.Kg3=]

48.f5? -3.17/25

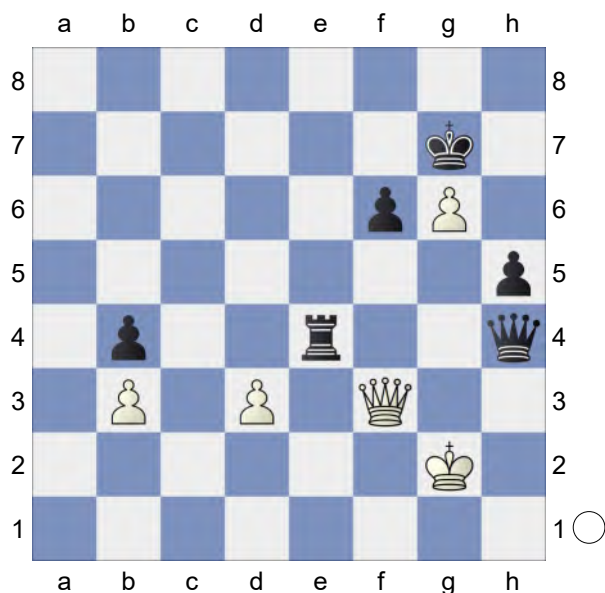
[48.Qg3 -1.62/21]

48...Qxh4+ Threatens to win with ...Qh4-
g4+. **49.fxg6 -3.20/27**

[49.Re4 -1.81/22 Qg5+ 50.Kh2]

49...Rd4

[Worse is 49...Kxg6 50.Qe4+ Qxe4+
51.Rxe4+]
50.Re4 Rxe4



Really sharp! 51.dxe4 KQ-KQ
51...Qg5+

[Not 51...Kxg6 52.Qf5+ Kh6
53.Kf3-+]

52.Kh1 -3.76/28

[52.Kh3 -2.58/29]

52...Kxg6 aiming for ...Qg5-h4+. **53.Qd3**
Qh4+ -2.14/28

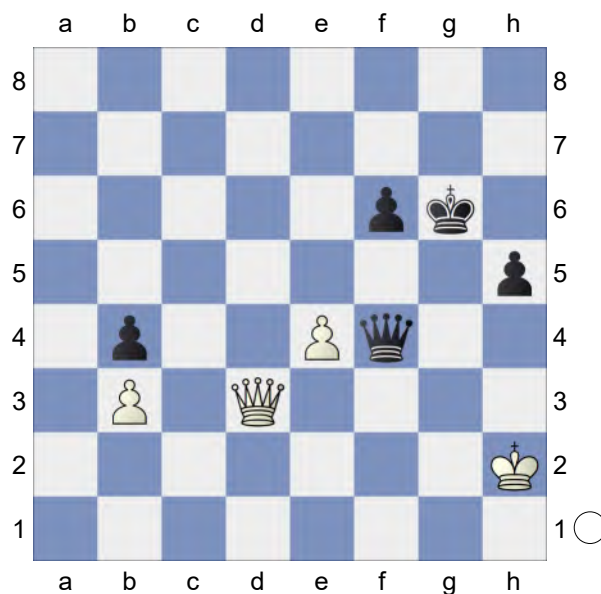
[53...Qc1+ -3.66/29 54.Kg2 Qb2+
55.Kg1 Qc3]

54.Kg2? -3.66/28

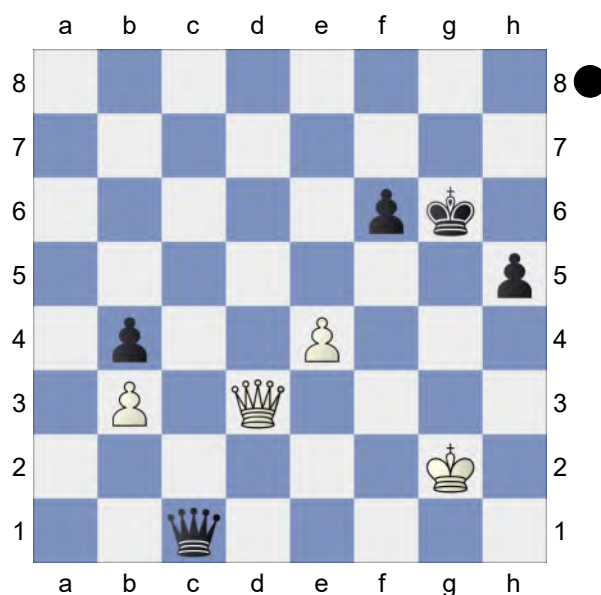
[54.Kg1 -2.14/28]

54...Qg4+ 55.Kh2 Qf4+

(Diagram)



56.Kh1 Qc1+ 57.Kg2

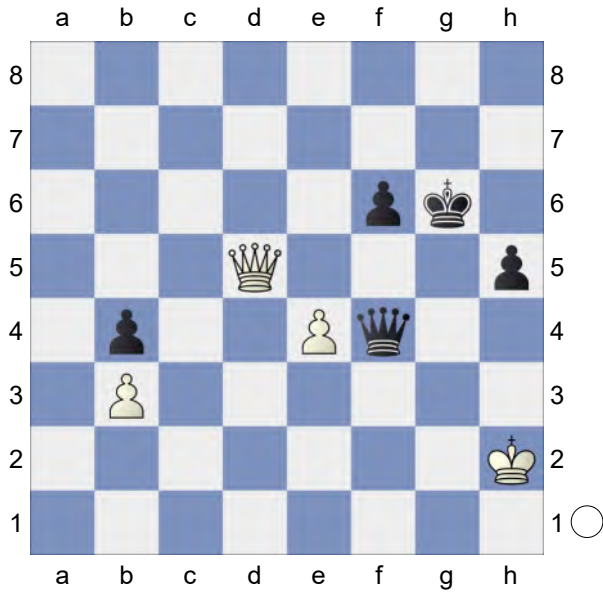


Qb2+ 58.Kh1 Qc3 59.Qd5 -19.44/29

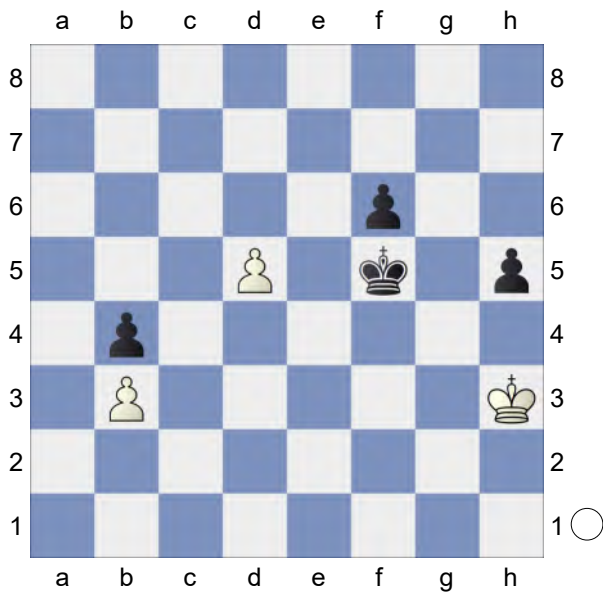
[59.Qb1 -3.64/23]

59...Qc1+ 60.Kh2 Qf4+

(Diagram)

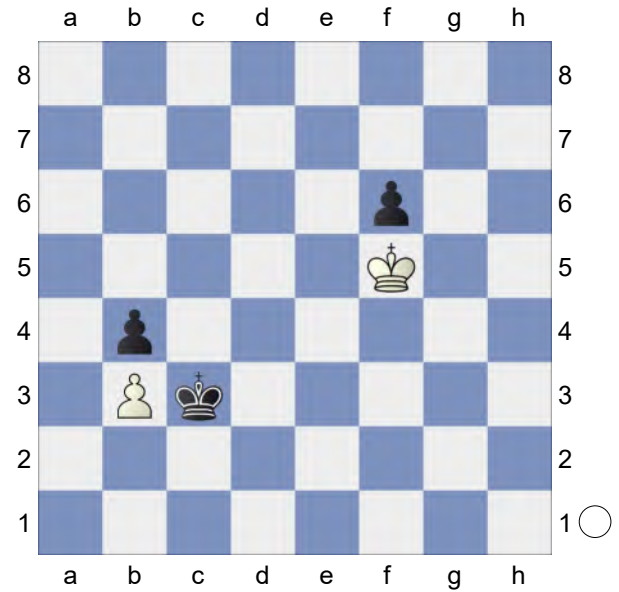


**61.Kh3 Qg4+ 62.Kh2 Qh4+ 63.Kg2
Qg5+ 64.Kh3 Qxd5 Black mates.
65.exd5 Kf5**



**66.Kh4 Ke5 67.Kxh5 Kxd5 68.Kg4
Kd4 69.Kf5 Kc3**

(Diagram)



**Weighted Error Value: White=0.39/
Black=0.12 (very precise)
0-1**

24

□ Ding, Liren

■ Wei, Yi

5th Chinese Rapid Masters (7.1)

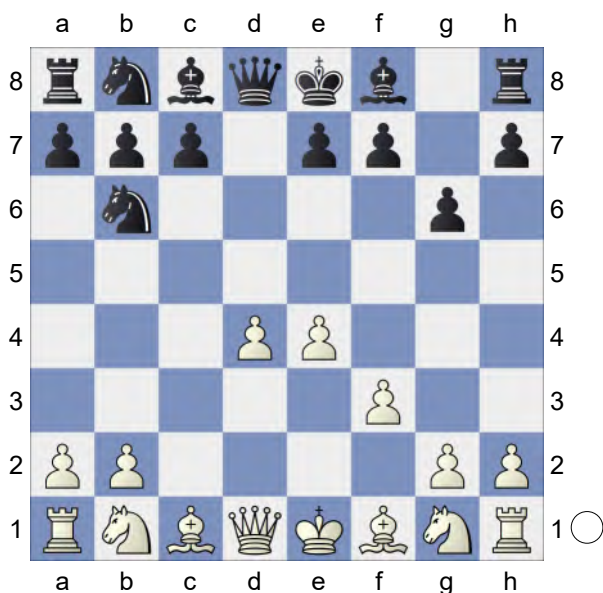
[Illingworth, Max]

D70

2781

2737

It's a tough call whether to cover this game, as by ECO code it falls under 1. d4 d5 territory, but it's been covered in the 'Flank Openings' section previously and also often arises from a Symmetrical English move order. Still I consider it trendy enough to deserve an update. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.f3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nb6



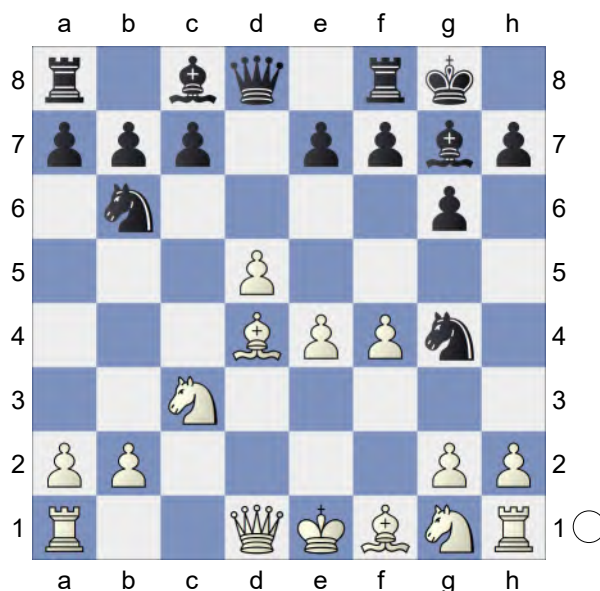
6.Nc3 Bg7 7.Be3 Nc6 This is definitely Black's best line. 8.d5 Ne5 9.Bd4

[9.f4= and Black was entirely safe in 1/2-1/2 (90) Rakhmanov, A (2620) - Dominguez Perez, L (2736) Linares 2015 Ng4 10.Bb5+ Bd7 11.Qxg4 followed by advancing the queenside pawns holds pretty comfortably. (11.Bxd7+ Qxd7 12.Bd4) It's also fine to play 11...Bxc3+ 12.bxc3 Bxb5]

9...0-0

[9...g5 10.h4 h6 11.hxg5 hxg5 12.Bb5+ Kf8 13.Rxh8+ Bxh8 14.f4 Bg4 (14...gxf4 15.Qh5) 15.Be2 (15.Qd2 Nbc4= is also fine for Black. or 16.Qc2 gxf4 17.Bxc4 Nxc4 18.Bxh8 Ne3 19.Qf2 f6 20.Kd2) 15...Bxe2 16.Ngxe2 gxf4 17.Nxf4 Qd6 18.Qh5 Nd3+= with a drawn endgame, 1/2-1/2 (35) Wang, Y (2724) -Radjabov, T (2738) Skopje 2015 19.Nxd3 Bxd4]

10.f4 Ng4



11.Bxg7 This position has arisen in several super-GM games this year. It's obvious that only White can be better, however players such as Leko, Dominguez, Wei and others have been using this system to hold a draw with Black. Here we'll consider White's recent and best attempts to complicate Black's task.

[11.Nf3

A) 11...Nf6 12.Qd2 (12.a4) 12...e6 13.dxe6± gives White a stable advantage as he managed to make full use of his kingside majority and avoid the exchange of light-squared bishops. Bxe6!?

also seems reasonable as played in two 2012 games. 14.0-0-0 is the most popular continuation by a wide margin, but White has failed to make real headway in this line. c5 15.Be5 Qxd2+ 16.Rxd2 Rfd8!

This is an important move to stop the cramping e5 break: 17.Bd3 Ng4 18.Bxg7 Kxg7 19.Re1 Bc4;

B) 11...c6 12.Bxg7 Kxg7 13.h3= is just a worse version of the 11...Bb4 line for White. The most direct approach is Nf6 14.dxc6 bxc6 15.Qxd8 Rxd8, however Anand showed already that Black is fine by means of the standard 16.Kf2! c5 and in 0-1 (50) Van Wely, L (2647)-Anand, V (2792) Monte Carlo 2006 Black could have even refined his move order with 17.Be2! Bb7 18.Ke3=, preventing a full penetration down the c-file and just equalising on the spot. (18.e5) 18...Bxe4 1/2-1/2 (25) L'Ami, E (2614)-Hera, I (2599) Netherlands 2015 19.Nxe4! Nbd5+]

11...Kxg7 12.Nf3! Previously castling was considered almost automatic, but this new wrinkle by the Chinese seems to give White a more durable advantage as now the ...b6/... Bb7 plan (used so effectively after 12.0-0) is prevented.

12...e6 Black should play this, as after

[A couple of days before this game, the quieter 12...c6 was tried, but after 13.Qd4+ (13.h3?! 1/2-1/2 (29) Meins, G (2436)-Heimann, A (2557) Biel 2015) 13...Nf6 14.dxc6 Qxd4 15.Nxd4 bxc6 16.Be2 (16.Nxc6 Bb7 it's hard to see what Black does other than ...Rb8.) 16...c5 17.Nb3 c4 18.Na5 (18.Nd2= the game was quickly drawn, 1/2-1/2 (24) Ni, H

(2696)-Wei, Y (2737) Shenzhen 2015) 18...Be6 19.0-0-0 Rac8]

13.Qd4+! Nf6 This position has occurred in three 2015 games and is definitely the critical one for the whole variation.

[13...Qf6 14.e5 Qd8 15.d6 (15.h3 Nh6 16.g4 exd5= and I don't see a way to break down Black's position or even attack his weaknesses. 17.Bd3) 15...Bd7 16.h3 Nh6 and drawn, 1/2-1/2 (23) Ponomarev, R (2713)-Dominguez Perez, L (2729) Tsaghkadzor 2015 17.g4 also allows Bc6 18.Be2 Nd5 19.0-0 cxd6 20.exd6+ f6= and Black can hold easily with only one weakness, 1/2-1/2 (31) Deac, B (2460) -Parligras, M (2581) Albená 2015 21.Nxd5 is the most obvious move but it hasn't been played yet. Bxd5 22.Rad1!? Qxd6]

[13...Kg8 14.h3 Nf6 15.0-0-0 exd5 16.exd5 c5= is pretty robust for the second player.]

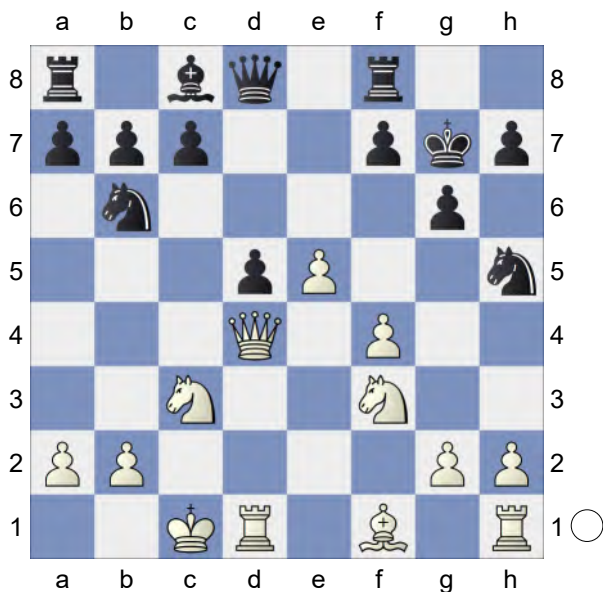
14.0-0-0!?N The idea of this novelty is to prepare d5 before Black can complete his development. **14...exd5 15.e5** Now at least Black's queenside structure is fixed, although it requires some inventive play to exploit that fact.

[15.exd5 Qd6 16.Be2= is just fine for Black. (16.g3 Bg4 17.Bg2 Rad8 18.h3) 16...Rd8 17.Rd2 Nbx d5 18.Nxd5 Qc6+ 19.Qc3!↑ is a very computerish idea to stop ...Rfc8, but it seems extremely effective. Rxd5 is again too slow: 20.Qxc6 bxc6 21.Rc2 Rd6 22.Rd1!? (a very practical continuation, to trade the queenside pawns) Nd5]

15...Nh5

[15...Ng8 16.h4± and White retains

some pressure, although the endgame can probably be held on Black's part if he is very accurate. Be6 (16...h5; 16...Bg4 17.h5 gxh5 and ...Bb5 will be a draw. Even in the worst case scenario of Black losing the a6-pawn, Black should still be able to draw the pawn down endgame of 4v3. 18.Bd3) 17.Bd3 Nh6 18.h5 Qe7 19.hxg6↑ followed by f4, Kf2 and Rb1 also favours White. hxg6 20.Rxh6 Kxh6 21.f5 gxf5 22.Qf4+]



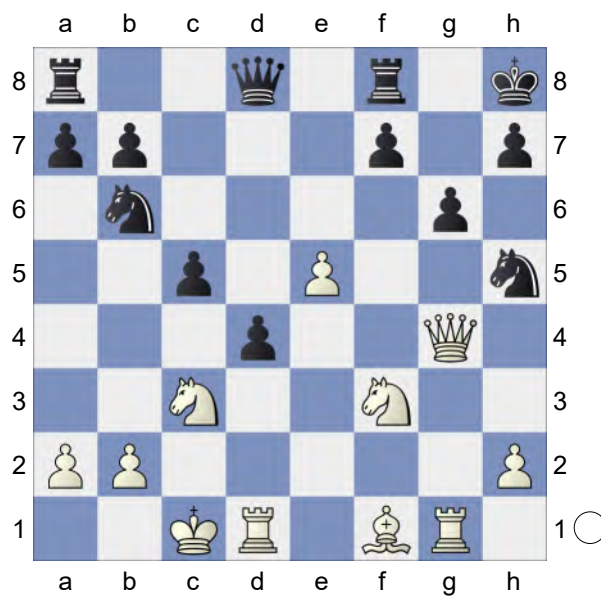
16.f5 Bxf5 The most natural move, blocking the b-file.

[16...gxf5! 17.Rg1 Qe7 18.g4 fxe4 19.e6+ Qf6 20.Qxg4+ Kh6]

17.g4 c5?! Now Black faces quite real pressure, however it wasn't too late to stop White's main idea and equalise with **18.Qg1!**

A very nice positional continuation, which cements White's advantage as now the b7-pawn will become weak. **18...Bxg4 19.Qxg4 d4 20.Rg1 Kh8**

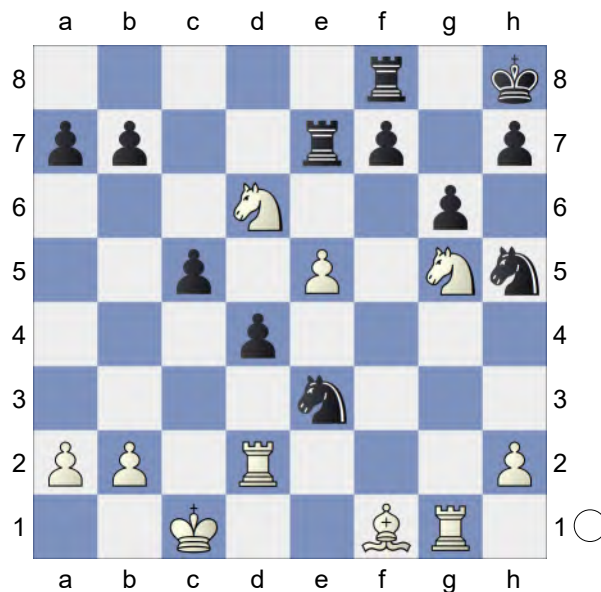
(Diagram)



21.Ne4 Nd5?! 22.Qg5± Now White's advantage is unquestionable, and he went on to convert in the game.

[22.Nfg5 Qe7= and White can't count on more than a symbolic plus here. 23.Re1 is another try, to simplify the position down with h6 24.Bc4 Ne3 25.Rxe3 dxe3 26.Nf3]

22...Qxg5+ 23.Nfxg5 Ne3 24.Rd2 Rae8 25.Nd6 Re7



26.Rf2 Kg7 27.Be2 f6

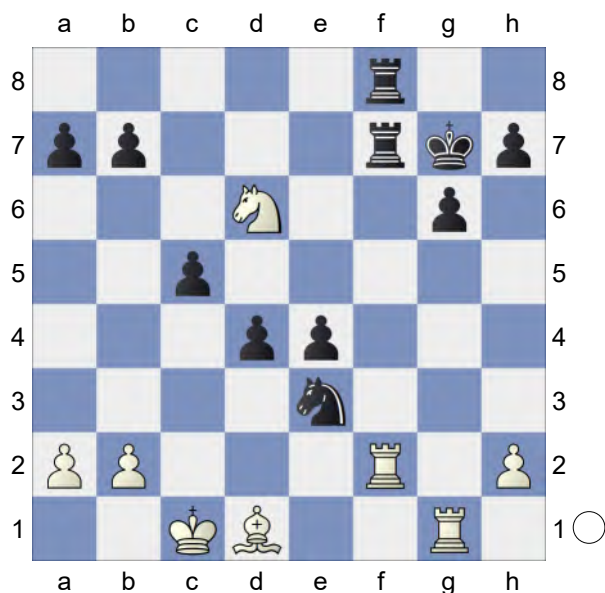
[27...Rxe5 28.Bxh5]

28.Ngf7

[28.Bxh5!= fxe5! 29.Rxf8 Kxf8 is the computer's recommendation, to prevent the Be4-d3 idea played in the game, and only then go ...Bb5. Indeed this completely neutralises White's edge, e.g.]

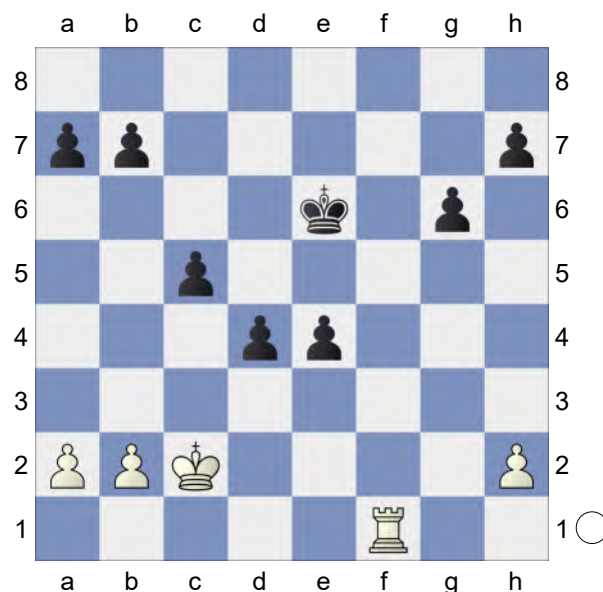
28...fxe5 29.Bxh5 e4 30.Bd1 Rxf7

[30...Rd7 31.Re2 Rdx7 32.Nxf7± retains a big edge for White, though again Black is probably within the drawing margin objectively. or Rxf7 33.Rxe3 dxe3 34.Re1 Rf2 35.Rxe3 Rxh2 , although this rook ending looks like a draw after 36.Rxe4!±]



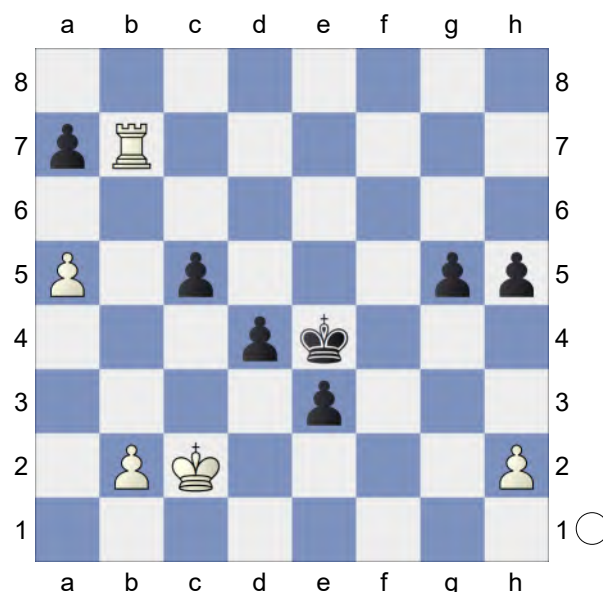
31.Nxf7 Rxf7 32.Rxf7+ Kxf7 33.Bc2 Nxc2 34.Kxc2 Kf6 35.Rf1+ Ke6

(Diagram)

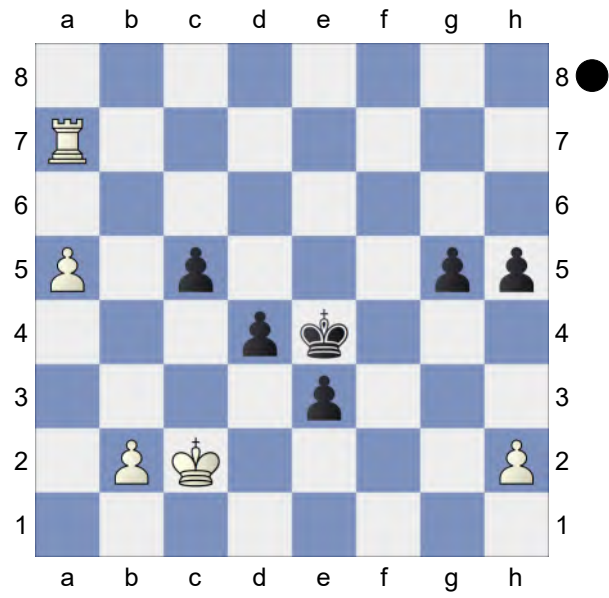


36.Rf8 h5 37.a4 g5 38.a5 Ke5

I really like this g3 Semi-Tarrasch for White as the first player takes no real risk yet obtains very real chances for an advantage. I think we'll see more tests of Ding's idea, however with correct play Black can neutralise White's pressure and achieve his goal of holding the draw from a slightly worse ending. **39.Rf7** is preferable, but it isn't everyone's first reaction to give up a pawn as such. **39...e3 40.Rxb7 Ke4**



41.Rxa7



1-0

25

□ Ding, Liren

■ Wei, Yi

5th Chinese Rapid Masters (7.1)

[Illingworth, Max]

D41

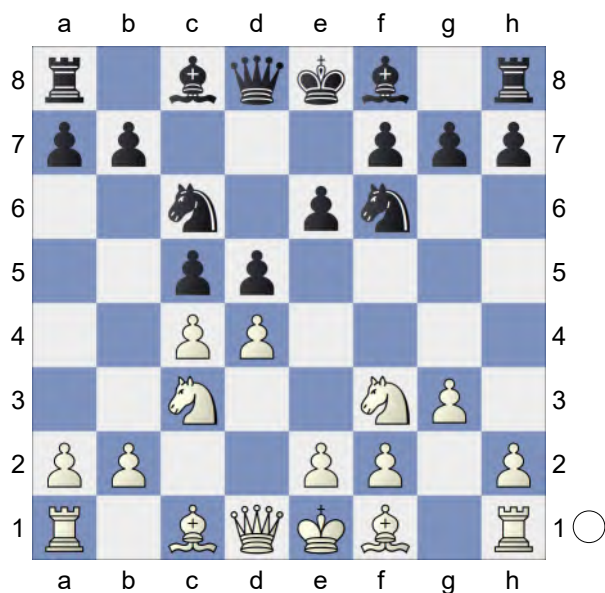
2781

2737

It's a tough call whether to cover this game, as by ECO code it falls under 1. d4 d5 territory, but it's been covered in the 'Flank Openings' section previously and also often arises from a Symmetrical English move order. Still I consider it trendy enough to deserve an update. **1.c4**

[1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 c5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.g3 would be a possible move order for 1.d4 and how this system is classified by the ECO codes. Of course (6.e4 (which we'll see in two games of this update) is the main move from this move order.)]

1...c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.g3 d5 5.d4 e6



6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.Bg2 cxd4

This is definitely Black's best line.

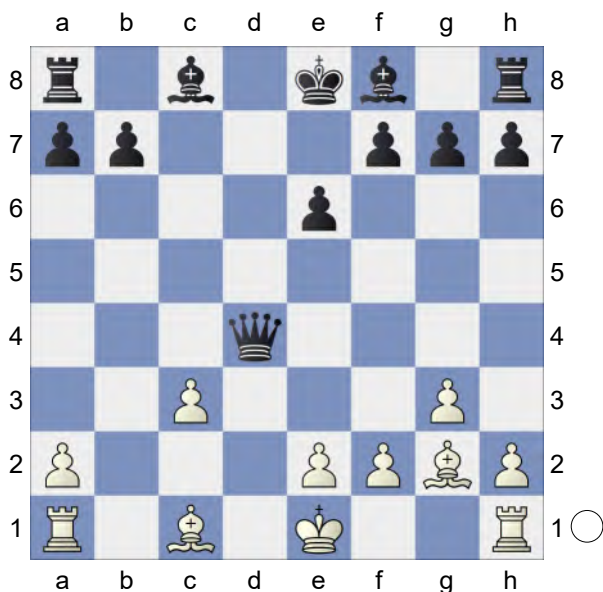
[7...Be7 8.0-0 0-0 gives White a small edge with

A) 9.Nxd5 exd5 10.dxc5 Bxc5 11.Bg5 is a risk-free option, but Qd7 12.Rc1 (or 12.Ne1 Re8! 13.Nd3 Bb6 14.Re1 Qf5 15.Bf4 Be6 16.Rc1 d4!= when ...Bd5 will give Black sufficient counterplay.) 12...Bb6 13.Bd2 Qg4 14.e3 Qh5 15.Nh4 Bg4 16.Bf3 Bxf3 17.Qxf3 Qxf3 18.Nxf3 d4! allowed Black to equalise in 1/2-1/2 (47) Aronian, L (2815) -Radjabov, T (2724) Dubai 2014;

B) 9.e4! Nb6 (9...Ndb4?! is virtually refuted by 10.d5! exd5 11.exd5 Nd4 12.Nxd4 cxd4 13.a3! dxc3 14.axb4 Bxb4 15.Qd4 Bd6 16.bxc3 b6 17.Ba3!±) 10.dxc5 For some reason this has been the main move in recent practice, but I prefer 10.d5. (A simpler route to an advantage is 10.d5 exd5 11.exd5 Nb4 12.Ne1 c4!? 13.a3 Na6 14.a4 Nc5 15.a5 Nb3 16.Ra2 Nxc1 17.Qxc1 Nd7 18.Qf4± as played in an engine game.) 10...Bxc5 (10...Qxd1 11.Rxd1 Bxc5 12.e5 transposes.) 11.e5 Qxd1 12.Rxd1 Be7! (12...Nc4 is well met by 13.Na4! Be7 14.Bf4 f6 15.Rac1 N4xe5 16.Nxe5 Nxe5 17.Bxe5 fxe5 18.Nc5 Rd8 19.Rxd8+ Bxd8 20.Bxb7 Bxb7 21.Nxb7 Bb6 22.Nd6± with a permanent endgame advantage in 1-0 (50) De Carlos Arregui, I (2402) -Sedlacek, P (2478) ICCF email 2004) 13.b3 (13.Bf4!? Bd7 14.Rac1 h6 15.Ne4 Nd5 16.Be3 with the idea of Bc5 is a direct and very interesting alternative that might give White a tiny edge after b6!

17.Nc3 Rac8 18.Nxd5 exd5
 19.Rxd5 Be6 20.Rd3 Nb4
 21.Rdd1 Bxa2 22.Nd4±) 13...Bd7
 14.Bb2 (Vuckovic gives 14.Ne4
 Rfd8 15.Nd6 Bxd6 16.exd6 Nd5
 17.a4= as the best try, though I
 can't really see how White can
 realistically hope to break Black's
 light-squared blockade.) 14...Rfd8
 15.Rac1 Be8 16.h4 h6 17.Nb5
 and in 1/2-1/2 (34) Huzman, A
 (2580)-Almasi, Z (2689) Berlin
 2015, Rxd1+ 18.Rxd1 Nd5=
 was the easiest way to maintain
 equality.]

**8.Nxd4 Nxc3 9.bxc3 Nxd4 10.Qxd4
 Qxd4**



11.cxd4 This position has arisen in several super-GM games this year. It's obvious that only White can be better, however players such as Leko, Dominguez, Wei and others have been using this system to hold a draw with Black. Here we'll consider White's recent and best attempts to complicate Black's task. **11...Bd6**

[11...Bb4+ is not so trendy any more, because of 12.Bd2 Bxd2+ 13.Kxd2

Ke7 14.Rhc1 Rd8

A) 15.Rc4 gives Black time to hold his position with Rd6 16.Rac1 Kd8 17.e3 (or 17.Ke3 Rb8 18.g4 h6 19.h4 f6 20.g5 Bd7 21.gxh6 gxh6= 1/2-1/2 (24) Rapport, R (2547) -Teske, H (2547) Germany 2012) 17...Rb8 18.Rc7 Rd7 19.Rxd7+ Bxd7 20.f4 b6 21.Be4 h6 22.h4 Rc8 23.Rxc8+ Bxc8= and with no weaknesses to speak of, Black drew effortlessly in 1/2-1/2 (31) Salgado Lopez, I (2622)-Hansen, E (2577) Doha 2014;

B) 15.Rc7+! Rd7 16.Rac1 Kd8 17.Rxd7+ Kxd7 18.g4! This is an important move to fix Black's kingside pawns, otherwise Black would draw without much difficulty. (18.Rc5 Rb8 19.Ra5 a6 20.Rh5 h6 21.g4 transposes to 18.g4.) 18...h6

B1) 19.Rc5 Rb8 20.Ra5 a6 21.Rh5 Kd6 is completely safe for Black as demonstrated in two elite games: 22.g5 hxg5 23.Rh7 (or 23.Rh8 g4 24.Rg8 g6 25.f3 gxf3 26.Bxf3 b5= 1/2-1/2 (39) Gelfand, B (2773)-Leko, P (2737) Beijing 2013) 23...Bd7 24.Rxg7 f6 25.e4 Bc6 26.Rf7 Rh8 27.Rxf6 Rxh2= and this was hard to be anything other than a draw, 1/2-1/2 (52) Fridman, D (2629) -Meier, G (2610) Dortmund 2013;

B2) 19.h4! Rb8 20.f4 b6 21.Bc6+ Black is really suffering in such a position, with no space and passive pieces. Kd8 (21...Ke7!? 22.e4 Bd7 23.h5 f6 24.Bxd7 Kxd7 was an attempted improvement in 1/2-1/2 (39)

Fressinet, L (2712)-Radjabov, T (2717) Bilbao 2014, but here 25.Ke3! b5 26.f5 exf5 27.gxf5± with the idea of e5 to follow would be very tough for Black to defend (although perhaps he can do so with best play).) 22.e4 Bd7

B2a) 23.h5 b5?! (It was later determined that 23...Rc8! allows Black to barely scrape a draw with 24.Bxd7 Rxc1 25.Kxc1 Kxd7 26.e5 Ke7 27.Kd2 f6 28.Kc3 fxe5 29.dxe5 Kf7 30.f5 Ke7 31.Kd4 a6 32.Ke4 Kf7 33.Kf4 Ke7 34.g5 exf5 35.Kxf5 b5 36.gxh6 gxh6 37.Kg6 a5 38.Kxh6 b4 39.Kg7 a4 40.h6 b3 41.axb3 axb3 42.h7 b2 43.h8Q b1Q= with a theoretically drawn endgame. However, who would volunteer to go for this?) 24.Bxd7 Kxd7 25.Rc5! Rb6 26.Kc3 a5 27.e5± g6? A blunder, but if Black sat and waited White would play f5 and the squeeze would continue, with good chances for success in practice. 28.hxg6 fxg6 and in 1-0 (37) Gelfand, B (2759)-Leko, P (2731) Moscow 2014, White could have just won with 29.d5 b4+ 30.Kd4+- ignoring Black's counterplay.;

B2b) 23.Bxd7! Kxd7 24.h5 Rb7?! (Black needs to hurry with 24...a5 25.a3 g6 26.hxg6 fxg6± when he should be able to defend.; 24...Rc8?

doesn't work now because of 25.Rxc8 Kxc8 26.f5 Kd8 27.e5 Ke7 28.Ke3 f6 29.Kf4 fxe5+ 30.Kxe5! exf5 31.gxf5 Kd7 32.Kd5 a6 33.a3 b5 34.Kc5 Kc7 35.d5 Kd7 36.Kb6+-) 25.f5 Rb8 26.e5 b5 27.Rc5 Rb6 28.Kd3± 1-0 (33) Ribli, Z (2560) -Szabo, B (2414) Hungary 2014]

12.a4! Previously castling was considered almost automatic, but this new wrinkle by the Chinese seems to give White a more durable advantage as now the ...b6/... Bb7 plan (used so effectively after 12.0-0) is prevented.

[12.Bf4?! 1/2-1/2 (29) Meins, G (2436)-Heimann, A (2557) Biel 2015 Bxf4 13.gxf4 Rb8 14.Kd2 b6= is just a worse version of the 11...Bb4 line for White.]

[The most direct approach is 12.e4 Rb8 (12...e5!? also seems reasonable as played in two 2012 games.) 13.e5 Be7 14.Be3 , however Anand showed already that Black is fine by means of the standard b6! (14...Bd7 1/2-1/2 (25) L'Ami, E (2614)-Hera, I (2599) Netherlands 2015 15.Rb1! b6 16.Rc1 Kd8 17.0-0 Rc8 18.d5± gives White a stable advantage as he managed to make full use of his kingside majority and avoid the exchange of light-squared bishops.) 15.Rc1 and in 0-1 (50) Van Wely, L (2647)-Anand, V (2792) Monte Carlo 2006 Black could have even refined his move order with Kd8! 16.0-0 Bb7= , preventing a full penetration down the c-file and just equalising on the spot.]

[12.0-0 is the most popular continuation by a wide margin, but

White has failed to make real headway in this line. Rb8 13.e4 b6 (Even the 13...Bd7!? of 0-1 (53) Diermair, A (2494)-Korpa, B (2432) Zillertal 2015 is quite reasonable, as 14.e5 Bc7 15.Rb1 Bc6 16.Bxc6+ bxc6 17.Rxb8+ Bxb8= followed by ... Bc7-b6 and ...Kd7 proves virtually impregnable.) 14.Bb2

A) 14...0-0 15.e5! Bb4 16.Rfc1 Bb7? (16...b5 was necessary, but White retains some winning chances with 17.a3 Ba5 18.d5! exd5 19.Bd4 Be6 20.Bxa7 Rbc8 21.Rd1±) 17.Rc7 Bxg2 18.Kxg2 Ra8 19.Rac1 Rfe8 20.Kf3 Bf8 21.Rb7 Re7 22.Rxe7 Bxe7 23.Rc7 Bf8 24.a4 a5 25.Ke4 Rb8 26.Bc3± and Black was totally tied up in 1-0 (48) Bu, X (2695)-Vitiugov, N (2734) Ningbo 2015, a model game from White's perspective.;

B) 14...Bb7 15.Rfc1! f6 as played in 1-0 (33) Radjabov, T (2734)-Leko, P (2723) Beijing 2014 is a less accurate move order as it permits 16.e5 Bxg2 17.exd6 Bd5 18.Rc7 0-0 19.Rac1 Rbd8 20.Rxa7 Rf7 21.Rxf7 Kxf7 22.Rc7+ Kg6 23.Ba3± and while the opposite-coloured bishops should give Black a draw with best play, Black suffers a long defence for the half point.;

C) 14...f6! This is an important move to stop the cramping e5 break: 15.Rac1 (15.f4 Bb7 16.e5 Bxg2 17.Kxg2 Be7 18.Rac1 Kd7 19.d5!? was an earlier try to make use of White's temporary initiative, but Black held it off with exd5 20.e6+ Kxe6 21.Rc7 Bc5 22.Re1+ Kd6 23.Ree7 d4

24.Bxd4 Bxd4 25.Red7+ Ke6 26.Rxd4 Rbd8= 1/2-1/2 (40) Bu, X (2675) -Edouard, R (2587) Biel 2011) 15...Bb7 16.Rfd1 (A model game from Black's perspective was 16.f4?! Kd7 17.e5 Be7 18.Rfd1 Bxg2 19.Kxg2 Rhc8 20.d5 Rxc1 21.dxe6+ Kxe6 22.Rxc1 Bc5 23.exf6 gxf6= with an equal endgame in 0-1 (60) Svane, R (2543)-Svidler, P (2727) Skopje 2015, although White continued to play over-aggressively and even lost.) 16...Kd7 (It's also fine to play 16...Ke7 17.f4 Rhc8 18.e5 fxe5 19.fxe5 Bb4 20.Rxc8 Bxc8 21.Be4 g6= when White was unable to make a hint of progress in 1/2-1/2 (85) Karjakin, S (2753) -Caruana, F (2803) Khanty-Mansiysk 2015)

C1) or 17.e5 Bxg2 18.Kxg2 Be7 19.d5 Rhc8 20.exf6 (20.d6 Bd8 21.f4 b5 followed by advancing the queenside pawns holds pretty comfortably.) 20...gxf6 21.dxe6+ Kxe6 22.Re1+ Kf7= and Black was entirely safe in 1/2-1/2 (90) Rakhmanov, A (2620) -Dominguez Perez, L (2736) Linares 2015;

C2) 17.d5 exd5 18.exd5 Ke7 19.Rc3 (19.Rc4 Rhc8 20.Ra4 a5= is also fine for Black.) 19...Rhd8 20.Ba3 Rbc8 21.Re1+ Kf8 22.Rxc8 Bxc8 23.Bxd6+ Rxd6 24.Rc1 Bb7 25.Rc7 Bxd5 26.Bxd5 Rxd5 27.Rxa7 b5= with a drawn endgame, 1/2-1/2 (35) Wang, Y (2724) -Radjabov, T (2738) Skopje 2015]

12...Rb8 Black should play this, as after
[12...Ke7 13.a5 it's hard to see what
Black does other than ...Rb8.]

13.a5!

[A couple of days before this game,
the quieter 13.Ba3 was tried, but after
Ke7 14.Bxd6+ Kxd6 15.Kd2 Bd7
16.Rhb1 b6 17.e4 f6 18.a5 bxa5
19.Rxb8 Rxb8 20.Rxa5 Rb2+=
the game was quickly drawn, 1/2-1/2
(24) Ni, H (2696)-Wei, Y (2737)
Shenzhen 2015]

13...Bd7 This position has occurred in
three 2015 games and is definitely the
critical one for the whole variation.

14.Be3!?N The idea of this novelty is to
prepare d5 before Black can complete
his development.

[14.Ba3 is again too slow: Ke7
15.Kd2 Rhc8 16.Rhb1 b5!?
(a very practical continuation, to trade
the queenside pawns) 17.axb6 Rxb6
18.Be4 Rxb1 19.Bxb1 Rc4
20.Bxd6+ Kxd6 21.Rxa7 Rxd4+
22.Ke3 Rd5 23.Be4 and drawn, 1/2-1/
2 (23) Ponomarev, R (2713)-
Dominguez Perez, L (2729)
Tsaghkadzor 2015]

[14.Rb1 also allows b5 15.axb6
Rxb6 16.Rxb6 axb6 17.Bd2 Ke7=
and Black can hold easily with only
one weakness, 1/2-1/2 (31) Deac, B
(2460) -Parligras, M (2581) Albena
2015]

[14.0-0 is the most obvious move but
it hasn't been played yet. Bb5 15.d5!?
(15.Re1 0-0 16.Be3 a6 17.d5 exd5
18.Bxd5 Rfe8= is pretty robust for the
second player.) 15...e5 16.Ra2 Rc8
17.Be3 a6= and I don't see a way to
break down Black's position or even
attack his weaknesses.]

14...a6

[14...b5 15.axb6 axb6 16.Ra7 Ke7
17.Bb7!↑ is a very computerish idea to
stop ...Rfc8, but it seems extremely
effective.]

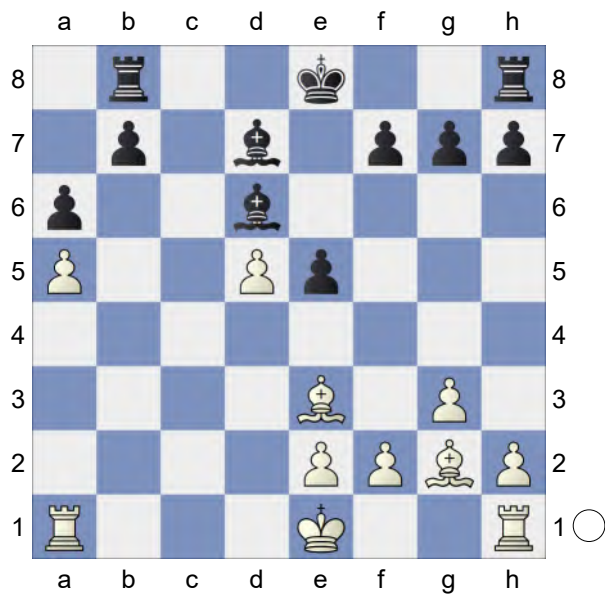
15.d5 Now at least Black's queenside
structure is fixed, although it requires
some inventive play to exploit that fact.

[15.0-0 Bb5 16.Ra2 0-0=
is just fine for Black.]

15...e5

[15...Bb4+ is another try, to simplify
the position down with 16.Kf1 Bc3
17.Ra3 (17.Rb1 exd5 18.Bxd5
Bxa5 19.Bf4 Rd8 20.Bxb7 Bh3+
21.Bg2 Bd7 and ...Bb5 will be a draw.
Even in the worst case scenario of
Black losing the a6-pawn, Black
should still be able to draw the pawn
down endgame of 4v3.) 17...Bb4
18.Ra2 0-0 (18...exd5 19.Bxd5
Bh3+ 20.Bg2 Be6 21.Ra4↑
followed by f4, Kf2 and Rb1 also
favours White.) 19.f4! exd5 20.Bxd5
Bc6 21.Bxc6 bxc6 22.Bb6 Rfc8
23.Kg2 c5 24.Rc1± and White
retains some pressure, although the
endgame can probably be held on
Black's part if he is very accurate.]

(Diagram)



16.Rb1 Bb5 The most natural move, blocking the b-file.

[16...f5! 17.Kd2 g6 is the computer's recommendation, to prevent the Be4-d3 idea played in the game, and only then go ...Bb5. Indeed this completely neutralises White's edge, e.g. 18.Bb6 Rc8 19.e4 Rf8= and White can't count on more than a symbolic plus here.]

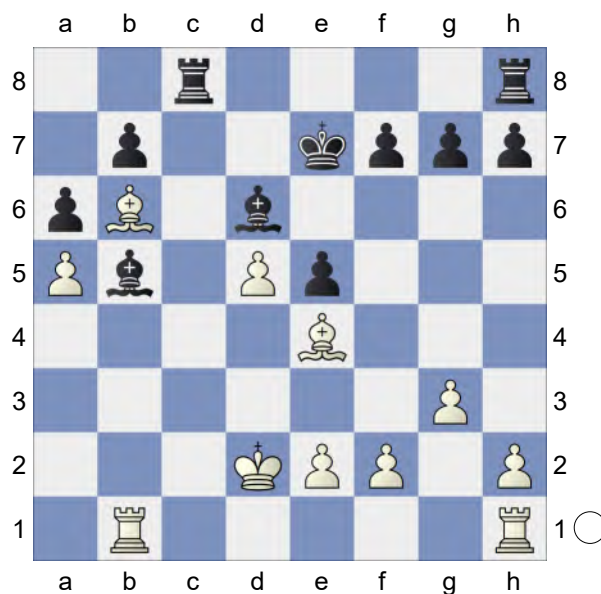
17.Kd2 Ke7?! Now Black faces quite real pressure, however it wasn't too late to stop White's main idea and equalise with

[17...f5!=]

18.Be4! A very nice positional continuation, which cements White's advantage as now the b7-pawn will become weak. **18...Bc7**

[18...Rhc8 19.Bd3 Bc7 20.Bc5+ Kd8 21.Bb4 (or 21.Bxb5 Bxa5+ 22.Bb4 Bxb4+ 23.Rxb4 axb5 24.Rxb5 , although this rook ending looks like a draw after Rc4!±) 21...Bxd3 22.Kxd3± retains a big edge for White, though again Black is probably within the drawing margin objectively.]

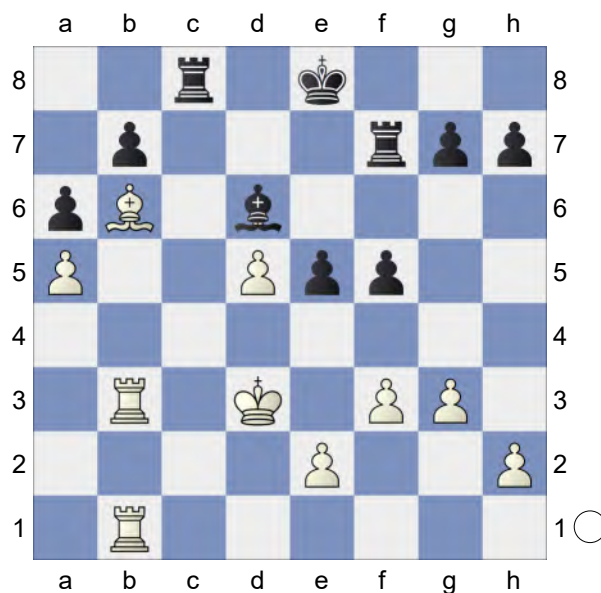
19.Bc5+ Bd6 20.Bb6 Rbc8



21.Bd3 Bxd3?!

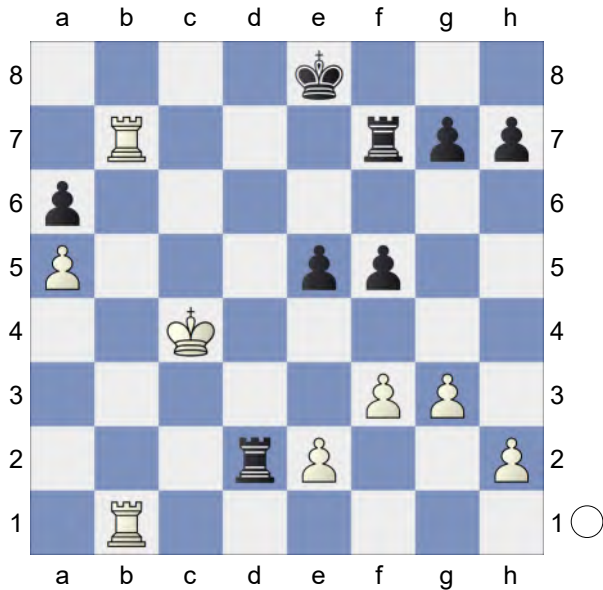
[21...Bc5 is preferable, but it isn't everyone's first reaction to give up a pawn as such.]

22.Kxd3± Now White's advantage is unquestionable, and he went on to convert in the game. **22...f5 23.f3 Rhf8 24.Rb3 Rf7 25.Rhb1 Ke8**

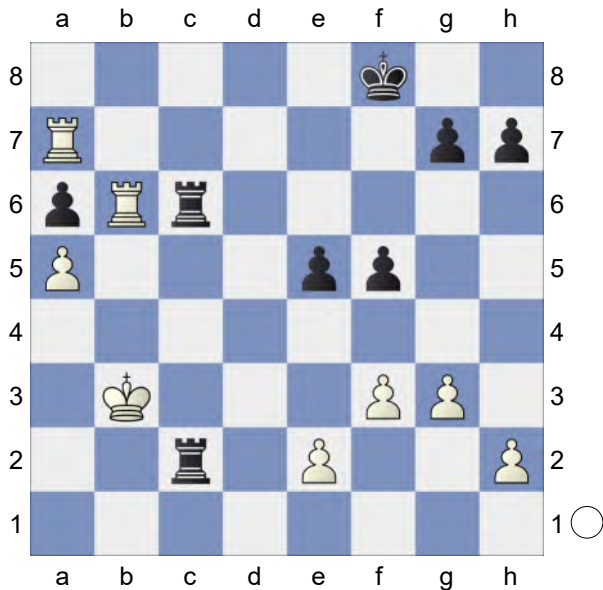


26.Ba7 Rcc7 27.Bb8 Rc5 28.Bxd6 Rxd5+ 29.Kc4 Rxd6 30.Rxb7 Rd2

(Diagram)

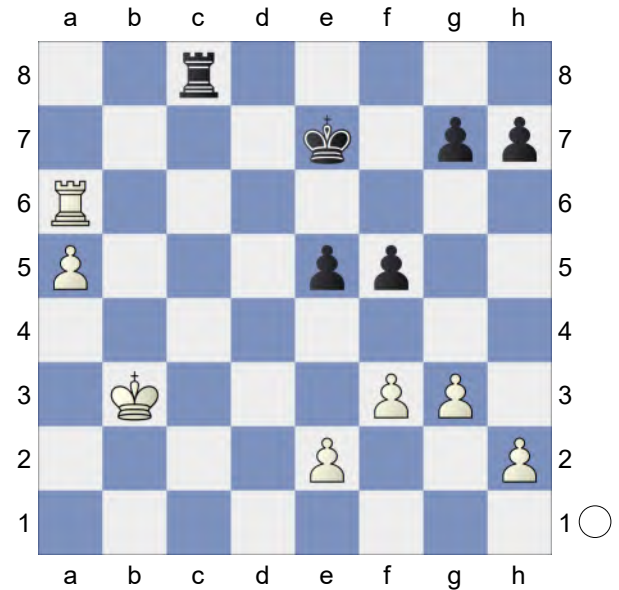


31.Rb8+ Ke7 32.R1b6 Rf6 33.R8b7+ Kf8 34.Ra7 Rc2+ 35.Kb3 Rfc6



36.Rb8+ Rc8 37.Rxc8+ Rxc8 38.Rxa6 Ke7

(Diagram)



I really like this g3 Semi-Tarrasch for White as the first player takes no real risk yet obtains very real chances for an advantage. I think we'll see more tests of Ding's idea, however with correct play Black can neutralise White's pressure and achieve his goal of holding the draw from a slightly worse ending.

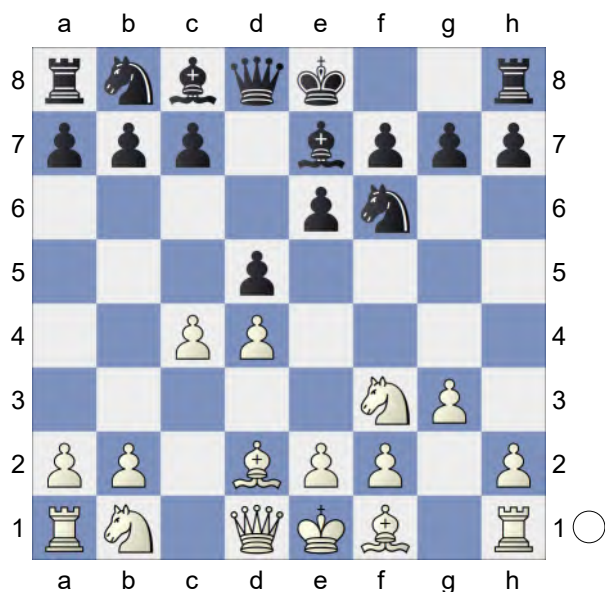
1-0

445 **E11**□ **Zeng,Chongsheng****2552**■ **Wei,Yi****2696**

Chinese Team Championship (4.2)

[Illingworth,Max]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.g3 Bb4+ 5.Bd2 Be7



6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0 Nbd7 8.Qc2 c6

9.Bg5 Not a very common move, but of course it is quite natural to develop like this, even if trading the bishop for the knight somehow doesn't appeal to my positional instincts.

[9.Rd1 is the normal line, and I also covered Carlsen's]

[9.a4 recently.]

9...b6

[9...h6 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.Nbd2 b6 (11...a5?! 12.e4 b5 13.c5±) 12.e4 Bb7 13.e5 Be7 transposes to the 12.e5 note in the game.]

10.Nbd2 h6

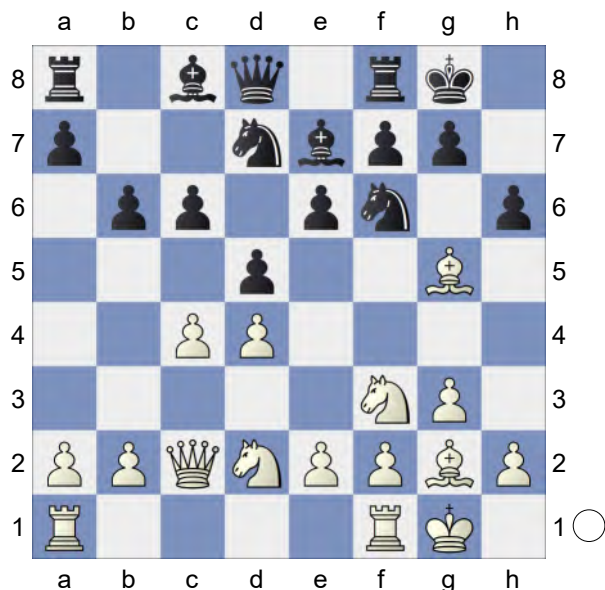
[10...Bb7 11.e4 dxe4 (11...c5!? 12.exd5 exd5 13.Rad1 Rc8 14.dxc5 Nxc5= followed by ...Ne6 provides quite straightforward equality.)

12.Nxe4 c5 13.Nxf6+ Nxf6! (13...Bxf6 14.Bxf6 Nxf6 15.dxc5 bxc5

Black should not be fooled by the engine's assessment of equality - such positions with the extra pawn island are a lot easier for White to play and in principle I would rather avoid them. 16.Ne5 Bxg2 17.Kxg2 Qc7 18.Qe2 Rfd8 19.Rfd1±

The quoted game is a nice example of how to grind out a win from such positions in practice. h6 20.Nf3 Rab8 21.Rxd8+ Rxd8 22.Rd1 Rxd1 23.Qxd1 Nd7 24.b3 Ne5 25.Nxe5 Qxe5 26.Qd8+ Kh7 27.Qa8 Qc7 28.Qe4+ g6 29.h4 Kg7 30.a3 a5 31.Kf3 Qb6 32.Qe5+ f6 33.Qe3 h5 34.Ke2 e5 35.Qd3 f5 36.Qd7+ Kh6 37.Qe8 Qf6 38.Qa8 g5 39.hxg5+ Kxg5 40.Qxa5 f4 41.Qxc5 h4 42.gxh4+ Kxh4 43.Qd5 Qf5 44.Qd8+ Kh5 45.Qd3 Qe6 46.b4 Kh4 47.b5 e4 48.Qd4 Qg4+ 49.Kd2 Qf3 50.b6 Kh3 51.b7 e3+ 52.fxe3 Qxb7 53.exf4 Kg4 54.Kc3 Qa6 55.f5+ Kxf5 56.Qd5+ Kf4 57.Kb4 Qb6+ 58.Qb5 Qd6+ 1-0 (58) Baburin, A (2598)-Orr,M (2315) Belfast 2001]

(Diagram)



11.Bxf6 Nxf6 12.Ne5!? This is quite a valid attempt, considering that White didn't do too well with e4-e5 ideas previously.

[12.e4 Bb7 13.e5 Nd7 14.cxd5 cxd5 This position has been seen a lot, with Black scoring very well as compared to the standard Closed Catalan line, Black has one less minor piece bottled in and the bishop pair to boot. 15.Rfc1 (15.Rfe1 b5!? I would have been a simpleton and played ...Rc8, but this is good too. 16.Bf1 Qb6 17.Bd3 Rfc8 18.Qb3 b4 19.Rad1 a5 20.Bb1 a4+ By this point it is obvious who possesses the initiative. 21.Qd3 Nf8 In such positions, White really needs the dark-squared bishop for Bxh6 breakthroughs. 22.h4 a3 23.b3 Rc3 24.Qf1 Rac8 25.g4 Ba6 26.Qg2 Bd3 27.h5 Bxb1 28.Nxb1 Rc2 29.g5 hxg5 30.Nxg5 Bxg5 31.Qxg5 Qd8 32.Qg4 Nh7 33.f4 Rxa2 34.Rd3 Rac2 35.Rg3 Qf8 36.f5 exf5 37.Qxf5 Rc1 38.Qf1 a2 39.Rxc1 Rxc1 40.Qxc1 a1Q 41.Rg4 Qa6 42.Qc2 Qfc8 43.Qg2 Qc1+ 44.Kh2

Qah6 45.Rh4 Qxb1 46.Qxd5 Qd2+ 0-1 (46) Li,C (2751)-Tomashevsky, E (2728) Huaian 2016) 15...Rc8 16.Qa4 a6 17.Qd1 Bc6 18.a3 b5 19.Ne1 a5 20.Nd3 a4 21.Rc2 Nb6 22.Rac1 Nc4+ Black was better as he simply has control on the queenside and, being a correspondence game, he went on to win a model game. 23.Nf3 Qa5 24.Qe2 b4 25.axb4 Bxb4 26.Bf1 Be7 27.Qe1 Qb6 28.Bg2 Rb8 29.Bf1 Bb5 30.Qc3 Na5 31.Nc5 Qa7 32.Bxb5 Rxb5 33.Nd3 Nb3 34.Rd1 Rfb8 35.Kg2 Bd8 36.Nf4 Qb7 37.Nd3 g5 38.h3 Ba5 39.Qc6 Qxc6 40.Rxc6 Bb6 41.g4 Ra8 42.h4 gxf4 43.Nxf4 Nxd4 44.Rc3 Rb3 45.Rxb3 Nxb3 46.Nf3 Kg7 47.Kg3 Rc8 48.Nfe1 Bd4 49.Rb1 Rb8 50.Rd1 Nc5 51.Nxc5 Bxc5 52.Ra1 Rxb2 53.Nd3 Rb3 54.Rd1 a3 0-1 (54) Johnsen,K (2470)-Kuosa,N (2573) ICCF email 2008]

12...Bb7 13.Rfd1

[13.cxd5 cxd5 14.Rfc1= is a rather meek play for equality, but White would probably succeed in such a modest goal here.]

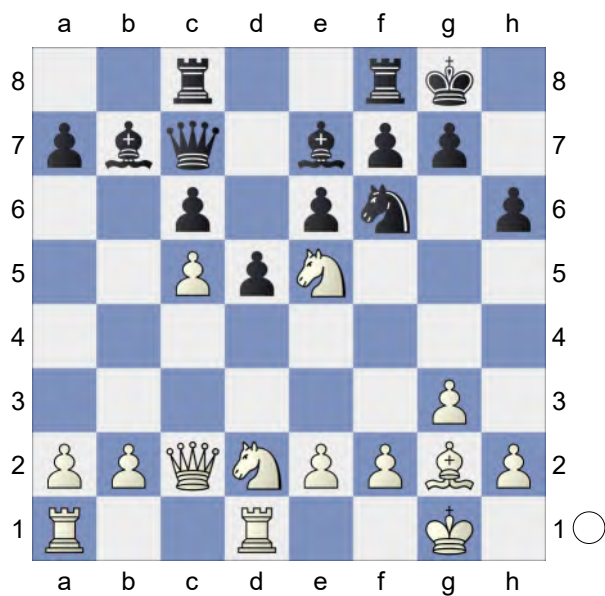
13...Rc8 14.c5?!

[14.Rac1 c5 is completely fine for Black, but it was probably a better choice.]

14...bxc5 15.dxc5 Qc7

[15...h5 is the engine's suggestion, going for ...Ng4. I believe it when it claims Black is better, but it's a very strange idea!]

(Diagram)



16.f4 This position makes a nice puzzle from Black's perspective. **16...a5!** Black is stopping the advance of White's queenside majority, and also preparing ...Ba6 to activate his b7-bishop in certain positions.

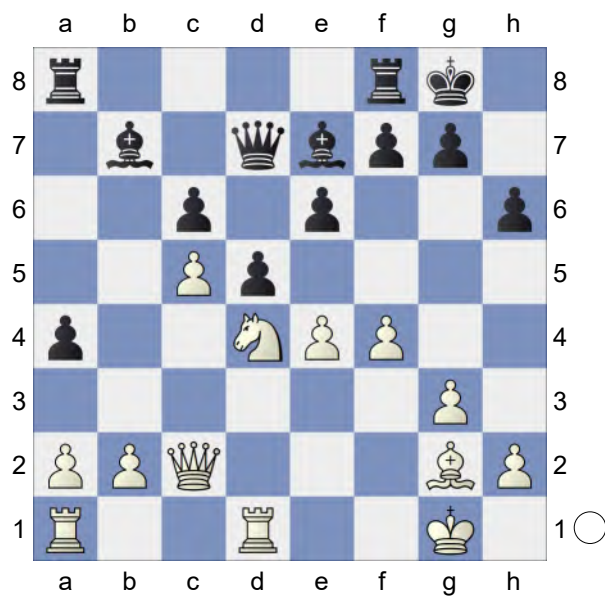
[16...Rfd8 17.b4=]

17.Nb3 a4 Black is going for forcing play, but he has the central majority and bishop pair, so he can and probably should have been more patient.

[17...Rfd8 18.Rab1 Nd7 19.Nxd7 Rxd7]

18.Nd4 Nd7 19.Nxd7 Qxd7 20.e4 Ra8

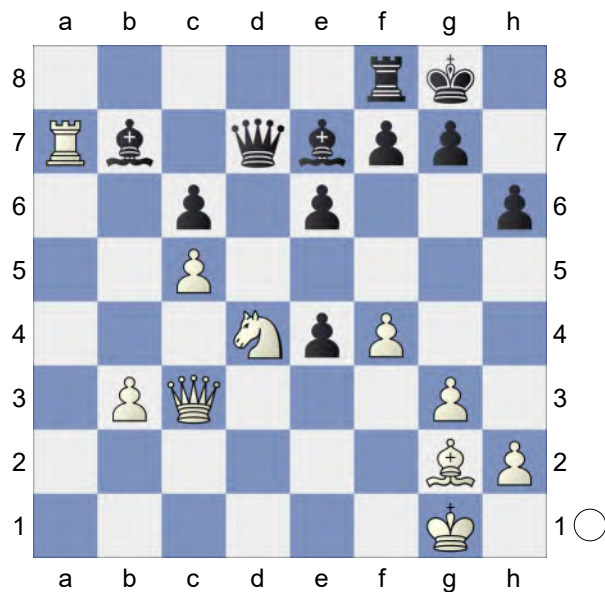
(Diagram)



21.Qc3 Qc7 22.b4 axb3 23.axb3 Rxa1 24.Rxa1 dxe4 25.Ra7?

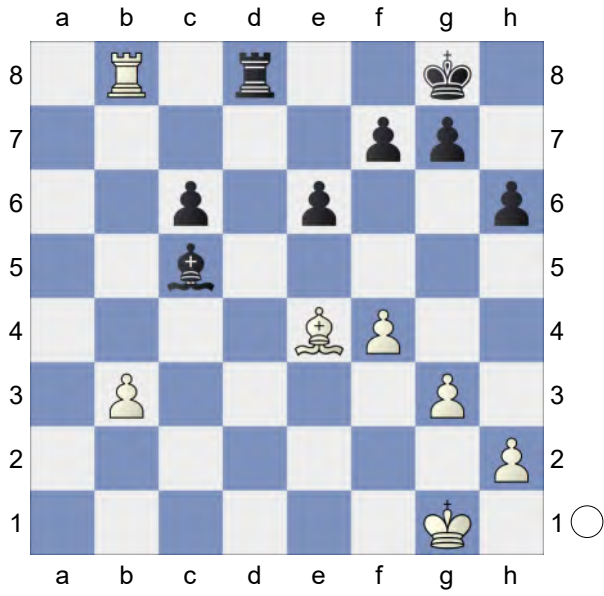
[25.Bxe4 Bf6 26.Ra4 Rd8 27.Qe3 e5 28.Nf5 (28.fxe5 Qxe5) 28...exf4 29.Qxf4 Be5]

25...Qd7!-+



26.Qc4 Rd8 27.Bxe4 Qxd4+ 28.Qxd4 Rxd4 29.Rxb7 Bxc5 30.Rb8+ Rd8+

(Diagram)



0-1

379

C65

□ Wei,Yi

2641

■ Zhao,Jun

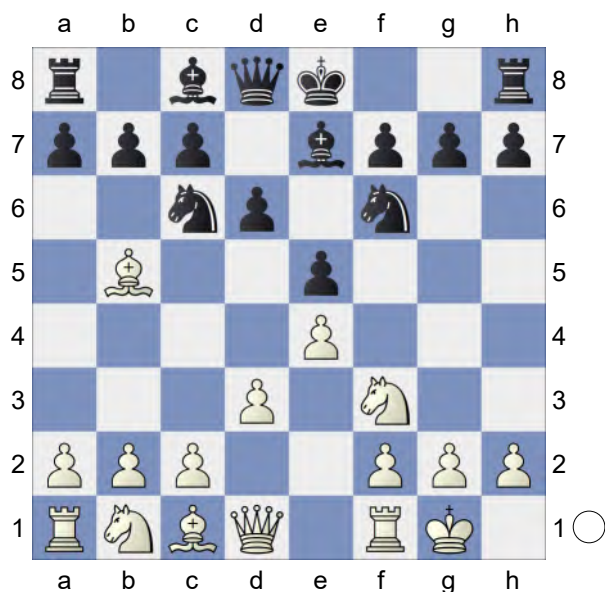
2578

Zhongshan zt 3.5 (6)

31.10.2014

[Illingworth,Max]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3
d6 5.0-0 Be7



6.c3 0-0 7.Nbd2

[7.Re1 will be examined in the next game.]

[7.h3!? is an interesting attempt to keep White's options open. Bd7 (Those with both 3...Nf6 and 3...a6 in their repertoire might opt for 7...a6 8.Ba4 , transposing to the 3...a6 4. ♖a4 ♜f6 5.0-0 ♜e7 6.d3 d6 7.c3 0-0 variation where White should play 8. ♖e1 instead of 8.h3. Black can exploit this by proceeding b5 9.Bc2 d5 10.Nbd2 dxe4 11.dxe4 Be6 12.Ng5 Bd7 13.Qe2 Bd6 14.Rd1 Ne7 15.Nf1 h6 16.Nf3 Ng6 17.Ng3 Re8= ; naturally a deeper analysis would be outside the scope of this article.) 8.Be3!? This move, first played in 1882 (!) has been seen in various

engine games, with the point that ♜bd2 will no longer block in the bishop. (White tried an original approach with 8.Ba4 Re8 9.Nbd2 Bf8 10.Nc4!? h6 11.Re1 Ne7 12.Bc2 Ng6 13.a4 c6= in ½-½ (32) Rozentalis,E (2622)-Babula,V (2584) Austria 2013, but without disrupting the equilibrium.) 8...a6 (8...h6 9.Nbd2 Nh7 10.Ba4 Ng5 11.d4± is good for White because of his space advantage.) 9.Ba4 b5 (After 9...Qe8 10.Nbd2 Nd4 11.cxd4 Bxa4 12.Qc1 exd4 13.Nxd4 c5 14.Nf5 Bd7 15.Nxe7+ Qxe7 16.a4± White has a small edge because of his central majority and slightly better bishop.; 9...h6 10.Nbd2 Re8 11.a3 Bf8 12.b4 Ne7 13.Bc2 Ng6 14.d4 also gives White chances for an advantage due to his extra space in the centre.) 10.Bc2 d5 11.Nbd2 Be6 (11...h6?! 12.d4! exd4 13.cxd4 dxe4 14.Nxe4 Nd5 15.Rc1± favours White due to Black's hugely weakening ...b5.) 12.Rc1 (12.d4 exd4 13.cxd4 dxe4 14.Nxe4 Bd5= is now fine for Black as his pieces are very active compared to the 11...h6 variation.) 12...h6 (12...dxe4 13.dxe4 Qc8 14.Nh4 g6 15.Qe2 Rd8 16.Rfd1 Rb8 17.Nhf3± gives White some pressure based on ♜g5/♜b3 and the weakness of the d5 and c5 squares.) 13.d4 exd4 14.Nxd4 (Less effective is 14.cxd4 dxe4 15.Nxe4 Nb4=) 14...Nxd4 15.cxd4 dxe4 16.Nxe4 White has some chances for an edge here based on Black's weak queenside, but Re8! (16...Nd5 17.Bd2 Nb4 18.Bxb4 Bxb4 19.Qd3 Bf5 20.Rfd1 might objectively be OK for Black,

but White's position feels very harmonious and a lot easier to play.) 17.Nxf6+ Bxf6 18.Qd3 g6 19.Bb3 Bxb3 20.Qxb3 Qd7 21.Rfd1 Rad8 22.Qc2 Qe6!= more or less neutralises White's pressure. Even so, I would not be surprised if we see 8. ♖e3 in subsequent high-level practice.]

7...Bd7

[7...a6 8.Ba4 again transposes to the Morphy Ruy Lopez lines with d3, which however are not our subject.]

[7...Nd7 8.d4 Bf6 has been a trendy alternative, exerting pressure on White's centre as such. 9.Nb3 (9.Nc4 exd4 10.cxd4 d5 11.exd5 Nb4 12.Nce5 Nxd5 13.Bd3 Re8 was demonstrably robust after the possible continuation 14.Re1 c6 15.Bd2 Nf8 16.Qc2 Be6 17.b4 Nc7 18.a4 a6 19.h3= ½-½ (19) Smirin,I (2670)-Howell,D (2633) Porto Carras 2011) 9...a6 10.Be2 (10.Bxc6 bxc6 11.Na5 Qe8! 12.Re1 c5 13.d5 Nb6 followed by ... ♕d8 and ...f5 is quite harmonious for Black.; 10.Bd3!? might be the best try, but then Black can play a5!? 11.Be3 a4 12.Nbd2 a3 13.b3 exd4 14.Nxd4 Re8 15.Rc1 Nde5 16.Nxc6 bxc6 17.Be2 c5 18.f4 Ng6≠ with persistent counterplay against White's centre, though the engine does give a marginal preference to White.) 10...exd4 11.cxd4 (⊔11.Nfxd4=) 11...Re8 12.Qc2 0-1 (56) Kotronias,V (2564)-Harikrishna,P (2726) Porto Rio 2014 Nb4 13.Qb1 Qe7 would be quite promising for Black, intending 14.Re1 Qxe4!? 15.Bf1 Qxe1 16.Nxe1 Rxe1 17.a3 Nc6 18.Qd3 Nb6≡ with very interesting

compensation for the queen.]

8.Ba4 We're already familiar with this move in the other variations, and indeed it's an important move here as well to prepare d4 (which would otherwise run into the familiar ... ♗xd4 tactic)

[8.Re1 will be the feature of the next game.]

[8.a4 is legal but not overly dangerous; for instance a6 9.Bc4 Na5 10.Ba2 c5 11.Re1 b5= is quite a good answer.]

8...Rb8!? I'm quite drawn to this original approach, although it doesn't fully equalise.

[8...Re8 9.Re1 Bf8 10.Nf1 would be the standard continuation, and indeed transposes to the next game after h6 11.Ng3.]

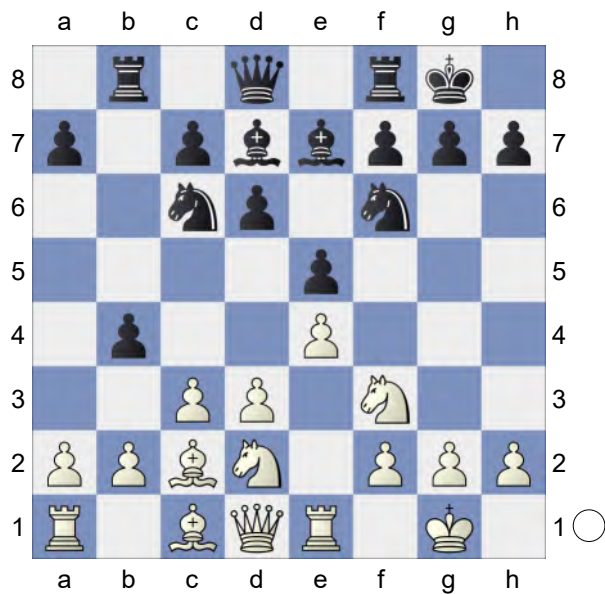
9.Re1

[9.Bc2!? would be interesting to give White more options if Black is consistent with b5. Indeed, something like 10.d4 would be a sensible continuation as exd4 (or 10...b4 11.a3 bxc3 12.bxc3 Bg4 13.h3 Bh5 when the position is somewhere between equal and slightly better for White.) 11.cxd4 Nb4 12.Bb1 c5 13.e5! dxe5 14.dxe5 Nfd5 15.a3 Nc6 16.Nb3 Nb6 17.Nxc5! Bg4 18.Nd3± looks a little better for White based on his extra pawn.]

9...b5 10.Bc2 b4

[It's also possible to adopt a waiting strategy with 10...Re8 11.h3 Bf8 12.Nf1 h6, however in this case 13.d4± will favour White.]

(Diagram)



11.d4! The consistent move, meeting flank play with central action. **11...bxc3 12.bxc3 Re8**

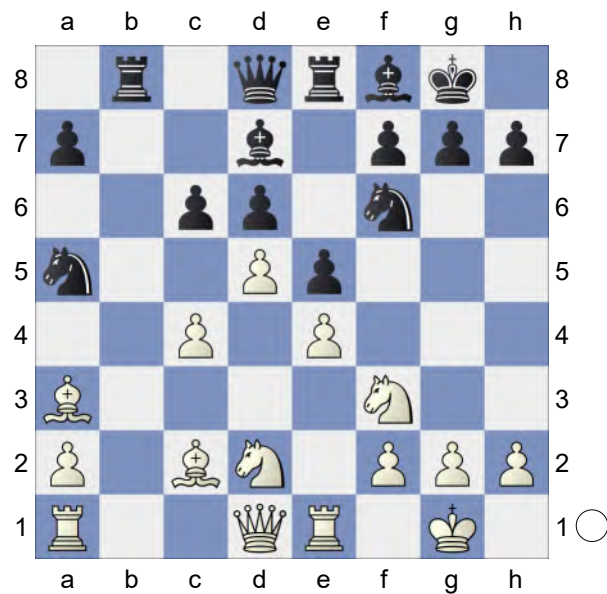
[12...exd4 13.cxd4 Nb4 14.Bb1 illustrates a disadvantage of trading the b-pawns, in that ...c5 is no longer positionally well founded, and after the tricky Bb5 15.Nf1 c5 16.a3 Nc6 17.Ne3± consolidates, with advantage.]

13.d5?! Closing the centre doesn't feel right when Black obtains the c5-square for his pieces.

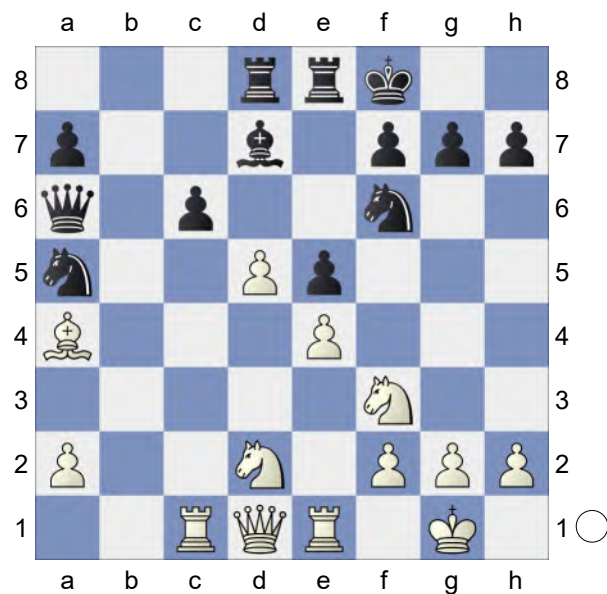
[13.Nc4 exd4 14.cxd4 d5 15.exd5 Nb4 16.Bb3 Nbx d5 17.Nfe5 Bb4 18.Bd2 Bxd2 19.Qxd2± with complete positional domination was called for.]

13...Na5 14.c4 c6 Now Black is not at all worse, as the a5-knight is quite useful in pressuring c4 and stopping the active deployment of the c1-bishop. **15.Ba3 Bf8**

(Diagram)

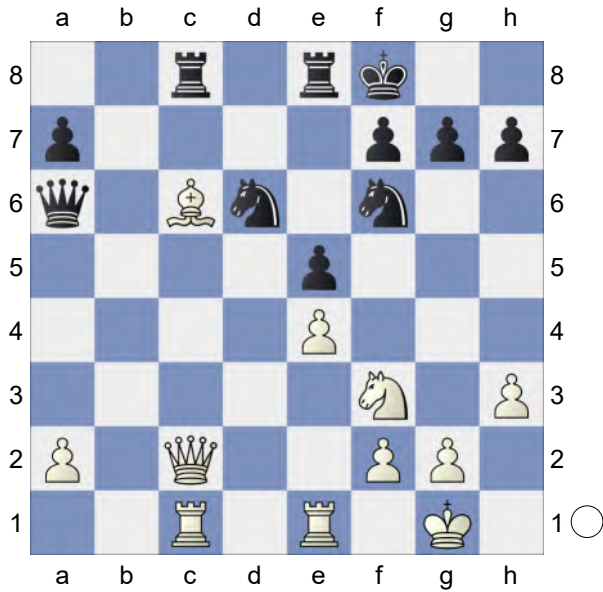


16.Ba4 Qc8 17.Rc1 Qa6 18.c5 dxc5 19.Bxc5 Rbd8 20.Bxf8 Kxf8

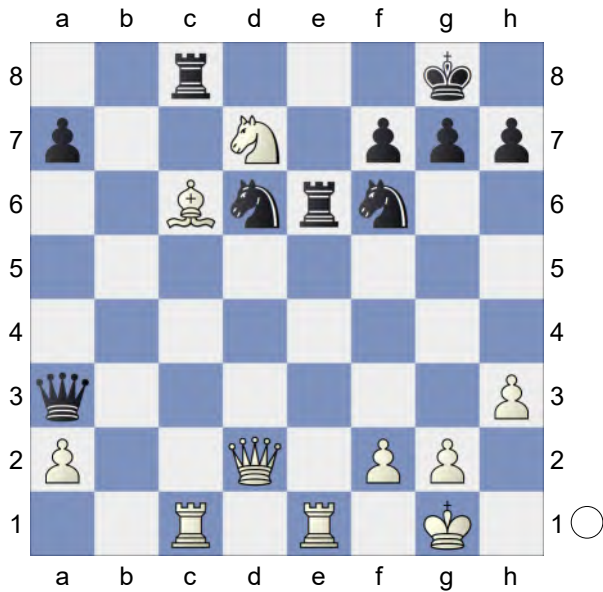


21.d6 Bg4 22.h3 Bxf3 23.Nxf3 Nc4 24.Qc2 Nxd6 25.Bxc6 Rc8

(Diagram)

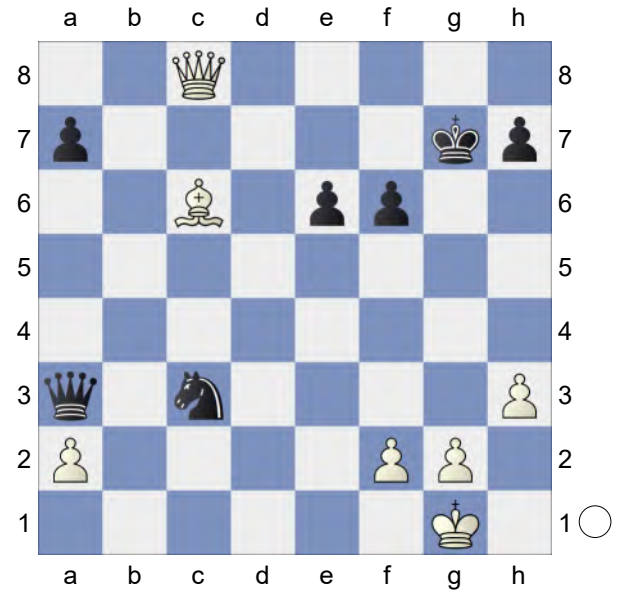


26.Qc5 Nfxe4 27.Qd5 Qa3 28.Nxe5
Nf6 29.Qd2 Re6 30.Nd7+ Kg8

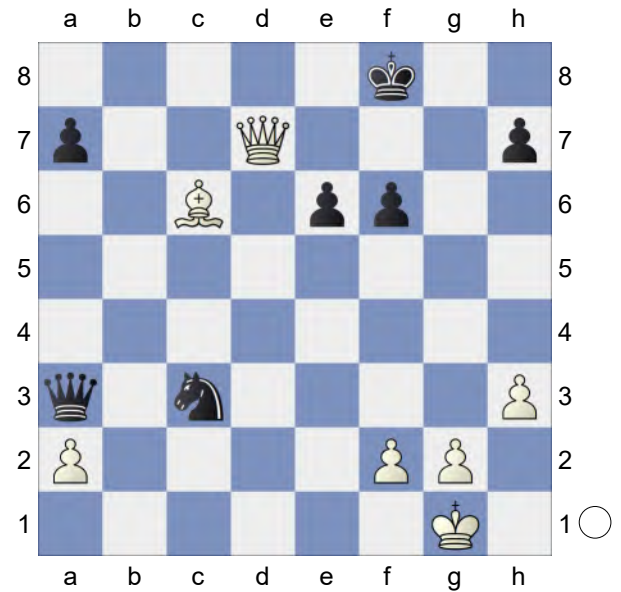


31.Rxe6 fxe6 32.Nxf6+ gxf6 33.Rc3
Ne4 34.Qd7 Nxc3 35.Qxc8+ Kg7

(Diagram)

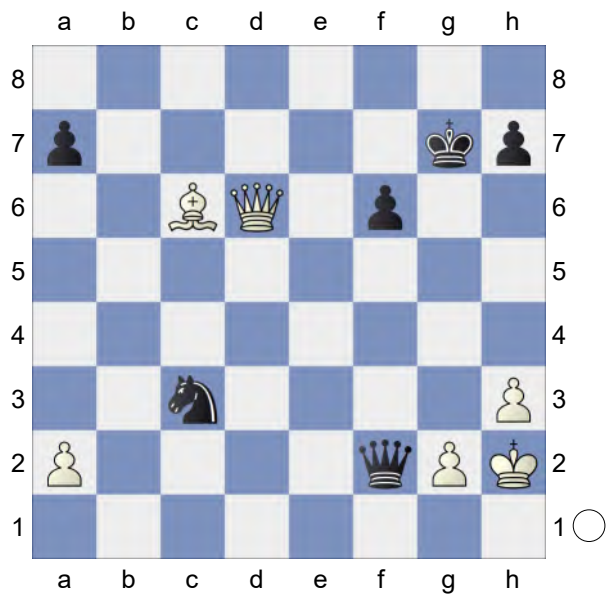


36.Qc7+ Kf8 37.Qd8+ Kg7 38.Qc7+
Kf8 39.Qc8+ Kg7 40.Qd7+ Kf8

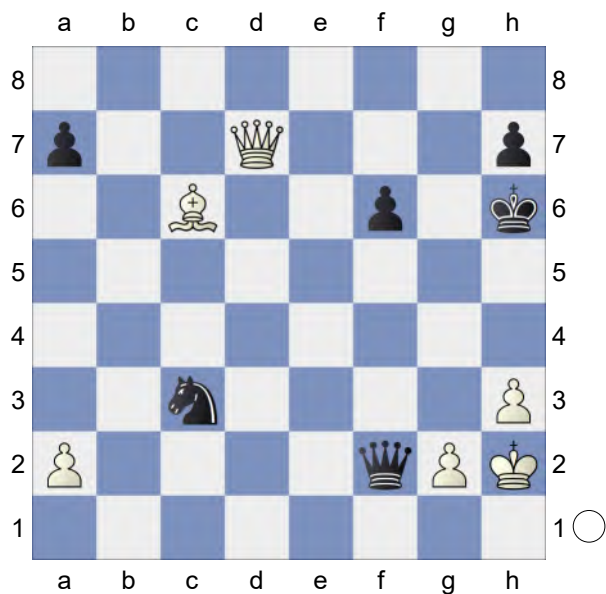


41.Qd8+ Kg7 42.Kh2 Qc5 43.Qd7+
Kf8 44.Qxe6 Qxf2 45.Qd6+ Kg7

(Diagram)

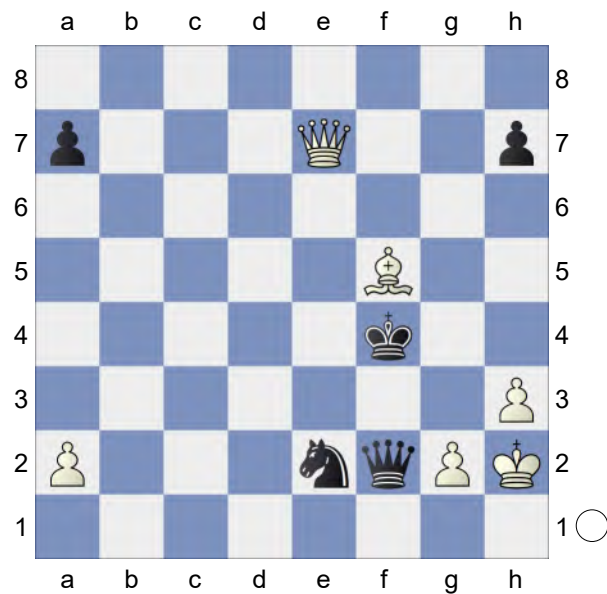


46.Qe7+ Kg8 47.Qe6+ Kg7 48.Qe7+ Kg8 49.Qe6+ Kg7 50.Qd7+ Kh6

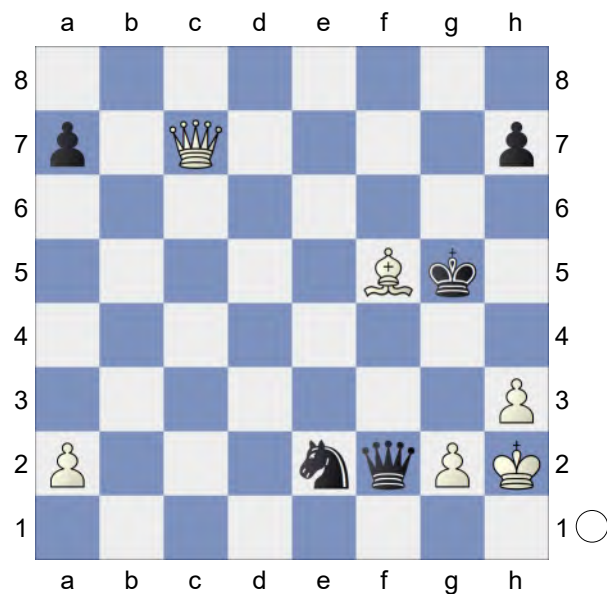


51.Qd6 Ne2 52.Qf8+ Kg6 53.Be4+ f5 54.Bxf5+ Kg5 55.Qe7+ Kf4

(Diagram)

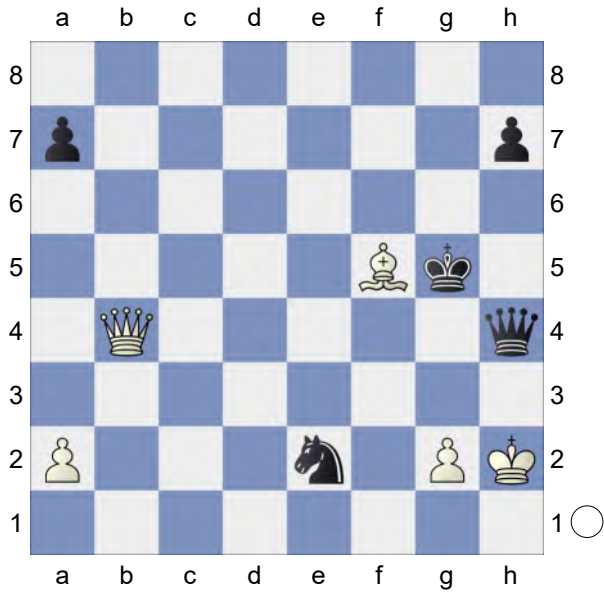


56.Qd6+ Kg5 57.Qd8+ Kf4 58.Qc7+ Kg5 59.Qg7+ Kf4 60.Qc7+ Kg5



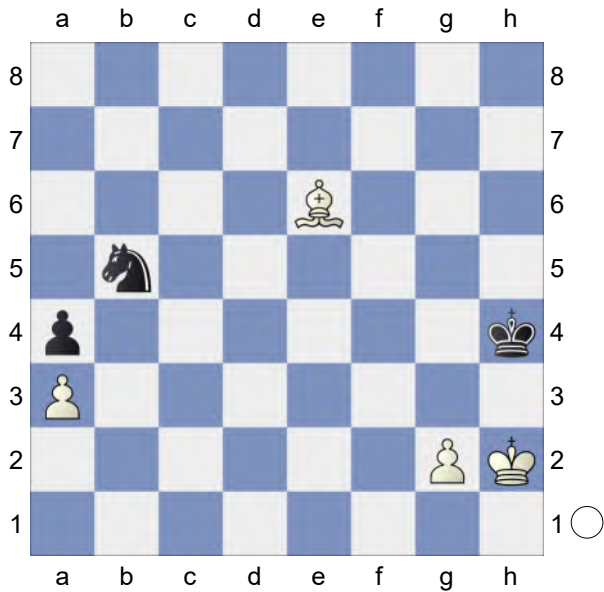
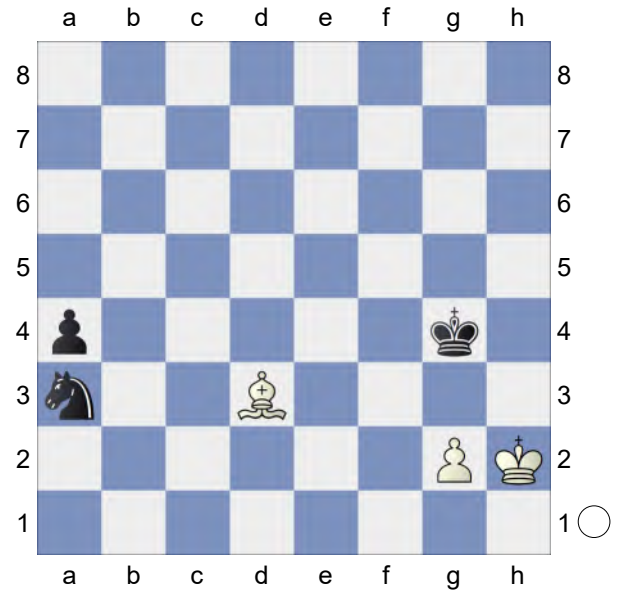
61.Qd8+ Kf4 62.Qd6+ Kg5 63.Qe7+ Kf4 64.Qb4+ Kg5 65.h4+ Qxh4+

(Diagram)



66.Qxh4+ Kxh4 67.Bxh7 Nc3 68.Bg8
a5 69.Be6 a4 70.a3 Nb5

$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$



71.Bc4 Nxa3 72.Bd3 Kg4

(Diagram)

316

□ Wei, Yi

■ Wan, Yunguo

Chinese Team Championship (9.1)

[Illingworth, Max]

D38

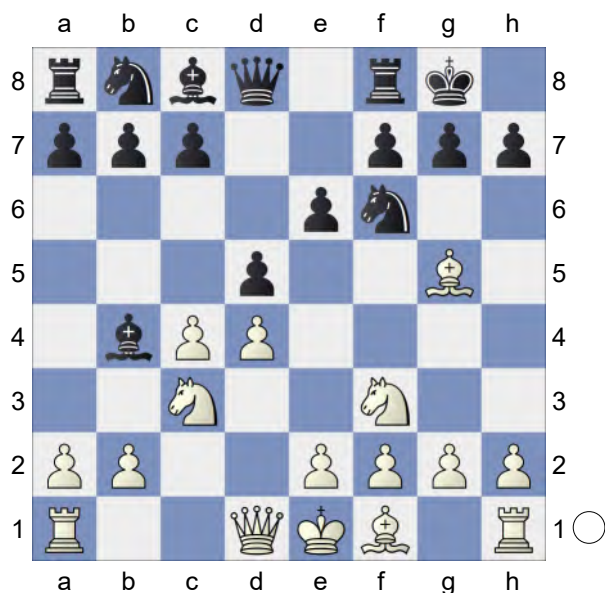
2696

2481

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nf3

This is the main trend against the Nimzo as White hasn't made any headway in the Capablanca, Rubinstein or Kmoch lines. **4...0-0 5.Bg5 d5**

[5...h6 falls outside the scope of my column.]



In general it's not considered the most accurate to castle immediately in the Ragozin. **6.cxd5**

[6.e3 c5 7.cxd5

A) 7...Qxd5 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.a3 Bxc3+ 10.bxc3 b6! 11.Bd3 Bb7 12.0-0 Kh8 13.e4 Qd6 14.Qd2 Rg8 15.Qh6 Qe7 16.Rfd1± (16.g3!? also looks promising.);

B) 7...exd5 may be the most accurate move order, to avoid the next note.]

6...exd5 7.e3 c5

[7...h6 8.Bh4 c5 (8...Bf5!?

This is probably the best way to justify the early castling. It transposes to the 7...Bf5 Ragozin lines I've covered before, but note that 6.e3 first would have avoided this option.) 9.dxc5 Nbd7 10.Rc1 Qa5 11.Nd2 is better for White, who managed to used the tempo spent on ...0-0 to consolidate his position. A recent game went Qxc5 12.a3 (12.Nb3 Qd6 13.Bd3±) 12...Bxc3 13.Rxc3 Qb6 14.Qb3 d4! A thematic strike for the opening. 15.Qxb6 Nxb6 16.exd4 Nfd5 17.Rc5 Re8+ 18.Kd1 Bg4+ 19.f3 Ne3+ 20.Kc1 Bd7= (20...Be6=) 21.Ne4 Na4 22.Re5 Rac8+ 23.Kd2 Nxf1+ 24.Rxf1 Rxe5 25.dxe5 Nxb2 26.Nd6 Nc4+ 27.Nxc4 Rxc4 28.Be7 Bc6 1/2-1/2 (28) Wagner,D (2575)-Tari,A (2521) Berlin 2015]

8.dxc5 Nbd7 9.Rc1 Qa5

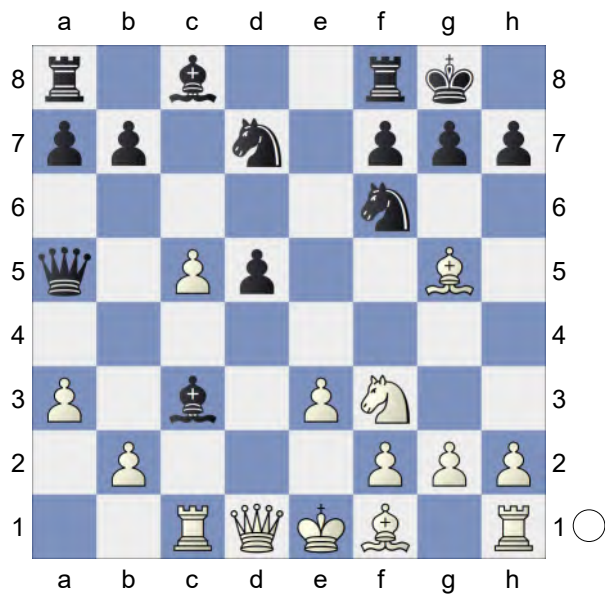
[9...h6?! is too late now: 10.Bxf6 (10.Bh4 Qa5 11.Nd2± - see 7...h6.) 10...Nxf6 11.a3 Bxc3+ 12.Rxc3 Ne4 13.Rc1 Qa5+ 14.Nd2 Bf5 15.Be2 Rfe8 16.f3 Nxc5 17.b4 Qxa3 18.bxc5 Rxe3 19.0-0 Rc3±]

10.a3

[10.Nd2!? Qxc5 11.Nb3 (11.a3 Bxc3 12.Rxc3 Qb6 13.Rb3 Qe6 14.Be2 also looks good for a tiny edge.) 11...Qb6 12.Bd3 Ne4 13.Bxe4 dxe4 14.0-0 Qg6 15.Bf4±]

10...Bxc3+

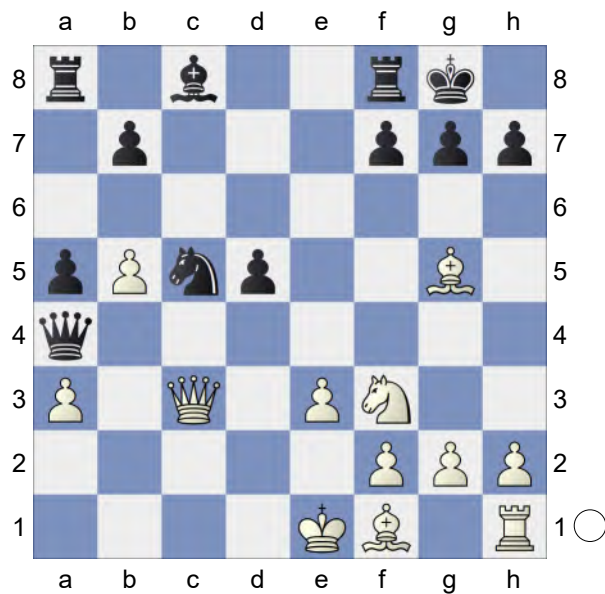
(Diagram)



11.Rxc3 Ne4 12.b4 Nxc3 13.Qa1 Qa4 14.Qxc3 a5 15.b5± This line is known to be stupendous for White, so I have no idea why strong players continue to enter it. **15...Nxc5**

[15...h6 16.Bf4 Nf6 17.Nd4 Ne4 18.Qc1 g5 (18...Bd7 19.f3 Ng5 20.Bxg5 hxg5 21.Be2±) 19.Bc7 Re8 20.Be2 Bd7 21.0-0+- Rac8 22.b6 f5 23.Qb2 f4 24.Rc1 Nxf2 25.Kxf2 fxe3+ 26.Ke1 Re4 27.Be5 Be8 28.c6 Rxc6 29.Nxc6 Bxc6 30.Rc5 Rh4 31.Bd1 Qe4 32.Rxc6 d4 33.Qb3+ 1-0 (33) Ding,L (2755)-Liu,Q (2510) China 2015]

(Diagram)



16.Qxc5 Bf5?

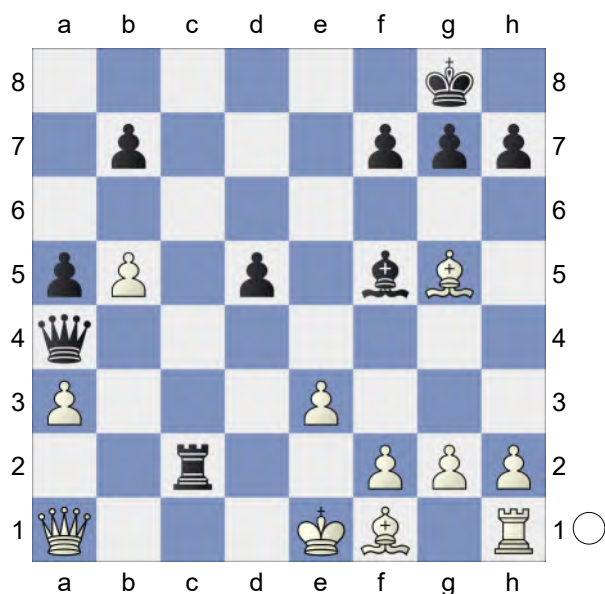
[16...Bd7! But this line is a little tricky. 17.Be2!? (17.Qxd5 Be6 18.Qd1 Qxa3 19.Bd3 h6 20.Bf4 Bb3 21.Bd6 Qa4 22.Qb1 Rfd8 23.Bc7 Ba2 24.Qc2 Bb3 25.Qc3 Rxd3 26.Qxd3 Qa1+ 27.Ke2 Qxh1 28.Qxb3 Qc1!=; 17.Qc1! Rac8 18.Qa1 Bxb5 19.Nd4 Bxf1 20.Rxf1 Rfe8 21.Bf4 Rc4 22.Kd2 Rec8 23.Qb2↑ White has full control over the position.) 17...Rfc8 18.Qxd5 Rc1+ 19.Bd1 Qxb5 20.Qxb5 Bxb5 21.Nd4 Ba4 22.Ke2 Ra1 23.Rf1 Rxa3 24.Bxa4 Rxa4 25.Rb1±]

17.Qc3 Rac8

[17...Rfc8 18.Qa1 Qc2 19.Nd4 Qc1+ 20.Qxc1 Rxc1+ 21.Kd2+- It is quite surprising that Nakamura would enter this, clearly he mixed up something in his opening (for instance, the lines with ... h6/Bh4 inserted). Rac8 22.Nxf5 R8c2+ 23.Kd3 Rxf2 24.Ne7+ Kh8 25.g3 Ra1 26.Kd4 Rc1 27.Bg2 Rd2+ 28.Ke5 f6+ 29.Kd6 Rc3 30.Rf1 h6 31.Rxf6 hxg5 32.Rf8+ Kh7 33.Bh3 g4 34.Bxg4 Rxe3 35.Bf5+ g6 36.Bxg6+]

Kg7 37.Rg8+ 1-0 (37) Aronian,L
(2792)-Nakamura,H (2787) Leuven
2016]

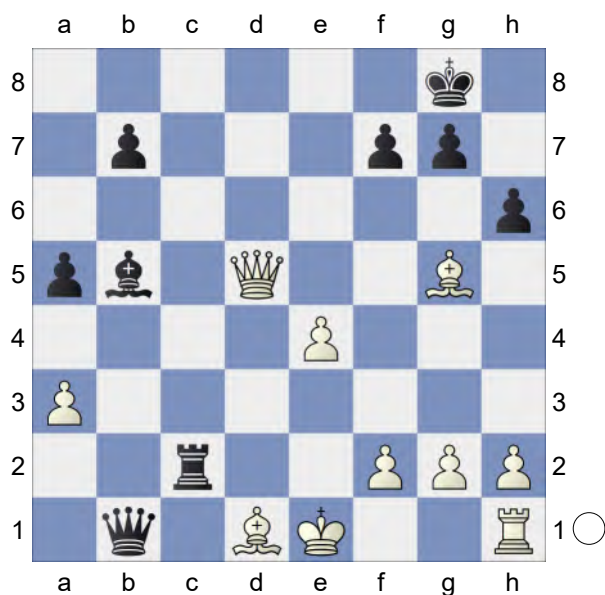
18.Qa1 Rc2 This looks scary but isn't
anything. **19.Nd4 Rfc8 20.Nxc2 Rxc2**



21.Be2!+- Qb3

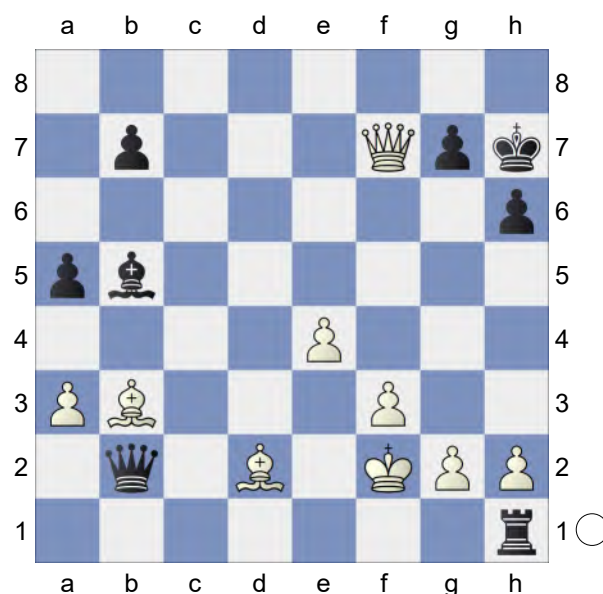
[21...Rxe2+ 22.Kxe2 Qg4+ 23.Kd2
Qxg5 24.Qe5+-]

22.Bd1 Bd3! 23.e4 The best of many
good moves. **23...Bxb5 24.Qe5**
Black could have resigned here. **24...h6**
25.Qxd5 Qb1

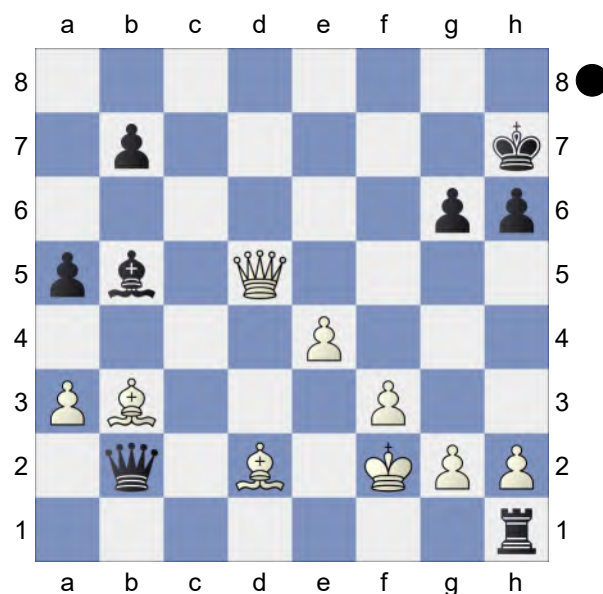


26.Bd2! Ra2 27.f3 Qb2 28.Bb3 Ra1+

29.Kf2 Rxh1 30.Qxf7+ Kh7



31.Qf5+ g6 32.Qd5



1-0

165

□ Ivanchuk, Vassily

■ Wei, Yi

Medias King blitz 11th (2)

[Illingworth, Max]

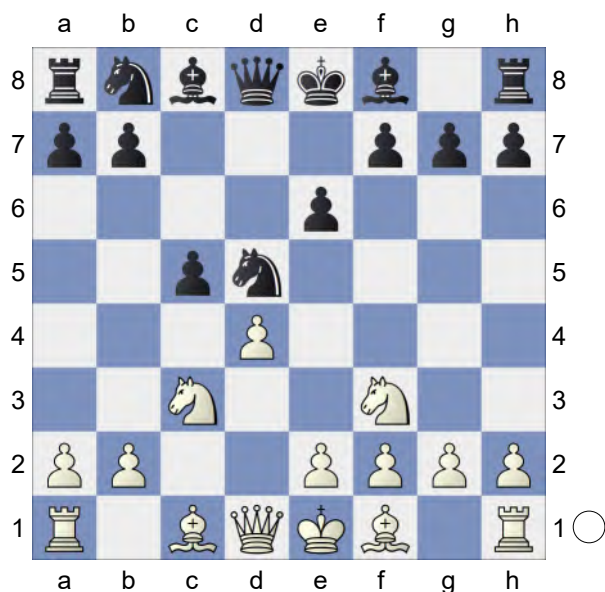
D41

2729

2739

28.11.2017

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 c5
5.cxd5 Nxd5



6.g3 I have shown in the Archives that this is not a dangerous option for Black, but Wei Yi's choice seems the most convincing equaliser of all. **6...cxd4!**

[6...Nxc3 7.bxc3 cxd4 8.cxd4 Bb4+ 9.Bd2 Bxd2+ 10.Qxd2 b6 11.Bg2 Bb7 12.0-0 0-0 meanwhile has upheld its solid reputation, though Black should not think that he can equalise without any thought at all. A recent game continued 13.Rfc1 Nd7 14.a4 Nf6?! (14...Rc8 15.a5 Rxc1+ 16.Qxc1 h6=) 15.a5 b5 1/2-1/2 (34) Martirosyan, H (2544)-Xiong, J (2642) Saint Louis 2017 16.a6! Bd5 17.Ne5 Rc8 18.Bxd5 Qxd5 19.Qb4± and the a6-pawn is a thorn in Black's side.]

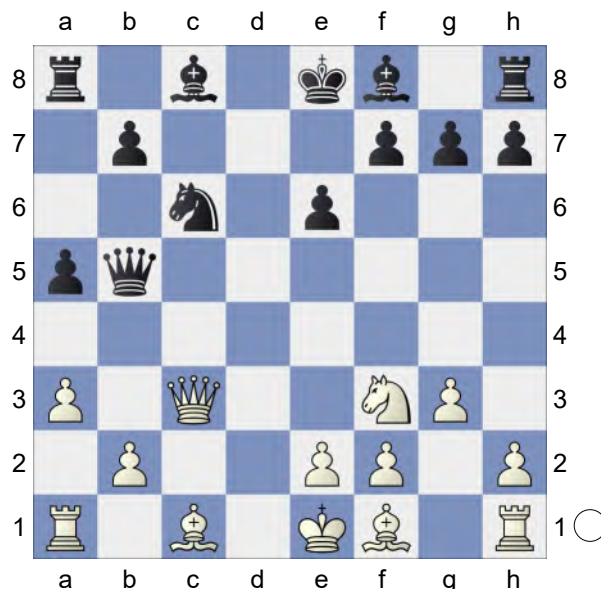
7.Nxd5 Qxd5 8.Qxd4 Qb5!

An annoying move, stopping the normal Bg2/0-0. **9.a3** This keeps the pieces on the board, but doesn't offer any chances for an edge.

[9.e4 Qb4+ 10.Qxb4 (10.Bd2 Nc6 11.Qxb4 Bxb4 is just a transposition.) 10...Bxb4+ 11.Bd2 Nc6 12.Bb5 (12.Rc1 Bxd2+ 13.Kxd2 Ke7 14.Ke3 Bd7 15.Be2 e5 16.Rc3 f6= is also nothing for White.) 12...Bd7 13.Bxc6 (13.Rc1 Bxd2+ 14.Kxd2 Ke7 15.Ke3 Rac8 16.Bxc6 Bxc6 17.Nd4 Bd7 18.Nb3 e5 19.Nc5 b6 20.Nxd7 Kxd7= was completely equal in 1/2-1/2 (31) Malakhatko, V (2559) -Bacrot, E (2703) Geneve 2012) 13...Bxd2+ 14.Kxd2 Bxc6 15.Ke3 Ke7 16.Rac1 Rhc8 17.Nd4 Be8 18.e5 f6 19.f4 a5= White had no way through Black's fortress in 1/2-1/2 (23) Ivanchuk, V (2729)-Wei, Y (2739) Medias 2017]

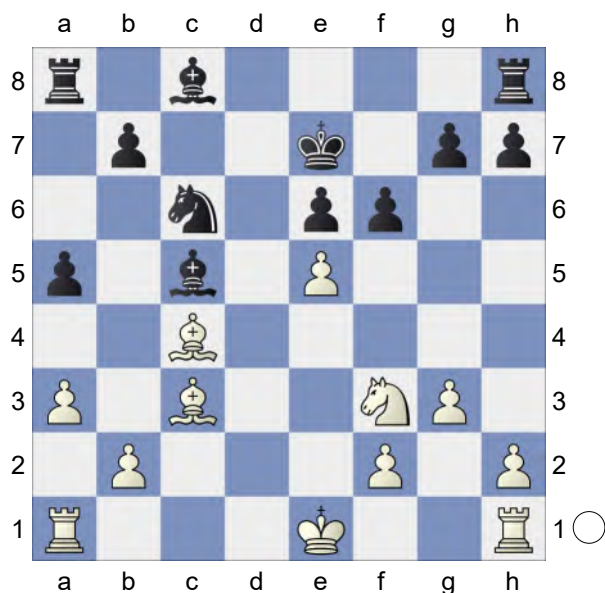
9...Nc6 10.Qc3 a5?!

[10...Bd7= and ...Rc8 was the easiest way to equalise - then the queen looks a bit strange on c3.]

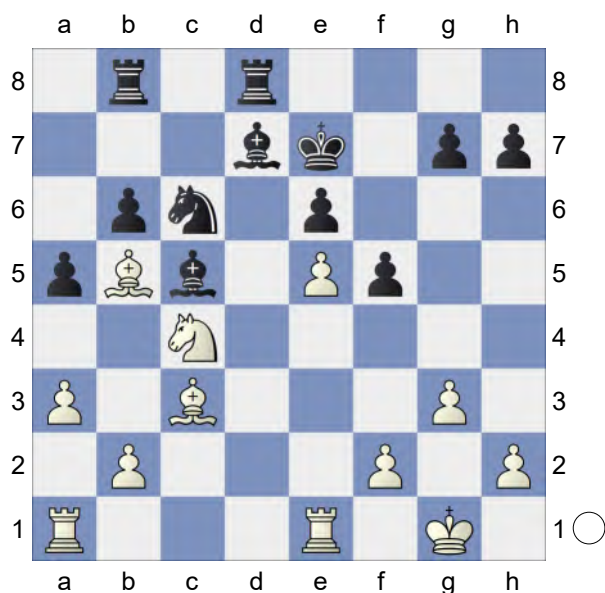


11.e4 Qc5 12.Bd2 Qxc3 13.Bxc3 f6

14.e5!± Now White has a real initiative thanks to Black's strange ...a5 move.
14...Bc5 15.Bc4 Ke7

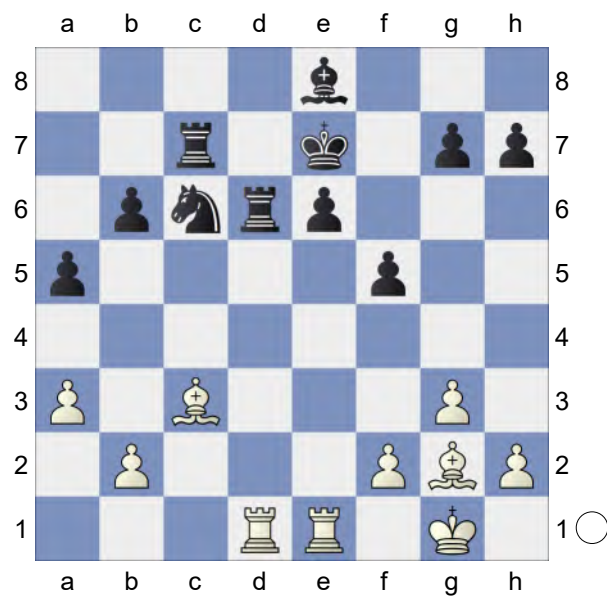


16.0-0 Rb8 17.Rfe1 f5 18.Bb5 Bd7 19.Nd2 Rhd8 20.Nc4 b6

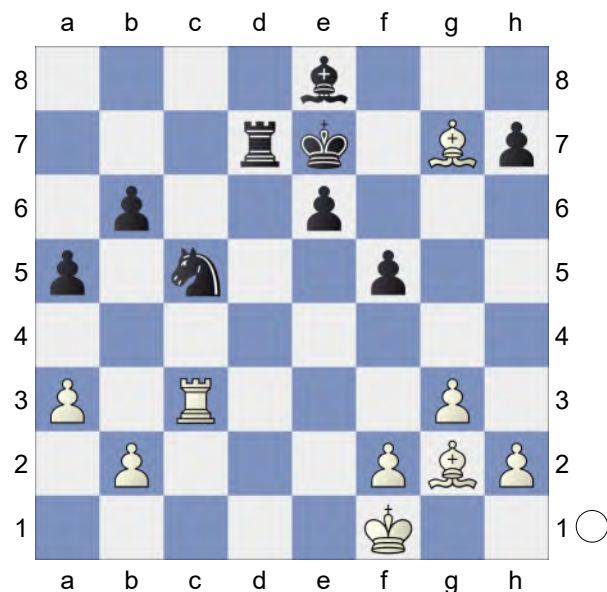


21.Rad1 Rbc8 22.Nd6 Rc7 23.Bf1 Be8 24.Bg2 Bxd6 25.exd6+ Rxd6

(Diagram)

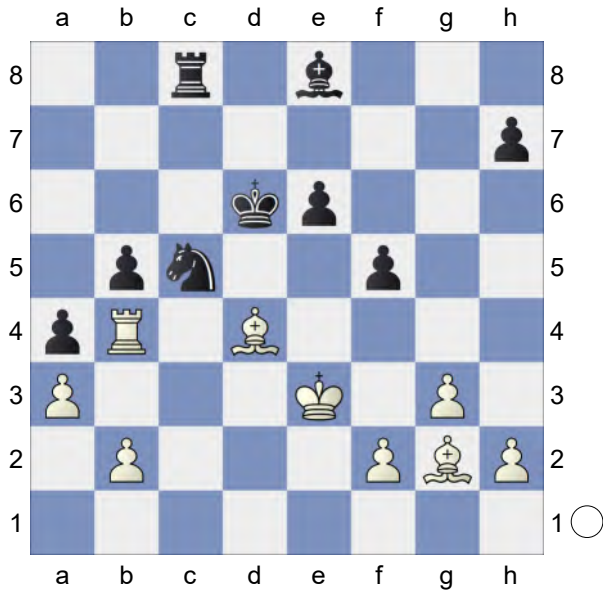


26.Bxg7 Rxd1 27.Rxd1 Rd7 28.Rc1 Nd4 29.Kf1 Nb3 30.Rc3 Nc5

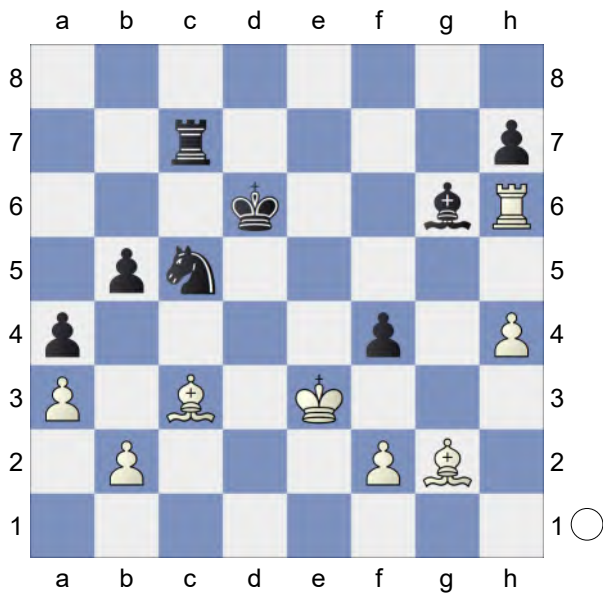


31.Ke2 Rd8 32.Ke3 a4 33.Bd4 Rc8 34.Rc4 Kd6 35.Rb4 b5

(Diagram)

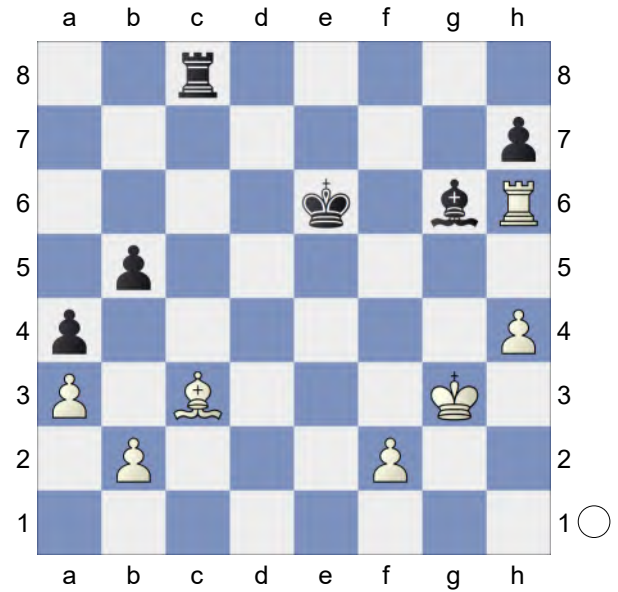


36.Bc3 e5 37.Rh4 Rc7 38.Rh6+ Bg6 1-0
39.h4 f4+ 40.gxf4 exf4+



41.Kxf4 Ne6+ 42.Kg4 Rc4+ 43.Kg3
Ke7 44.Bd5 Rc8 45.Bxe6 Kxe6

(Diagram)



271

□ Jakovenko, Dmitry

■ Wei, Yi

(m/2) 140/136

[Ivanisevic, Ivan]

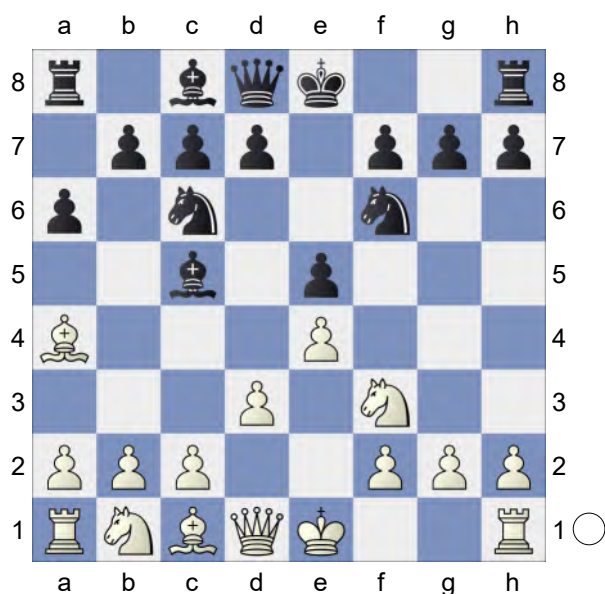
C77

2708

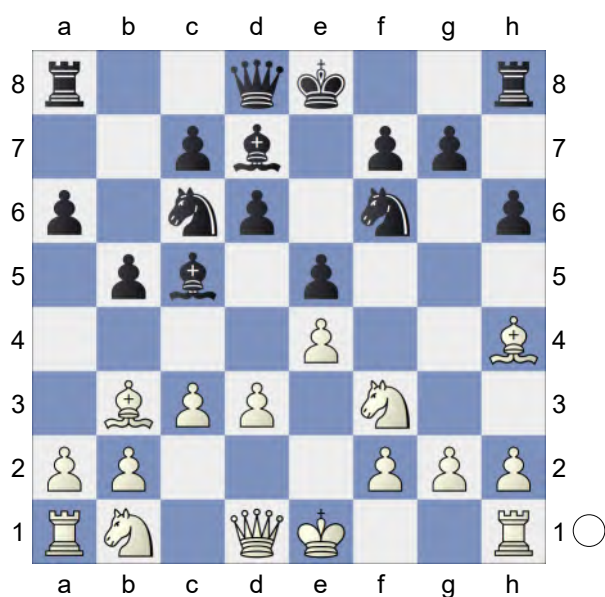
2736

2019

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4
Nf6 5.d3 Bc5



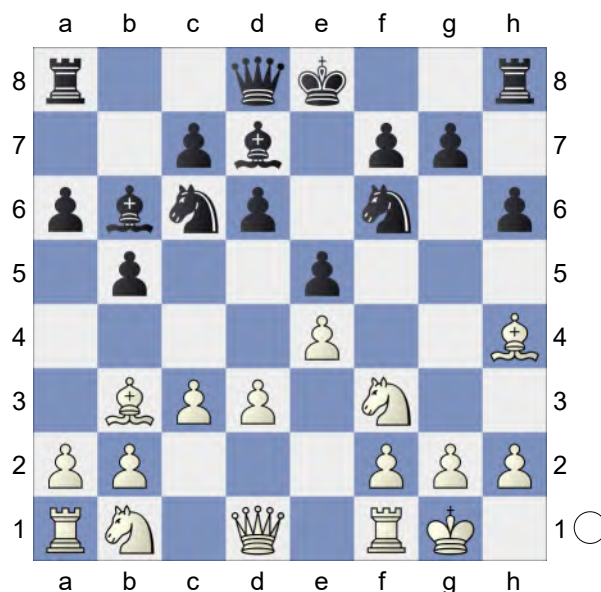
6.c3 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bh4
Bd7 Diagram



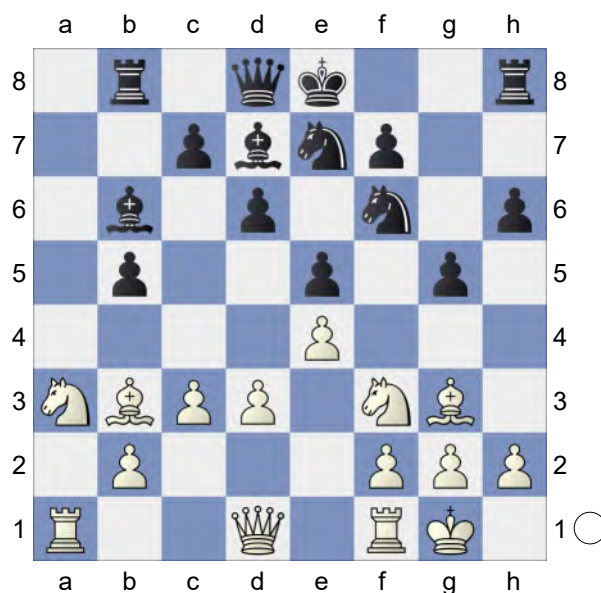
10.0-0N

[10.Nbd2 - 140/(136)]

10...Bb6



11.a4 Rb8 12.axb5 axb5 13.Na3 g5
14.Bg3 Ne7?! Diagram
[14...Na5 15.Ba2 0-0 16.Nc2±]

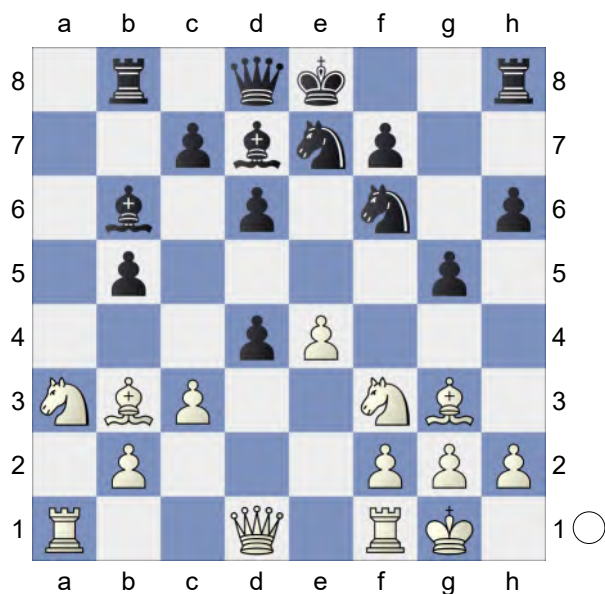


15.d4! exd4

[15...Nxe4 16.dxe5 Nxg3 17.hxg3
0-0 18.exd6 cxd6

A) 19.Qxd6 Nf5 20.Qd3 Bc8≡
(20...Nxg3?? 21.Qg6+-);

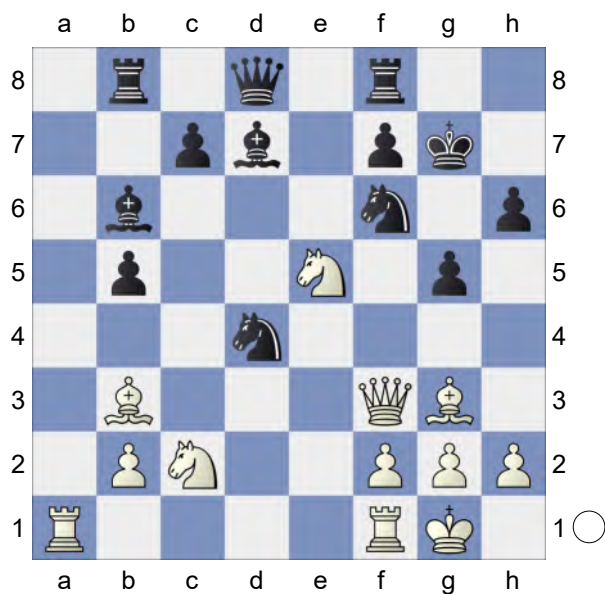
B) 19.Nc2 Be6 (19...Nf5 20.g4±)
20.Nb4±]



16.e5 dxe5 17.Nxe5 0-0 18.cxd4± Nf5 19.Nc2 Kg7 20.Qf3

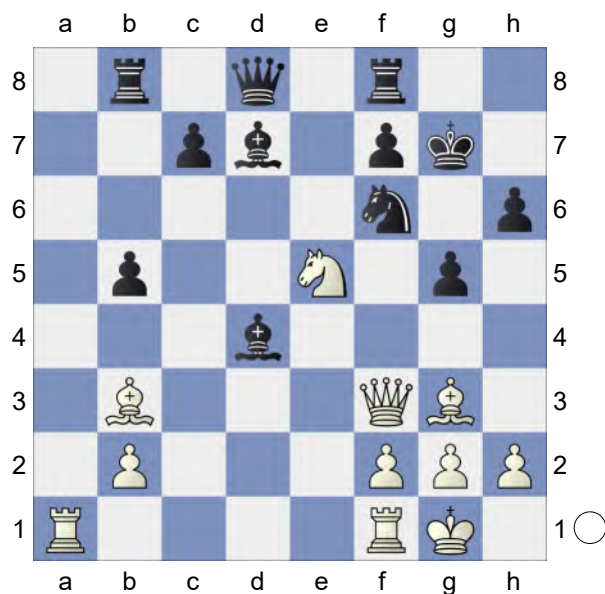
[20.Qd3 Nxg3 21.fxg3 (Δ ♔f7!) Be8 22.h4! Nd5 23.Kh2 f6 24.Bxd5 Qxd5 25.Ne3 Qe6 26.Nf5+ Kh8 27.Nxh6+-]

20...Nxd4



21.Nxd4 Bxd4 Diagram

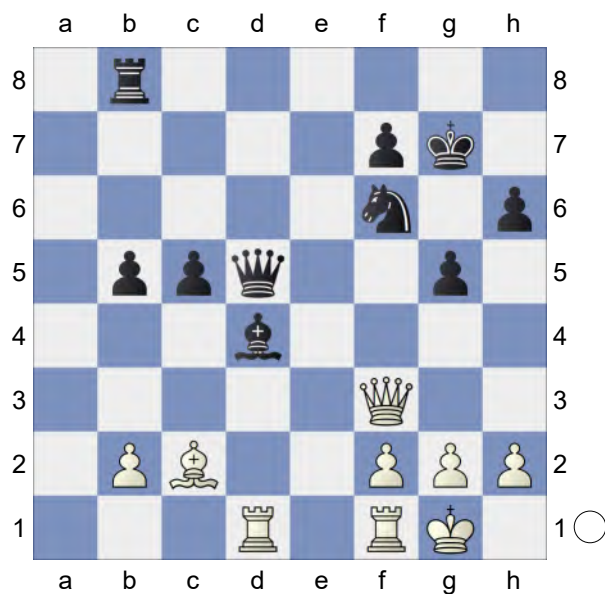
(Diagram)



22.Rad1?!

[22.Rfd1! c5 23.Ra7 Ra8 24.Rb7 Qe7 25.Nxd7 Nxd7 26.Qf5 Rfd8 27.Bc2 Kf8 (27...Qf6 28.Rxd7+-) 28.h4 gxh4 29.Bc7+-]

22...c5 23.Nxd7 Qxd7 24.Bxb8 Rxb8 25.Bc2 Qd5

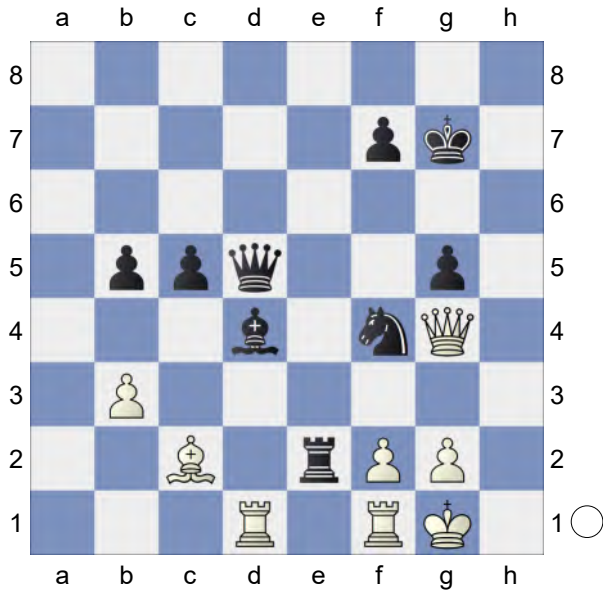


26.Qg3?!

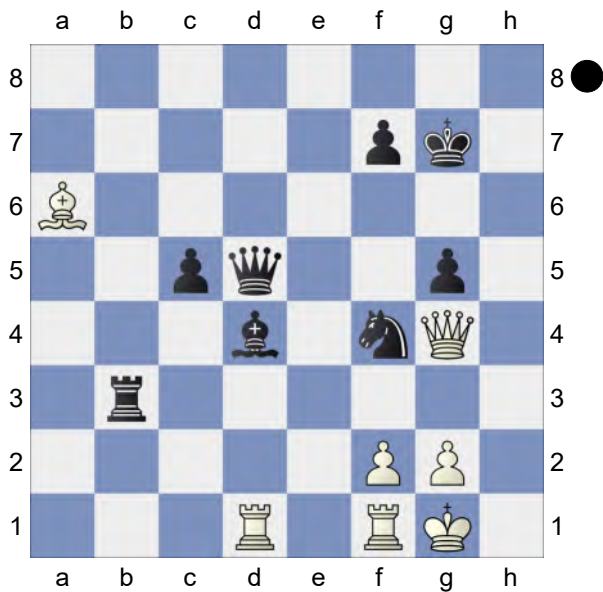
[26.Qxd5 Nxd5 27.Rd2±]

26...Re8 27.b3 Nh5 28.Qg4 Nf4 29.h4 Re2 30.hxg5 hxg5

(Diagram)

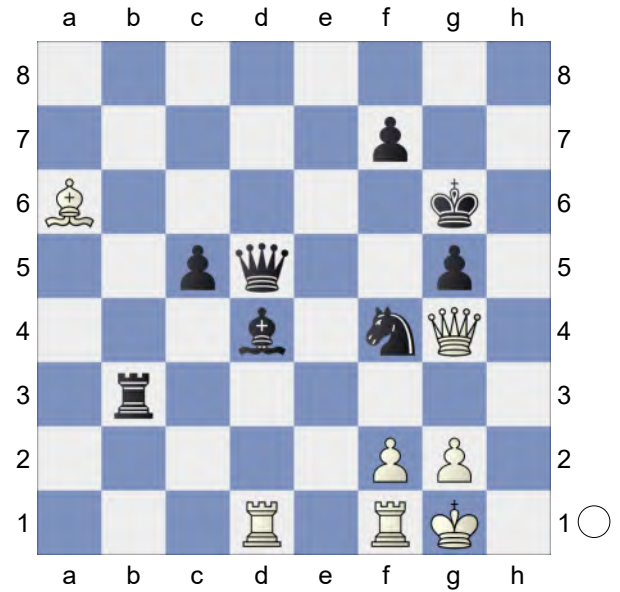


31.Bd3 Rb2 32.Bxb5?
 [32.Bf5 Kf6 33.Bh7 Rxb3+]
32...Rxb3 33.Ba6 Diagram



33...Kg6!

(Diagram)



[Δ f5!]
0-1

315

□ Dubov, Daniil

■ Wei, Yi

chess24.com (Int.-rapid) 147/(167) 2020

[Ivanisevic, Ivan]

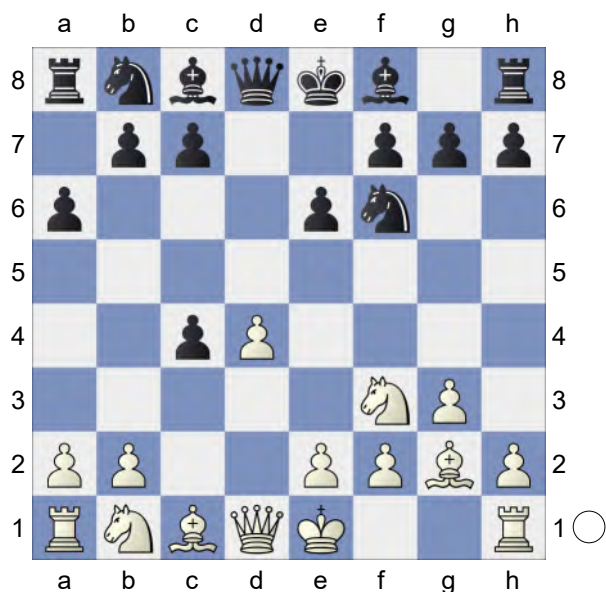
E04

2699

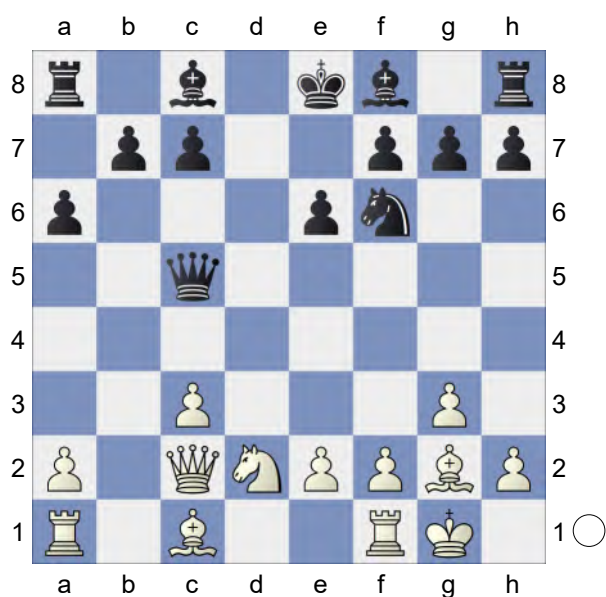
2732

2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.g3 dxc4
5.Bg2 a6



6.0-0 Nc6 7.Qc2 Nxd4 8.Nxd4 Qxd4
9.Nd2 c3 10.bxc3 Qc5



11.Rb1 Be7 12.Ne4 Nxe4 * 13.Bxe4
h6

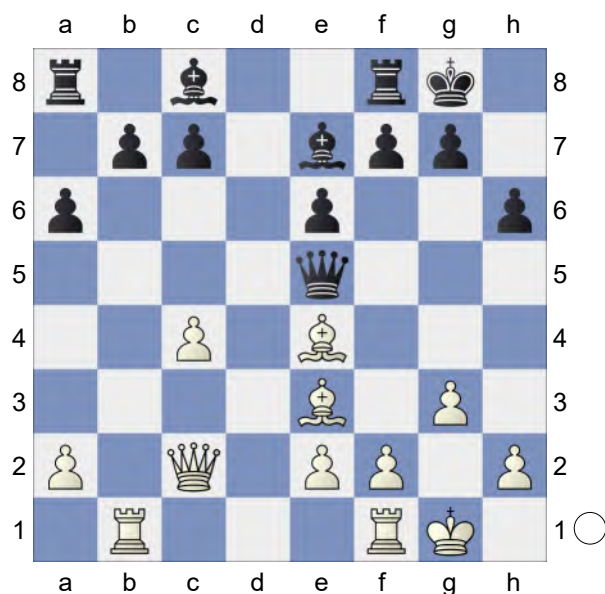
[13...c6]

14.c4

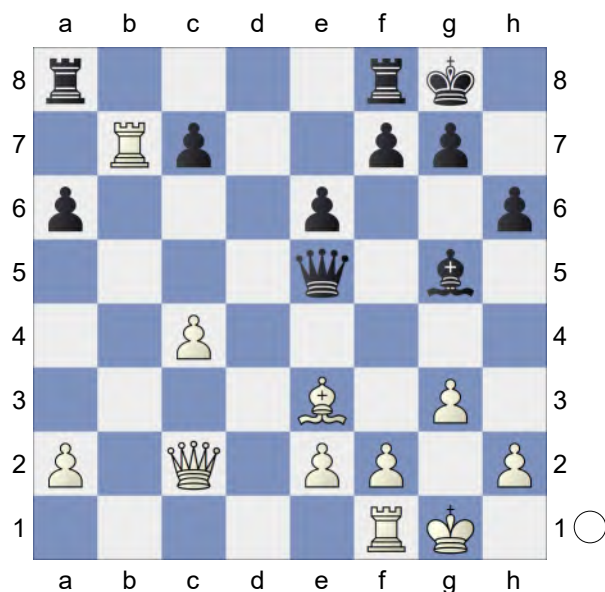
[14.Bxb7 Bxb7 15.Rxb7 Qc6

16.Rb3 0-0]

14...0-0 15.Be3 Qe5

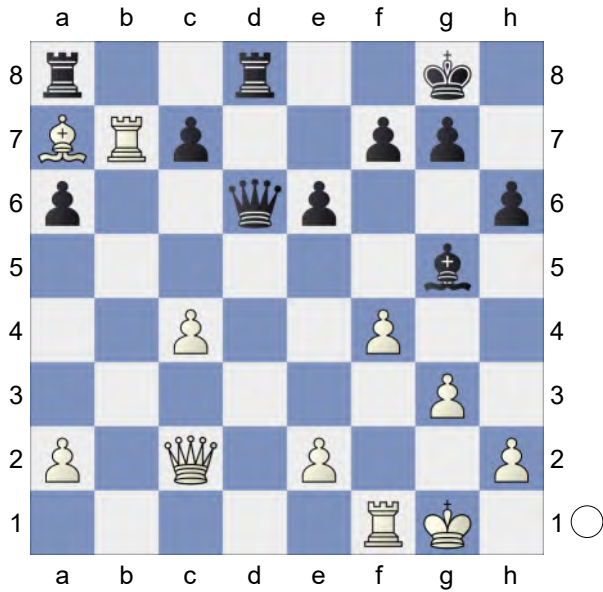


16.Bxb7 Bxb7 17.Rxb7 Bg5 Diagram

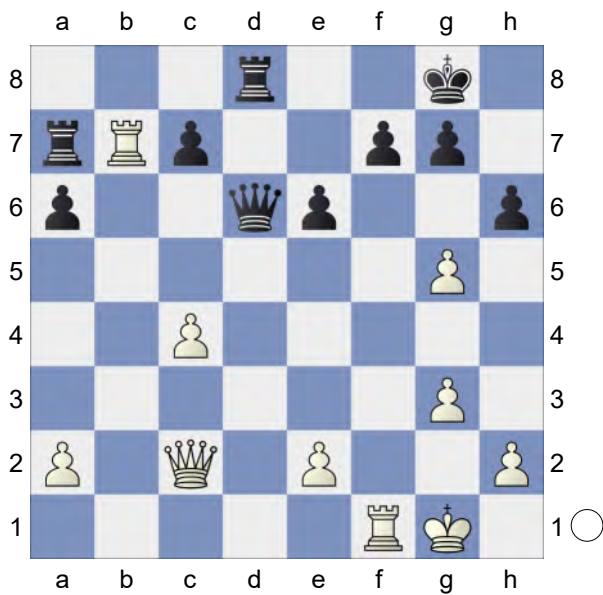


18.Ba7N Rfd8 19.f4 Qd6 Diagram

(Diagram)

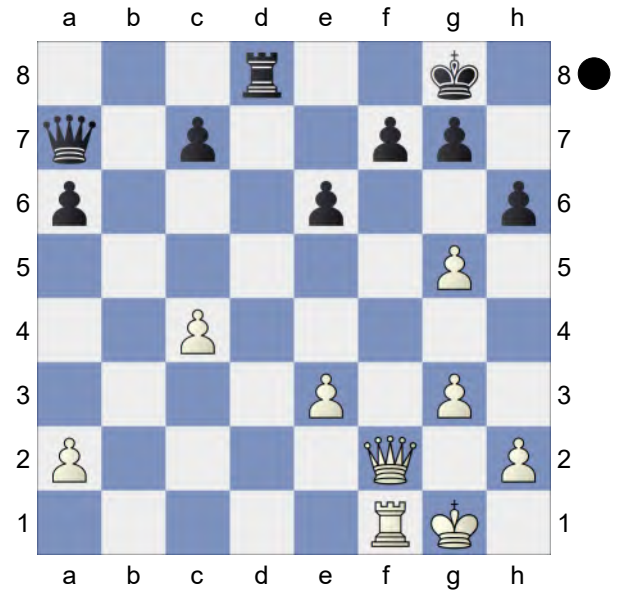


20.fxg5?! Rxa7



21.Rxa7 Qb6+ 22.e3!↑ Qxa7 23.Qf2

(Diagram)



314

□ Dubov, Daniil

■ Wei, Yi

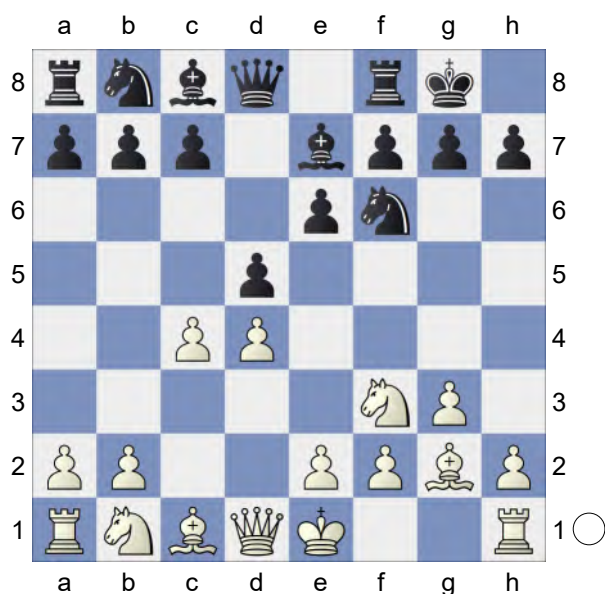
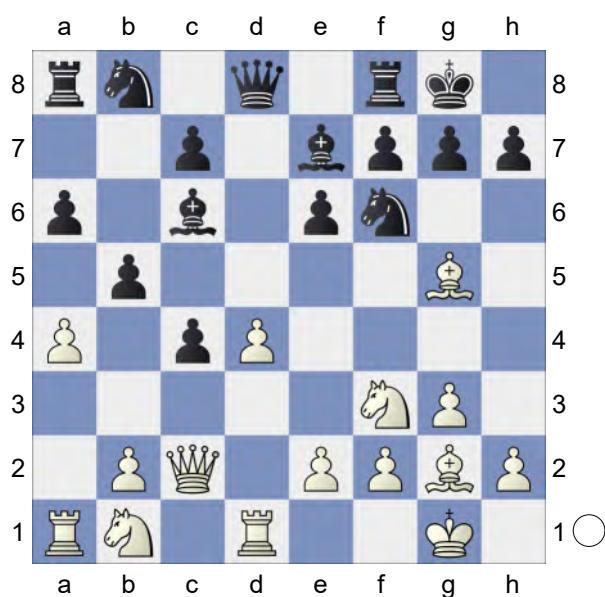
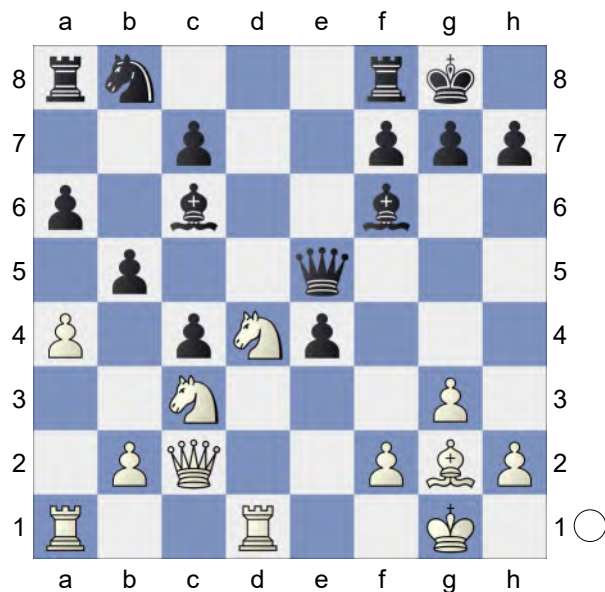
chess24.com (Int.-rapid) 147/(167) 2020
[Ivanisevic, Ivan]

E05

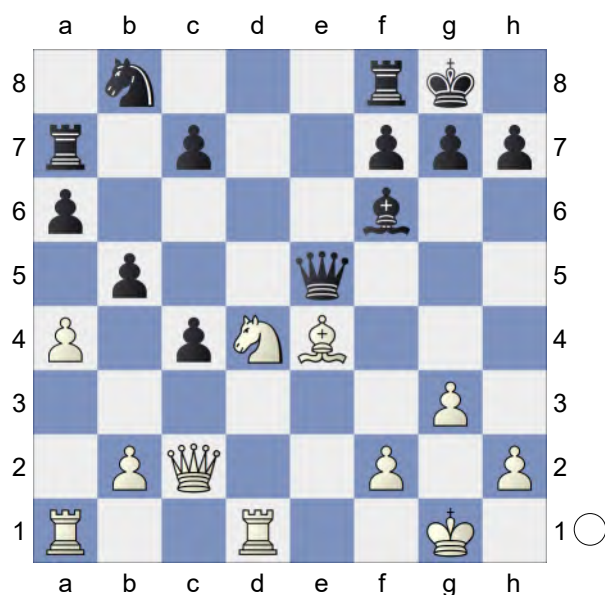
2699

2732

2020

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.d4 d5 4.g3 Be7
5.Bg2 0-06.0-0 dxc4 7.Qc2 a6 8.a4 Bd7 9.Bg5
Bc6 10.Rd1 b511.Bxf6 Bxf6 12.Nc3 Qe8 * 13.d5
exd5 14.Nd4 Qe5 15.e4 dxe4

16.Nxe4 Bxe4 17.Bxe4 Ra7 Diagram



18.axb5N

[18.Nf3 Qxb2 19.Bxh7+ Kh8 20.Qf5
g6 21.Qc5 Bg7 22.Qxa7 Qf6∞]

18...Qc5 19.Nc6 Nxc6 Diagram

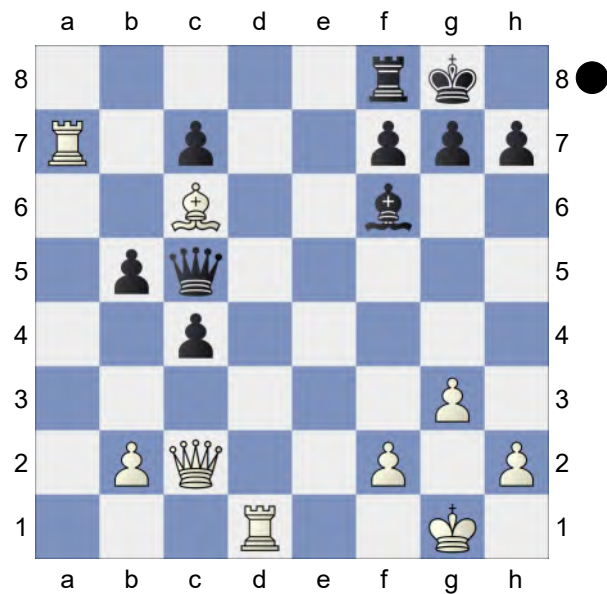
(Diagram)

[20.Rd5 Qb4 (20...Qxd5 21.Bxd5
axb5 22.Rxa7 Nxa7 ∞) 21.Bxh7+
Kh8 22.Rh5 g6 23.Bxg6+ Kg7
24.Rh7+ Kg8 25.Bxf7+ Rxf7
26.Qg6+ Bg7 27.Rxg7+ Rxg7
28.Qe6+ Rf7 29.Qg6+ Kf8
30.Qh6+=]
[20.bxc6 g6=]

The chessboard diagram shows a game state with the following pieces:

- White pieces:**
 - Rook on a1
 - Pawn on b2
 - Queen on c2
 - Rook on d1
 - Pawn on f2
 - King on g1
 - Pawn on h2
 - Pawn on g3
- Black pieces:**
 - Rook on a7
 - Pawn on b5
 - Bishop on c3
 - Pawn on c7
 - Pawn on d7
 - Pawn on f7
 - King on g7
 - Pawn on h7
 - Pawn on f6

[21.Rxa7 Qxc6!↑]



97

□ Wei, Yi

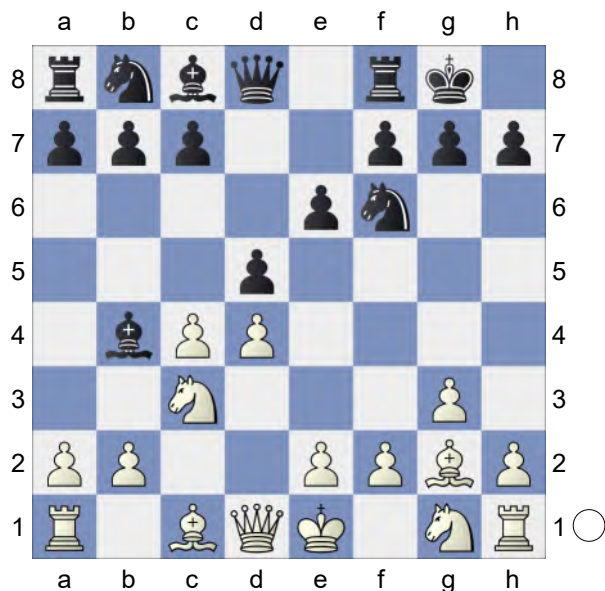
■ Zhao Jun

TCh-2017 Chiva CHN (18.2) 04.11.2017
[John Emms]

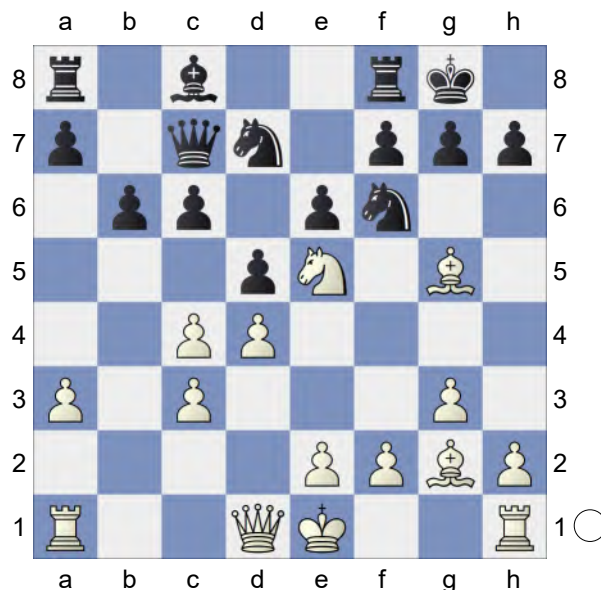
E20

2739

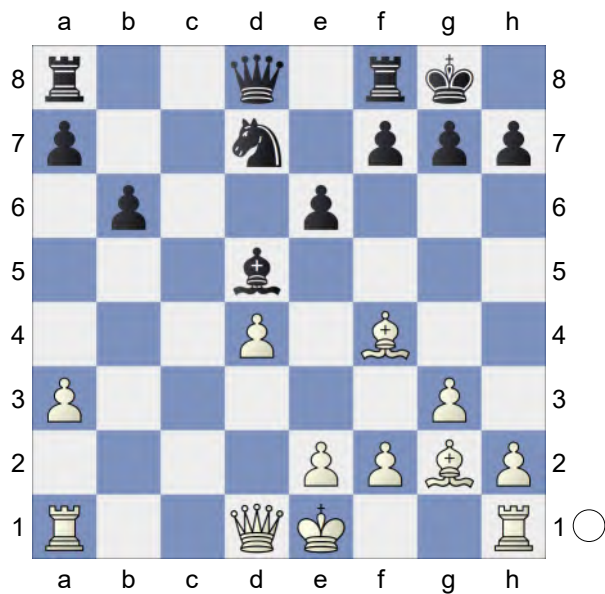
2601

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3[The Nimzo-Indian move order is
3.Nc3 Bb4 4.g3 0-0 5.Bg2 d5]**3...d5 4.Bg2 Bb4+ 5.Nc3** In the 4...
Bb4+ Catalan, 5 Bd2 is normal and 5
Nbd2 is also played. Transposing to the
Nimzo-Indian with 5 Nc3 is relatively
rare. **5...0-0****6.a3** This move has been played by
Mamedyarov on a few occasions, as well
as Nakamura, Topalov and Wei Yi on a
previous occasion.[White's most popular choice here has
been 6.Nf3 , which offers a Catalan-
style gambit. See the notes to
Sambuev,B-Wei Yi/ Tbilisi 2017.]**6...Bxc3+**

[6...Be7 is equally playable.]

7.bxc3 c6 A typical idea which allows ...
cxd5, a more desirable recapture on d5
if White plays cxd5. Black aims to followup by putting pressure on the c4-pawn
to induce White into the pawn swap.[7...dxc4 is the main alternative and is
covered in Sadorra, J-Wang Hao/
Chengdu 2017.]**8.Nf3 b6 9.Bg5 Nbd7** The first new
move.[9...Ba6 10.Bxf6!? (10.Ne5)
10...Qxf6 11.Ne5 Bxc4 12.Nxc4
dxc4 13.0-0 with decent
compensation for White, Gozzoli,Y-
Fressinet,L/ Agen 2016.]**10.Ne5 Qc7****11.Nxd7 Nxd7 12.Bf4! Qd8 13.cxd5**
cxd5 14.c4! A key move.[Delaying the push in favour of 14.0-0
allows Ba6! Black prevents c4 and is
fine.]**14...Bb7**[Perhaps Black has better options
here with 14...Nf6!? and on the 16th
move with ...Bc4.]**15.cxd5 Bxd5**

(Diagram)



16.e4 Bb7

[16...Bc4!?]

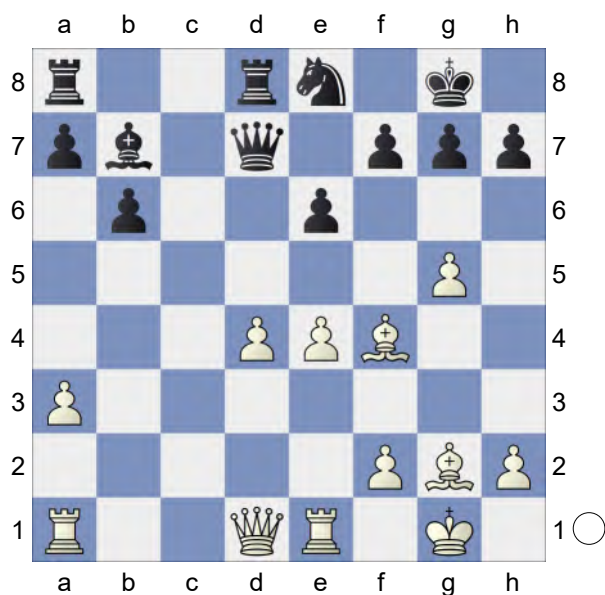
17.0-0 Nf6 18.Re1± The bishop pair and the pawn centre give White a pleasant edge. **18...Qd7 19.g4!?**

Wei Yi goes for the most aggressive approach, although objectively it might not be the best.

[19.a4 intending a5]

[or 19.Be5 are logical alternatives to keep the advantage.]

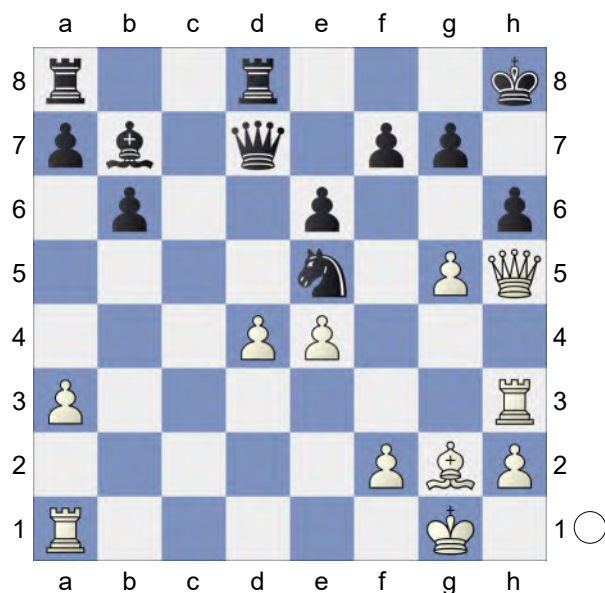
19...Rfd8! 20.g5 Ne8



21.Be5 Nd6 22.Qg4 Kh8 23.Re3

[23.Rac1 Rac8 24.d5! is still better for White.]

23...Nc4! 24.Rh3 Nxe5 25.Qh5 h6



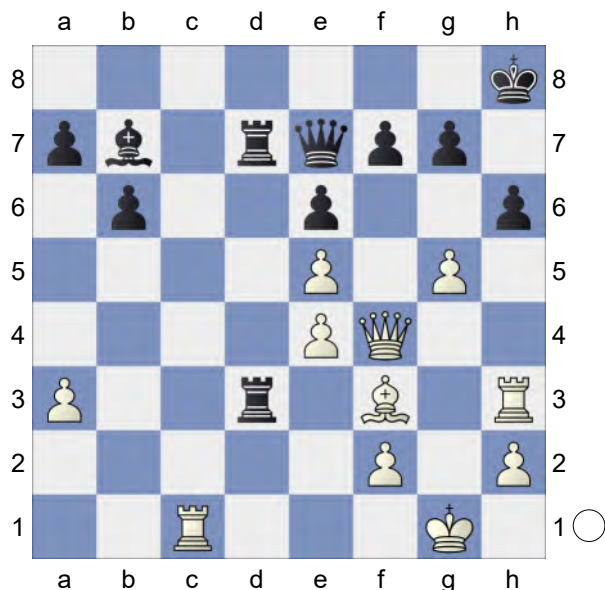
26.dxe5 Qe7! Planning to meet 27 gxh6 with 27...g6! when White's h-pawn acts as a useful shield for Black's king. By going 'all in' White has lost his advantage, Black has counterplay and the position is unclear. **27.Qh4 Rd7**

[27...Kg8!?]

28.Qf4 Rad8 29.Bf3 Rd3! 30.Rc1 R8d7?

[30...Bxe4! is strong here. I guess that Wei Yi's intention was 31.gxh6 (31.Qxe4? Qxg5+) 31...g6 32.Rc7! but Black has g5!]

(Diagram)

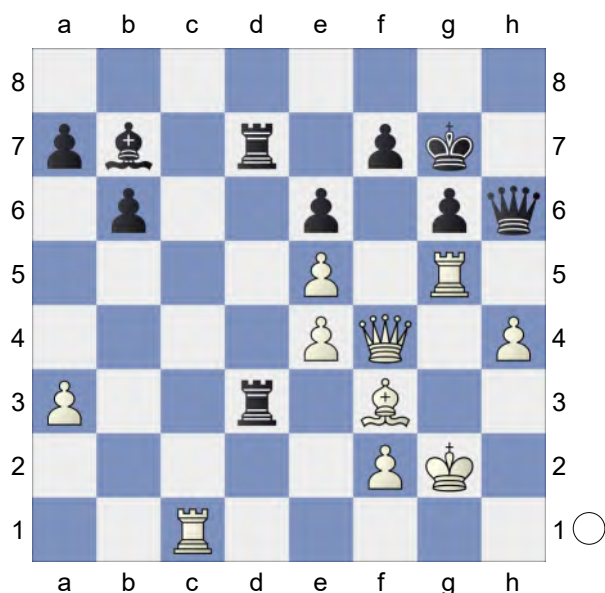


Zhao misses a chance. **31.gxh6** **g6**
32.Rg3! Now White has the plan of h4-h5, and the position becomes difficult for Black to defend. **32...Kh7**

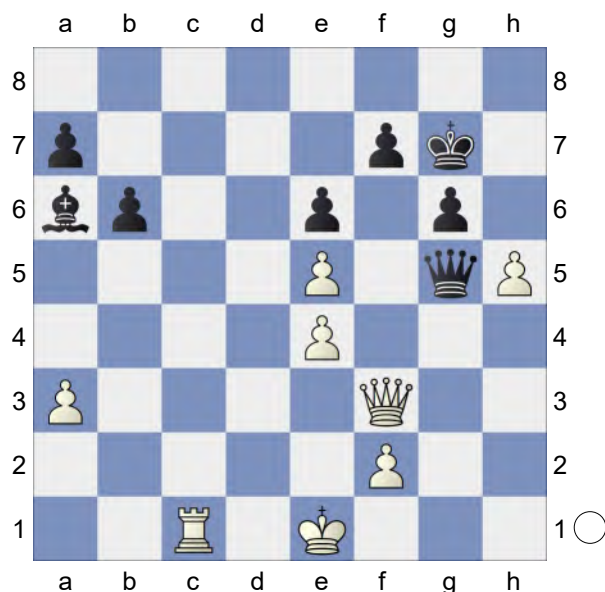
[32...Rxa3! 33.h4 Kh7 34.h5 Rad3! 35.Kh2 Rd8! intending 36.Rcg1 Rg8 and Black is just about hanging on.]

33.h4 Qf8? Going after the wrong pawn. [33...Rxa3! 34.h5 Rad3 as in the previous note, was Black's best chance.]

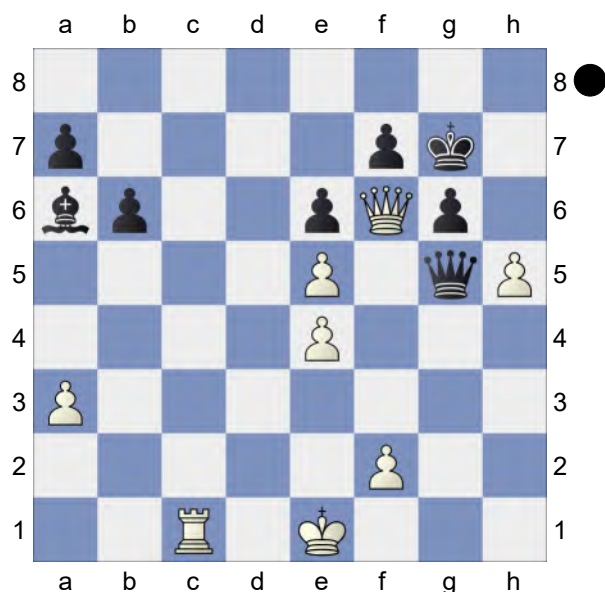
34.Kg2! Qxh6? 35.Rg5! Now White's attack will be decisive. **35...Kg7**



36.h5 Rxf3 37.Kxf3 Rd3+ 38.Ke2 Ba6 39.Ke1 Rf3 40.Qxf3 Qxg5



41.Qf6+



1-0

193

□ Wei, Yi

■ Karjakin, Sergey

FIDE Grand Prix (2.2)

[John Emms]

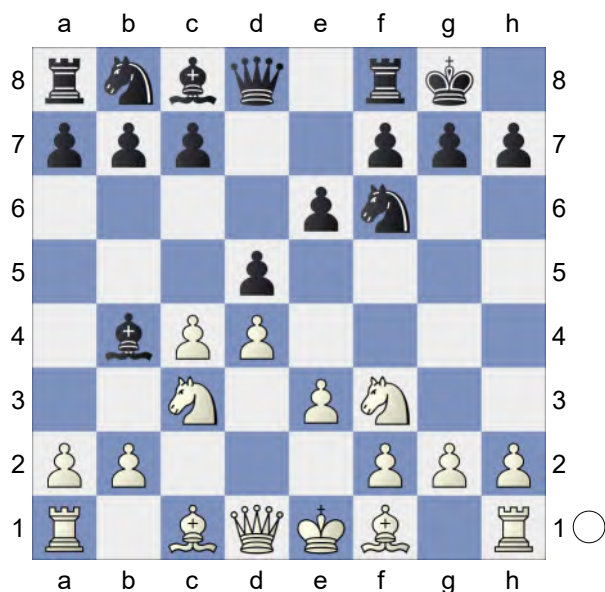
E52

2725

2754

15.12.2019

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nf3
0-0 5.e3 d5



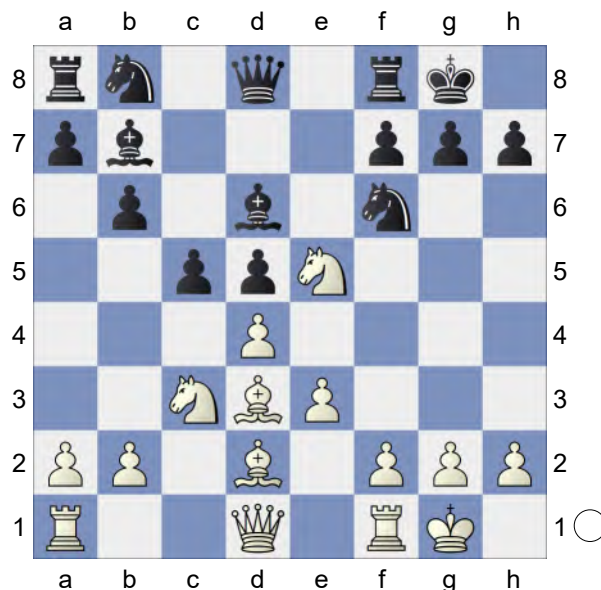
6.Bd2 We can now add Wei Yi to the list of 2700+ grandmasters who have been persuaded by Bd2 against the Nimzo. **6...b6 7.cxd5 exd5 8.Bd3 Bb7 9.Ne5!?** Wei Yi plays an early Ne5, which allows White to meet ...Nbd7 with f2-f4 and recapture on e5 with the f-pawn.

[9.0-0]

[and 9.Rc1 are the most popular choices.]

9...Bd6! Karjakin exploits the delay in Rc1. With a rook on c1, Black would have to prepare ...Bd6 with ...a6 to prevent Nb5, but doesn't need to here.
10.0-0 c5

(Diagram)

**11.Rc1**

[11.Nb5 doesn't achieve anything. After Be7 12.Rc1 a6 (12...Nbd7 also looks okay) 13.Nc3 Nc6 we reach a position very similar to one we've previously covered (Ponomarev, R-Yilmaz, M/Douglas 2019), except that Black has gained a useful move in ...a6.]

11...Nc6 12.Ng4! The most challenging.

[12.f4 cxd4! 13.Nxc6 Bxc6 14.exd4 Re8 looks fine for Black. (or 14...Qd7)]

12...Nd7!? Engines initially don't like this move because of the tactical possibility chosen by Wei Yi, but in fact the assessment is far from clear.

[12...cxd4 13.exd4 Nxd4 14.Bg5! Be7 15.Bxh7+! Kxh7 16.Qxd4 Nxg4 17.Bxe7 Qxe7 18.Qxg4 looks a little more comfortable for White.]

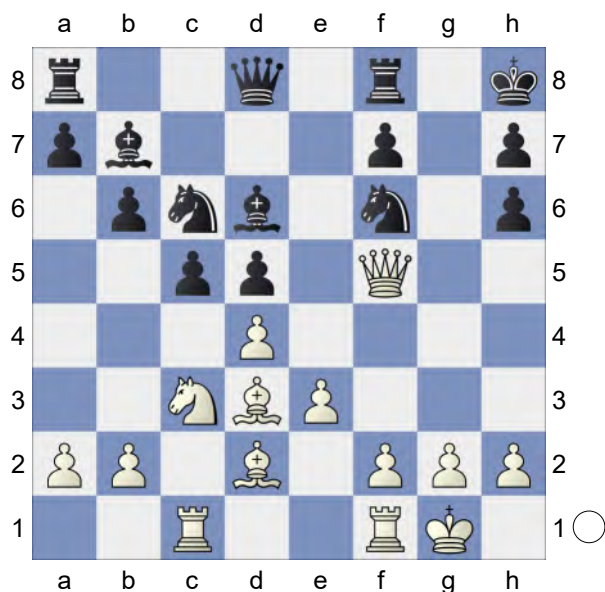
[An earlier high-level encounter continued 12...Nxg4 13.Qxg4 c4 14.Bb1 Ne7 15.Nb5 (maybe 15.Qh3 f5 16.f3 intending e3-e4 is better) 15...f5! 16.Qe2 a6 (16...Bb8!?) 17.Nxd6 Qxd6 18.f3 b5 19.Be1 Ng6 and now a slightly odd repetition

ended the game: 20.Ba5 Ne7 21.Be1 Ng6 (21...a5; 21...b4) 22.Ba5 Ne7 23.Be1 1/2-1/2 Nakamura,H-Giri,A/ Saint Louis 2019.]

13.Nh6+! Not forced (13 Qf3 and 13 f4 are alternatives) but tempting nevertheless. The next few moves are forced. **13...gxh6**

[13...Kh8 14.Qh5!]

14.Qg4+ Kh8 15.Qf5 Nf6



16.Nxd5! Nxd4! 17.Qxf6+

[17.exd4? Bxd5 18.dxc5 fails to Rg8! (not 18...Bxc5?? 19.Bc3 and White wins) 19.g3 Be6!-+]

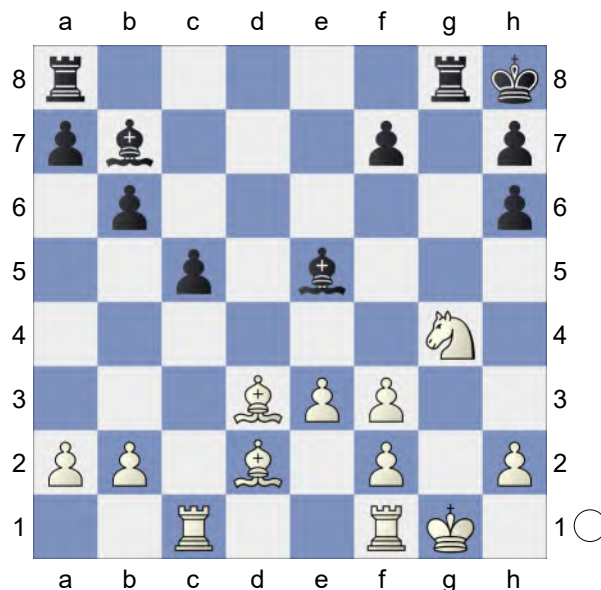
17...Qxf6 18.Nxf6 Nf3+! Both players continue accurately.

[18...Be5 19.exd4 Bxf6 20.dxc5 is better for White, as Rfd8 21.Bc3! avoids losing a bishop.]

19.gxf3 Rg8+! 20.Ng4 Be5!

[20...Bxf3?? 21.Bc3+]

(Diagram)



21.Be2! Bxb2

[21...h5 is close to equal. After 22.b4 hxg4 23.fxg4 cxb4 24.Bxb4 Black has the resource Ba6!]

22.Rxc5! An excellent choice by Wei Yi.

[After 22.Rb1 Bf6! Black will regain his piece with ...h5 and his queenside pawn majority looks more dangerous than White's on the other side.]

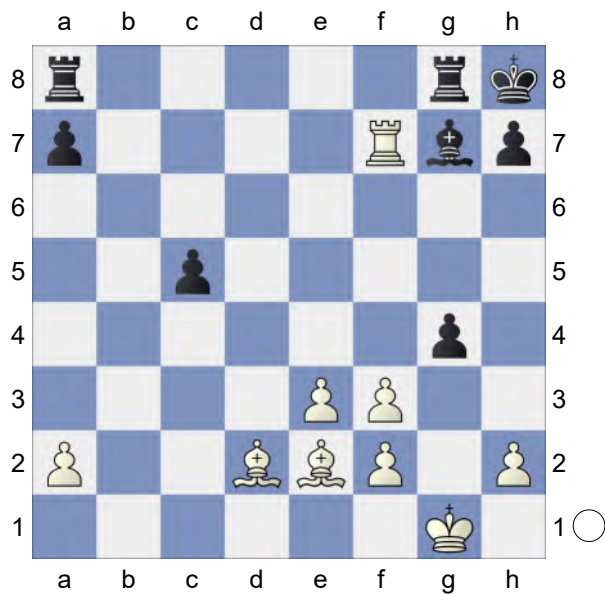
22...bxc5 23.Rb1 Bg7 24.Rxb7 h5

25.Rxf7 Wei Yi understandably grabs a second pawn for the exchange, and the resulting position is equal.

[White could also consider keeping his rook with 25.Bc4!? hxg4 26.fxg4]

25...hxg4

(Diagram)

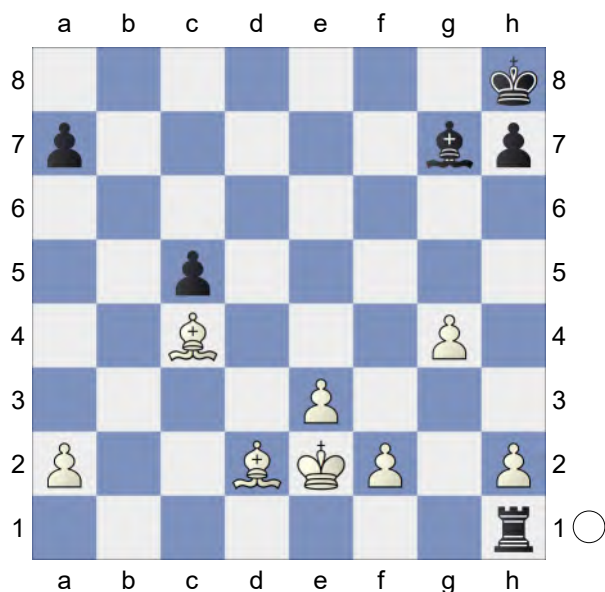


26.fxg4 Rgf8 27.Rxf8+ Rxf8 28.Kf1
[28.Kg2!?]

28...Rb8 29.Bc4 Rb1+ 30.Ke2!
Wei Yi gives up the h-pawn to centralise
his king and sideline the rook.

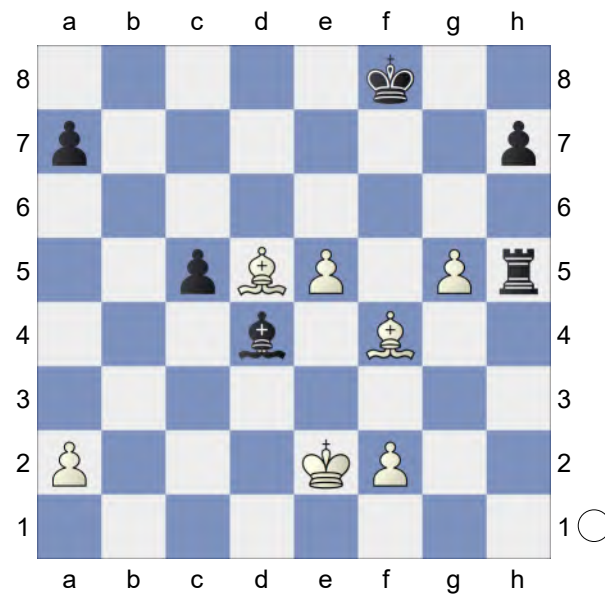
[White has to avoid 30.Kg2? Rd1
31.Ba5 Rc1 followed by ...c4.]

30...Rh1



31.Bd5 Rxh2 32.g5 Rh5 33.e4 Bd4
34.Bf4 Kg7 35.e5 Kf8

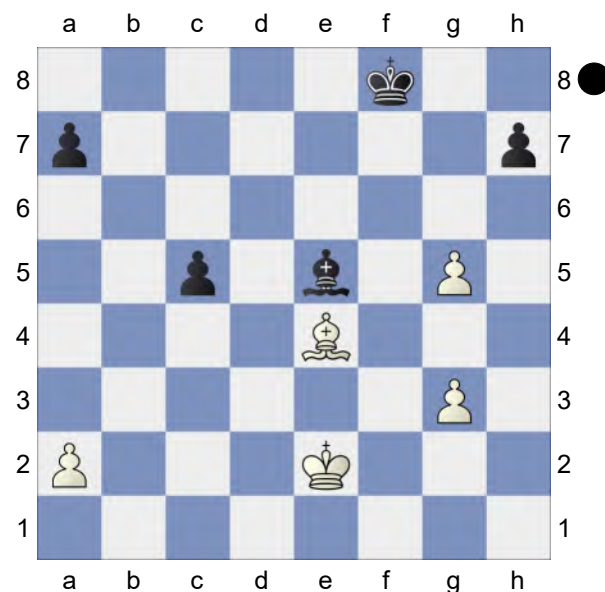
(Diagram)



36.Bf3 Rh4 37.Bg3 Rh3 38.Bg2
Rxg3 Liquidating to a draw.

[38...Rh5 keeps the game going, but
Black isn't better. After, for example,
39.f4 c4 40.Be4 c3 41.Kf3 Rh1
42.f5 Rc1 43.Ke2 it's Black who
needs to be careful.]

39.fxg3 Bxe5 40.Be4



An early Ne5 is an interesting option for
White. Karjakin reacted logically with 9...
Bd6 and 10...c5, but 12 Ng4! ensures
that Black doesn't get an easy equality.
Karjakin's 12...Nbd7!?, allowing 13 Nh6+,

is certainly provocative but, as analysis shows, not necessarily bad!

$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

340

E54

□ Wang, Yue

2684

■ Wei, Yi

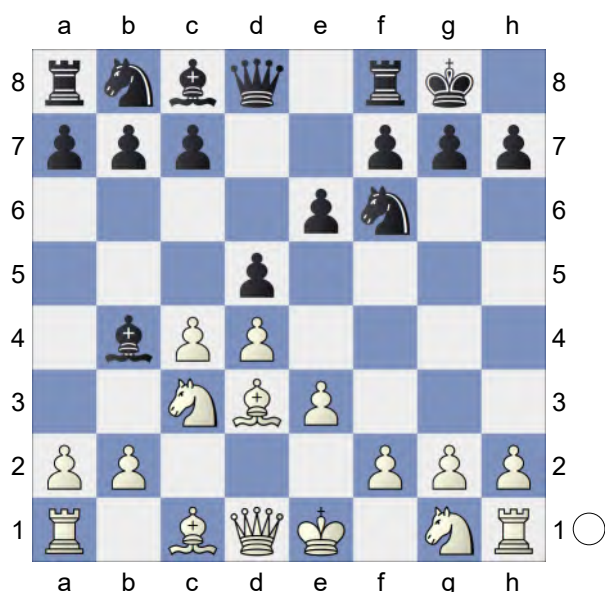
2728

TCh-CHN 2019 (2.4)

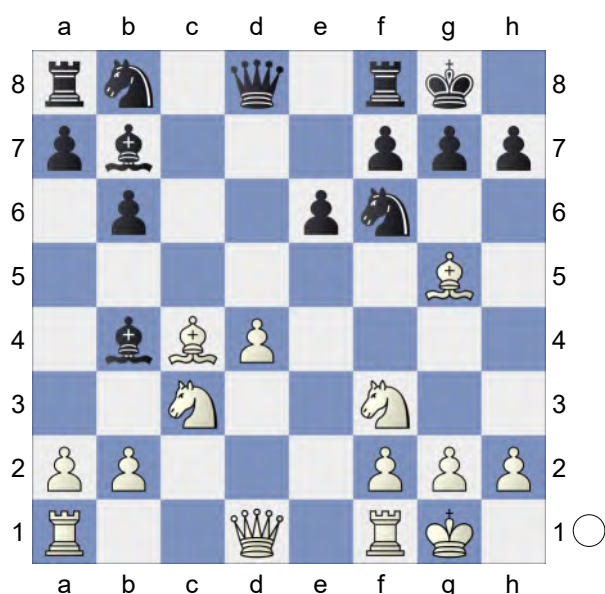
10.04.2019

[John Emms]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3
0-0 5.Bd3 d5



6.Nf3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 c5 8.0-0 cxd4
9.exd4 b6 10.Bg5 Bb7



11.Rc1 Nc6

[As mentioned before, it's possible

that if Black is going to play ...h6, this might be the best time to do so, because it means that Bf4 may be met by ...Bd6 without losing time with ...Be7: 11...h6 12.Bh4 (12.Bf4 Nc6 13.a3 Bd6! is the point) 12...Nc6 13.a3 (for 13.Bd3 see the notes to Sokolov,I-Leko,P/Wijk aan Zee 2013) 13...Be7 transposes to Vachier Lagrave,M-So,W/Leuven 2018, where we saw that 14.Re1 (14.Ba2; or 14.Qd3 might be wiser) 14...Nh5! 15.Bg3 Nxc3 16.hxc3 Bf6! 17.d5 Na5! was more than fine for Black.]

12.a3 Be7

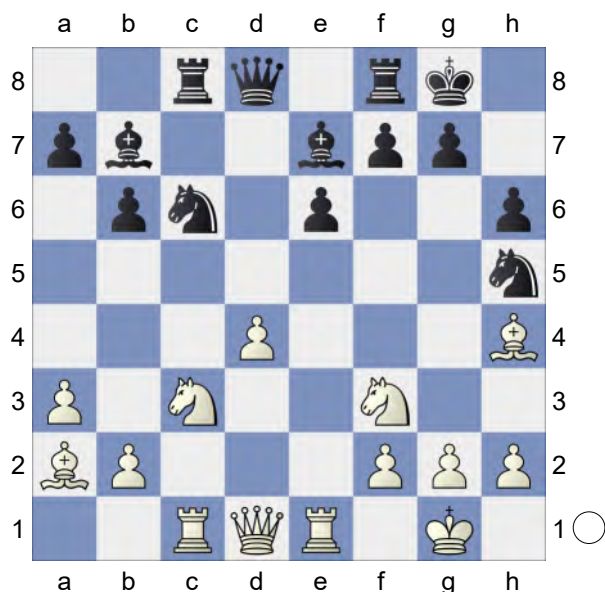
[12...Bxc3!? has scored well for Black - see the notes to Brunner, N-Alekseev,E/Skopje 2015.]

13.Ba2 Both players are following the game Flores,D-Shankland,S/Montevideo 2018, which was previously covered here.

[13.Re1! h6 14.Bf4! (14.Bh4 Nh5! would transpose to Vachier Lagrave-So, above) 14...Bd6 15.Ne5 is challenging for Black - see the notes to Repka, C-Levin,E/Krakow 2018.]

13...Rc8 14.Re1 h6 15.Bh4 Nh5

(Diagram)



16.Bg3 Nxg3 17.hxg3 Bf6 18.d5! Bxc3 Finally the game varies, and it's Wei Yi who is the first to deviate.

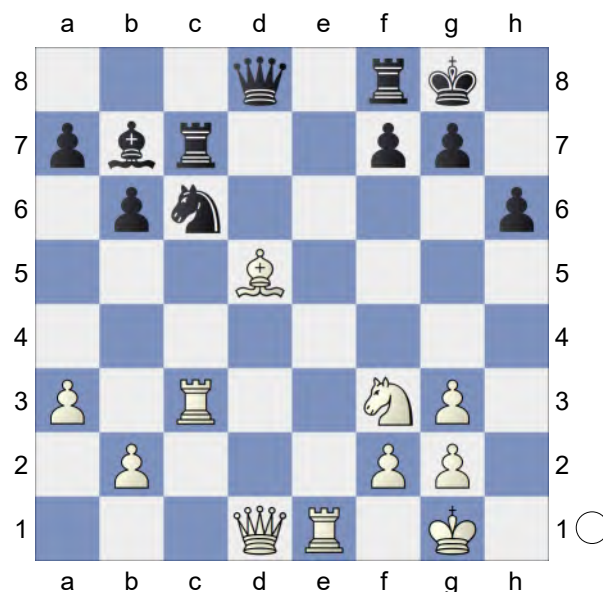
[The Flores-Shankland game went 18...exd5 19.Nxd5! Bxb2 20.Rc2 Bxa3 21.Rd2! when Black was under considerable pressure - see the notes to that game. Instead Wei Yi declines the pawns and tries to neutralise White's pressure with an exchange of minor pieces.]

19.Rxc3 exd5 20.Bxd5 Rc7!

[For example, the plausible 20...Re8? runs into the combination 21.Bxf7+! Kxf7 22.Rd3! Rxe1+ 23.Nxe1 followed by Rd7+ and Rxb7.]

[20...Na5 is another option, but after 21.Rd3 Qf6 22.Ne5! Bxd5 23.Rxd5 White still has a slight initiative.]

(Diagram)



A good move, defending the second rank and preparing ...Rd7. Despite the simplification, Black has to tread carefully here. **21.Ree3** Planning Red3. Wang Yue chooses to put his rooks on the c- and d-files rather than the e- and d-files.

[21.Rd3 Rd7 22.Rd2 To prevent the idea of ...Nb4. (22.b4? Nxb4!) 22...Na5 (or 22...Qf6) 23.Bxb7 Rxd2 24.Qxd2 Nxb7 and Black has equalised. If 25.Qxd8 Rxd8! 26.Re7 Nc5 27.Rxa7 Rd1+ 28.Kh2 Nd3 and Black regains the pawn.]

21...Re7!

[21...Rd7 22.Red3! Nb4?! doesn't work here. (22...Re8?? 23.Bxf7+!; 22...Qe8!) 23.Bxf7+! Rxf7 24.axb4 and White is a pawn ahead.]

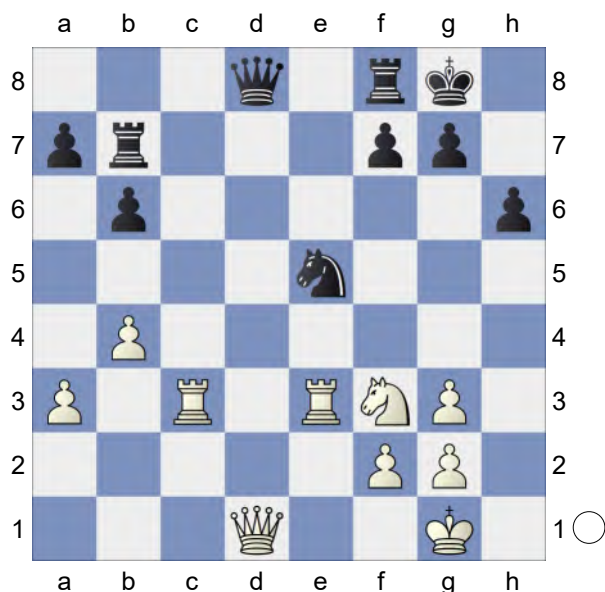
22.Red3 Qe8! Initially this looks awkward for Black, but in fact White can do nothing to prevent Black's next move.

[22...Rd7? makes no sense given that the rook has just moved to e7. Furthermore, 23.Bxc6 Bxc6 24.Rxd7 Qxd7 (24...Bxd7 25.Rd3) 25.Qxd7 Bxd7 26.Rc7 wins the a7-pawn.]

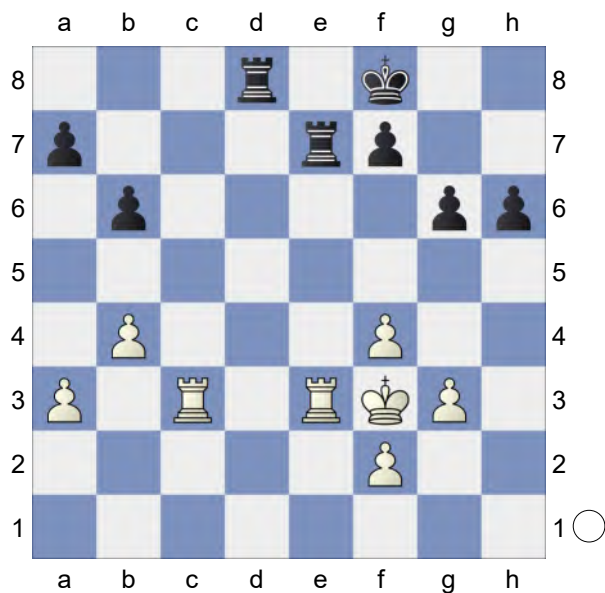
23.b4 Ne5! Liquidating the minor pieces

and solving all of Black's problems.

24.Bxb7 Rxb7 25.Re3 Qd8!



**26.Qxd8 Nxf3+ 27.gxf3 Rxd8 28.f4
Kf8 29.Kg2 Re7 30.Kf3 g6**



Although Black has to display some accuracy, Wei Yi's 18...Bxc3 eventually equalises. Black should consider playing ...h6 earlier, which might lead to more favourable lines.

$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

27

E53

□ So, Wesley

2780

■ Wei, Yi

2729

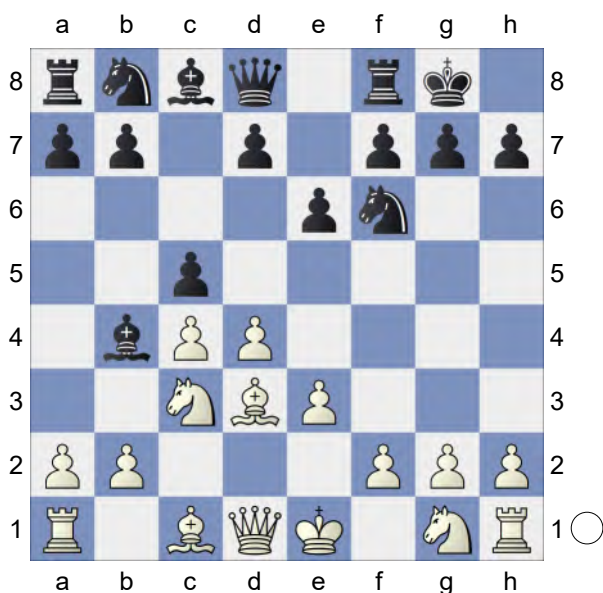
chess.com Speed 5m+1spm 2017 blitz (1)

[John Emms]

1.d4

[Giving Black the IQP seems to be a general trend at the moment. For example, the Semi-Tarrasch line 1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.e3 e6 5.d4 d5 6.cxd5 exd5 7.Bb5 (followed by dxc5, or ...cxd4 and Nxd4) has been played by numerous elite GMs including Carlsen, Kramnik and Aronian. This is very similar to the Nimzo line here.]

1...Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd3 c5



6.Nf3 d5 7.cxd5 If anyone gets the IQP in this line, it's usually White, the obvious example being the Karpov Variation. However, in recent years some GMs have preferred an early cxd5 to give Black the IQP.

[7.0-0 Nc6 (although anti-IQPers can get in first with 7...dxc4 8.Bxc4

cx d4 9.ex d4) 8.cxd5 ex d5 9.dxc5 is a similar line we've also looked at, and we actually transpose to it after 9 0-0.]

7...ex d5 8.dxc5 Nc6

[Black's most popular choice has been 8...Nbd7 intending ...Nxc5 - see the notes to Harikrishna, P-Topalov, V/ Stavanger 2016.]

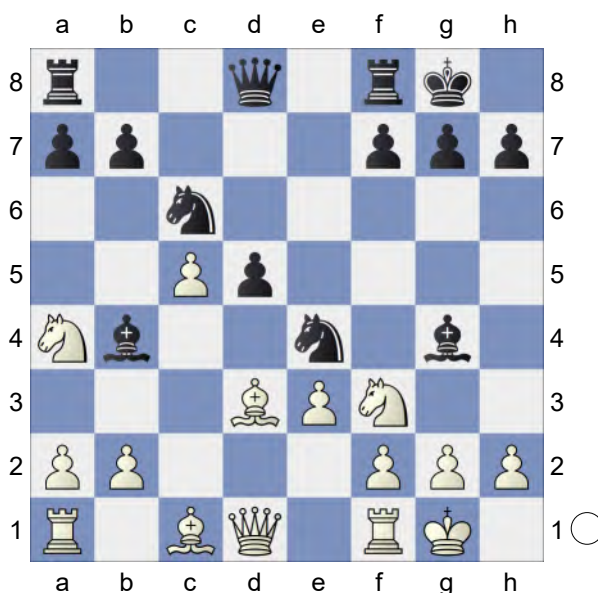
[Another option is 8...Bg4 9.0-0 Nbd7 which is covered in Carlsen, M-So, W/ Leuven 2017.]

9.0-0 Bg4!? A rare choice.

[Black nearly always recaptures with 9...Bxc5 - see Aleksandrov, A-Levin, E/ St Petersburg 2011.]

10.Na4! This is certainly not the only move, but it does seem logical to force Black to work to regain the pawn. Moreover, any minor piece swap on c5 should slightly favour White. 10...Ne4

[10...Qe7 11.b3 Ne4 12.Be2 Nc3 13.Nxc3 Bxc3 14.Rb1 Qxc5 15.Bb2 Bxb2 16.Rxb2 Rfd8 17.Rd2 a5 18.h3 Be6 19.Nd4± was very slightly better for White, Shankland, S-Negi, P/ San Francisco 2017.]



11.a3

[11.Be2! might be stronger: Rc8 (11...Nxc5?! 12.a3! Nxa4 13.Qxa4 Bxf3 14.Bxf3 Bc5 15.Rd1±) 12.a3 Bxc5 13.Nxc5 Nxc5 14.b4 Qf6! (14...Ne4 15.Bb2) 15.Ra2 Ne4 16.Bb2 Nc3 (16...Qd6±) 17.Bxc3 Qxc3 18.Qd2 (18.Qxd5! Be6 19.Qd2!) 18...Ne7 19.h3 Bd7 20.Nd4 Qxd2 21.Rxd2 Rc3 22.Ra1± (Sargissian,G-Ghaem Maghami, E/ Khanty-Mansiysk 2013) reaches another typical position. Black's control of the c-file is close to neutralising White's edge due to the IQP.]

11...Bxc5 12.h3

[The knight on a4 needs to be exchanged, so White should probably play 12.Nxc5 Nxc5 13.Be2 although Black is active enough after Ne4!]

12...Bxf3 13.gxf3?! Extremely risky!

[13.Qxf3 Ne5 14.Qe2 Bd6 is still roughly level.]

13...Qg5+ 14.Kh1

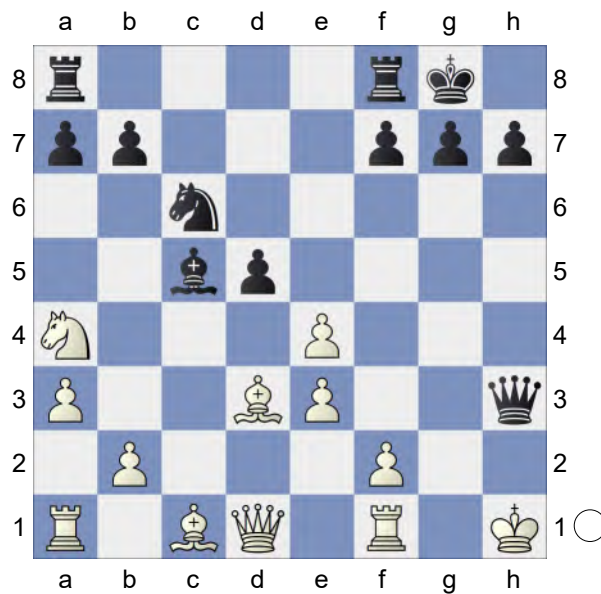
[14.Kh2 Bd6+]

14...Qh4! 15.fxe4? Now Black has a winning position.

[White has to defend with 15.Kg2! Ng5 16.Rh1]

15...Qxh3+

(Diagram)

**16.Kg1 Ne5**

[This is good, but 16...Rad8! intending ...Rd6 is even stronger. 17.exd5 (17.f4 Bxe3+ 18.Bxe3 Qxe3+ 19.Kg2 dxe4+) 17...Rd6 18.Re1 (18.Be4 f5!) 18...f5! and ...Rg6 is coming. No doubt Wei Yi would have seen this in a game with a slower time limit, but then So wouldn't have played 13 gxf3!]

17.f3?

[17.f4 is a better defence. If Bxe3+ 18.Bxe3 Qxe3+ 19.Kh2 Nxd3 White can win the knight with 20.Rf3 although Black still keeps an advantage after Qxe4 21.Rxd3 Qxf4+]

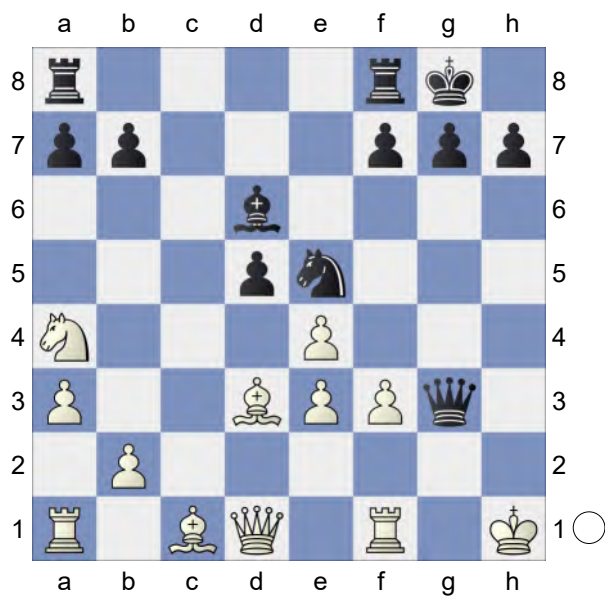
17...Qg3+ 18.Kh1 Qh3+?

[18...Rac8! intending ... Rc6 is decisive.]

19.Kg1 Qg3+ 20.Kh1 Bd6

[20...Rac8!]

(Diagram)



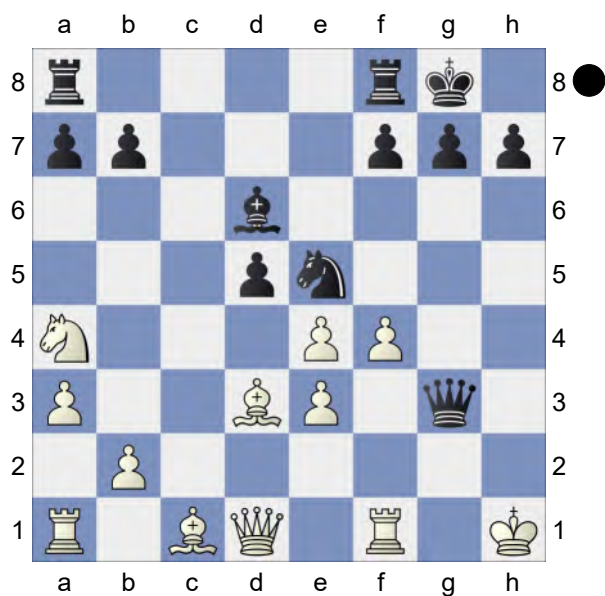
Wesley's So's 10 Na4! is a good move, and White should be able to keep a small edge after it.

1/2-1/2

21.f4 Qh3+ Wei Yi settles for perpetual check.

[Black is still winning, although now it's much more difficult to find: 21...f5! 22.fxe5 Qh4+ 23.Kg2 Qg5+ 24.Kh1 (24.Kf2 fxe4+ 25.Ke1 exd3 26.Qxd3 Rxf1+ 27.Qxf1 Rf8 28.Qh1 Qg3+ 29.Kd2 Rf2+ 30.Kd3 Qg6+ 31.Kd4 Bxe5+ 32.Kxe5 Qf6+ 33.Kxd5 Qc6+) 24...Rf6 25.exf6 Qh4+ 26.Kg2 Qg3+ 27.Kh1 Qh2#]

22.Kg1 Qg3+ 23.Kh1 Qh3+ 24.Kg1 Qg3+ 25.Kh1



473

E29

□ Radovanovic, Mihajlo

2500

■ Wei, Yi

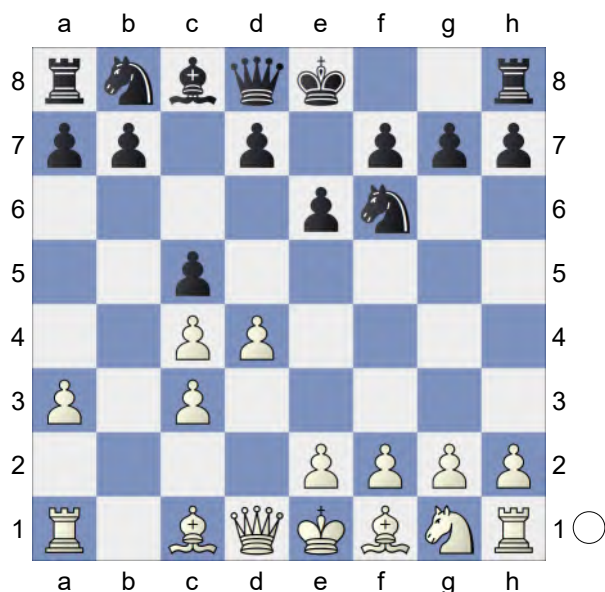
2737

Belt and Road Hunan Op A (2.8) 30.7.19

[John Emms]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.a3
Bxc3+ 5.bxc3 c5**

[The other main option for Black
against the Saemisch. 5...b6 6.f3
Ba6 7.e4 Nc6 - see games in the
archives.]



6.e3

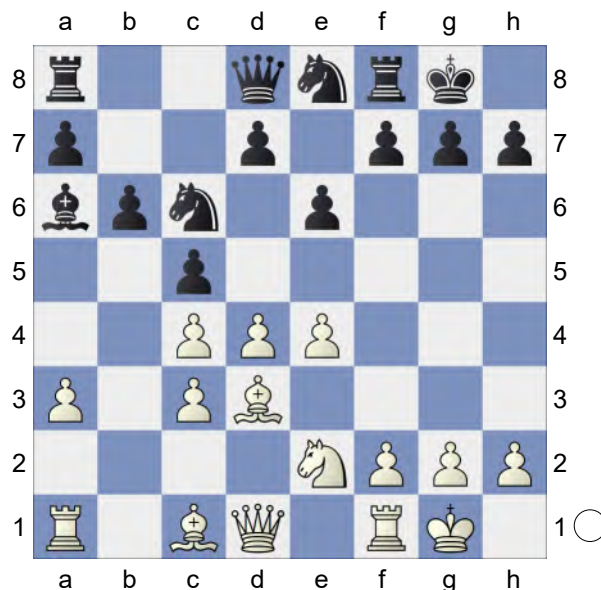
[After 6.f3 Black may either transpose
to the 4 f3 Nimzo with 6...d5 or play in
more classical Nimzo fashion with Nc6
7.e4 d6 8.Be3 b6 - see the notes to
Murali Krishnan, B-Prasad, D/Nagpur
2002.]

6...Nc6 7.Bd3 0-0 8.Ne2

[8.e4 is met by d5! - see Georgiev, V-
Efimenko, Z/Isle of Man 2007.]

**8...b6 9.e4 Ne8! A key move in the
Saemisch, sidestepping the Bg5 pin.
10.0-0 Ba6**

(Diagram)



11.f4 f5 12.Ng3

[12.exf5 exf5 13.dxc5 bxc5 14.Be3
d6 15.Ng3 g6 transposes to
Pedersen, N-Schandorff, L/Horsens
2003 - see below.]

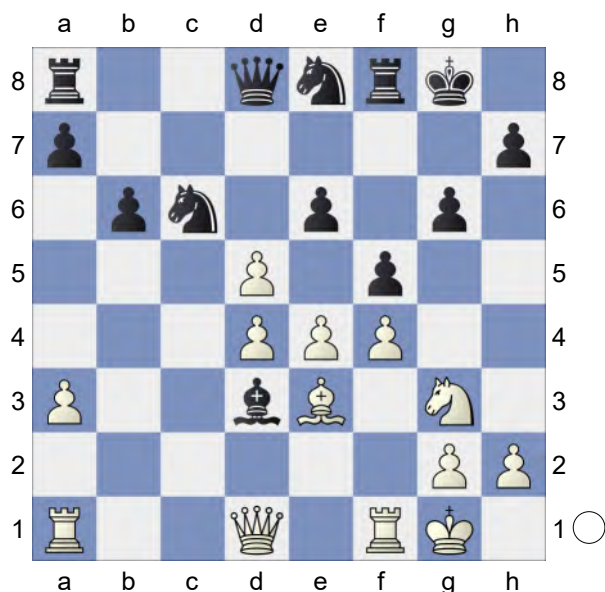
[12.d5 was popular for a while but
Peter Leko found a convincing
antidote: exd5! (12...Na5 13.e5
Bxc4 14.Bxc4 Nxc4 15.d6!
, with good compensation for the
pawn, is White's idea - see the notes
to Milov, V-Polgar, J/ Moscow 2001)
13.cxd5 Bxd3 14.Qxd3 fxe4
15.Qxe4 Nd6! 16.Qd3 Na5
with advantage to Black - see
Radjabov, T-Leko, P/Monte Carlo
2007.]

12...g6 13.Be3

[The alternative is for White to break
the tension: 13.exf5 exf5 14.dxc5
bxc5 15.Be3 d6 - see Pedersen, N-
Schandorff, L/Horsens 2003.]

13...cxd4! The start of a simplifying
procedure which was worked out by
Anatoly Karpov many years ago, and it's
still recognised as perfectly sufficient.
White is allowed to get rid of his doubled
c-pawns, but in return Black gains some

light-squared control. **14.cxd4 d5!**
15.cxd5 Bxd3



16.Qxd3 fxe4 17.Nxe4!?

[The stem game with 13...cxd4 continued 17.Qxe4 Qxd5 18.Qxd5 exd5 - see the notes to Yusupov,A-Karpov,A/Linares 1993. Radovanovic prefers to battle with the queens on the board, and the chances remain roughly level.]

17...Qxd5 18.Rad1

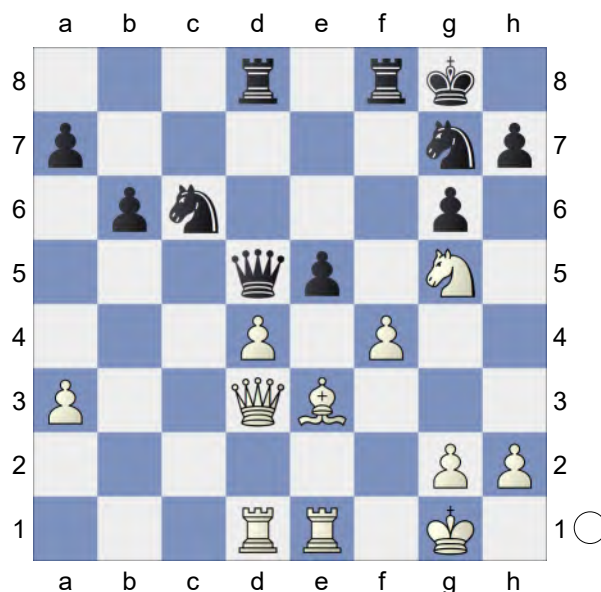
[18.Nc3 Qf5! 19.Qxf5 Rxf5 20.g4 Ra5 with an edge for Black, Toth, C-De Souza,M/Aracatuba 1998.]

18...Rd8 19.Rfe1 The first new move, and a logical one.

[19.g4?! (Hamilton,D-Rej, T/Parramatta 2008) looks premature in view of Nf6! 20.Nxf6+ Rxf6 Here 21.f5? fails to gxf5 22.Bg5 Rg6! 23.Bxd8 Rxg4+]

19...Ng7 20.Ng5 e5!

[Another way to reach c4 would be with 20...Na5 but after 21.g4 Nc4 22.Bc1! White intends Qh3 and suddenly Black is feeling under pressure.]



Not the only move, but this allows Black to get rid of the weak e6-pawn and get his knight to c4. **21.fxe5 Nxe5 22.Qe4 Nc4!**

[22...Qxe4?! 23.Nxe4 Nc4? 24.Bg5!±]

23.Bc1

[23.Qh4 h5 (23...Nh5) 24.Nf3 Nxe3 25.Rxe3 Nf5 forks the queen and rook, but White can force a draw with 26.Qg5 Nxe3 27.Qxg6+ Kh8 28.Qh6+]

23...Nf5

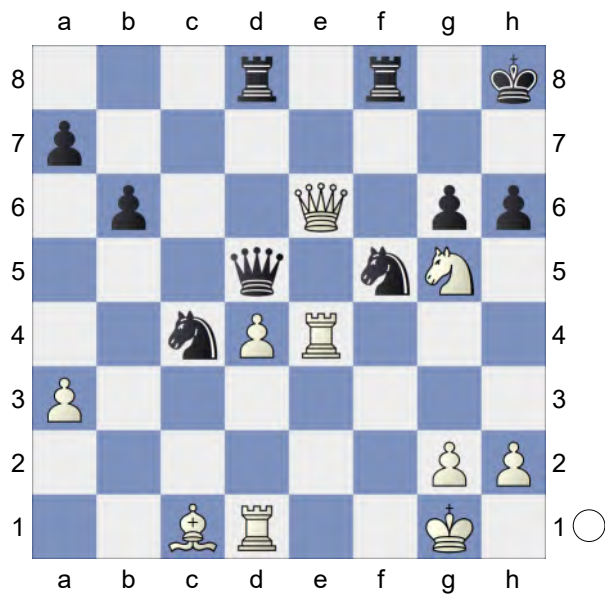
[23...Rfe8= is safer.]

24.Qe6+! Kh8 25.Re4

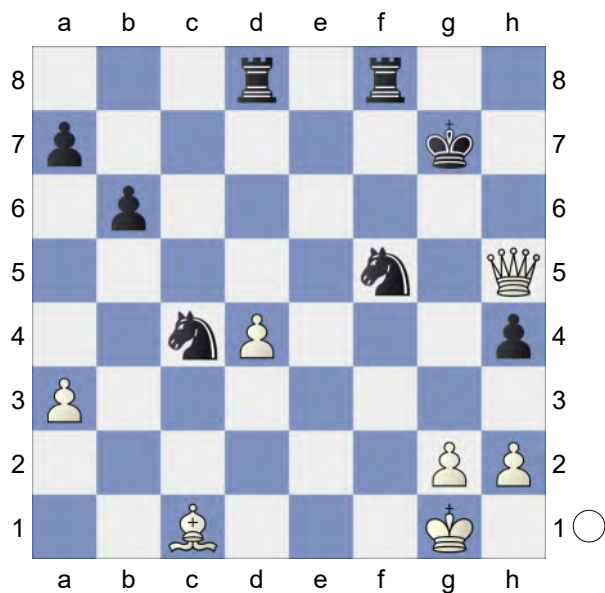
[25.Rf1!?]

25...h6

(Diagram)

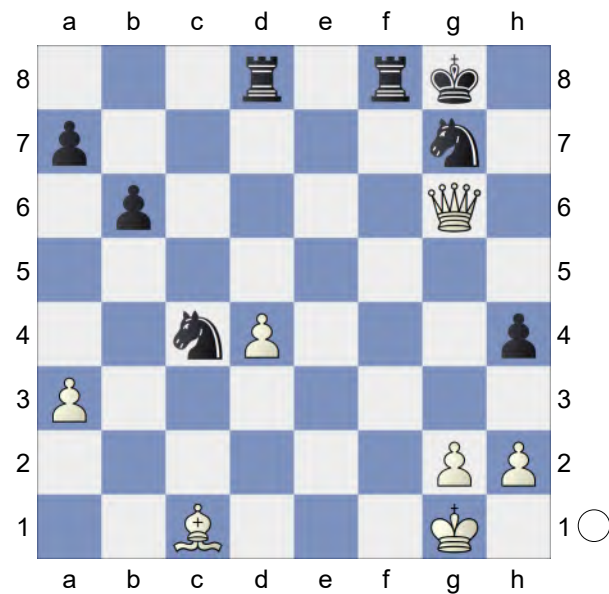


26.Qxg6! The beginning of a forcing sequence. **26...hxg5 27.Rd3! Qxe4! 28.Rh3+ Qh4 29.Rxh4+ gxh4 30.Qh5+ Kg7**



31.Qg5+ Kh7 32.Qh5+ Kg8 33.Qg6+ Kh8 34.Qh5+ Kg8 35.Qg6+ Ng7!?
[35...Kh8 36.Qh5+ is perpetual check.]

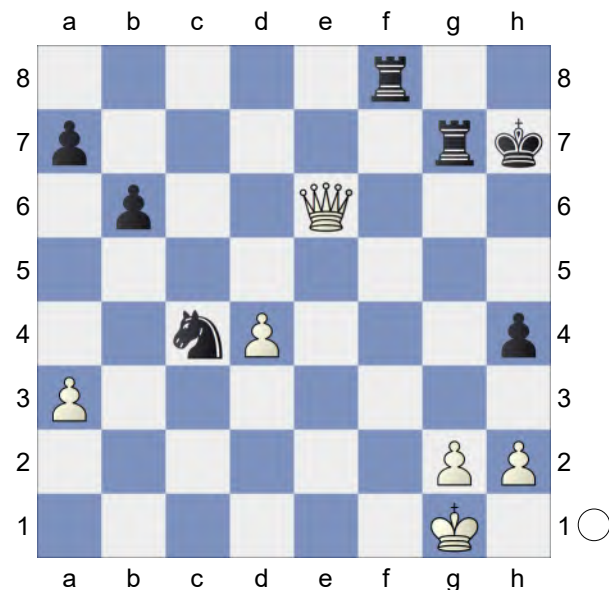
(Diagram)



After repeating the position once, Wei Yi chooses to give up a piece and continue the game. **36.Bh6! Rd7 37.Bxg7 Rxg7 38.Qe6+ Kh8 39.Qh6+**

[39.Qxc4 Rfg8 is similar to the game, but with 39 Qh6+ Radovanovic is still trying to force a draw.]

39...Kg8 40.Qe6+ Kh7!



Wei Yi plays on, and is soon to be rewarded. **41.Qxc4 Rfg8 42.Qd3+ Kh8 43.Qe4 Rxg2+ 44.Qxg2?** Radovanovic errs at a critical moment.

[After 44.Kf1! R2g4 45.Qe5+ R8g7

46.Ke2 a draw is the most likely result. With Black's king so exposed, White certainly isn't worse.]

44...b5! A star move. Black is winning the resulting pawn ending.

[44...Rxb2+? 45.Kxb2 is a draw, e.g. Kg7 46.Kf3 Kf6 47.Ke4 Ke6 (47...b5? 48.Kd5!) 48.a4! h3 49.d5+ Kd6 50.Kd4 a6 51.Kc4 Ke5!? 52.a5! bxa5 53.Kc5 a4 54.d6 Ke6 55.Kc6 a3 56.d7 a2 57.d8Q a1Q 58.Qc8+]

45.Qxg8+

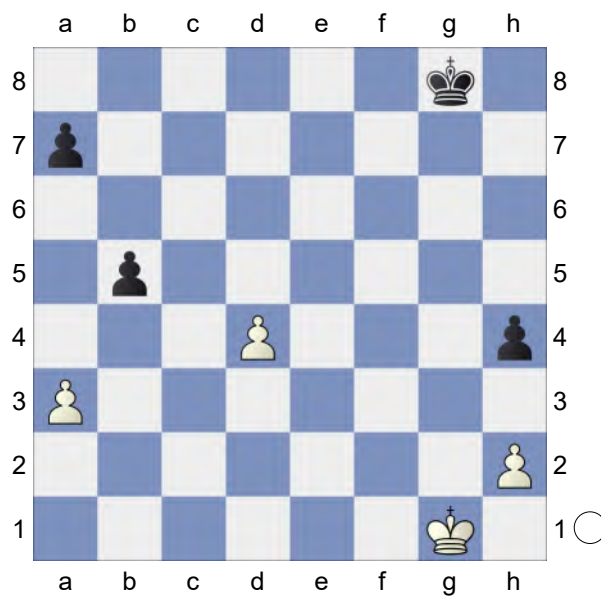
[45.d5! is more testing, and here h3! is the only move to win. (45...Rxb2+? 46.Kxb2 Kg7 47.Kf3 Kf6 48.Ke4 Ke7 49.Ke5 a5 50.d6+ Kd7 51.Kd5 b4 52.axb4 axb4 53.Kc4 Kxd6 54.Kxb4=)

A) 46.Qxg8+ Kxg8 47.Kf2 Kf7 48.Ke3 Ke7 49.Kd3 Kd6 50.Kd4 a6! Reciprocal zugzwang. (50...a5? 51.Ke4 b4 52.axb4 axb4 53.Kd4 b3 54.Kc3 Kxd5 55.Kxb3 Ke4 56.Kc3= is a draw) 51.Ke4 a5 52.Kd4 a4! 53.Ke4 b4 and Black wins.;

B) 46.Qg3!? is a good try: 46...Rxb2+ 47.hxb2 Kg7! 48.g4 Kf6! (48...a5?? even loses: 49.d6 Kf8 50.g5 b4 51.axb4 axb4 52.g6 b3 53.d7 Ke7 54.g7 b2 55.d8Q+! Kxd8 56.g8Q+) 49.Kh2 (49.d6 Ke6 50.g5 Kxd6 and Black's king is in the g-pawn's square) 49...a5 50.Kxh3 b4 51.axb4 axb4 52.Kh4 b3 53.g5+ Ke5! 54.g6 b2 55.g7 b1Q 56.g8Q Qh1+ 57.Kg5 Qg1+ and Black wins!]

45...Kxg8

(Diagram)



46.Kg2 a5

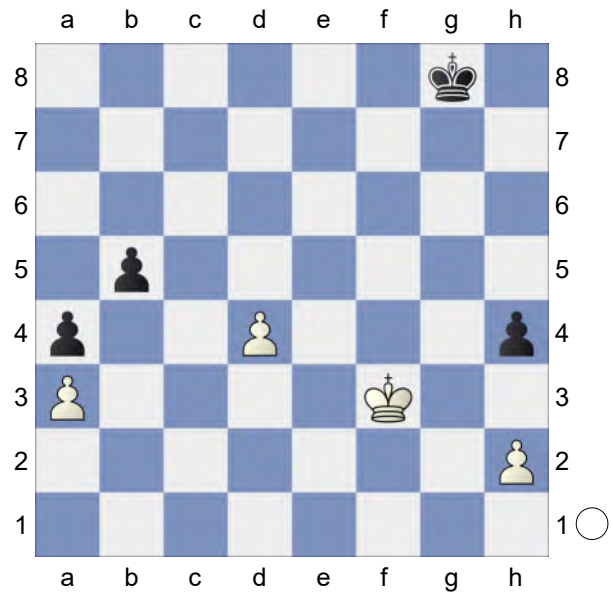
[Black also wins with 46...Kf7 47.Kf3 Ke6 48.Ke4 Kd6 49.d5 h3 50.Kd4 a6! 51.Ke4 a5 52.Kd4 a4! 53.Ke4 b4!]

47.Kf3 a4!

[But not 47...b4?? 48.axb4 a4 49.b5]

[47...a4 48.Ke3 b4 49.Kd2 b3 (49...bxa3 also wins) 50.h3 Kf7 51.Kd3 Ke6 52.Kd2 Kd5 53.Kd3 (53.Kc3 Ke4) 53...b2 54.Kc2 Kxd4 55.Kxb2 Kd3 56.Kb1 Kc3 57.Ka2 Kc2 58.Ka1 Kb3 59.Kb1 Kxa3 60.Ka1 Kb3 61.Kb1 Kc3 62.Ka2 Kd3 and Black wins.]

(Diagram)



0-1

491

□ Otero Acosta, D.

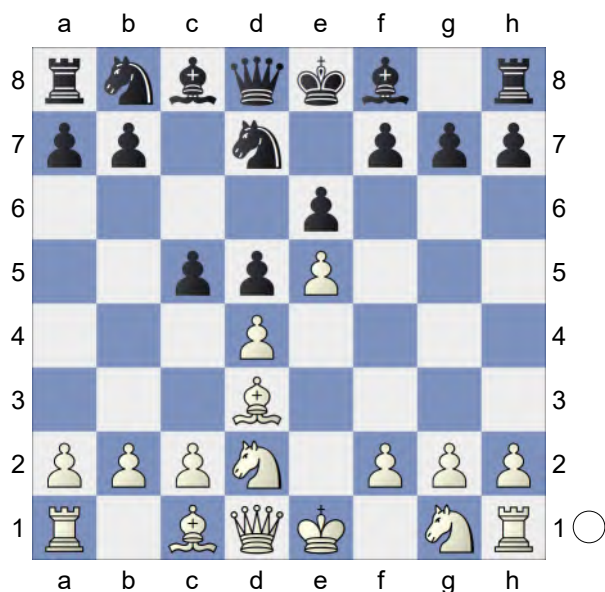
■ Wei, Yi

Saint Louis (rapid)

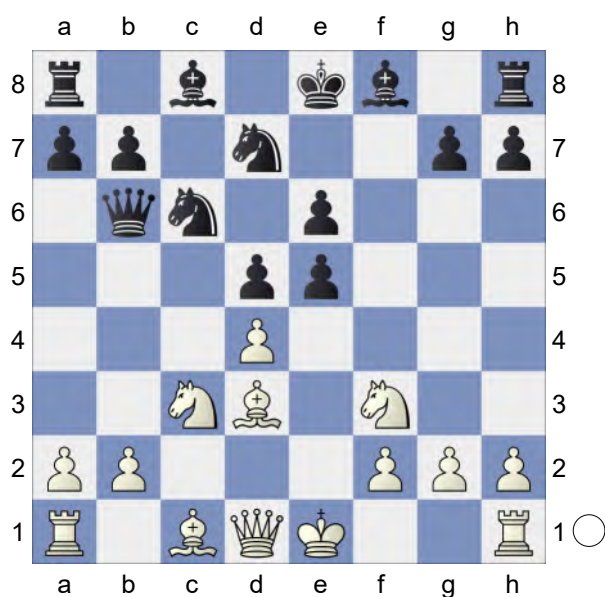
[John Watson]

C06 Qd6

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5
Nfd7 5.Bd3 c5

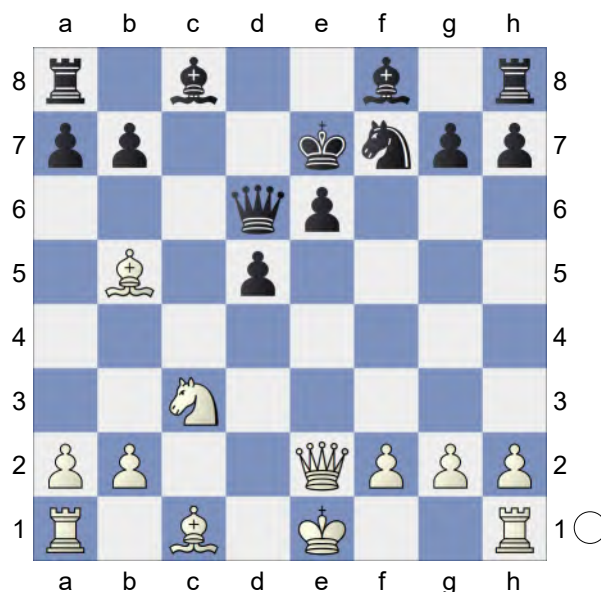


6.c3 Nc6 7.Ne2 Qb6 8.Nf3 cxd4
9.cxd4 f6 10.Nc3 fxe5



11.dxe5 Ndx5 12.Nxe5 Nxe5
13.Qh5+ Nf7 14.Bb5+ Ke7 15.Qe2

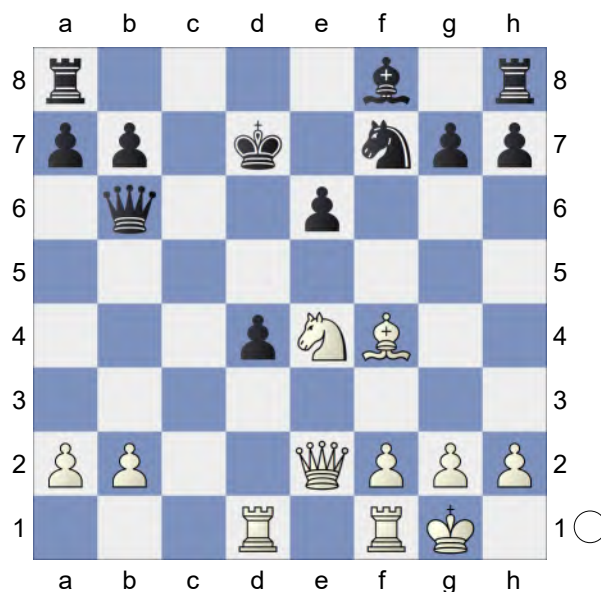
C06 Qd6



16.Bf4 Qc5

[16...e5 17.Rd1 Be6 (17...d4
18.Ne4 Qb4+ 19.Bd2 Qxb2
20.Bg5+) 18.0-0 exf4 19.Nxd5+ Kd8
20.Nxf4]

17.Rd1 d4 18.Ne4 Qb6 19.0-0 Bd7
20.Bxd7 Kxd7



21.Rxd4+ Qxd4 22.Qb5+ Kd8

[22...Ke7 23.Qxb7+]

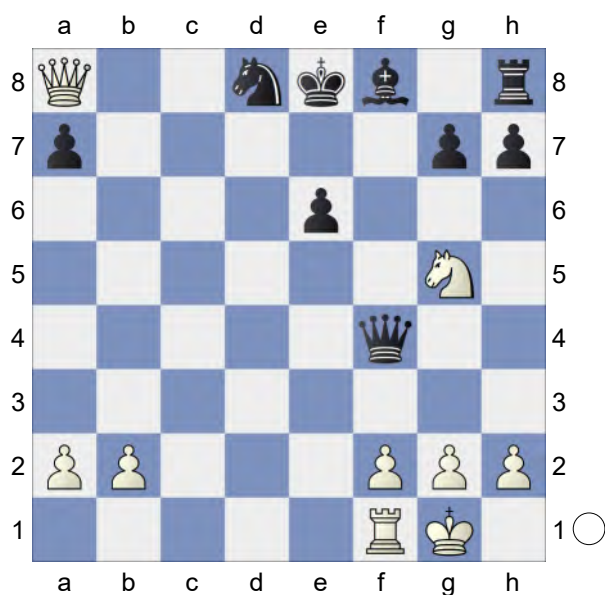
[22...Kc8 23.Qe8+ Nd8 24.Rc1+
Bc5 25.Qe7 Qd7 26.Nd6+ Kc7
27.Nxb7+ Kc8 28.Nd6+ Kc7

29.Ne8+ Kc8 30.Qxc5+ Kb7
 (30...Nc6 31.Nd6+; 30...Qc6
 31.Qe7) 31.Nd6+ Ka6 (31...Kb8
 32.Qc8+) 32.Qa3+ Kb6 33.Qb4+
 Ka6 34.Rc7]

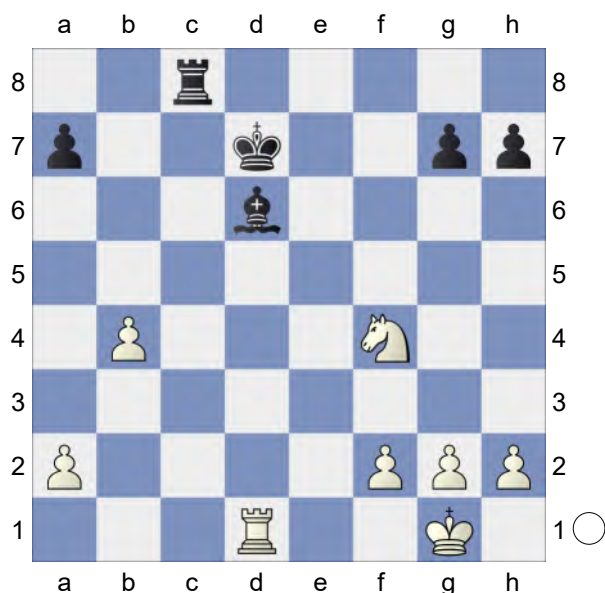
23.Qxb7 Ke8

[23...Qd5 24.Qxf7 Be7 25.Rc1]
 [23...Rc8 24.Qxf7 Be7 25.Ng5 Rc6
 26.Nxe6+ Rxe6 27.Qxe6 Qxf4
 28.Rd1+ Ke8 29.Qc8+]

24.Qxa8+ Nd8 25.Ng5 Qxf4



26.Qxd8+ Kxd8 27.Nxe6+ Kd7
 28.Nxf4 Bd6 29.Rd1 Rd8 30.b4 Rc8



31.Nd3 Rc2 32.a3 Kc6 33.f4 Rc3

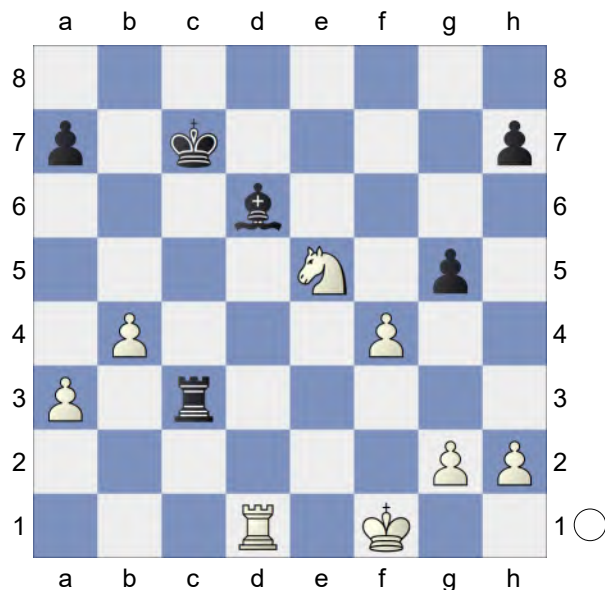
[33...a5 34.Ne5+ Bxe5 35.fxe5 axb4
 36.axb4 Re2 37.Rd6+]
 [33...Kb5 34.a4+ Kxa4 35.Ra1+
 Kb3 36.Rxa7 Rd2 37.Ne5 Bxb4
 38.Rxg7 Bc5+ 39.Kf1 Rf2+ 40.Ke1
 Rxf4 41.Nd3 Re4+ 42.Kf1]

34.Ne5+ Kc7

[34...Bxe5 35.fxe5 Re3 (35...Rxa3
 36.Kf2) 36.Rd6+ (36.Rd6+ Kb5
 37.Rd5+ Kc4 38.Ra5)]

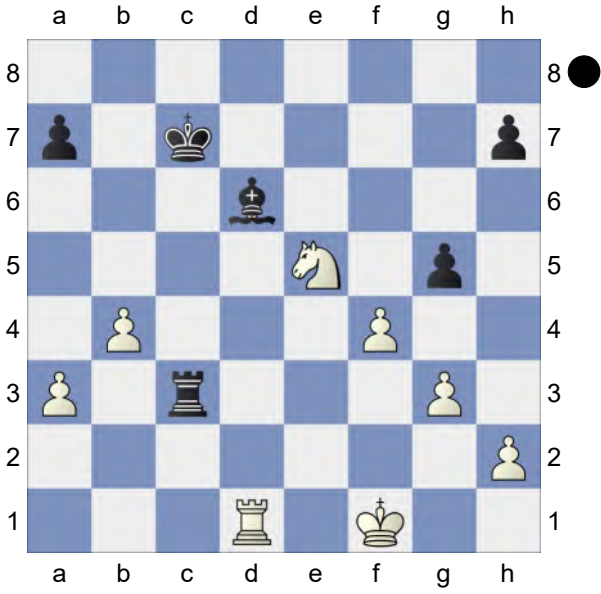
35.Kf1 g5

[35...Rxa3 36.Nc4 Ra6 37.b5]
 [35...Bxe5 36.fxe5 Re3 (36...Rxa3
 37.e6 Re3 38.Rd7+) 37.Rd5 Kc6
 (37...Rxa3 38.e6) 38.Rc5+ Kb7
 (38...Kd7 39.Ra5) 39.Ra5]
 [35...a5 36.bxa5 Bxa3 (36...Rxa3
 37.Nc4) 37.Rd7+]
 [35...h6 36.Ke2 g5 37.Rd3 Rc2+
 38.Kf3 gxf4 39.Nf7 Bf8 40.Nd8 Bd6
 41.Ne6+ Kd7 42.Nxf4]



36.g3

(Diagram)



1-0

504

□ Dietz,H.

■ Wei,Yi

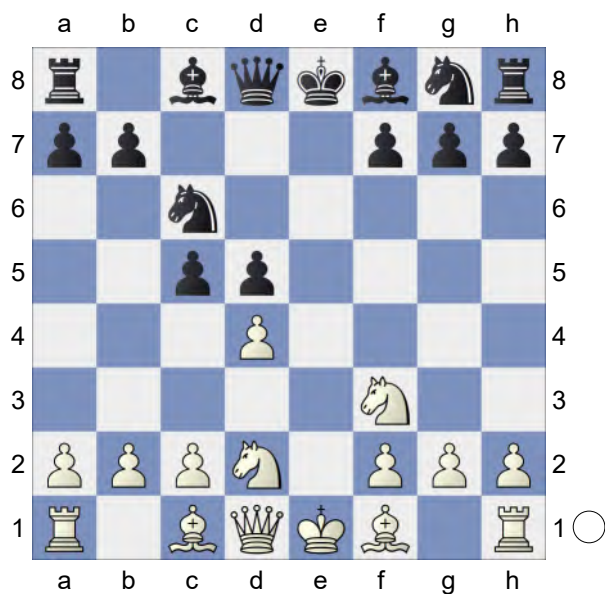
Polska (ch) 76/(312)

[John Watson]

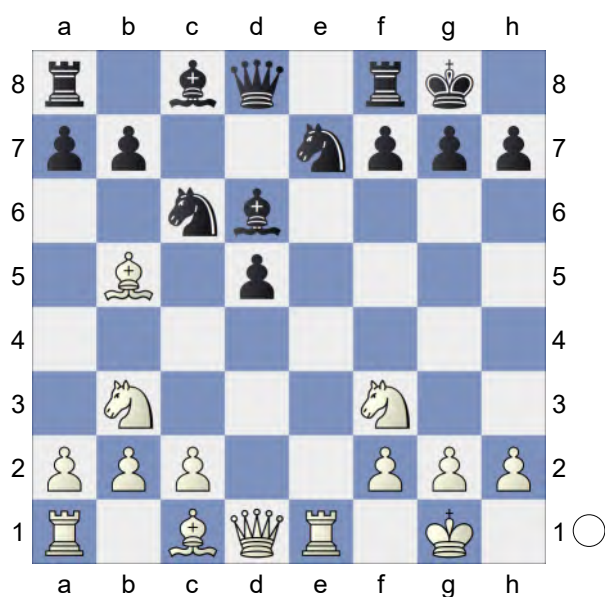
C09

1991

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.Ngf3
Nc6 5.exd5 exd5



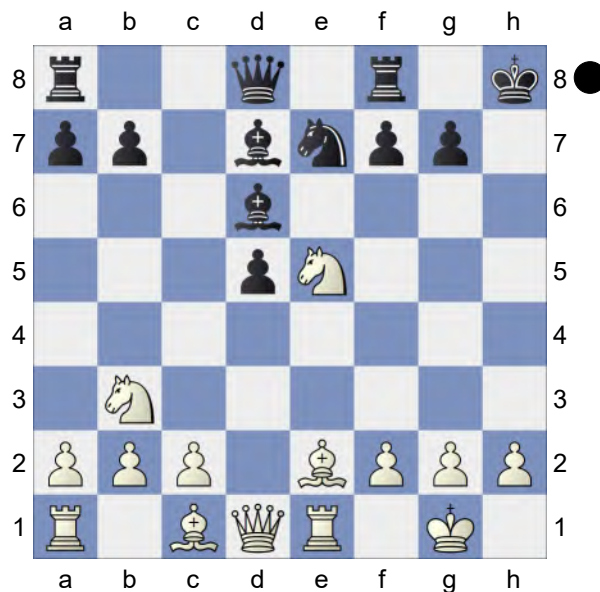
6.Bb5 Bd6 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.0-0 Nge7
9.Nb3 Bd6 10.Re1 0-0



11.Bd3 Bg4

[11...h6 12.h3 Bd7]

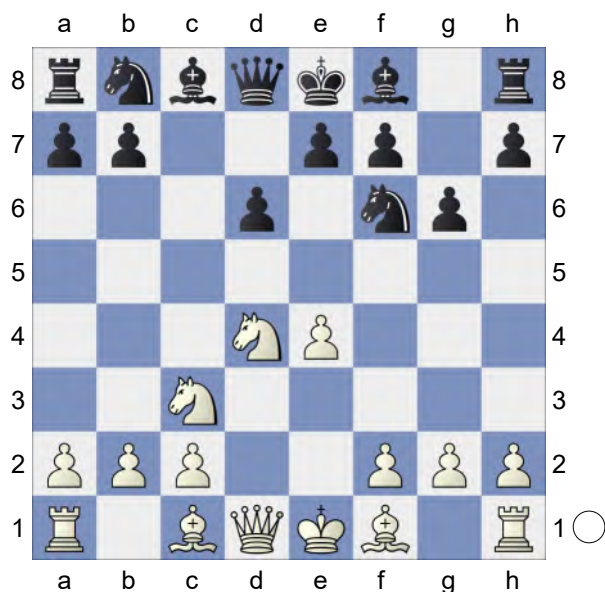
12.Bxh7+ Kh8 13.Bd3 Ne5 14.Be2
Bd7 15.Nxe5



1-0

486 **B72**
 □ **Wei, Yi** **2244**
 ■ **Wang, Hao** **2715**
 TCh Shanghai CHN (8) 25.07.2010
[Jones, Gawain]

1.e4 **Gawain Jones** **1...c5** **2.Nf3** **d6**
3.d4 **cx d4** **4.Nxd4** **Nf6** **5.Nc3** **g6**



6.Be3 **a6** **7.f3** **b5** Time to look at another Accelerated Dragadorf game. The advantage behind this move order is that White is unable to play Bf1-c4 which is considered a critical test of Black's opening. Gawain Jones: 'Time to look at another Accelerated Dragadorf game. The advantage behind this move order is that White is unable to play Bf1-c4 which is considered a critical test of Black's opening.' **8.Qd2** **Bb7** **9.0-0-0**

[I examined 9.a4 in Haznedaroglu-Gunnarsson last year, which I believe to be the critical test of an early ...b5. A couple of recent games continued: Gawain Jones: 'I examined 9.a4 in Haznedaroglu-Gunnarsson last year, which I believe to be the critical test of an early ...b5. A couple of recent

games continued:' 9.a4 e5 10.Nb3 b4

A) **11.Na2** d5 12.Bg5 Nbd7 13.exd5 h6 (13...Bxd5 14.Nxb4 Bxb3 15.cxb3 Qb6 16.Nd5 Nxd5 17.Qxd5 Bb4+ is the line I gave from Simon's book where Black has good compensation for the pawn as White's king is exposed. Gawain Jones: 'is the line I gave from Simon's book where Black has good compensation for the pawn as White's king is exposed.'; The computer suggests Gawain Jones: 'The computer suggests' 13...Qb6!? which could be playable although I would be anxious playing with my king in the centre Gawain Jones: 'which could be playable although I would be anxious playing with my king in the centre') 14.Bxf6 Nxf6 15.Nxb4 Nxd5 This position is given as "with compensation" by Simon but in truth I'm afraid I don't see it. Maslak evidently agrees and following: Gawain Jones: 'This position is given as "with compensation" by Simon but in truth I'm afraid I don't see it. Maslak evidently agrees and following:' 16.Nxd5 Bxd5 17.0-0-0 Bxb3 18.Qxd8+ Rxd8 19.cxb3 Rxd1+ 20.Kxd1 a5 21.Bb5+ Kd8 22.Ke2 he eventually converted his extra pawn. Maslak, K-Fedorovsky, M Pardubice 2010. Gawain Jones: 'he eventually converted his extra pawn. Maslak, K-Fedorovsky, M Pardubice 2010.';

B) **11.Nd5** Nxd5 12.exd5 Nd7 13.0-0-0 Rb8

B1) **14.f4** was played in the aforementioned game when

perhaps I was too dismissive of Black's chances. The game continued Gawain Jones: 'was played in the aforementioned game when perhaps I was too dismissive of Black's chances. The game continued'

B1a) 14...Bh6 15.fxe5 Bxe3 16.Qxe3 Nxe5 17.Qh6 Qc7 18.Kb1 Rc8 19.Rd2 f5 was a line I gave in which I fancied White's chances although I think Black's play can be improved upon. Gawain Jones: 'was a line I gave in which I fancied White's chances although I think Black's play can be improved upon.';

B1b) 14...Bg7 is a logical move which I failed to investigate as I saw mentioned on the forum and indeed this position seems fully adequate for the second player, e.g. Gawain Jones: 'is a logical move which I failed to investigate as I saw mentioned on the forum and indeed this position seems fully adequate for the second player, e.g.' 15.Qxb4 0-0!

B1b1) 16.Qxd6 Re8 gives White a few problems to extricate his queen. He could try Gawain Jones: 'gives White a few problems to extricate his queen. He could try' 17.Qa3 when a plausible line could continue Gawain Jones: 'when a plausible line could continue' (17.Nc5 exf4

18.Qxf4 Nxc5 19.Bxc5 Bxd5 looks promising for Black.) 17...Bf8 18.d6 exf4 19.Bxf4 Re4 20.Bg3 Qg5+ 21.Kb1 Qg4 22.Bd3 Rxa4 23.h3 Rxa3 24.hxg4 Ra4 25.Rh4 Bxg2 when Black has no problems and indeed could probably have kept the initiative rather than winning back the couple of pawns. Gawain Jones: 'when Black has no problems and indeed could probably have kept the initiative rather than winning back the couple of pawns.';

B1b2) 16.Ba7 Qf6 17.Bxb8 Rxb8 when Black has the better practical chances with his queenside attack whilst White will have to defend well before hoping to convert his extra material. Gawain Jones: 'when Black has the better practical chances with his queenside attack whilst White will have to defend well before hoping to convert his extra material.';

B1c) 14...Be7 15.h4!? Haznedaroglu-Gunnarsson 2009, annotated in the archives. Gawain Jones: 'Haznedaroglu-Gunnarsson 2009, annotated in the archives.';

B2) 14.Kb1 This looks like a nuance. 14...Nf6 (14...Bg7 is no longer so effective as following Gawain Jones: 'is no longer so effective as following'

15.Qxb4 0-0 16.Qxd6 Re8
White has 17.Nc5; 14...Nb6
15.a5 Nxd5 16.Bxa6 Bxa6
17.Qxd5 is messy but White has
started to take control of the
position. Gawain Jones: 'is
messy but White has started to
take control of the position.'
14...Be7!?)

B2a) 15.f4!? _____ looks like a
critical try now that Black's
knight is no longer covering
the e5 square. The pawn is
taboo as Gawain Jones: 'looks
like a critical try now that
Black's knight is no longer
covering the e5 square. The
pawn is taboo as' Nxd5
(15...Bxd5 16.fxe5 dxe5
17.Bg5 Ne4 18.Qxd5 Qxd5
19.Rxd5 Nxg5 20.Rxe5+ Ne6
21.Bxa6 would leave Black in
a lost position.) 16.Bxa6 Nxe3
17.Bb5+ Ke7 18.Qxe3
is pretty rotten for Black.;

B2b) 15.Bg5 Be7 16.Qxb4
0-0 17.Qa5 Qc8 18.h4 Bd8
19.Qd2 Nxd5 (19...Qd7
is probably a better bet.)
20.Bxa6 Bxa6 21.Qxd5
Bxg5?! 22.hxg5 and Black
was suffering. Ashwin, J-
Fernandez, D Ho Chi Minh
City 2009. Gawain Jones: 'and
Black was suffering. Ashwin, J-
Fernandez, D Ho Chi Minh
City 2009.']

[9.Be2 was the quiet choice of a high
rated Indian GM in a game from
earlier this year. Gawain Jones: 'was
the quiet choice of a high rated Indian
GM in a game from earlier this year.'
Nbd7 10.0-0 b4 (10...Bg7 11.a4 b4

12.Na2 a5 13.c3 was probably
White's intention, claiming the
advantage with his control over b5 but
the position doesn't look so clear to
me.) Gawain Jones: 'was probably
White's intention, claiming the
advantage with his control over b5 but
the position doesn't look so clear to
me.') 11.Nd5! Nxd5 12.exd5 Bxd5
13.a3! (Stronger than 13.Qxb4 Bg7
14.c4 Rb8 15.Qd2 Ba8 which is fully
adequate for Black.) 13...bxa3
14.Rxa3 Bb7 (14...Bg7 15.Rxa6
Rxa6 16.Bxa6 Ba8 would reach a
complex middlegame where White will
battle to prove the passed pawn
more relevant than the central control.
Gawain Jones: 'would reach a
complex middlegame where White will
battle to prove the passed pawn
more relevant than the central control.'
) 15.Rfa1 Qc8 (The critical test of
White's plan is 15...e5!? but 16.Nb3
d5 17.Na5! Bxa3 18.Nxb7 Qc7
19.Qxd5 Rb8 20.Bxa6 Be7 21.Rd1
gives White a dangerous initiative.)
16.Rc3! Qb8 Geetha Narayanan
Gopal-Carlsson, P Caleta 2010 and
here Gawain Jones: 'Geetha
Narayanan Gopal-Carlsson, P Caleta
2010 and here' 17.Nc6 Bxc6 18.Rxc6
Bg7 19.Raxa6 Rxa6 20.Bxa6 0-0
21.b4 is very promising for White.]

9...h5 This is Kudrin's choice. Gawain
Jones: 'This is Kudrin's choice.'

[9...Nbd7 has been the main move in
the past and Simon Williams
concentrates on this in his book. This
has been played a couple of times in
2010 thus far: Gawain Jones: 'has
been the main move in the past and
Simon Williams concentrates on this
in his book. This has been played a

couple of times in 2010 thus far:'

A) 10.g4 _____ h6!? given as a possibility. Black doesn't allow g4-g5 or the bishop trade on h6. 11.Be2 I think it's here that White needs to come up with a better plan as the previous two moves don't coordinate well. Gawain Jones: 'I think it's here that White needs to come up with a better plan as the previous two moves don't coordinate well.' b4 (11...e5 12.Nb3 b4 also looks fully playable.) 12.Nd5 (12.Na4 Qa5 13.b3 e5! picks up the stranded knight. Gawain Jones: 'picks up the stranded knight.'; 12.Nb1 e5 13.Nb3 a5 looks promising for Black.) 12...Nxd5 13.exd5 Bxd5

A1) 14.Nb3 Bxb3 (14...Bc6!?) 15.axb3 Qa5 16.Qd4 Qe5 is rather unclear.;

A2) 14.Qxb4 Bg7 15.Nb3 Bxb3?! I don't like giving up the bishop pair so easily. Gawain Jones: 'I don't like giving up the bishop pair so easily.' (15...Rb8 16.Qd2 Ba8 looks satisfactory for Black. Gawain Jones: 'looks satisfactory for Black.') 16.cxb3 a5 17.Qe4 0-0 18.Kb1 Rc8 19.f4 was unclear but in the end Black triumphed. Rubil, M-Feletar, D Pula 2010. Gawain Jones: 'was unclear but in the end Black triumphed. Rubil, M-Feletar, D Pula 2010.';

B) 10.Kb1 _____ given as dubious by Simon this move doesn't really help White's position and thus is basically a tempo loss. Gawain Jones: 'given as dubious by Simon this move doesn't really help

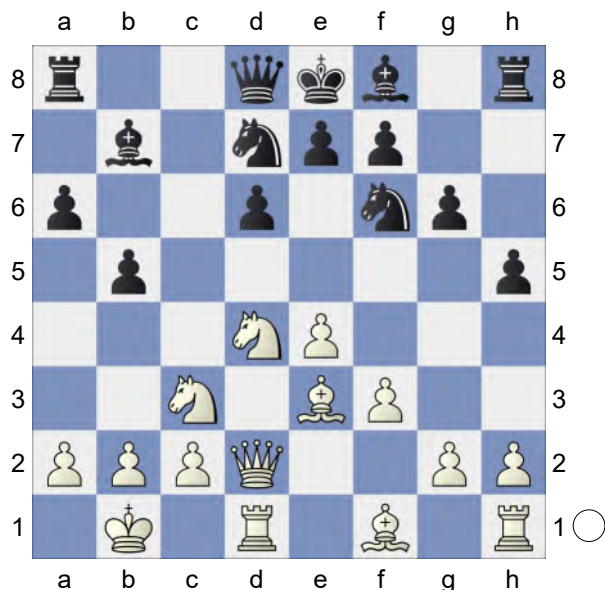
White's position and thus is basically a tempo loss.' 10...Rc8 11.Nb3 Not covered in Simon's book but this move hardly looks threatening. Indeed White has just played two moves which fail to contribute to any kingside attack. Gawain Jones: 'Not covered in Simon's book but this move hardly looks threatening. Indeed White has just played two moves which fail to contribute to any kingside attack.' Ne5 12.Nd5 Nxd5 13.exd5 Bg7 14.Bd4 0-0 15.f4 Nc4 16.Bxc4 Bxd4 17.Nxd4 Rxc4 and Black could be happy with his opening and caused an upset. Kanovsky, D-Otte, M Pardubice 2010. Gawain Jones: 'and Black could be happy with his opening and caused an upset. Kanovsky, D-Otte, M Pardubice 2010.']

10.Kb1

[Previously Chris annotated the game Uribe, M-Kudrin, S Sao Paulo 2009 which continued: Gawain Jones: 'Previously Chris annotated the game Uribe, M-Kudrin, S Sao Paulo 2009 which continued:' 10.Bd3 Nbd7 11.f4 Ng4 12.Kb1 Nxe3 13.Qxe3 e5 14.fxe5 Nxe5 15.Nd5 Bg7 16.h3 Rc8 17.Nf3 0-0 18.Nxe5 Bxe5 19.g4 h4 and Black had a pleasant position.]

10...Nbd7

(Diagram)



11.Nb3

[11.Bd3 was played in the first game with 9...h5 and was more threatening than Wei Yi's attempt. Gawain Jones: 'was played in the first game with 9...h5 and was more threatening than Wei Yi's attempt.' Bg7 12.h3 Rc8 13.g4 Ne5 14.g5 Nfd7 15.f4

A) 15...Nxd3 would probably be my choice here. 16.cxd3 e5 17.Nc2 (17.fxe5 Nxe5 would leave a very happy knight on e5.) 17...exf4 18.Bxf4 Bxc3!? 19.bxc3 Ne5 looks interesting and I sincerely doubt that Black's worse here.;

B) 15...Nc4 16.Bxc4 Rxc4 17.f5

B1) 17...gxf5 is probably too risky after 18.g6! (18.Nxf5 Bxc3 19.bxc3 Bxe4 isn't anything to worry about.; 18.exf5 b4 19.Nce2 Bxh1 20.f6!? Be4 21.fxg7 Rg8 is chaotic but seems good for Black.; 18.Rhf1!?) 18...Bxd4 19.Bxd4 e5 20.Bf2 leaves an absolutely crazy position on the board. Gawain Jones: 'leaves an absolutely crazy position on the

board.';

B2) 17...0-0 18.fxg6 fxg6 19.Ne6 Bxc3 20.bxc3 Homa, S-Kudrin, S Philadelphia 2009 when Gawain Jones: 'Homa, S-Kudrin, S Philadelphia 2009 when' Qc8 21.Nxf8 Nxf8 would have left Black with fantastic compensation for the exchange. Gawain Jones: 'would have left Black with fantastic compensation for the exchange.'

11...Rc8

[11...Bg7 would make sense now that White can no longer exchange on h6 but the Chinese number one prefers to delay touching his kingside and instead puts pressure on White's king. Gawain Jones: 'would make sense now that White can no longer exchange on h6 but the Chinese number one prefers to delay touching his kingside and instead puts pressure on White's king.' 12.a4 here isn't as threatening as Black can react with b4 13.Na2 a5 14.Bb5 0-0 when White has no time for e5.]

12.Bd4 I have to confess I'm at a bit of a loss as to what this move hopes to achieve. Gawain Jones: 'I have to confess I'm at a bit of a loss as to what this move hopes to achieve.'

[12.a4! is critical, and the only way to try and exploit Black's delayed kingside development. Gawain Jones: 'is critical, and the only way to try and exploit Black's delayed kingside development.'

A) 12...b4 13.Na2 (13.Nd5 Nxd5 14.exd5 Qc7 is ok for Black. Gawain Jones: 'is ok for Black.') 13...a5 14.Bb5 Bc6 (14...Bg7

15.e5! would be extremely awkward to deal with. Gawain Jones: 'would be extremely awkward to deal with.'
 15.Qe2 Bxb5 16.Qxb5 Ra8 17.e5 dxe5 18.Nc5 is very dangerous for Black. Gawain Jones: 'is very dangerous for Black.';

B) 12...bxa4 13.Nxa4 Bg7 14.Na5 Bc6 15.Qb4 0-0 is unclear. My computer insists on a small White edge but Black has good attacking chances and I'm sure Wang Hao would have been confident to outplay someone rated over 450 points below him here. Gawain Jones: 'is unclear. My computer insists on a small White edge but Black has good attacking chances and I'm sure Wang Hao would have been confident to outplay someone rated over 450 points below him here.']

12...Qc7 13.Qf2 An obvious sign that White has failed to come up with a plan. Gawain Jones: 'An obvious sign that White has failed to come up with a plan.'

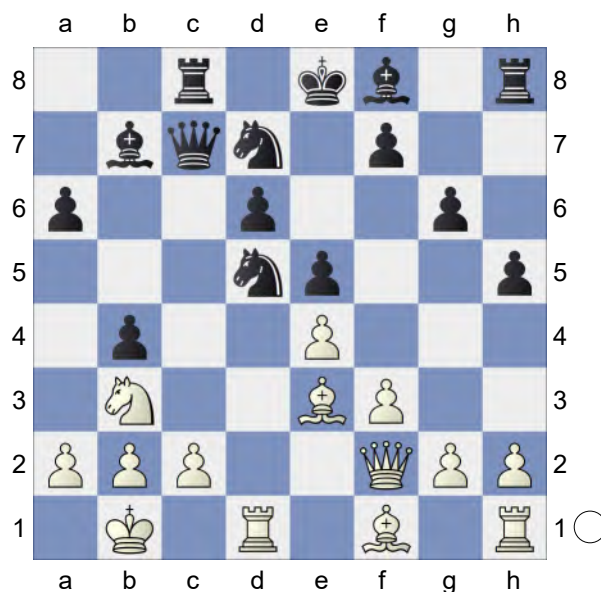
[13.Nd5 may have been his intention but Bxd5 14.exd5 Bh6 15.Qe2 0-0! would leave a fully coordinated Black camp.]

13...e5! Wang Hao doesn't miss the chance to take over the initiative. **14.Be3 b4 15.Nd5**

[15.Na4 Bxe4! is a pretty trick that I'm sure Wang Hao spotted. The idea is that Gawain Jones: 'is a pretty trick that I'm sure Wang Hao spotted. The idea is that' 16.fxe4 Ng4 17.Qd2 Nxe3 and the White queen is overworked and thus cannot recapture on e3. Gawain Jones: 'and the White queen is overworked and thus cannot

recapture on e3.' 18.Bxa6 Ra8 19.Bb5 Nxd1 20.Rxd1 Be7 21.Qxb4 0-0 leaves White with some compensation but it's clear Black has the upper hand. Gawain Jones: 'leaves White with some compensation but it's clear Black has the upper hand.']

15...Nxd5

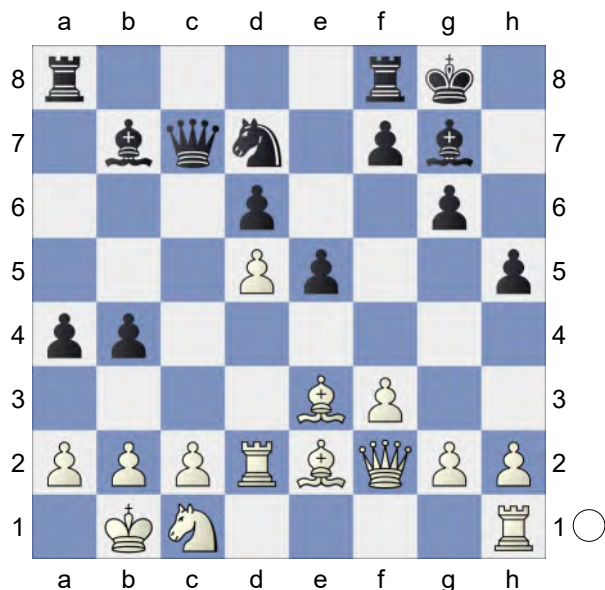


16.exd5 Bg7 17.Bd3 0-0 18.Rd2 Ra8!? Black changes tack and decides on the simply plan of pushing the a pawn. White, meanwhile, still fails to come up with any plan to challenge Black and just meanders around with his pieces. Gawain Jones: 'Black changes tack and decides on the simply plan of pushing the a pawn. White, meanwhile, still fails to come up with any plan to challenge Black and just meanders around with his pieces.'

[18...Nf6 19.Be4 Nxe4 20.fxe4 f5 looks like some sort of super Kings Indian but perhaps then at least White could get an ounce of play of his own. Gawain Jones: 'looks like some sort of super Kings Indian but perhaps then at least White could get an ounce of

play of his own.']

19.Be2 a5 Charge! 20.Nc1 a4



21.Nd3 Qa5

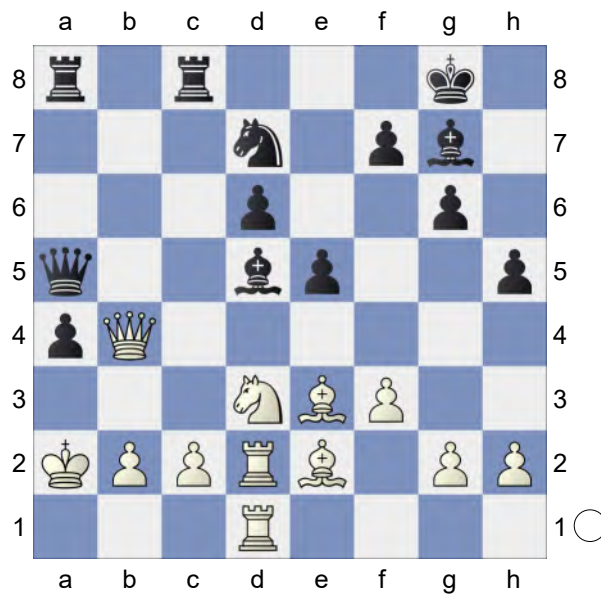
[21...a3! would have left Black with an overwhelming advantage, for example: 22.Nxb4 axb2 23.c4 Qa5 24.Rxb2 Rfb8 25.Rd1 (25.Ka1 Bxd5!-+) 25...Bc8 26.Qe1 Nc5 27.g4 e4 28.Bd4 Bxd4 29.Rxd4 Qa3 30.fxe4 Ra4 picking up the knight and the game is a typical continuation of the attack for Black. Gawain Jones: 'picking up the knight and the game is a typical continuation of the attack for Black.']

22.Rhd1 Rfc8 23.Qh4 b3 Breaking open White's defences. 24.Qb4 bxa2+ 25.Kxa2

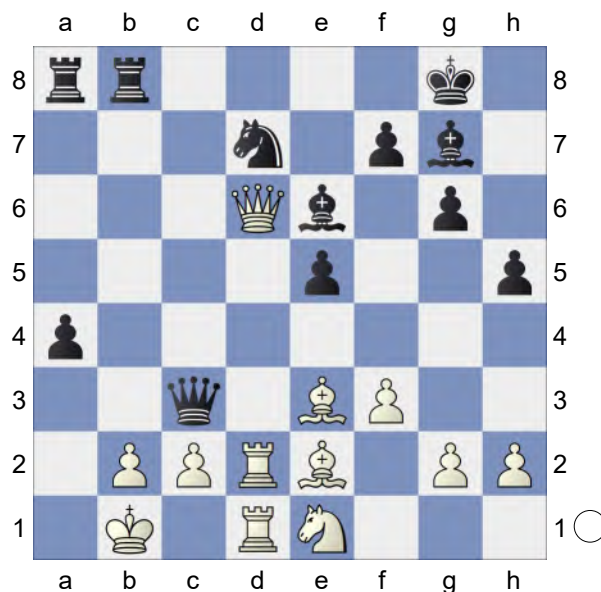
[25.Ka1 wouldn't save White as a3! would open up the White monarch with decisive effect. Gawain Jones: 'would open up the White monarch with decisive effect.']

25...Bxd5+

(Diagram)



26.Kb1 Qc7 27.Ne1 Rcb8 28.Qa3 Be6 29.Qxd6 Qc3



A comfortable win for Black as White failed to find a plan. White must be happy to go into the critical lines against the Dragadorf or, as we've seen here, he'll just drift into a worse position. Gawain Jones: 'A comfortable win for Black as White failed to find a plan. White must be happy to go into the critical lines against the Dragadorf or, as we've seen here, he'll just drift into a

worse position.'

0-1

503

□ Nepomniachtchi, Ian

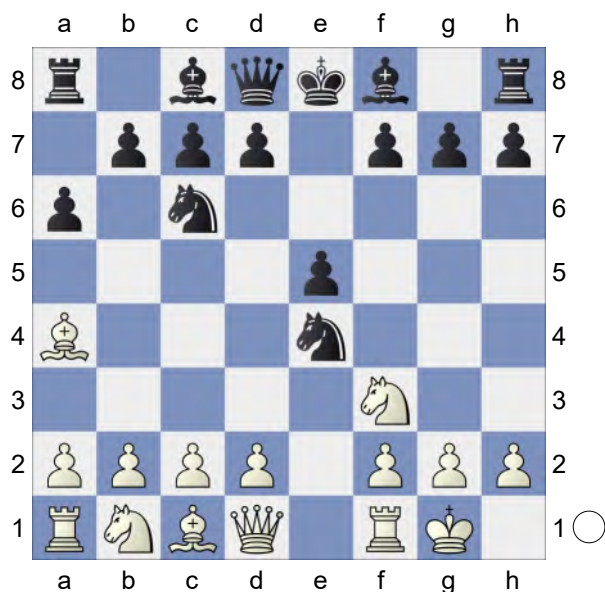
■ Wei, Yi

23: FIDE Grand Prix (rapid), Moscow

[Joshua Doknjas]

C83

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4
Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

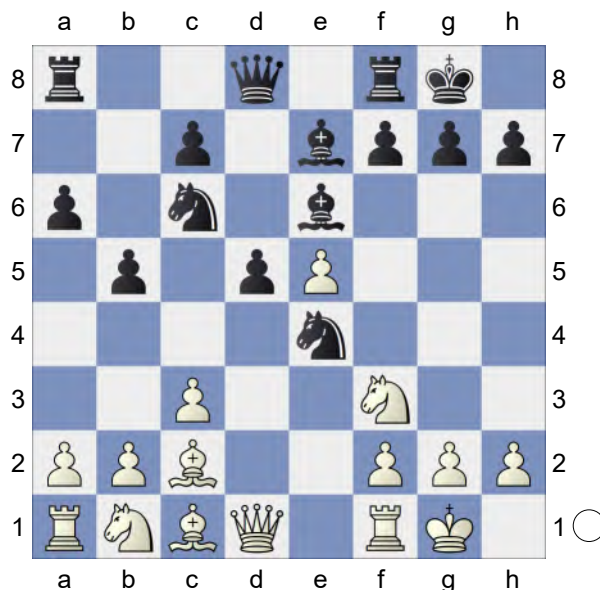


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3

[The actual move order of the game was 9.Nbd2 Be7 10.c3 0-0 11.Bc2 f5 .]

9...Be7 10.Bc2 0-0

(Diagram)



11.Nbd2 f5

[Black has the following alternatives:

a) 11...Nc5?! is a passive choice: following 12.Nb3 (the immediate 12.Nd4 would also be good for White) 12...Qd7 13.Re1 Rfe8 (13...Nxb3 14.axb3 f5 was played in O.Korneev-R.Theissl Pokorna, Reykjavik 2004, but soon led to trouble for Black after 15.exf6 Bxf6 16.Qd3 g6 17.Bh6) 14.Ng5 g6 15.Nxe6 Qxe6 16.f4 Rad8 17.Kh1 Qd7 18.Qf3 White had a clear edge in S.Nilsson-S.Rynkevich, correspondence 2009.]

[b) 11...Nxd2 12.Qxd2! is the best recapture, preparing to use the queen to create threats on the kingside. After Qd7 13.Re1 Rfe8 14.h3 Bf8 15.Qg5! Rad8 16.Qh5, White had excellent play in S.Shcherbatyuk-G.Plume, correspondence 2017.]

[c) 11...Bf5 12.Nd4 Nxd4 13.cxd4 Qd7 (13...f6 14.Nxe4 Bxe4 15.Bxe4 dxe4 16.Qb3+ Kh8 17.Be3 was much better for White in V.Ivanchuk-V.Korchnoi, New York 1994) 14.Nb3! and White will take control of the c5-square. D.

Szczepankiewicz-W.Wójcik, correspondence 2006, continued a5 15.f3 Ng5 16.Bxg5 Bxg5 17.Nc5 Bxc2 18.Qxc2 with a winning position for White, as his kingside pawns could easily roll forward.]

12.exf6!? QUESTION: What is the purpose of playing 12 exf6, giving up the strong pawn on e5? --- ANSWER: 12 exf6 is a rare line, but a very interesting one. White opens up the e-file and prepares to quickly develop his pieces. As we will see in a couple of moves, White also has ideas of playing a4 and attacking Black's slightly weakened queenside.

[White is currently struggling to show anything in the main lines after 12.Nb3 , so deviating here seems like a good choice.]

12...Nxf6 13.Re1

[13.Nb3 is the most popular choice, but doesn't seem to be as critical. After Bg4 14.Qd3 , Black has:

A) 14...Bh5 15.Nbd4 Nxd4 16.cxd4 Bg6 17.Qe2 Bxc2 18.Qxc2 Bd6 19.Bg5 gave White an edge in M.Vachier Lagrave-L. Fressinet, Nimes 2009.;

B) 14...Qd7 15.Nbd4 Nxd4 (or 15...Bd6 16.Bg5 Nxd4 17.Nxd4 c5 18.Bxf6 gxf6 19.Nf5 and White has slightly better chances) 16.cxd4 Bxf3 17.Qxf3 saw White obtain the bishop pair advantage in D.Anton Guijarro-S. Vidit, Martuni 2016, but Black should be fine.;

C) 14...Ne4!? 15.Nbd4 Nxd4 16.Nxd4 Bd6 17.h3 Qh4! soon led to a draw in M. Nayhebaver-R.Biolek, Tatranske Zruby 2014.]

13...Qd7

[Others: a) 13...Bg4 14.h3 Bh5 , when White can try:

A) 15.Bf5!? as played in E.Safarli-I. Shahaliyev, Baku 2015, can be met by Bd6! (instead 15...Kh8?! 16.g4! Bf7 17.Ng5 allowed White to develop active kingside play) 16.g4 Bg6 17.Bxg6 hxg6 18.Nf1 Qd7 followed by ...Rae8 and Black is fine.;

B) 15.Nf1 is a simple and playable alternative, but shouldn't be too challenging for Black after Bc5 16.Be3 Bxe3 17.Rxe3 d4!;

C) 15.a4! challenges Black on the queenside, and now:

C1) 15...Bd6 should be met by playing 16.axb5 axb5 17.Rxa8 Qxa8 18.g4! with a clearly better position for White; for example, Bf7 (while 18...Bg6 runs into 19.Bxg6 hxg6 20.Qc2) 19.Ng5! ;

C2) 15...b4 16.Nf1 Bc5 (16...Ne4?! is an active idea, aiming to create play along the open f-file, but can be simply met by 17.Ng3! with a much better position for White; Black's most dangerous continuation is Nxf2!? 18.Kxf2 Bh4! , but here White has 19.Re6! preventing Black from playing ...Qd6, and Qd7 20.Qd3 g6 21.Bb3! is good for White) 17.Be3 Bxe3 18.Rxe3 d4 and Black should equalize with accurate play. Maybe White's best try is 19.Rd3 , when play may continue Bxf3 20.Rxf3 Qd6 21.Ng3 Ne5 22.Rf4 and the chances are roughly equal in this complicated

position.]

[b) 13...Qd6 doesn't look like a natural choice and appears to just be a slightly worse version of 13...Qd7. Play may continue 14.a4 (14.h3 is a safer choice and should be slightly better for White as well; White will try to improve his position with moves like Nf1 and Be3, and then may attack on the queenside with a4) 14...b4 15.a5! Bg4 16.h3 Bh5 17.Ba4! is a very annoying move for Black to deal with: (17.Bf5 aims to control the important e6-square, but Ne5!? leads to complicated play; though White should still be better) 17...Nxa5 is critical, but White obtains tremendous compensation after 18.Qe2! Rf7 (or 18...bxc3 19.bxc3 Bd8 20.c4! gives White a clear advantage; he will try to open the position with cxd5 and maybe play Ba3) 19.g4! (the safer 19.Qf1 is fine as well) 19...Nxg4 20.hxg4 Bxg4 21.Qe5 and Black lacks compensation.]

14.a4! This new idea by Nepomniachtchi puts Black under serious queenside pressure, and it already isn't so easy for Black to achieve full equality.

[14.Nf1 Rae8 15.Ng5!? , as tried in D.Baramidze-E.L'Ami, Germany 2006, isn't a problem for Black after Bg4! 16.f3 Bf5 17.Bxf5 , when we see the point behind inserting ...Bg4 and f3, as Black can play Bc5+! with a good position; (17...Qxf5? 18.Ne6! would be excellent for White.)]

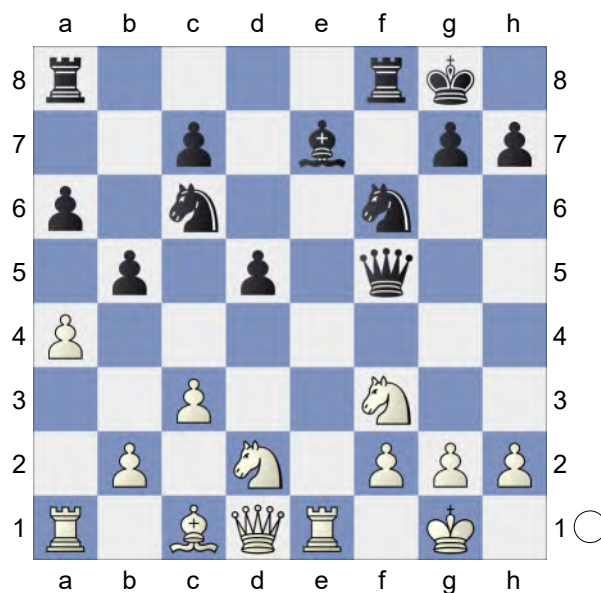
14...Bf5?! Now White can obtain a much better position because he is able to easily develop his pieces and put pressure on Black's slightly weakened

queenside.

[Instead: a) 14...b4 15.a5! Bc5! , encouraging White to play Nb3, as then White can't play Ba4. Still, White retains the better chances after (15...Bg4 16.Ba4 is a very unpleasant pin for Black to deal with) 16.Nb3 (16.Ba4?! would run into Ng4) 16...Bd6 17.Nbd4 , which leads to a fairly forcing line: (alternatively, there is 17.Be3 Bg4 18.Nbd2 Ne5 19.Nxe5 Bxe5 20.f3 with a small advantage for White) 17...Nxd4 18.Nxd4 Bg4 19.f3 c5 20.Ne2 Bf5 (20...Bh5 21.Bg5 is very comfortable for White) 21.Bxf5 Qxf5 22.cxb4 cxb4 23.Be3 and White's control of the important d4-square gives him an edge.]

[b) 14...Bg4?! is dubious because of 15.axb5 axb5 16.Rxa8 Rxa8 17.Bd3 and Black's queenside becomes quite weak.]

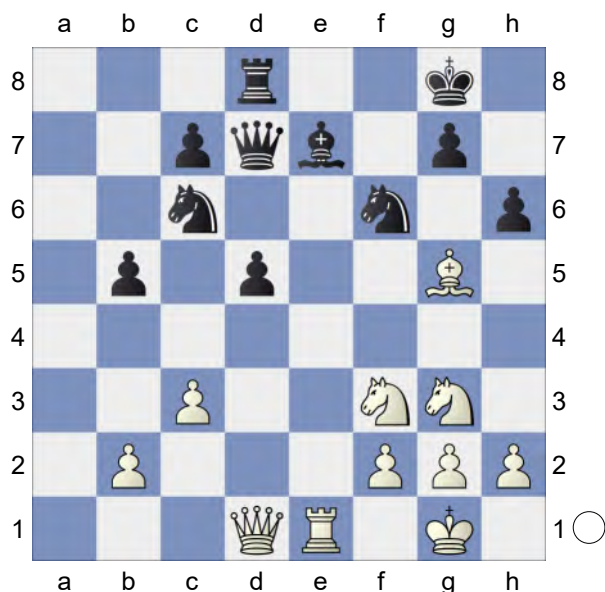
15.Bxf5 Qxf5



16.axb5

[It was also possible to maintain the tension on the queenside for a bit longer with 16.Nf1 Qd7 17.Bg5 .]

16...axb5 17.Rxa8 Rxa8 18.Nf1 Qd7
19.Bg5 Rd8 20.Ng3 h6



21.Bxf6 Bxf6 EXERCISE: How should White continue? --- ANSWER: **22.Nh5!**
A very strong move that attacks Black's f6-bishop and prepares to play Nf4, which would target Black's d5-pawn and the weak e6-square.

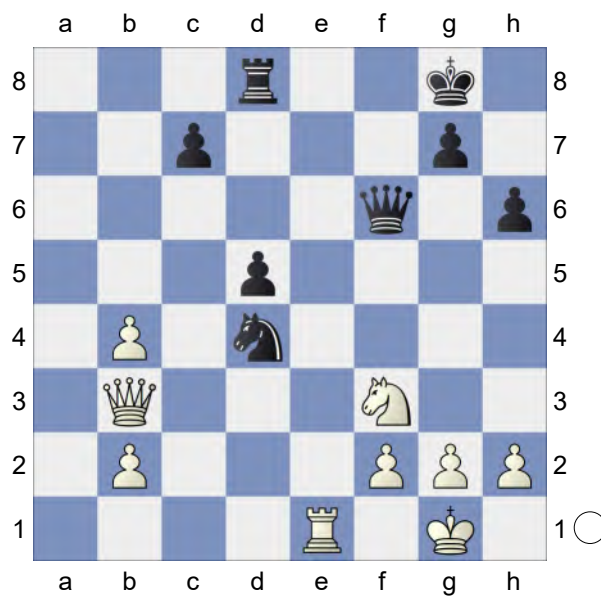
[22.Qd3!? preventing ...Qf5 before playing Nh5 was also worth considering.]

22...Qf5

[22...Rf8 is met by 23.Nf4 Ne7 24.Qe2 with a clear advantage for White.]

23.Nxf6+ Qxf6 24.Qb3! b4! 25.cxb4 Nd4

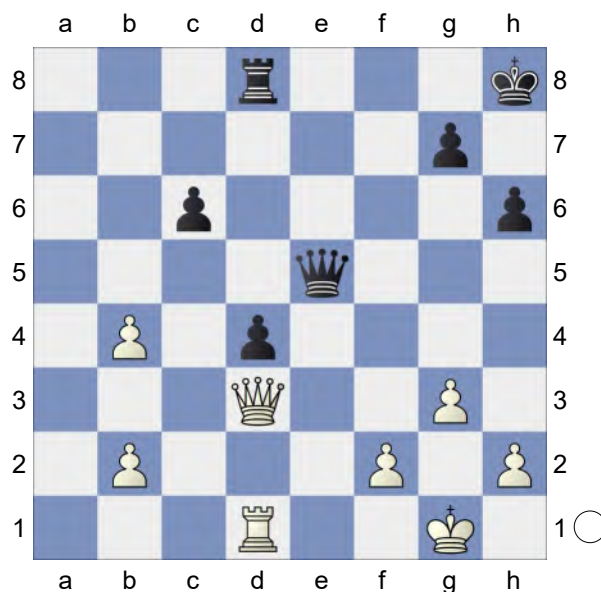
(Diagram)



26.Nxd4 Qxd4 Black has decent drawing chances because all minor pieces have been exchanged. **27.Rd1**

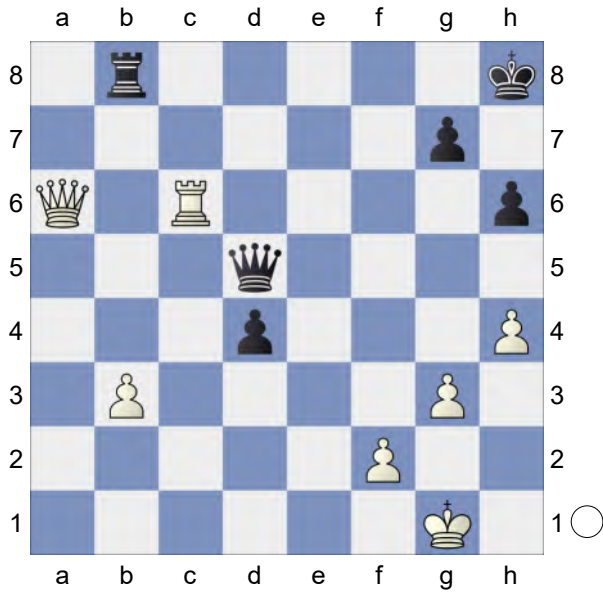
[27.Qc3!? was an interesting alternative, Black will be faced with an unpleasant defence.]

27...Qe5 28.g3 Kh8 29.Qc3 d4 30.Qd3 c6

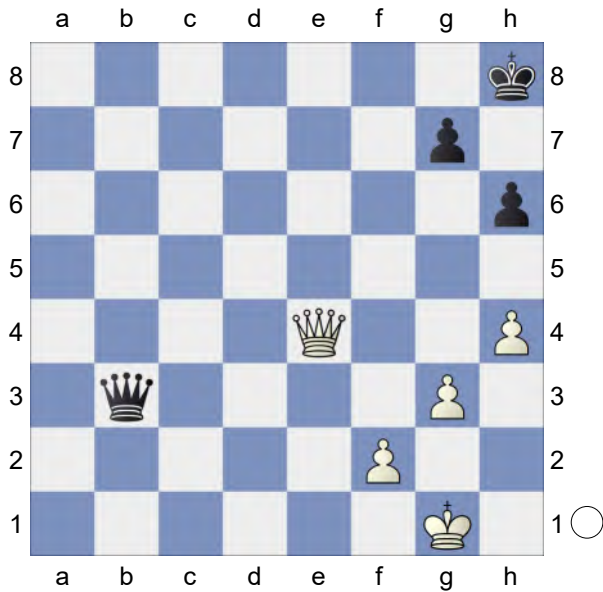


31.b3 Qd6 32.Rc1 Rb8 33.h4 Rxb4 34.Qa6 Rb8 35.Rxc6 Qd5

(Diagram)

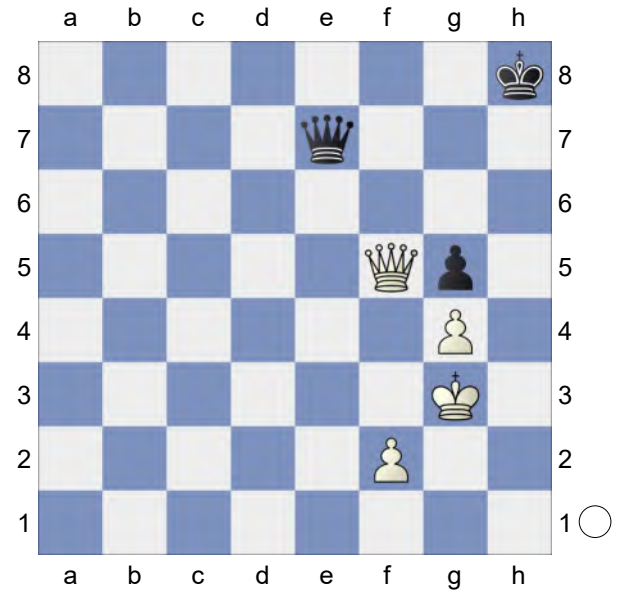


36.Rc8+ Rxc8 37.Qxc8+ Kh7 38.Qc4 Qf3 39.Qxd4 Qxb3 40.Qe4+ Kh8

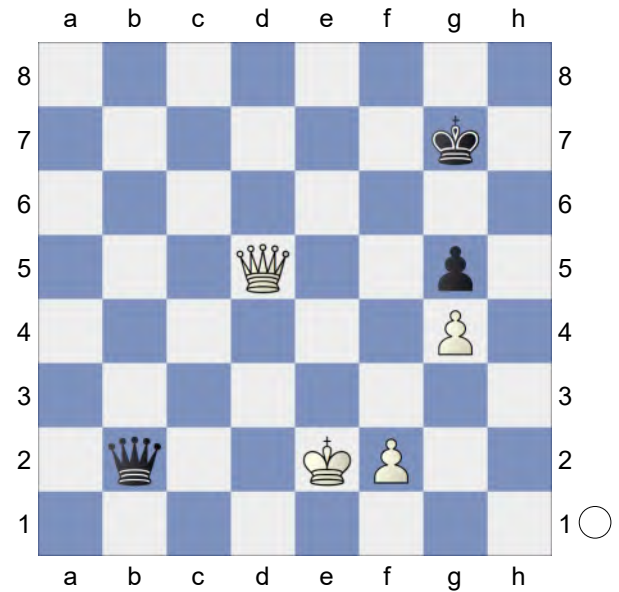


41.Kg2 Qf7 42.g4 Qf6 43.Kg3 g5 44.hxg5 hxg5 45.Qf5 Qe7

(Diagram)

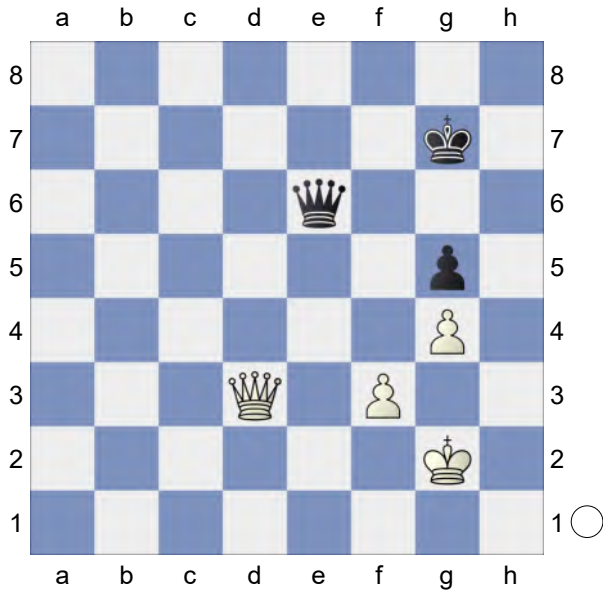


46.Kf3 Kg7 47.Qe4 Qf6+ 48.Qf5 Qe7 49.Qd5 Qf6+ 50.Ke2 Qb2+

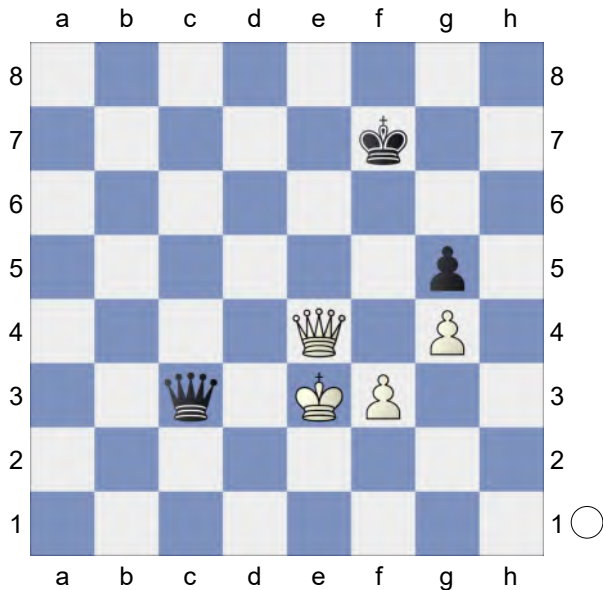


51.Qd2 Qb5+ 52.Qd3 Qb2+ 53.Kf1 Qc1+ 54.Kg2 Qc6+ 55.f3 Qe6

(Diagram)

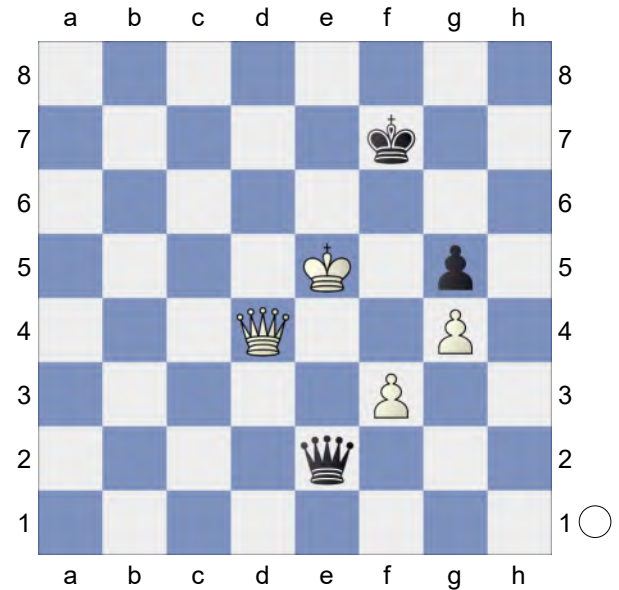


**56.Qd4+ Qf6 57.Qb4 Qe5 58.Kf2 Kf7
59.Qe4 Qb2+ 60.Ke3 Qc3+**

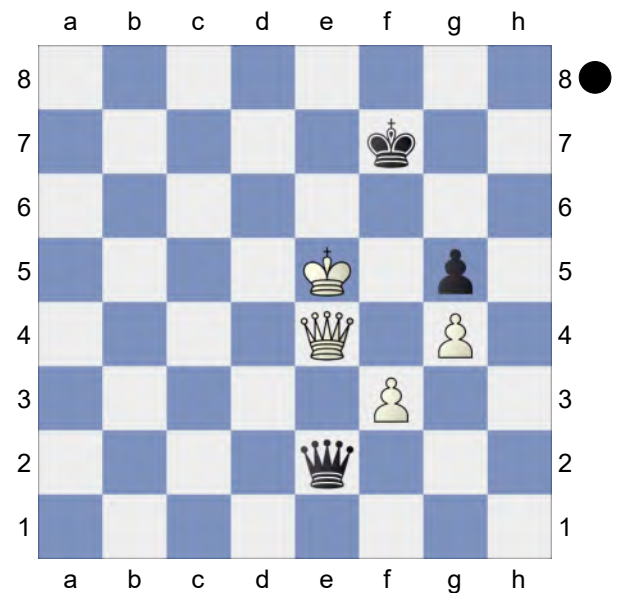


**61.Ke2 Qb2+ 62.Kd3 Qb3+ 63.Kd4
Qb4+ 64.Ke5 Qb2+ 65.Qd4 Qe2+**

(Diagram)



66.Qe4 Qb2+ 67.Qd4 Qe2+ 68.Qe4



. 10...0-0 is one of the soundest lines that Black can play in the Open Ruy Lopez against our repertoire choice of 9 c3. After 11 Nbd2, Black has a number of options, but 11...f5 is by far the most critical and Black's results here have been very solid recently. In this game, we looked at 12 exf6!?, aiming to create play on the open e-file and attack Black's queenside. On move 13, Black played 13...Qd7 which was met by Nepomniachtchi's strong new idea, 14

a4!. However, Black managed to hold the game with accurate defence, despite being much worse out of the opening. Instead, Black could deviate with either 13...Bg4 or 13...Qd7 14 a4 b4, but the play remains complicated and Black's weakened queenside requires him to display accuracy while defending in many variations.

1/2-1/2

435

□ Karthikeyan, Murali

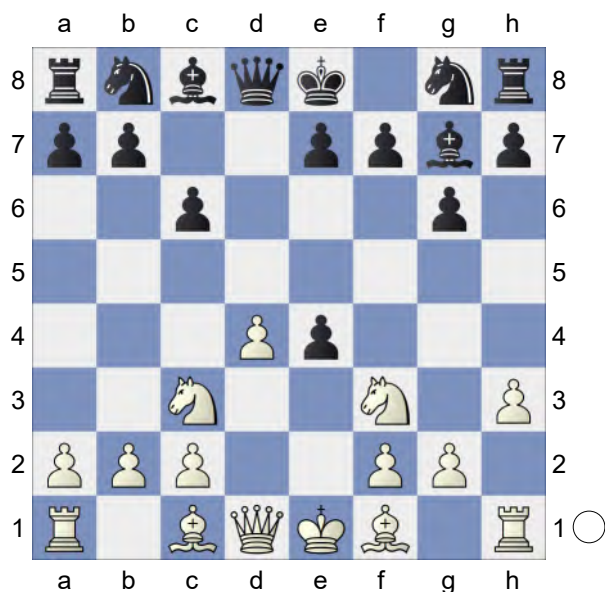
■ Wei, Yi

Asia-chT KO rapid U23 5th (1.1) 26.9.17
[Justin Tan]

B15

2574

2748

1.e4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Nc3 g6 4.d4 Bg7
5.h3 dxe4

6.Nxe4 Nf6 7.Nxf6+ exf6!?

This idea was suggested to me by a subscriber. We reach a position similar to those arising from 1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 dxe4 4 Nxe4 Nf6 5 Nxf6 exf6. The engines always give White an edge in such positions, however in reality I think this is a little misleading - White's plans are not so easy meanwhile this game illustrates how Black may increase the pressure if White lets him. 8.Bc4

[8.Bd3 0-0 9.0-0

A) 9...Na6?! 10.c3 (10.Bxa6 bxa6 11.c4 is better for White.) 10...Nc7 11.Re1 b6 12.a4 a5 13.Bf4 Nd5 14.Qd2 Be6 15.Re2 Nxf4 16.Qxf4 Qb8 17.Qxb8 Raxb8 18.Nd2 Bh6 19.Bc4 Bxd2 20.Bxe6 fxe6 21.Rxd2 Rfd8 22.Kf1 Kf7=

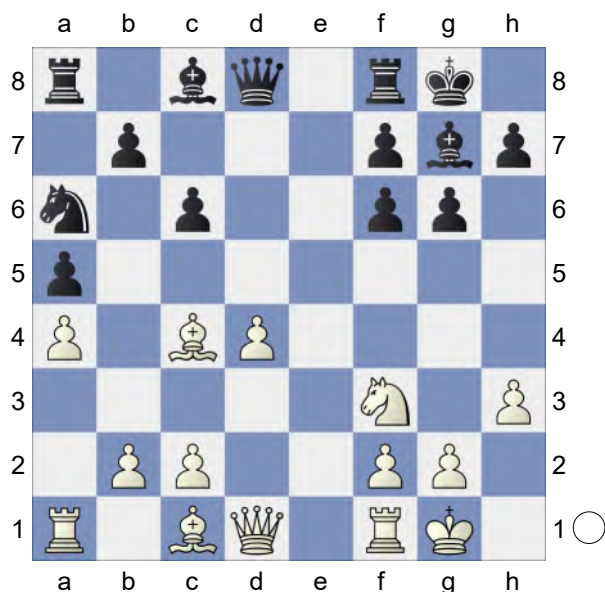
1/2-1/2 (25) Kollars, D (2542)-Howell, D (2697) Germany 2019;

B) 9...Re8 . 10.Bf4 Na6 11.c3 Nc7 12.Re1 Rxe1+ 13.Qxe1 1/2-1/2 (36) Zelbel, P (2452)-Larino Nieto, D (2495) Leiria 2017 a5 14.a4 (14.Qd2 a4 15.a3 Nd5 16.Bh2 b5∞) 14...Be6 15.c4 Na6≠]

8...0-0 9.0-0 a5 10.a4 Na6

[The following was a blitz game, so it's merely illustrative. 10...Nd7 11.Bf4 (11.Re1 is the strongest reaction, when White is a bit better - here was an excellent example: Nb6 12.Bb3 Nd5 13.c4! Nb4 14.Bd2 b6 15.Bc3 Ra7 Black allowed his opponent to gain far too much control over the position. 16.Qd2 Qd6 17.Qe3 Bf5 18.Re2 c5 19.Rd1 Qc7 20.Nh2 Na6 21.d5 Qd6 22.Ng4 Bxg4 23.hxg4 Rd7 24.Rde1+- 1-0 (47) Beim, V (2527)-Mahdy, K (2352) Aschach 2001) 11...Nb6 12.Bb3 Nd5 13.Bh2 Be6 14.Re1 Re8 15.Nd2 f5 16.Nc4 f4! 17.c3 g5 18.Ne5 0-1 (42) Lu, S (2630)-Wei, Y (2734) Tianjin 2018 Bxe5!? 19.dxe5 (19.Rxe5 f6 20.Re1 Qd7≠ is awkward for White, mostly due to the hemmed in dark-squared bishop.) 19...Nb6 20.Bxe6 Qxd1 21.Bxf7+ Kxf7 22.Rexd1 Rad8 23.b3 Rxd1+ 24.Rxd1 Rxe5 25.g3 Rd5≠ Commonly, the endings give Black good winning chances.]

(Diagram)



The most flexible route. **11.c3 Nc7**
12.Bf4

[12.Re1 Nd5 13.Bd2 Be6 14.Bf1 Qd6 15.Qc1 Qd7 16.Bh6 b5 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Nd2 Nb6 19.axb5 cxb5 20.Ne4 Bc4 21.Bxc4 bxc4 22.Qf4 Qc6 23.Qd6 Rfc8 24.Qxc6 Rxc6 25.Nc5 Nd5 26.Ra4 Nb6 27.Ra2 Nd5 28.g3 Rb6 29.Re2 Rb5 30.Kg2 Rab8 31.Kf3 h5 0-1 (93) Stripunsky,A (2536)-Gonzalez,R (2451) chess.com INT 2017]

12...Nd5 13.Bh2 Be6 14.Nd2 f5

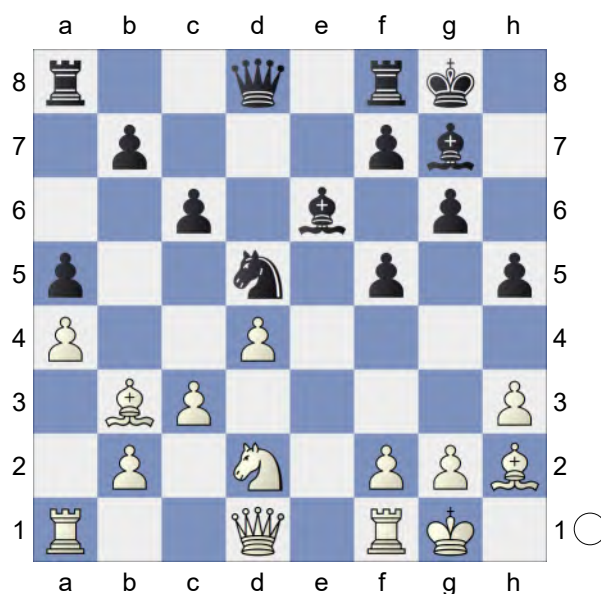
[14...Bh6 15.Re1 Re8 16.Ba2 1/2-1/2 (90) Sindarov,J (2287)-Bai,J (2443) Hamedan 2018 f5 17.Nf3 f6!? Black plays some useful moves next, for instance Qd7, Kg7 and takes stock. Either Bh6-f4 which would generally lead to equality or to keep the position more complicated: g6-g5, f5-f4, Bf7-h5 - a snazzy development (!), prioritising the light-squared bishop's scope over that of the dark-squared bishop, which should eventually reroute via f8. Incidentally, this is exactly what occurred in our game continuation, it is the most

effective way to play for the win.]

15.Bb3

[15.Qb3 Qd7 16.Rfe1 Rfe8 17.Re2 Re7 18.Rae1 Rae8 19.Qa3 1-0 (60) Savic,M (2511)-Jovanovic,Z (2540) Hungary 2018 f4! justified by the tactic 20.Bxd5 Qxd5 21.Bxf4?? Bxh3+-]

15...h5!?

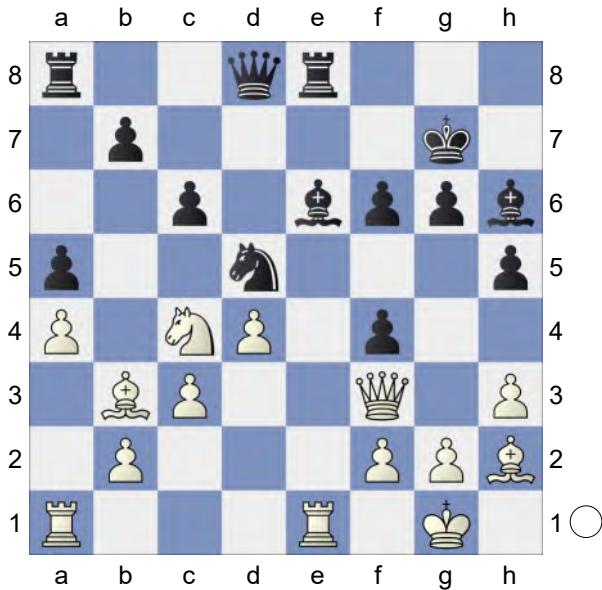


16.Re1 Bh6 17.Be5 This move, which plays into Black's hands, somewhat shows that White was unaccustomed to this obscure structure.

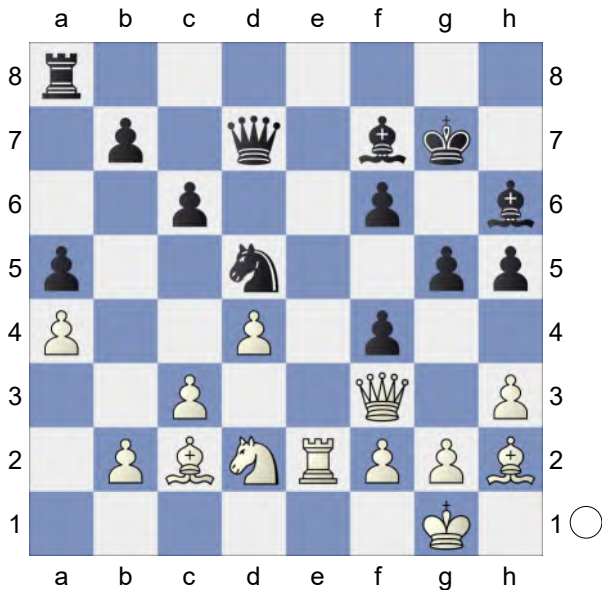
[17.Nf3 Re8 18.Ne5 (else f7-f6 might actually come voluntarily). Bf4 (18...Kh7 19.Qf3 f6 20.Nd3 Bf7 is now riskier and less effective, not only because the c5-square isn't covered but also because 21.g4 is possible. fxc4 22.hxc4 hxc4 23.Qxc4↑ This was perhaps a drawback of the h7-h5 plan.)]

17...Re8 18.Nc4 f6 19.Bh2 With his next few moves, Wei Yi affirms his class by seizing the initiative. **19...f4 20.Qf3 Kg7**

(Diagram)

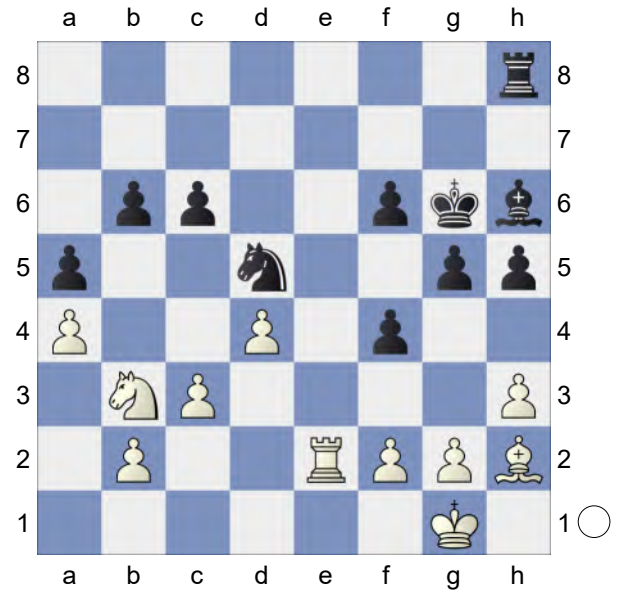


**21.Nd2 Qc7 22.Re2 Bf7 23.Rae1
Rxe2 24.Rxe2 g5 25.Bc2 Qd7**

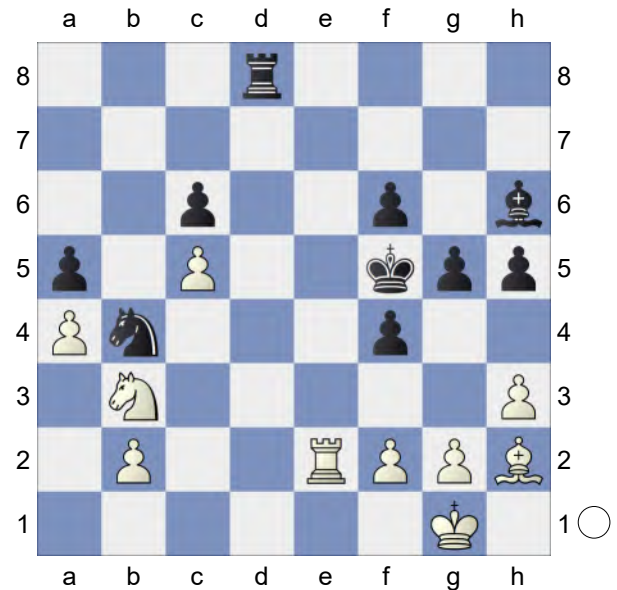


26.Qd3 Rh8 Black has covered all the concrete issues that White has posed.
27.Qf5?! Qxf5 28.Bxf5 Bg6! 29.Bxg6 Kxg6 The ending is fantastic for Black.
30.Nb3 b6

(Diagram)

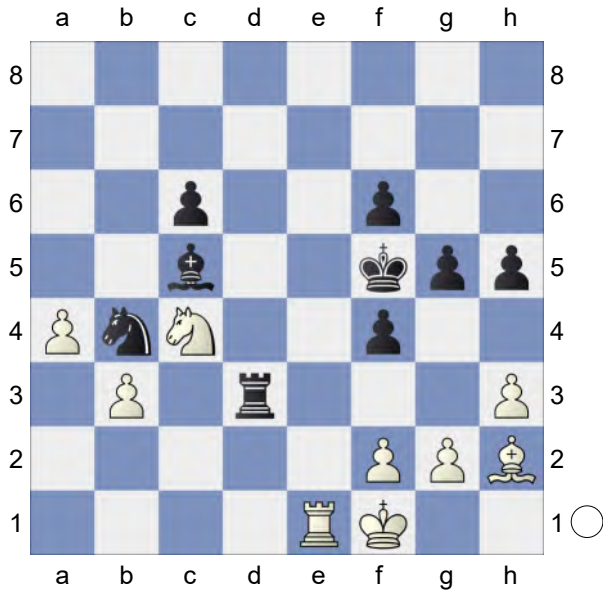


**31.Re6 Rc8 32.c4 Nb4 33.c5 Kf5
34.Re2 bxc5 35.dxc5 Rd8**

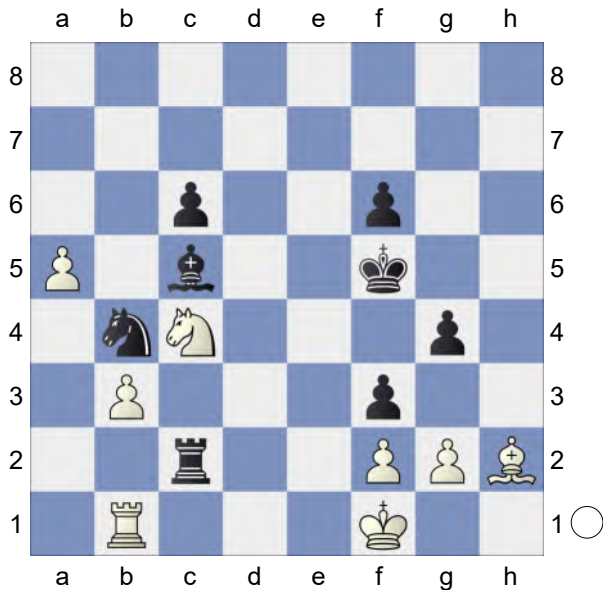


36.Re1 Rd5 37.Kf1 Bf8 38.Nxa5 Bxc5 39.Nc4 Rd4 40.b3 Rd3

(Diagram)

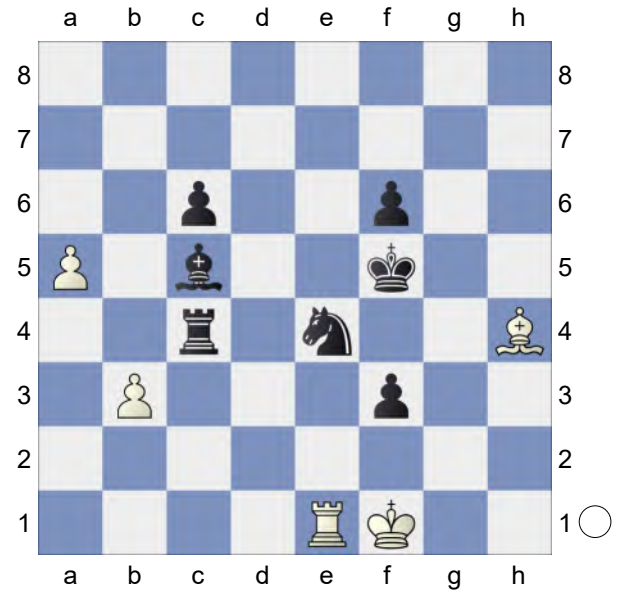


**41.Rb1 g4 42.hxg4+ hxg4 43.Bg1
Rc3 44.a5 f3 45.Bh2 Rc2**



**46.Bg3 Nd3 47.gxf3 gxf3 48.Rd1
Nxf2 49.Re1 Ne4 50.Bh4 Rxc4**

(Diagram)



An absolute model game for this variation, note White's light squared bishop was completely restricted even up to the final position!

0-1

426

□ Antipov, Mikhail AI

■ Wei, Yi

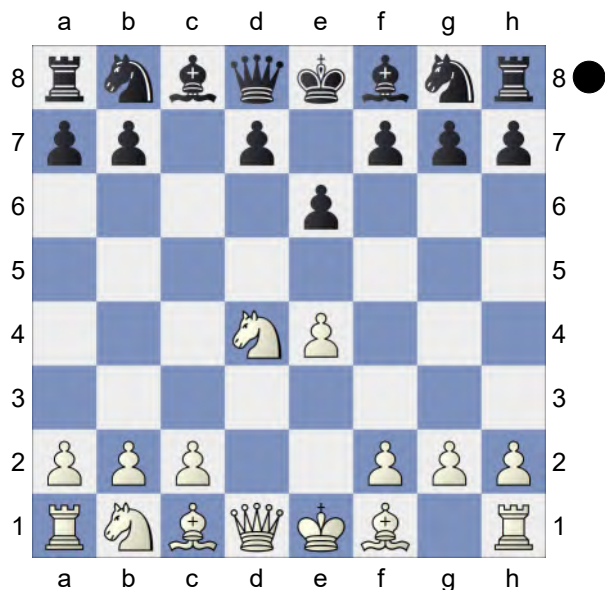
Moscow Aeroflot op-A 18th (6.4) 24.2.19
[Kapnisis, Spyridon]

B41

2589

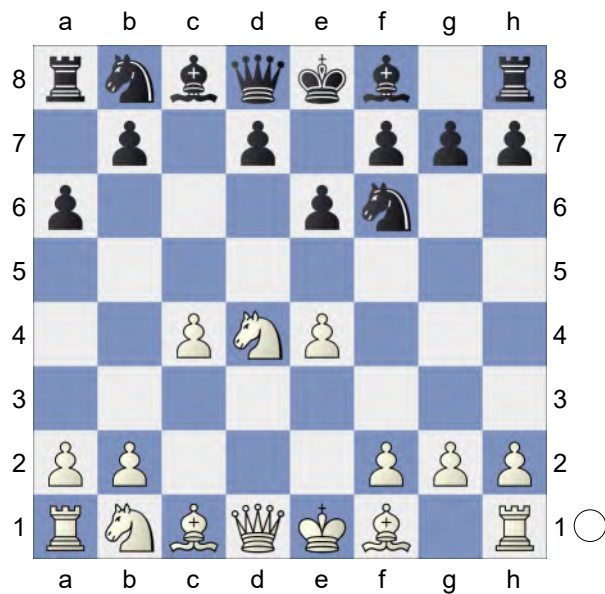
2733

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4?!

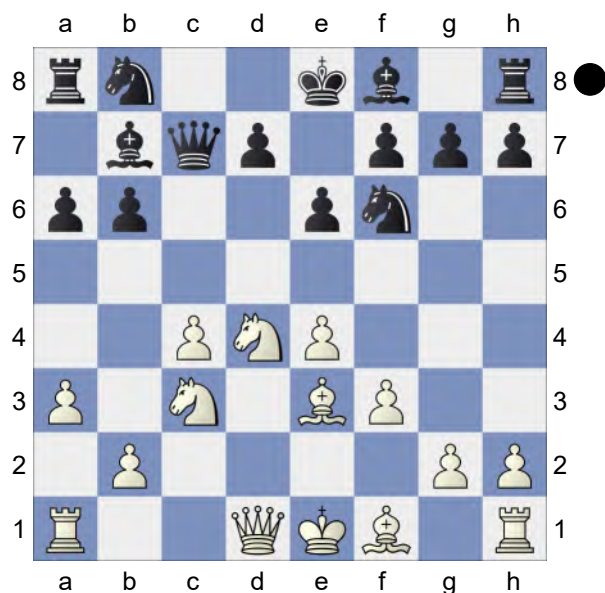


A rather provocative move which is punished emphatically by the Chinese prodigy. Wei Yi shows us that we shouldn't be afraid of any ghosts and that h5 by White is not necessarily connected with an attack against the black king. **4...a6! 5.c4 Nf6**

(Diagram)



6.Nc3 Qc7 7.a3 b6 8.Be3 Bb7 9.f3

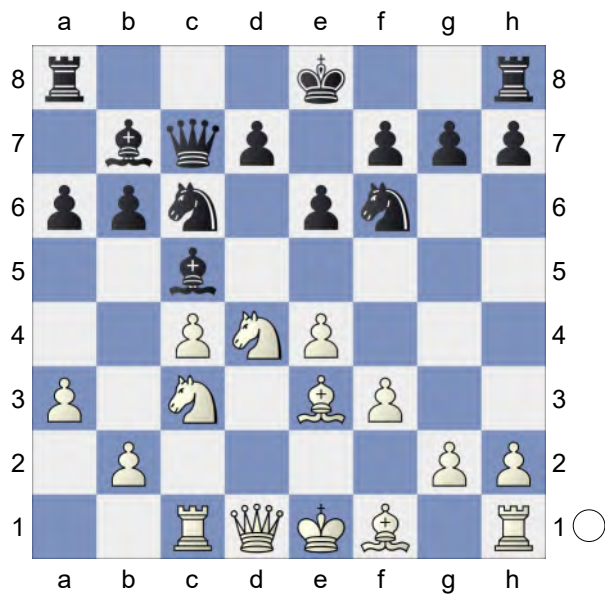


Nc6 Black has developed properly getting a serious space advantage while White's attack is destined to fail since his pieces are not well coordinated.

10.Rc1 Bc5!

[10...Ne5]

(Diagram)



It makes a lot of sense for Black to open the f-file in order to use it for attacking purposes. **11.Na4**

[11.b4 I don't find it necessary for Black to respond to the "threat" of h5. By playing h5 Black weakens the g5-square which can be used by the white knight. Bxd4 12.Bxd4 Nxd4 13.Qxd4

A) 13...d6 14.Rd1 Ke7 (14...Rd8 15.Na4) 15.Be2;

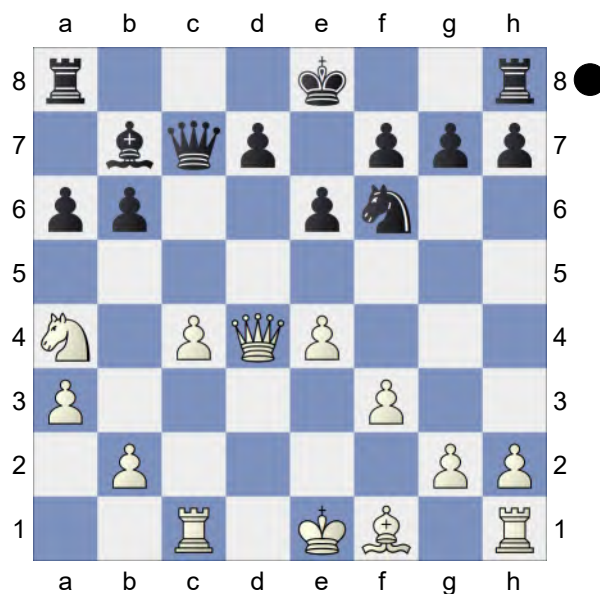
B) 13...0-0 14.e5 1-0 (37) Jobava, B (2706)-Dubov, D (2614) Minsk BLR 2014 Ne8 15.Rd1 f6 (15...Bc6 16.Bd3 f6± 17.exf6 Nxf6 18.0-0) 16.Qxd7 Qxe5+ 17.Kf2∞ Nc7 18.Qd4 (18.Be2?!) 18...Qxd4+ 19.Rxd4± 1/2 (43) Lagarde, M (2610)-Van der Lende, I (2334) Cappelle la Grande FRA 2019;

C) 13...e5 14.Qe3 d6∞ 1-0 (60) Rakhmanov, A (2636)-Zhukova, N (2470) Doha QAT 2014 15.Be2 0-0 16.0-0]

11...Nxd4 12.Bxd4 Bxd4

[12...e5!?∞ 13.Nxc5 bxc5 14.Be3 a5 15.b3 0-0]

13.Qxd4



b5! 14.Nb6

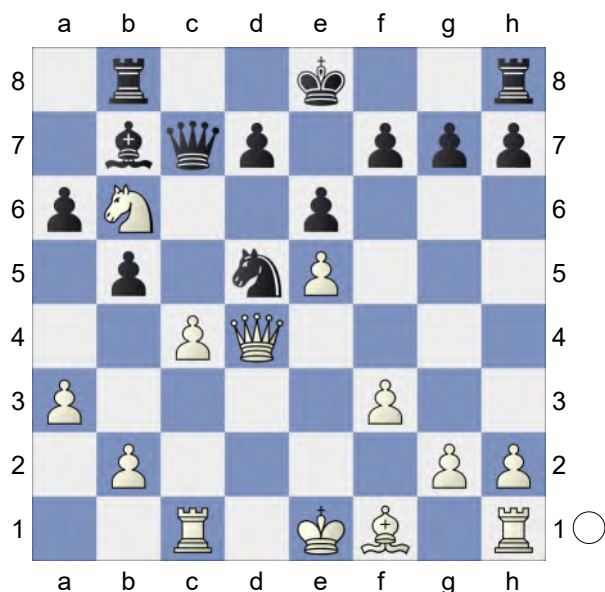
[14.Nc5!? e5 15.Qe3 Qb6∞ (15...d6 16.Nxb7 Qxb7!? 17.b4 1-0 (39) Lagarde, M (2657)-Roselle, T (2161) Montagne FRA 2019 0-0!? 18.Be2) 16.Kf2 0-0 17.Nxb7 Qxb7 18.c5 Rfd8 19.Be2 d5 20.cxd6∞ Rxd6?!]

14...Rb8 15.e5

[15.c5 e5 16.Qe3 0-0 17.b4 d5 18.exd5 Bxd5 (18...Nxd5 19.Nxd5 Bxd5 20.Bd3 1-0 (51) Gabuzyan, H (2614)-Shahinyan, D (2442) Yerevan ARM 2016) 19.Bd3 Bc6 20.0-0 Rbd8]

15...Nd5-+

(Diagram)



With the white king trapped on e1 it is only a matter of time for black to deliver the killing punch. **16.Nxd5 Bxd5 17.Kd2**

[17.Rc3 Bc6 (17...bxc4 18.Bxc4 Bxc4 is equally good. 19.Rxc4!? Qd8 20.0-0 0-0 21.Rfc1) 18.b4 is very comfortable for Black. 0-0 19.Bd3 f6 20.exf6 Rxf6 21.0-0∞]

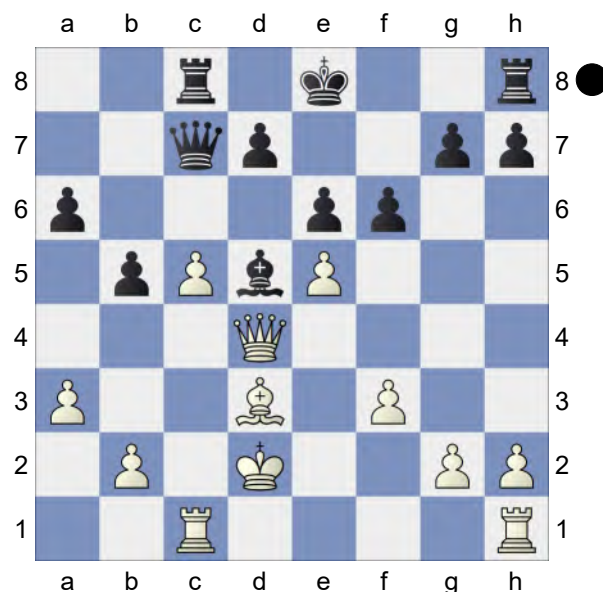
17...Rc8 18.c5 f6

[18...0-0 19.Bd3 f6 20.Rhe1 fxe5+ 21.Qxe5 (21.Rxe5 d6 22.Rg5 h6 23.Rg4) 21...Qd8]

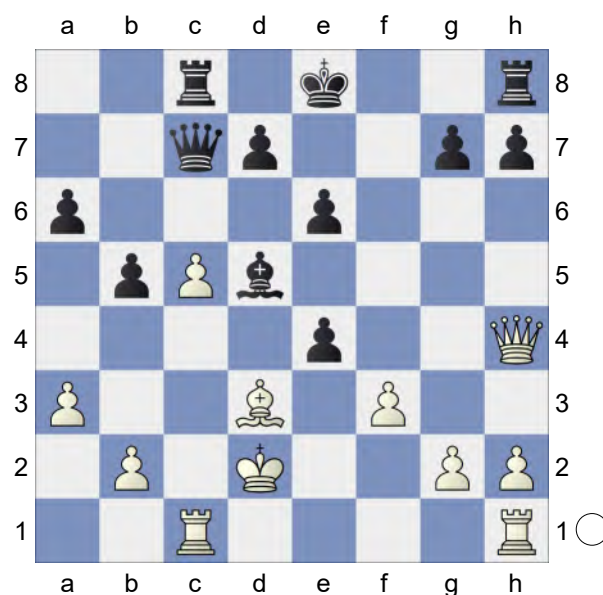
19.Bd3

[19.exf6 gxf6 (19...0-0 20.fxcg7 Rf4+ 21.Qe3) 20.Qxf6 Rg8 21.b4? d6 22.Rg1]

(Diagram)



19...fxe5! 20.Qh4 e4

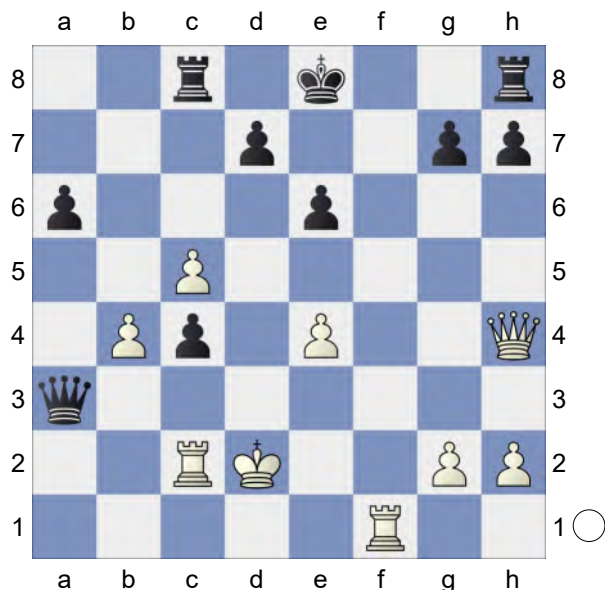


21.fxe4 Bc4 22.Rhf1

[22.Bxc4 bxc4 23.Rxc4+ Black has control of the centre and White has issues with the lack of space. Qe5!?]

22...Qe5 23.b4 Qb2+ 24.Rc2 Qxa3 25.Bxc4 bxc4

(Diagram)

**26.Rxc4**

[26.Qh5+ g6 27.Qe5 Qd3+ 28.Ke1 Qe3+ 0-1 (24) Bartel,M (2600)-Paravyan,D (2627) Prague CZE 2019 29.Kd1!? Planning on playing ♔f5, ♔e7 and castling long. Qd3+]

26...Qb2+-+ 27.Kd3!? a5!?

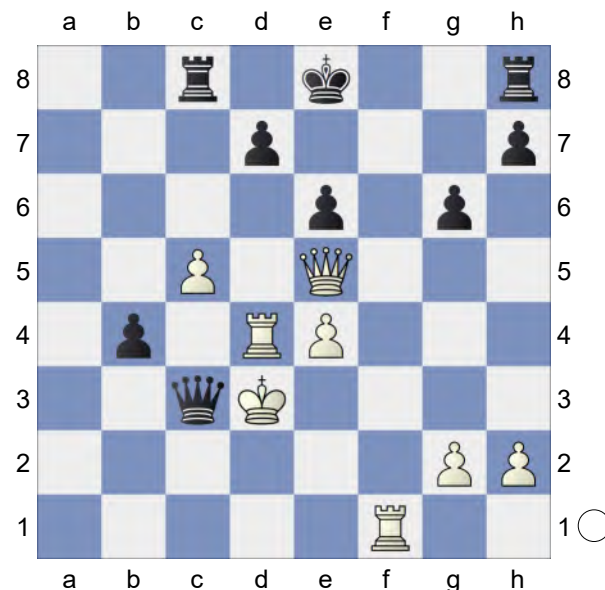
[27...Qb3+ 28.Rc3 Qxb4 29.Qh5+ Kd8 30.Qg5+ Kc7 31.Qe5+ Kb7 0-1 (31) Jobava,B (2690)-Le Quang Liem (2737) Riyadh KSA 2017 32.Rf7!? Qb1+!? 33.Rc2 Qb3+! Black shouldn't avoid pushing his pawn to e4 harassing the white knight. 34.Kd2?! Qb4+]

28.Rd4

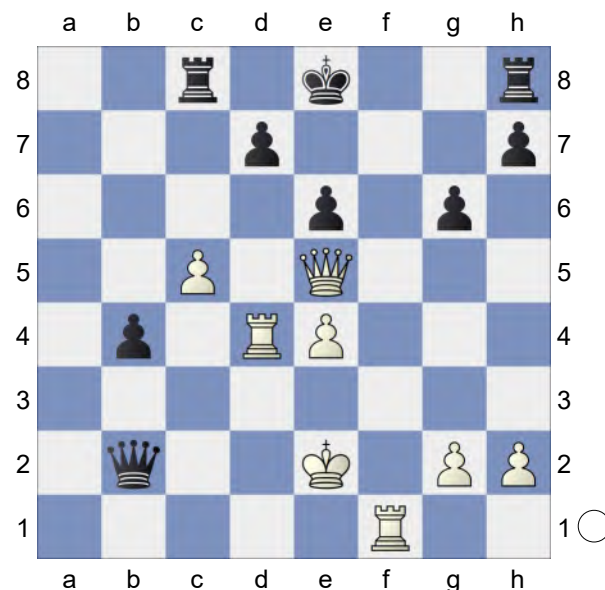
[28.Qf4 axb4 29.c6 Qf6 30.cxd7+ Kxd7 31.Rd4+ Ke8 32.Qxf6 gxf6 33.Rxf6 Ke7]

28...axb4→ 29.Qh5+? g6+- emphasises White's lack of space. 30.Qe5 Qc3+

(Diagram)

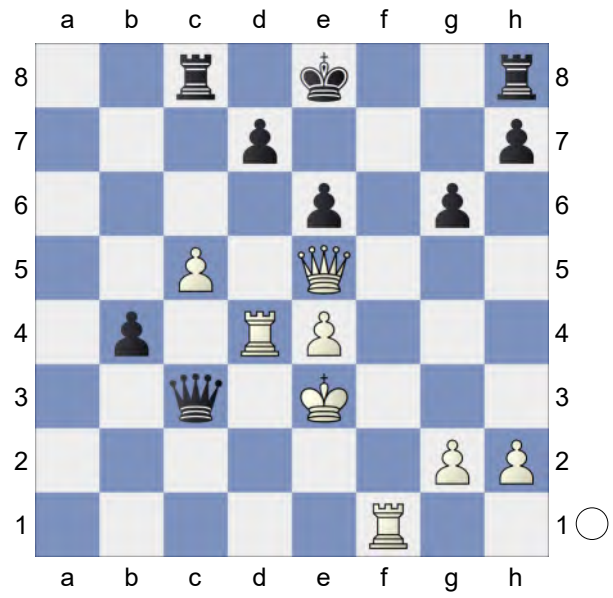


31.Ke2 Qb2+! 32.Ke3 Qc3+-+ White will not be able to put his king is safety. 33.Ke2?? Qb2+ 34.Ke3 Qc3+-+ 35.Ke2 Qb2+?



36.Ke3 Qc3+ 37.Ke2 Qb2+ 38.Ke3 Qc3+ 39.Ke2 Qb2+ 40.Ke3 Qc3+?

(Diagram)

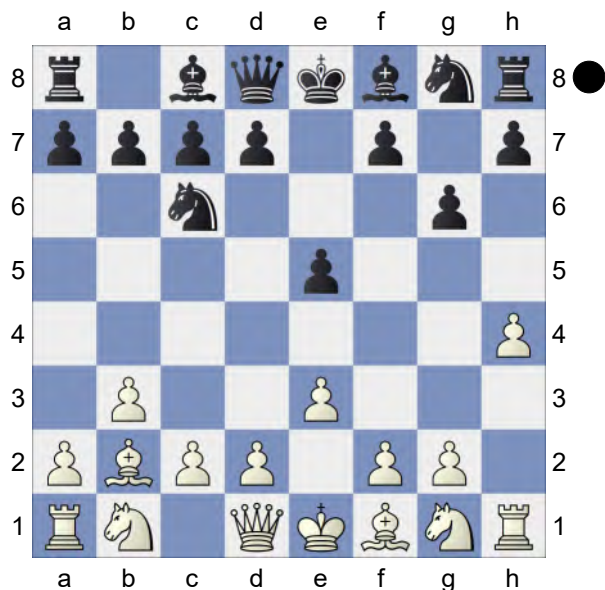


0-1

424 **A01**□ **Antipov, Mikhail AI** **2589**■ **Wei, Yi** **2733**

Moscow Aeroflot op-A 18th (6.4) 24.2.19

[Kapnisis, Spyridon]

1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.e3 g6 4.h4?!

A rather provocative move which is punished emphatically by the Chinese prodigy. Wei Yi shows us that we shouldn't be afraid of any ghosts and that h5 by White is not necessarily connected with an attack against the black king. **4...Nf6!**

[4...Bg7 5.h5

A) 5...d6 6.Be2 Be6 7.Nf3 Bg4

A1) 8.Nd4?! Bxe2 9.Nxe2 Qg5!? (9...Qd7 1-0 (39) Lagarde, M (2657)-Roselle, T (2161) Montagne FRA 2019);

A2) 8.hxg6 hxg6 9.Rxh8 Bxh8;

B) 5...Nh6!? 6.c4 (6.Nf3 d5; 6.hxg6 hxg6 7.c4 d6) 6...g5!?;

C) 5...d5 6.Bb5 (6.d4!? e4 7.c4 Nce7) 6...Nge7 7.h6 Bf6 8.Qf3 Bf5 9.Nc3 e4 10.Qf4 Qd7

(10...a6 1-0 (51) Gabuzyan, H (2614)-Shahinyan, D (2442) Yerevan ARM 2016]

[4...h5 I don't find it necessary for Black to respond to the "threat" of h5. By playing h5 Black weakens the g5-square which can be used by the white knight.

A) 5.Nf3 Bg7

A1) 6.d4 exd4 (6...e4?! 7.Ng5 d5 8.c4±) 7.Nxd4 Nxd4 8.Bxd4 Nf6 (8...Bxd4 9.Qxd4 Qf6 10.Nc3± 1/2 (43) Lagarde, M (2610)-Van der Lende, I (2334) Cappelle la Grande FRA 2019);

A2) 6.c4 d6 7.d3 Nge7 8.Nbd2 a5 9.a3 0-0 10.Qc2 1-0 (37) Jobava, B (2706)-Dubov, D (2614) Minsk BLR 2014;

B) 5.c4 Bg7 6.Nc3 d6 7.Nf3 Nge7 8.Ng5 1-0 (60) Rakhmanov, A (2636)-Zhukova, N (2470) Doha QAT 2014]

5.Bb5

[5.Nf3 e4! Black shouldn't avoid pushing his pawn to e4 harassing the white knight.

A) 6.Nd4 Bg7 (6...Ne5!?)

A1) 7.Be2 Nxd4 (7...Ne7 8.h5 0-0 is equally good.) 8.Bxd4 0-0 9.h5 Re8;

A2) 7.Nxc6 dxc6 8.d3 exd3 9.Bxd3 Qe7 10.Qe2 0-0 is very comfortable for Black.;

B) 6.Ng5?! d5 7.h5

B1) 7...gxh5!? 8.Nc3 (8.Rxh5? Bg4 9.Be2 Nxh5 10.Bxg4 Ng7-+; 8.Nh3 Bd6 9.Nf4 Bxf4 10.exf4 Qd6-+) 8...Rg8 9.Nh3 Bd6;

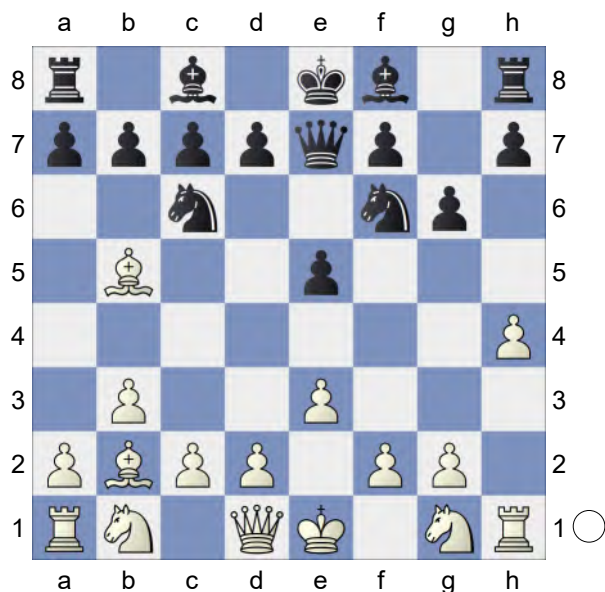
B2) 7...Bh6 8.Nh3 0-0 (8...a6!? Planning on playing f5, e7 and castling long. 9.hxg6 hxg6

10.Nf4 d4-+ Black has control of the centre and White has issues with the lack of space.) 9.hxg6 fxg6 0-1 (24) Bartel,M (2600)-Paravyan,D (2627) Prague CZE 2019]

[5.c4 d5 6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.h5 Bg7 7. Black is already in control since he has developed faster than White.]

5...Qe7

[5...d6 6.Ne2 Bg7 7.d4 exd4 (7...Bd7!?) 8.Nxd4 Bd7 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.Bd3 h5 (10...0-0!?) 11.Nc3 0-0 12.Qd2 a5 0-1 (31) Jobava,B (2690)-Le Quang Liem (2737) Riyadh KSA 2017]



6.Nf3

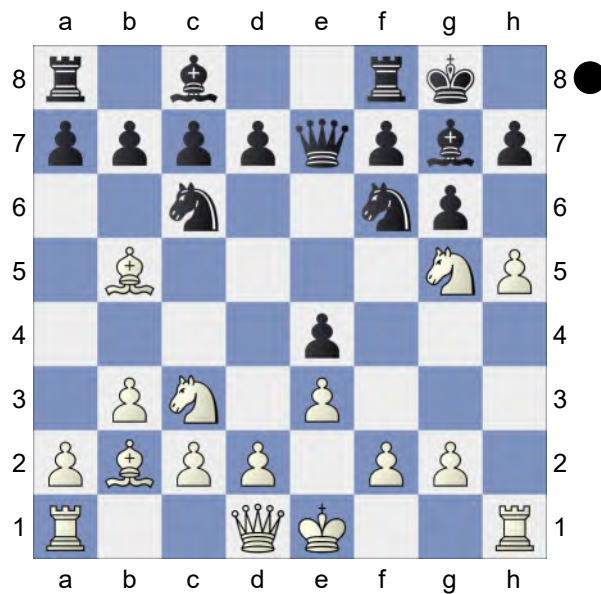
[6.Bxc6 bxc6 7.d4 exd4 8.Qxd4 Bg7 9.Nc3 c5 10.Qf4 Bb7 7. [6.Ne2 Bg7 7.d4 exd4 8.exd4 0-0]

6...e4 7.Ng5

[7.Nd4 Ne5]

7...Bg7 8.Nc3 0-0 9.h5

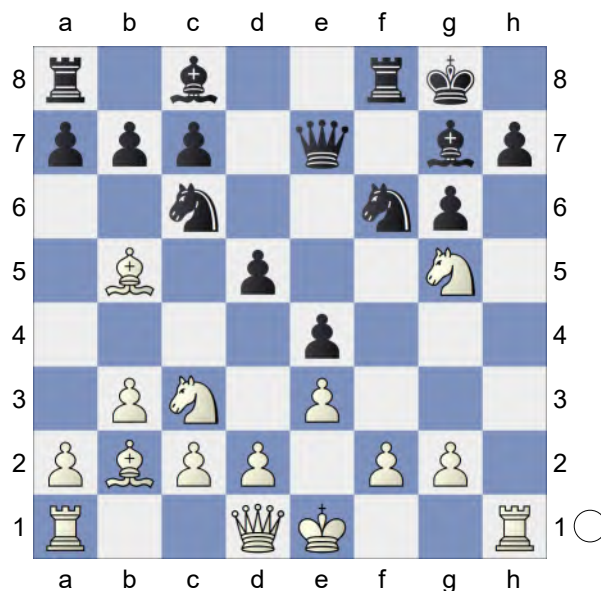
(Diagram)



d5

Black has developed properly getting a serious space advantage while White's attack is destined to fail since his pieces are not well coordinated.

10.hxg6 fxg6!



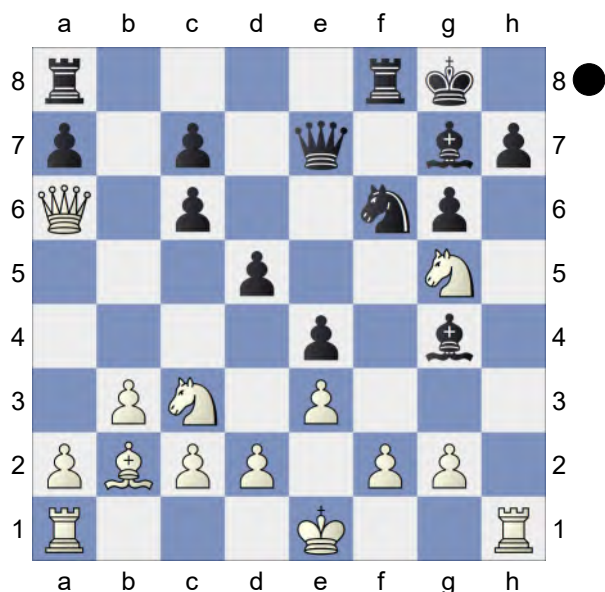
It makes a lot of sense for Black to open the f-file in order to use it for attacking purposes. 11.Bxc6

[11.Qe2? Nb4-+ emphasises White's lack of space.]

[11.d4 exd3 12.Bxd3 h6! (12...d4?? 13.Bc4+ Kh8 14.Nd5+-) 13.Nf3 Bg4-+ White will not be able to put his

king is safety.]

11...bxc6 12.Qe2 Bg4 13.Qa6

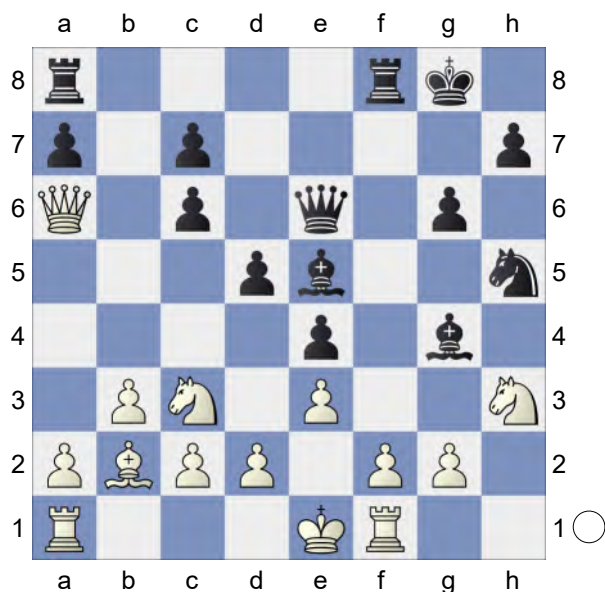


Nh5! 14.Nh3 Qe6

[14...Qh4!? 15.Qxc6 Rad8→]

15.Rf1 Be5+

[15...Rad8!?]

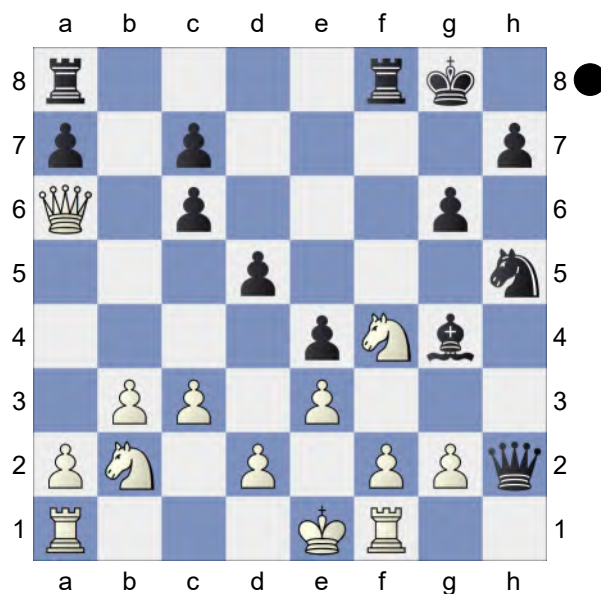


With the white king trapped on e1 it is only a matter of time for black to deliver the killing punch. **16.Na4 Bxb2**

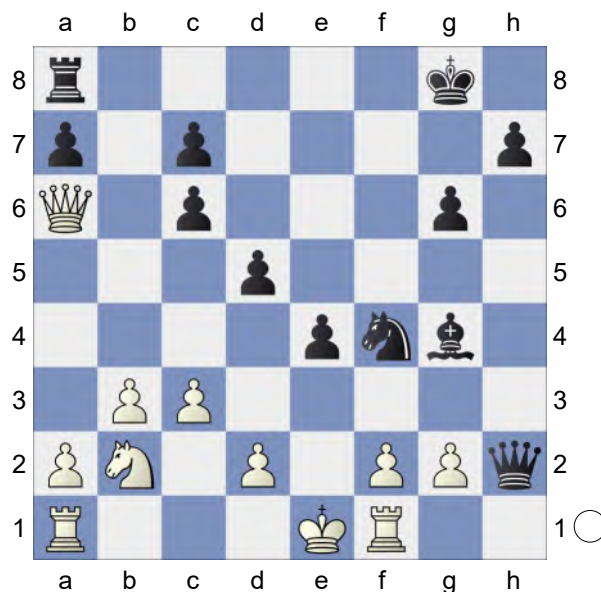
17.Nxb2 Qe5 18.c3 Qh2 19.Nf4

[19.Qxc6 Rad8 20.Ng5 Qxg2

21.Qxc7 Rd7 22.Qe5 h6+]

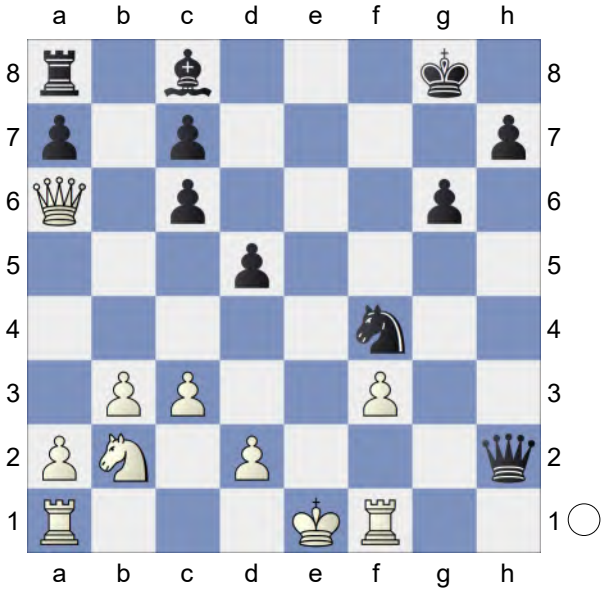


19...Rxf4! 20.exf4 Nxf4



21.f3 exf3 22.gxf3 Bc8

(Diagram)



0-1

269

A18

□ Yu, Yangyi

2709

■ Wei, Yi

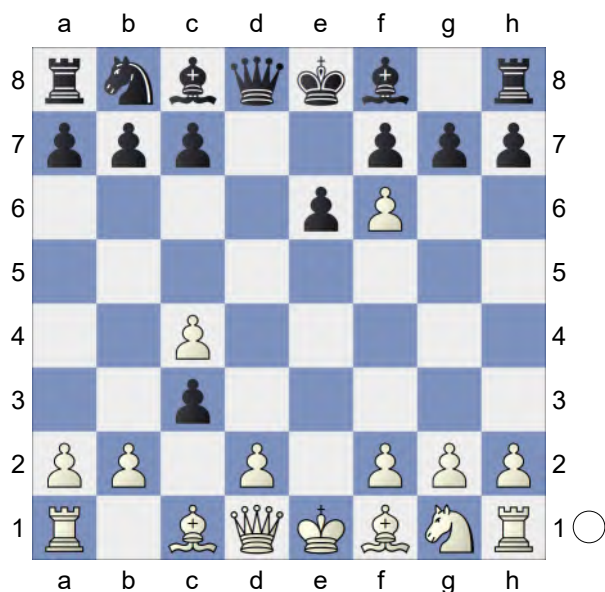
2732

CHN-ch Xinghua (10)

14.05.2021

[Kapnisis, Spyridon]

1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.e4 d5 4.e5 d4
5.exf6 dxc3



6.fxg7!? A rare sideline in a well known position. An interesting/good decision by Yu Yangyi for the most important game (both players were tied for first 2 rounds before the end of the championship) of the tournament. Wei Yi's couldn't have expected this line and his reaction was not the optimum.

[6.bxc3 is by far the main line]

6...cxd2+ 7.Bxd2

[7.Qxd2 Qxd2+ 8.Bxd2 Bxg7
9.0-0-0 Nc6 10.Nf3 with a balanced
queenless middlegame.]

7...Bxg7 8.Nf3

[8.Qb3]

[8.Qc2 will likely lead to the game
without having to worry about the b2
pawn.]

8...Nc6

[8...Bxb2!? Go pawn-grabbing in the early stages of the game is usually wrong. In this case white gets some compensation but things are not entirely clear. Of course Wei Yi's decision to refrain from taking on b2 is totally understandable. 9.Rb1 Bg7 10.c5 0-0 11.Bc4☞]

9.Qc2

[9.Qb3!? is an interesting alternative. By placing the queen on b3 white makes it more difficult for black to develop Bc8. On the other hand black has the additional option of a5-a4 creating counterplay.

**A) 9...0-0 10.Bd3 a5 11.0-0 f5
12.Rad1 Qe7 13.c5!±;**

**B) 9...Qe7 10.Bd3 0-0 11.Be4!?±
(11.0-0-0 a5 12.a3 e5 13.Bc3 f5
14.c5+ Kh8 15.Bb5 Be6
1/2 (32) Carlsen, M (2861)-
Nakamura, H (2761) Abidjan CIV
2019);**

C) 9...a5!?

**C1) 10.Bd3 Qe7 (10...a4
11.Qa3 Qe7 12.c5±) 11.Be4 a4
12.Qb5 0-0 (12...Ra6? 13.Qh5!
a3 14.b4! Bxa1 15.0-0 Bb2
16.b5±) 13.0-0∞;**

**C2) 10.0-0-0 a4 11.Qc2 Qe7
12.a3 Bd7 13.Bd3 Na5 14.Kb1
Nb3 15.Bc3 Bxc3 16.Qxc3
0-0-0∞ 0-1 (58) Gukesh, D (2547)-
Zarnicki, P (2514) Moscow RUS
2019]**

9...Qf6

[9...Qe7 looks more natural than Qf6.

A) 10.0-0-0 Bd7;

**B) 10.Bc3 Bxc3+ (10...f5!?)
11.Qxc3 Qb4∞ 1-0 (41) Iturrizaga, E
(2635)-Nowak, L (2257) Suwalki
POL 2019;**

C) 10.Bd3 Bd7 11.0-0 Nb4

(11...0-0-0) 12.Bxb4 Qxb4
13.Rab1 0-0-0∞]

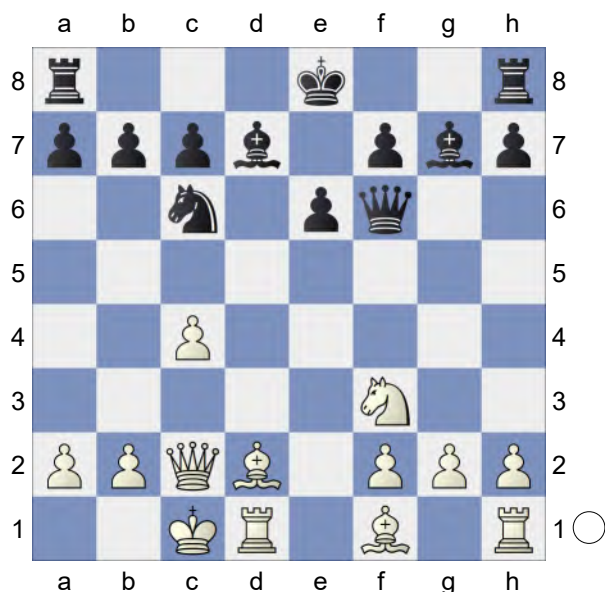
10.0-0-0

[10.Bc3 Qf5 (10...e5 11.Bd3±)
11.Bd3 Bxc3+ 12.Qxc3 Qa5
13.Qxa5 Nxa5 14.0-0-0

white's superior pawn structure gives him some slim chances of an advantage.]

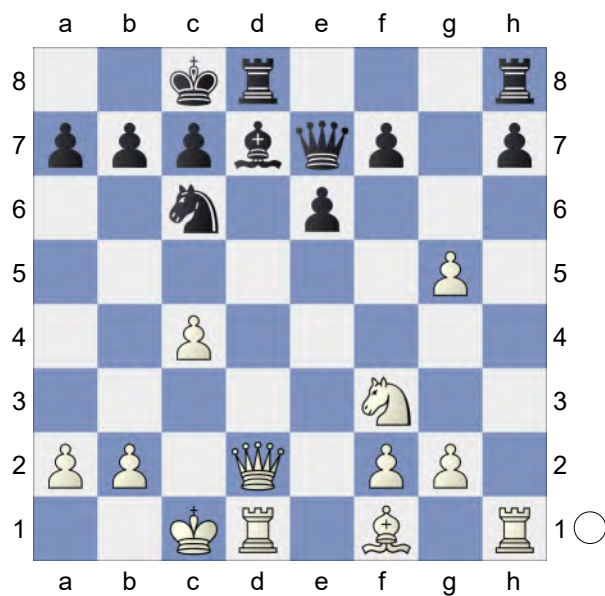
10...Bd7

[10...e5!? 11.Bd3 (11.Bg5?! Qg6±)
11...Bg4 12.Bg5 (12.Be4 0-0-0±)
12...Bh6∞]



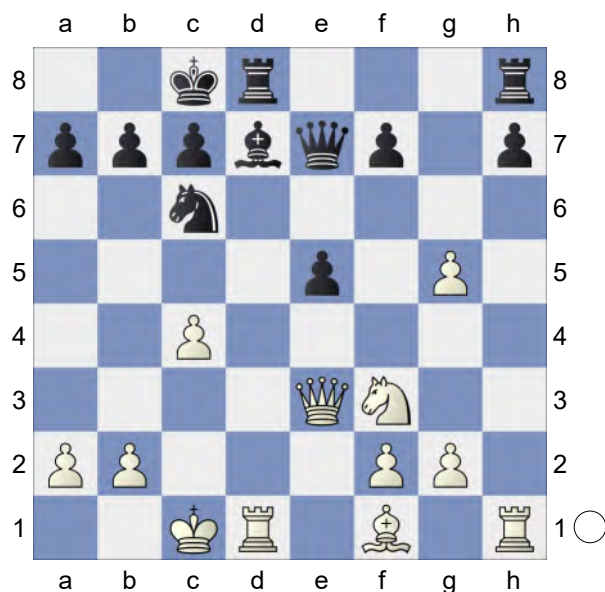
11.Bg5! Bh6 12.h4 0-0-0 13.Qd2
Bxg5 14.hxg5 Qe7

(Diagram)



15.Qe3± White's superior pawn structure gives him a slight advantage. 15...e5

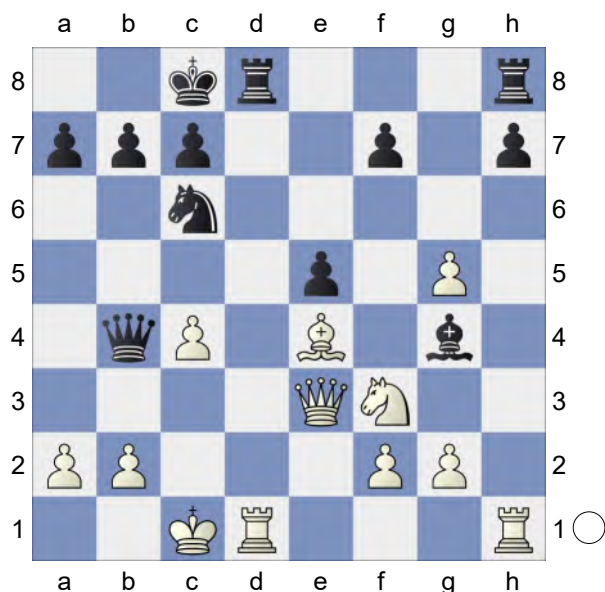
[15...f6 Exchanging the annoying g5 pawn as soon as possible might have been a better idea 16.gxf6 Qxf6
17.Bd3 h5 18.Be4 e5 19.g3±]



16.Bd3 Bg4 17.Be4 Qb4?!

[17...Bxf3! 18.gxf3 (18.Bxf3 Nd4)
18...Rxd1+ 19.Rxd1 Rd8! 20.Rxd8+
Kxd8 21.Bxh7±]

(Diagram)

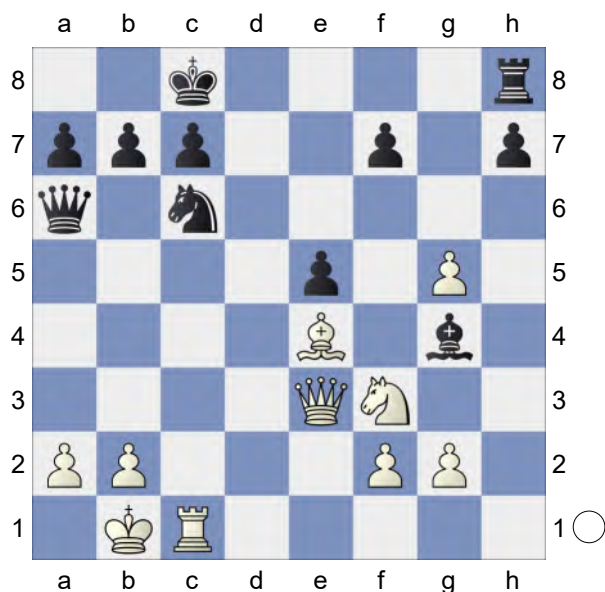


18.Kb1! The best way to deal with the threat Qxc4.

[18.Bd5±]

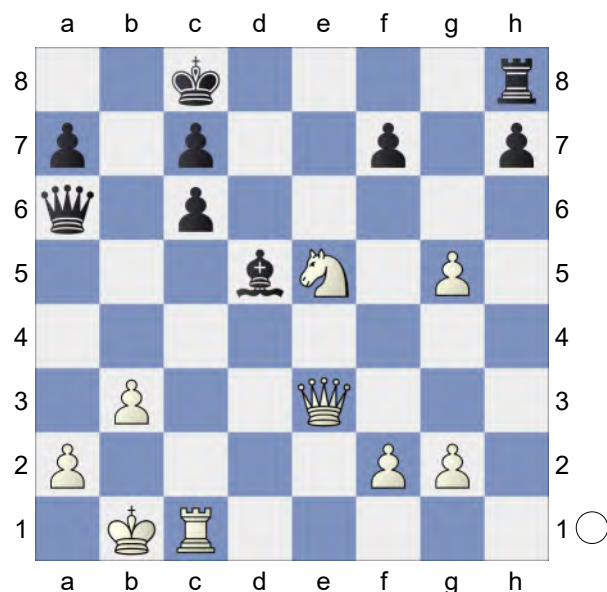
[18.Bxc6?! Qxc4+ 19.Kb1 Qxc6 20.Nxe5 Bf5+∞]

18...Rxd1+ 19.Rxd1 Qxc4 20.Rc1 Qa6



21.Bxc6 bxc6 22.Nxe5± Be6 23.b3
[23.a3!?]
23...Bd5

(Diagram)



24.Qf4?

[24.Nd3! By transferring their knight to c5 white would have secured a winning advantage. Bxg2? (24...Rd8 25.Nc5 Qa3 26.g3±) 25.Nc5 Qa3 (25...Qb6 26.Qd4+-)

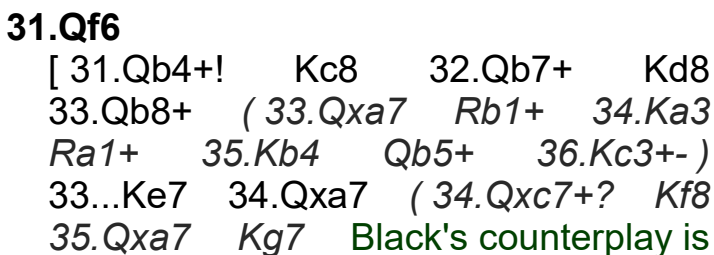
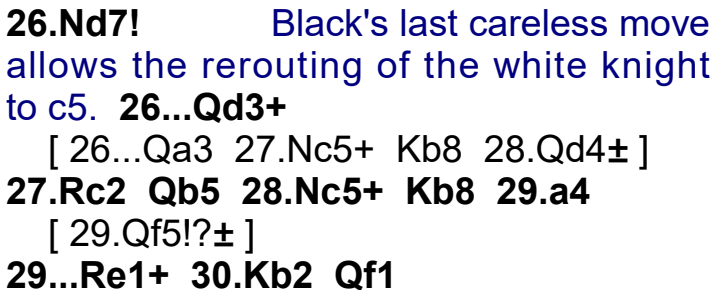
A) 26.Qd4? Rd8! 27.Qg4+ Kb8 28.Qe2∞ (28.Qxg2? Rd2+-);

B) 26.Rc4!+-]

24...Re8! Practically pinning Ne5 since any move by the white knight will allow Re2. **25.f3 Kb7?**

[25...Qb5 26.Ka1 Qb6 and it is difficult for white to make progress.]

(Diagram)



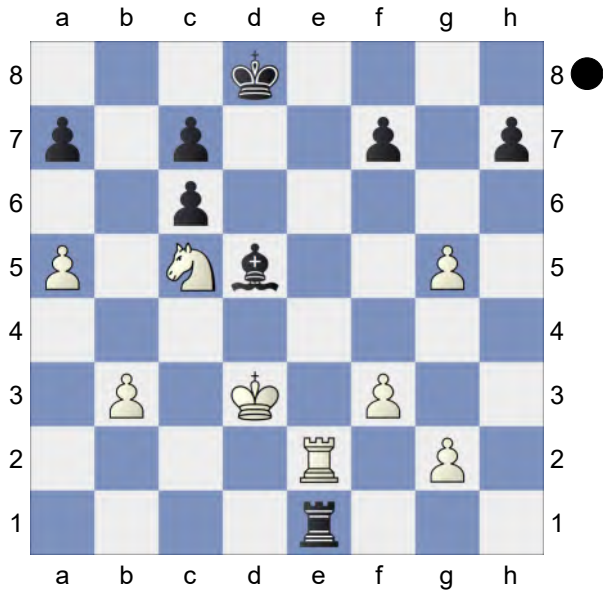
34...Rb1+ 35.Ka3 Qe1 36.Qxc7+
Kf8 37.Qd8+ Kg7 38.Qf6+ Kg8
39.Qc3+-]

[31...Be6 32.Nxe6 fxe6 33.Qf8+!
Kb7 34.Qc5 Rb1+ 35.Ka3 Ra1+
36.Kb4 Qa6 37.Rc4+-]

[33.Rd2!?

[37.Kd4 Kd8 38.b4 h6 39.gxh6 Rh1
40.Nd3±]

(Diagram)

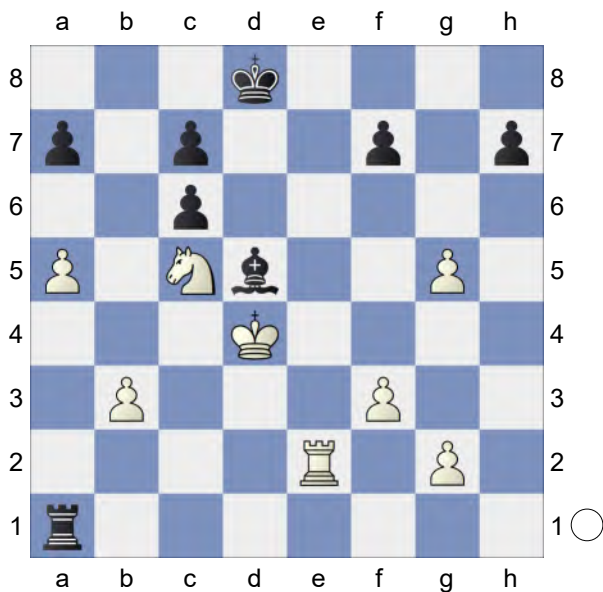


Rd1+

[38...Rb1!?]

[38...Rh1!? with the idea of
exchanging pawns with h6 is a better
defensive plan 39.Kd4 h6 40.gxh6
Rxh6 is still unpleasant but playable]

39.Kc3 Rc1+ 40.Kd4 Ra1

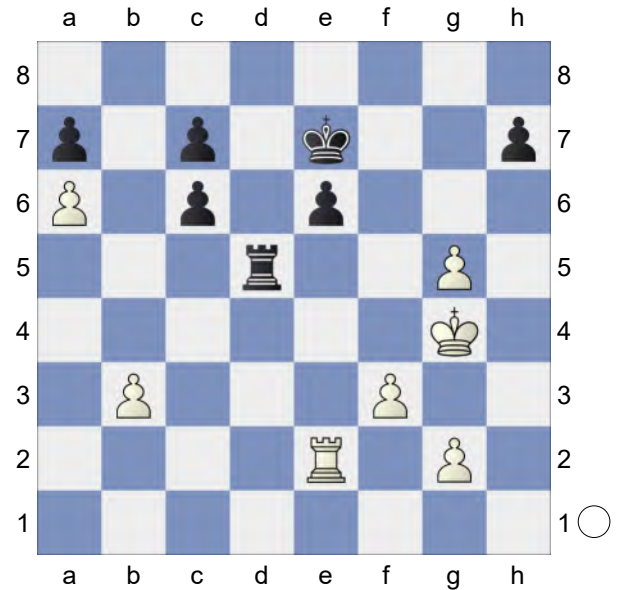


41.a6 Rd1+ 42.Ke5+- Ke7 43.Kf5+ Be6+

[43...Kd6 44.Nb7+ Kd7 45.Kf6+-]

44.Nxe6 Rd5+ 45.Kg4 fxe6

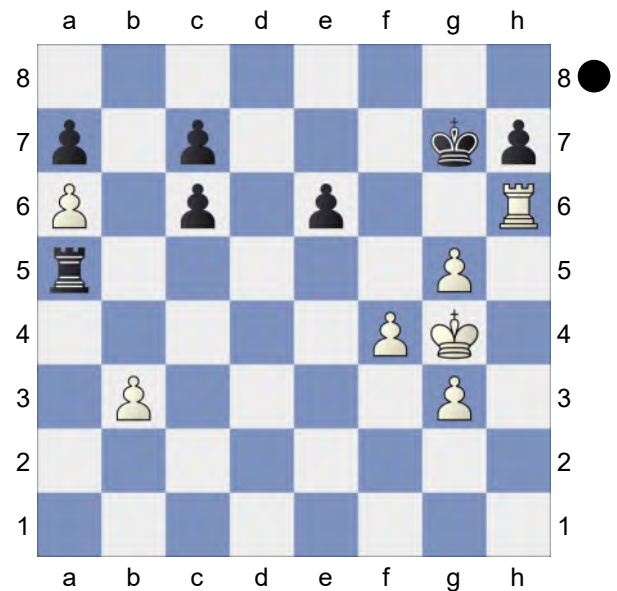
(Diagram)



46.g3

[46.Rc2 c5 47.Kh5+-]

**46...Kf7 47.f4 Ra5 48.Rh2 Kg7
49.Rh6**



1-0

143

□ Wei,Yi

■ Xu,Yinglun

CHN-ch Xinghua (2)

[Kapnisis, Spyridon]

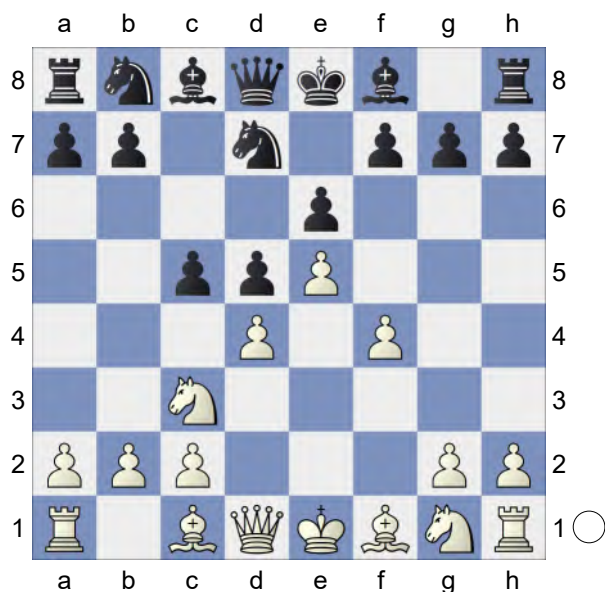
C11

2732

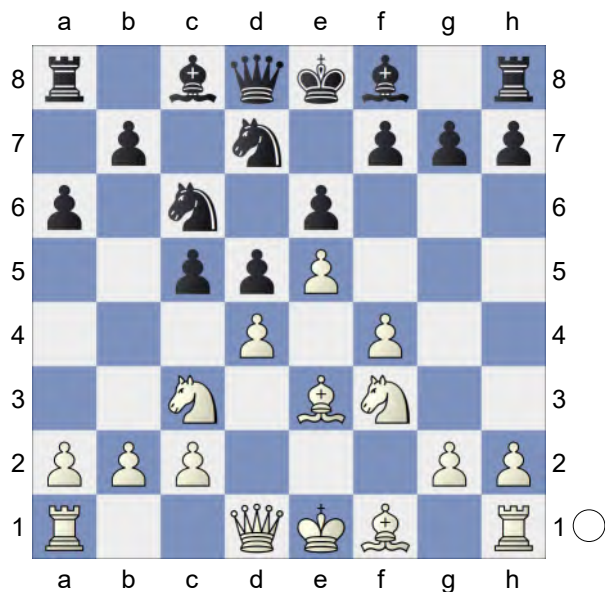
2554

08.05.2021

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5
Nfd7 5.f4 c5



6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be3 a6



8.Ne2!? A side line which has been in fashion lately. White's main idea is to play c3 and strengthen his center even

further. On the downside white will develop in a much slower pace than usual.

[8.Qd2 is by far the main line]

8...Qb6

[8...Be7 9.c3 0-0 (9...cxd4 10.Nexd4 Nc5 11.Nb3 b6 12.Be2 0-0 13.0-0± 1-0 (29) Shankland,S (2679)-Stojanovic,M (2496) Budva MNE 2019) 10.g3 (10.dxc5!?) 10...b5 11.dxc5 Nxc5 12.Ned4 Bd7 13.Nxc6 Bxc6 14.Nd4 Bd7 15.Bg2∞ 1-0 (37) Sasikiran,K (2647)-Gurevich, M (2577) chess.com INT 2020]
[8...b5 9.c3 b4 10.cxb4! cxd4 11.Nexd4 Bxb4+ 12.Kf2! (12.Bd2 Bxd2+ 13.Qxd2∞ 0-1 (58) Ivanchuk,V (2698)-Akobian,V (2625) Saint Louis USA 2019) 12...Nxd4 13.Bxd4± 1-0 (27) Sasikiran,K (2674)-Svane,R (2570) Moscow RUS 2017]

9.Qc1

[9.Rb1

A) 9...Qa5+ 10.Bd2 Qc7 11.c3 b5 12.f5!?!→ 1-0 (39) Robson,R (2667)-Akobian,V (2625) Saint Louis USA 2019 (12.g4!?!);

B) 9...Be7;

C) 9...cxd4 10.Nexd4 Nc5 11.c3 Nxd4 12.Bxd4± 1-0 (40) Van Foreest,J (2612)-Barua,D (2393) Pardubice CZE 2019]

9...f6

[9...cxd4 10.Nexd4 Nxd4 11.Bxd4 Bc5 12.c3± 1-0 (34) Najer,E (2648)-Greet,A (2417) Tornado INT 2021]

[9...Be7 10.c3 0-0 11.g3 (11.h4!?!)

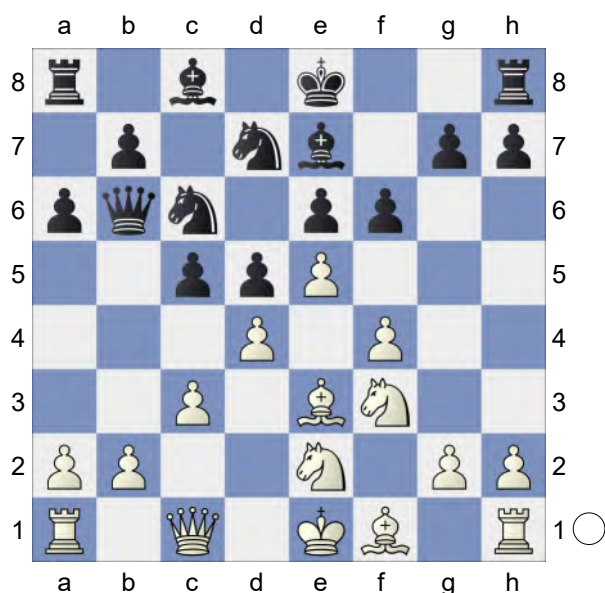
A) 11...a5 12.Qc2 cxd4 13.Nexd4 Nc5 14.Rb1 (14.h4!?!→) 14...Bd7 15.Be2 Rac8∞ 1/2 (53) So,W (2770)-Nepomniachtchi,I (2792) chess24.com INT 2021;

B) 11...cxd4 12.cxd4

(12.Nexd4!?) 12...f6 13.Bh3
(13.Bg2[∞]) 13...fxe5 14.Bxe6+ Kh8
15.Bxd7 Bxd7 16.dxe5 d4[±]
1-0 (45) Motylev, A (2640)-
Bluebaum, M (2644) Moscow RUS
2019]

[9...g5 This typical advance fails to
equalize for black 10.fxcg5 (10.c3!?)
10...cxd4 11.Nexd4 Ncxe5 12.Be2[±]
1-0 (52) Yu Yangyi (2754)-Li Shilong
(2525) China CHN 2018]

10.c3 Be7



11.h4!? White expands on the kingside and prepares the development of the white rook through the h3 square.

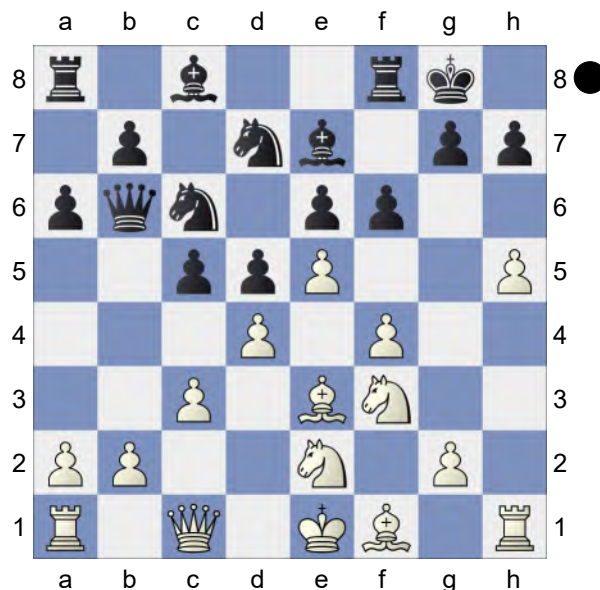
[11.exf6 Surrendering the center in order to play against black's hanging pawns is another option for white. Nxf6 12.dxc5 Bxc5 13.Bxc5 Qxc5 14.Ned4 Bd7 15.Bd3 0-0 16.0-0 Ng4!

A) 17.h3?! e5! 18.fxe5 Ngxe5[∞]
(18...Rxf3!?) 19.Rxf3 Nxd4
20.cxd4 Qxd4+ 21.Kh1 Nxe5
22.Bf5[∞]);

B) 17.Qd2 e5 18.fxe5 Ngxe5
19.Nxe5 Nxe5 20.Bc2 is slightly
more pleasant for white but

objectively close to equal.]

11...0-0 12.h5



Qa5

[12...h6!? A few days later, in the same tournament, Xu Yinglun decided to deviate from the current game and play ...h6 which was the move chosen by French's expert Bluebaum. 13.Rh3! Qa5! (13...Rf7 14.Kf2 fxe5 15.fxe5 Bg5! 16.Kg1 Bxe3+ 17.Qxe3 Qxb2 18.Re1 1-0 (53) Xu, Y (2527)-Xu, Y (2554) Xinghua CHN 2021 White got a strong attack and won a nice game) 14.Bd2 (14.Kf2 cxd4! 15.cxd4 fxe5 16.fxe5 Ndx5! 17.dxe5 Nxe5 18.Kg1 Ng4[∞] 0-1 (79) Aronian, L (2781)-Bluebaum, M (2670) chess24.com INT 2021) 14...Qd8 15.Qc2 In my opinion, white's position is slightly preferable.]

13.h6

[13.Kf2!? Transferring the king to the relative safety of g1 could have been an interesting alternative.]

13...g6

[13...g5!? Would have made the position even sharper. 14.exf6 (14.Qc2 gxf4 15.Nxf4 fxe5 16.dxe5

Ndxe5 17.Rh5! Nd4! 18.Bxd4 Nxf3+ 19.gxf3 cxd4 is a mess; 14.a3!? fxe5 15.b4 Qd8∞) 14...Nxf6 15.Nxg5 Ng4∞ with a complicated battle ahead.]

14.a3

[14.Kf2!?]

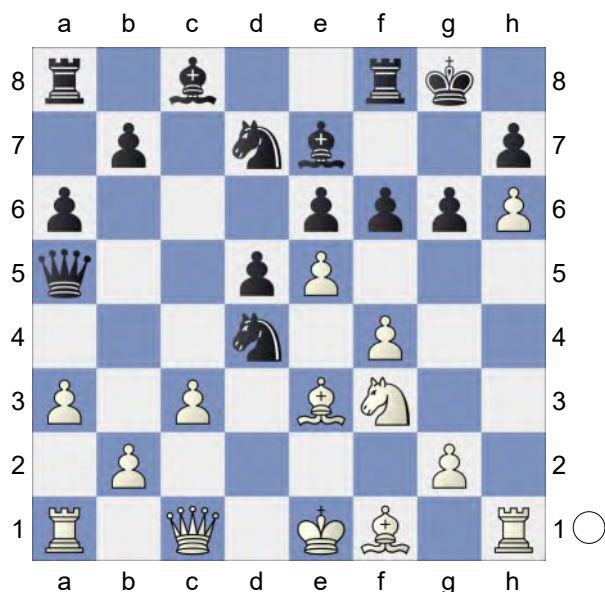
14...cxd4

[14...Qc7 keeping the tension in the center was possible and probably preferable. 15.Ng3± (15.g3)]

15.Nexd4!

[15.b4 Qc7 16.cxd4 b5!∞]

15...Nxd4



16.Bxd4 Stabilizing the position in the center looks like the most sensible choice.

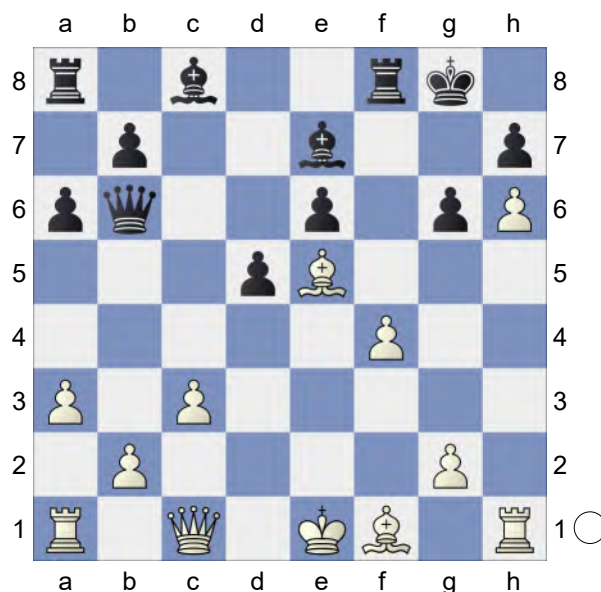
[16.Nxd4!? The position becomes more complicated but white still keeps a sizable advantage.

A) 16...Nb8 17.exf6 Bxf6 18.Qd2 (18.Be2±) 18...Nc6 19.0-0-0±;

B) 16...fxe5 17.Nxe6 Rf7 18.Qc2!±]

16...fxe5 17.Nxe5 Nxe5 18.Bxe5 Qb6

(Diagram)



19.c4? Opening the center is a very strange decision by Wei Yi. Completing his development with long castle looks very natural and would have given white a nice advantage.

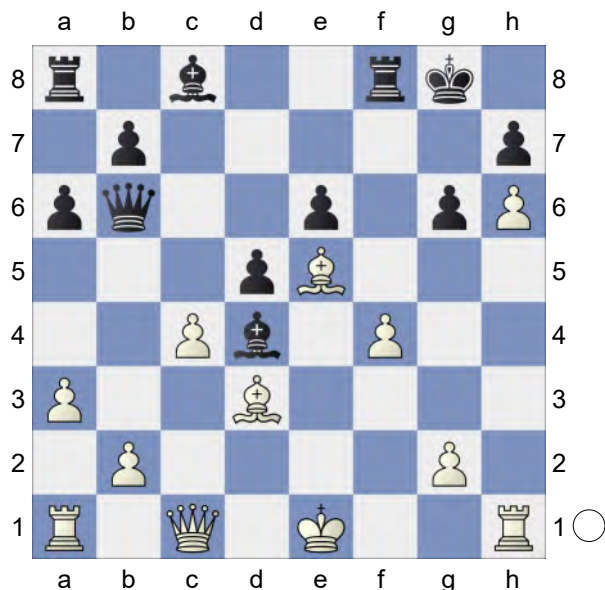
[19.Qd2 Bc5 (19...Bf6 20.Bxf6 Rxf6 21.0-0-0±) 20.Rh3±]

19...Bc5 20.Bd3 Bd4!

[20...dxc4!? 21.Qxc4 (21.Bxc4 Bd4∞) 21...Bf2+ 22.Kd2 Bd7 23.Rh3!∞ White's king is safe for the moment and position remains sharp and balanced.]

[20...Bf2+?! 21.Ke2 helps white.]

(Diagram)



21.c5! Excellent resource! White gives up a pawn to win some time and get the pawn on g6.

[21.Rf1 dxc4 22.Bxd4 Qxd4 23.Bxc4 b5 24.Be2∞]

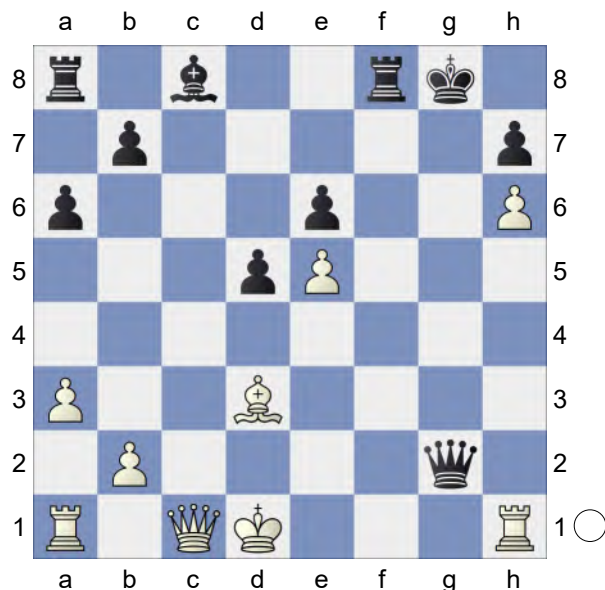
[21.Qd2 Bxe5 22.fxe5 Bd7 23.0-0-0 Rf2 Black is by no means worse]

21...Bxc5

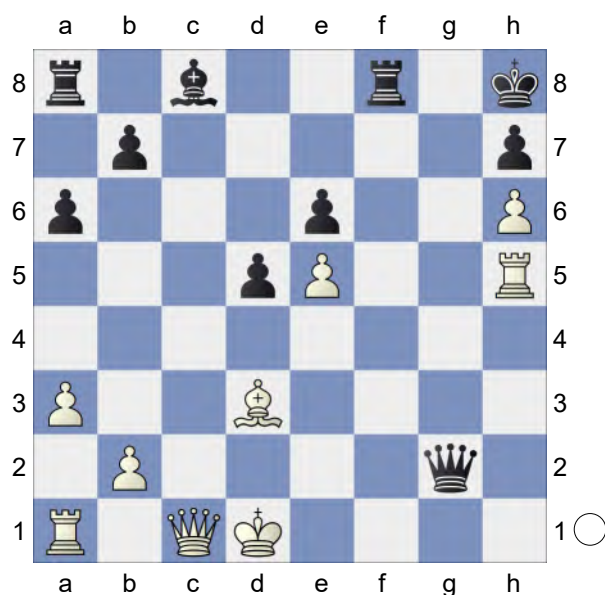
[21...Qxc5? 22.Qxc5 Bxc5 23.Bxg6!+- White's king is out of danger while the black king is in serious trouble.]

22.Bxg6 Bd4! 23.Bd3 Bxe5 24.fxe5 Qf2+ 25.Kd1 Qxg2

(Diagram)



26.Rh5 Kh8



27.Qc7? White overpresses and he could have gotten into very serious trouble.

[27.Qg5

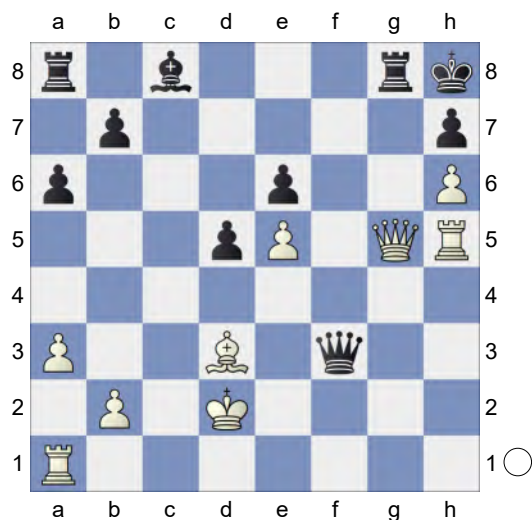
A) 27...Qxg5? 28.Rxg5 Rg8?
(28...Bd7 29.Rg7 Bb5 30.Rxh7+ Kg8 31.Rg7+ Kh8 32.Bxb5 axb5 33.Kc2±) 29.Rxg8+ Kxg8 30.Kd2+-;

B) 27...Qf3+ 28.Kd2+-;

C) 27...Rf1+! Forces the draw.
28.Bxf1 Qxf1+ 29.Kc2 Qe2+

30.Kc3 Qf3+! 31.Kd4 Qf2+=]
27...Bd7!
 [27...Qf3+ 28.Kd2 Bd7! (28...Rf7?
 29.Qd8+ Rf8 30.Qg5 Rg8

1/2-1/2

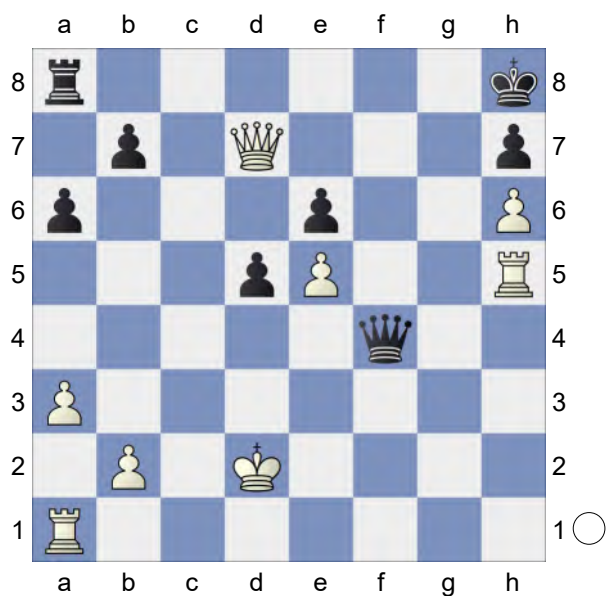


31.Qxg8+! Kxg8 32.Rg5+ Kh8
 33.Rf1+-)]

28.Qxd7 Rf1+?=

[28...Qf3+! Black fails to see the winning motif 29.Kd2 (29.Be2 Qb3+ 30.Kd2 Qxb2+ 31.Kd3 Rg8+ White's king is finally busted) 29...Rf7! Black defends against both mate threats and collects the hanging rook on h5. 30.Qxe6 Qxh5-+]

29.Bxf1 Qxf1+ 30.Kd2 Qf4+



319

□ Wei, Yi

■ Carlsen, Magnus

Bilbao

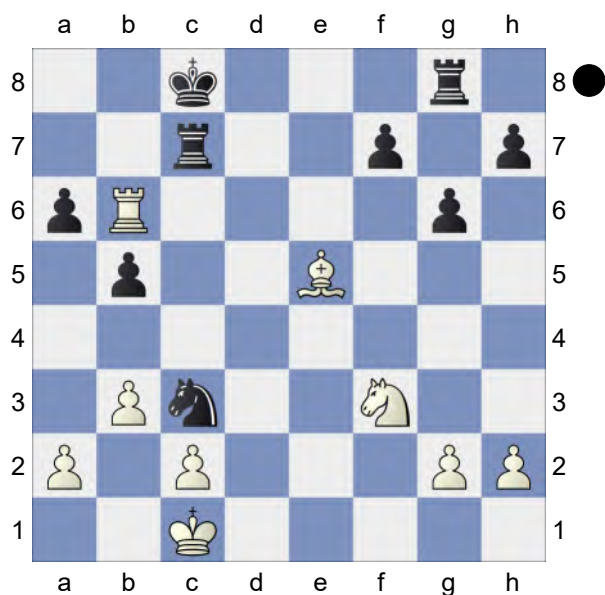
[Kapnisis, Spyridon]

2696

2855

2016

After losing in the first round with White against Nakamura in rather upsetting fashion, one might have expected that Carlsen would try to play it safe with Black against Chinese prodigy Wei Yi... But no! Carlsen played the Modern Defence, showing from the very start of the game that he was in a fighting mood and intending to go for a win with the Black pieces. Wei Yi's reaction to Carlsen's opening surprise wasn't very convincing so the world champion got what he had hoped for: a playable position where all three results were on the table. We will catch up with the game at the 29th move and see how Carlsen poses problems for Wei Yi in an almost equal ending and eventually breaches the defenses of his young opponent. Diagram

**29...Rd8!**

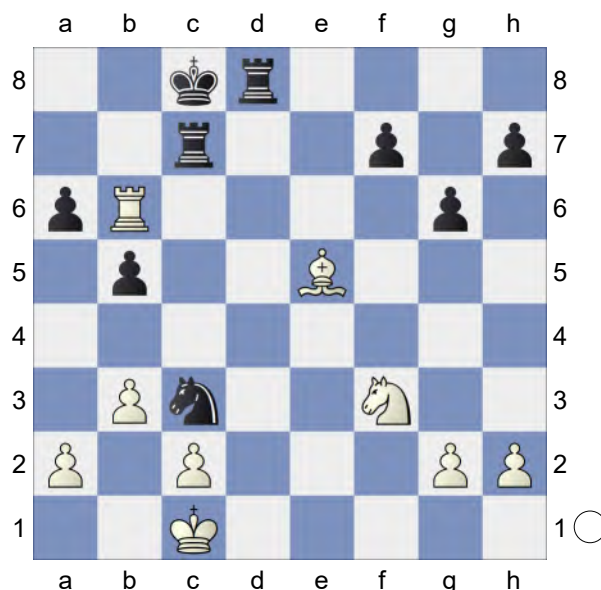
Carlsen activates his rook,

creating mating threats against White's king, whilst keeping the game alive.

[Perhaps most people would have played 29...Nxa2+ 30.Kb2 Nb4 31.Bxc7 Kxc7 32.Rf6 Rf8 33.Ng5= when the game would have ended in a draw soon afterwards.]

[Also 29...b4 30.Kb2 Nd1+ 31.Kc1 Nc3 is equal.]

Diagram

**30.Kb2!**

Wei Yi reacts in the best possible way.

[Not 30.Bxc7? Kxc7 31.Rxa6 Rd1+ 32.Kb2 b4+ when White is forced to give up his knight to save his king from mate.]

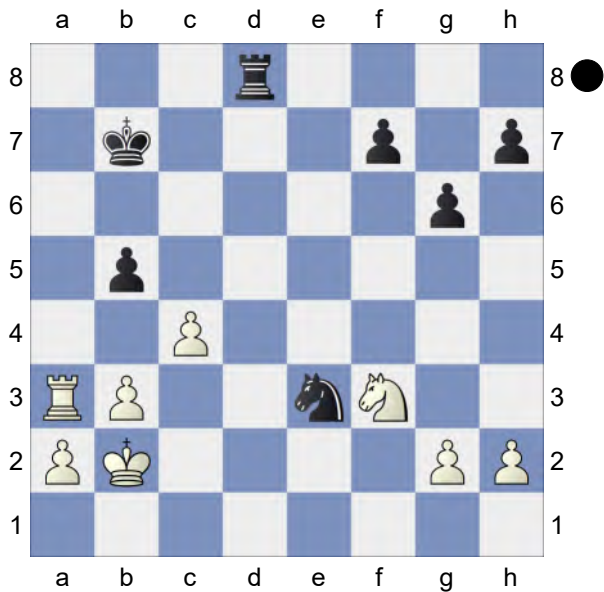
30...Nd5!

[Carlsen sacrifices a pawn to keep the game alive instead of forcing a draw by playing 30...Nd1+ 31.Kc1 Nc3=]

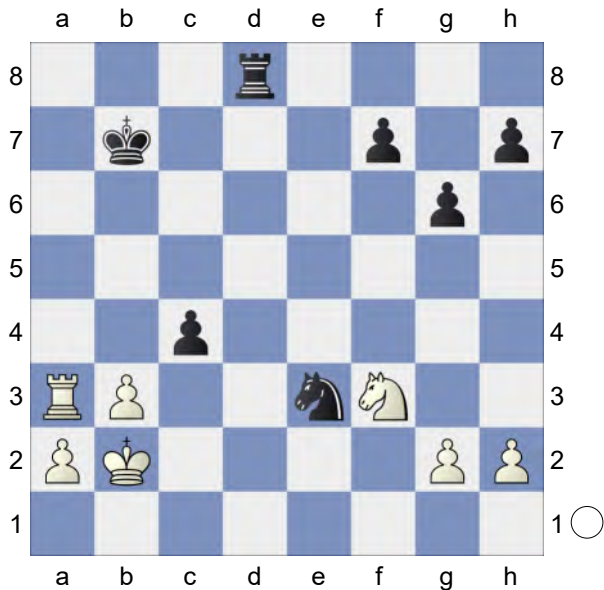
31.Bxc7 Kxc7 32.Rxa6 Kb7 33.Ra3 Ne3 Carlsen has full compensation since White's rook on a3 looks silly and his king might be threatened with a mating attack from Black's remaining pieces.

34.c4!

[Not 34.g3? Nd1+ 35.Kc1 Nc3+-]



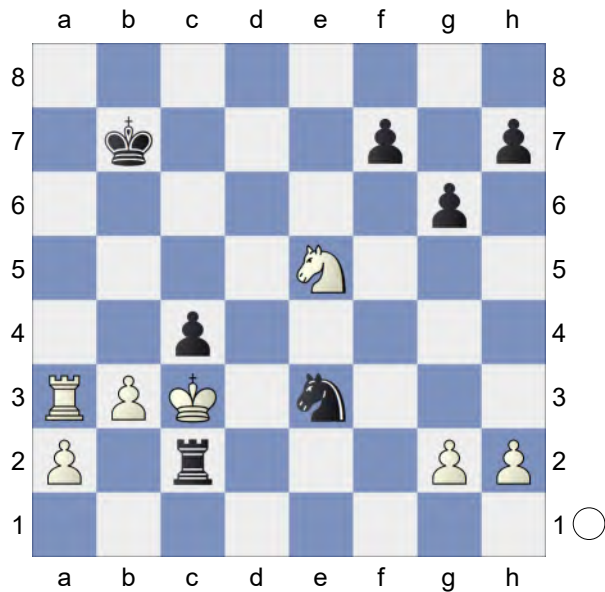
Wei Yi correctly decides to give back the pawn. **34...bxc4** Diagram



35.Ne5? Finally Wei Yi cracks under the pressure and allows Carlsen to obtain a very dangerous passed c-pawn. Time pressure was surely one of the reasons for Wei Yi's mistake.

[35.b4! , activating the rook, was the right way to continue: Nd5 (35...Nxb2 36.Rc3[∞]) 36.Ra5![∞] keeps the position unclear and balanced.]

35...Rd2+ 36.Kc3 Rc2+ Diagram
(Diagram)



37.Kd4

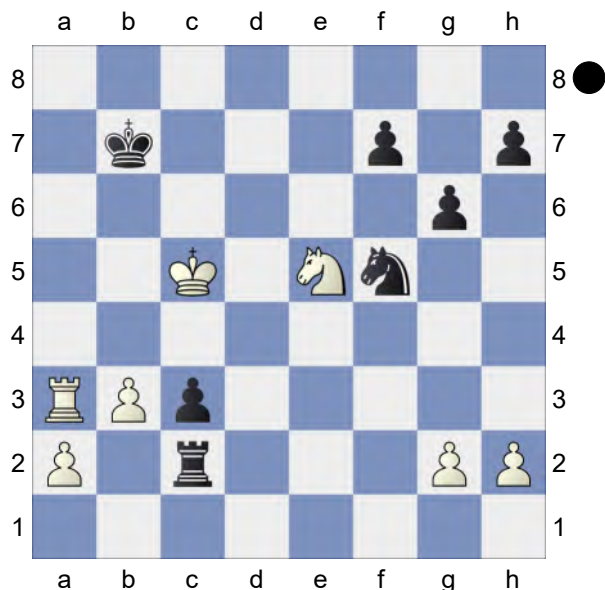
[Upon 37.Kb4 Nd5+ 38.Kb5
(38.Kc5 c3! 39.Nc6 Rd2!-+
and White cannot prevent the
promotion of the black pawn.)
White's pieces are not in a position to
weave a mating net around the black
king so 38...c3 will gain the full point
for Black.]

37...Nf5+ 38.Kd5

[38.Ke4 Re2+ 39.Kf4 c3 40.b4 c2
41.Rc3 Nd4 42.Nd3 g5+! 43.Kxg5
Re3-+]

38...c3 39.Kc5

(Diagram)

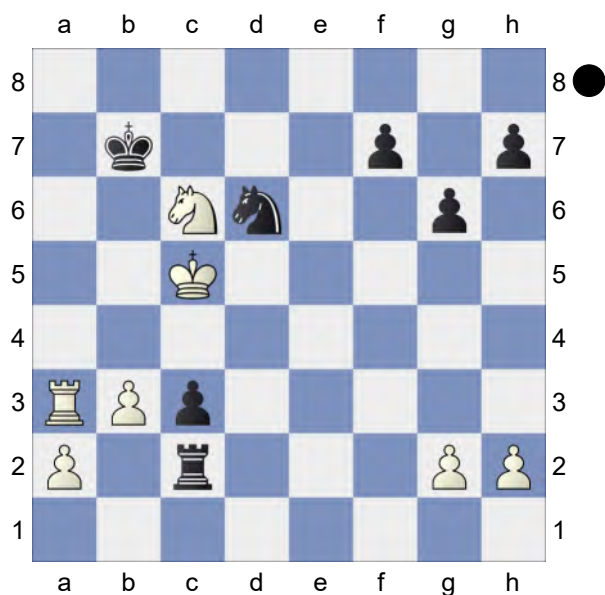


Nd6! Carlsen shows some excellent calculating skills and nips White's counterplay in the bud.

[Not 39...Rd2? 40.Nc6 Kc8 41.Ra7! Ng7 42.Re7! with the idea of 43.Na7. Then Ne6+ 43.Kc4 Nd8 44.Na7+ Kb8 45.Kxc3=]

40.Nc6 Diagram

[40.Kxd6 Rd2+ is hopeless]



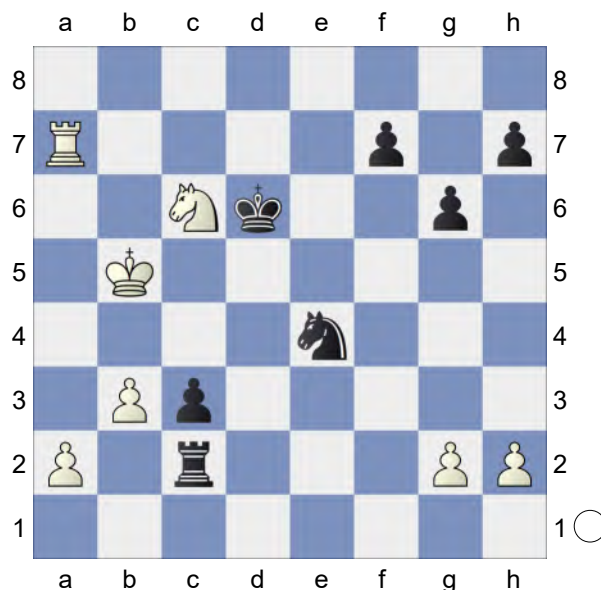
40...Ne4+?! This is quite good but not the best.

[40...Kc7!-+ followed by Rd2, Nb7

and c2 was the simplest road to victory.]

[But not 40...Rd2?? 41.Ra7+ Kc8 42.Kb6 and suddenly it is Black who must resign.]

41.Kb5 Kc7 42.Ra7+ Kd6 Diagram

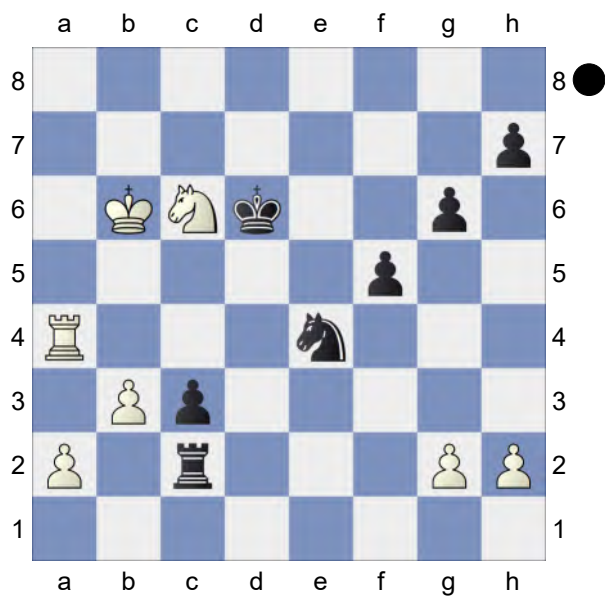


43.Ra4

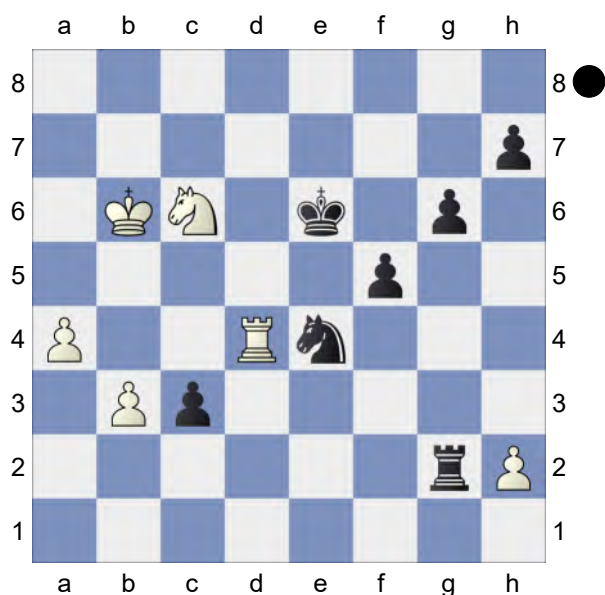
[43.Nb4 Rxc2 (After 43...Rf2 44.Ra6+ Kd7 45.Ra7+ Ke6 46.Rc7 Rxc2 47.a4 Rxc2 48.a5 Rh5+ 49.Kb6 Nd6 Black has a great advantage but the game is not over yet) 44.Rxf7 c2 45.Rf1 (45.Nxc2 Rxc2 46.Rxc7 Rxc2+ 45...Nc3+ 46.Kc4 Nb1! 47.Rc1 (47.Re1 Rg4+-) 47...Rg4+ 48.Kb5 Nc3+ 49.Ka5 Rxb4+-)]

43...f5 44.Kb6

(Diagram)



Rxg2 45.Rd4+ Ke6 46.a4 Diagram



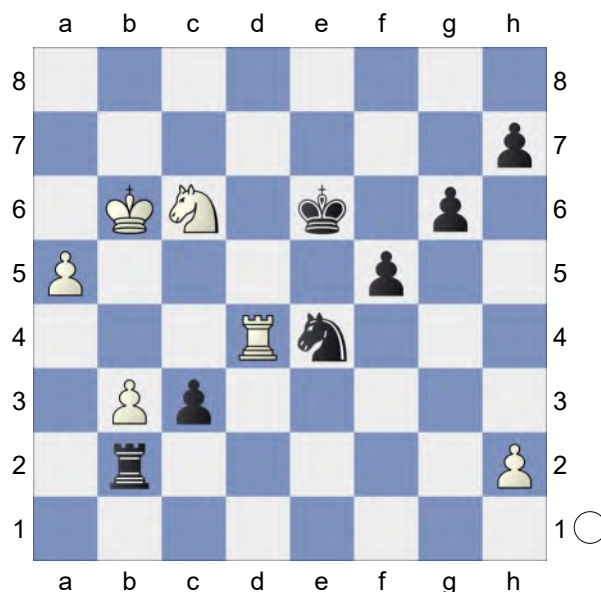
46...Ra2?! (A strange move by Carlsen and one which doesn't make much sense to me. It might have been a slight mistake due to the fact that the position is completely winning anyway.)

[Correct is 46...Rb2!

A) 47.Kc7 Kf6-+ (47...Rxb3? 48.Rxe4+ fxe4 49.Nd4+ Kd5 50.Nxb3 e3 51.Nc1 Ke4 52.a5 Kf3=);

B) 47.b4 Rd2! 48.a5 (48.Rc4 Kd5! and the rook is trapped!)

48...Nd6-+]
47.a5 Rb2 Diagram

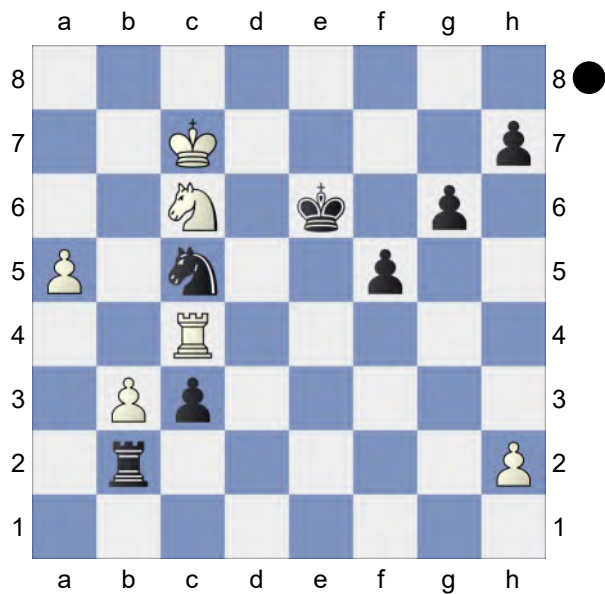


48.Kc7

[48.b4 Rd2! (48...c2? 49.Rc4 Kd5 50.Rd4+=; 48...Nd6 49.Rd3! c2 50.Rc3 Kf6 51.a6 f4+ 49.a6 Nd6 50.a7 Nc8+ 51.Kb7 Nxa7 52.Kxa7 Rxd4 53.Nxd4+ Kd5 54.Ne2 Kc4 55.Nxc3 Kxb4 56.Nd1 Kc4-+ is hopeless for White.]

48...Nc5! Another point in the game where Carlsen displays excellent calculation. The black knight must deal with White's passed pawn. **49.Rc4** Diagram

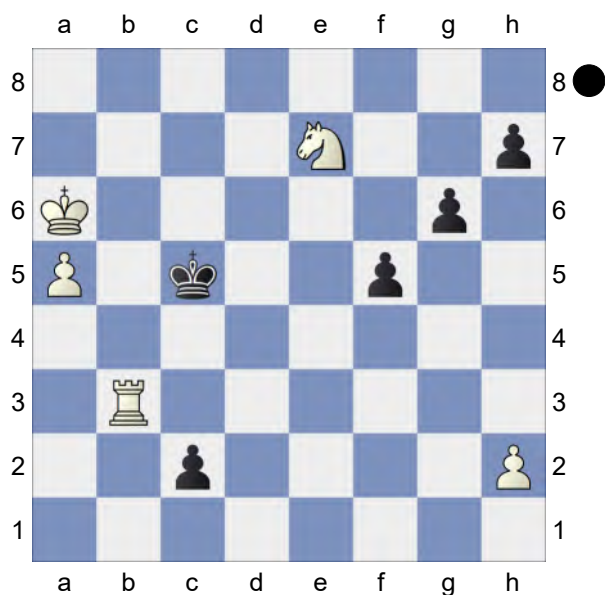
(Diagram)



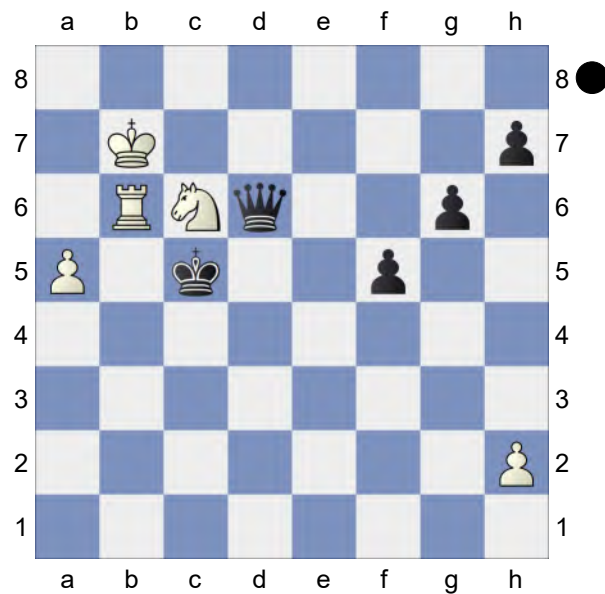
49...Na6+!

[49...Nxb3?? 50.a6± and suddenly Black is in a world of trouble since his pieces will not be able to halt the advance of the a6 pawn.]

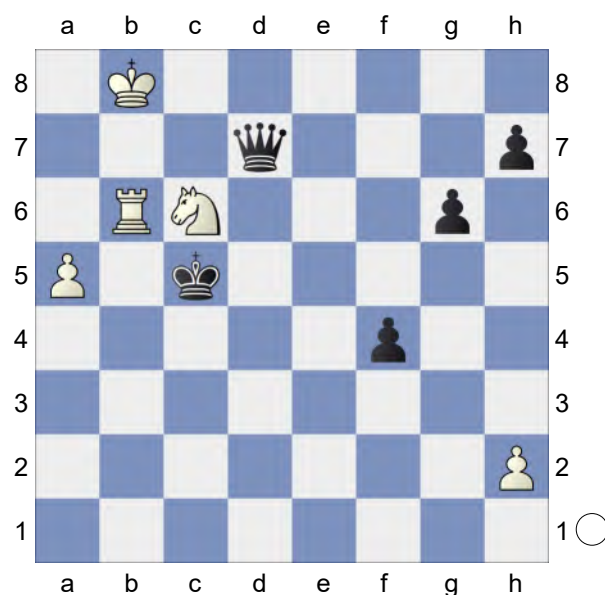
50.Kb6 Rxb3+! 51.Kxa6 Kd5
 (When he played 48...Nc5, Carlsen had calculated up to this position. Black is totally winning.) **52.Rb4 c2-+ 53.Ne7+ Kc5 54.Rxb3**



c1Q 55.Rb6 Qc4+ 56.Kb7 Qe4+ 57.Nc6 Qd5! 58.Kc7 Qd6+ 59.Kb7
 (Diagram)



Qd7+ 60.Kb8 f4



An excellent endgame performance by Carlsen who was rewarded for his persistence.

0-1

321

□ Wei, Yi

■ Carlsen, Magnus

129/37 Bilbao

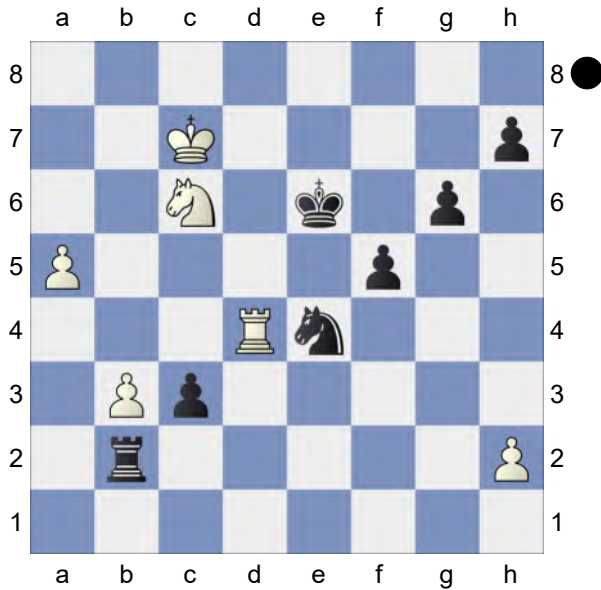
[Kapnisis, Spyridon]

2696

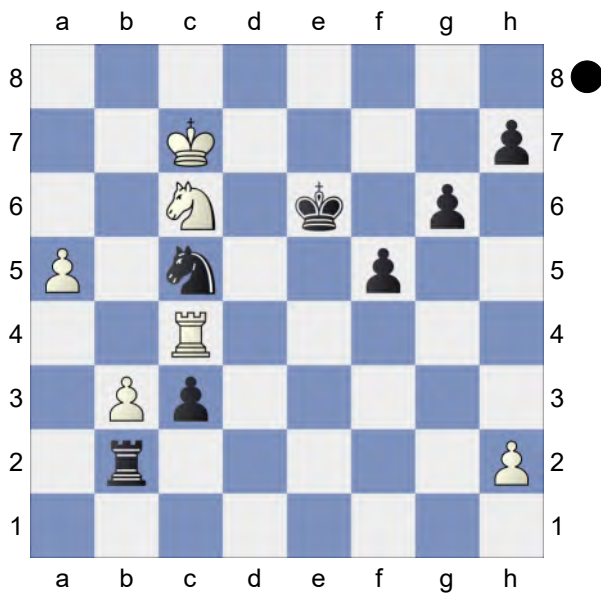
2855

2016

Diagram



1...Nc5! 2.Rc4 Diagram

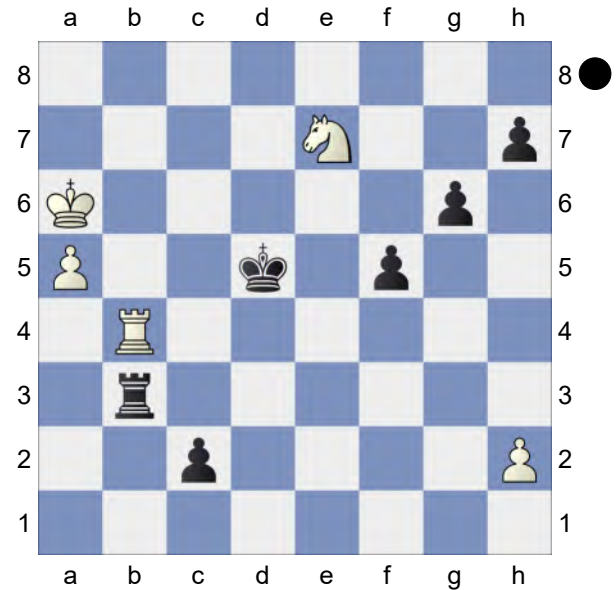
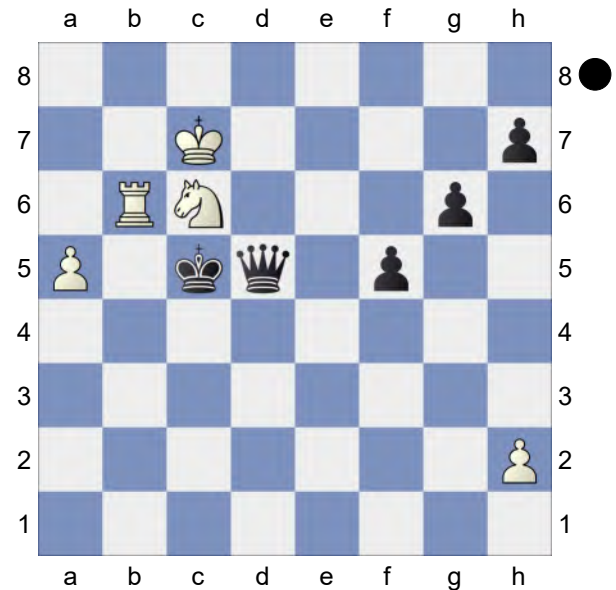


2...Na6+!

[2...Nxb3?? 3.a6±]

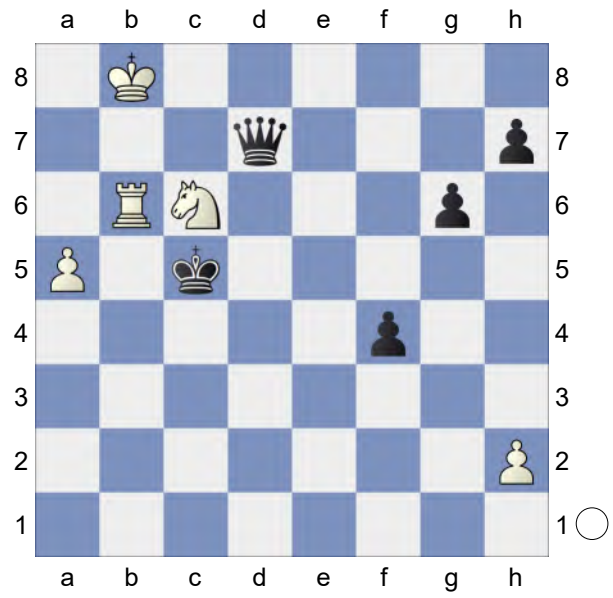
3.Kb6 Rxb3+! 4.Kxa6 Kd5 5.Rb4

c2-+ 6.Ne7+

Kc5 7.Rxb3 c1Q 8.Rb6 Qc4+ 9.Kb7
Qe4+ 10.Nc6 Qd5! 11.Kc7

Qd6+ 12.Kb7 Qd7+ 13.Kb8 f4

(Diagram)



0-1

4

□ Carlsen, Magnus

■ Wei, Yi

Bilbao

[Kapnisis, Spyridon]

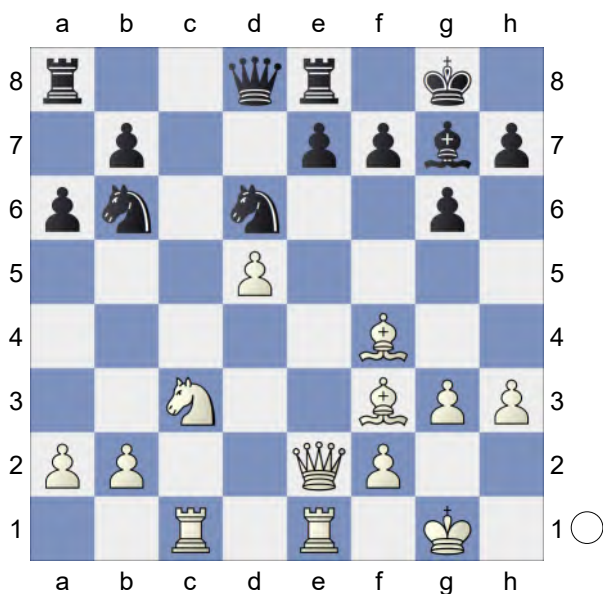
D76

2855

2696

2016

Going into the seventh round, Carlsen had a clear lead over the rest of the field. Moreover, having the white pieces against Wei Yi must have seemed a good opportunity for him to extend his lead in the tournament. Diagram



After a quiet opening we have reached a typical Grünfeld middlegame where White has more space and the two bishops, while Black has good control of the dark squares and a strong knight on d6. Though my preference is for White, as Black's position is slightly passive, breaching Black's fortress is not at all easy. **18.b3** Carlsen correctly tries to restrict Black's knights by denying them access to the important c4 square. **18...Rc8 19.Qd2 Nd7** Wei Yi tries to improve his worst placed piece, whilst at the same time making way for his queen to go to the a5 square. **20.Na4N**

Carlsen prevents ...Qa5 but this comes at a price, since he is forced to exchange a pair of rooks.

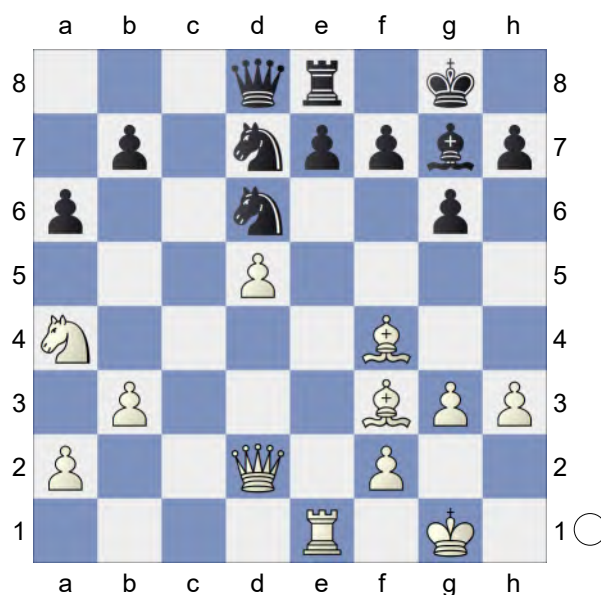
[After 20.g4!? Qa5 21.Nb1 Qxd2 22.Nxd2 Rxc1 23.Rxc1 Bd4± White is marginally better but Black's fortress will be a tough nut to break.]

[20.Ne4 Be5 (RR20...Nxe4 Matveeva, Svetlana 2454 - Huang, Qian 2380, Russia vs. China (m) 2006)]

20...Rxc1 21.Qxc1

[21.Rxc1 Be5 22.Bxe5 Nxe5 23.Bg2 Nd7 24.b4±]

21...Bd4 22.Qd2 Bg7



23.h4

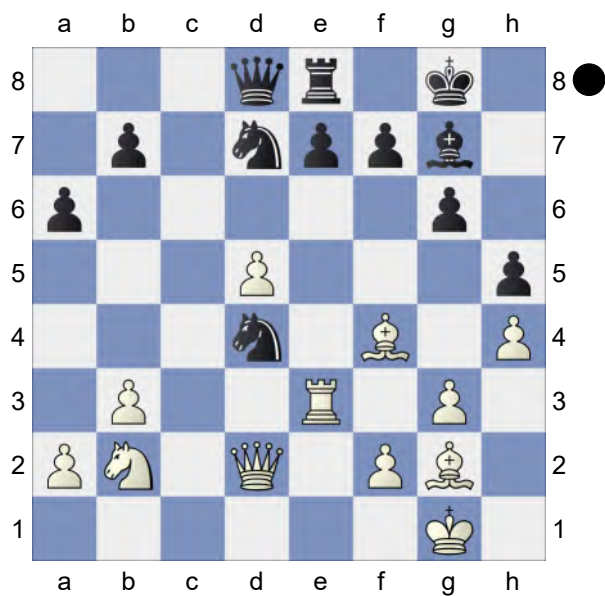
[23.g4!?±, grabbing more space on the kingside, was an interesting alternative.]

23...h5 24.Nb2

[24.Bg2!?±, slightly improving the bishop before deciding what to do with the knight on a4, could be a possible improvement.]

24...Nb5 25.Re3 Nd4 26.Bg2 Diagram

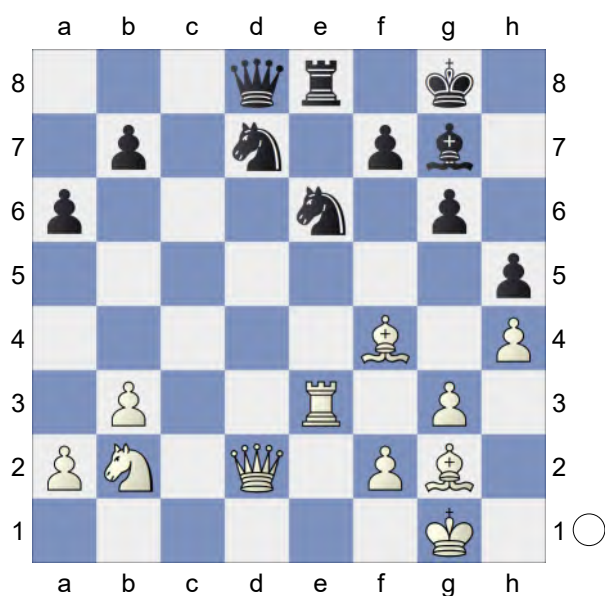
(Diagram)



26...e5!? Wei Yi decides that no longer wants to wait and therefore opens the position. His calculation proves to be accurate and he equalises the game completely.

[26...Nf5 27.Re1 Nf6 followed by ... Ng4 was another reasonable setup for Black.]

27.dxe6 Nxe6



28.Nc4

[28.Rd3!? had to be calculated precisely by Wei Yi. Nxf4 29.Rxd7 Ne2+ 30.Kh2 Qf6 31.Nd1 b5

32.Bd5 Re7 33.Rd6! Qf5 34.Rxa6 Kh7! leaves Black with good enough compensation and he does not stand worse.]

[28.Bxb7?? Ndc5-+]

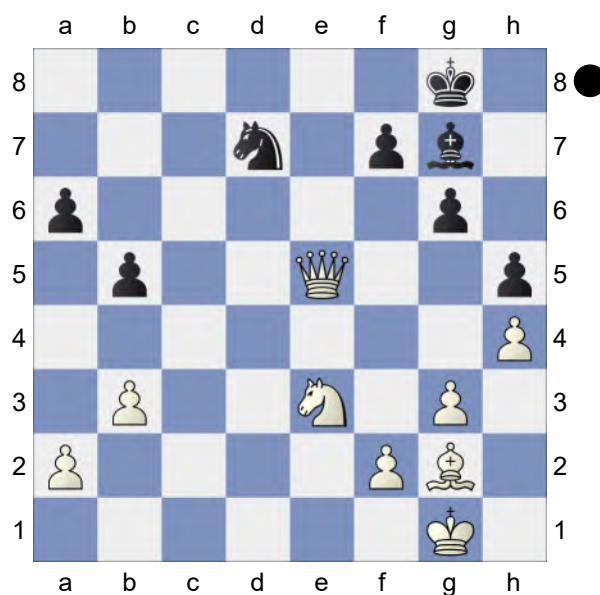
28...Nxf4 29.Rxe8+ Qxe8 30.Qxf4 b5

[30...Qe1+!? 31.Bf1 b5 32.Ne3 Ne5=]

31.Ne3 Qe5

[31...Qe7=]

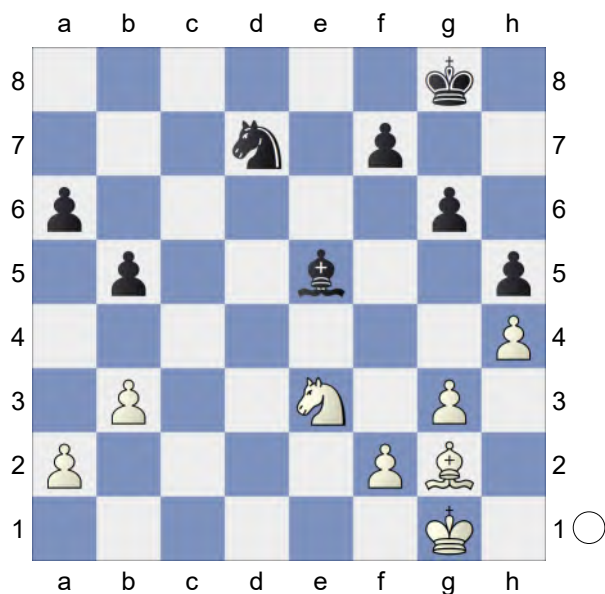
32.Qxe5 Diagram



32...Bxe5?!

[32...Nxe5=]

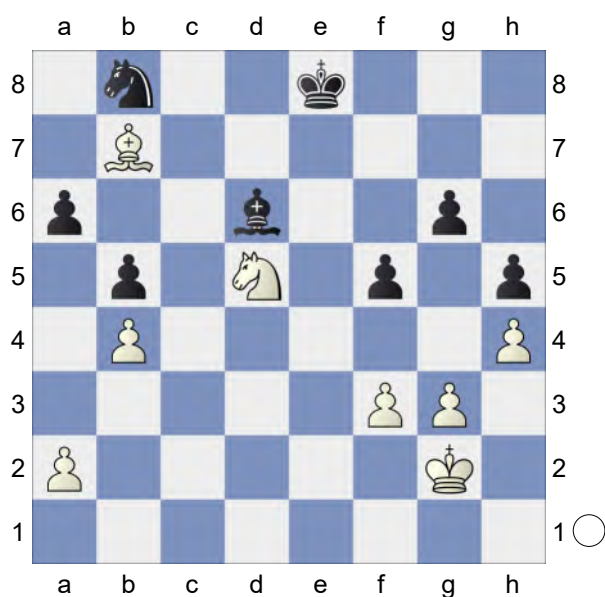
(Diagram)



Probably feeling that he had easily equalised, Wei Yi made a couple of rather hasty moves which have handed Carlsen a tiny edge and prompted him to play on. **33.b4!** Carlsen fixes a weakness on a6 but his opponent will defend stubbornly and never allow him any real winning chances. **33...Bd6**

34.Bb7 Nb8 35.Nd5 Kf8 36.Kg2 Ke8 37.f3 f5! (Black correctly prevents g4.)

Diagram

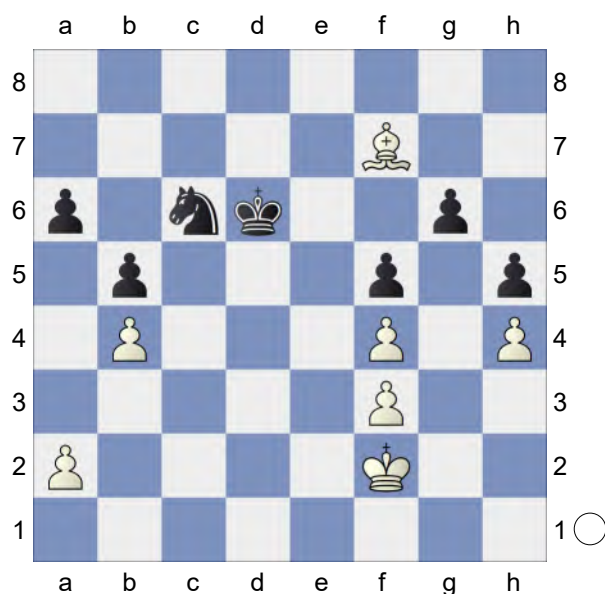


38.Kf2

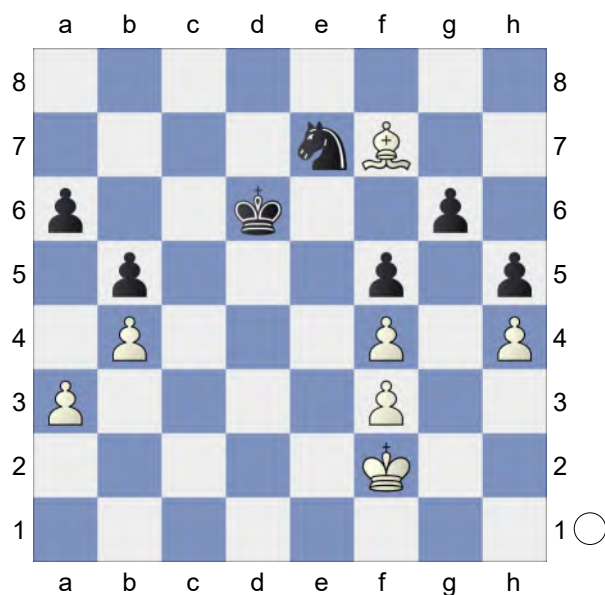
[38.Kh3 Kd7 39.g4 Ke6 (39...hgx4+

40.fxg4 Ke6 41.g5 and Black hasn't fully equalised yet.) 40.gxh5 gxh5 41.f4 Nd7 42.Kg3 Nf8 43.Ne3 Bxb4 44.Bc8+ Kd6 45.Bxa6 (45.Nxf5+ Kc7=) 45...Kc5 46.Bc8 Be1+ 47.Kh3 Bf2 48.Nd1 Be1 49.Bxf5 Kd4 should end in a draw.]

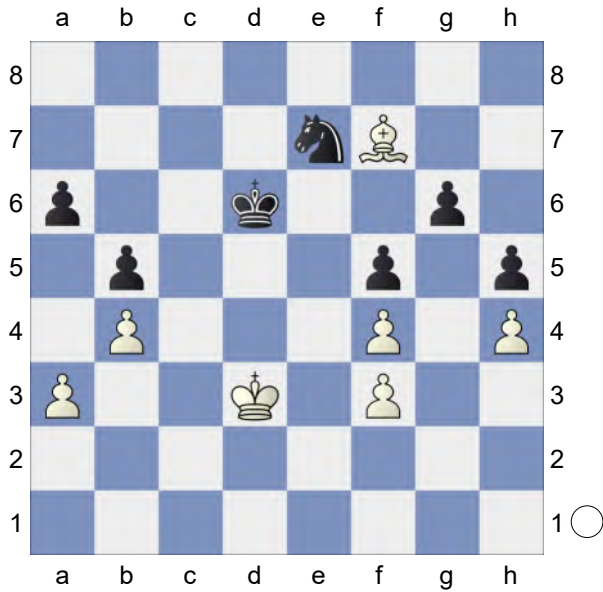
38...Kd7 39.Nf4 Kc7 40.Bd5 Bxf4! 41.gxf4 Kd6 42.Bf7 Nc6



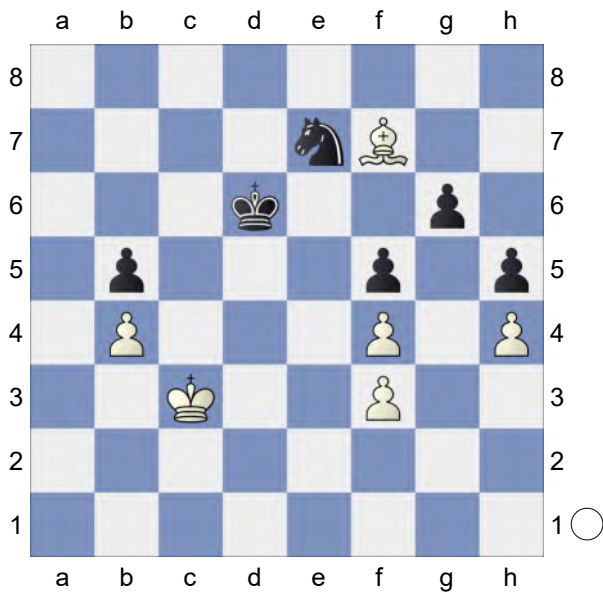
43.a3 Ne7= Diagram



Carlsen tries hard to breach Wei Yi's fortress but to no avail. **44.Ke1 Kd7 45.Kd1 Kd6 46.Kd2 Kd7 47.Kd3 Kd6**

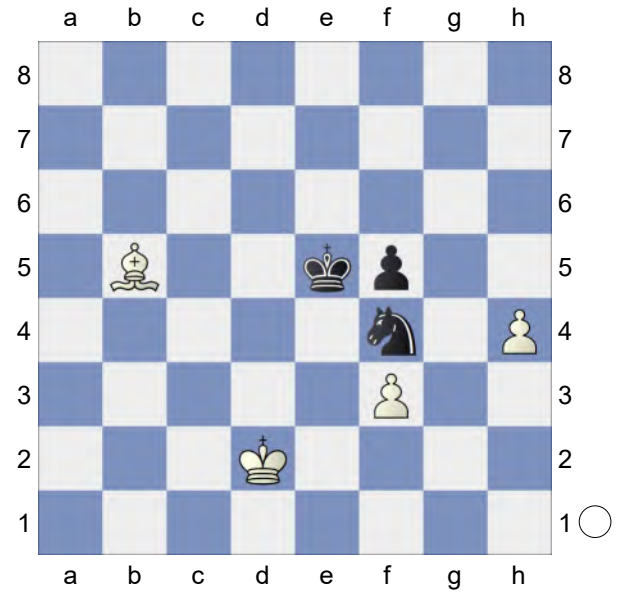


48.Kc2 Kd7 49.Kb3 Kd6 50.a4 Nc6
 51.axb5 axb5 52.Kc3
 [52.Bxg6 Nd4+ 53.Kc3 Nxf3
 54.Bxh5 Nxh4=]
 52...Ne7

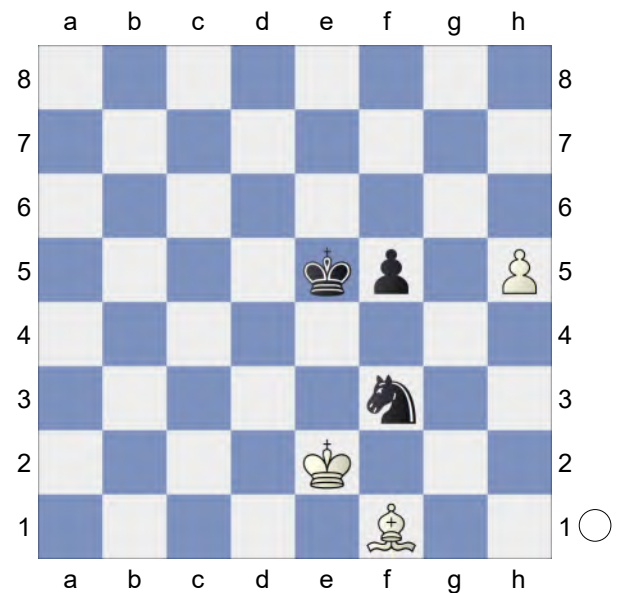


53.Kd2 Nd5 54.Bxg6 Nxb4 55.Bxh5
 Nd5 56.Be8 Nxf4 57.Bxb5 Ke5

(Diagram)



58.Bf1 Ng6 59.h5 Nh4 60.Ke2 Nxf3



1/2-1/2

6

□ Carlsen, Magnus

■ Wei, Yi

Bilbao

[Kapnisis, Spyridon]

C54

2855

2696

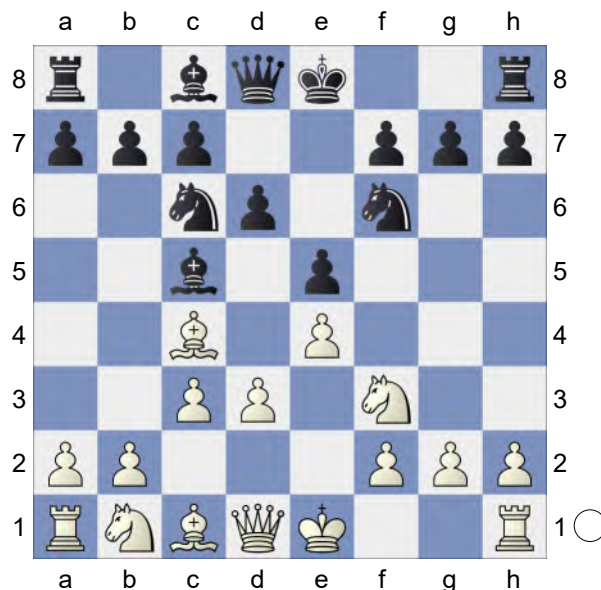
2016

Going into the seventh round, Carlsen had a clear lead over the rest of the field. Moreover, having the white pieces against Wei Yi must have seemed a good opportunity for him to extend his lead in the tournament. Diagram

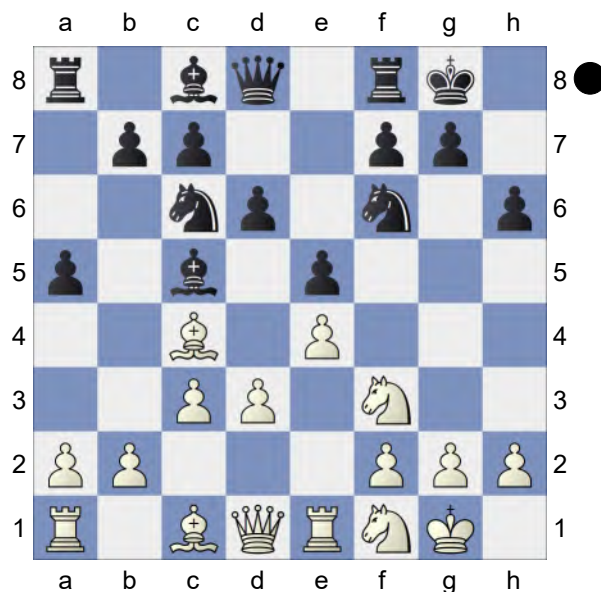
After a quiet opening we have reached a typical Grunfeld middlegame where White has more space and the two bishops, while Black has good control of the dark squares and a strong knight on d6. Though my preference is for White, as Black's position is slightly passive, breaching Black's fortress is not at all easy. **1.e4** Carlsen correctly tries to restrict Black's knights by denying them access to the important c4 square. **1...e5**

2.Nf3 Nc6 Wei Yi tries to improve his worst placed piece, whilst at the same time making way for his queen to go to the a5 square. **3.Bc4N** Carlsen prevents ...Qa5 but this comes at a price, since he is forced to exchange a pair of rooks. **3...Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 d6**

(Diagram)

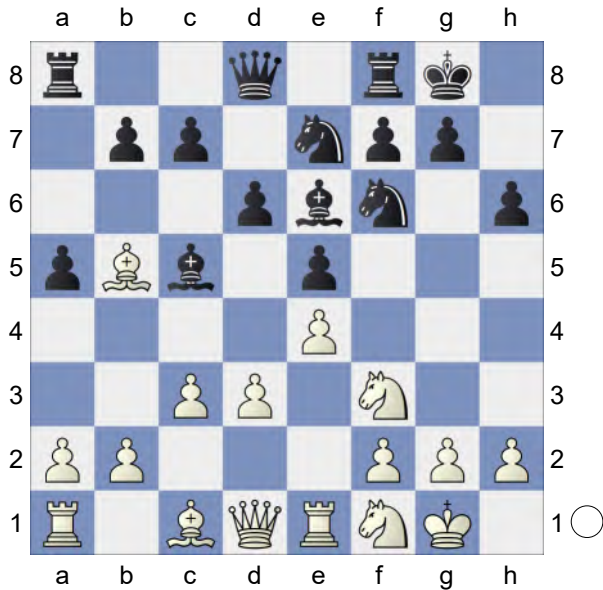


6.0-0 h6 7.Re1 0-0 8.Nbd2 a5 9.Nf1
Diagram

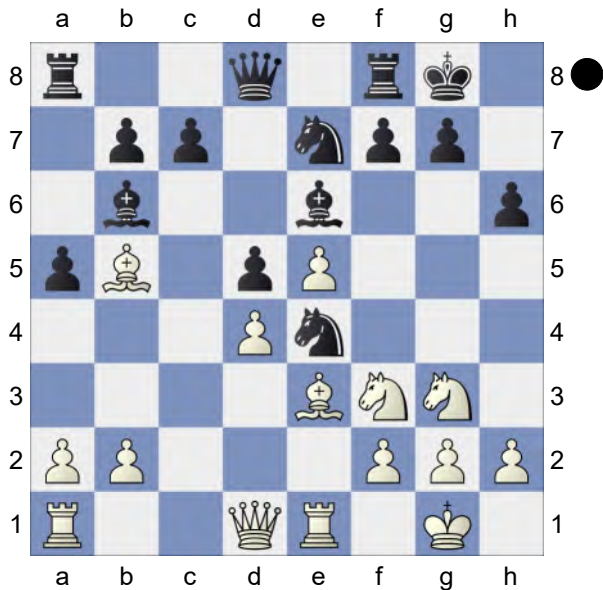


9...Be6!? Wei Yi decides that no longer wants to wait and therefore opens the position. His calculation proves to be accurate and he equalises the game completely. **10.Bb5 Ne7**

(Diagram)



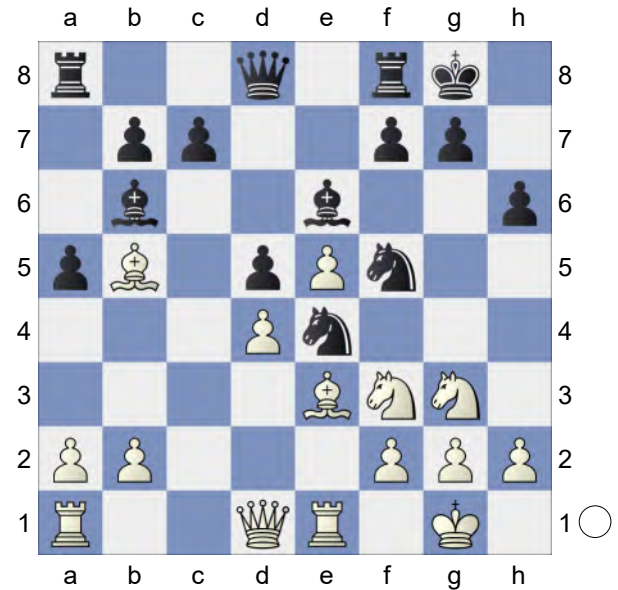
**11.d4 exd4 12.cxd4 Bb6 13.Ng3 d5
14.e5 Ne4 15.Be3** Diagram



15...Nf5?!

[15...Nxc3= 16.fxc3]

(Diagram)



Probably feeling that he had easily equalised, Wei Yi made a couple of rather hasty moves which have handed Carlsen a tiny edge and prompted him to play on.

16.Nxf5! Carlsen fixes a weakness on a6 but his opponent will defend stubbornly and never allow him any real winning chances. **16...Bxf5**

17.Nd2

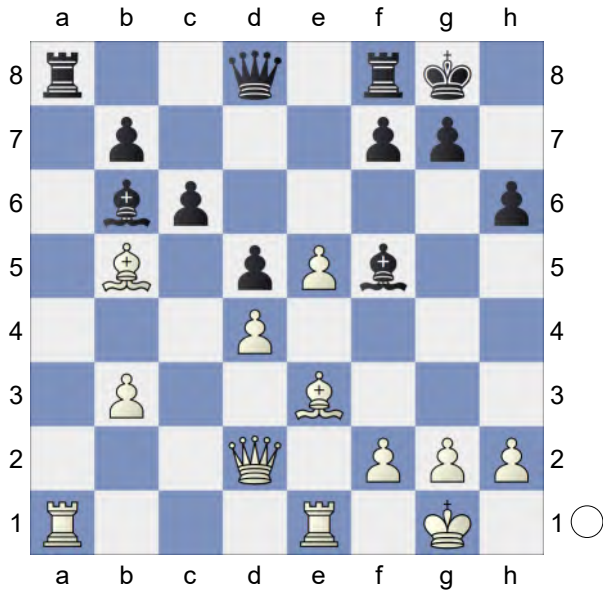
[17.Qc2 c6 18.Bd3 f6]

17...Nxd2 18.Qxd2 a4 19.b4

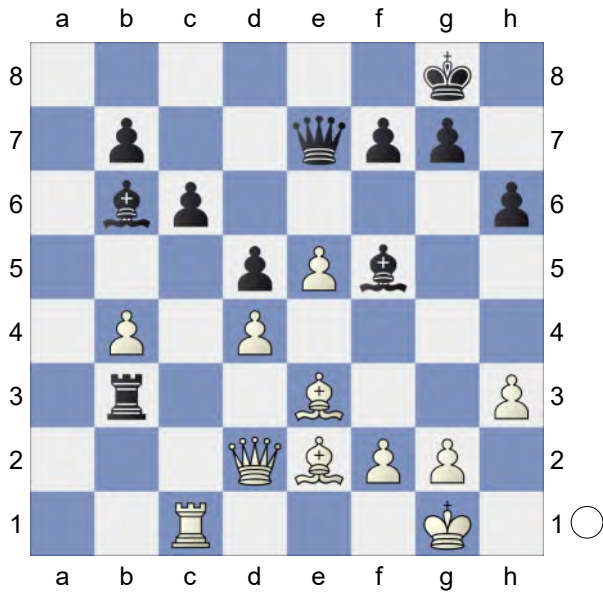
[19.Qd1]

19...axb3 20.axb3 c6! (Black correctly prevents g4.) Diagram

(Diagram)

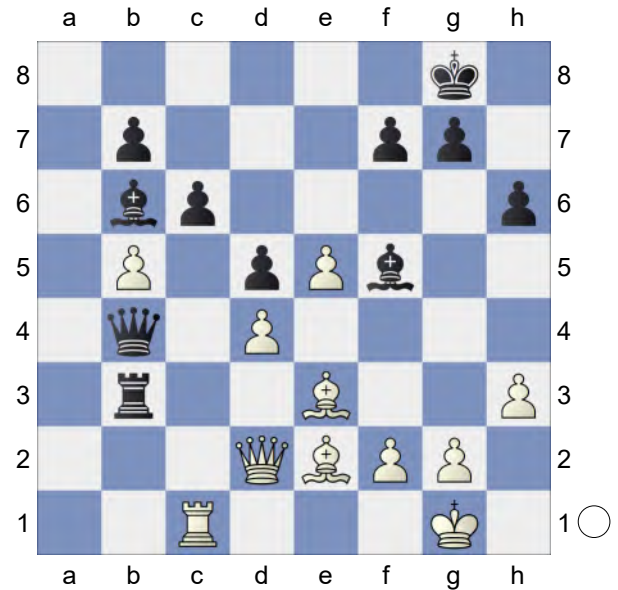


21.Be2 Qe7 22.h3 Ra3 23.b4 Rfa8!
24.Rxa3 Rxa3 25.Rc1 Rb3

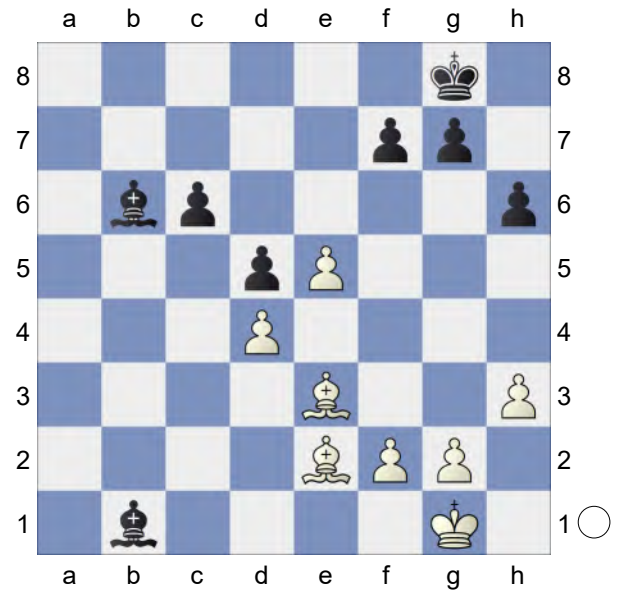


26.b5 Qb4= Diagram

(Diagram)

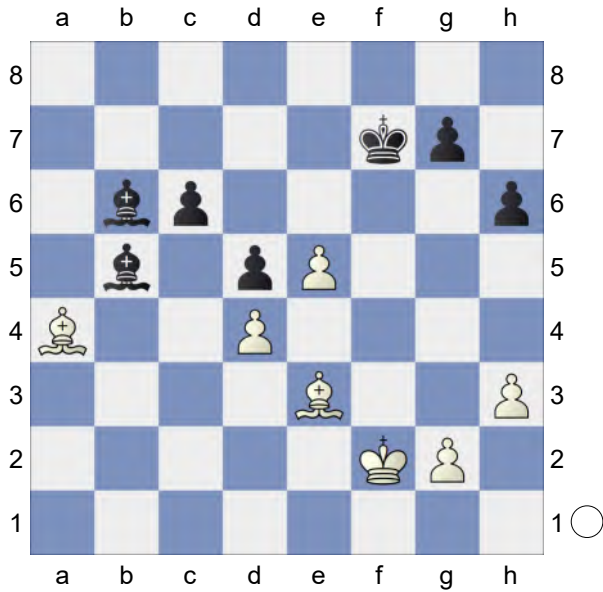


Carlsen tries hard to breach Wei Yi's fortress but to no avail. **27.Qd1 Rb1**
28.Rxb1 Qxb1 29.Qxb1 Bxb1
30.bxc6 bxc6

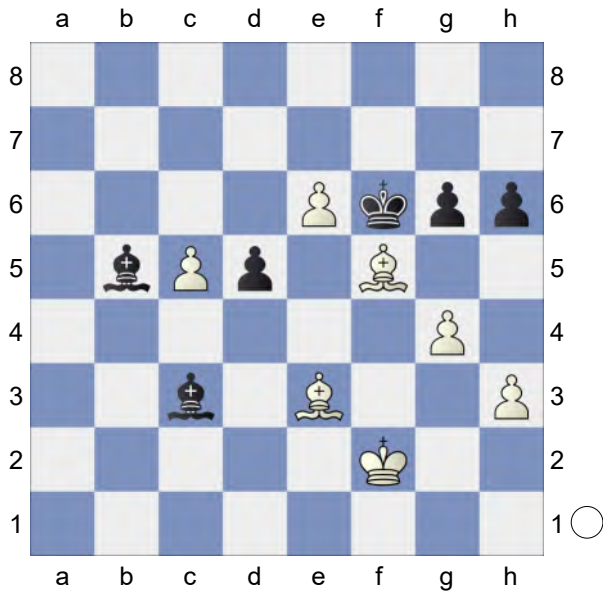


31.Bd1 Bd3 32.f4 f6 33.Kf2 Kf7
34.Ba4 fxe5 35.fxe5 Bb5

(Diagram)

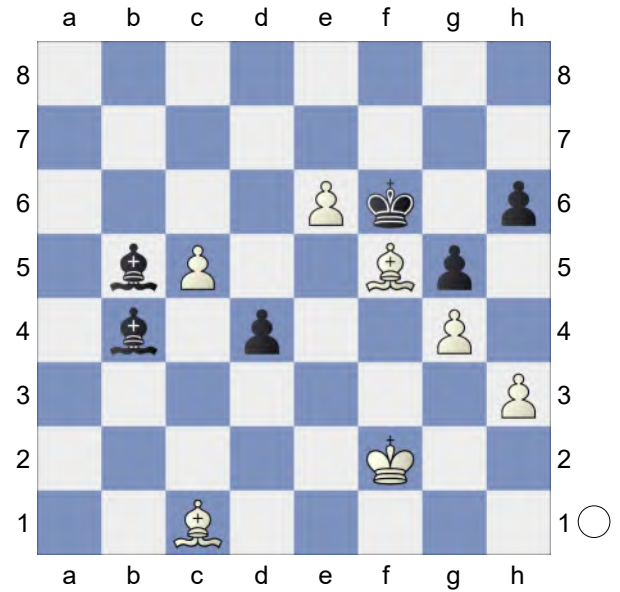


36.Bc2 Ba5 37.g4 Bc3 38.Bf5 c5 1/2-1/2
39.e6+ Kf6 40.dxc5 g6



41.Bc2 g5 42.Bf5 d4 43.Bc1 Bb4

(Diagram)



3

□ Carlsen, Magnus

■ Wei, Yi

129/152 Bilbao

[Kapnisis, Spyridon]

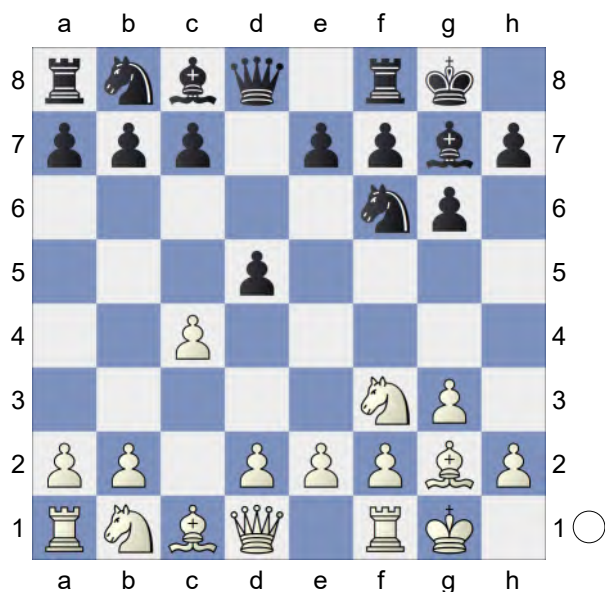
D76

2855

2696

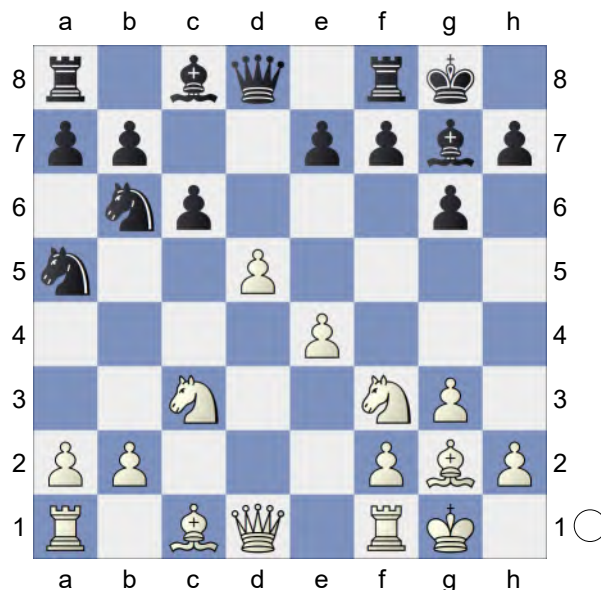
2016

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.0-0
Nf6 5.c4 0-0



6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.d4 Glenn Flear: 'After an offbeat move order, we arrive at one of the main lines of the Neo-Grünfeld.'
7...Nb6 8.Nc3 Nc6 9.d5 Na5 10.e4 c6

(Diagram)



11.Bf4 Glenn Flear: 'White has scored well with this active development of the bishop.'
11...Nac4 12.Qe2 cxd5
13.exd5 Bg4

[Instead 13...Nxb2 was played in Game 6.]

[I quite like 13...Bf5 where the bishop can dodge any efforts by the knight on f3 to trade it off: 14.Rac1 Rc8 after 15.Nh4!? (15.b3 Nd6 16.Ne5 Nd7 17.Rfe1 Re8 (Black has built up a solid defensive set-up without making any concessions) 18.h4 Qa5 19.Na4 Nxe5 20.Bxe5 Bh6 Valsecchi, A - Cheparinov, I Skopje 2013) 15...Bd7 the knight on h4 doesn't look great to me but, going further... 16.b3 Nd6 17.Be5 Bh6 18.Rcd1 Re8 19.Rfe1 Black couldn't find anything better than Nf5 in a fairly recent encounter. Then White correctly aimed to increase his grip with 20.Nxf5 Bxf5 21.g4 Nd7!? (resourceful, as 21...Bd7 22.Ne4 would leave the first player with nagging pressure) This tense game continued with 22.Bd4 e5! 23.dxe6 Rxe6 24.Qf3 Bc2 25.Ra1 (Khismatullin, D -

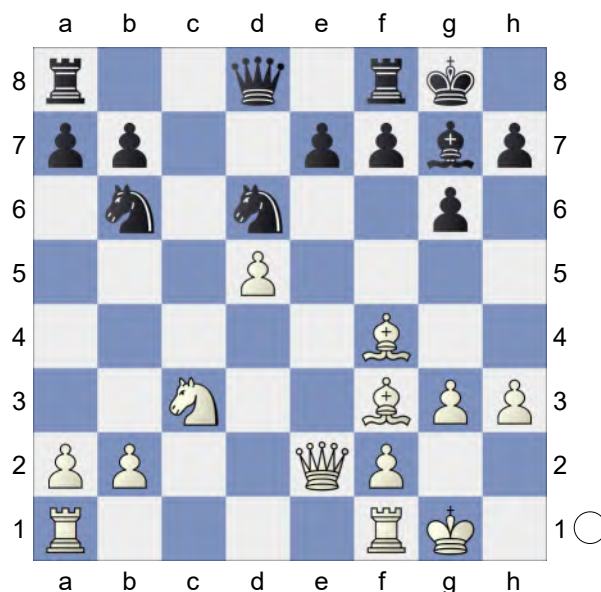
Duzhakov, I Moscow 2015) and now Nc5! would have been fine for Black.]

[The remaining (reasonable) square for the bishop is d7: 13...Bd7 14.Rac1 Rc8 15.Rfe1 Re8 16.b3 Nd6 (Black digs in. He has good squares for his pieces, but lacks space) 17.Ne5 h6 (it's too late for 17...Bf5 because of 18.g4! pushing the bishop back) 18.Qd2 g5 19.Nxd7 Nxd7 20.Bxd6 (20.Be3 is simpler, keeping more space and retaining some hopes of exploiting Black's loose kingside) 20...Rxc3 (trading the dark-squared bishops with 20...Bxc3! 21.Rxc3 exd6 looks like a better idea. Black has to be careful on the kingside, but should still be OK.) 21.Bb4 Rxc1 22.Qxc1 Ne5 Kunte, A - Sengupta, D Aurangabad 2011, and you have to surely prefer the side with the bishop pair.]

14.h3 Bxf3 15.Bxf3 Nd6

[Glenn Flear: 'Similar is' 15...Rc8 - 59/(491) 16.Rac1 Nd6 17.Rfe1 Re8 but then 18.Nb5 Rxc1 19.Rxc1 Qd7 20.Nxd6 (20.Nxa7 Ra8=) 20...exd6 21.Qd2 Be5= had simplified to equality in Lipka, J - Tuncer, U Austrian league 2014.]

(Diagram)



16.Rfe1

[White employed an enterprising plan in the following: 16.Rac1 a6 17.h4 Rc8 (as usual in such cases, it's a tough call, but 17...h5 would avoid getting squeezed too badly at the risk of presenting the opponent with some kingside targets) 18.h5 Rc4 19.h6 Bh8 20.Rfe1 Almada, E - Rogers, I Luzern 1999, when the h-pawn has a cramping effect.]

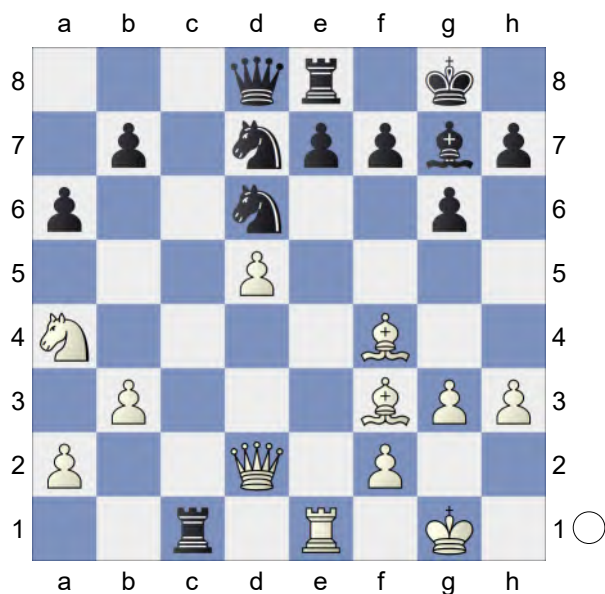
16...Re8 17.Rac1 a6 18.b3 Rc8 19.Qd2 Nd7 20.Na4N

[20.g4!? Qa5 21.Nb1 Qxd2 22.Nxd2 Rxc1 23.Rxc1 Bd4±]

[Glenn Flear: 'Only now do we vary from known territory. Previously' 20.Ne4 Nxe4 21.Bxe4 Qb6 22.Bg2 Rxc1 23.Rxc1 Be5 24.Be3 Qd6 was seen in Matveeva, S - Huang Qian, Ergun 2006, when the bishop pair yields a small but enduring pull.]

20...Rxc1

(Diagram)

**21.Qxc1**

[21.Rxc1 Be5 22.Bxe5 Nxe5
23.Bg2 Nd7 24.b4±]

21...Bd4 22.Qd2 Bg7 Glenn Flear:
'Just biding his time.' **23.h4**

[23.g4!?±]

23...h5 Glenn Flear: 'This is generally
sensible, that is when White is unlikely
to be able to get any sacrifices in to
open Black's king.' **24.Nb2**

[24.Bg2!?]

24...Nb5 25.Re3 Nd4

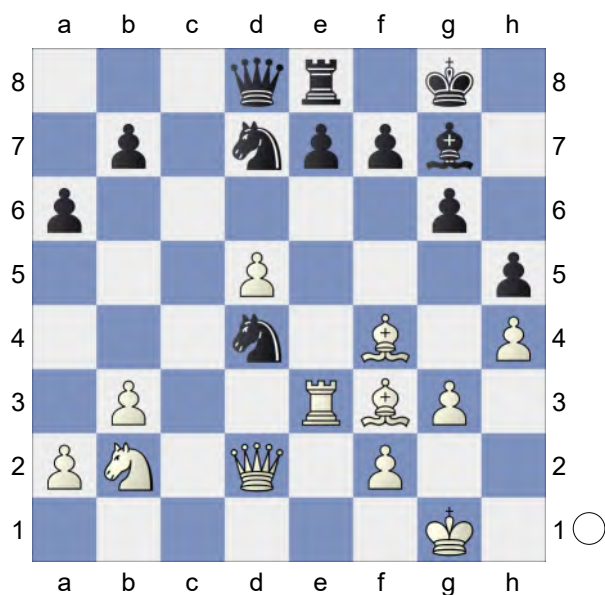
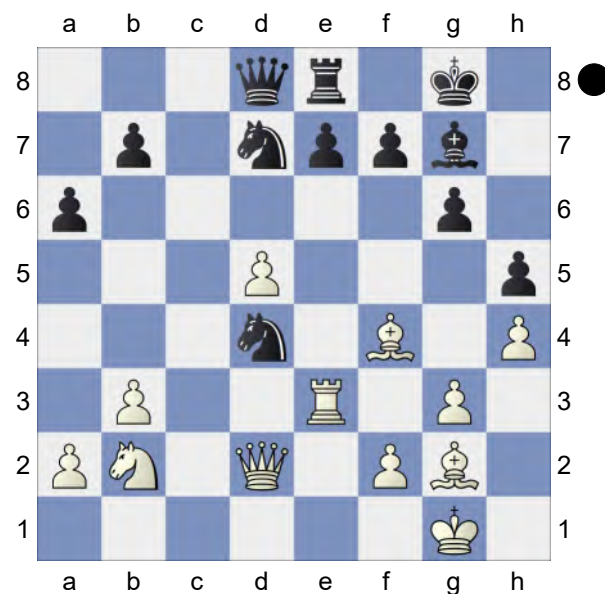
**26.Bg2** Diagram

Diagram [#] 26...e5!? Glenn Flear: '!' '!'
Glenn Flear: 'Wei Yi goes for freedom
over passivity.'

[26...Nf5 27.Re1 Nf6±]

27.dxe6 Nxe6 28.Nc4

[28.Bxb7?? Ndc5-+]

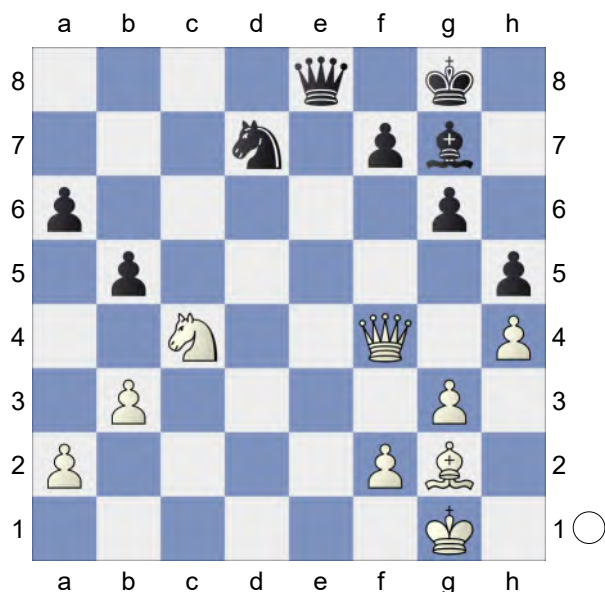
[28.Rd3 Nxf4 29.Rxd7 Ne2+ 30.Kh2
Qf6 31.Nd1 b5 32.Bd5 Re7 33.Rd6!
Qf5 34.Rxa6 Kh7!±]

[Here, retaining the bishop with
28.Bd6?! may seem more natural, but
then Ne5! 29.Qd5?! Ng4! 30.Re2
Bd4 leaves Black on top. So self-
pinning down the d-file isn't a good
idea.]

28...Nxf4 29.Rxe8+ Qxe8 30.Qxf4 b5

[30...Qe1+!? 31.Bf1 b5 32.Ne3
Ne5=]

(Diagram)



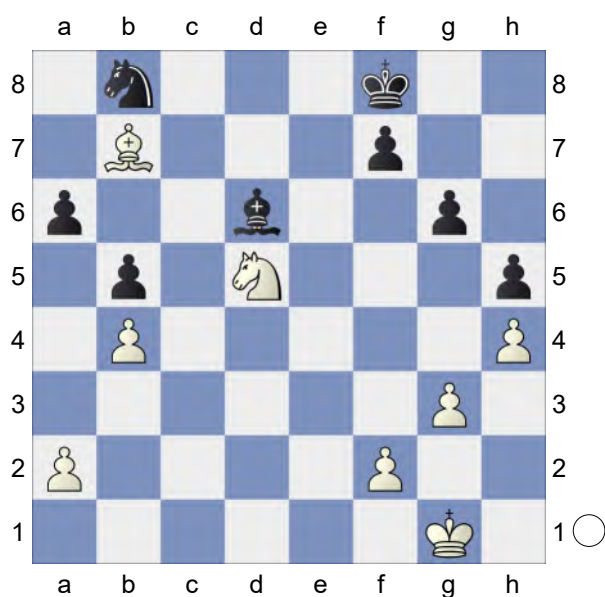
Glenn Flear: 'It must be a nice feeling to have equalized against Carlsen!' **31.Ne3 Qe5**

[31...Qe7=]

32.Qxe5 Bxe5?! Glenn Flear: 'The endgame is drawish, but how many times have Carlsen's opponents thought that in the past and yet ultimately been ground down?'

[32...Nxe5=]

33.b4! Bd6 34.Bb7 Nb8 35.Nd5 Kf8



36.Kg2 Ke8 37.f3 Glenn Flear: 'Maybe g4 is a half-threat, hence Black's reply.'

37...f5! Glenn Flear: '!?' '!?' 38.Kf2

[38.Kh3 Kd7 39.g4 Ke6 (39...hgx4+ 40.fgx4 Ke6 41.g5±) 40.gxh5 gxh5 41.f4 Nd7 42.Kg3 Nf8 43.Ne3 Bxb4 44.Bc8+ Kd6 45.Bxa6 (45.Nxf5+ Kc7=) 45...Kc5 46.Bc8 Be1+ 47.Kh3 Bf2 48.Nd1 Be1 49.Bxf5 Kd4=]

38...Kd7 Glenn Flear: '! ' Glenn Flear: 'This needed calculating!' 39.Nf4 Kc7 40.Bd5 Diagram

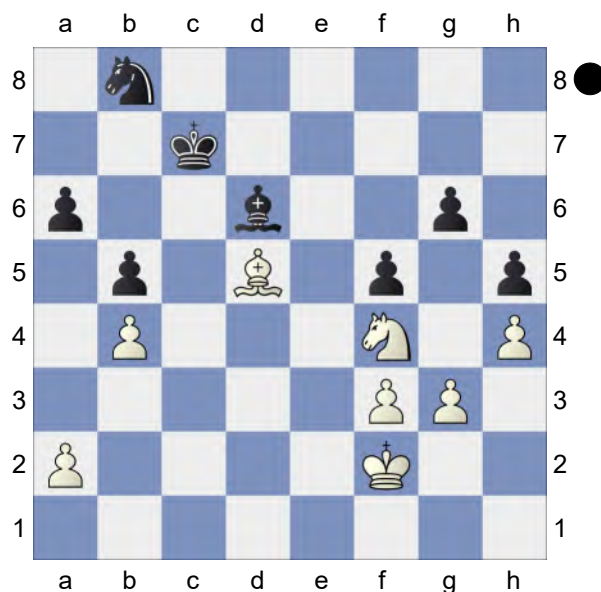
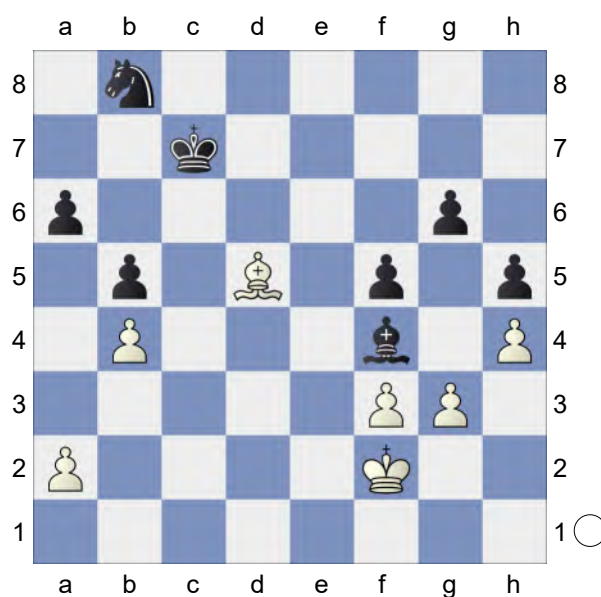


Diagram [#] 40...Bxf4!



41.gxf4 Kd6

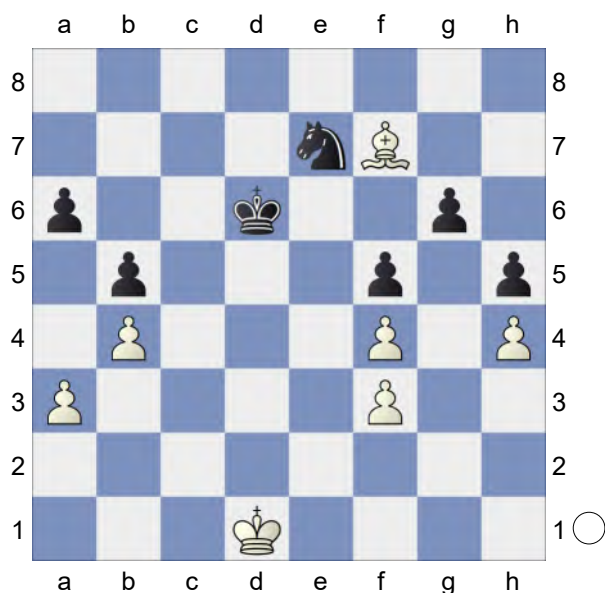
[41...Nd7 42.Bf7 Nf8 would have

been passive. It might nevertheless hold, but Wei Yi prefers placing the knight on e7.]

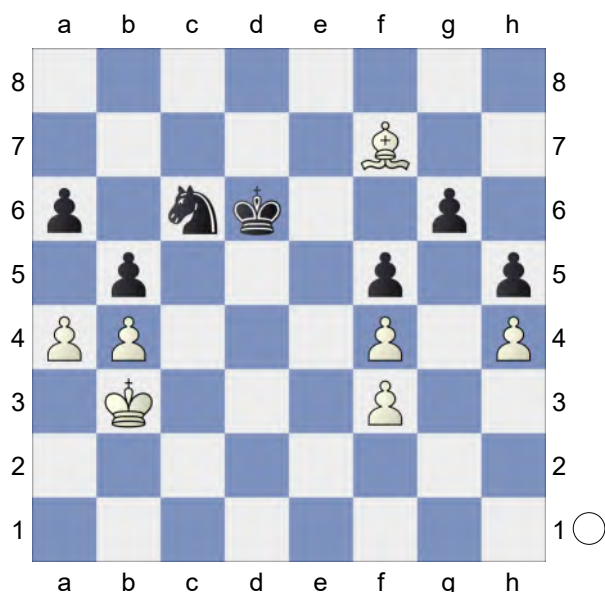
42.Bf7 Nc6 43.a3

[43.Bxg6 Nxb4 won't favour White if he loses his a-pawn.]

43...Ne7= 44.Ke1 Kd7 45.Kd1 Kd6



46.Kd2 Kd7 47.Kd3 Kd6 Glenn Flear: 'White's only try is the a4-break, but it shouldn't lead anywhere against a 'responsible' defence.' **48.Kc2 Kd7 49.Kb3 Kd6 50.a4 Nc6**

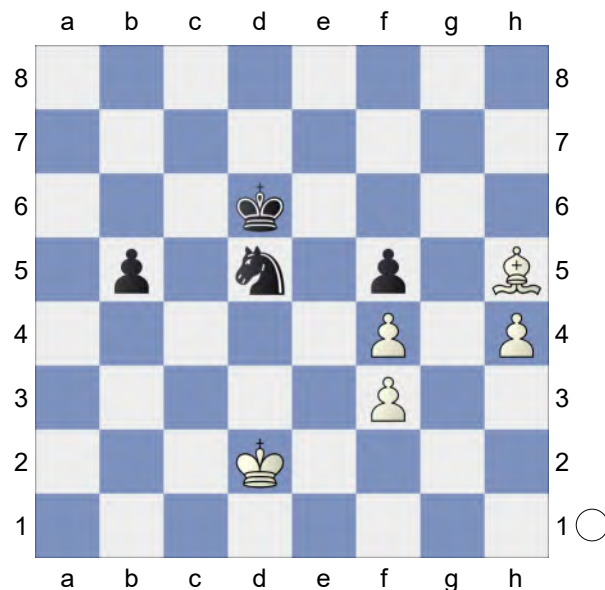


Glenn Flear: '!?' '!?' **51.axb5 axb5**

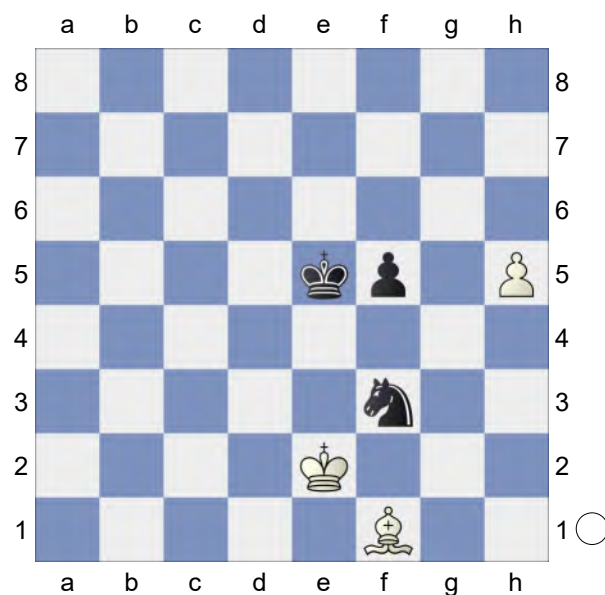
52.Kc3

[Glenn Flear: 'Or' 52.Bxg6 Nd4+ 53.Kc3 Nxf3 54.Bxh5 (54.Bxf5 Nxh4 55.Be4 Ke6 56.Kd4 Nf5+=) 54...Nxh4=]

52...Ne7 53.Kd2 Nd5 Glenn Flear: 'Not the only way, but sufficient to earn half-a-point.' **54.Bxg6 Nxb4 55.Bxh5 Nd5**



56.Be8 Nxf4 57.Bxb5 Ke5 58.Bf1 Ng6 59.h5 Nh4 60.Ke2 Nxf3



Glenn Flear: 'The black king heads to the h8-square with a book draw.'

1/2-1/2

5

□ Carlsen, Magnus

■ Wei, Yi

129/152 Bilbao

[Kapnisis, Spyridon]

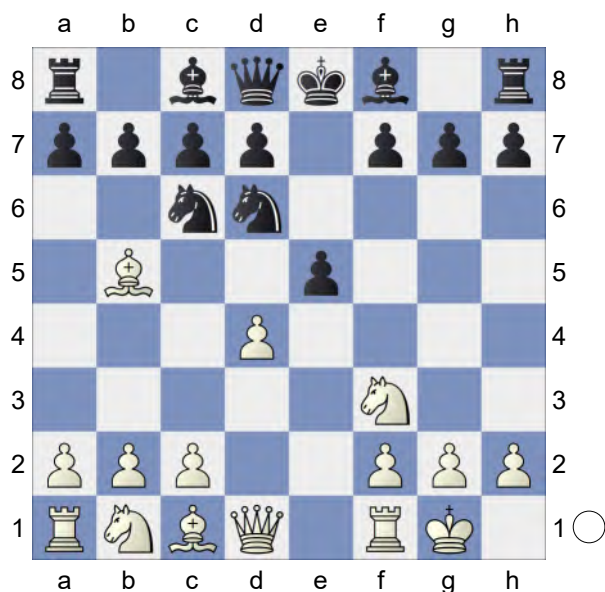
C67

2855

2696

2016

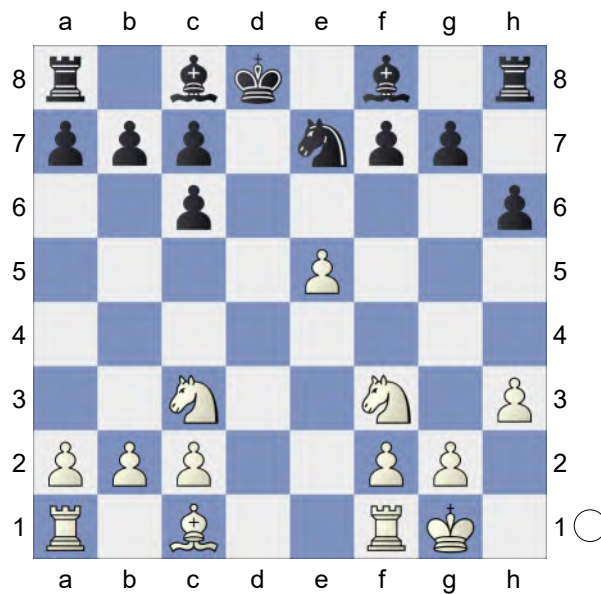
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0
Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6



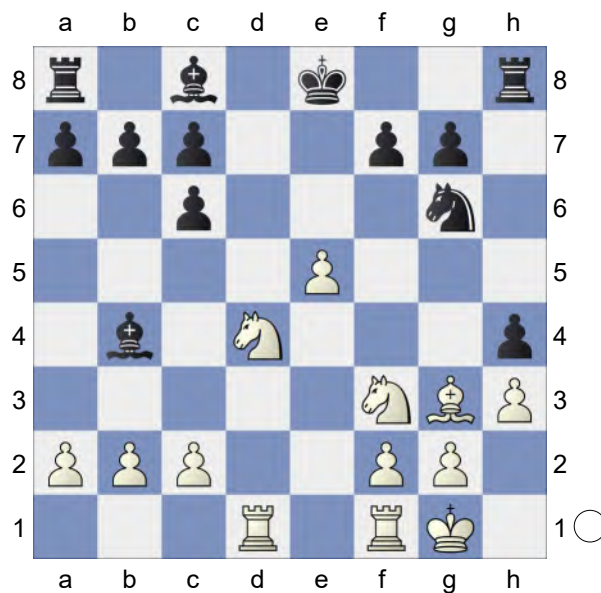
6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Glenn Flear: 'After an offbeat move order, we arrive at one of the main lines of the Neo-Grünfeld.'

7...Nf5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.Nc3 h6
10.h3 Ne7

(Diagram)

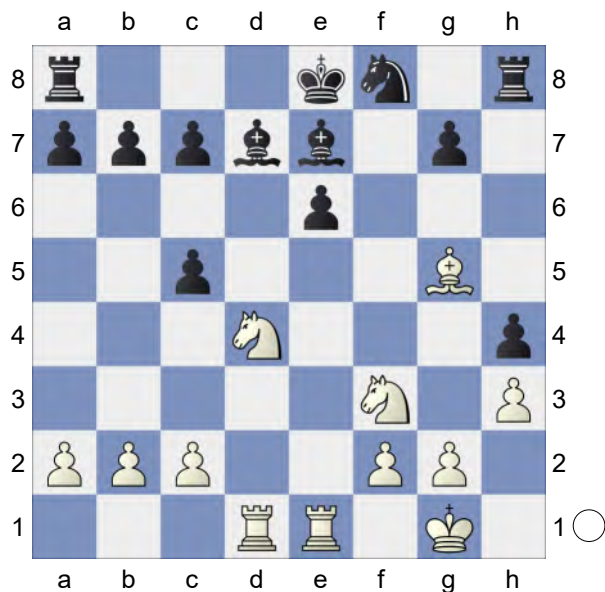


11.Bf4 Glenn Flear: 'White has scored well with this active development of the bishop.' 11...Ng6 12.Bg3 Ke8 13.Rad1 Bb4 14.Ne2 h5 15.Ned4 h4

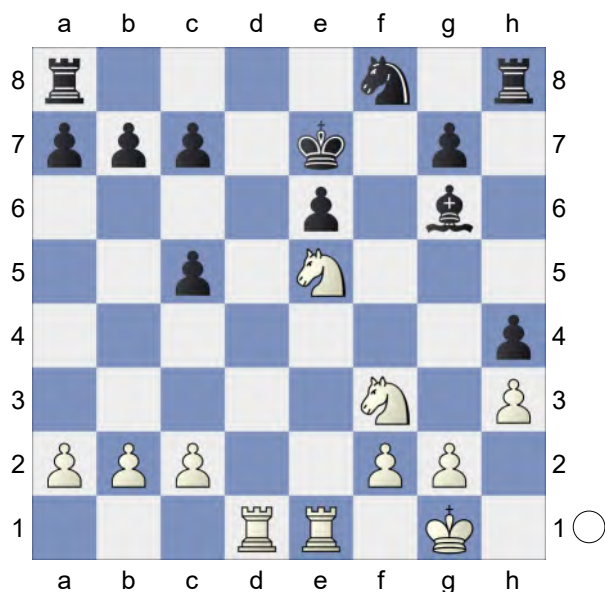


16.Bh2 Nf8 17.Bf4 Bd7 18.Bg5 Be7
19.Rfe1 c5 20.e6N
[20.Bxe7 Kxe7 21.Nb3 Ne6]
20...fxe6
[20...Nxe6 21.Nf5]
[20...Bxe6 21.Nb5]

(Diagram)

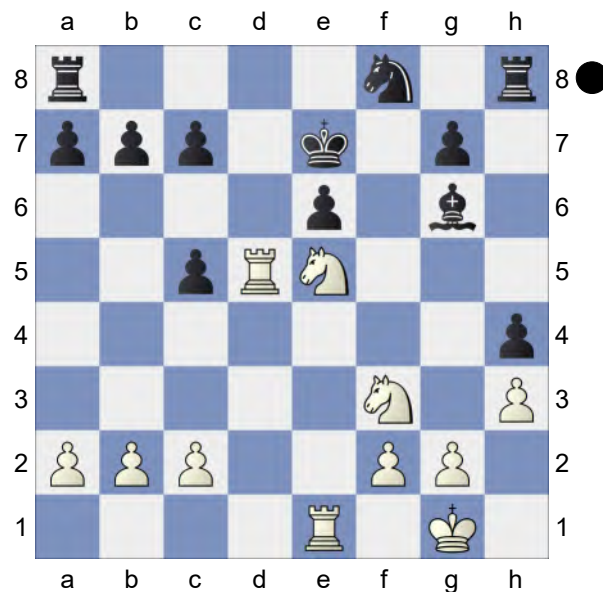


21.Bxe7 Kxe7 22.Nf5+ Kf6
 Glenn Flear: 'Just biding his time.'
23.Ne3 Be8 Glenn Flear: 'This is generally sensible, that is when White is unlikely to be able to get any sacrifices in to open Black's king.'
24.Ng4+ Ke7 25.Nge5 Bg6

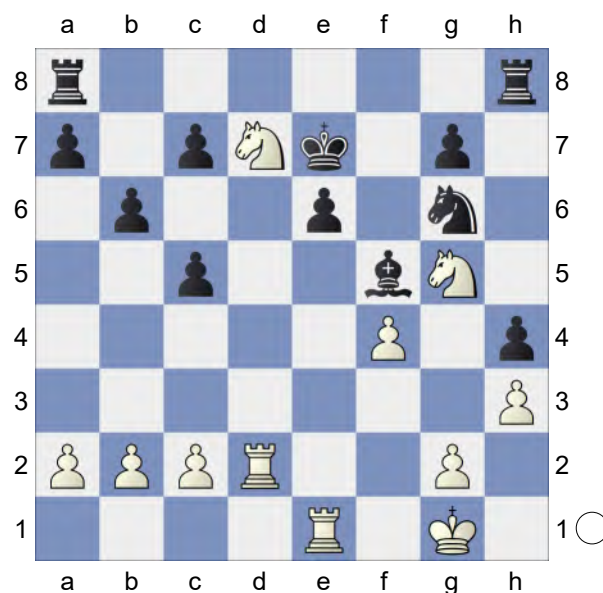


26.Rd5 Diagram
 [26.Re3-+]

(Diagram)



26...b6!? Glenn Flear: '!' Glenn Flear: 'Wei Yi goes for freedom over passivity.'
27.Rd2 Bf5 28.Ng5 Kf6 29.f4 Ng6
 [29...Re8??]
30.Nd7+ Ke7



Glenn Flear: 'It must be a nice feeling to have equalized against Carlsen!'
31.Nxe6
 [31.Rd5 Rhe8 32.b3=]

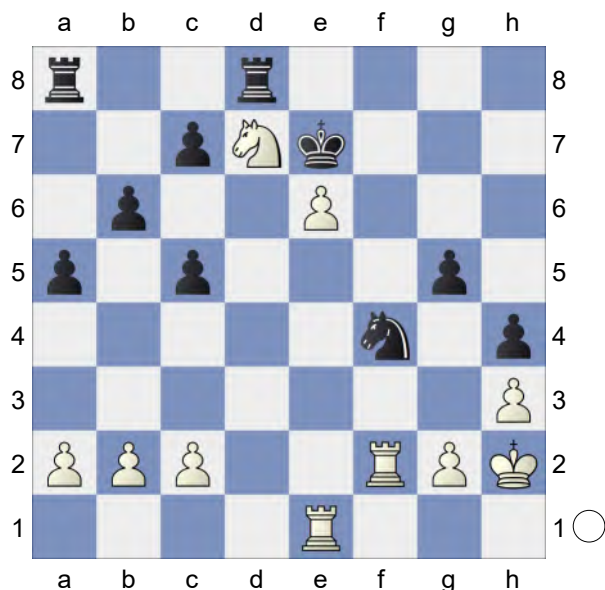
31...Bxe6 32.f5 Nf4?! Glenn Flear: 'The endgame is drawish, but how many times have Carlsen's opponents thought that in the past and yet ultimately been

ground down?' **33.fxe6! Rhd8**

[33...Nxe6 34.Ne5 Rh6 35.Ng4±
Rg6= 36.Ne3= Kf7!? 37.Nf5]

34.Rf2 g5 35.Kh2 a5

[35...Nxe6 36.Ne5=]



36.a4 Rg8 37.Ne5 Glenn Flear: 'Maybe g4 is a half-threat, hence Black's reply.'

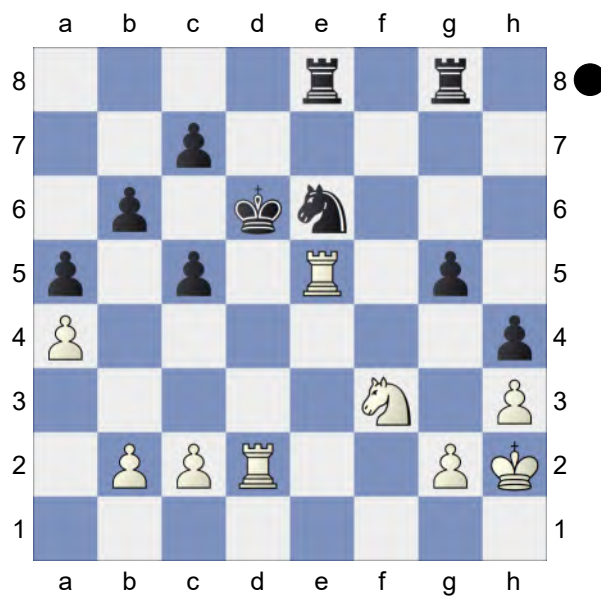
37...Rae8! Glenn Flear: '!'

[37...Nxe6 38.Rf7+ Ke8 39.Rh7]

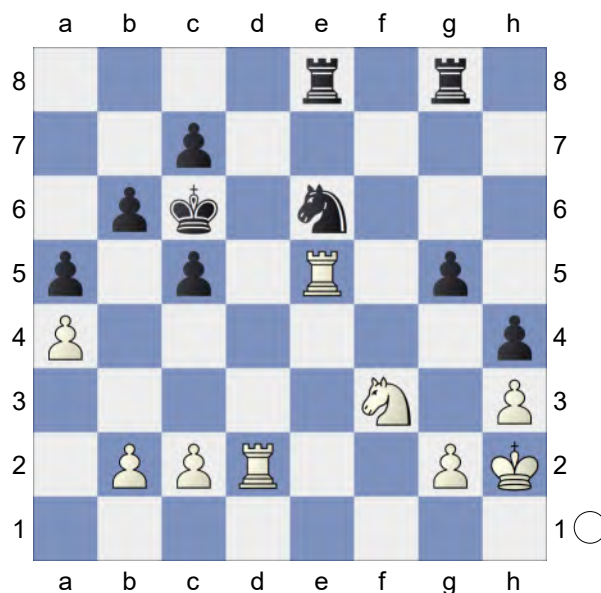
[37...Kxe6 38.Ng6+ Kf5 39.Ne7+=]

38.Nf3 Nxe6 Glenn Flear: '!' Glenn Flear: 'This needed calculating!' **39.Re5 Kd6 40.Rd2+** Diagram

(Diagram)



40...Kc6!

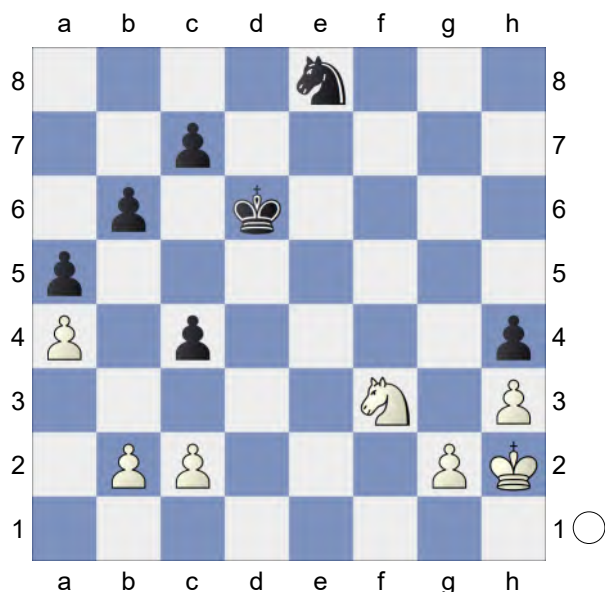


41.Rde2 Kd6

[41...Kd7 42.Rd2+ Kc6 43.Rde2]

42.Nxg5 Ng7 43.Rxe8 Rxe8= 44.Rxe8 Nxe8 45.Nf3 c4

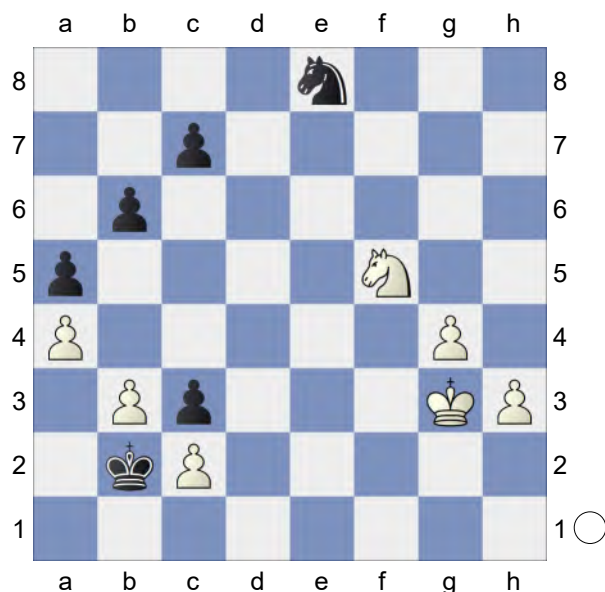
(Diagram)

**46.Nxh4 c3**

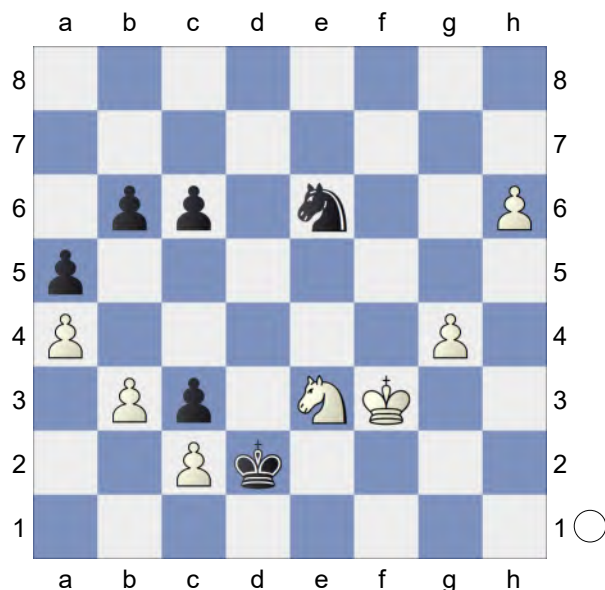
[46...Ke5 Glenn Flear: 'The black king heads to the h8-square with a book draw.' Glenn Flear: 'Or' 47.Nf3+ (47.Kg3 Ke4 48.Kf2 b5) 47...Kf4 48.c3 Nd6 49.Nd2 Ke3= (49...c6 50.h4 Kg4 51.g3 b5 52.Kg2) 50.Nb1 Kf4 51.Na3 c6 52.g3+ Ke4= 53.h4 b5 won't favour White if he loses his a-pawn. 54.h5 Kf5 55.g4+ would have been passive. It might nevertheless hold, but Wei Yi prefers placing the knight on e7. Kg5 56.Kg2]

47.b3 Kc5 Glenn Flear: 'White's only try is the a4-break, but it shouldn't lead anywhere against a 'responsible' defence.' **48.Nf5 Kb4 49.g4 Ka3 50.Kg3 Kb2**

(Diagram)

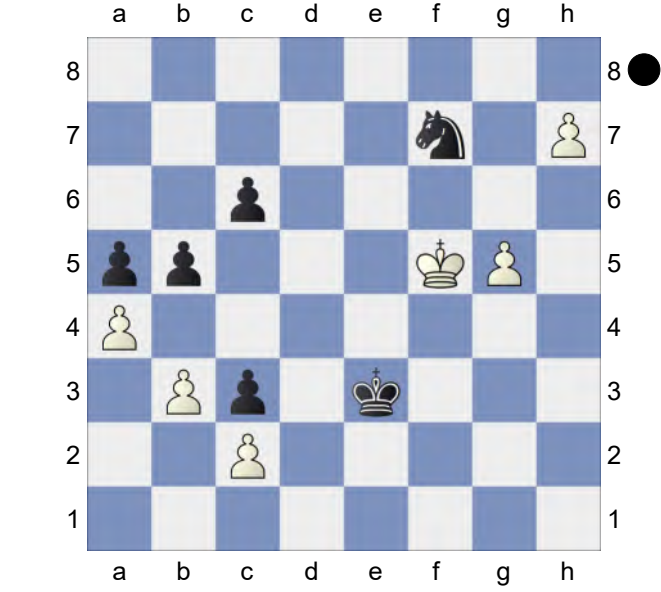


Glenn Flear: '!?' **51.Ne3 Kc1 52.Kf3 Kd2 53.h4 Ng7** Glenn Flear: 'Not the only way, but sufficient to earn half-a-point.' **54.h5 Ne6 55.h6 c6**



56.Ke4 b5 57.Ke5 Ng5 58.Kf5 Nf7 59.h7 Kxe3 60.g5

(Diagram)



$\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$

543

A00

□ Classical Variation, with 6.Be2 e6

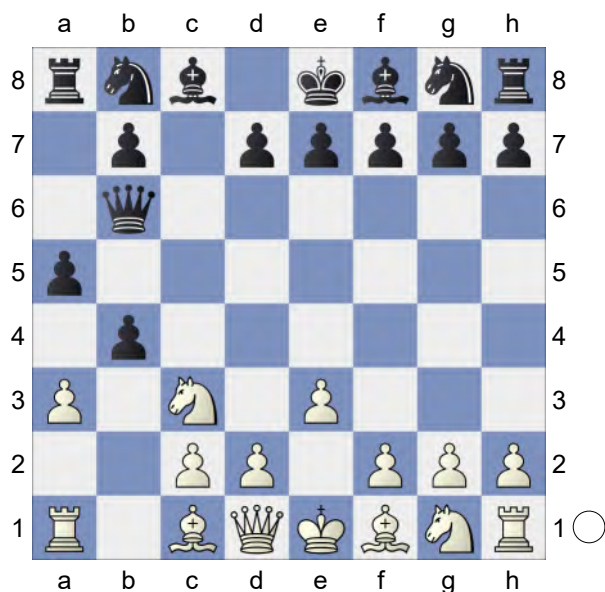
■ Wei, Yi

Buenos Aires Open GP-I/1

1961

[Kiuru]

1.b4 c6 2.e3 Qb6 3.a3 a5 4.b5 cxb5
5.Nc3 b4



6.axb4 Qxb4 7.Ba3 Qb6 8.Nd5

[8.Rb1]

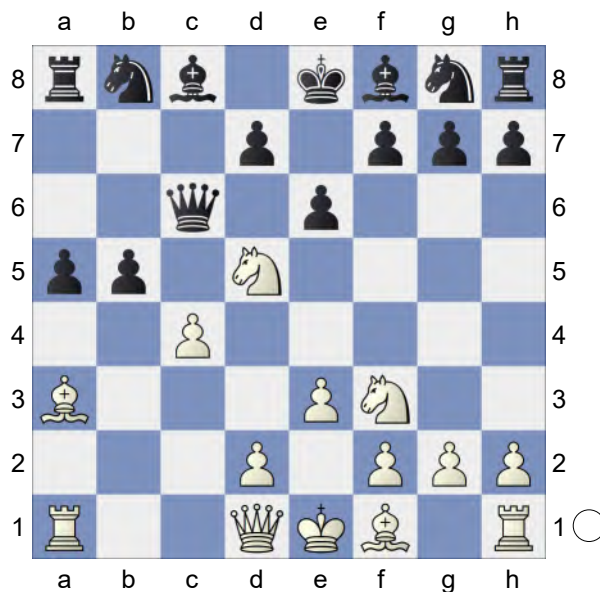
8...Qc6 9.c4 b5

[9...e6]

10.Nf3 e6

[10...bxc4 11.Bxc4 Qxc4 12.Rc1]

(Diagram)

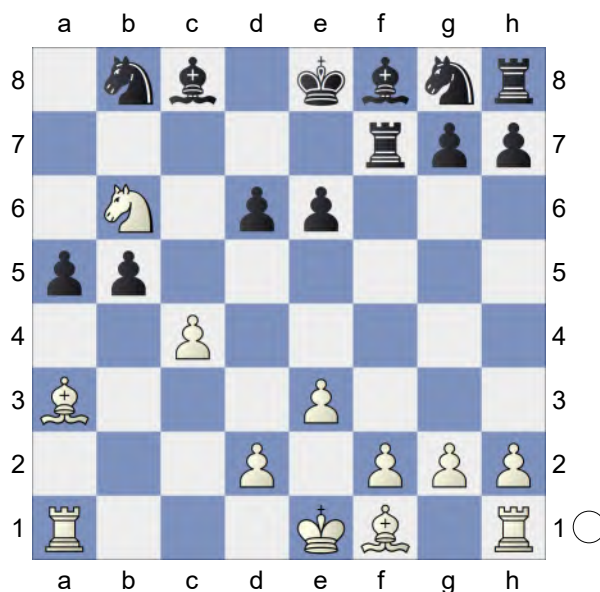


11.Ne5 Qb7 12.Qf3 d6 13.Nb6 Ra7

[13...Qxb6 14.Qxf7+ Kd8 15.Qxf8+ Kc7 16.Qxg7+]

[13...dxe5 14.Bxf8 Kxf8 15.Nxa8 e4 16.Qg3 Qxa8 17.Qc7]

14.Qxf7+ Qxf7 15.Nxf7 Rxf7



16.Nxc8 b4

[16...Kd7 17.Na7]

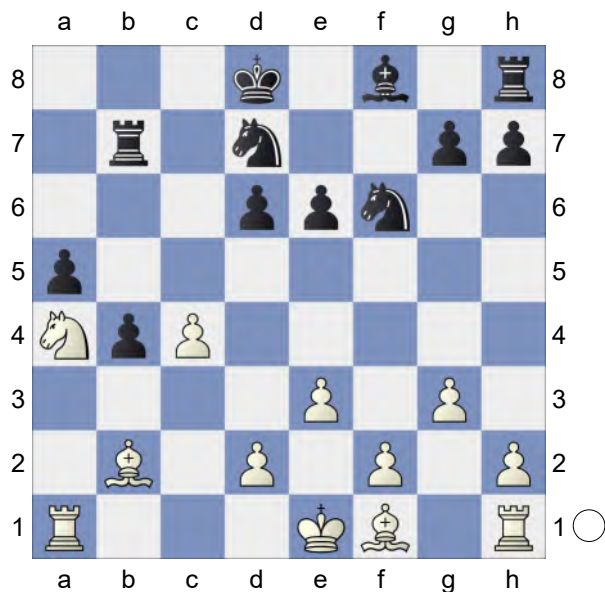
17.Bb2 Kd8

[17...Rb7 18.Rxa5 Nc6 19.Rb5]

18.Nb6 Rb7 19.Na4 Nd7 20.g3

[20.d4]

20...Ngf6

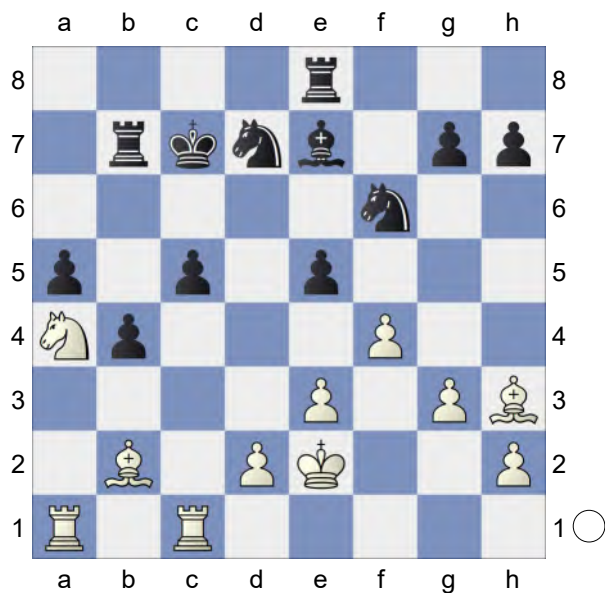


21.Bh3 e5

[21...Ke7]

22.Ke2 Be7 23.f4 Kc7 24.Rhc1 Re8

25.c5 dxc5



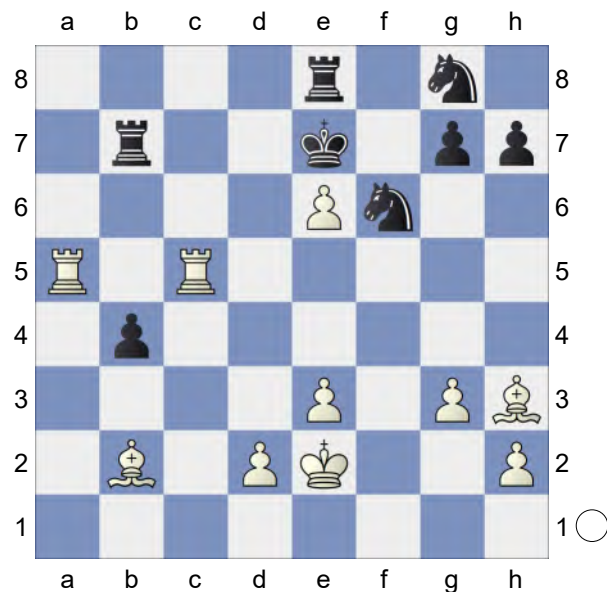
26.fxe5 Ng8

[26...Nd5 27.Bg2]

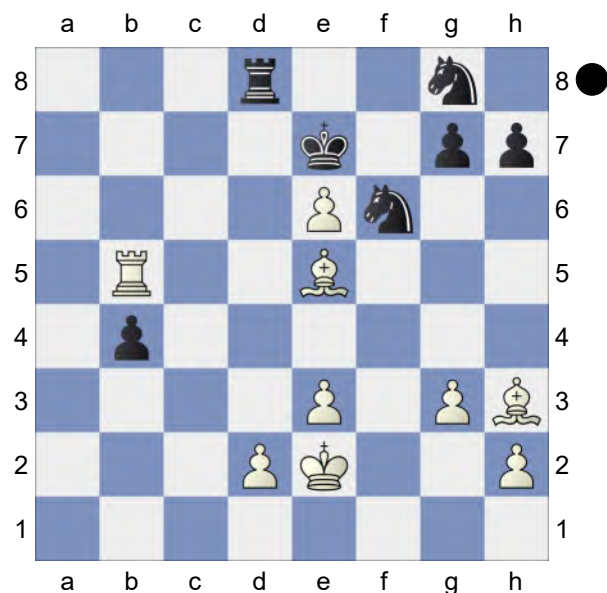
27.e6 Ndf6 28.Nxc5 Bxc5 29.Rxc5+

Kd6 30.Raxa5 Ke7

(Diagram)



31.Be5 Rd8 32.Rcb5 Rxb5 33.Rxb5



1-0

33

D02

□ Karjakin, Sergey

2773

■ Wei, Yi

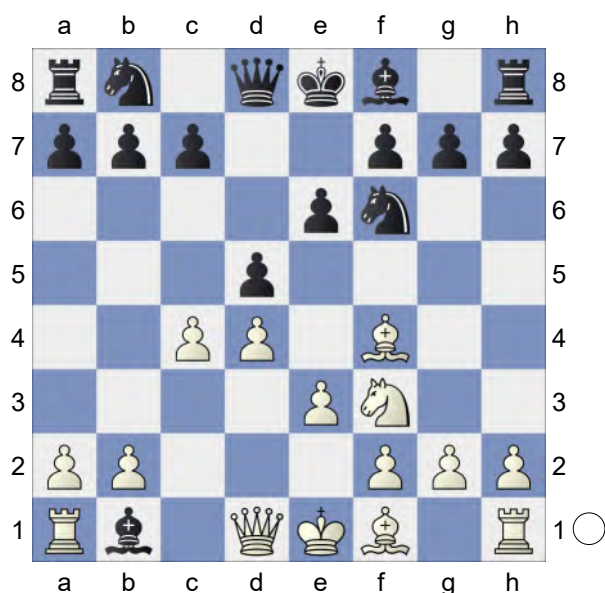
2696

Bilbao Masters 9th (10)

23.07.2016

[Krasenkow, M]

1.Nf3 Krasenkow, Michal Krasenkow,
Michal Krasenkow, Michal Krasenkow,
Michal Krasenkow, Michal Krasenkow,
Michal: 'Krasenkow, M' **1...d5 2.d4 Nf6**
3.Bf4 Bf5 4.e3 e6 5.c4 Bxb1



Black gives up his bishop but deprives White of the castling right. The line looks quite bizarre but this is nothing new: it has already been seen in dozens of games! **6.Rxb1** Other options:

[6.Qxb1]

[6.Qa4+]

6...Bb4+ 7.Ke2 dxc4

[7...Bd6!? is played more often.

Typical examples: 8.g3 (8.Qb3 Bxf4 9.Qxb7 Nbd7 10.exf4 c5 11.g3 0-0 12.Bg2 Qa5= 1-0 (42) Kolev, A (2601)-Gascon del Nogal, J (2206) San Cristobal 2012; 8.c5 Bxf4 9.exf4 0-0 10.g3 b6 11.Ne5 Nfd7 12.Nxd7 Qxd7 13.Kf3 bxc5 14.dxc5 Qc6

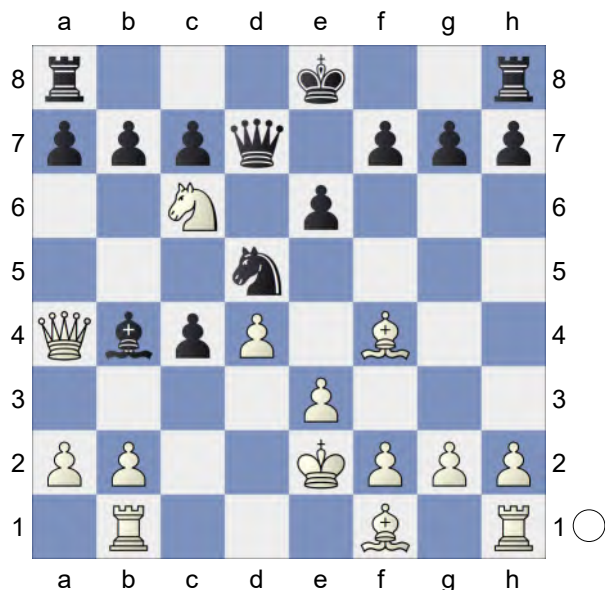
15.Qd4 a5= 1/2 (33) Knoeppel, B (2058)-Buteica, A (2226) ICCF WS 2005; 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.c5 Bxf4 10.exf4 0-0 11.g3 Ne4 12.Ne1 e5! 13.dxe5 f6→ 0-1 (41) Reichmann, H (2309)-Orzech, D (2340) Germany 2005; 8.Bg5 Nbd7 9.cxd5 exd5 10.Qb3 Rb8 11.g3 0-0 12.Bh3 Nb6 13.Bf5 h6 14.Bxf6 Qxf6 15.g4 Rfe8 16.Qc2 Nc4↑ 0-1 (46) Kovacevic, V (2495)-Klaric, Z (2440) Vinkovci 1982) 8...0-0 9.Qb3 Nc6 10.cxd5 Nxd5 11.Bg2 Be7 (11...Qd7) 12.h4 Na5 13.Qa4 c5 14.dxc5 Bxc5 15.Ne5 Bd6 16.Rhd1± 1-0 (49) Kamsky, G (2705)-Shulman, Y (2604) Connecticut 2007] [7...0-0 8.c5 Ne4 9.Qa4 Nc6 10.a3 Ba5 11.Qc2±] [7...Be7 8.Qb3 Qc8 9.g4 0-0 10.Bg2 Nc6 11.cxd5 exd5 12.h3 (12.g5!? Nh5 13.Be5) 12...a5 13.Qa4 Re8 14.Rhc1 Nd7 15.Kf1 Nb6 16.Qd1 Qd7 17.Kg1 Bd6= 0-1 (28) Sahovic, D (2425)-Mirkovic, S (2295) Vrnjacka Banja 1984]

8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Nd5

[9...Bd6 10.Nxc6 Qd7 11.g3! (11.Qxc4 bxc6 12.g3 Bxf4 13.gxf4 Qd5 14.Qxd5 cxd5 15.Rc1 Kd7 16.f3 Rhb8 17.Rc2 Rb4= 0-1 (65) Semeniuk, A (2474)-Iskusnyh, S (2533) Tomsk 2001) 11...Qxc6 12.Qxc6+ bxc6 13.Bg2±]

10.Nxc6 Qd7

(Diagram)

**11.Rc1**

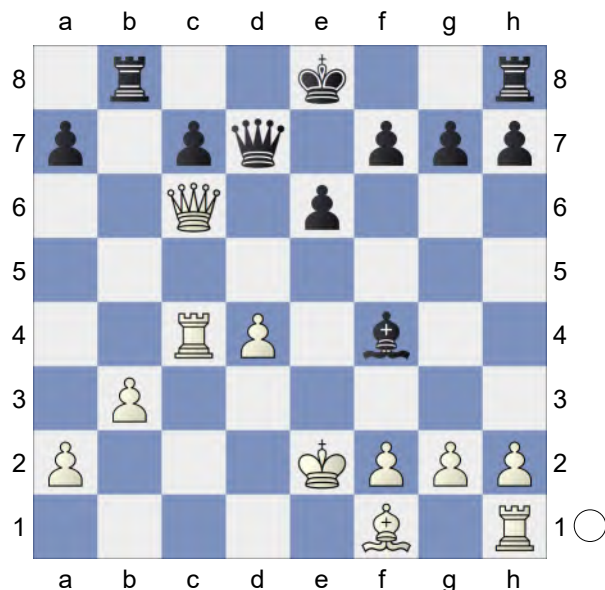
[11.Bg3 bxc6!± (≤11...Qxc6 12.Qxc6+ bxc6 13.Kf3 Kd7 14.Bxc4 Bd6 15.Rhc1± 1-0 (47) Hulak,K (2515)-Rowley,R (2400) New York 1989) Δ12.e4 Nf6! 13.Qxb4 Qxd4 14.Ra1□ Qxe4+ 15.Kd1 Rd8+ 16.Kc1 Nd5→]

11...bxc6

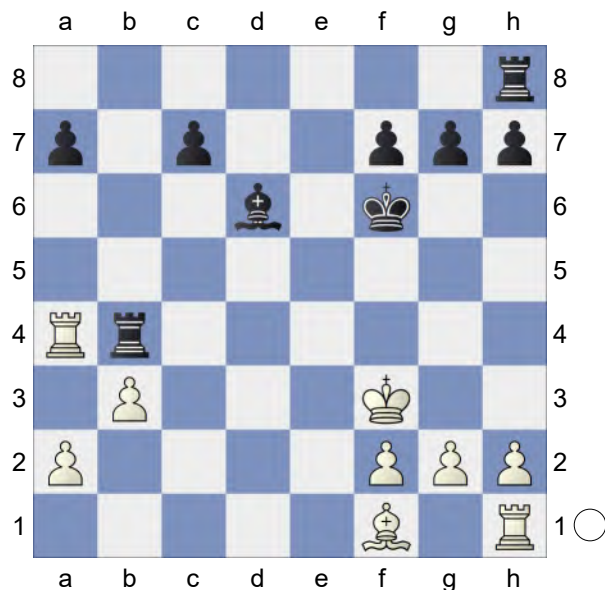
[11...Bd6!? 12.Qxc4 (12.Bxd6 cxd6) 12...Bxf4 13.exf4 bxc6=]

However, the text move is quite enough. In the arising position, with opposite-coloured bishops, White has no real winning chances. **12.Rxc4 Rb8 13.Qxc6 Nxf4+ 14.exf4 Bd6 15.b3 Bxf4**

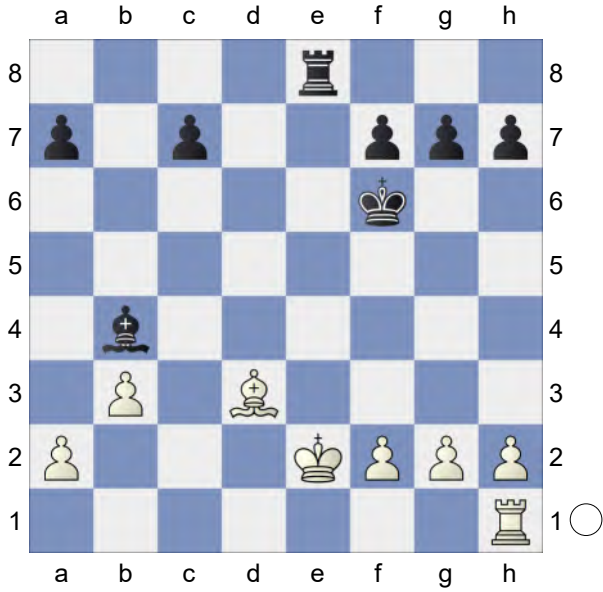
(Diagram)

**16.Qxd7+ Kxd7 17.d5**

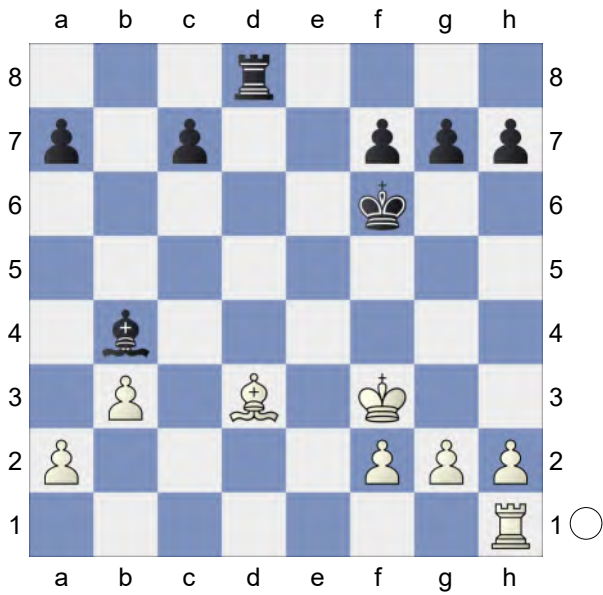
[17.Ra4 Bd6 18.Kd3 (18.Rxa7 Ra8 19.Rxa8 Rxa8 20.a4 Rb8) 18...Ra8 19.Ra6 Rhb8=]

17...Bd6 18.dxe6+ Kxe6 19.Ra4 Kf6 20.Kf3 Rb4**21.Rxb4 Bxb4 22.Bd3 Rd8 23.Ke2 Re8+ 24.Kf3 Rd8 25.Ke2 Re8+**

(Diagram)



26.Kf3 Rd8



1/2-1/2

79

□ Wei,Yi

■ Jones,B.

Tata Steel-A 80th (4)

[Krasenkow,Michal]

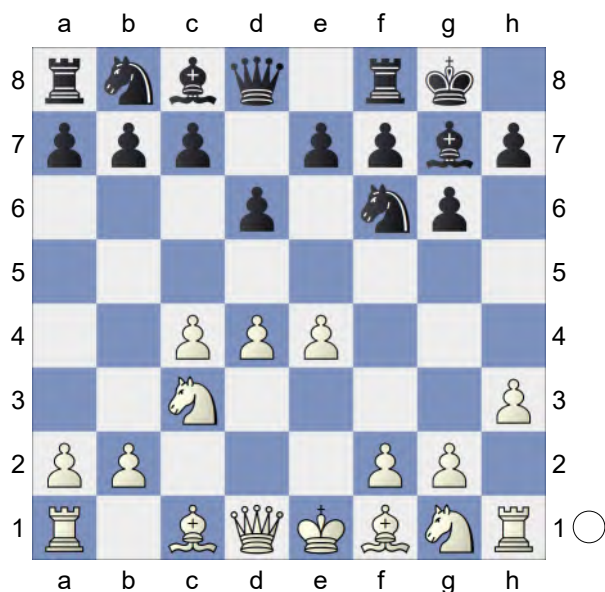
E92

2743

2640

16.01.2018

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6
5.h3 0-0



6.Nf3 e5 7.d5 a5 8.Bg5 Na6 9.Be2
Vigorito,D: 'Now we are technically in a
Petrosian Variation.' 9...Qe8 10.g4

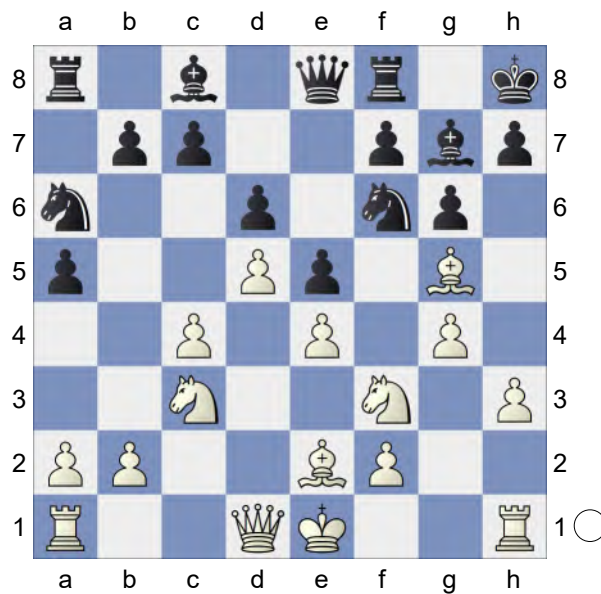
[10.Nd2 Nd7 11.a3 h6?!
see Movsesian, S (2698) -Grischuk, A
(2763) Istanbul 2012.]

10...Kh8

[Instead 10...Nc5 see Varga, P
(2475)-Efimenko, Z (2435) Master
Open, Lausanne 2001.]

[I have expressed preference for
10...Nd7! and only after 11.Rg1
(11.Nd2 Ndc5 intending ...f5; 11.a3
Nb6! is another typical idea) 11...Kh8
(or just 11...Ndc5)]

(Diagram)



Vigorito,D: 'Generally I do not like to
play this move unless White has played
Rg1, but Black has done well here in the
past.' 11.Nd2 Not the most accurate
move order.

[Korobov's

11.Be3

is more appropriate here (see my
"Opening trends" article in CBM 182).
Ng8 12.g5!? see Korobov,A (2705)-
Smirin,I (2638) Eilat 2012
(This turns out to be very effective.
White can also play more slowly with
12.Nd2)]

11...Ng8! Vigorito,D: 'Preparing ...f5 and
possibly ...Bh6.' 12.h4 f5 Vigorito,D:
'this has scored very well for Black'

[It makes no sense to insert 12...f6
since White's bishop is not placed well
on g5. Here is an example: 13.Be3 f5
14.gxf5 (14.f3! f4 15.Bf2 is better
for White, because all the play will
shift to the queenside, where White
has a significant space advantage.)
14...gxf5 15.exf5 Bxf5 (15...Nh6
16.Bh5 Qd7 17.f6 Rxf6 18.Nde4
Rf8 0-1 (44) Polivanov,A (2421)-Vovk,
A (2339) Lvov 2005 19.Qd2 Nf5
20.0-0-0±; 15...Bh6 16.Bg5 Bxg5

17.hxg5 Bxf5 18.Nde4± 1/2 (18) Giddins,S (2290)-Gullaksen,E (2365) Skei 1995) 16.Nde4 Nf6 17.Ng3 Qd7 (Black's bishop has no h7-square) 18.h5 Rf7 19.h6 Bf8 20.Bd3 Bxd3 21.Qxd3 Ng4 22.Nce4 Nxe3 23.fxe3 Qg4 24.Kd2± 0-1 (36) Polak,T (2544)-Novikov,S (2562) Pardubice 2007] [12...h6!? 13.Be3 f5 is possible, transposing to the position from my game against Spirin, examined in the same article.]

13.gxf5

[Vigorito,D: 'After' 13.f3 fxf4!? (13...f4 Vigorito,D: 'Black threatens to win the g5-bishop, and' 14.h5 Bf6 Vigorito,D: 'allows Black to both trade his bad bishop and keep some open lines on the kingside.' 15.hxg6 Qxg6 16.Bxf6+ Nxf6 17.Nb3 b6 18.Qd2 Bd7 19.0-0-0± 0-1 (40) Lazarev,V (2500)-Cebalo,M (2465) Estensi 2001 Kg7 20.Rdg1 h6 with chances for both sides in Lazarev,V (2500)-Cebalo, M (2465) Lido degli Estensi 2001, 0-1 (40)) 14.fxf4 Nf6±]

13...gxf5 14.Bh5 Vigorito,D: '!?' '!'?

[14.exf5 Bxf5 15.Nde4 Nf6 16.Ng3 Qd7 Vigorito,D: '! '!' 17.Rg1 Nb4 Vigorito,D: ' ± ' ± ' Vigorito,D: 'Georgiadis,I (2449)-Simeonidis,I (2238) Rethymno 2013, 1/2-1/2 (45)' 18.Rc1 e4± 1/2 (45) Georgiadis,I (2449)-Simeonidis,I (2238) Rethymno 2013]

[14.Qc2 has been played in some correspondence games. Nf6 (14...Nb4 15.Qb3 Nf6 16.0-0-0 Nd7 17.Qa3 Nc5± Sidenko,A (2286) - Mancuso,A (2244) Lechenicher SchachServer 2010) 15.a3 Nc5 16.exf5 e4 (16...Qd7!?N) 17.h5

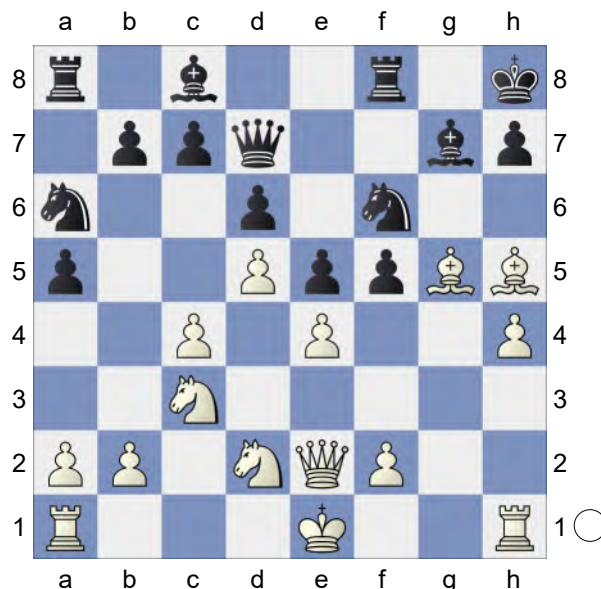
Bxf5 led to a mess. Make of it what you will, with engines running. 18.h6 Nd3+ 19.Kf1 Nxf2! 20.hxg7+ Kxg7 21.Rg1 Kh8 22.Nb5 Nd3 23.Rg3 Bg4 24.Bxd3 Nh5+ 25.Kg1 Nxe3 26.Nxe4 Qh5!-+ 27.Qh2 Nxe4 28.Bxe4 Bh3 29.Bg2 Qxg5 30.Qxh3 Rf6 31.Nxc7 Rg8 32.Ne6 Qd2 33.Rf1 Rxe2+ 34.Qxe2 Qe3+ 35.Rf2 Rg6 36.b3 Rxe2+ 37.Kxe2 h5 38.Rf3 Qe2+ 39.Kg3 h4+ 40.Kf4 a4 0-1 (40) Malkov,A (2233)-Ulasevich,S (2319) ICCF 2012]

14...Qd7 Vigorito,D: 'Now both the Bh5 and Qd7 are somewhat misplaced.'

15.Qe2 Vigorito,D: 'N' 'N'

[15.exf5 Vigorito,D: '?!' '?!' Qxf5 16.Nde4 Nc5 Vigorito,D: '! '!' Vigorito,D: 'is already looking good for Black.' 17.Qe2 Nxe4 18.Nxe4 Nf6 19.Ng3 Qd7 20.Rg1 Vigorito,D: 'Solomon,K (2350)-Popovic,D (2553) Cappelle-la-Grande 2014' c6± 0-1 (32) Solomon, K (2350)-Popovic,D (2553) Cappelle-la-Grande 2014 (20...b5! with excellent play.)]

15...Nf6



16.Bf3 fxe4?! Vigorito,D: 'A concrete

move.'

[16...Nc5 is a normal continuation. If 17.0-0-0 then fxe4 (17...Qf7!?) 18.Ndxe4 Nfxe4 19.Nxe4 Qf5! 20.Bg2 Nxe4 21.Bxe4 Qxf2 22.Qh5 (22.Qxf2 Rxf2 23.Rdf1 Rxf1+ 24.Rxf1 Bg4 25.Rf7 Rc8) 22...Bf5 23.Rhf1 Bxe4! 24.Rxf2 Rxf2=]

[16...Qf7 was also possible.]

17.Ndxe4 Nxe4 18.Nxe4 Nb4
Alas, sending Black's knight to c5 is not so easy now:

[18...Nc5?! 19.Nxc5 dxc5 20.Rg1±]
[18...b6 19.Rg1 Nc5 20.Nxc5 bxc5 21.Be4 Qf7 22.f3±]

19.Bg2

[Of course not 19.a3? Nc2+ 20.Qxc2 Rxf3]

19...Qa4 Vigorito,D: 'Always aggressive, but White's 21st move will give him a sizable advantage.'

[19...c6!? was probably a better way to create counterplay.]

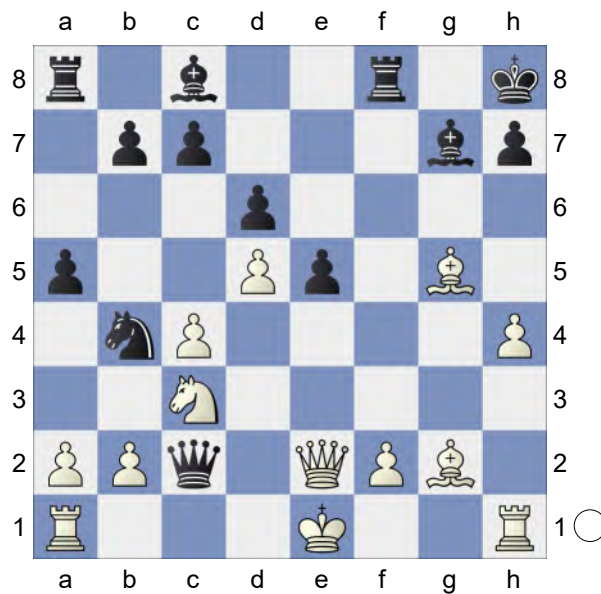
[19...Qg4!? 20.Bh3 Qxe2+ 21.Kxe2 Bxh3 22.Rxh3 b5!?]

20.Nc3

[20.b3 Qe8 leaves the queenside softened up.]

20...Qc2

(Diagram)



21.Be4 Vigorito,D: '!' '!' Vigorito,D: 'The only move, but strong.' **21...Qxe2+**

22.Kxe2± After the exchange of queens White's king is safe, and he keeps the better prospects due to Black's passive g7 bishop. **22...Bg4+** Vigorito,D: '?!' '?!'

[A better try was 22...Bf5]

23.f3 Bh5 24.Rag1 Rf7?!

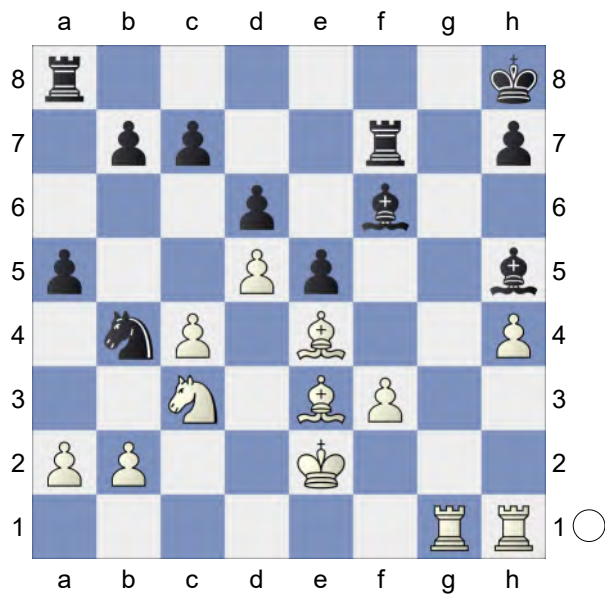
[24...Na6!? 25.Be3 Bf6]

25.Be3 Bf6?

[It was better to "take the last move back": 25...Rff8]

[25...Raf8 26.Rh3±]

(Diagram)



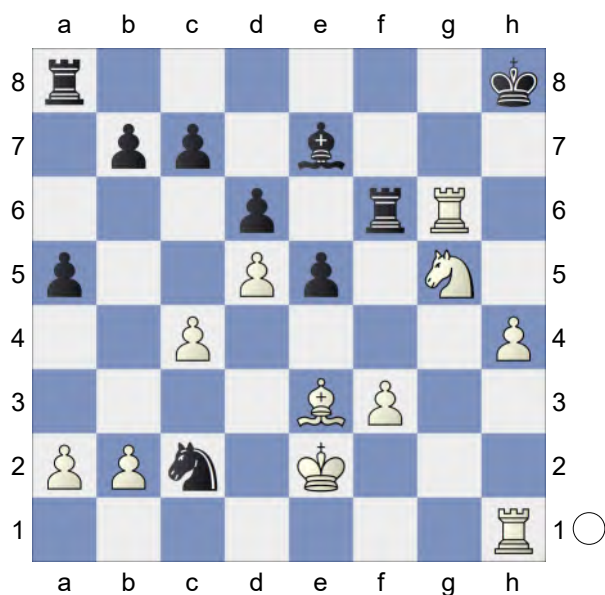
26.Rg5 Vigorito,D: '!' '!' This is what Black missed. He can't take the rook so material losses are inevitable.

[Vigorito,D: 'Even more accurate was' But 26.a3! Na6 27.Rg5! was even more accurate. Black had no ideas with ...b4-c2 in that case.]

26...Bg6

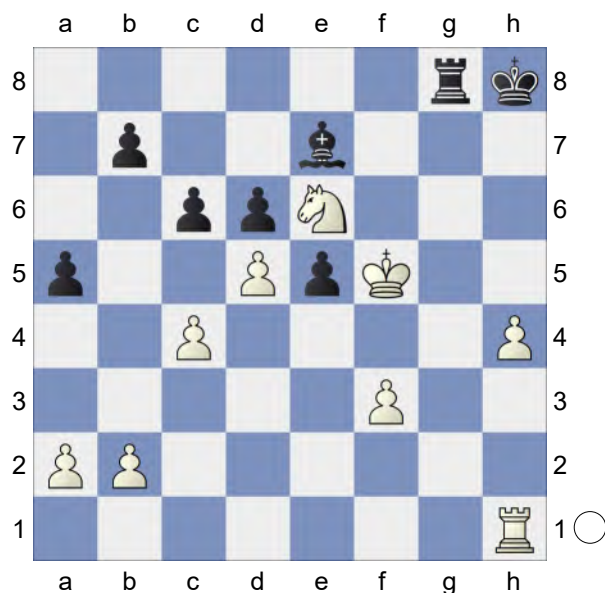
[26...Bxg5 27.hxg5+-]

27.Bxg6 hxg6 28.Rxg6 Vigorito,D: '+-' '+-' Vigorito,D: 'It's a bit of a mop-up now.' **28...Nc2 29.Ne4 Be7 30.Ng5 Rf6**

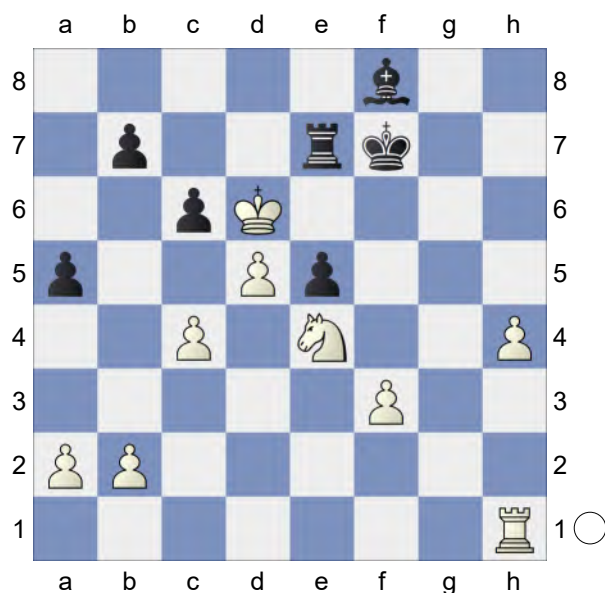


31.Rxf6 Bxf6 32.Ne6 White easily

converts his material and positional advantage. **32...Nxe3 33.Kxe3 Rg8 34.Ke4 c6 35.Kf5 Be7**



36.Ng5 Re8 37.Ne4 Kg7 38.Ke6 Bf8+ 39.Kd7 Re7+ 40.Kxd6 Kf7

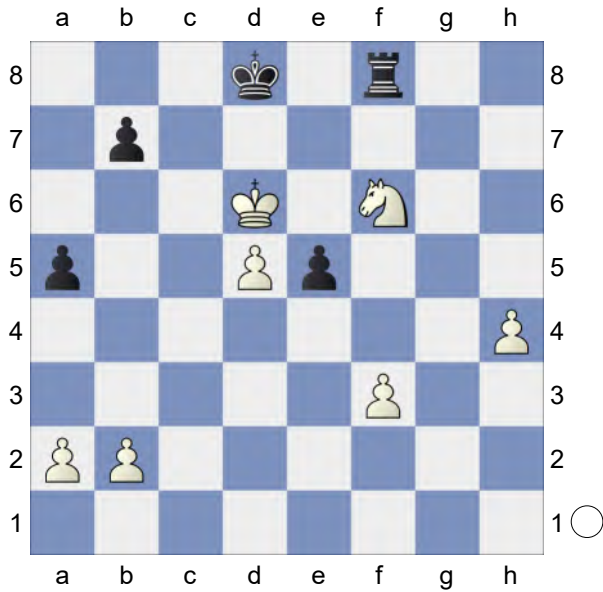


41.Rg1 cxd5 42.cxd5 Ke8 43.Nf6+ Kd8

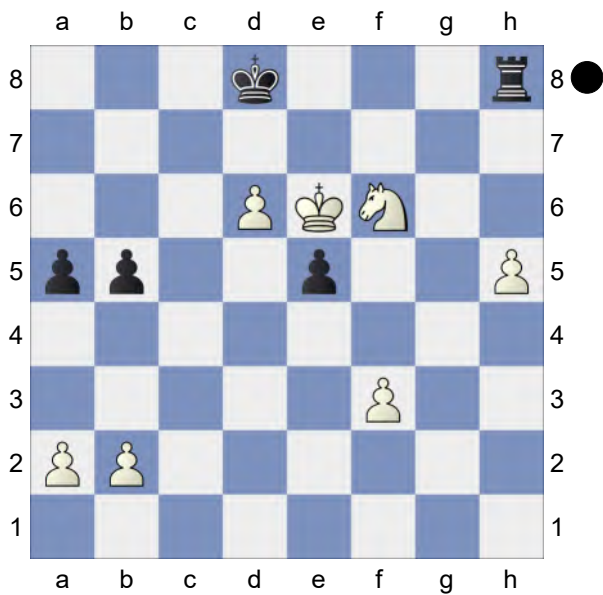
[43...Kf7 44.Nd7!?]

44.Rg8 Re8+ 45.Rxf8 Rxf8

(Diagram)



46.Ke6 Rh8 47.h5 b5 48.d6



Black's king and rook are completely paralysed.

1-0

98

□ Vitiugov, Nikita

■ Wei, Yi

WchT 10th Tsaghkadzor (3.4) 21.04.15

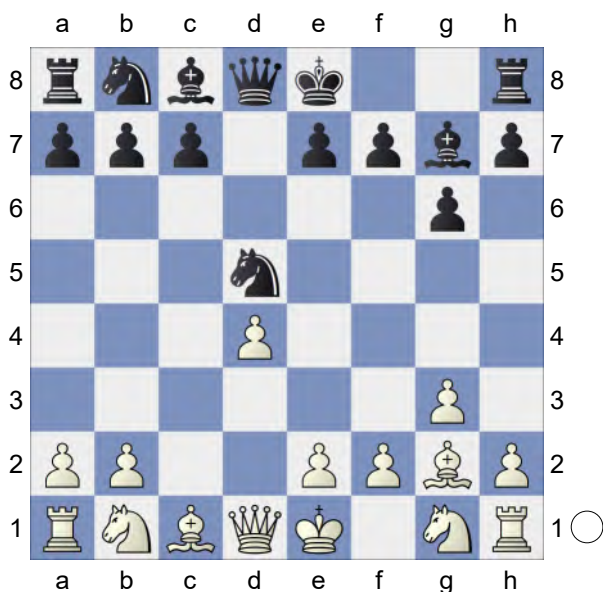
[Krasenkow, Michal]

D72

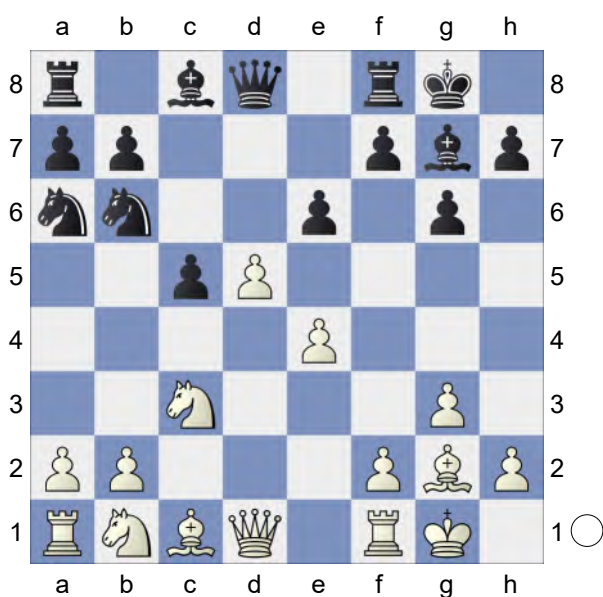
2739

2706

1.d4 Krasenkow, M 1...Nf6 2.c4 g6
 3.g3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Bg2 Bg7



6.e4 Nb6 7.Ne2 c5 8.d5 0-0 9.0-0 e6
 10.Nec3 Na6



11.a3!? A rare continuation in this well-known theoretical position. Its idea is to

restrict Black's a6-knight. The c5-square will be controlled by the bishop (from e3).

[11.a4 and]

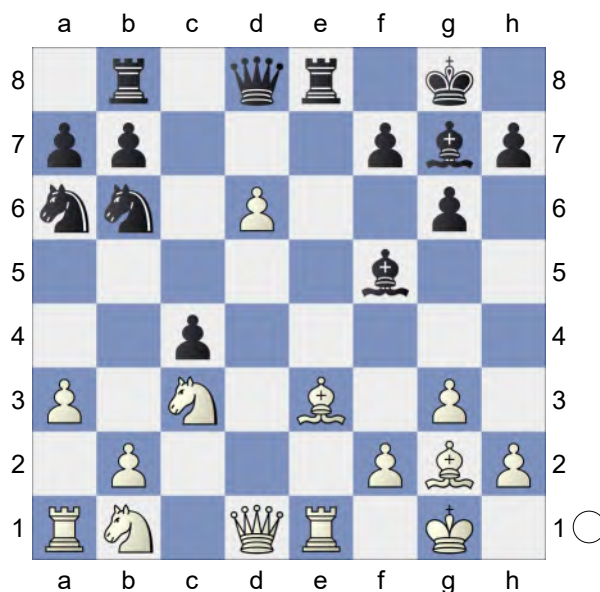
[11.Na3 are main lines here.]

11...c4

[White successfully outplayed Black in the following game: 11...exd5 12.exd5 Nc4 13.Nd2 Nd6 14.Nde4 Nxe4 15.Nxe4 Qb6 16.Rb1 Rd8 17.Bg5 f6 18.Be3± Qa5? 19.Nxc5! 1-0 (57) Pustovoitova, D (2315)-Glusko, M (2077) Albena 2011]

12.Be3 exd5 13.exd5 Bf5 OK, the a6-knight is cut off but other pieces can be developed. 14.d6 Rb8 15.Re1 Re8

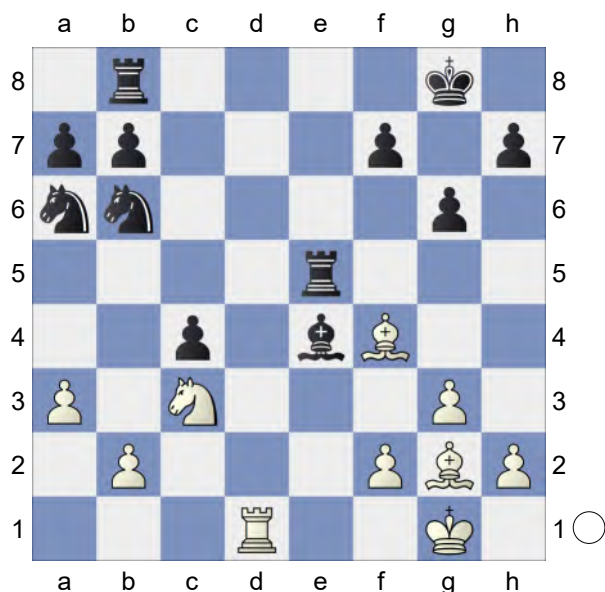
[15...Bd3!? needs analysis. Generally, the 11.a3 line is likely to become an object of study and practice in the near future.]



16.Nd2 The only but good way for White to develop his queenside. 16...Qxd6 17.Bf4 Be5 18.Rxe5! Rxe5 19.Nde4 Qxd1+

[19...Qe6? 20.Qd4 Re8 21.Bxe5 Qxe5 22.Nf6+]

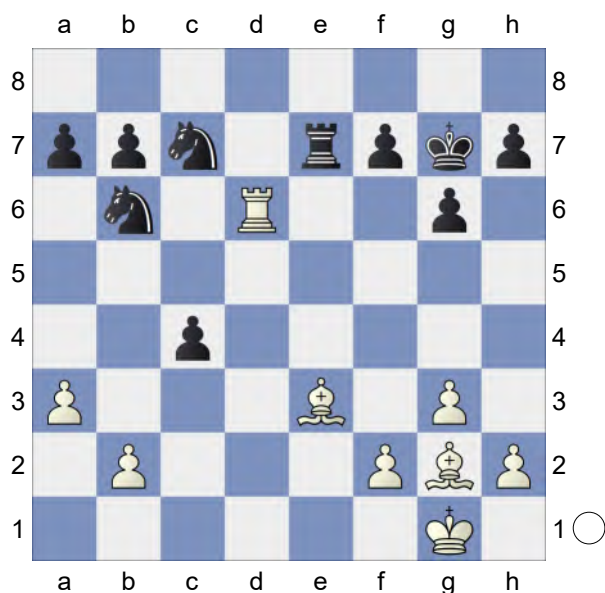
[19...Qe7 20.Bg5→]

20.Rxd1 Bxe4

21.Nxe4 Rbe8 22.Nf6+ Kg7 23.Nxe8+ Rxe8 24.Be3!

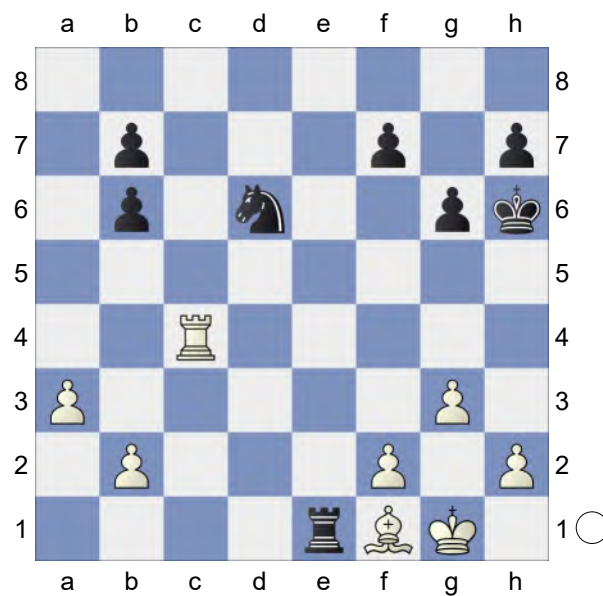
[≤24.Bxb7 Nc5]

24...Re7 25.Rd6 Nc7

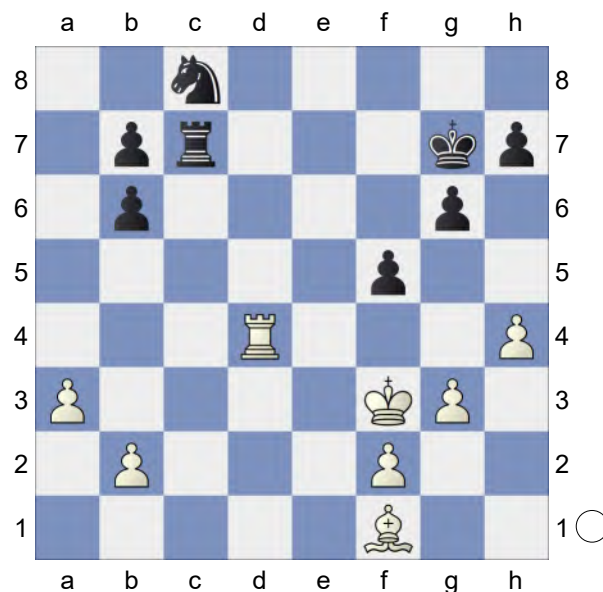


26.Bd4+ Kh6 27.Bxb6 Ne8 28.Rd4 axb6 29.Rxc4 As a result, White has a clear pull in the endgame: his bishop is stronger than Black's knight as the position is open and pawns are on both flanks; besides, Black's pawn structure is damaged. **29...Re1+ 30.Bf1 Nd6**

(Diagram)



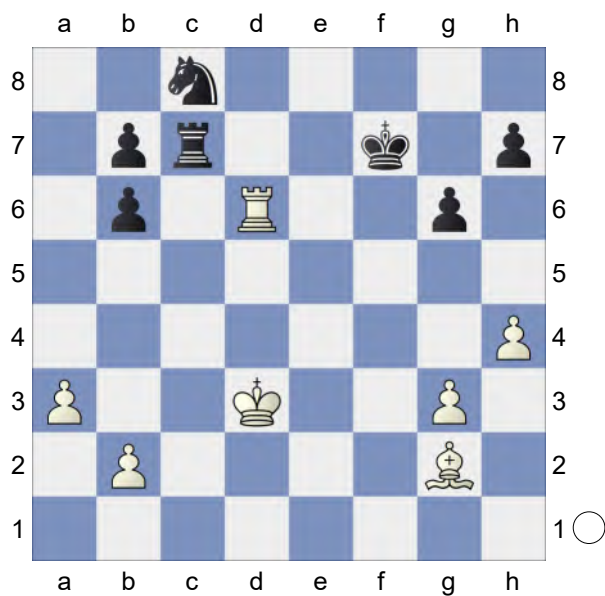
31.Rb4 Nc8 32.Kg2 f5 33.Rd4 Re7 34.h4 Rc7 35.Kf3 Kg7



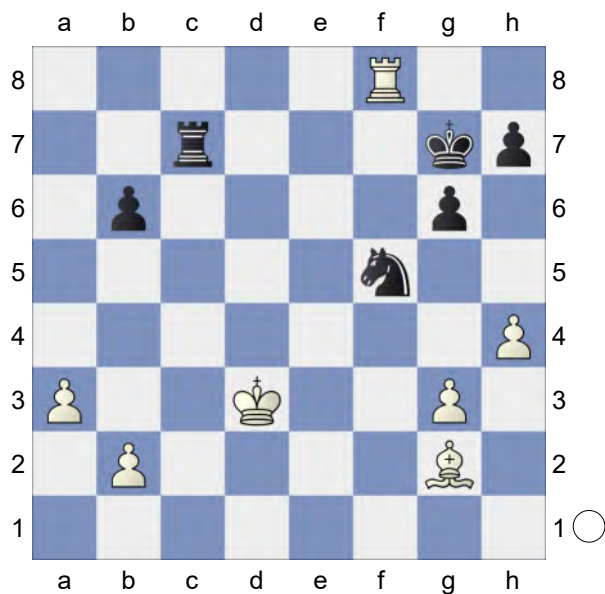
36.Ke3 Ne7 37.Bg2 Kf7 38.Rd6 f4+ This tactical trick reduces the number of pawns. **39.Kd3**

[39.Kxf4!? Rc2 40.b4 Rxf2+ 41.Bf3]
39...fxg3 40.fxg3 Nc8

(Diagram)

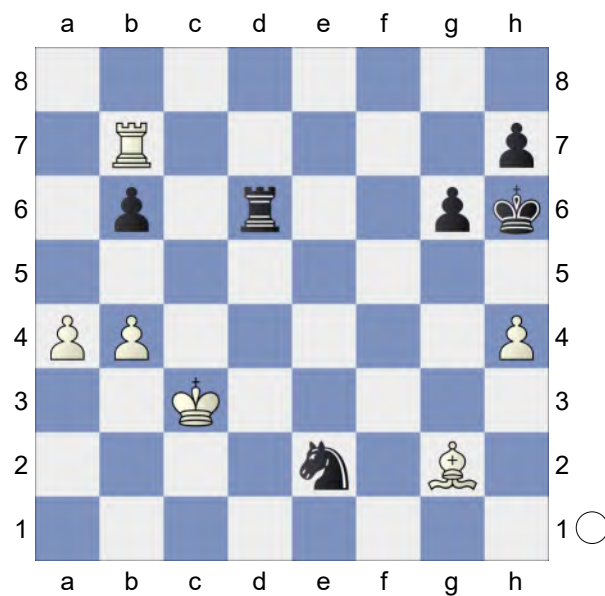


**41.Rd8 Ke7 42.Rh8 Kf6 43.Bxb7 Nd6
44.Bg2 Nf5 45.Rf8+ Kg7**



**46.Rb8 Rd7+ 47.Kc3 Rd6 48.Rb7+
Kh6 49.a4 Nxg3** Black has recaptured
the pawn but the position is now
asymmetric, with potential passed pawns
on both sides; the bishop is much more
powerful than the knight in such cases.
However, Black retains fair drawing
chances as there are too few pawns on
the board! **50.b4 Ne2+**

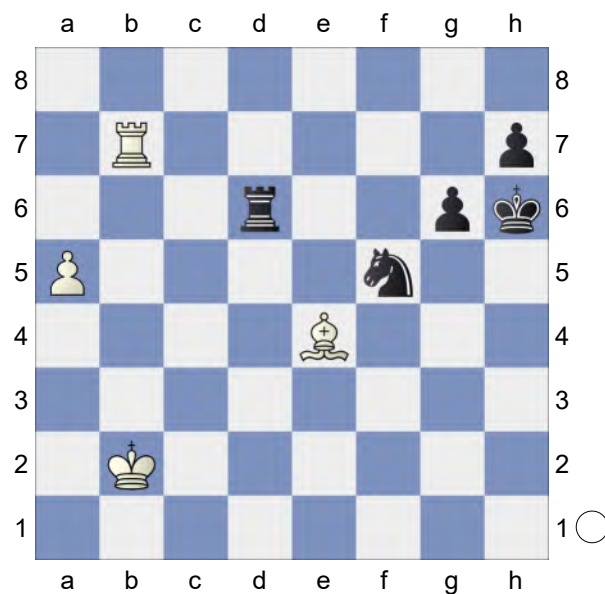
(Diagram)



51.Kc2 Nd4+ 52.Kb2 Nf5 53.Be4?
After this move Black liquidates into the
ending " ♖+♙ vs ♜ " and saves the game.

[$\triangleleft$ 53.Bf1! Ne3 (53...Nxh4 54.a5)
54.Ba6 Perhaps, though, it was not
enough for a victory either.]

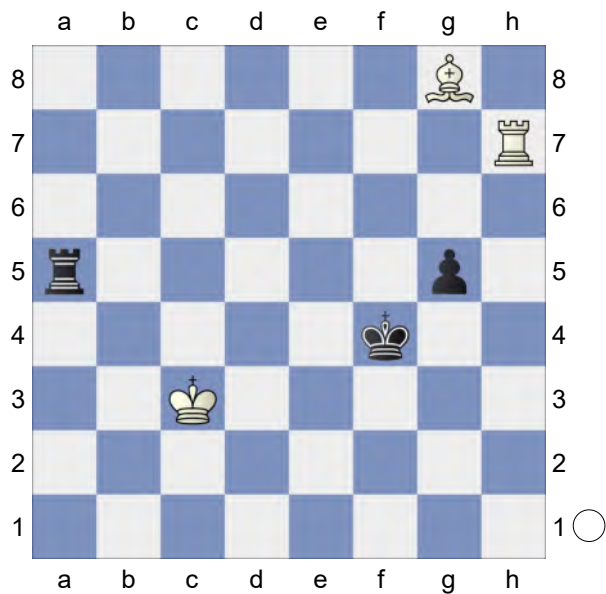
53...Nxh4 54.a5 bxa5 55.bxa5 Nf5!?



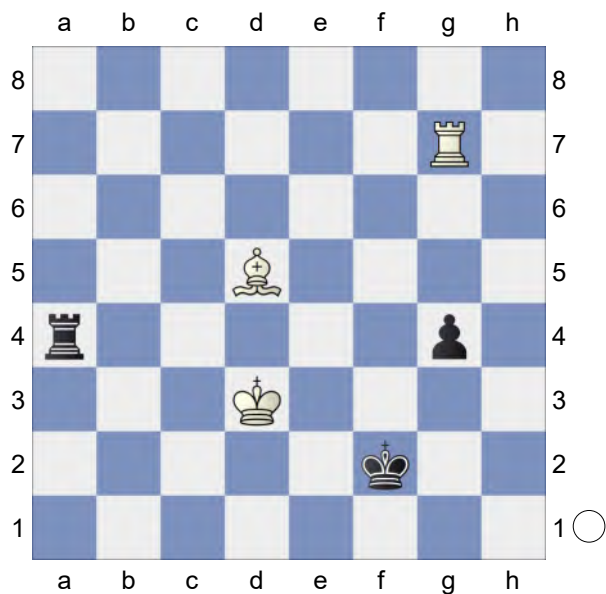
56.Bxf5

[56.Rb6 Rxb6+ 57.axb6 Nd6
58.Bd5 Kg5 59.Kc3 h5 60.Kd4
Kf6=]

**56...Rd5 57.Be6 Rxa5 58.Bg8 Kg5
59.Rxh7 Kf4 60.Kc3 g5**

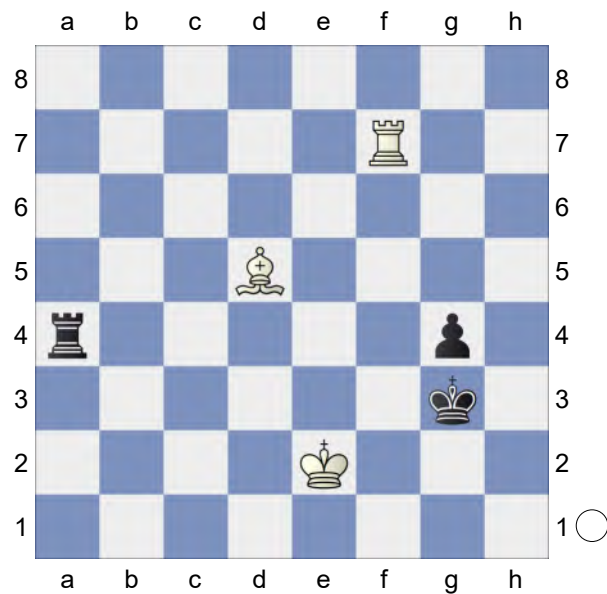


**61.Be6 g4 62.Rf7+ Kg3 63.Rg7 Ra4
64.Kd3 Kf3 65.Bd5+ Kf2**

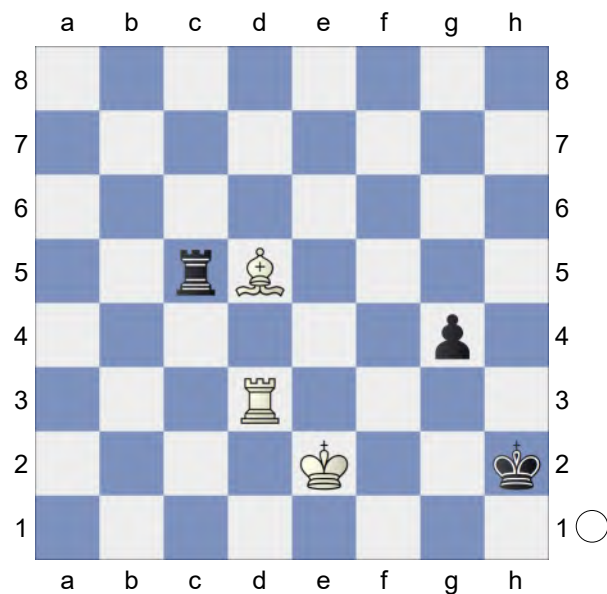


**66.Rf7+ Kg3 67.Rg7 Kf2 68.Rf7+
Kg3 69.Ke3 Ra3+ 70.Ke2 Ra4**

(Diagram)

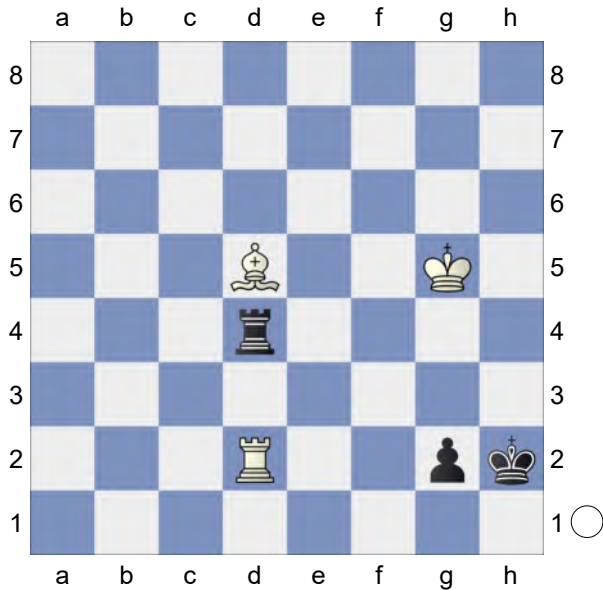


**71.Rf1 Ra5 72.Rg1+ Kf4 73.Rd1 Kg3
74.Rd4 Rc5 75.Rd3+ Kh2**

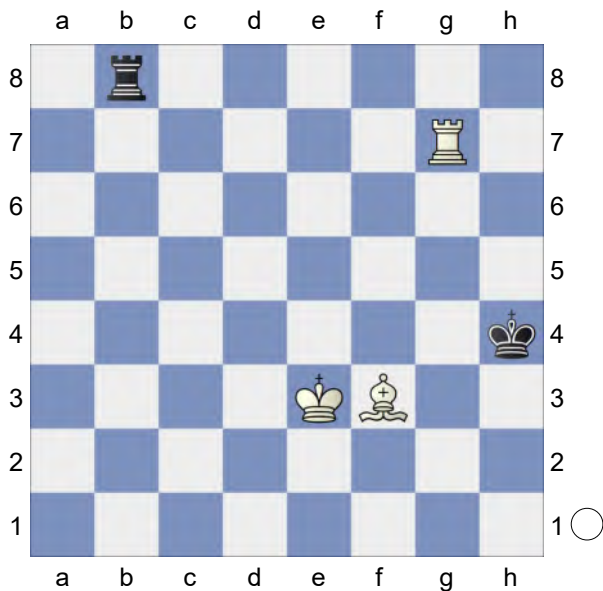


**76.Ke3 Ra5 77.Kf4 Ra4+ 78.Kg5 g3
79.Rd1 g2 80.Rd2 Rd4**

(Diagram)

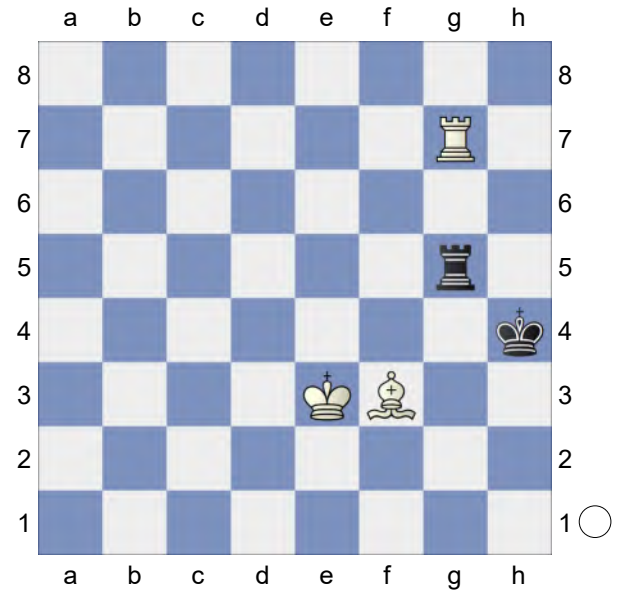


81.Rxg2+ Kh3 82.Bf3 Rd8 83.Kf4 Rf8+
 A so-called "defence on the 3rd rank" (the f-file plays that role here).
84.Ke3 Rb8 85.Rg7 Kh4

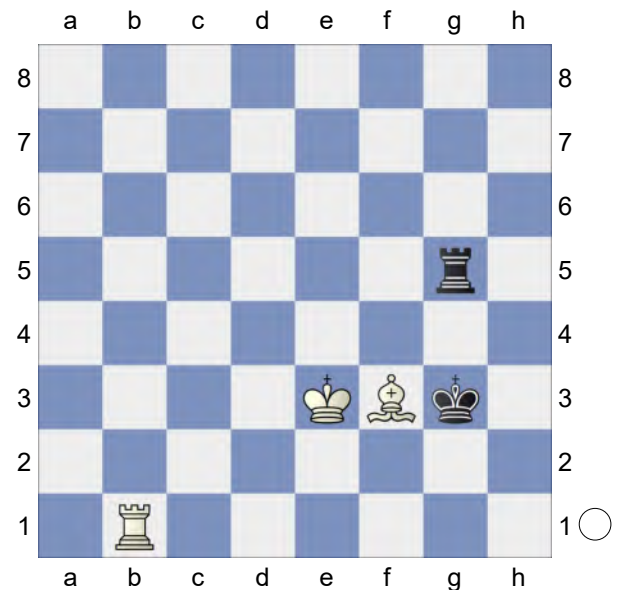


86.Rg4+ Kh3 87.Rg6 Kh4 88.Be4
 [88.Kf2 Rb4 is the so-called "Szen position".]
88...Rf8 89.Bf3 Rf5 90.Rg7 Rg5

(Diagram)

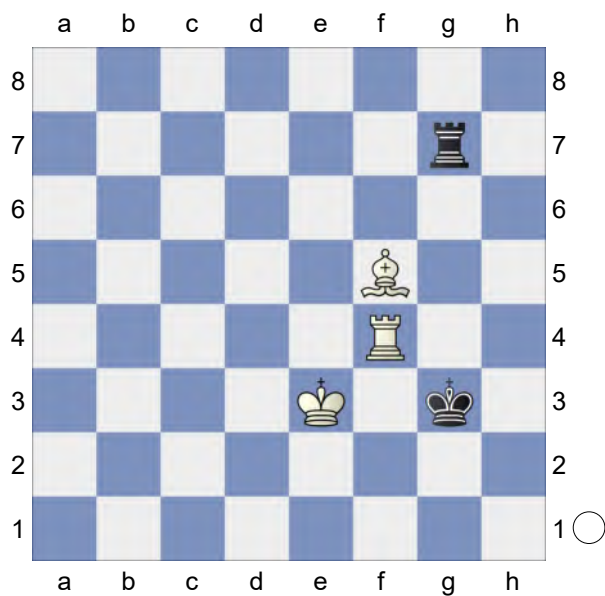


91.Rb7 Kg3 "Defence on the 2nd rank" (here - g-file). **92.Rb2 Re5+ 93.Be4 Rg5 94.Rb1 Kg4 95.Bf3+ Kg3**

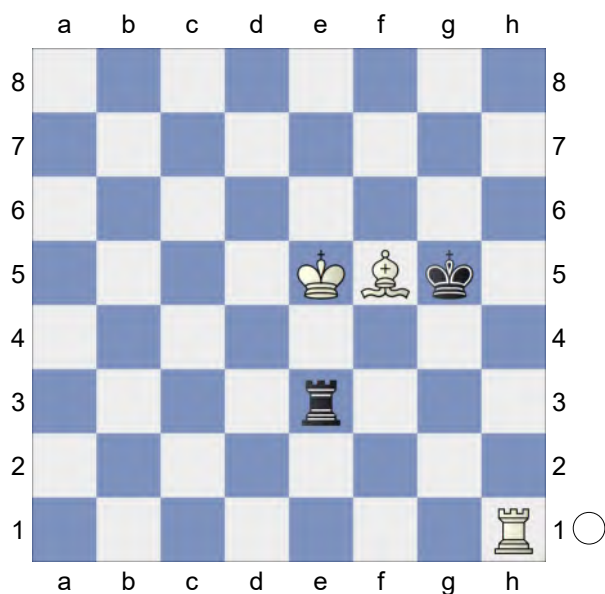


96.Rh1 Re5+ 97.Be4 Rg5 98.Rf1 Kg4 99.Rf4+ Kg3 100.Bf5 Rg7

(Diagram)

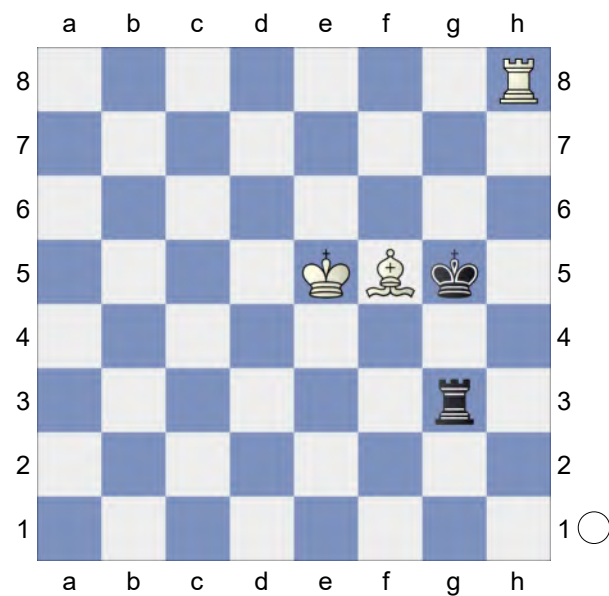


101.Rf3+ Kh4 102.Kf4 Rg4+
A well-known stalemate trick. 103.Ke5
Rg3 104.Rf1 Kg5 105.Rh1 Re3+

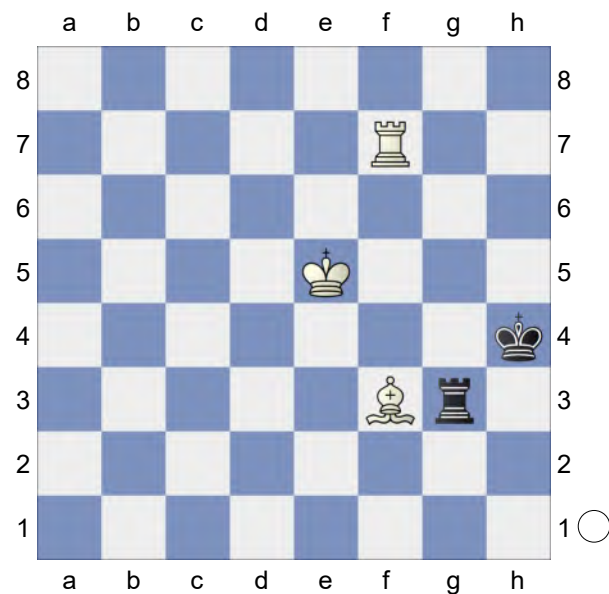


106.Be4 Rg3 107.Rh8 Kg4 108.Rf8
Kg5 109.Rh8 Kg4 110.Bf5+ Kg5

(Diagram)

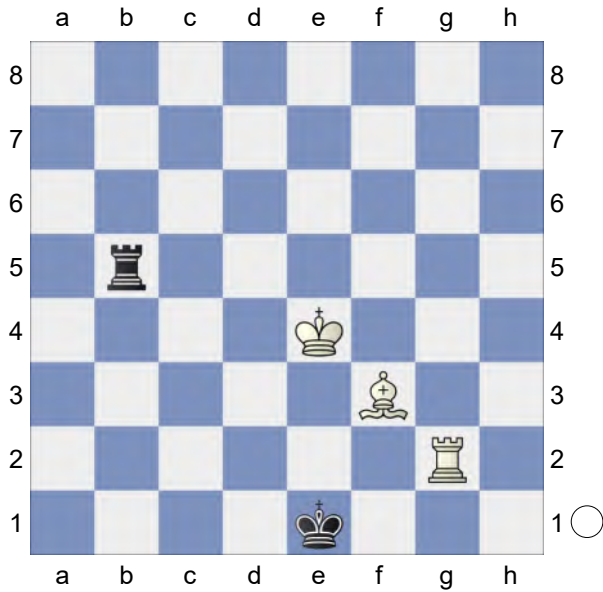


111.Bg6 Re3+ 112.Be4 Rg3 113.Rh7
Kg4 114.Rf7 Kg5 115.Bf3 Kh4

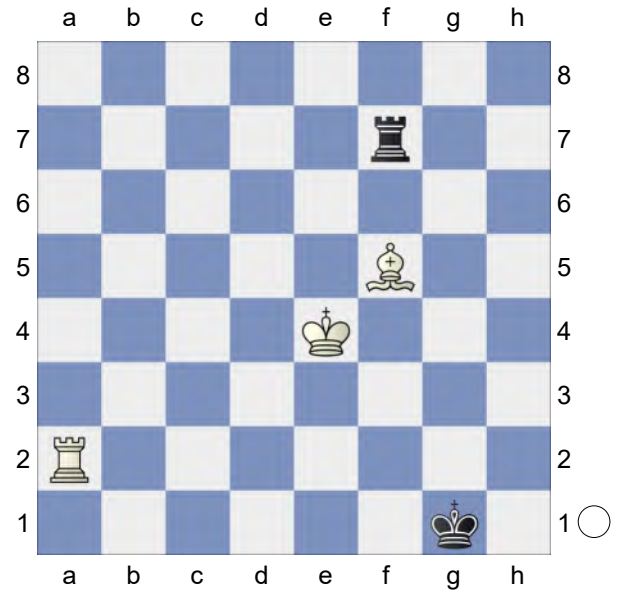


116.Ke4
 [116.Kf4 Rg4+!]
116...Rg5?! After this move White
 destroys Black's front line of defence.
 [116...Kg5]
117.Rh7+ Kg3 118.Rh1 Rb5
 Of course, the position remains drawish
 anyway but Black must now use other
 methods. **119.Rg1+ Kf2 120.Rg2+**
Ke1

(Diagram)



121.Kf4 Rb8 122.Ra2 Rc8 123.Re2+ Kf1 124.Rb2 Ke1 125.Kg3 Rg8+ $\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$



**126.Bg4 Re8 The Szen position again.
127.Kf4 Rf8+ 128.Bf5 Kf1 129.Ra2
Rf7 130.Ke4 Kg1**

(Diagram)

29

B91

□ Vachier Lagrave,Maxime

2777

■ Wei,Yi

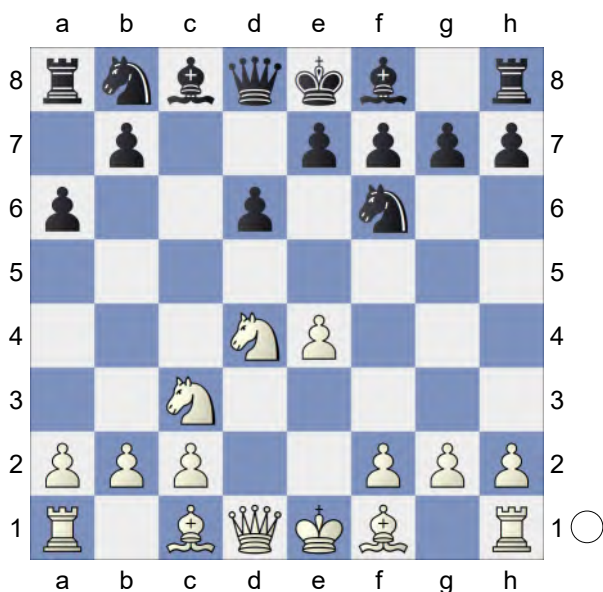
2724

Hamburg FIDE GP (1.1)

07.11.2019

[Krasenkow,Michal]

1.e4 Krasenkow,M Arsovic,Goran
 Krasenkow,M 1...c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4
 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6



6.g3 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.Bg5

[8.Bg2 is usually played here. Can you believe that White's f1 bishop is going to take another square? Arsovic, Goran: '- 136/87' is usually played here. Can you believe that White's f1 bishop is going to take another square?]

8...Nbd7

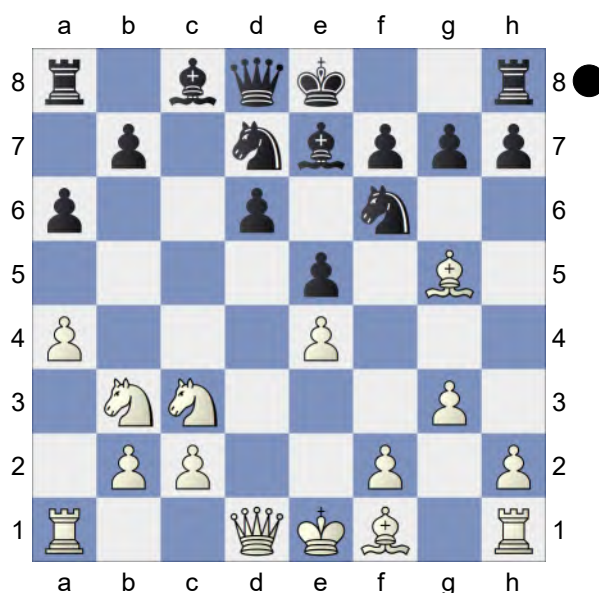
[8...Be6 9.Bxf6 Bxf6 10.Qd3!? (10.Nd5 Bxd5 11.Qxd5 Nc6 12.Bg2 0-0 13.0-0 Qc7 14.c3 Rfd8 15.Rfd1 Rac8 16.a4 1/2 (16) Czerniak,M-Gheorghiu,F Bucharest 1967) 10...Be7 (10...Nc6!?) 11.0-0-0 Nd7 12.f4 Nf6 13.f5 Bd7 14.Be2 Bc6 15.g4 h6 16.h4 Nd7 17.Qg3↑ 1-0 (30) Cornette,D (2405)-Brunello,M

(2378) Budva 2019]

[8...Bg4 Arsovic,Goran 9.Qd3 Nc6 10.Bg2 0-0 11.0-0 Rc8 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.Nd5 Bg5]

9.a4 Arsovic,Goran: 'Diagram

[9.Bg2 0-0 10.0-0 h6 11.Bxf6 Nxf6 12.Qd2 Qb6 13.Nd5 Nxd5 14.Qxd5 Be6 15.Qa5 Qc6 16.Rac1 Rfc8 0-1 (43) Kedrov,V (2385)-Yuferov,S (2440) Moscow 1996]



' 9...h6 It is useful to clarify White's intentions. Arsovic,Goran: 'N' It is useful to clarify White's intentions.

[9...b6 10.Bc4 Bb7 (10...0-0 Arsovic,Goran 11.0-0 Bb7 12.Qe2 Qc7 13.Rad1 Rfc8 14.Nd2 h6 15.Bxf6 Nxf6 16.Rfe1±) 11.Qe2 0-0 12.Bxf6 Nxf6 13.Rd1 Qc7 14.0-0 Rfc8 15.Nd2 Qc5 16.Bb3± 1/2 (75) Netzer,J (2284)-Meszaros,M (2355) Budva 2019]

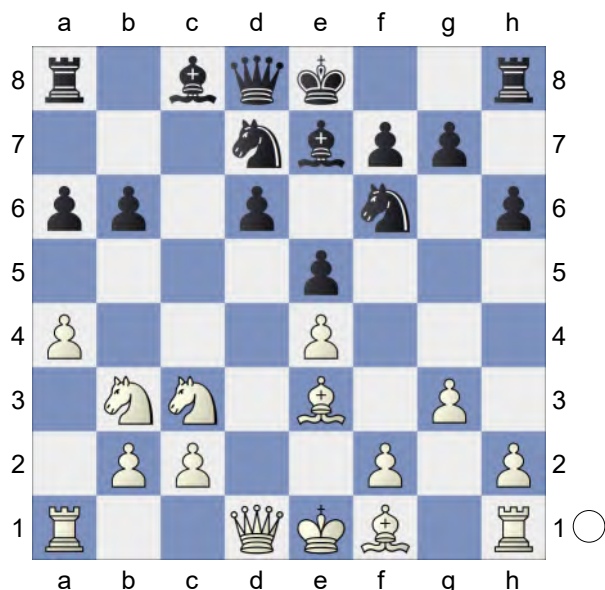
10.Be3

[10.Bxf6 Nxf6 11.Bc4 Qc7 12.Nd2 h5!?±]

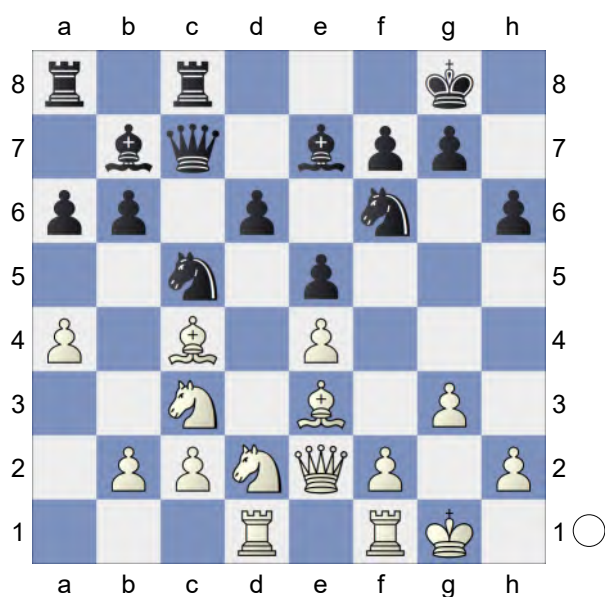
10...b6

[10...0-0!? 11.Bc4 (or or 11.a5 b5 12.axb6 Nxb6 13.Na5 Qc7 14.Bg2

Arsovic, Goran Nc4 15.Nxc4 Qxc4∞)
 11...Nb6 12.Bxb6 Qxb6 is definitely
 more active. is definitely more active.]



After this move White comfortably places
 his bishop to c4 and obtains a small but
 clear advantage. After this move White
 comfortably places his bishop to c4 and
 obtains a small but clear advantage.
11.Bc4 Bb7 12.Nd2 0-0 13.0-0 Qc7
14.Qe2 Rfc8 15.Rad1 Nc5



16.Bxc5

[16.f3 Arsovic, Goran Ne6 17.Bb3

Bc6±]

16...Qxc5

[16...bxc5 Arsovic, Goran 17.Nf3 g6
 18.Nh4 Kg7 19.f4±]

[16...dxc5 Arsovic, Goran 17.Rfe1 Bf8
 18.Nf3 g6 19.Rd2±]

17.Rfe1± g6 Black fails to understand
 White's plan or simply doesn't find a
 good reply. Black fails to understand
 White's plan or simply doesn't find a
 good reply.

[He had an interesting idea of
 counterplay: He had an interesting
 idea of counterplay: 17...Bd8!?
 but after but after 18.Qd3! (≤18.Bb3
 b5! 19.axb5 Ba5 20.b6 Bxc3
 21.bxc3 Qxc3∞) 18...b5 19.axb5
 axb5 20.Bxb5 Bb6 21.Re2
 Black hardly gets sufficient
 compensation for the pawn. Black
 hardly gets sufficient compensation for
 the pawn.]

18.Bb3! Kg7

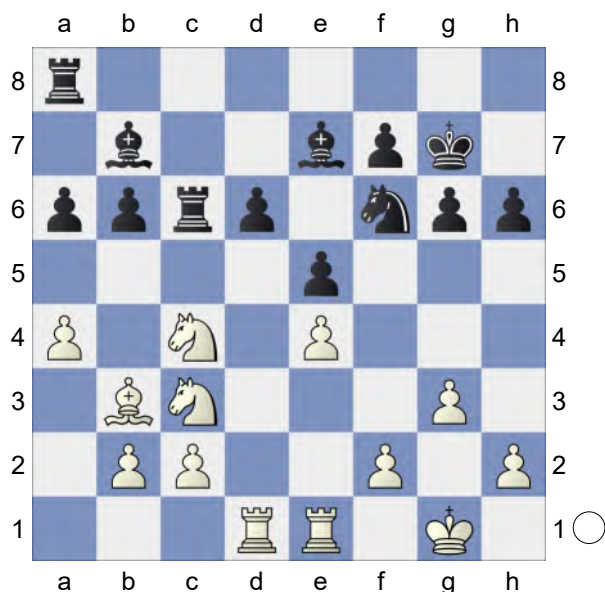
[18...Qb4 19.Nc4]

19.Qc4! Black's queen is an important
 defender, after its exchange Black's b6
 and d6 pawns become very weak.
 Arsovic, Goran: ' ±!' Black's queen is an
 important defender, after its exchange
 Black's b6 and d6 pawns become very
 weak. **19...Qxc4**

[19...Rf8 Arsovic, Goran 20.Qxc5
 bxc5 21.Nc4 Rad8 22.a5 Ne8
 23.Nb6 Nc7 24.Bd5±]

20.Nxc4 Rc6

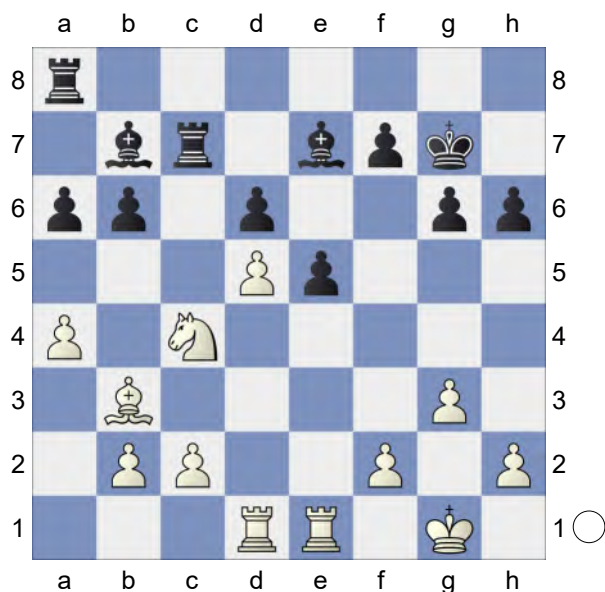
(Diagram)



21.Nd5 This move leads to material gains. This move leads to material gains.

[21.Ne3 Arsovic,Goran Rc5 22.Ncd5 (22.Bd5!? Nxd5 23.Ncxd5 Bd8 24.c3±) 22...Bxd5 23.Nxd5 Nxd5 24.Bxd5 Rb8 25.c4±]

21...Nxd5 22.exd5 Rc7 Arsovic,Goran: 'Diagram



23.Nxe5 Arsovic,Goran: '!

[23.Nxb6 was quite good but the text move gives White a huge advantage, too. White was probably unsure about was quite good but the text move

gives White a huge advantage, too. White was probably unsure about Rb8 24.a5 Bc8 , e.g. , e.g. 25.Ba4 Arsovic,Goran: ' ±' Bd8 26.Bc6 Bb7 27.Bxb7 Rcx b7 28.Nc4 Rb5 although this position is close to winning. although this position is close to winning.]

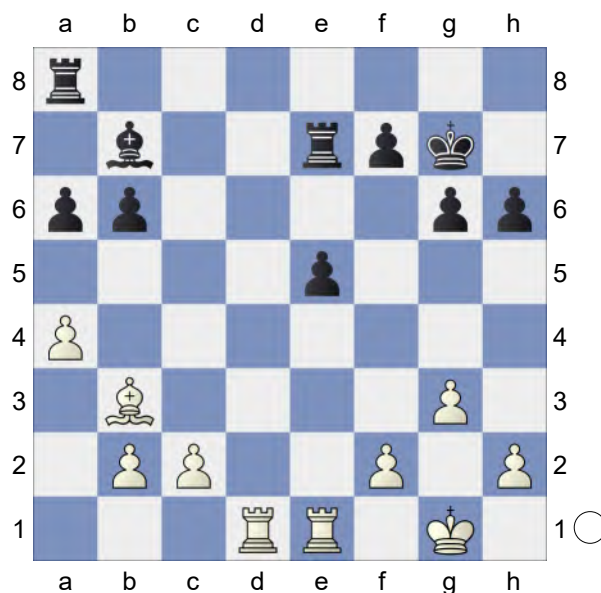
23...dxe5

[23...Bf6 Arsovic,Goran 24.Nc4 Rd8 25.c3 b5 26.axb5 axb5 27.Na5±]

24.d6 Rd7

[24...Bxd6 Arsovic,Goran 25.Rxd6 e4 26.Rxb6 Rd8 27.Kf1±]

25.dxe7 Rxe7



26.Rd6

[26.f4 Arsovic,Goran e4 27.Kf2 Rc8 28.Rd6 Bc6 29.Ke3±]

26...b5

[26...Bf3 Arsovic,Goran 27.Kf1 b5 28.a5±]

27.a5

A 'potential queen' fixes the weakness on a6. Arsovic,Goran: '!' A 'potential queen' fixes the weakness on a6. **27...Rc8**

[27...Bf3 was better at once. was better at once.]

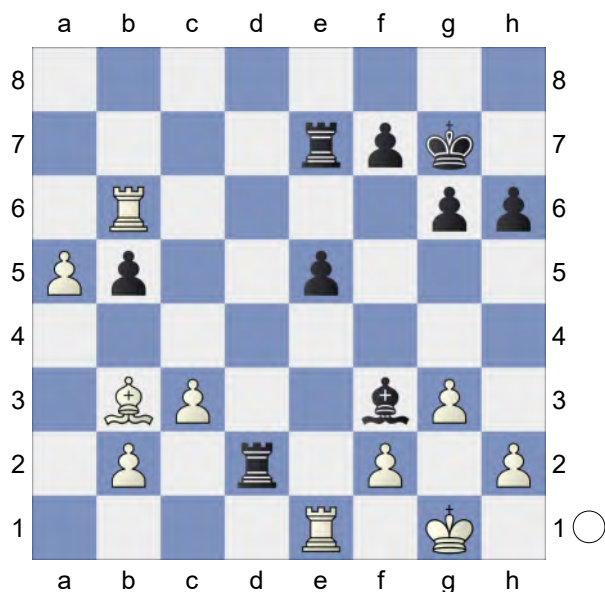
28.c3

[28.f4! Arsovic,Goran e4 29.Kf2 Rc6
30.Rd4 Rc5 31.c3±]

28...Bf3 Black gives up his a6 pawn in order to obtain counterplay but fails to get enough. Arsovic,Goran: '?!' Black gives up his a6 pawn in order to obtain counterplay but fails to get enough.

[28...Rcc7 Arsovic,Goran 29.Kf1±]

29.Rxa6 Rd8 30.Rb6 Arsovic,Goran: '±'
30...Rd2



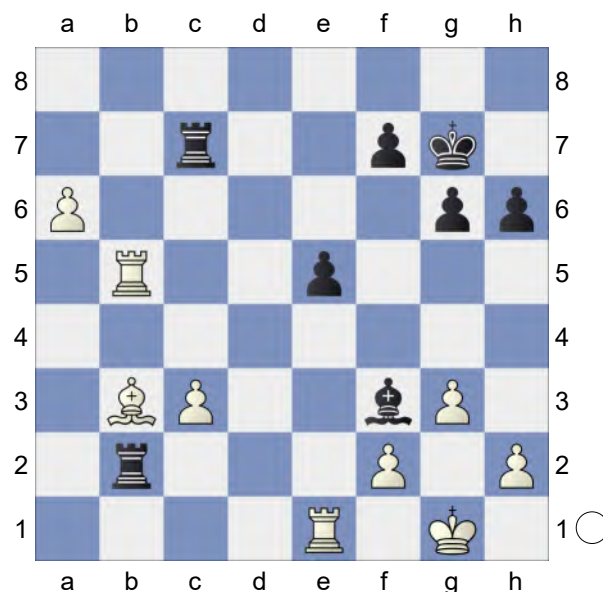
31.Rxb5 Rxb2 32.a6 Arsovic,Goran: '?!'

[32.Ra1 was more accurate. If was more accurate. If Be2 then then (32...Rc7 Arsovic,Goran 33.c4±) 33.Rb4]

32...Rc7 Arsovic,Goran: 'Diagram

[32...Be2! 33.c4 Ra7 34.Ra1 e4 , and it is difficult for White to make progress. , and it is difficult for White to make progress. 35.Ba4 Arsovic,Goran Rd2 36.Ra5 Bxc4 37.Bb5 Bxb5 38.Rxb5 Rd6 39.Rba5 f5=]

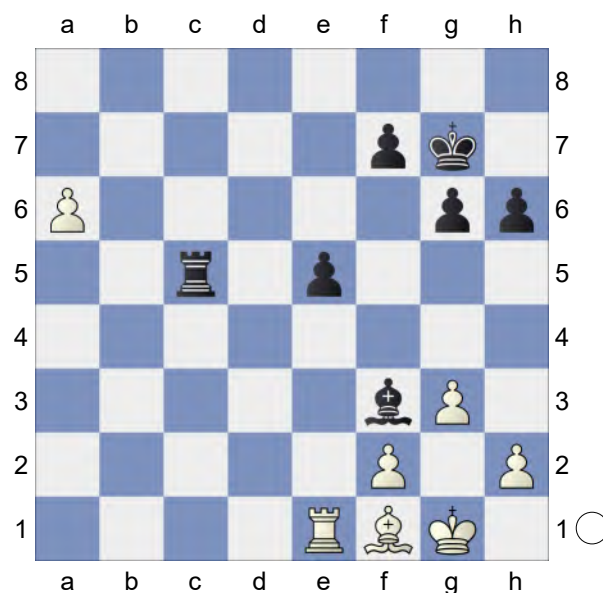
(Diagram)



33.Bc4! Rxb5

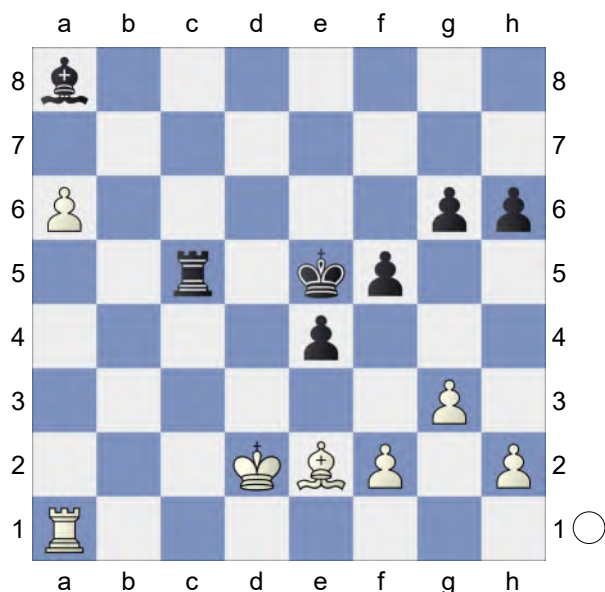
[33...Rc2 Arsovic,Goran 34.Bf1 Ra2
35.Rbxe5 Rxc3 36.R1e3 Rxe3
37.Rxe3±]

34.Bxb5 Rxc3 35.Bf1 Rc5



36.Ra1± White has consolidated his position, and his outside passed pawn gives his good winning chances. White has consolidated his position, and his outside passed pawn gives his good winning chances. **36...Ba8 37.Be2 e4 38.Kf1 Kf6 39.Ke1 Ke5 40.Kd2 f5**

(Diagram)

**41.Rb1**

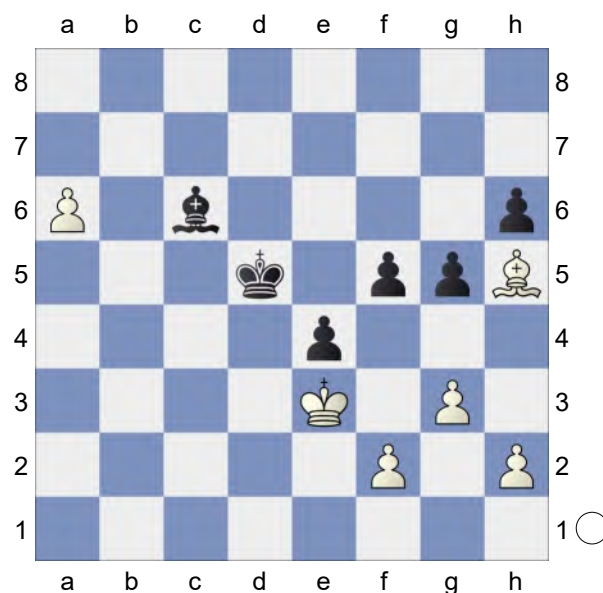
[41.a7!? g5 42.Ra6]

41...g5 42.Rb5 An interesting idea. The bishop endgame is probably drawn but Black should display extreme accuracy. An interesting idea. The bishop endgame is probably drawn but Black should display extreme accuracy. **42...Kd4?**

[42...Rxb5 43.Bxb5 f4 was correct was correct (but not but not 43...Kd4? 44.Bd7 f4 45.Bc8) After After 44.Kc3 , and, say, , and, say, h5 I don't see a win for White, e.g. I don't see a win for White, e.g. (44...Kd5 Arsovic,Goran 45.gxf4 gxf4 46.Bd7 Kd6 47.Bf5 Kc5 48.Bc8 Kb6 49.Kd4±) 45.gxf4+ gxf4 46.h4 (or or 46.Bd7 Kd6 47.Be8 h4 48.Kd4 Kc7 49.Bg6 e3 50.fxe3 fxe3 51.Kxe3 Kb6 52.Bd3 Bg2 53.Kf4 h3 54.Kg3 Ka7 55.Bf5 Kxa6 56.Bxh3 Bc6 with a drawish endgame with a drawish endgame) 46...f3 47.Kd2 (47.Be8 e3 48.fxe3 f2 49.Bb5 Ke4 50.Kd2 Kf3=) 47...Kf4 48.Bd7 (48.Ke1 e3) 48...e3+ 49.Ke1 (49.fxe3+ Kg3) 49...Be4 50.Bc8

Bd3 51.Bb7 exf2+ 52.Kxf2 Bxa6=] **43.Rxc5 Kxc5 44.Ke3+-** White has stopped ...f5-f4 and wins. White has stopped ...f5-f4 and wins. **44...Bc6 45.Bh5 Kd5**

[45...Kb6 46.Bg6 Bd7 47.Kd4+-]

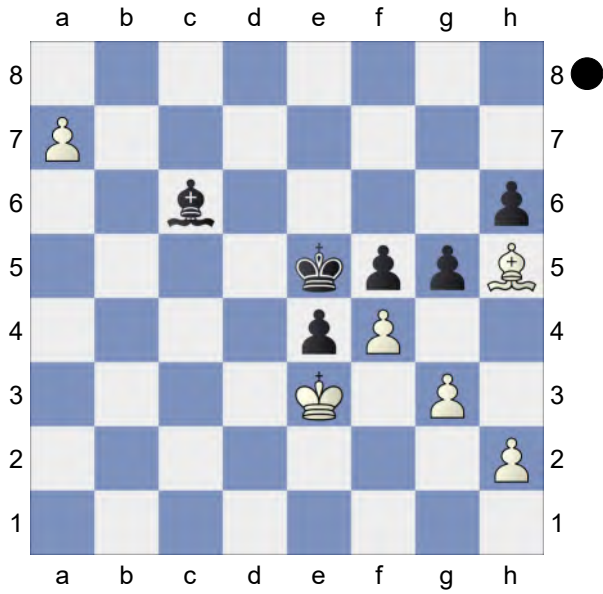
**46.a7 Ke5**

[46...Kc5 47.Bg6]

47.f4+

[47.f4+ gxf4+ 48.gxf4+ Kf6 (48...Kd5 49.Be8 Ba8 50.Bd7) 49.Be8 Ba8 50.Bd7 Kg6 51.Kd4 Kf6 52.Kc5 e3 53.Bb5+-]

(Diagram)



Arsovic, Goran: '!'

1-0

30

□ Grischuk, Alexander

■ Wei, Yi

Danzhou 11th rapid (3)

04.12.2020

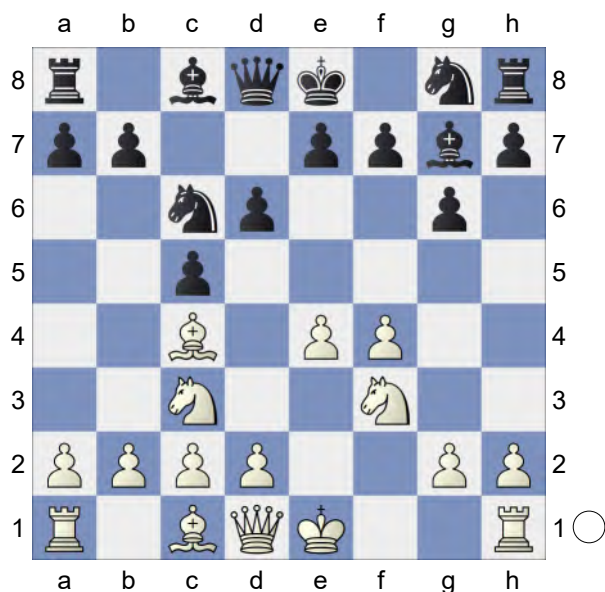
[Kuljasevic, Davorin]

B23

2777

2732

1.e4 Milanovic, Danilo 1...c5 2.Nc3 d6
3.f4 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bc4 Nc6



6.0-0 e6 7.d4!? This is a completely different approach to the Grand Prix Attack compared to the usual build-up with d3, ♖e1, etc., leading into more of Open Sicilian types of positions. Recently, an increasing number of strong players, most notably Alexander Grischuk, have been using it to good effect. As practice has shown, this variation is ideal for shorter time controls because just one mistake in the opening can quickly land Black in serious trouble. Even if Black plays the opening accurately, White typically gets at least a decent version of the Dragon since the black pawn structure has been compromised by the move 6...e6. The Grand Prix f4-f5 charge remains the central attacking theme in the resulting

positions. 7...cxd4

[In today's online-chess world, an unaware opponent could take 7.d4 as a mouse-slip (instead of the more common 7.d3) and just grab the 'free' pawn with 7...Nxd4?! However, this is already a dubious decision because White takes the initiative with 8.Be3!

A) 8...Nxf3+?! 9.Qxf3→ already gives White too much activity for the pawn. With 10.f5 coming, Black is bound to come under a strong attack. Ne7 10.Rad1 (A more clinical way was 10.f5! exf5 11.exf5 Nxf5 12.g4+-) 10...0-0 11.Bxc5 Qc7 12.Bxd6 Qxc4 13.Bxe7+- 1-0 (24) Grischuk, A (2750)-Vachier Lagrave, M (2795) chess.com INT 2017;

B) 8...Qb6 9.e5! Nxf3+ 10.Qxf3 d5 11.Bb5+ Kf8 12.b4! Keeping the initiative. d4 13.bxc5 Qxc5 14.Rad1! A powerful move, setting up back-rank checkmate ideas. Qxc3 15.Bxd4 Qc7 0-1 (84) Narayanan, S (2618)-Muradli, M (2449) lichess.org INT 2020 and here White could have obtained a winning position with a surprisingly strong 16.Qc3! Qxc3 17.Bxc3+- The rook is coming to the 8th rank with devastating threats.;

C) 8...Bd7 9.Nxd4 cxd4 10.Bxd4 Bxd4+ 11.Qxd4 Qb6 but in the game below, Black duly suffered due to the weakness of d6 and other queenside pawns. 12.Rad1 Ke7 13.Qxb6 axb6 14.Rd4 Bc6 15.Rfd1± Nf6 (if 15...Rd8 then 16.b4!+- with b4-b5 and ♖a4 to follow, winning the b6-

pawn.) 16.Rxd6 b5 17.Bxb5 Nxe4 18.Nxe4 Bxe4 19.Rd7+ Kf6 20.R1d4 Bxc2 ½-½ (29) Darini,P (2475)-Idani,P (2611) Bushehr 2019 21.a3±;

D) 8...Nf6 Black needs to return the pawn to complete his development, otherwise he gets in trouble. 9.Nxd4 cxd4 10.Bxd4 0-0 11.Bb3!?N I find this bishop retreat to be more in the spirit of the variation (than 11.Be2 Bd7 12.Qd2 Bc6 13.Qe3 Qa5∞ 0-1 (32) Manukyan,A (2148)-Abdusattorov,N (2627) Chess.com INT 2020) 11...Bd7 (As usual in such positions, Black also has a 11...b5!? diversion. After the forced sequence: 12.Nxb5 Ba6 13.c4 Bxb5 14.cxb5 Nxe4 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.Qd4+ Nf6 17.Rac1± White has a nice positional plus thanks to his powerful queen and the queenside majority. In the event of Qa5 there is 18.g4!↑) 12.Qe2 Re8 (The bishop on b3 is always a nuisance for Black as it strengthens the f5-break. Here, 12...Bc6 would be met by 13.f5↑) 13.Rad1 Bc6 14.h3± White prepares ♖f2 with e4-e5 or f4-f5, depending on Black's actions.]

8.Nb5 Nge7 The most popular move, although by no means the only playable option for Black here.

[The main alternative is 8...a6 9.Nbxd4 Here, too, Black have many options besides the most straightforward

A) 9...d5 looks slightly suspicious with the king on e8, but might well be playable.

A1) In the event of 10.exd5 exd5

11.Bb3 Black can solve the issues on the e-file with Nf6! (11...Nge7 on the other hand, is met by the thematic pawn sacrifice: 12.f5! Nxf5 13.Re1+ Kf8 14.Nxf5 Bxf5 15.c3↑) 12.Re1+ Ne4=;

A2) 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Bd3 Ne7 Too passive. (Black should be doing well with the more active 11...dxe4! 12.Bxe4 Qb6+ 13.Kh1 Nf6 14.Bd3 0-0 15.Ne5 c5≠) 12.Qe2 0-0 13.c4 Bb7 14.Be3± 1-0 (35) Gabuzyan,H (2620)-Preotu,R (2512) New York 2019;

B) 9...Nxd4 10.Nxd4

B1) 10...b5 is not a helpful inclusion, as seen in the game below: 11.Bb3 Nf6 12.f5 0-0 13.fxe6 (but 13.Bg5! was clearly stronger, and if h6 then 14.Bxf6 Qxf6 15.c3↑) 13...fxe6 14.Nxe6?! Bxe6 15.Bxe6+ Kh8≠ 0-1 (27) Sunilduth Lyna,N (2928)-Ruiz,J (2737) Chess.com INT 2020;

B2) 10...Nf6 should deserve serious attention as a more active way to develop the knight. 11.f5 e5 (The move order 11...gxf5 12.exf5 e5 has the benefit of avoiding the tricky 12. ♔g5 option, most likely transposing into the game continuation.)

B2a) 12.Bg5!? is a dangerous idea. exd4 (12...Qc7 13.Qe2 Nxe4 14.Qxe4 Qxc4 15.Rad1↑) 13.fxg6 hxg6 14.Qxd4 Ng4! The only way for Black to stay afloat. 15.Bxf7+ Kd7 16.e5!

White can keep attacking thanks to this move.

(Of course, there is also the less ambitious 16.Be6+ Ke8 17.Bf7+=) 16...Nxe5 17.Qe3 Qa5 18.Rad1 The position is double-edged, but Black is clearly under more pressure. Here is a sample line: Kc7 19.Be7 Bf8 20.Rd5 Nc4! 21.Bd8+! Kb8 22.Qe8↑;

B2b) 12.Nf3 gxf5 13.Ng5?!

(The critical continuation is 13.exf5 Qc7 14.Bb3 Bd7 15.Bg5 Bc6∞ Black is preparing to castle queenside, with an original and complicated position.) 13...0-0 (13...d5! would have extinguished White's attacking hopes. 14.Bxd5 Nxd5 15.exd5 f4⚡) 14.exf5 d5⚡ 15.Bb3 Bd7 16.Qe1 Bb5?! 17.Rf3 e4 18.Rg3 Bd7 19.Qf2 Qc8 20.Nh3 Bxf5 21.Rxg7+ Kxg7 22.Qh4 Ng8 23.Nf4± 1-0 (32) Lazov,T (2405)-Baenziger,F (2409) chess.com INT 2020;

C) 9...b5!?N 10.Bb3 Na5 has not been tried yet in this position, but winning the bishop pair like this is a typical idea for Black. The principled continuation would be 11.f5 Nxb3 12.axb3 e5 13.Ne2 which bears some resemblance to Fischer's games in the Sozin Attack, at least looking from the White side. Both sides would have chances, as the sample variations below suggest: Nf6 (13...gxf5 14.exf5 Bb7 15.Ng3 h5 16.f6! Qb6+ 17.Kh1 Bxf6 18.Nf5

0-0-0 19.c4∞) 14.Ng3 0-0 15.Bg5 Bb7 16.Qe2 d5!? 17.Nxe5 Qc7! 18.Bxf6 Bxf6 19.Ng4 Bxb2∞;

D) 9...Nge7 10.Bb3

D1) 10...Na5 is somewhat risky now, in the view of the pawn sac 11.f5! Nxb3 12.axb3 exf5 13.exf5 Bxf5 14.Nxf5 Nxf5 15.Re1+ Kf8 16.g4 Ne7 (16...Nh4 17.Ra4!) 17.Bf4∞ Practically, this position seems easier to play for White.;

D2) Here is a fun (blitz game) miniature that shows exactly how quickly things can go south for Black if he mishandles the opening in this variation: 10...Nxd4 11.Nxd4 Nc6 12.c3 Bd7 13.Be3 b5? 14.f5→ Qe7 15.fxe6 fxe6 16.Nxc6 Bxc6 17.Qg4 Kd7 18.Bxe6+ 1-0 (18) Sunilduth Lyna,N (2898)-Yoo,C (2607) Chess.com INT 2020;

D3) 10...0-0 11.c3

D3a) 11...Na5 was a recent choice of a strong theoretician, GM Cheparinov. 12.Bc2 e5

D3a1) However, 13.Nb3!?N looks like an improvement for White, trying to force favourable exchanges in the centre. Nc4 14.fxe5 Nxe5 (14...dxe5 15.Qxd8 Rxd8 16.Nc5 b6 17.Bb3±) 15.Nxe5 Bxe5 16.Bg5±;

D3a2) 13.Ne2 b5 14.Qe1 f5∞ This looks quite good for Black and he went on to prove his case. 15.fxe5 dxe5 16.exf5?! Bxf5 17.Bxf5 Nxf5 18.Ng3 Qb6+ 19.Rf2 Nxg3 20.hxg3 Nc4⚡

0-1 (41) Cornette, M (2558)-
Cheparinov, I (2660) Sitges
ESP 2020;

D3b) 11...Bd7!? Another recent game saw 11...Bd7!? and there seems to be nothing wrong with this simple developing approach.

D3b1) Perhaps, White could try to take advantage of the weak d6-pawn with 12.Nxc6!? in order to force Bxc6 and then continue 13.Bc2 preparing 14.♘d4. Here, Black would need to be more accurate than in the game: Qd7 (13...b5 14.Nd4 Bb7 15.f5↑) 14.Nd4 f5! =;

D3b2) 12.Be3 Rc8 13.Qe1 Na5 14.Qh4 Nc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4= 0-1 (47) Piliposyan, R (2161)-Yilmaz, M (2630) lichess.org INT 2021;

D3c) 11...Nxd4 While this move was played in two top-GM games, on closer inspection the alternatives seem better. 12.Nxd4± White has a very comfortable position that can be improved with moves like ♕e3, ♖d2, etc. Meanwhile, Black finds it difficult to complete his development satisfactorily due to the permanent f4-f5 threat. MVL and Nepo have tried to solve these issues by pushing ...e6-e5, but this only created new weaknesses. b5 (12...e5 13.Nf3 Qc7? A blunder, although the black position was already clearly worse.

14.fxe5 dxe5 15.Ng5+- Qb6+ 16.Kh1 Be6 17.Nxe6 fxe6 18.Bg5 Rxf1+ 19.Qxf1 Re8 20.Rd1 h6 21.Bh4 Kh7 22.Qf7 1-0 (22)

Nepomniachtchi, I (2775)-Vachier Lagrave, M (2775) Paris 2019) 13.Be3 Qc7 (13...Bb7 14.f5→) 14.Qd2 e5 15.fxe5 dxe5 16.Nf3 Be6 This has to be played, giving White a long-term positional advantage. 17.Bxe6 fxe6 18.Rfd1 Rad8 19.Qc2 h6 20.a4± ½-½ (50) Grischuk, A (2767)-Nepomniachtchi, I (2751) Moscow 2018]

[Black has another interesting option in 8...d5!? 9.exd5 exd5 10.Bxd5 Nge7 11.Bxc6+

A) 11...Nxc6 is playable, although I doubt that many Black players would be excited about their position after 12.Qe1+! Kf8 (12...Be6? 13.f5! gxf5 14.Qg3→ is why we gave the check on e1 and not e2.) Here, White has a couple of good options to keep the initiative: 13.c3 (13.f5!? Bxf5 14.Qg3↑ preparing 15.♘d6.; 13.b3 Kg8 14.Ba3 a6 15.Nc7 Rb8 16.Qe8+ Qxe8 17.Nxe8 Bf5 18.Nxg7 Kxg7=) 13...dxc3 14.Nxc3 Kg8 15.Be3 h6 16.Rd1↑;

B) 11...bxc6 This pawn sacrifice is more natural than the alternative. 12.Nbxd4 0-0= In return for the pawn, Black has comfortably completed his development and will try to utilise his bishop pair in the middlegame. 13.c3 (Perhaps it was more accurate to immediately shut down the dark-squared bishop

with 13.Ne5!? while also preparing to develop the queen to f3 at some point. c5 14.Nb3 Qc7=) 13...Rb8 (13...c5!? 14.Nb3 Qc7=) 14.Kh1 Qc7 15.Re1 Nd5 16.Ne5 Bb7 17.Qa4? (17.c4± with ♔e3 to follow, would have allowed White to consolidate his control of the centre.) 17...c5 18.Nb5 Qb6 0-1 (30) Piliposyan, R (2151)-Ter Sahakyan, S (2617) Yerevan 2020]

[8...Na5 is a rather risky approach. Black chases away the bishop from the a2-g8 diagonal in order to protect the extra pawn with 9...e5.

A) _____ A reasonable alternative is 9.Bd3 e5 ½-½ (33) Nepomniachtchi, I (2775)-Giri, A (2779) Paris 2019 and now an improvement over the game is 10.fxe5!?N dxe5 11.Qe1 preparing the unpleasant 12. ♔b4. Nc6 (11...a6 is strongly met by 12.Bg5 f6 13.Nxe5! axb5 14.Bxb5+→) 12.Bc4 f6 13.a4 a6 14.Na3= Having provoked the weakening ...f6, White has good chances to keep the initiative against the unsafe black king. The next step would be to open the centre with c2-c3.;

B) 9.Be2 e5?! This stubborn attempt to hold onto the pawn does not work tactically. (It is more sensible to 'admit the mistake' with 9...Nc6!? and if 10.Nbxd4 Nxd4 11.Nxd4 Nf6 does not look that bad for Black at all.) 10.fxe5 dxe5 11.Nfxd4! A nice tactical refutation. Nf6 (11...exd4 12.Bf4+-) 12.Nb3 Qb6+ 13.Kh1 0-0 ½-½ (69) Chukavin, K (2355)-Kulaots, K (2529) Tallinn 2020 Here, White

could have obtained a nice edge simply with 14.Nc3 Nxb3 15.axb3±]

[One of the first games in this variation saw 8...Nf6?! 9.e5 Ne4 0-1 (14) Kovalev, V (2546)-Kochetkov, G (2338) Minsk 2015 and here White had a cool, though not so obvious tactical sequence 10.Ng5!N Nxc5 11.Nxd6+ Kf8 12.h4! (12.fxg5? Nxe5-+) 12...Nh3+ 13.gxh3 Qxh4 14.Qf3±]

9.Bb3 Necessary prophylaxis against ...d6-d5. The d4-pawn won't run away.

[9.Nbxd4?! is too hasty because it allows Black to break free with d5 10.exd5 1-0 (61) Sindarov, J (2537)-Drygalov, S (2477) Moscow 2020 and even get a more promising position by playing Nxd4N 11.Nxd4 0-0! 12.c3 Nxd5 without the e4-pawn, the positional weaknesses incurred by the f-pawn push become apparent.]

9...0-0

[I believe that the best approach for Black is 9...Na5!? either on this, or on the next move. 10.Nbxd4 GM Abhijeet Gupta, an experienced Sicilian player, tried to clarify the situation in the centre straight away with the following sequence: Nxb3 (a more flexible move is 10...0-0!? transposing directly into the line 9...0-0 10. ♖bxd4 ♖a5) 11.axb3 e5 12.Ne2 0-0 13.Nc3

A) 1) 13...f5 14.fxe5 Qb6+ (14...fxe4 15.Bg5! Qb6+ 16.Rf2!↑) 15.Kh1 dxe5 16.Bg5 Qe6 17.Nb5↑;

B) and 2) 13...Qb6+!? 14.Kh1 Qc6∞ preparing the ...f5-break in better circumstances;

C) 13...b5 Besides this dynamic, yet arguably slightly weakening

move, Black had a couple of reasonable alternatives: 14.fxe5 Qb6+ 15.Qd4 (A stronger try was 15.Rf2! dxe5 16.Qd3 preparing ♖c1-e3 b4 17.Be3 Qc6 18.Nd5 Nxd5 19.exd5±) 15...Qxd4+ 16.Nxd4 b4 17.Nd5 Nxd5 18.exd5 Bb7 19.Nc6 Bxc6 20.dxc6 Bxe5= 0-1 (68) Prithu,G (2478)-Gupta,A (2602) Reykjavik 2019]

10.Nbxd4 Nxd4

[Yet, the alternative a more flexible move is 10...Na5!? deserves serious consideration. transposing directly into the line 9...0-0 10.♖bxd4 ♖a5 11.Be3

A) a more modest 11...b6!? might even be more accurate for Black. Interestingly, this was played in the very first game in 7.d4!? variation, between Gajewski and Mikrut way back in 2003! I wonder if the Polish GM deserves to get the honour of naming this variation after him? After all, we already have the Polugaevsky variation in the Sicilian, so why not name this one "Gajewski variation"!?

A1) A possible improvement is 12.c3!?

A1a) 12...Nxb3 13.axb3 Bb7 would be met by the standard GP break 14.f5! and if e5 (14...Qd7 15.fxe6 fxe6 16.Ng5↑) then 15.Bg5! exd4 16.f6↑;

A1b) 12...Ba6 13.Rf2 e5 and now White can initiate some wild complications with 14.Bxf7+! Rxf7 15.Ne6 Qd7 16.Nxg7 Nc4! (16...Rxc7 17.fxe5 Nc4 18.Bh6+-) 17.Bc1 exf4 (17...Rxc7 18.b3±) 18.Ne6! Ne3! 19.Qd4

Qxe6 The simplest. (19...Ng4 20.Nfg5 Nxf2 21.Kxf2∞ is a mess.) 20.Ng5 Nc6 21.Nxe6 Nxd4 22.cxd4=;

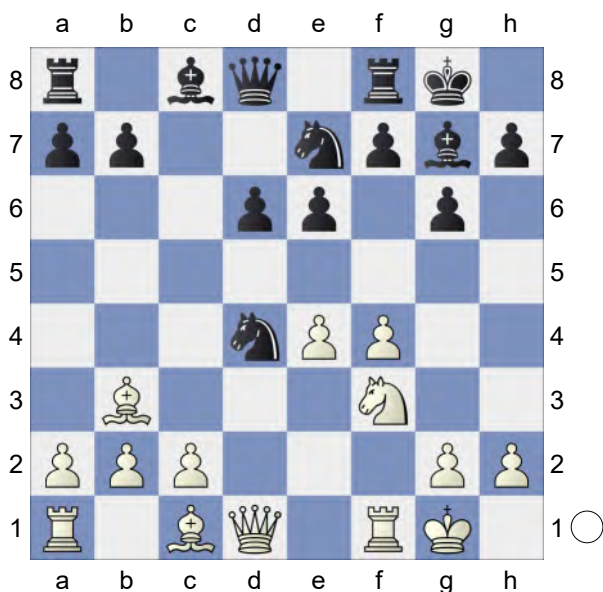
A2) 12.Qd3 Stopping ...♖a6 and covering the e4-pawn, but as it turns out, d3 is not such a great square for the queen in this particular position. 12...Bd7 13.Bd2 Nb7! A somewhat unexpected and strong manoeuvre. 14.Qe3 Nc5± 1-0 (49) Gajewski,G (2456)-Mikrut,D (2390) Lubniewice 2003. The knight assumed a strong outpost on c5 and Black was doing well in this complex middlegame. Congratulations to the Black player for playing the opening so well when faced not only with a new move, but a completely new and (as the future would show) sound opening concept.;

B) Another decent alternative is 11...Bd7 12.Qe2 (Though, now White could play the more active 12.Qd3!? preparing to exert the pressure on the d6-pawn with Rad1, etc.) 12...Qc7 13.e5!? dxe5 14.fxe5 Nf5 1-0 (30) Mikaelyan,A (2467)-Tran,T (2529) Rome 2019 15.Bf4∞;

C) 11...a6 And while this is the most typical way to prepare queenside fianchetto in the Sicilian, 12.c4 This creates a bind against Black's ...b5 and ...d5 breaks. (Additionally, the typical GP attack queen manoeuvre 12.Qe1!? b5 13.Qh4∞ also deserves attention.) 12...b6 13.Qd2 Qc7 14.Rac1 Nxb3 15.axb3∞ ½-½ (30)

Narayanan,S (2525)-Amonatov,F (2608) Kolkata 2018, with an interesting Hedgehog-type of middlegame.]

[10...b6 is not such a great idea in connection with ... ♖b7, as played in the two GM-games below, considering the ease with which White carries out the f5-break. 11.c3 (11.Kh1 Nxd4 12.Nxd4 Bb7 13.f5 exf5 14.exf5 Nxf5 15.Nxf5 gxf5 16.Rxf5± 1-0 (25) Sindarov,J (2544)-Shipov,S (2541) lichess.org INT 2020) 11...Bb7? (11...Na5 12.Bc2±) 12.Nxe6!? An inspired sacrifice, though perhaps not even necessary. (12.f5!?→ was simple and strong) 12...fxe6 13.Ng5 d5 14.Nxe6 Qd6 15.c4!→ 1-0 (51) Nasuta,G (2518)-Donchenko,A (2618) Maastricht 2019]



Milanovic,Danilo: '?!' From Black's perspective, it makes sense to exchange a pair of knights to provide the c6-square for a rather passive e7-knight. 11.Nxd4 e5 Milanovic,Danilo: '?!' This was the choice of strong GMs Wei Yi

and Korobov, though White should probably be happy to see this move as it opens up the diagonal for his bishop and leaves the backward d6-pawn. So far, Black has not yet shown a clear path to equality in this position, although I will mention an important novelty that could change this verdict in the notes below. But first, let us take a look at the two other continuations seen in practice.

[Firstly, there is the natural 11...Nc6 12.Be3 a6 13.c3± White has a pleasant position in the center and easy development. Meanwhile, Black's development is troubled by the latent threat of f4-f5. Na5 (Firouzja played 13...Bd7 14.Qd2 Na5 which also allowed White to launch the kingside attack with 15.f5! Nxb3 16.axb3 e5 17.Ne2 Bc6 18.Ng3 This looks like a dream attacking position for White, so Black had to seek counterplay with d5 but after 19.f6! Bh8 0-1 (34) Sunilduth Lyna,N (2940)-Firouzja,A (3149) Chess.com INT 2020 20.Qf2! would have lead to a winning position for White, in the view of dxe4 21.Nf5! Bxf6 22.Rad1+-) 14.Qd2 (As usual, the direct 14.f5 was more to the point. Nxb3 15.Qxb3 exf5 16.exf5 Re8 17.Rae1→) 14...b5?! Too slow. (14...e5 would have been clearly better now that the dangerous ♗b3 can be eliminated. 15.Ne2 Nxb3 16.axb3 Be6 17.c4 f5=) 15.f5 e5 16.Ne2 This would be a normal continuation, leading to a similar position to that in Sunilduth-Firouzja above. (The game saw 16.Bd5?? which looks like a mouse-slip. What is even more strange about this game, if

the scoresheet is to be trusted, is that Black lost (!) it in only a couple of moves after himself leaving a rook hanging... *exd4 17.Bxd4 Nc4 18.Qf4 Ra7?? 19.f6 Bh8 20.Bxa7* 1-0 (20) Sunilduth Lyna,N (2618)-Timofeev,A (2580) chess.com INT 2020) *16...Nxb3 17.axb3 Bb7 18.Ng3 d5* Here, the strongest continuation is *19.Rad1 dxe4 20.f6! Qxd2 21.Rxd2±* locking in the bishop on h8.]

[Another game went *11...d5 12.e5±* when we have a French-like structure. This version seems pleasantly better for White as he controls the d4-square well and has a simple plan of advancing his kingside pawns. *Nc6 13.Be3 Nxd4 14.Bxd4 Bd7 15.Qf3 Bb5* (Probably *15...f6±* here, or at some later point was called for.) *16.Rf2 Qc7 17.c3 Rfc8 18.g4→ ½-½* (54) Shahinyan,D (2456)-Livaic,L (2507) chess.com INT 2020]

[A new direction in this position is *11...b5!?N* looking for counterplay on the queenside. According to the analysis below, it seems to be the most promising continuation for Black of all that we have seen in this position.

A) In the event of *12.a3 a5 13.c3* Black prepares the ...b4 break with *d5! (13...Ba6? 14.f5→) 14.e5 Ba6±* followed by *15...b4* and a nice position for Black.;

B) *12.Be3 b4* (Another playable option is *12...a5 13.a3 Bb7* and if *14.f5 exf5 15.exf5* then *Nd5 16.Bxd5 Bxd5 17.Qd2∞*) *13.a3 bxa3 14.Rxa3 a5 15.Qd2 Bd7* The bishop remains on the c8-h3 diagonal to keep the f4-f5 break in

check. Black plans to go ... ♖c7 and connect his rooks, with a reasonable position. *16.Ba4 Qc7=*]

12.Nf3 Milanovic,Danilo: '±'

[*12.f5 exd4 13.f6* looks attractive at the first sight, but after *Bh8 14.fxe7 Qxe7 15.Bh6 Bd7 16.Bxf8 Rxf8±* Black achieves full positional compensation for the exchange.]

12...Nc6 Milanovic,Danilo: 'N?!'

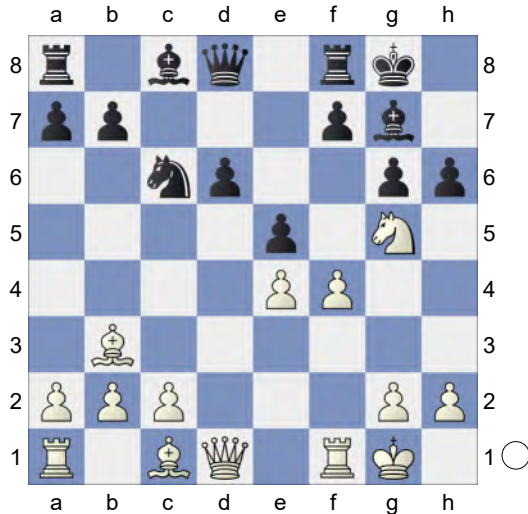
[Objectively best is *12...exf4* Milanovic,Danilo: '?' Milanovic,Danilo: '- 1 4 7 / (3 0)' *13.Bxf4 Be6* (Black quickly went down after *13...Bxb2? 14.Rb1 Bg7 15.Bxd6+* in a blitz game 1-0 (23) Saydaliev,S (2384)-Korobov,A (2688) chess.com INT 2020) *14.Bxe6 Qb6+ 15.Kh1 fxe6 16.Qxd6 Nc8!* The key move to keep Black alive, although after *17.Qd2 Qxb2 18.Ng5↑* he still has problems.]

13.Kh1?! It is very tempting to remove the king from possible checks on the g1-a7 diagonal, yet this move lets a large portion of White's advantage slip.

[Instead, *13.c3* would have kept White in charge since *Be6* would be strongly met by *14.f5!±* when *gxf5 15.exf5 Bxf5* would allow White to obtain very good chances with either *16.Ng5* (or *16.Nxe5 dxe5 17.Rxf5 Qxd1+ 18.Bxd1±*) *16...Bg6 17.h4→*]

[*13.Ng5!?* Milanovic,Danilo *h6* Diagram (*13...Qe7?? 14.f5! Bf6 15.Nxf7 Rxf7 16.fxg6 hxg6 17.Bxf7+ Qxf7 18.Qf3+-*)

(Diagram)



14.Nxf7! Rxf7 15.fxe5 Nxe5 16.Qd5 Qb6+ (16...Qe7? 17.Bf4+-) 17.Kh1 Kh7 18.Rxf7 Nxf7 19.Qxf7

A) 19...Bg4 20.Bxh6! Kxh6 21.Qf4+

A1) 21...Kh5?? 22.h3

A1a) 22...Bxh3 23.g4+! Bxg4 (23...Kh4 24.g5+ Kh5 25.Bc4+-) 24.Kg2 Bh3+ 25.Kxh3 Qd8 26.Rg1 Qf6 27.Qg4+ Kh6 28.Kg2 Kh7 29.Rf1+-;

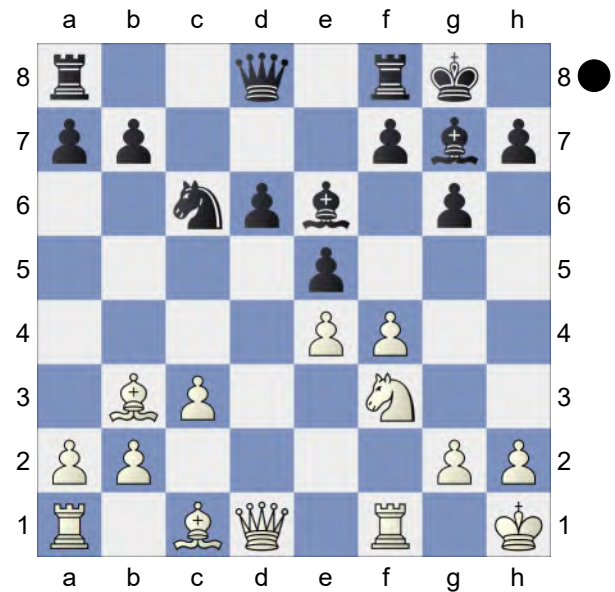
A1b) 22...Bf3 23.gxf3+-;

A2) 21...Kh7 22.Qxg4±;

B) 19...Be6!? 20.Qxe6 (20.Bxe6? Rf8-+) 20...Qf2 21.Bxh6! Rf8! 22.Be3 Qxe3 23.Qxd6 Qxe4 24.Qd2± (24.c3?! Qe2±)]

13...Be6 Milanovic,Danilo: ' ♞ ' **14.c3** Milanovic,Danilo: 'Diagram

(Diagram)



' **14...Qe7?** An unfortunate choice of square for the queen.

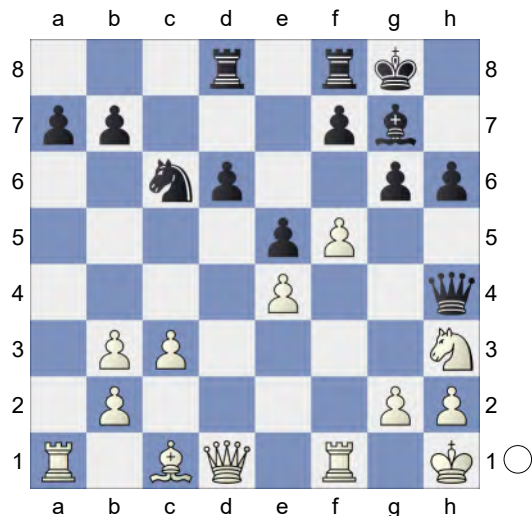
[14...Qd7= would keep the f5-square under control. 15.Be3 Milanovic, Danilo exf4 16.Bxf4 Rad8 17.Qd2 Rfe8 18.Rae1∞]

15.fxe5? Somehow both top GMs underestimated the thematic attacking continuation.

[It would be a dream of every GP Attack player to make 15.f5!± Milanovic,Danilo: '!' work. If Black accepts the pawn sacrifice with

A) 15...Bxb3 Milanovic,Danilo 16.axb3 Rad8 17.Ng5!? h6 18.Nh3 Qh4 Diagram

(Diagram)

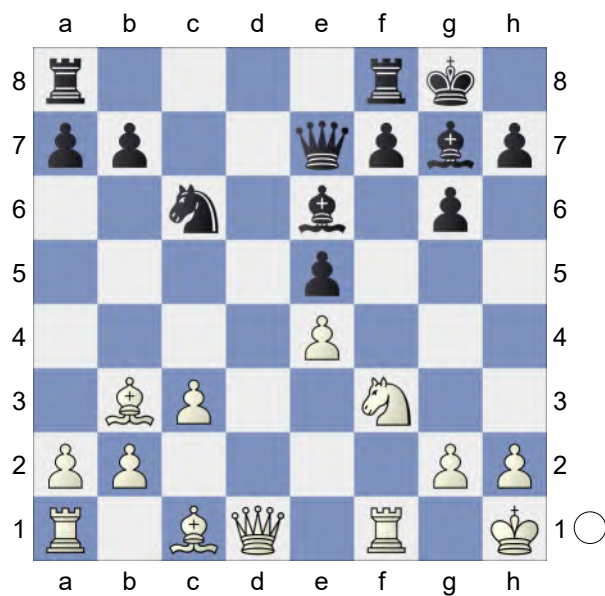


19.Nf2! Δd5 (19...gxf5 20.exf5 d5 21.g3 Qe7 22.Ng4+-) 20.g3 Qe7 21.exd5 gxf5 22.Qf3+-;

B) 15...gxf5 16.exf5 Bxf5 then White would have a very strong move 17.Nh4!→ Milanovic, Danilo: '!?' securing absolute domination on the light squares. It was probably this resource that was missed by the players. Bg6 Milanovic, Danilo (17...Qxh4 Milanovic, Danilo 18.Rxf5 h6 19.Be3 Ne7 20.Rh5 Qf6 21.Qg4 Qg6 22.Qh3 Kh7 23.Rg5 Qf6 24.Bc2+ Ng6 25.Rf5 Qe6 26.Raf1+-) 18.Qg4 d5 (18...Kh8 19.Bg5 Qc7 20.Rf6! e4 21.Raf1+-) 19.Bxd5 Rad8 20.Nxg6 hxg6 21.Bc4 (21.Bg5 Qd7 22.Qxd7 Rxd7 23.Rad1±) 21...Na5 22.Be2±]

15...dxe5

(Diagram)



16.Bg5 f6 17.Be3 Rad8=

Now the position is roughly equal, but in the remainder of the game Grischuk kept pressing and eventually managed to obtain a winning endgame. **18.Qe2 Bxb3?!**

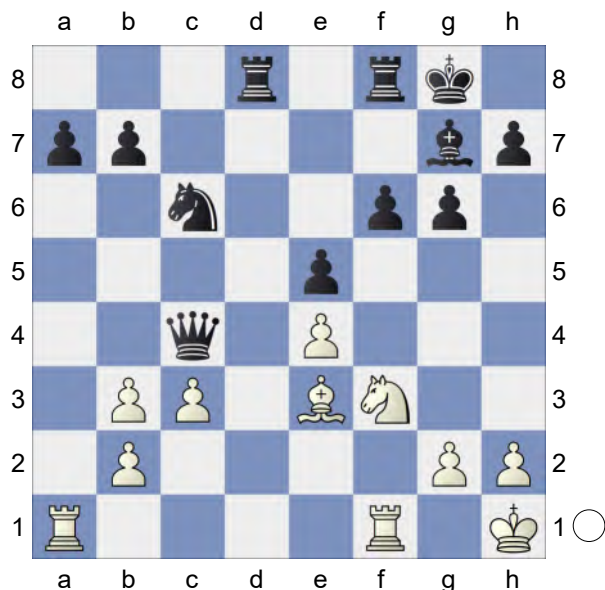
[18...b6= 19.Rad1 Milanovic,Danilo Na5 20.Bxe6+ Qxe6 21.b3∞]

19.axb3 Qe6 20.Qc4 Milanovic,Danilo: '?!' White will have a very slight risk-free plus in the endgame.

[20.b4!? Milanovic,Danilo: ' ±' a6 21.Nd2± was another approach.]

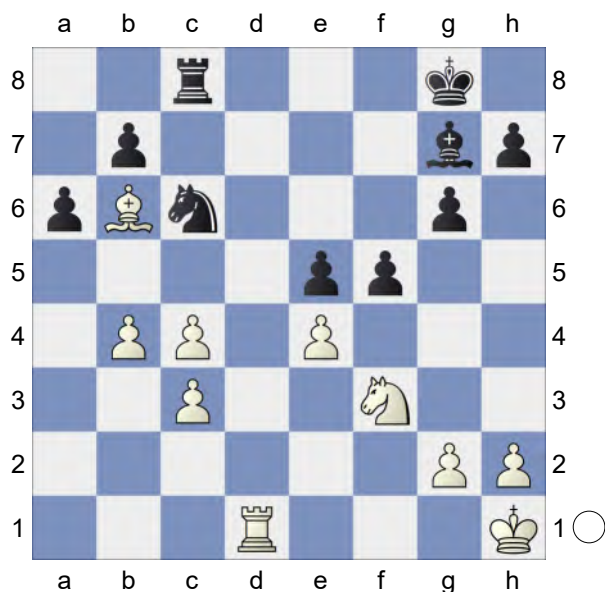
20...Qxc4

(Diagram)



21.bxc4 a6 22.Bb6 Rd7 23.Rfd1 Rxd1+ 24.Rxd1 f5 25.b4 Rc8

[25...fxe4 26.Ng5 e3! 27.Bxe3 Bh6= Milanovic,Danilo: '!?' 28.h4 Milanovic,Danilo e4≠]



Milanovic,Danilo: '!?' Here, and on a couple of later occasions, Wei Yi failed to achieve counterplay by capturing the e4-pawn. **26.h4** Milanovic,Danilo: '!'

[26.Rd7 Milanovic,Danilo fxe4

A) 27.Ng5 e3 28.Bxe3 (28.Kg1 e4≠) 28...e4≠;

B) 27.Ng1 e3 28.Rxb7 e4≠]

[26.Nd2!?± (Milanovic,Danilo) Δ Nf1-e3-d5, Δ c5, Δ ef5]

26...Bf6 Milanovic,Danilo: '?!'

[26...fxe4 27.Ng5 e3 28.Bxe3 e4= Milanovic,Danilo: '≠']

27.Rd7 Bd8? A strange decision as White simply forces a winning pawn-up knight endgame.

[This was the last chance for 27...fxe4

A) 28.Nd2 Milanovic,Danilo Bd8

29.Bxd8 (29.Rxb7? Bxb6 30.Rxb6 e3 31.Nf3 e2 32.Rxa6 Rf8-+)

29...Rxd8 30.Rxd8+ Nxd8

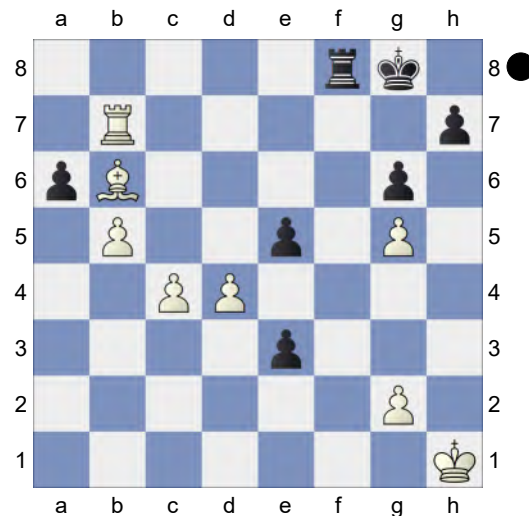
31.Nxe4 a5! 32.bxa5 Nc6∞;

B) 28.Ng5 Milanovic,Danilo

28...Bxg5 29.hxg5 Rf8 30.Rxb7 (30.Kg1?! Rf7∞) 30...Nd4! 31.b5!?

(31.cxd4 e3 32.b5 axb5 33.cxb5 Rf1+ 34.Kh2 e2= - 31.b5!?)

31...e3 32.cxd4 Diagram



axb5! (32...Rf1+? 33.Kh2 e2

34.Ba5 Ra1 35.Kg3 Rxa5 36.Kf2

axb5 37.c5! exd4 38.Kxe2 Ra6

39.Kd3+-) 33.cxb5 Rf1+ 34.Kh2

e2= Milanovic,Danilo: '=' Milanovic,

Danilo: '- 31.b5!?' 35.Ba5 Ra1

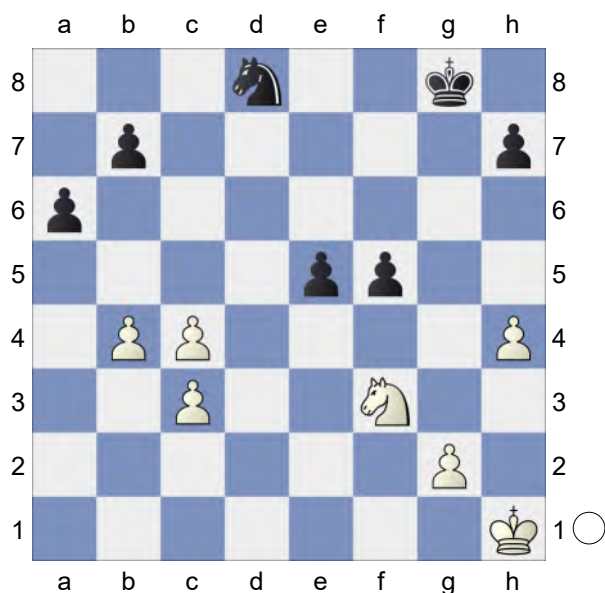
36.Kg3 exd4 37.Kf2 Rxa5□

38.Kxe2 Ra3! 39.b6 Rb3

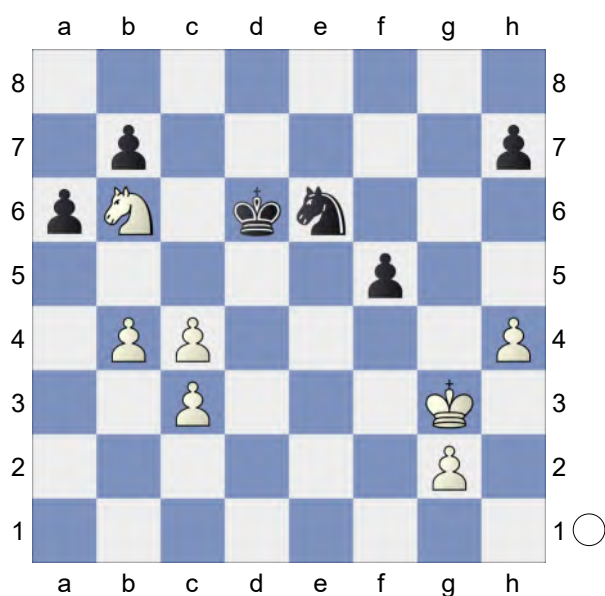
B1) 40.Kd2 d3 41.g3 Kf8

42.Rb8+ (42.Rxh7 Rxb6=)
 42...Kf7 43.b7 Kg7=;
B2) 40.Rb8+ Kf7 41.b7 Kg7
 42.Kd1 d3 43.Kd2 Rb5
 44.Kxd3 Rb1=]

28.Bxd8 Rxd8 29.Rxd8+ Nxd8
30.exf5 gxf5



31.Nxe5+- Kg7 32.Kh2 Kf6 33.Nd7+ Ke7 34.Nb6 Ne6 35.Kg3 Kd6

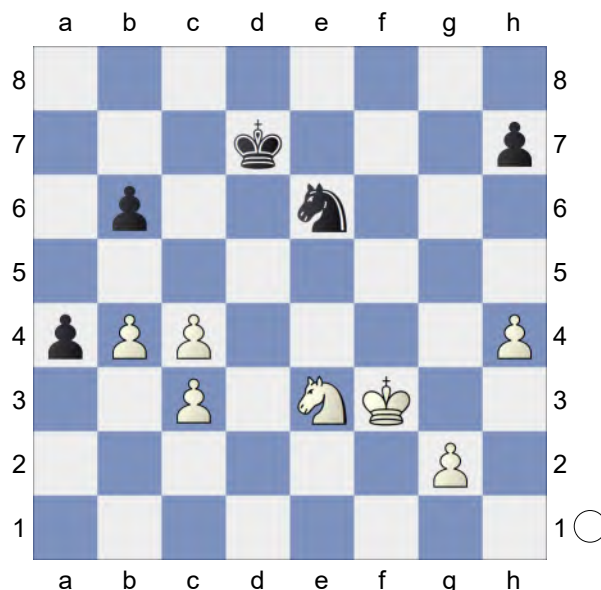


36.Kf3 Kc6 37.Nd5 b6

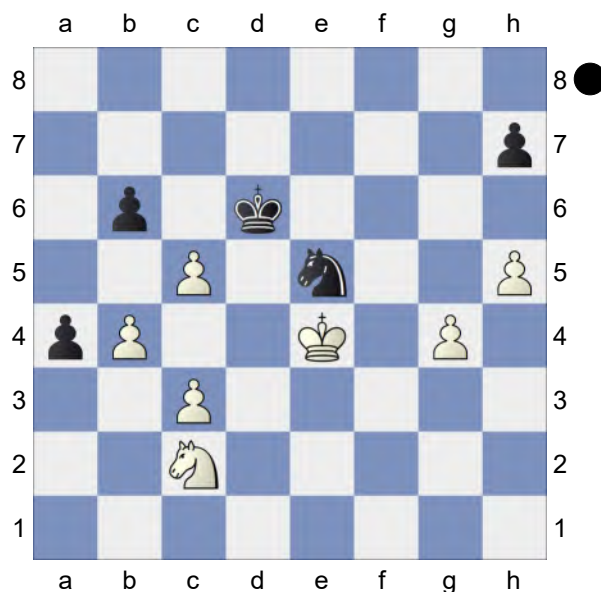
[37...Kd6 Milanovic,Danilo 38.Nf6 b6
 39.Nxh7 a5 40.c5+ Kc6 41.Ng5!
 Nxg5+ 42.hxg5 a4 43.g6 a3 44.g7

a2 45.g8Q a1Q 46.Qe6+ Kb5
 47.Qxb6+ Kc4 48.Qe6+ Kb5
 49.Qd7+ Kc4 50.Qd4+ Kb5]

38.Ne7+ Kd7 39.Nxf5 a5 40.Ne3 a4



41.Nc2 Kd6 42.Ke4 Nf8 43.g4 Ng6 44.h5 Ne5 45.c5+



1-0

404

□ Lu,Shanglei

■ Wei,Yi

CHN-chT Daqing (2.3)

[Kuzmin, Alexey]

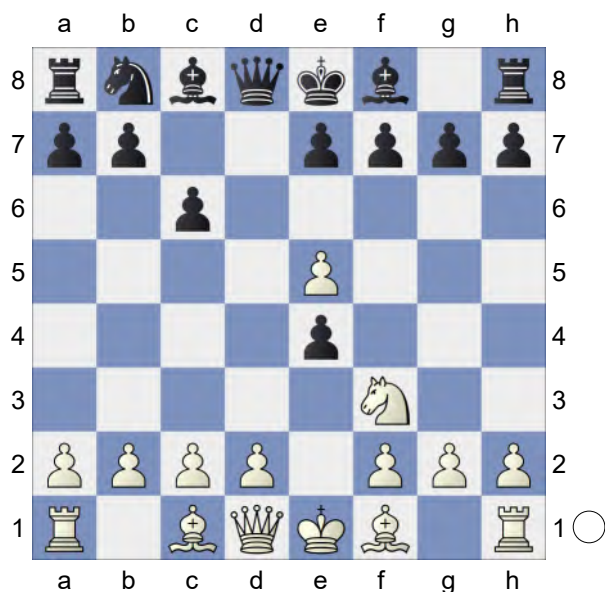
B11

2624

2741

20.06.2019

1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e5
Ne4 5.Nxe4 dxe4



6.Ng5 Qd5 7.Qe2

[The pawn sacrifice - 7.d4 is interesting, however, it leads to unclear positions: exd3 8.Bxd3

A) 8...h6 9.Ne4 Bf5 10.Qe2 Bxe4 (10...Qxe5!? 11.Bd2∞) 11.Qxe4 Qxe4+ 12.Bxe4 e6 13.Bd2 Nd7 14.f4 0-0-0 15.0-0-0 Bc5 (15...g5!? 16.g3 gxf4 17.gxf4 Nb6=) 16.c4 Bd4 17.Kc2 Nc5 18.Bf3 Rd7 19.b4± Li,R - Smirnov, A Saint Louis 2017;

B) 8...Qxe5+ 9.Be3 h6 10.Nf3 Qa5+ (10...Qxb2 11.Bd4 Qb4+ 12.c3 Qa5 13.0-0↑) 11.Bd2 Qd5 12.Qe2 Bf5 13.Bxf5 Qxf5 14.0-0-0 Nd7 15.Bc3 e6∞ Mitkov,N - Posthuma,J Chicago 2019]

7...Bf5! This is the most accurate move

order.

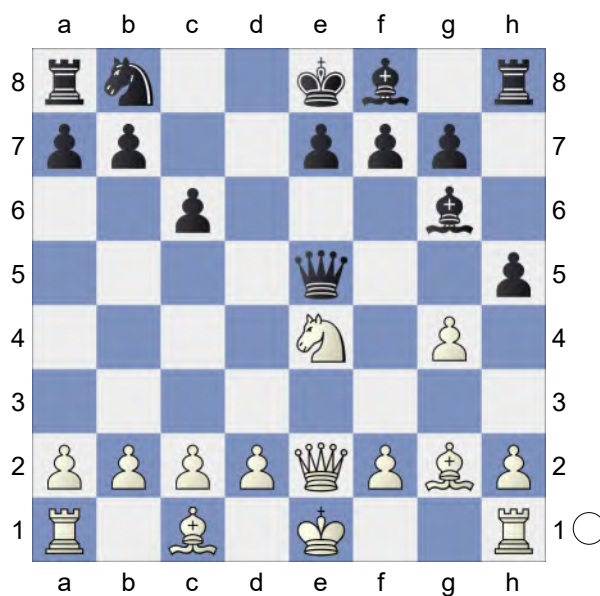
[After 7...Qxe5 8.Nxe4 Bf5 White gets good chances of seizing the initiative. 9.d3

A) 9...e6 10.f4! Qa5+ (10...Qd5 11.g3 h5 12.Bg2±) 11.Bd2 White's chances are preferable already. Qa4? (11...Qb6 12.0-0-0±) 12.Nc3! Qxc2 13.g4 Be7 14.h4 Bxg4 15.Qxg4 Bf6 16.Qd1+- Lu,S - Ganguly,S Hamedan 2018;

B) 9...Nd7!?, and now either 10.g3 (or 10.f4 Qe6 11.Bd2) 10...e6 11.c3 in both cases with somewhat easier play.]

8.g4 Bg6 9.Bg2 Qxe5 10.Nxe4 h5

[10...e6 11.d3 (11.c3 h5 12.d4 Qc7 13.g5 Nd7≠ 0-1 (29) Wikner,A (2241)-Donchenko,A (2573) Stockholm 2016) 11...Bxe4 12.Bxe4 Bb4+ 13.Kd1 Qc7 14.c3 Bd6 15.Kc2 Nd7 Black has counterplay, but White possesses the pair of bishops and playing this position is somewhat easier for him. 16.h4! h6 17.Be3 0-0-0 18.Rad1]



11.g5 Bxe4

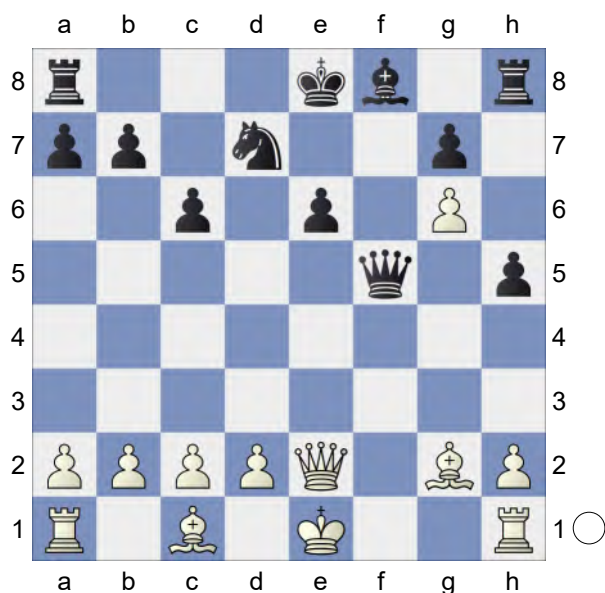
[11...h4! was more precise. 12.h3 f5!? 13.gxf6 gxf6 14.f4 Qe6 15.d3 Nd7 16.Be3 0-0-0[∞] with mutual chances in a complicated game.]

12.g6!↑ An important resource. 12...f5**13.f3 Nd7 14.fxe4 e6**

[14...0-0-0 15.c3 (The pawn sacrifice 15.exf5 Qxf5 16.d3 is not dangerous for Black: Qxg6 17.Be3 Qg4!=) 15...fxe4 16.Bxe4 Nc5 17.Bc2 Qd5 18.0-0!±]

15.exf5

[15.c3! - stronger fxe4 (15...0-0-0 16.d4 Qf6 17.h4 Qxg6 18.Bg5 gives a dangerous initiative to White: Re8 19.0-0-0↑) 16.Bxe4 Qf4 17.d3 Qh4+ 18.Qf2 Qxf2+ 19.Kxf2±]

15...Qxf5**16.Qe4**

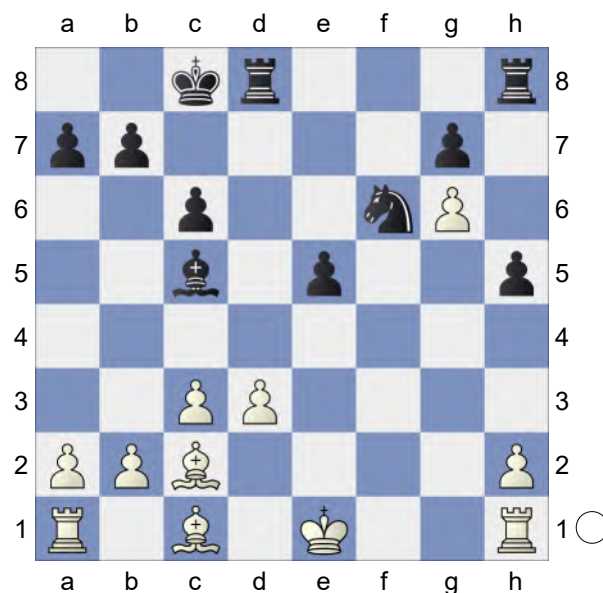
[16.d3 does not create problems: Qxg6 17.Be3 Bc5 18.Bxc5 Nxc5 19.0-0-0 0-0-0=]

16...Bc5 17.c3

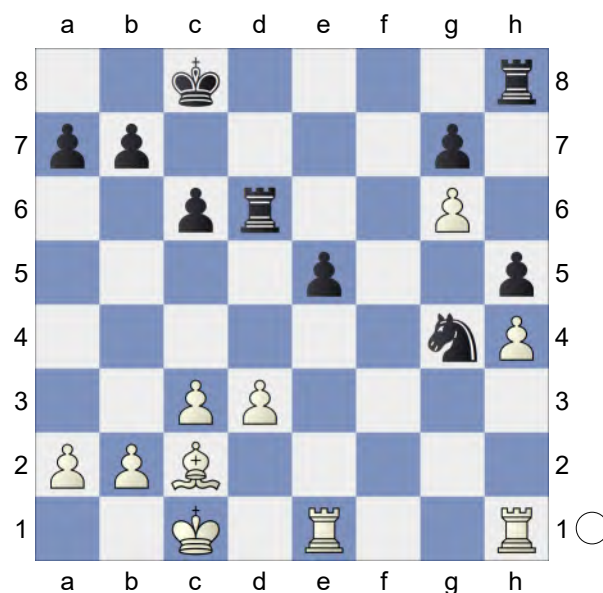
[17.Qxf5 exf5 18.b4!? Bd6 19.b5[∞]]

17...Qxe4+ 18.Bxe4 The position is equal. **18...Nf6**

[The easiest way for Black was 18...Rf8 19.d4 Bd6 20.Bd2 Bf4=]
19.Bc2 e5 20.d3 0-0-0

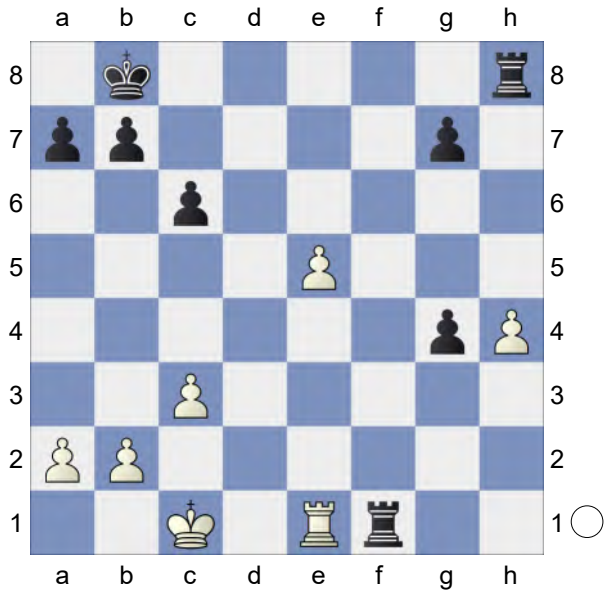


21.Bg5 Rd6 22.0-0-0 Nd5 23.h4 Be3+ 24.Bxe3 Nxe3 25.Rde1 Ng4

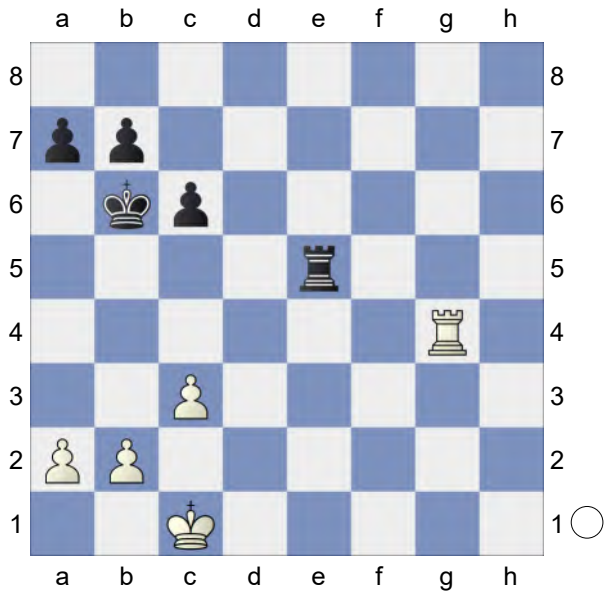


26.Rhf1 Rxg6 27.d4 Rf6 28.Bf5+ Kb8 29.Bxg4 hxg4 30.dxe5 Rxf1

(Diagram)



31.Rxf1 Rxh4 32.Rf8+ Kc7 33.Rf7+ Kb6 34.Rxg7 Rh5 35.Rxg4 Rxe5



1/2-1/2

403

□ Lu, Shanglei

■ Wei, Yi

CHN-chT Daqing (2.3)

[Kuzmin, Alexey]

D26

2624

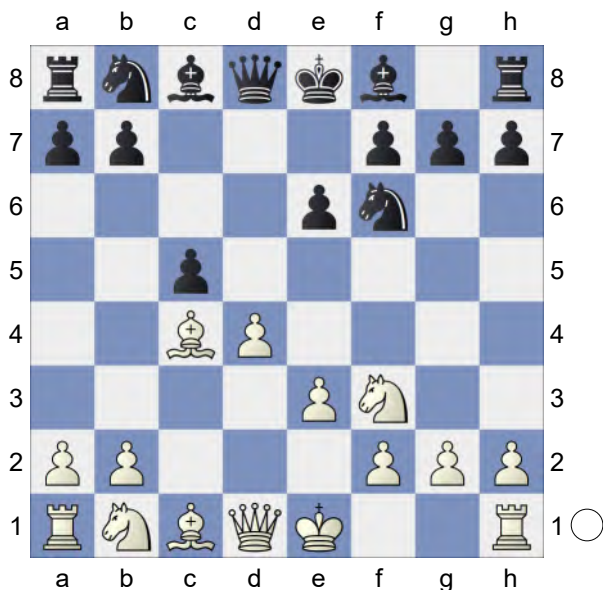
2741

20.06.2019

1.d4 d5

[1...Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.a3 b6 4.Nc3 Bb7
5.Nf3 Be7 6.e3 0-0 7.Bd3 d5 8.0-0
c5 9.Qe2 dxc4 10.Bxc4 cxd4
11.exd4 Nc6 12.Rd1 Na5 13.Ba2
Nd5 14.Ne5 Nxc3 15.bxc3 Rc8
16.Nxf7 Rxf7 17.Qxe6 Qf8 18.Re1
Bd6 19.Qd7 Nc4 20.Qe6 Kh8
21.Bf4 Rxf4 22.Bxc4 Rxf2 23.Bd5
Rf6 24.Qe4 Bxd5 25.Qxd5 Rxc3
26.Rf1 Rc8 27.Qb7 Rd8 28.a4
Bxh2+]

**2.c4 dxc4 3.e3 Nf6 4.Bxc4 e6 5.Nf3
c5**



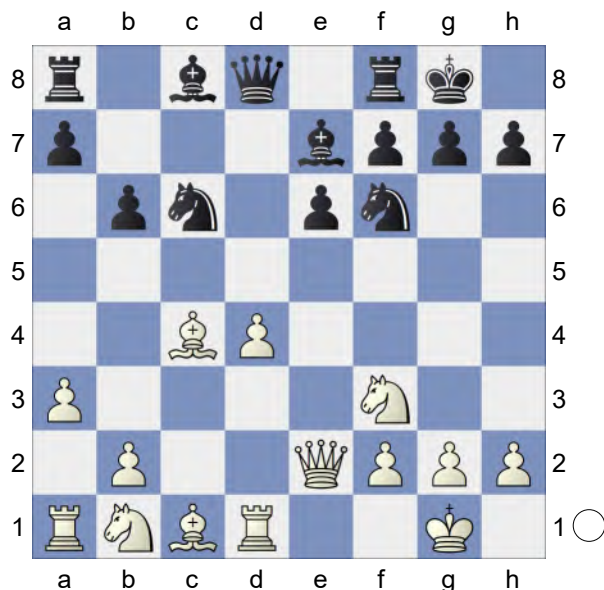
**6.0-0 Nc6 7.Qe2 cxd4! This is the
most accurate move order. 8.Rd1 Be7
9.exd4 0-0 10.a3**

[10.Nc3 Na5 11.Bd3 b6]

10...b6

[10...Nd5 11.Nc3 Na5 (11...Re8
12.Ba2 Bxa3) 12.Ba2 Nxc3 13.bxc3

Qc7]



11.Nc3 Bb7

[11...Na5 12.Ba2 Bb7 13.b4]

12.d5!↑ An important resource.

[12.Bxe6 fxe6 (12...Bd6 13.Ba2)
13.Qxe6+ Kh8 14.d5]

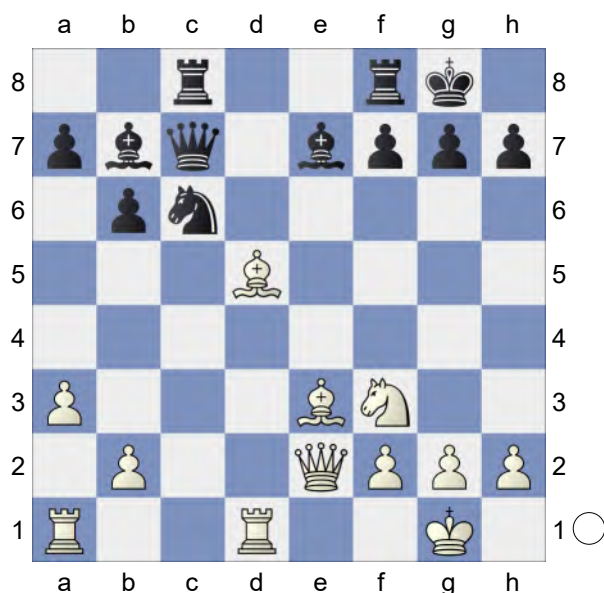
12...exd5

[12...Nxd5 13.Nxd5 exd5 14.Bxd5
Qc7 15.Be3]

13.Nxd5 Nxd5 14.Bxd5 Qc7

[14...Qe8]

15.Be3 Rac8



16.Rac1 Bf6

[16...Qb8 17.b4]

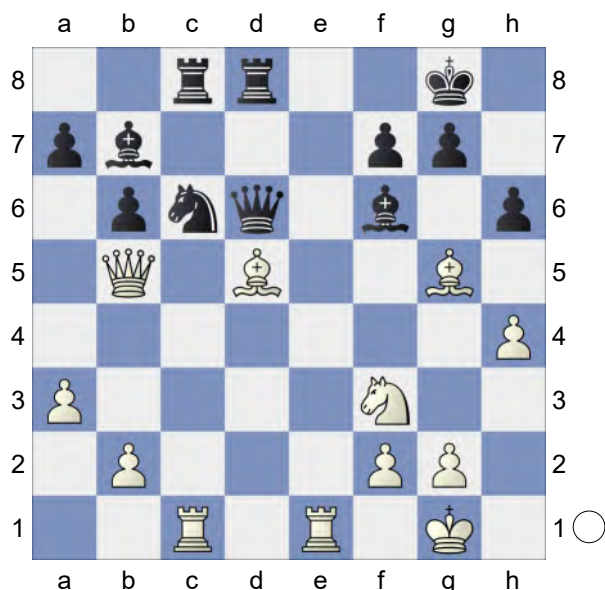
17.Qb5 Rfd8 18.Bg5 The position is equal.

[18.Ng5]

18...Qe7 19.h4 h6 20.Re1

[20.Bxf6 Qxf6 21.b4 Nd4 22.Rxc8 Nxf3+ 23.Bxf3 Bxc8 24.Rxd8+ Qxd8]

20...Qd6



21.Rcd1 hxc5 22.Bxf7+ Kxf7 23.Rxd6

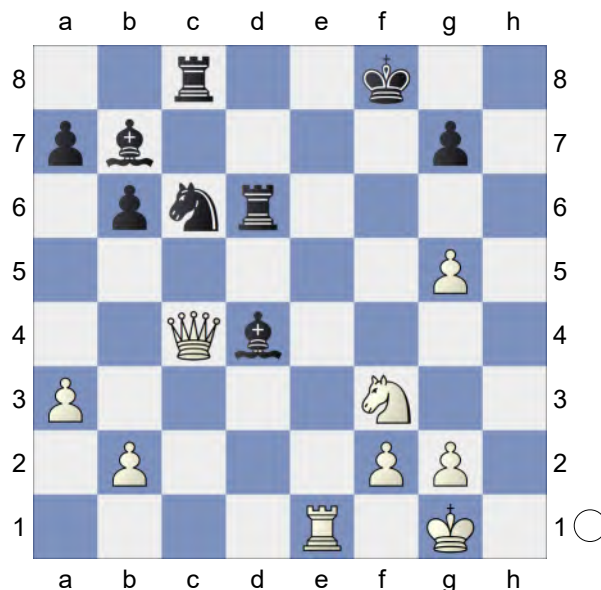
[23.Nxc5+ Bxc5 24.Rxd6 Rxd6 25.Qxc5 Kg8]

23...Rxd6 24.Qc4+

[24.hxc5 Nd4= 25.Nxd4!? Bxd4 26.Qe2 Rf8 27.Qe7+ Kg8 28.Qxd6 Bxf2+ 29.Kh2 Bxe1 30.Qe6+ Kh7 31.Qxe1]

24...Kf8 25.hxc5 Bd4

(Diagram)



26.Qb5

[26.Qe2 Rd7 27.Qe6± Li,R - Smirnov,A Saint Louis 2017 Re7!? 28.Qf5+ Rf7]

26...g6

[26...Bc5 27.Qa4 Rcd8]

27.Nxd4 Rxd4 28.Qb3

[28.Qe2↑ Kg7 29.b4 a6 (29...Rd7 30.Qe6 Rf7 31.b5 Na5 32.Qh3 Kg8 33.Qh6) 30.b5 axb5 31.Qxb5 Rcd8 32.Qxb6]

28...Rd6

[28...Kg7 29.Re6 Rd7 30.Qh3 Rg8 31.Rxc6+ Kxc6 32.Qxd7 Rg7 33.Qe6+ Kh7 34.f4]

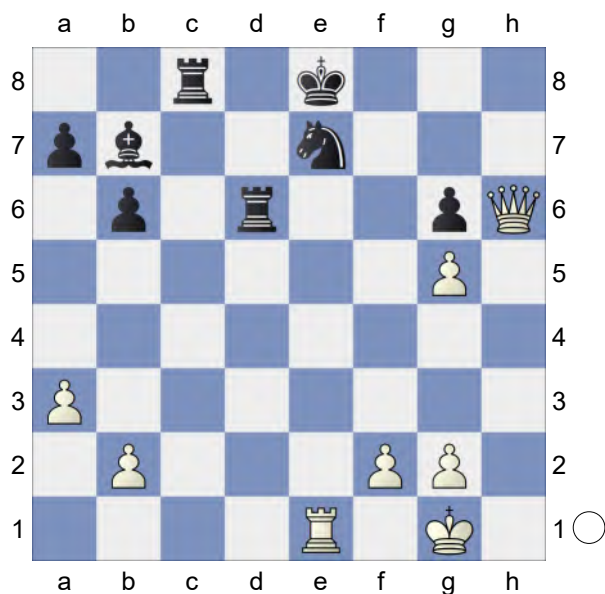
29.Qh3

[29.Re6 Rxe6 30.Qxe6 Ne7 31.Qd7 Be4 32.Qxa7 Rc1+ 33.Kh2]

29...Ne7

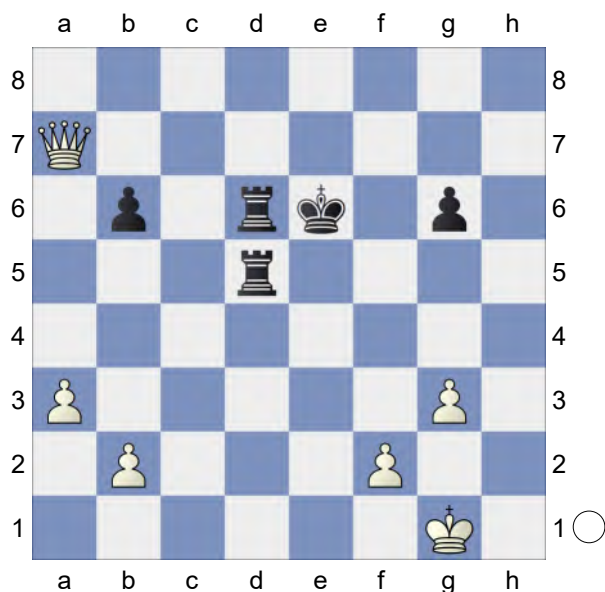
[29...Kg7! 30.Qh6+ (30.Qc3+ Kh7 31.Qf3+- Lu,S - Ganguly,S Hamedan 2018 Kg8) 30...Kg8 31.Re4 Rcd8 32.Rh4]

[29...Kg8± 30.Re4 Rf8 31.Qb3+ Kg7± The pawn sacrifice - 32.Qc3+ is interesting, however, it leads to unclear positions: Kg8]

30.Qh6+ Ke8**31.Rxe7+**

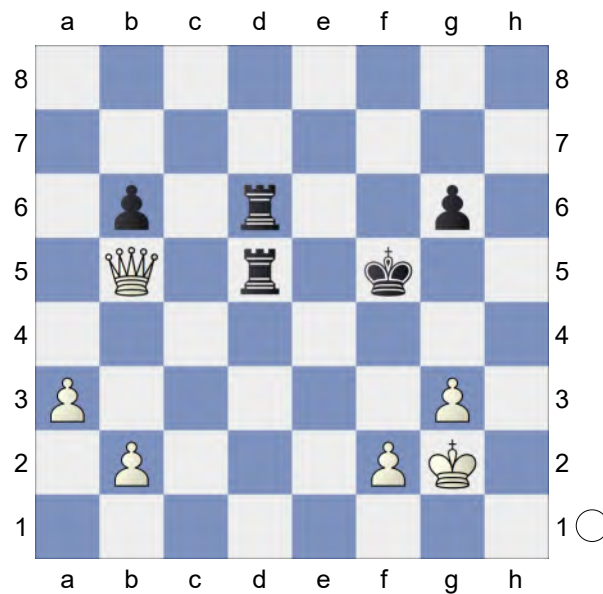
[31.Qg7 Rc7! 32.Qg8+ Kd7
White's chances are preferable
already. 33.Qf7?]

**31...Kxe7 32.Qg7+ Ke6 33.Qxb7 Rc5
34.Qxa7 Rxd5 35.g3 Rg5**

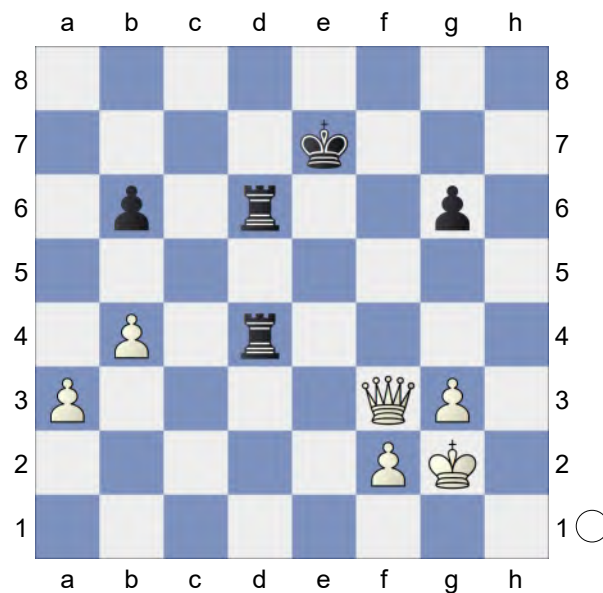


**The easiest way for Black was 36.Qg7
Kf5 37.Kg2 Rd2 38.Qc3= R2d3
39.Qb4 R3d4!? 40.Qb5+ R4d5=**

(Diagram)



41.Qe2 does not create problems:
**41...Rd2 42.Qf3+ Ke6 43.Qe4+ Kf6
44.b4 R2d4= 45.Qf3+! - stronger
45...Ke7**

**46.Qb7+ Ke6**

[46...Kf6 47.Qf3+!?, and now either
Ke7 48.Qe3+ Kf6 in both cases with
somewhat easier play. or 49.f4 Kf7
50.Qf3]

47.Qg7

[47.f4 White gets good chances of
seizing the initiative.]

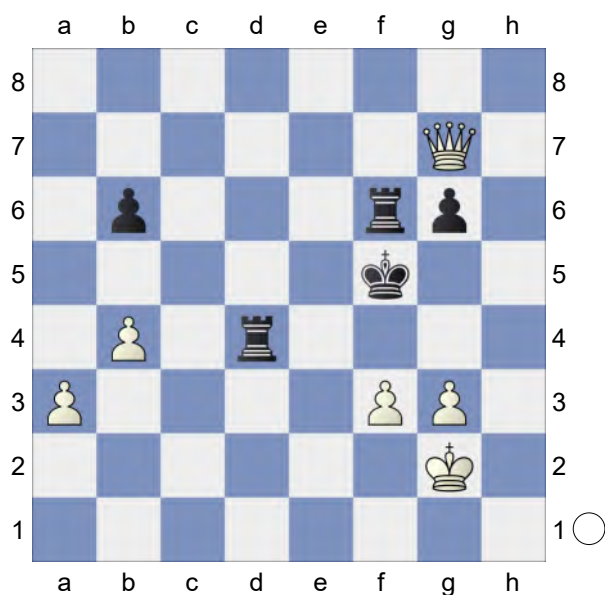
47...Kf5 48.f3 Rf6 49.Qh6±

[49.a4 Rxb4 Black has counterplay, but White possesses the pair of bishops and playing this position is somewhat easier for him. 50.Qe7! Rxa4 (50...Rb2+ 51.Kh3 Re6 52.g4+ Ke5 53.Qg7+≠ 0-1 (29) Wikner,A (2241)-Donchenko,A (2573) Stockholm 2016 After Kd6 54.Qxb2) 51.Qd7+ Ke5 52.Qxa4]

49...Rfd6

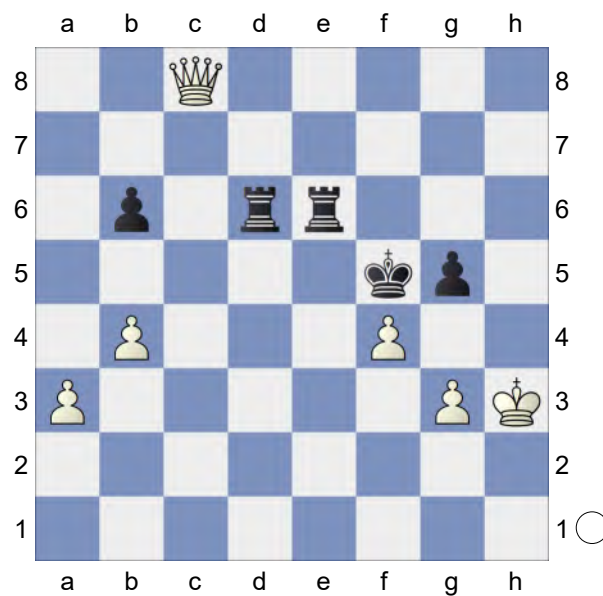
[49...Re6 50.Qf8+]

50.Qg7 Rf6

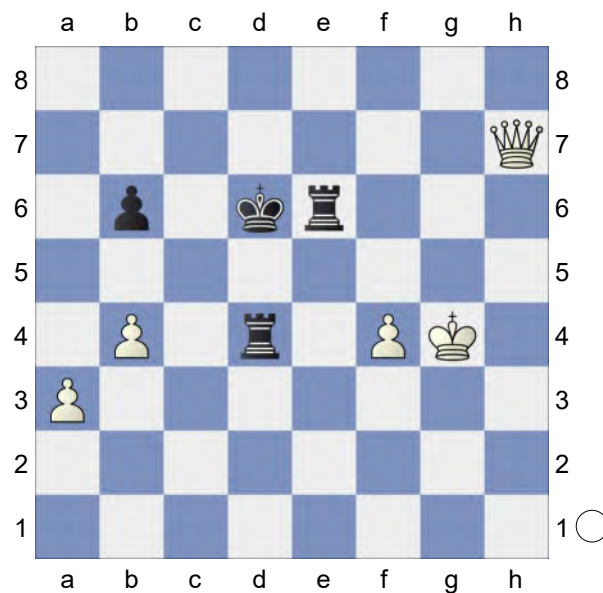


51.Qe7 Re6 52.Qf8+
gives a dangerous initiative to White:
52...Rf6 53.Qc8+↑ Re6 54.f4 Rdd6
55.Kh3 g5

(Diagram)

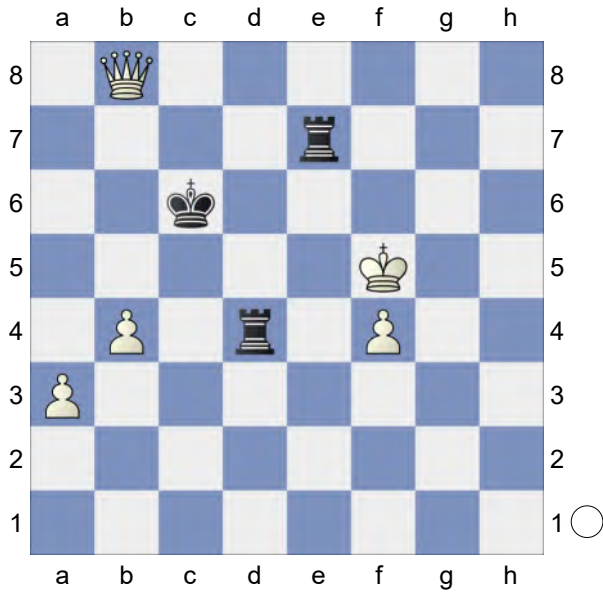


56.Qc2+ Kf6 57.Kg4!± The pawn sacrifice
57...gxf4 58.gxf4 Rd4
is not dangerous for Black: **59.Qf5+ Ke7**
60.Qh7+!= Kd6!

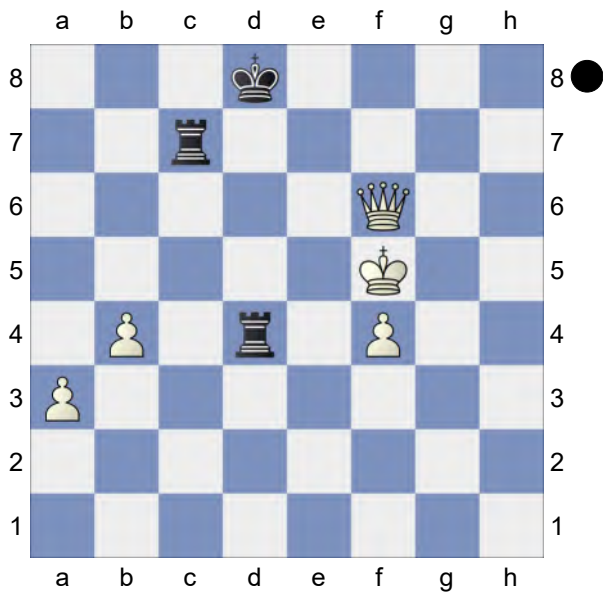


was more precise. **61.Qb7 Ree4!?**
62.Qxb6+ Kd7 63.Qb7+ Kd6 64.Qb8+
An original position has appeared.
64...Kc6 65.Kf5 Re7=

(Diagram)



with mutual chances in a complicated game. **66.Qc8+ Rc7 67.Qa6+ Kd7 68.Qe6+ Kd8 69.Qf6+**



$\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$

402

□ Lu,Shanglei

■ Wei,Yi

CHN-chT Daqing (2.3)

[Kuzmin, Alexey]

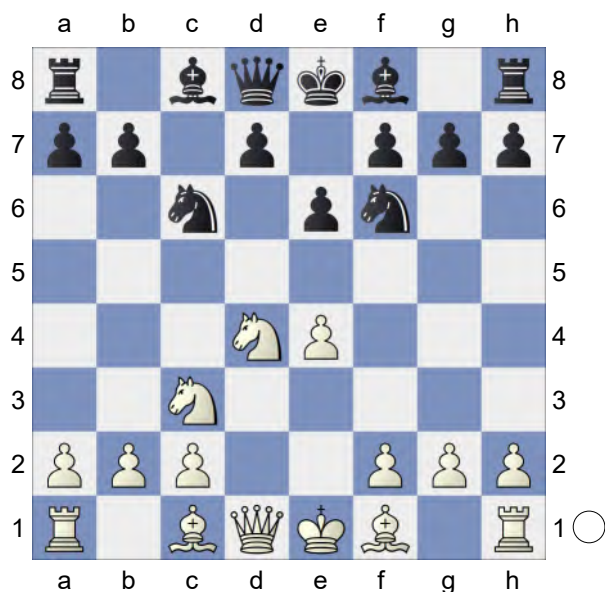
B45

2624

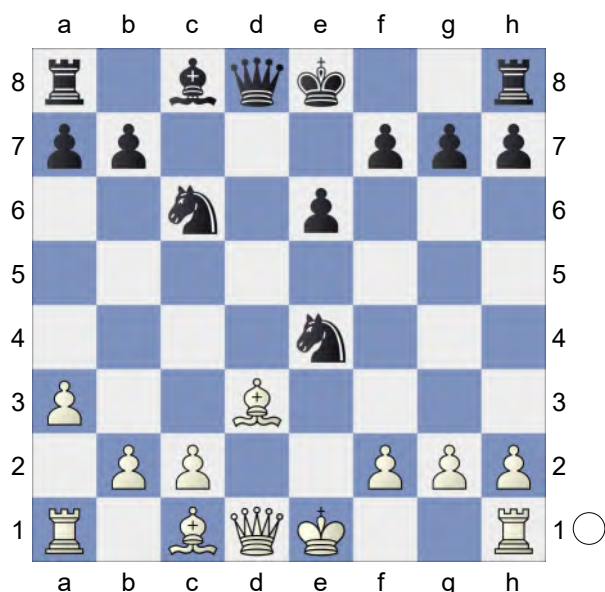
2741

20.06.2019

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6



6.Ndb5 Bb4 7.a3 Bxc3+! This is the
most accurate move order. 8.Nxc3 d5
9.Bd3 dxe4 10.Nxe4 Nxe4

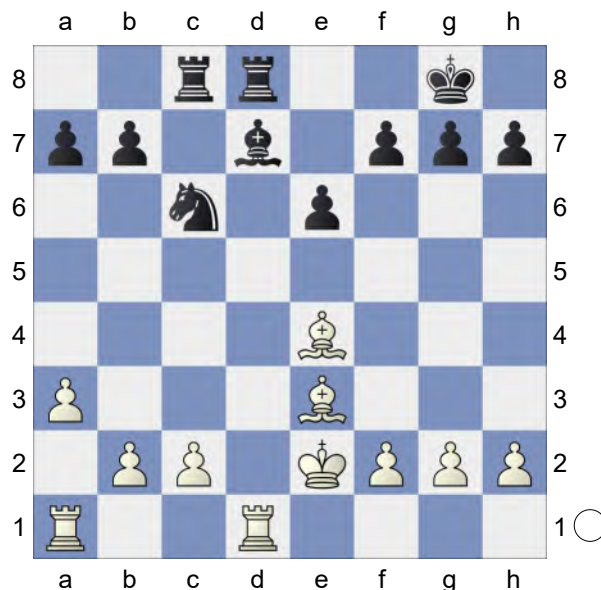


11.Bxe4

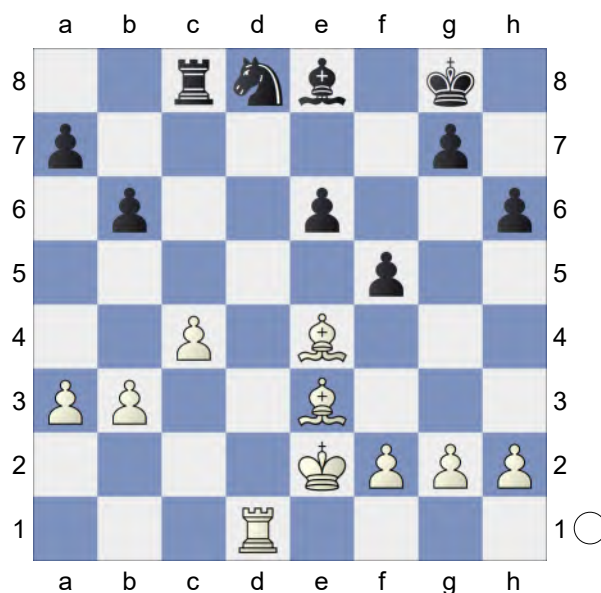
Qxd1+

12.Kxd1↑

An important resource. 12...Bd7 13.Be3
0-0 14.Ke2 Rac8 15.Rhd1 Rfd8

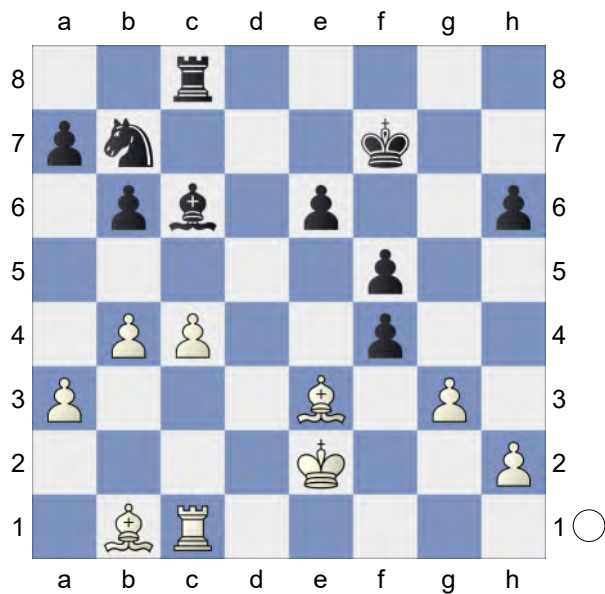


16.Rd2 b6 17.Rad1 Be8 18.Rxd8
The position is equal. 18...Nxd8 19.b3
h6 20.c4 f5

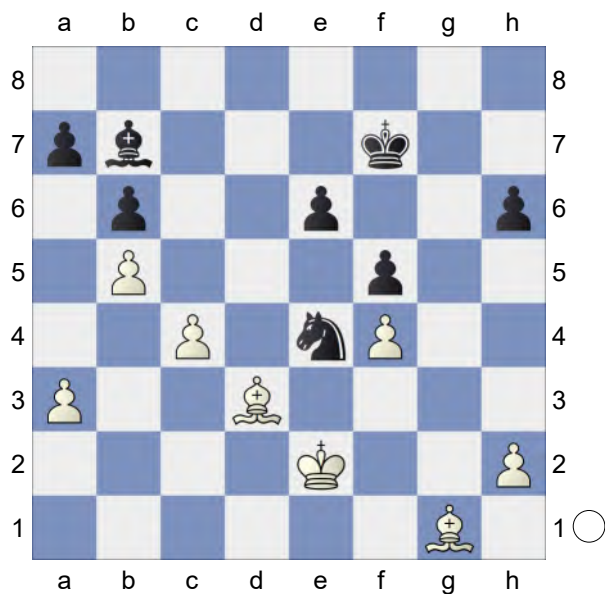


21.Bb1 Nb7 22.Rc1 Kf7 23.b4 g5
24.f4 Bc6 25.g3 gxf4

(Diagram)



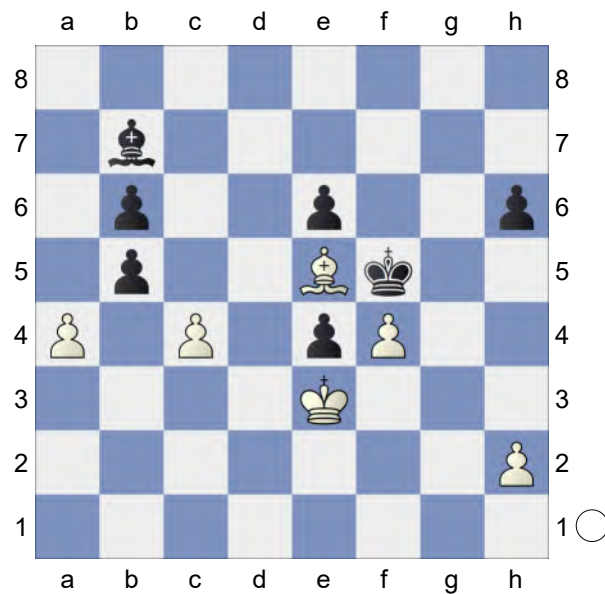
26.gxf4 Rg8 27.Rg1 Rxcg1 28.Bxg1 Nd6 29.Bd3 Ne4 30.b5 Bb7



31.Bxe4 fxe4 32.a4 Kf6 33.Bd4+ Kf5 34.Be5 a6

[34...Bc8 35.Ke3± The pawn sacrifice - Bd7 is interesting, however, it leads to unclear positions: 36.Bb8 a6 37.Bc7 (37.bxa6 Bc8 38.a7 Bb7)] **35.Ke3 axb5**

(Diagram)



The easiest way for Black was 36.axb5

[36.cxb5 Bd5]

36...Bc8 37.Bc7

[37.Kd4 Bd7 38.Bc7 Be8+- Lu,S - Ganguly,S Hamedan 2018 39.Bxb6 Kxf4±]

37...e5

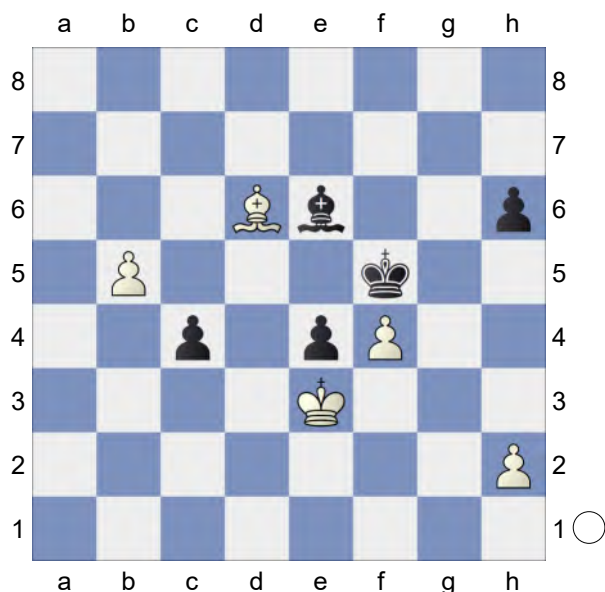
[37...Bd7 38.Bxb6 White gets good chances of seizing the initiative. e5 39.fxe5!?, and now either Kxe5 40.Bc7+ Kf5 in both cases with somewhat easier play. or 41.Kd4 h5 42.Bg3 Be8 43.Kc5! Bd7 44.b6 White's chances are preferable already. Bc8? 45.Kc6! Ke6 46.Kc7 Ba6 47.c5]

38.Bxe5=

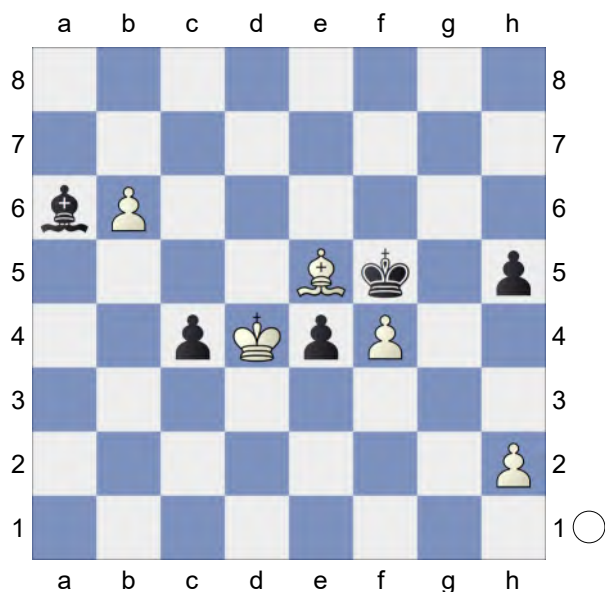
[38.fxe5 Be6 39.Kd4 e3 40.Bxb6 e2 41.Ba5 Bd7 42.Kd5 Black has counterplay, but White possesses the pair of bishops and playing this position is somewhat easier for him. (42.Kc5± 0-1 (29) Wikner,A (2241)-Donchenko,A (2573) Stockholm 2016; After 42.Bc3) 42...Be6+! 43.Kd6 Bxc4 44.b6 Ba6 45.e6 Kg6 46.e7 Kf7 47.Kd7]

38...Be6 39.c5

[39.Kd4 e3]
39...bxc5!? 40.Bd6 c4♞

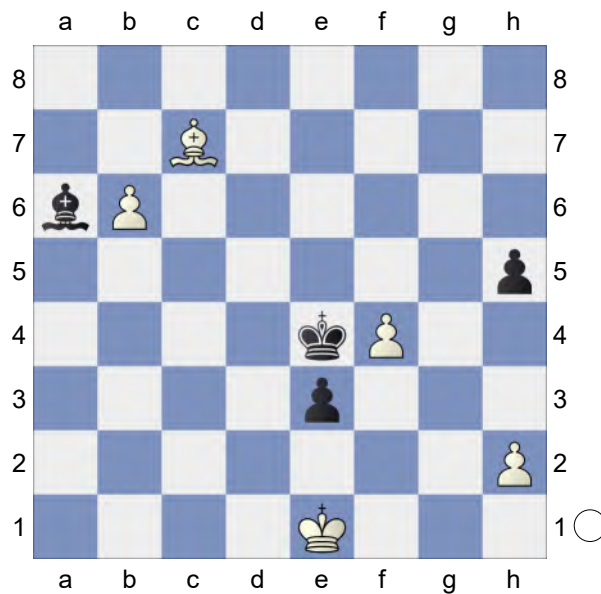


41.b6 does not create problems:
41...Bc8 42.Kd4 Ba6 43.Be5 h5
44.Ke3 Bb7= 45.Kd4! - stronger
45...Ba6

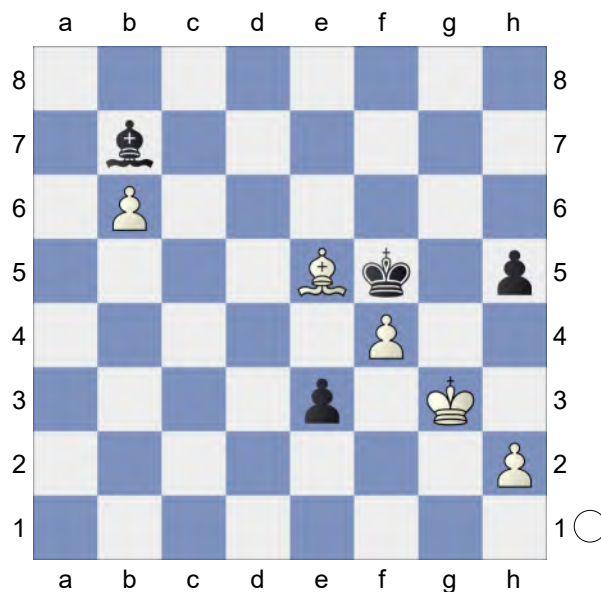


46.Bc7 c3 47.Kxc3 e3 48.Kc2 Ke4
49.Kd1± Bc8 50.Ke1 Ba6

(Diagram)

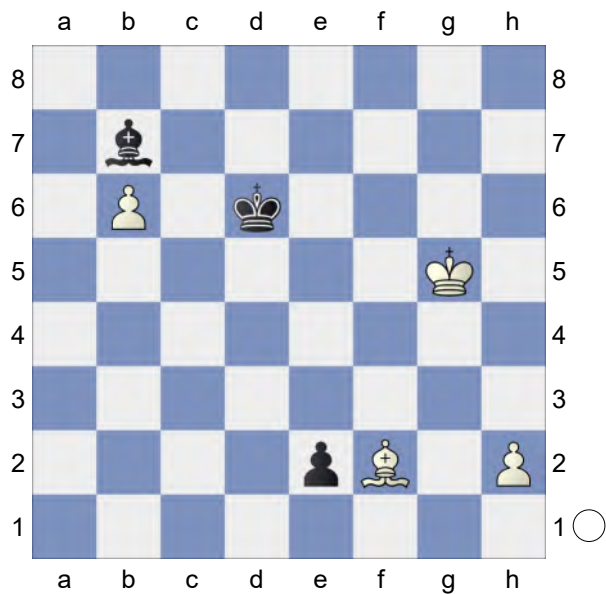


51.Bd6 Bc8 52.Kf1 gives a dangerous
 initiative to White: **52...Bb7 53.Be5↑**
Bc6 54.Kg2 Kf5+ 55.Kg3 Bb7



56.Bd4 h4+
 [56...Ke4♞ with mutual chances in a
 complicated game.]
57.Kxh4!± The pawn sacrifice 57...Kxf4
58.Kh5 e2 is not dangerous for Black:
59.Bf2 Ke5 60.Kg5!= Kd6!

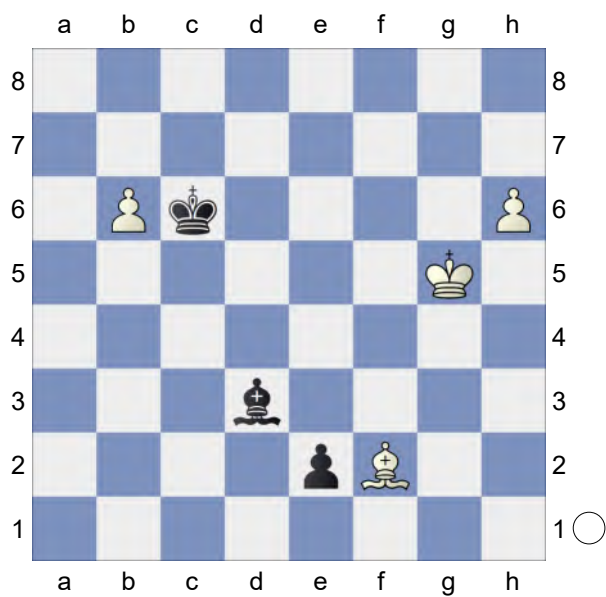
(Diagram)



was more precise. **61.h4 Kc6!?** **62.h5 Ba6**

[62...e1Q An original position has appeared. 63.Bxe1 Kxb6]

63.h6 Bd3



$\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$

454

□ Salem,AR Saleh

■ Wei,Yi

Wch U20 51st (4)

[Kuzmin,Alexey]

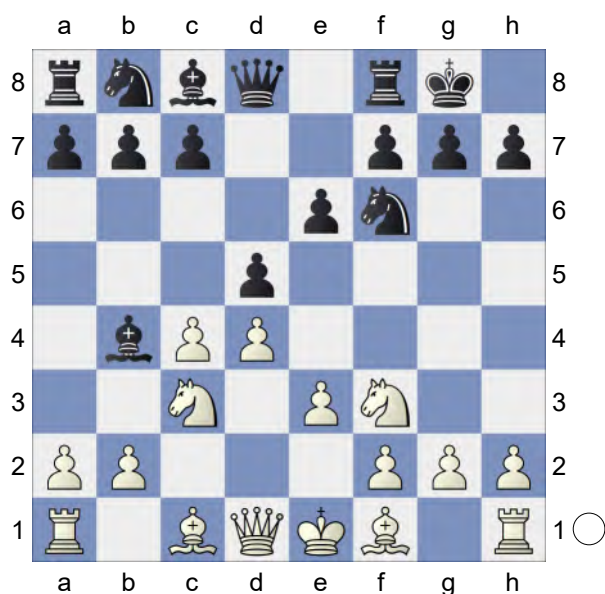
D37

2546

2418

05.08.2012

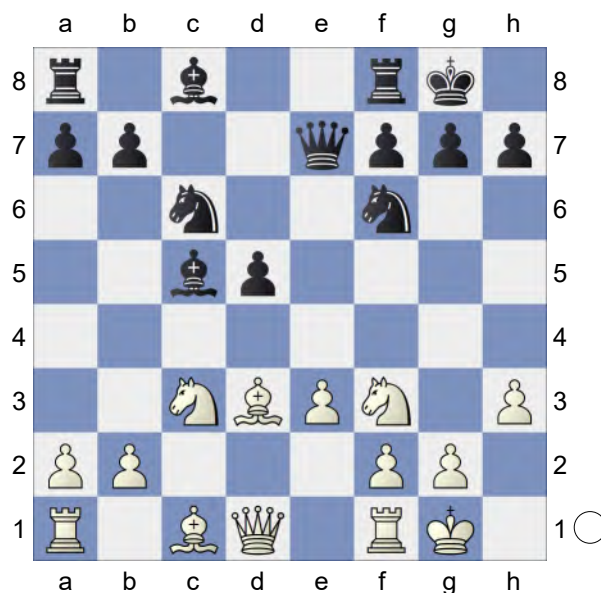
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nf3
Nf6 5.e3 0-0



6.Bd3 c5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.cxd5 exd5
9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.h3 Qe7

[Without preparation one cannot realise the breakthrough d5-d4: 10... d4? 11. ♘a4! 10...a6 11.b3 d4 leads to a simplifying of the position but doesn't solve the problems completely 12.exd4 Nxd4 13.Bb2 Bf5 (13...Ne6 14.Ne4 Nxe4 15.Bxe4 Qxd1 16.Rfxd1± The problem which Black has with the development of his light-squared bishop gives some advantage for White) 14.Nxd4 Bxd3 15.Qxd3 Qxd4 (15...Bxd4 16.Rad1 Be5 17.Qf5↑) 16.Qf3 Qb4 17.Na4 Be7 18.Rfe1± The symmetrical pawn structure still cannot guarantee equal chances for Black. The powerful bishop as well as the successful

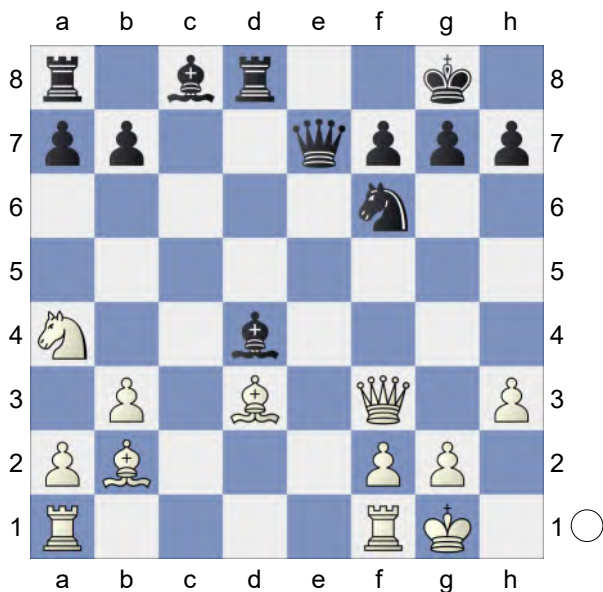
queen position provide an initiative for White.]



11.b3 Rd8 12.Bb2 d4 This is one more possibility for a breakthrough in the centre. 13.exd4 Nxd4 14.Na4 Nxf3+ 15.Qxf3 Bd4

[15...Bd6 also doesn't solve the problem: 16.Rfe1 Be6 17.Nc3 (A possible move is 17.Bc4!? with the idea of creating a weakness on e6) 17...Rac8 18.Ne4 Nxe4 19.Qxe4 g6 The forced weakness of the long diagonal allows White to keep the initiative 20.Rad1↑]

(Diagram)



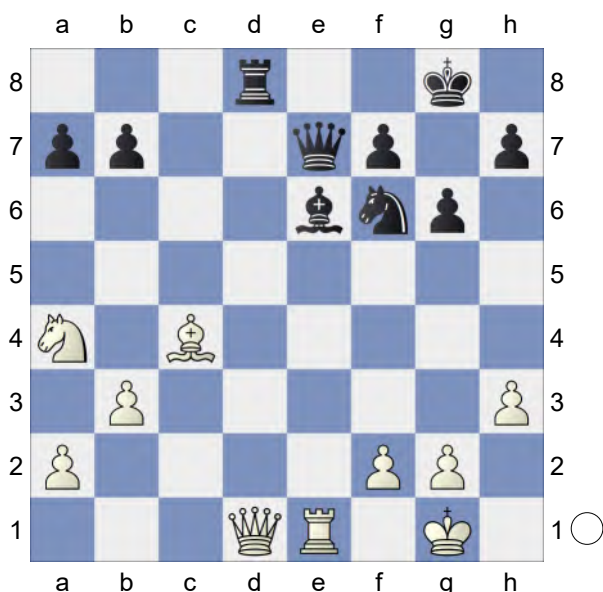
16.Bxd4 Rxd4 17.Rad1 g6

[Something similar to the game's pawn structure arises after 17...Rd8 18.Bc4 Be6 19.Bxe6 fxe6 20.Nc3±]

18.Rfe1

[Also possible is 18.Bc4!? Rxd1 19.Rxd1 Bf5 20.Nc3 and although Black has avoided the weakness appearing on e6 the active positioning of the white pieces provides White an initiative Re8 21.Nb5±]

18...Be6 19.Bc4 Rxd1 20.Qxd1 Rd8



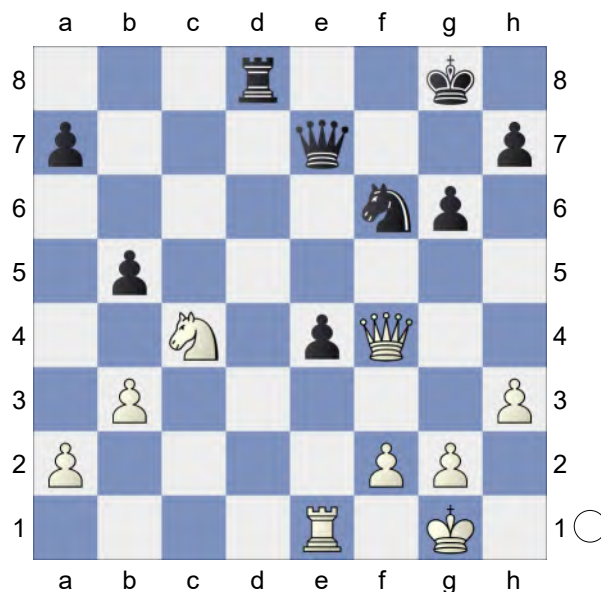
21.Qf3

b6

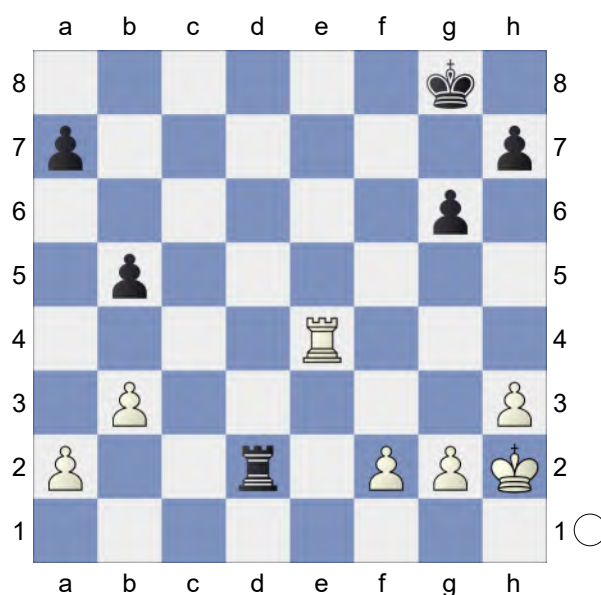
22.Bxe6

fxe6

White's chances are preferable, but Black can defend the position. **23.Nb2 e5 24.Nc4 e4 25.Qf4±** White has kept a minimal advantage but its realisation is extremely difficult. **25...b5**

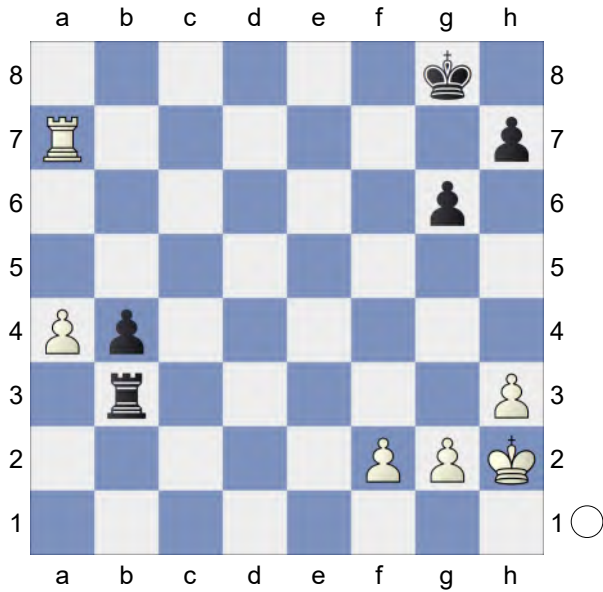


26.Nd2 Qd6 27.Qxd6 Rxd6 28.Nxe4 Nxe4 29.Rxe4 Rd1+ 30.Kh2 Rd2

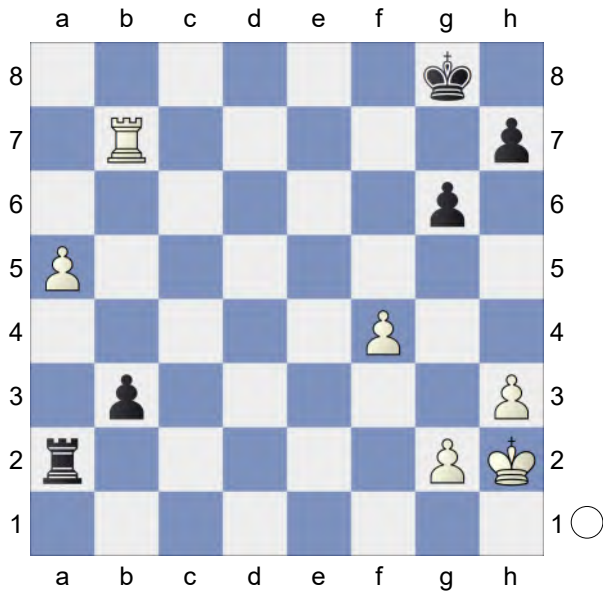


31.a4 Rb2 32.Re8+ Kf7 33.Re5 b4 34.Ra5 Rxb3 35.Rxa7+ Kg8

(Diagram)

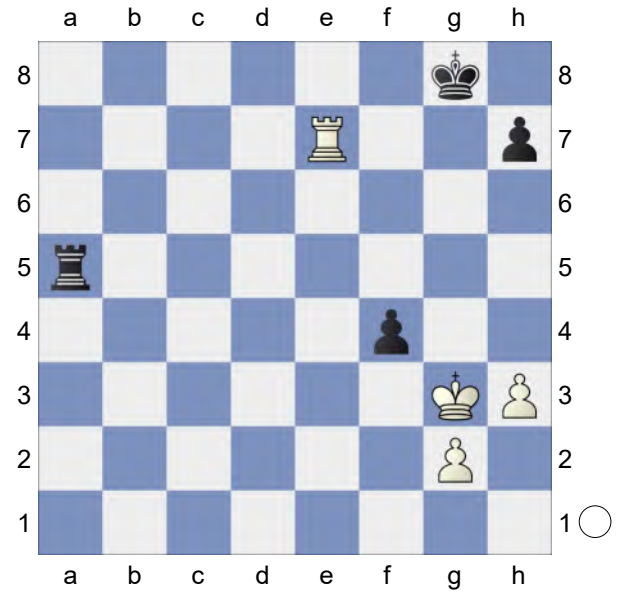


**36.Rb7 Rb2 37.Kg1 Rb1+ 38.Kh2
Rb2 39.f4 b3 40.a5 Ra2**

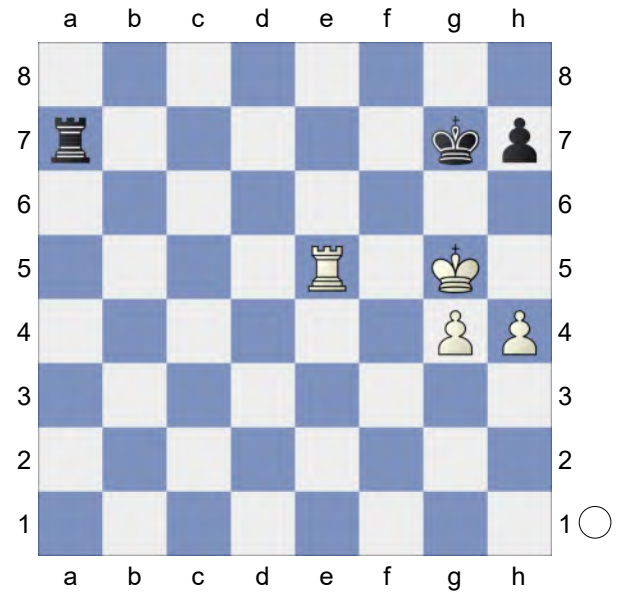


**41.Rxb3 Rxa5 42.Rb8+ Kg7 43.Rb7+
Kg8 44.Kg3 g5 45.Re7 gxf4+**

(Diagram)

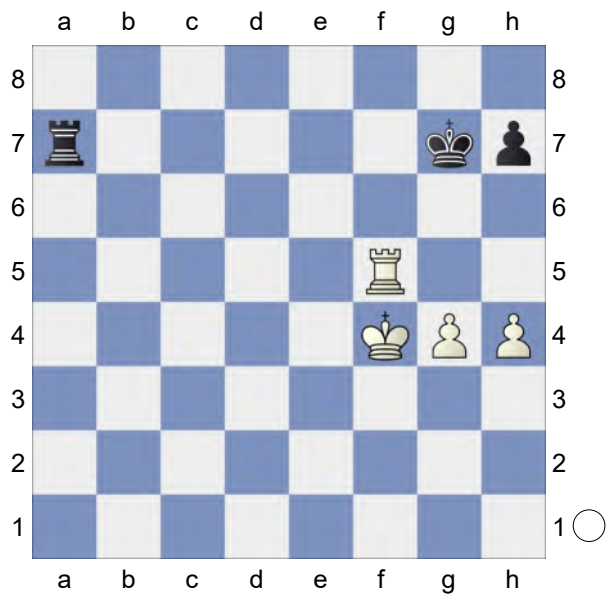


**46.Kxf4 Ra2 47.g4 Ra3 48.h4 Ra5
49.Re5 Ra7 50.Kg5 Kg7**

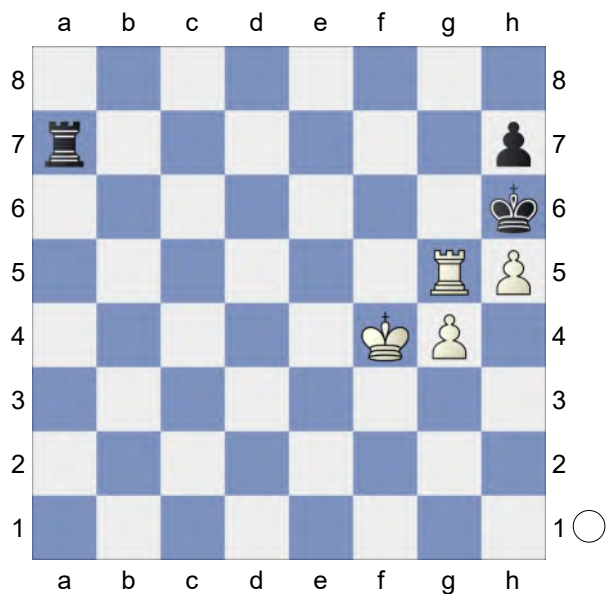


**51.Rb5 Rc7 52.Kf5 Rf7+ 53.Ke5
Re7+ 54.Kf4 Rf7+ 55.Rf5 Ra7**

(Diagram)

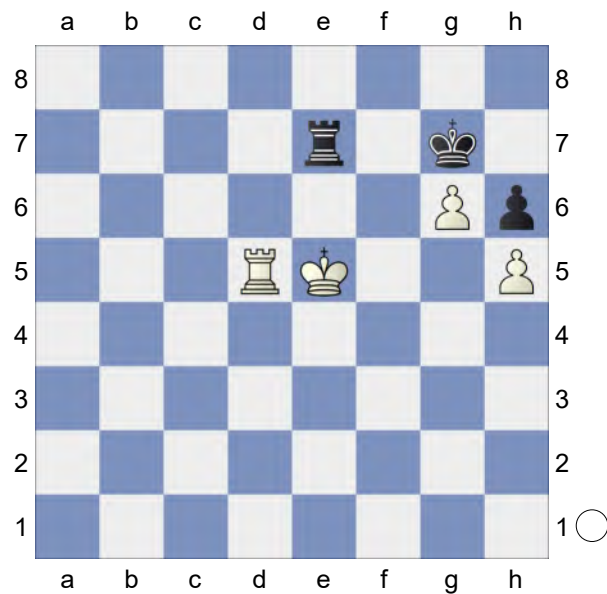


**56.Rg5+ Kh6 57.Re5 Kg7 58.h5 Rf7+
59.Rf5 Ra7 60.Rg5+ Kh6**

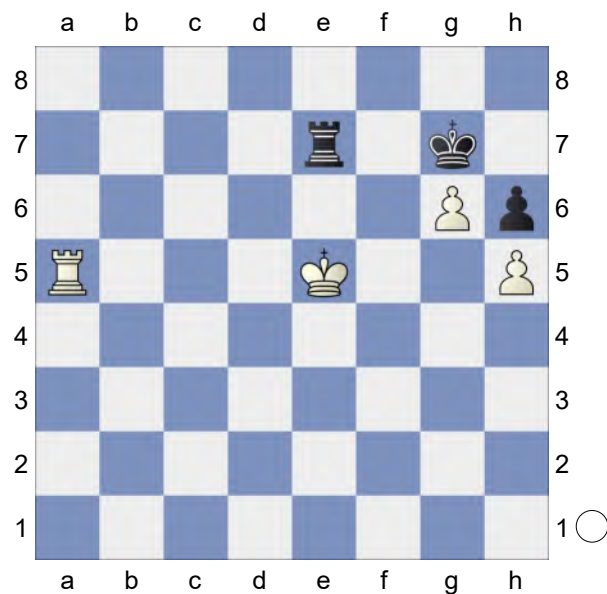


**61.Rb5 Kg7 62.g5 Rf7+ 63.Ke5 h6
64.g6 Ra7 65.Rd5 Re7+**

(Diagram)

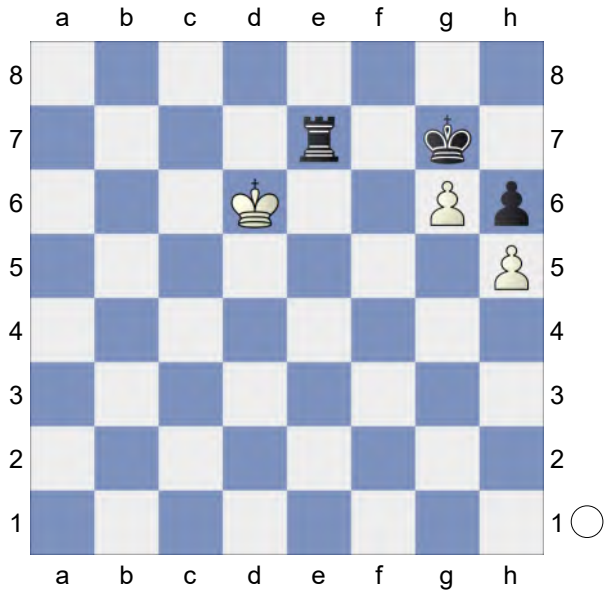


**66.Kf5 Ra7 67.Ke6 Ra6+ 68.Ke5 Ra7
69.Rb5 Rd7 70.Ra5 Re7+**

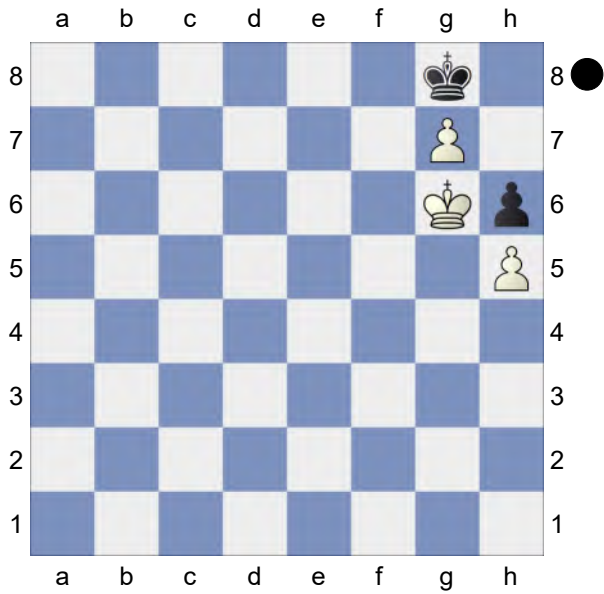


**71.Kd6 Rb7 72.Ra6 Kg8 73.Ra8+
Kg7 74.Re8 Ra7 75.Re7+ Rxe7**

(Diagram)



**76.Kxe7 Kg8 77.Kf6 Kf8 78.g7+ Kg8
79.Kg6**



1/2-1/2

183

□ Wei,Yi

■ Supi,Luis Paulo

FIDE World Cup (2.1)

[Leitao,Rafael]

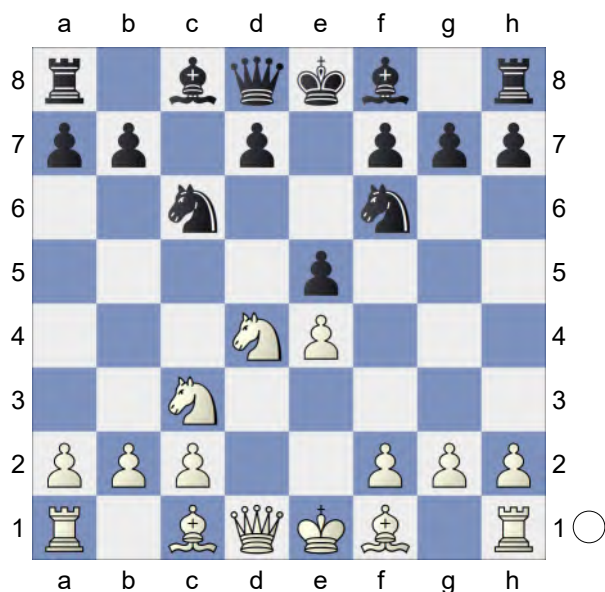
B33

2726

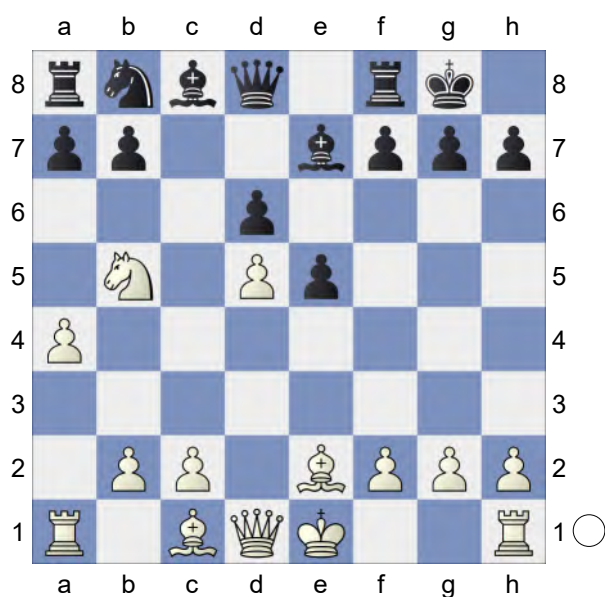
2582

02.08.2023

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 e5

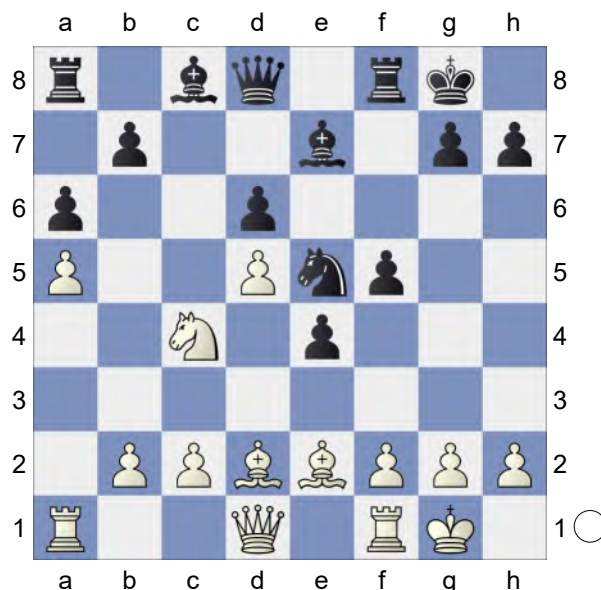


6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Nb8
9.a4 Be7 10.Be2 0-0

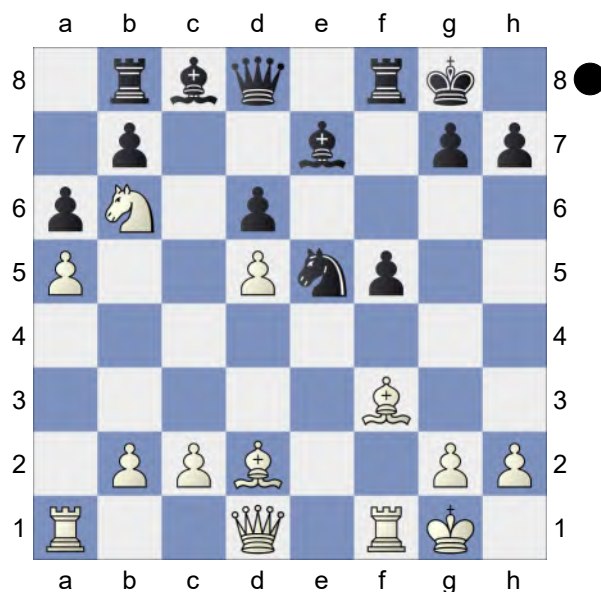


11.Bd2 Nd7 is now debated instead of
11...f5. wird nun anstelle von 11...f5

diskutiert. 12.a5 f5 13.0-0 a6
13...f4 is not played anymore. 13...f4
wird inzwischen seltener gespielt.
14.Na3 e4 15.Nc4 Ne5

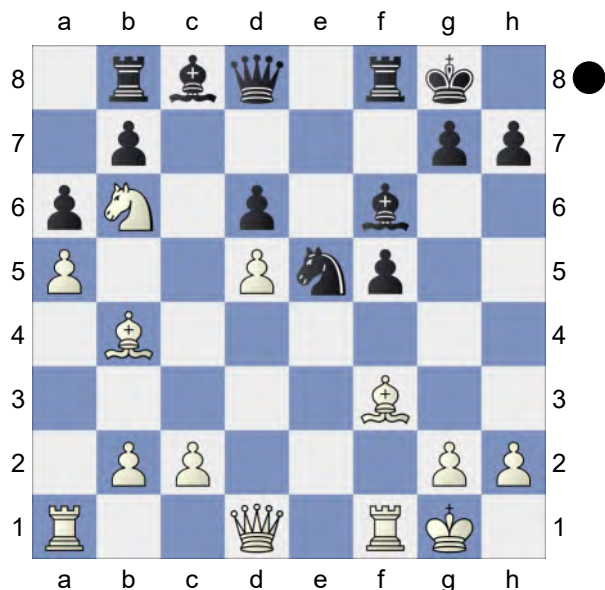


16.Nb6 Rb8 17.f4 exf3 18.Bxf3
Diagram



18...Bf6!
[18...g5?! - 138/67]
19.Bb4!? Diagram

(Diagram)



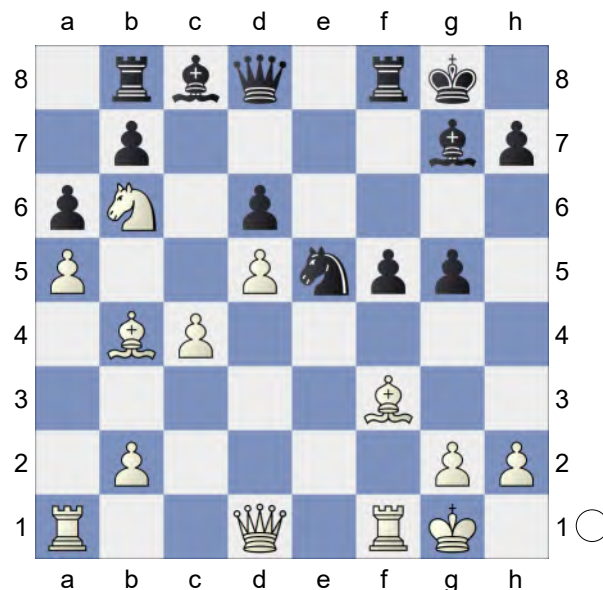
An interesting side line. Eine interessante Nebenvariante. **19...g5N**

[Vorgänger: 19...f4!∞ 20.Qd2 Bf5 21.Rae1 g5 22.b3 Bg7 23.Be4 Qe7 24.Bc3 Qf7 25.Bxe5 Bxe5 26.Qd3 Rbe8 27.Bxf5 Qxf5 28.Qxf5 Rxf5 29.Re4 h5 30.Nc4 Re7 31.Kf2 ½-½ Quanzaah,E (2166)-Karpanov,V (2195) GER CCM-E/03-E email 2019]
[19...Nxf3+?! 20.Qxf3 Bxb2 21.Rae1±]

20.c4 Bg7?

[20...f4! 21.Be4 Ng4! 22.Nxc8 Rxc8 23.Qxg4 Rxc4≠]

(Diagram)



21.Qd2

[21.Be2! f4 22.c5! g4 23.cxd6 Rf7 24.Nxc8 Qxc8 25.Bc3 h5 26.Ra4! Qf8 27.Re4 Qxd6 28.Kh1±]

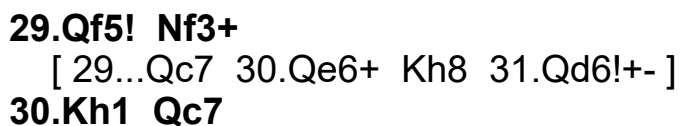
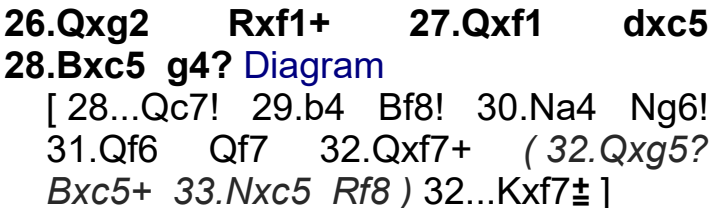
21...f4 22.Be4 Bf5 23.Rae1?

[23.Bxf5! Rxf5 24.c5±]

23...Bxe4 24.Rxe4 f3! 25.c5 fxg2?!

[25...Qf6! 26.cxd6 Qg6 27.Ree1 fxg2 28.Qxg2 Nd3 29.d7 Bd4+ (29...Nxb4? 30.Nc8 Rbxc8 31.dxc8Q Rxc8 32.Qg4!+-) 30.Kh1 Rxf1+ 31.Rxf1 Nf2+ 32.Rxf2 Bxf2 33.Qxf2 Qe4+ 34.Kg1 Qxb4=]

(Diagram)



31.d6 Qc6 32.Nc8!?
[32.Nd5 Kh8 33.d7+- (33.Nf6+-)]

32...Rxc8
[32...Qxc8 33.d7+- (33.Qxc8+ Rxc8 34.d7+-)]

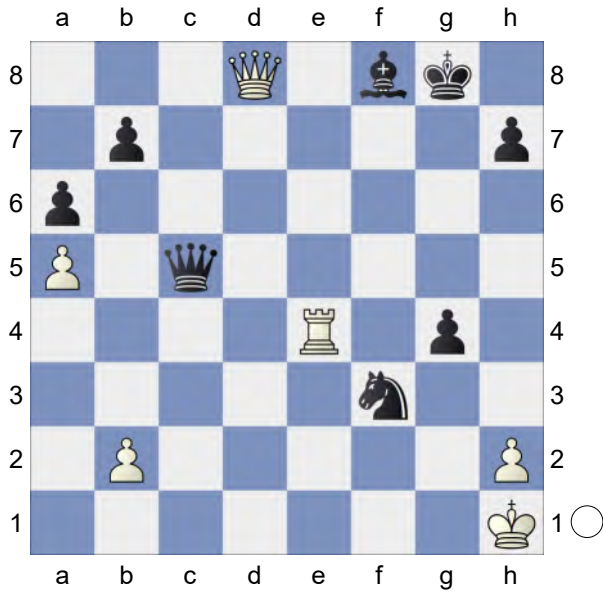
33.d7+-
[33.Qe6+ Kh8 34.d7 Qxe6 35.Rxe6 Rg8 36.Bf8!! Rxf8 37.Re8+-]

33...Rf8
[33...Rd8 34.Re8+! Rxe8 35.Qd5+! Qxd5 36.dxe8Q+ Bf8 37.Qxf8# #]

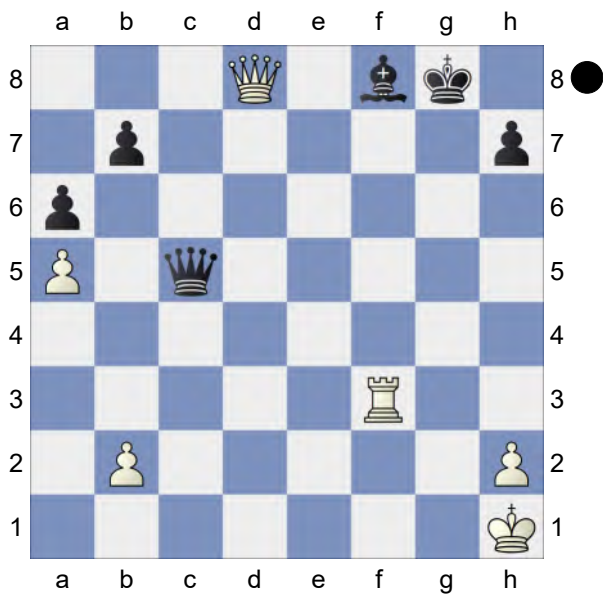
34.Qxf8+
[34.Qe6+ Qxe6 35.Rxe6]

34...Bxf8 35.d8Q Qxc5

(Diagram)



36.Rxg4+ Kf7 37.Rf4+ Kg8 38.Rxf3



1-0

80

A17

□ Wei, Yi

2743

■ So, Wesley

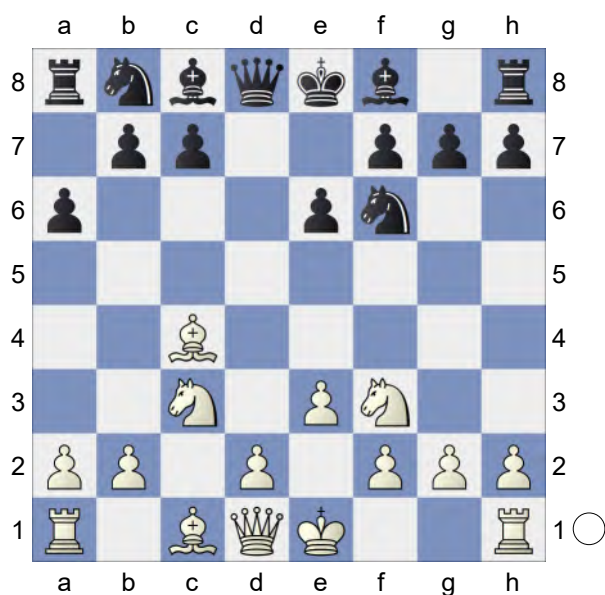
2792

Tata Steel-A 80th (6)

19.01.2018

[Marin, Mihail]

1.Nf3 Marin, M Marin, M Marin, M: 'Marin, Mihail Marin, Mihail: 'Marin, M' **1...d5**
2.e3 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.Bxc4 a6



6.b3!? Marin, M: 'An extremely rare way of avoiding the Queen's Gambit Accepted.' An extremely rare way of avoiding the Queen's Gambit Accepted. Marin, M: 'Marin, Mihail: 'An extremely rare way of avoiding the Queen's Gambit Accepted.' **6...c5**

[Marin, M: 'In the only other game played at grandmaster level Black played more carelessly:' In the only other game played at grandmaster level Black played more carelessly: Marin, M: 'Marin, Mihail: 'In the only other game played at grandmaster level Black played more carelessly:' **6...Be7 7.Bb2 0-0 8.Be2 c5 9.Rg1** Marin, M: 'White does more or less the

same as in our main game.' White does more or less the same as in our main game. Marin, M: 'Marin, Mihail: 'White does more or less the same as in our main game.' **b5 10.g4 b4?!** Marin, M: 'an unnecessary weakening.' an unnecessary weakening. Marin, M: 'Marin, Mihail: 'an unnecessary weakening.' **11.Na4 Bb7 12.g5 Nd5 13.Qc2 Nd7 Khismatullin, D (2628)-Grachev, B (2645) Sochi 2017 (0-1, 99) 14.h4 N5b6 15.Nxb6 Qxb6 16.Nh2±]**

7.Bb2 Nc6 8.Qc2 Be7 9.a3 b6 Marin, M: 'A hyper cautious move.' A hyper cautious move. Marin, M: 'Marin, Mihail: 'A hyper cautious move.'

[Marin, M: 'But Black could have played the natural' But Black could have played the natural Marin, M: 'Marin, Mihail: 'But Black could have played the natural' **9...b5 10.Be2 Bb7** Marin, M: 'for instance:' for instance: Marin, M: 'Marin, Mihail: 'for instance:' **11.a4 Nb4 (11...b4 12.Nb1 0-0 13.d3 Nd5 14.Nbd2 Nc3 15.Rc1 Rc8 16.Bxc3 bxc3 17.Qxc3 Nb4 18.Rd1 Bf6 19.Qc4** Marin, M: 'offers Black active play, but probably not entirely adequate compensation for the pawn. The fact is that White is quite solid on the light squares.' offers Black active play, but probably not entirely adequate compensation for the pawn. The fact is that White is quite solid on the light squares. Marin, M: 'Marin, Mihail: 'offers Black active play, but probably not entirely adequate compensation for the pawn. The fact is that White is quite solid on the light squares.' **12.Qb1 bxa4 13.Rxa4 0-0** Marin, M: 'with satisfactory play.' with satisfactory

play. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'with satisfactory play."]

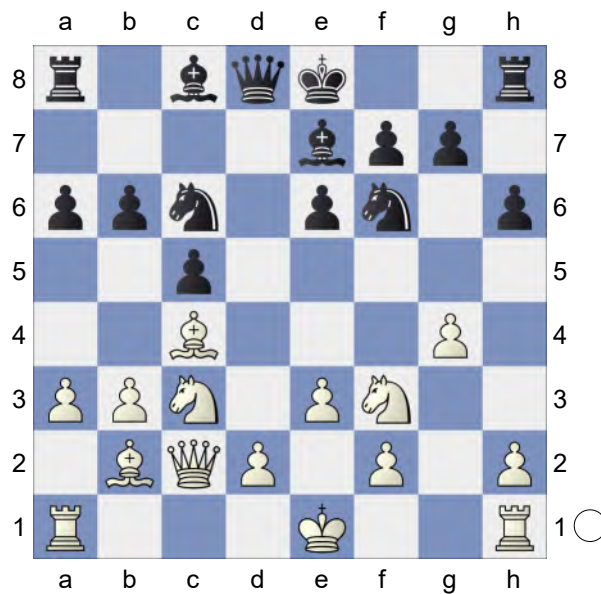
10.g4 Marin,M: 'Trying to speed up the attack.' Trying to speed up the attack. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'Trying to speed up the attack."

[10.Rg1 Marin,M: 'may simply transpose.' may simply transpose. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'may simply transpose."]

10...h6

[10...Nxg4 Marin,M: 'deserves mentioning.' deserves mentioning. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'deserves mentioning.'" 11.Rg1 (11.Qe4 Nf6 12.Qxc6+ Bd7 13.Qb7 Rb8 14.Qxa6 Ra8= Marin,M: 'with perpetual harassing of the queen.' with perpetual harassing of the queen. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'with perpetual harassing of the queen.') 11...f5 12.h3 Nce5 13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.Rxg7 Bf6 15.Rg3 b5 16.Be2 Bb7 17.0-0-0 Marin,M: 'Black is active and has more space, but his king is a bit unsafe. Whit's play may be just easier in the least of the cases.' Black is active and has more space, but his king is a bit unsafe. Whit's play may be just easier in the least of the cases. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'Black is active and has more space, but his king is a bit unsafe. Whit's play may be just easier in the least of the cases.'"]

(Diagram)



Marin,M: 'Again a solid approach.' Again a solid approach. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'Again a solid approach.'" **11.Rg1 b5**

[Marin,M: 'Basically losing a tempo. Black might have feared leaving the bishop on c4 due to' Basically losing a tempo. Black might have feared leaving the bishop on c4 due to Marin, M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'Basically losing a tempo. Black might have feared leaving the bishop on c4 due to' 11...Bb7 12.g5 hxg5 13.Nxg5 Rh6 14.Bxe6!? fxe6 15.Nxe6 Marin,M: 'but things are not entirely clear as the king can run away from the dangerous area:' but things are not entirely clear as the king can run away from the dangerous area: Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'but things are not entirely clear as the king can run away from the dangerous area:' Qd7 16.Nxg7+ Kd8]

12.Be2 Bb7 13.g5 hxg5 14.Nxg5 Rh6 [14...Rxh2 Marin,M: 'is too risky:' is too risky: Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'is too risky:' 15.Nxf7! Kxf7 16.Qg6+ Kf8 17.Ne4 Ne8 18.Bxg7+ Nxg7 19.Rc1!?± Marin,M: 'The g7-knight is

not running anywhere so White opens a new front along the c-file. The c5-pawn is in danger.' The g7-knight is not running anywhere so White opens a new front along the c-file. The c5-pawn is in danger. Marin,M: 'Marin, Mihail: 'The g7-knight is not running anywhere so White opens a new front along the c-file. The c5-pawn is in danger.' Nd4!? 20.Qxg7+ Ke8 21.Qg6+ Kd7 22.exd4 Qg8 (22...Qf8 23.Qg3!+-) 23.Qxg8 Rxc8 24.Rxc8 Rh1+ 25.Bf1 Bxe4 26.f3 Bxf3 27.Kf2 Be4 28.dxc5 Marin,M: 'and White should win.' and White should win. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'and White should win.'"]

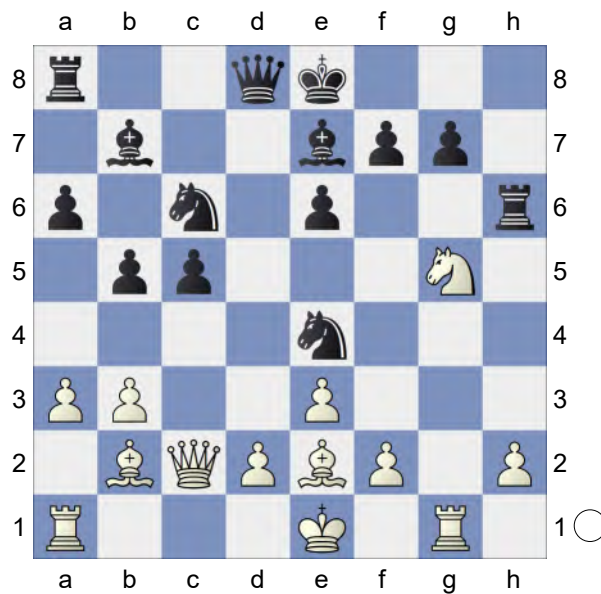
15.Nce4

[15.Bf3 Rc8]

15...Nxe4

[15...Na5!? 16.d3 (16.b4 cxb4 17.axb4 Nc6 18.Nxf6+ gxf6 19.Ne4 Kf8 Marin,M: 'leaves White's pawns hanging while the black king is relatively safe.' leaves White's pawns hanging while the black king is relatively safe. Marin,M: 'Marin, Mihail: 'leaves White's pawns hanging while the black king is relatively safe.') 16...Rc8 Marin,M: 'with certain counterplay.' with certain counterplay. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'with certain counterplay.'"]

(Diagram)



Marin,M: 'This slightly helps White developing the initiative.' This slightly helps White developing the initiative. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'This slightly helps White developing the initiative.' **16.Nxe4 g6?! Marin,M: 'Too passive.' Too passive. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'Too passive.'**

[16...Qd5!? 17.Bxg7 Rxh2 18.Nf6+ Bxf6 19.Bxf6 Rc8 Marin,M: 'With his king facing problems allowing the rook connection (one could not think of castling long) White cannot make use of his bishop pair at its best.' With his king facing problems allowing the rook connection (one could not think of castling long) White cannot make use of his bishop pair at its best. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'With his king facing problems allowing the rook connection (one could not think of castling long) White cannot make use of his bishop pair at its best.'"]

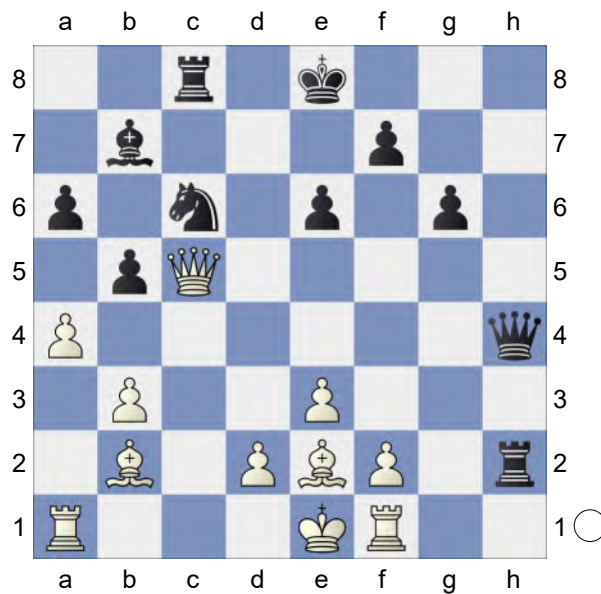
17.Nxc5 Bxc5 18.Qxc5 Rxh2 19.a4↑ Marin,M: 'Instead of counterplay, Black only has queenside problems now.' Instead of counterplay, Black only has queenside problems now. Marin,M:

'Marin,Mihail: 'Instead of counterplay, Black only has queenside problems now. "
19...Qh4? Marin,M: 'A desperate counterattack, which mainly weakens his own king's defence.' A desperate counterattack, which mainly weakens his own king's defence. Marin,M: 'Marin, Mihail: 'A desperate counterattack, which mainly weakens his own king's defence.'"

[19...Rc8!? 20.Bg7 Qe7 (20...Ne7 21.Qe5±) 21.Qxe7+ Kxe7 22.Bb2 (22.axb5 axb5 23.Bf3 f6 24.Rxg6 Kf7 25.Rh6 Rxh6 26.Bxh6 Rh8 27.Rc1 Rxh6 28.Bxc6 Bxc6 29.Rxc6 Rh1+ 30.Ke2 Rb1 31.Rc3 b4=) 22...b4 23.Rc1 Marin,M: 'with some vague hopes for an encgame advantage due to his bishops. The problem is that Black is active and the b3-pawn causes some worries.' with some vague hopes for an encgame advantage due to his bishops. The problem is that Black is active and the b3-pawn causes some worries. Marin, M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'with some vague hopes for an encgame advantage due to his bishops. The problem is that Black is active and the b3-pawn causes some worries.']

20.Rf1 Rc8

(Diagram)



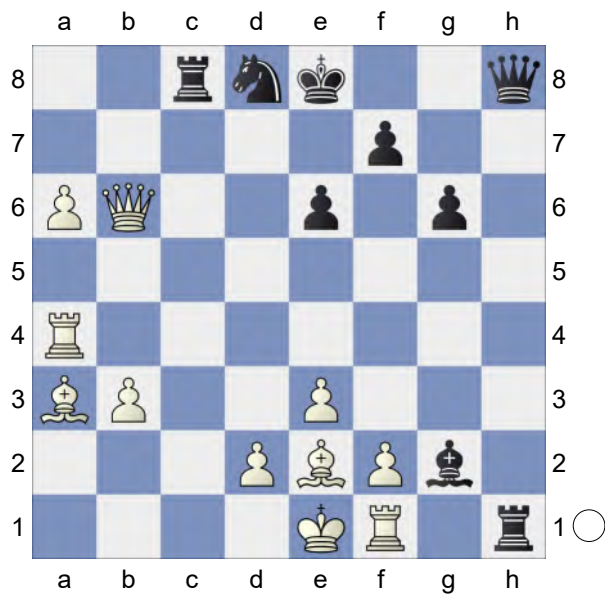
21.Qb6 Marin,M: 'At this point White's initiative should be decisive.' At this point White's initiative should be decisive. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'At this point White's initiative should be decisive.'"
21...Nd8 22.axb5 Bg2 23.Ra4 Qh3 24.Ba3 Marin,M: 'White starts missing simple wins.' White starts missing simple wins. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'White starts missing simple wins.'"

[24.bxa6 Bxf1 25.Bxf1 Rh1 26.Qb5+ Nc6 27.a7+-]

24...Rh1 25.bxa6 Qh8

[25...Bxf1 26.Qb5+ Nc6 27.Bxf1+-]

(Diagram)



26.Rd4? Marin,M: 'Throwing away the win by just one stroke.' Throwing away the win by just one stroke. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'Throwing away the win by just one stroke.'

[26.d4+-]

[26.Qb5+ Nc6 27.d4+-]

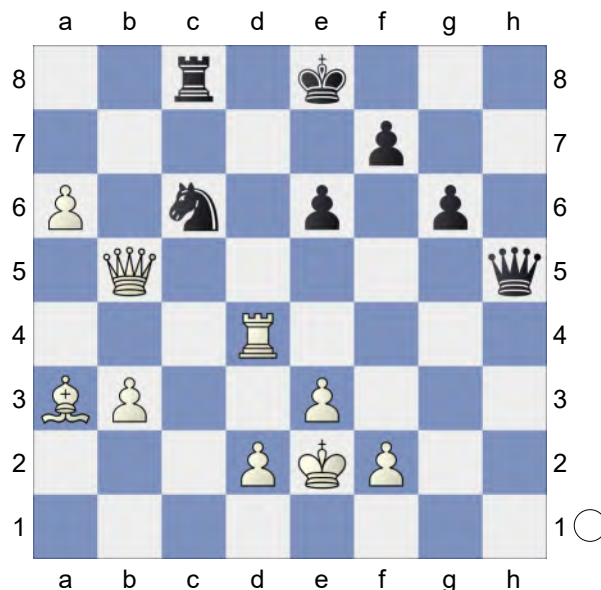
26...Bxf1 27.Qb5+? Marin,M: 'White could have still forced a draw in at least two ways.' White could have still forced a draw in at least two ways. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'White could have still forced a draw in at least two ways.'

[27.Rxd8+ Rxd8 28.Qc6+ Rd7 29.Qc8+ Rd8=]

[27.Bxf1 Nc6 28.a7 Nxd4 29.exd4 Rxf1+ 30.Kxf1 Qh1+ 31.Ke2 Qe4+ 32.Kd1 Qd3 33.Bc5 Qb1+ Marin,M: 'and this time it is Black who has the perpetual.' and this time it is Black who has the perpetual. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'and this time it is Black who has the perpetual.']

27...Nc6 28.Bxf1 Rxf1+! Marin,M: 'The start of a simple combination winning material.' The start of a simple combination winning material. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'The start of a simple

combination winning material." **29.Kxf1 Qh1+ 30.Ke2 Qh5+**



31.Qxh5 Nxd4+! 32.exd4 gxh5

Marin,M: 'The position is not easy to assess but White's connected pawns are not dangerous so Black can hope stopping them and winning one of them, with reasonable winnin chances.' The position is not easy to assess but White's connected pawns are not dangerous so Black can hope stopping them and winning one of them, with reasonable winnin chances. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'The position is not easy to assess but White's connected pawns are not dangerous so Black can hope stopping them and winning one of them, with reasonable winnin chances.' **33.b4**

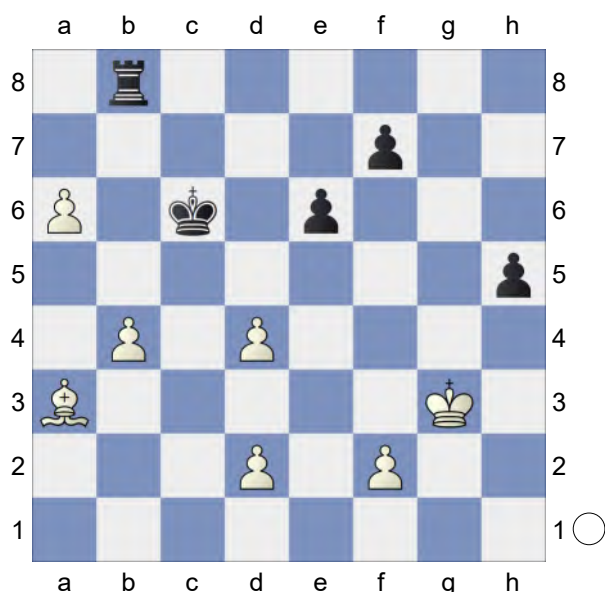
[33.a7 Kd7 34.Bc5 Kc6 35.Kf1 Rg8!-+ Marin,M: 'followed by the advance of the h-pawn.'

Marin,M: 'followed by the advance of the h-pawn. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'followed by the advance of the h-pawn.']

33...Rb8 34.Kf3 Kd7 35.Kg3 Kc6

[Marin,M: 'It would have been better to activate the rook with' It would have been better to activate the rook

with Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'It would have been better to activate the rook with" 35...Rb6! 36.b5 Rxb5 37.Bc5 Kc6 38.a7 Kb7 Marin,M: 'with similar play as in the final phase of the game. ' with similar play as in the final phase of the game. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'with similar play as in the final phase of the game.'"]



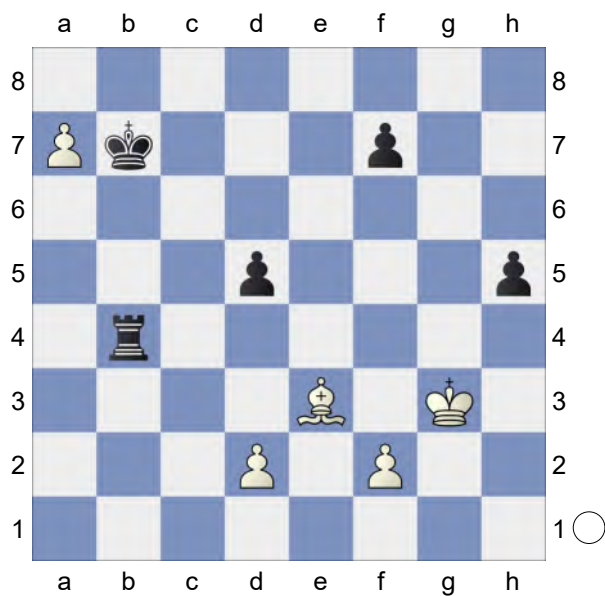
36.b5+?

[Marin,M: 'Black in vain forces Black into activating his rook. The best defence was' Black in vain forces Black into activating his rook. The best defence was Marin,M: 'Marin, Mihail: 'Black in vain forces Black into activating his rook. The best defence was" 36.a7 Ra8 37.b5+ Kxb5 38.Bc5 Rh8 39.Kh4 Kc6 40.Be7 Kb7 41.Bc5 Rh6 42.Kg5 Rh7 43.Kh4 Rh8 Marin,M: 'White will soon land in zugzwang so he should change the defensive system before advancing his pawns from the second rank.' White will soon land in zugzwang so he should change the defensive system before advancing

his pawns from the second rank. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'White will soon land in zugzwang so he should change the defensive system before advancing his pawns from the second rank.'" 44.d5 exd5 45.f4 (Marin,M: 'Probably the only saving setup. If' Probably the only saving setup. If Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'Probably the only saving setup. If" 45.Bd4 Re8 46.Kxh5 Re4 47.Bc5 Rc4 48.Bb6 d4 49.Kg5 Ra4 Marin,M: 'or' or Marin, M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'or"; 45.Be3 Rd8 46.Kxh5 d4 47.Bg5 Rd6 48.Kg4 Kxa7 Marin,M: 'Black should win.' Black should win. Marin,M: 'Marin, Mihail: 'Black should win.'" 45...Rc8 46.Be3 Rc4 47.Kxh5 d4 48.Bf2 d3 49.Kg4 Re4 50.Kf3 Re2 51.Be3 Marin,M: 'This defensive system seems reliable enough.' This defensive system seems reliable enough. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'This defensive system seems reliable enough.'" f5 52.Bd4 Rxd2 53.Ke3 Rd1 54.Bc5 Ka8 55.Bd4 Marin,M: 'with a draw since' with a draw since Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'with a draw since" Rf1 56.Kxd3 Rxf4 Marin,M: 'does not offer Black any constructive idea.' does not offer Black any constructive idea. Marin,M: 'Marin, Mihail: 'does not offer Black any constructive idea.'"]

36...Rxb5 37.Bc5 Rb2 38.a7 Kb7 39.d5 Marin,M: 'Too late.' Too late. Marin, M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'Too late.'" **39...exd5 40.Be3 Rb4**

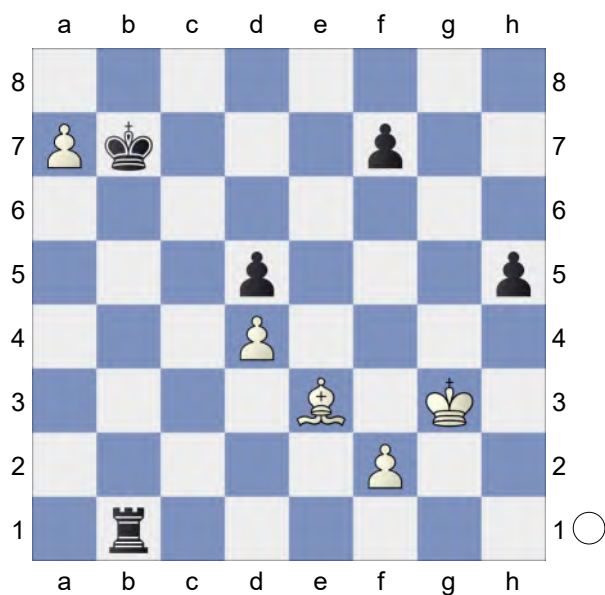
(Diagram)



41.d4

[41.Bc5 Rb3+ 42.f3 Rd3 43.Be3
d4-+]

41...Rb1



Marin,M: 'White cannot win the h-pawn but will lose his a-pawn so he resigned.'
White cannot win the h-pawn but will lose his a-pawn so he resigned. Marin,
M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'White cannot win the h-pawn but will lose his a-pawn so he resigned.'"

0-1

351

□ Wei, Yi

■ L'Ami, Erwin

Tata Steel-B 77th (10)

[Marin, Mihail]

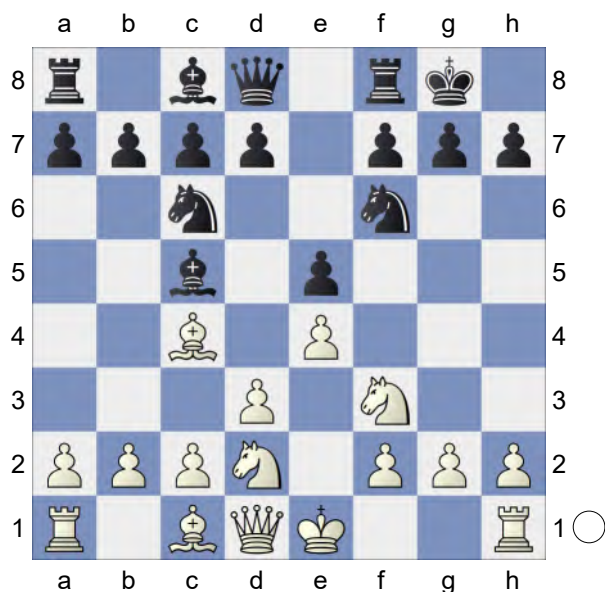
C54

2675

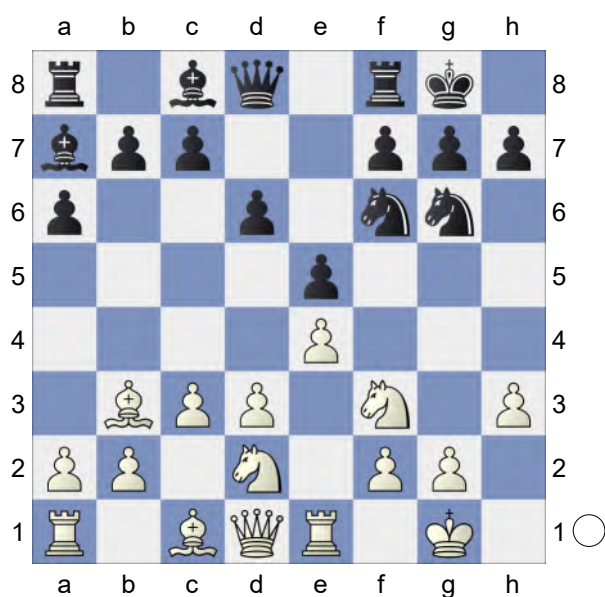
2613

21.01.2015

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3
Bc5 5.Nbd2 0-0



6.0-0 d6 7.c3 a6 8.h3 Ba7 9.Bb3
Ne7 10.Re1 Ng6

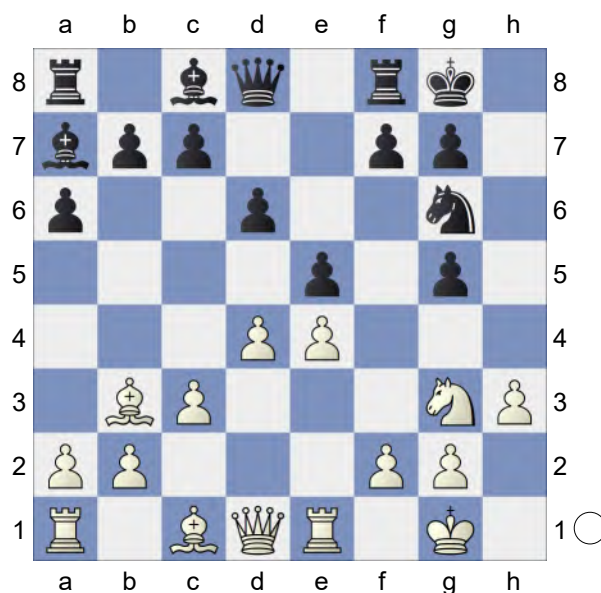


11.Nf1 h6 12.Ng3 Nh7?! Black starts
building up the attack with incomplete

development. Schwarz beginnt, bei unvollständiger Entwicklung den Angriff aufzubauen.

[12...Re8 13.d4 b5]

13.d4 Ng5 Consequent but not really good. Konsequent, aber nicht wirklich gut. 14.Nxg5 hxd4



One of Black's main problems is that he did not neutralize the b3-bishop's pressure yet. Which is the best way to prove Black's attack premature?

15.Nf5 As natural as this move may seem, it still allows Black retaining reasonable play. So natürlich dieser Zug scheinen mag, er erlaubt Schwarz dennoch, ordentliches Spiel zu behaupten.

[15.h4!! This far from obvious move, forcing Black to either weaken his king's position or else expose his knight, is the only move guaranteeing an advantage. Dieser bei weitem nicht offensichtliche Zug, der Schwarz zwingt, entweder seine Königstellung zu schwächen oder seinen Springer zu exponieren, ist der einzige Zug, der Vorteil garantiert.

A) 15...Nxb4 16.Qh5+-;

B) 15...gxf4 16.Nf5 exd4
(16...Bxf5 17.exf5 Nf4 18.Bxf4
exf4 19.Re4 Since the bishop on
a7 is not playing, White is basically
attacking with an extra piece. Da
der Läufer auf a7 nicht mitspielt,
angreift Weiß im Grund mit einer
Mehrfigur. Qg5 20.Qf3 Qxf5
21.Rxf4 Qg6 22.Rxb4+-) 17.Qh5
Be6 18.Bg5 Qd7 19.Nxg7! Kxg7
20.Qh6+ Kg8 21.Bf6+-;

C) 15...Nf4 16.Nf5 g6 17.Qg4!
Qf6 (17...gxf5 18.exf5 Qf6
19.Bxf4 exf4 20.Bc2 Qg7
21.hxg5+-) 18.hxg5 gxf5 19.Qxf4
Qh8 Black has to keep the control
over the h-file. Schwarz muss die
Kontrolle über die h-Linie
behaupten. 20.Qf3 f4 21.g6 Be6
22.gxf7+ Kxf7 23.dxe5 dxe5
24.Be3!± Black does not have
compensation for the lost pawn.
Schwarz hat keine Kompensation
für den verlorenen Bauern.]

15...Nf4?

[15...Be6? "Better late than never"
does not apply to this move. White's
attack develops very fast now.
"Besser spät als nie" gilt für diesen
Zug nicht. Der Angriff von Weiß
entwickelt sich jetzt sehr schnell.
16.Qg4 Bxb3 (16...Nf4 17.g3+-)
17.Bxg5! f6 18.Bh6! Bf7 19.Bxg7
Re8 20.Re3+-]

[15...b5? This neutral move allows
White displaying his initial threat.
Dieser neutrale Zug erlaubt Weiß,
seine ursprüngliche Drohung zu
zeigen. 16.Qg4 Nf4 17.g3 Ne6
18.h4!?+-]

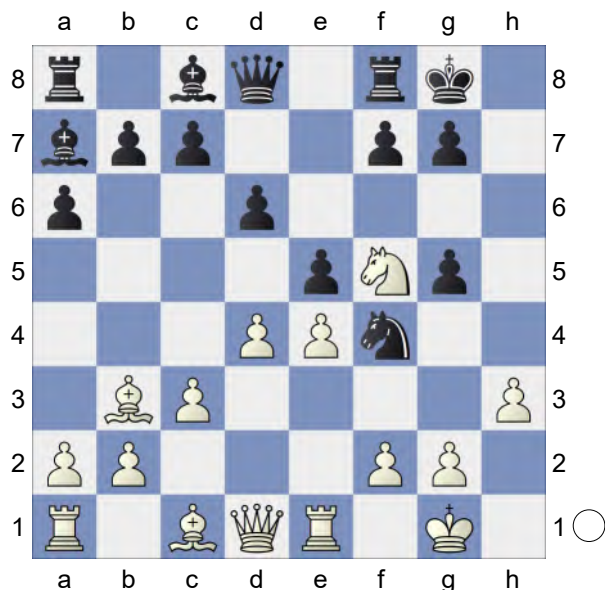
[15...Bxf5? This forces the knight
onto a bad square. Dies zwingt den

Springer auf ein schlechtes Feld.
16.exf5 Nh8 (16...Nf4 17.g3+-)
17.dxe5 dxe5 18.Qg4+-]

[15...exd4! The only playable move.
Black weakens the square on d4 in
order to prepare his next move. Der
einzige spielbare Zug. Schwarz
schwächt das Feld d4, um seinen
nächsten Zug vorzubereiten. 16.cxd4
(16.Qh5 Bxf5 17.exf5 Nf4 18.Bxf4
gxf4 is less clear than a similar line
above as Black grabs some pawns
while his bishop is alive. ist weniger
klar als eine ähnliche Variante oben,
da Schwarz sich ein paar Bauern
schnappt, während sein Läufer am
Leben ist. 19.Re4 dxc3 20.bxc3 Qf6
21.Rxf4 Rae8 22.Rh4 Qh6=)
16...Qf6! The point behind the

previous move. Die Pointe hinter dem
vorigen Zug. 17.Be3 Bxf5 18.exf5
Qxf5 19.Bc2 Qf6 20.Qg4 Rfe8
White has active play for the pawn
and could even retrieve it at the cost
of conceding the control over the e-file
with ... ♖ed1, but he cannot claim a
clear advantage. Weiß hat aktives
Spiel für den Bauern und könnte ihn
sogar zurückerobert, wenn er dafür ...
♖ed1 die Kontrolle über die e-Linie
abtritt, er kann aber keinen klaren
Vorteil beanspruchen.]

(Diagram)



This simply exposes the knight, forcing Black to make an unsound sacrifice. Dies exponiert einfach den Springer und zwingt Schwarz, ein ungesundes Opfer zu bringen. **16.g3! g6**

[16...Nxf3+ 17.Kg2+-]

17.gxf4 gxf4

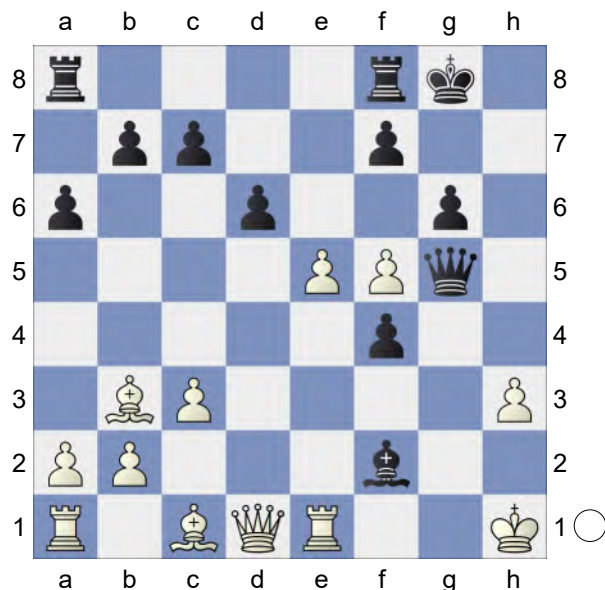
[17...gxf5 18.fxf5 f4 19.Qh5 Be6 20.Kh2+-]

18.dxe5 Qg5+

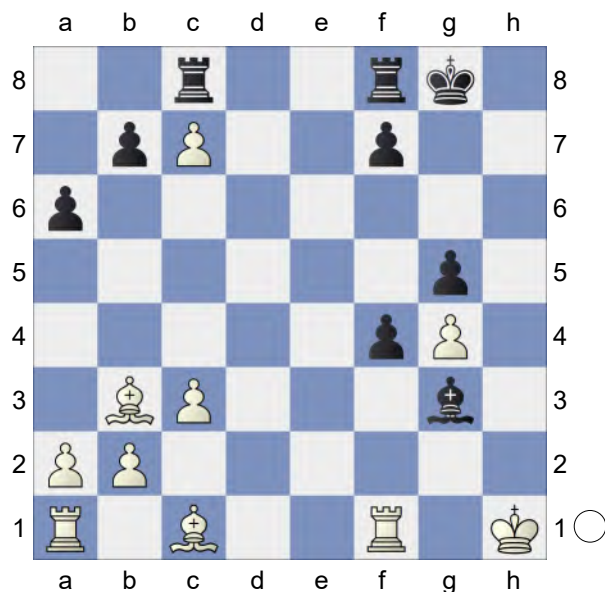
[18...gxf5 19.Qh5 dxe5 20.Kh1 Bxf2 21.Rg1+! The most elegant among the winning moves. Der eleganteste unter den Gewinnzügen. Bg3 (21...Bxg1 22.Bxf4! Bb6 23.Qg6+ Kh8 24.Bxe5+ f6 25.Qh6#) 22.Rxg3+ fxf3 23.Qg6+ Kh8 24.Qh6+ Kg8 25.Bg5 Qd6 26.Bf6+-]

19.Kh1 Bxf5 20.exf5 Bxf2

(Diagram)

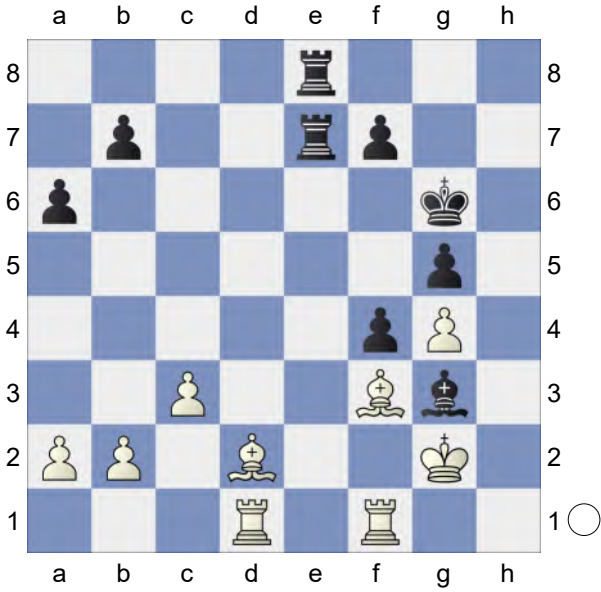


21.Rf1 Bg3 22.exd6 Qxf5 23.Qg4+- Qxg4 24.hxg4 g5 25.dxc7 Rac8

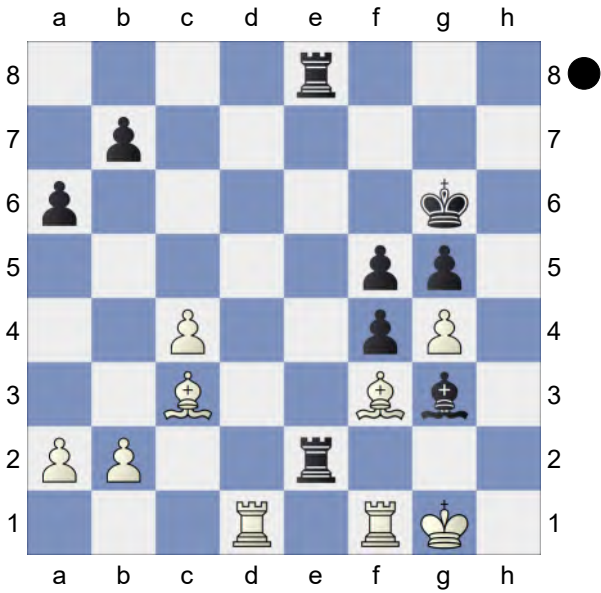


26.Bd2 Kg7 27.Kg2 Rfe8 28.Bd1 Rxc7 29.Bf3 Rce7 30.Rad1 Kg6

(Diagram)



31.c4 f5 32.Bc3 Re2+ 33.Kg1



1-0

392

□ Wei,Yi

■ Kotsur,Pavel

Asia-chT 18th (3.3)

[Marin,Mihail]

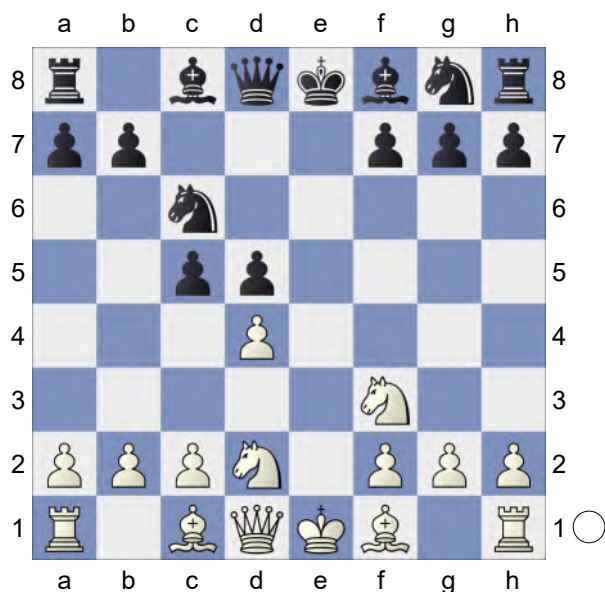
C09

2634

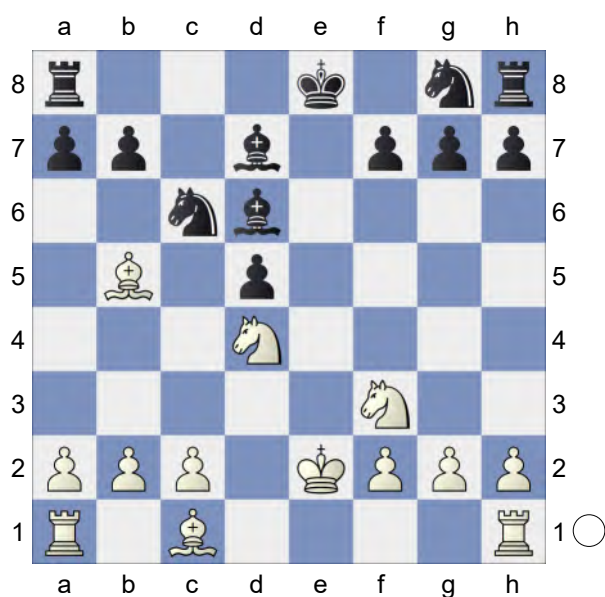
2558

24.05.2014

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.exd5
exd5 5.Ngf3 Nc6



6.Bb5 Qe7+ 7.Qe2 Qxe2+ 8.Kxe2
cxd4 9.Nxd4 Bd7 10.N2f3 Bd6



11.Re1! The critical continuation,
preventing Black from completing his

development in the most desirable way.

11...Nge7 This is the most popular
continuation, which is the only reason
why I took it as the main line.

[Since sooner or later Black's best
plan is based on Uhlmann's ...f7-f6, it
makes sense to play it as soon as
possible, in order to keep the king
close to the centre with ... ♖f7. 11...f6
12.Kf1+ Kf7 13.Be3 Nge7
looks like the right choice to me,
basically transposing to Kasparov,S
(2493)-Vysochin,S (2533) Wroclaw
2012 (½-½, 52) above. 14.Rad1
Rhd8 15.c3 a6 16.Bd3 Ne5 17.h3
Rac8 18.Bc2 Nc4 19.Bc1 g6
20.Bd3 Ne5 21.Bc2 Nc4 22.Re2
Re8 23.Rde1 Nc6= Kasparov,S
(2493)-Vysochin,S (2533) Wroclaw
2012 (½-½, 52)]

12.Be3

[12.c3 0-0 13.Kf1 Ng6 14.h3 Rfd8
15.Be3 a6 16.Bd3 Nce5 17.Nxe5
Nxe5 18.Rad1 Parligras,M (2511)-
Vysochin,S (2531) Predeal 2006 (½-½,
30) Nxd3 19.Rxd3 Re8 20.Kg1 Re4
21.Nc2 Bc6=]

[12.Kf1 a6 13.Bd3 0-0 14.c3 Rfe8
(This may be not the best moment to
switch to 14...f6 15.Be3 Ne5 16.Bf4
Nxd3 17.Bxd6 Nxe1 18.Rxe1
In this position we can notice that with
the king on f7 Black would have
simply kept the extra exchange! Nc6
19.Bxf8 Kxf8 White has chances to
exert some pressure, but with his
kingside pawns placed on the right
squares and with an additional knight
on each side, Black should not fear
too much the bad bishop ending.)
15.h3 Nxd4 (But now was a good
moment for 15...f6 16.Be3 Ne5)
16.Nxd4 Nc6 17.Rxe8+ Rxe8

18.Nxc6 Bxc6 19.Be3 Be5 20.Rd1 g6 21.Be2 Kg7 22.Bf3± Akopian,V (2660)-Lputian,S (2585) Yerevan 1997 (1-0, 54). In the absence of knights, the d5-pawn starts looking like a real weakness.]

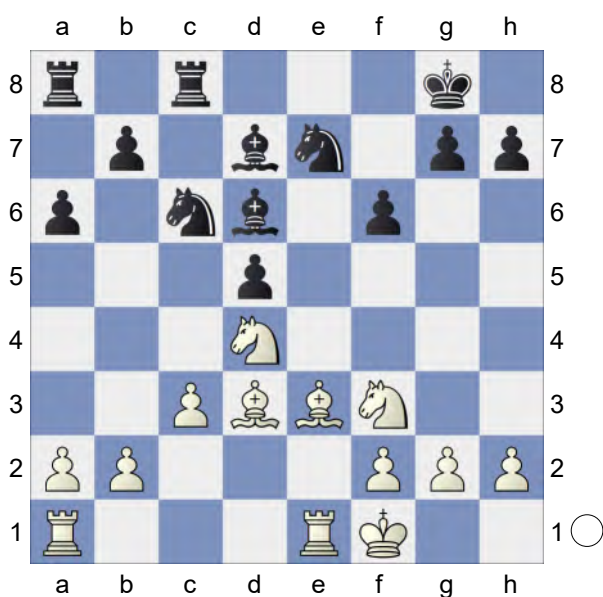
12...0-0

[12...f6! 13.Kf1 Kf7 looks like the right choice to me, basically transposing to Kasparov,S (2493)-Vysochin,S (2533) Wroclaw 2012 (½-½, 52) above.]

13.Kf1 Rfc8?! Transferring the rook to the queenside does not make too much sense. Once again choosing this game as the main one needs some explaining: I just wanted to check which is the perception of this variation at the height of the year 2014 among strong grandmasters.

[13...a6 14.Bd3 f6 15.c3 Rfe8 more or less transposes to a line from Akopian,V (2660)-Lputian,S (2585) Yerevan 1997 (1-0, 54) above.]

14.c3 a6 15.Bd3 f6



16.Rad1 Ne5 17.Bc2

[Due to Black's chaotic coordination,

White could have tried to set up some pressure on the central pawns with 17.Nxe5 fxe5 18.Nc2 h6 19.f3 Kf7 20.Rd2]

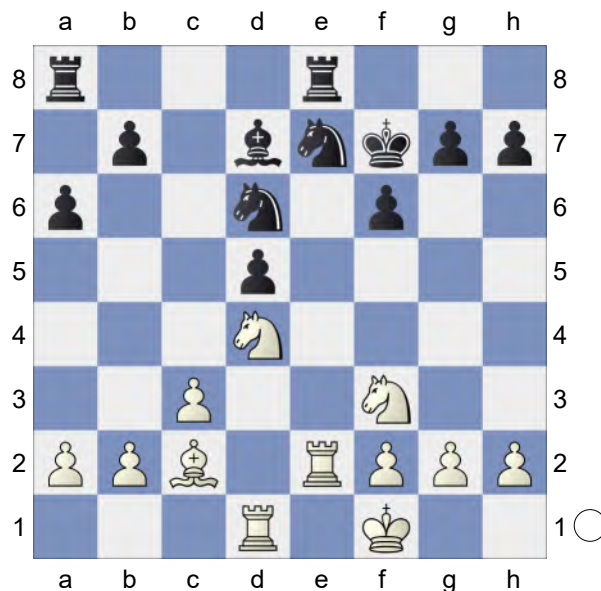
17...Nc4 18.Bf4! With the rook on e8 or the king on f7 this resource would not have been available.

[18.Bc1 Re8 19.Kg1 b5 20.Bd3 g6 looks like a typical Kortschnoj fortress.]

18...Kf7

[18...Bxf4?! 19.Rxe7 Rc7 20.Ne6 Bxe6 21.Rxe6 Nxb2 22.Rxd5 Rxc3 23.Bb3 Kh8 24.Re7 b6 25.Rdd7→]

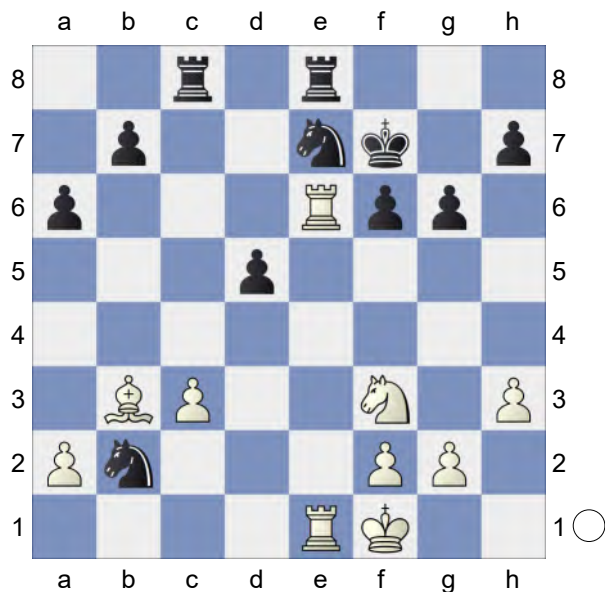
19.Bxd6 Nxd6 20.Re2 Re8



Even though White has managed to exchange the dark-squared bishops, Black is well regrouped and the relative weakness of the d5-pawn alone is not enough to cause him big problems.

21.h3 g6 22.Rde1 Rac8 23.Bb3 Nc4= Making the best out of the isolani. The pressure against the b2-pawn restricts White's possibilities. **24.Ne6?!** A bit too optimistic, but otherwise White does not have obvious ways of making progress. **24...Bxe6 25.Rxe6 Nxb2**

(Diagram)



26.Rb6 Nd3 27.Ree6 Rc6=

[27...Rxc3!? 28.Ba4

A) 28...Rb8?! 29.Rxf6+ Kg8
 (29...Kg7 30.Ng5 Nc8 31.Rf7+ Kh6 32.h4+-) 30.Ng5 Nc5
 31.Ne6 Nxa4 32.Rxb7! Rc1+
 33.Ke2 Rc2+ 34.Kf3 Rc3+ 35.Kf4
 Rc4+ 36.Kg3 (36.Kg5? h6+!
 37.Kxh6 Rh4+ 38.Kg5 Rh5+
 39.Kf4 Rxb7+-) 36...Nf5+ 37.Rxf5
 gxf5 38.Rxb8+ Kf7 39.Ng5+ Kg7
 40.Rb7+ Kg6 41.Nf3±;

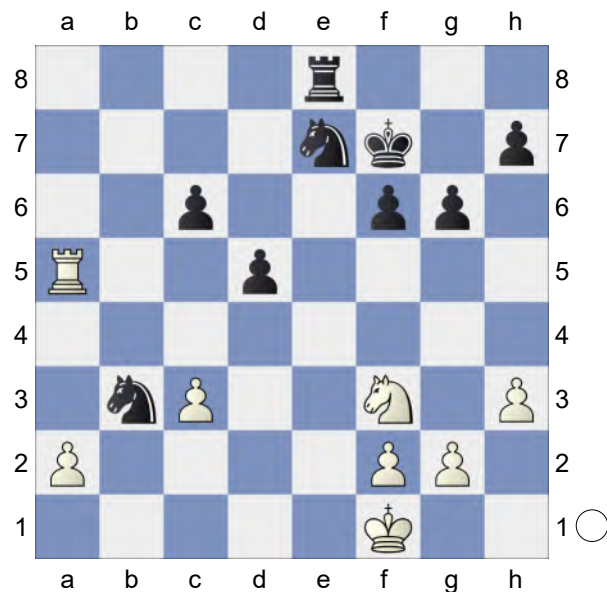
B) 28...Rh8!! 29.Rxf6+ Kg7
 30.Ng5? Nc8! 31.Rbe6 Nc5
 32.Rf7+ Kh6-+]

28.Rexc6 bxc6 29.Rxa6 Nc5

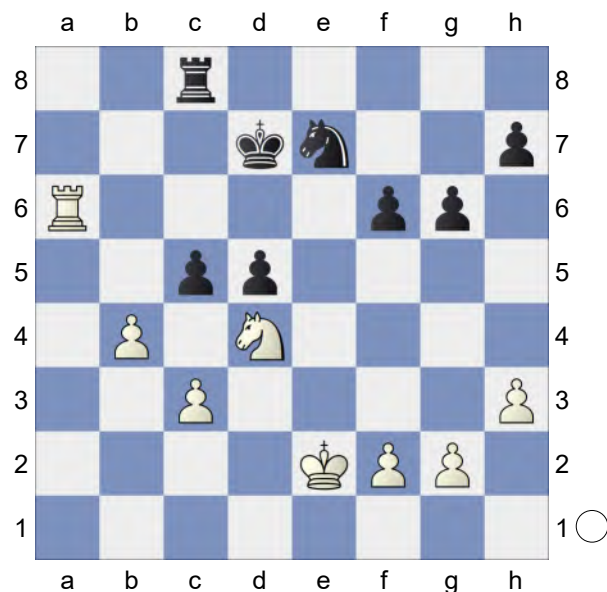
[29...c5=]

30.Ra5 Nxb3

(Diagram)

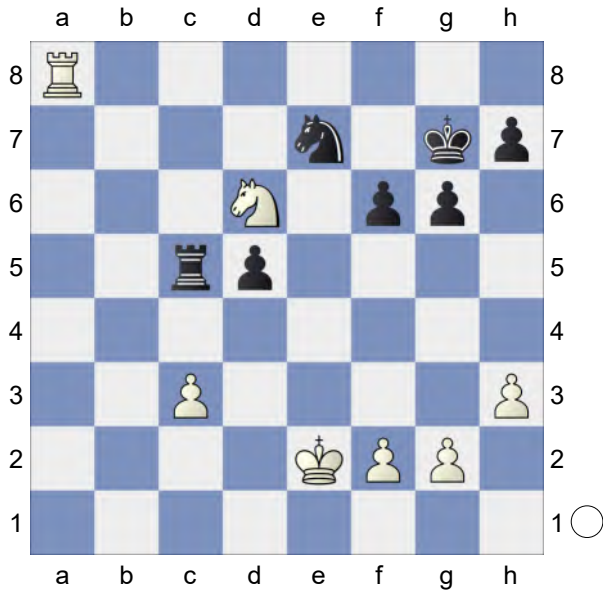


31.axb3 Rc8 32.b4± Ke6 33.Nd4+ Kd6 34.Ra6 Kd7 35.Ke2 c5

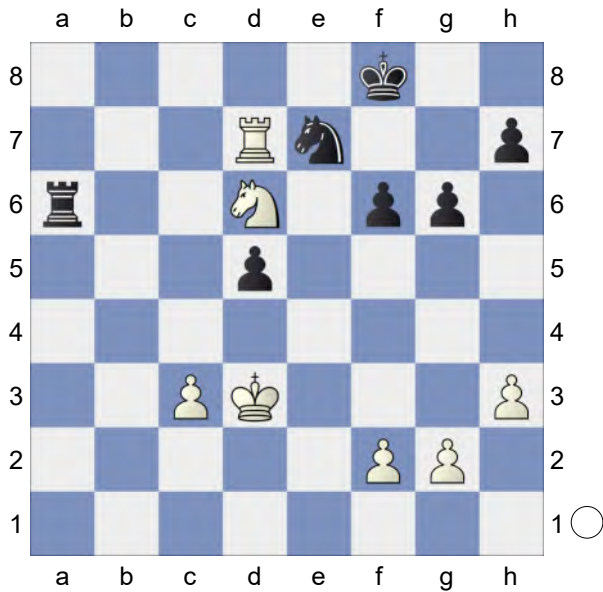


36.Ra7+ Ke8 37.Nb5 Rc6 38.bxc5 Rxc5 39.Nd6+ Kf8 40.Ra8+ Kg7

(Diagram)

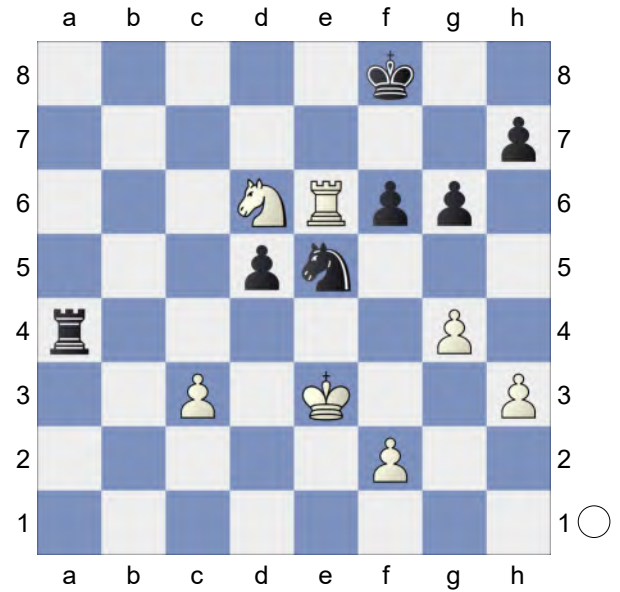


**41.Ra7 Kf8 42.Kd3 Rc6 43.Rd7 Ra6
44.Rd8+ Kg7 45.Rd7 Kf8**

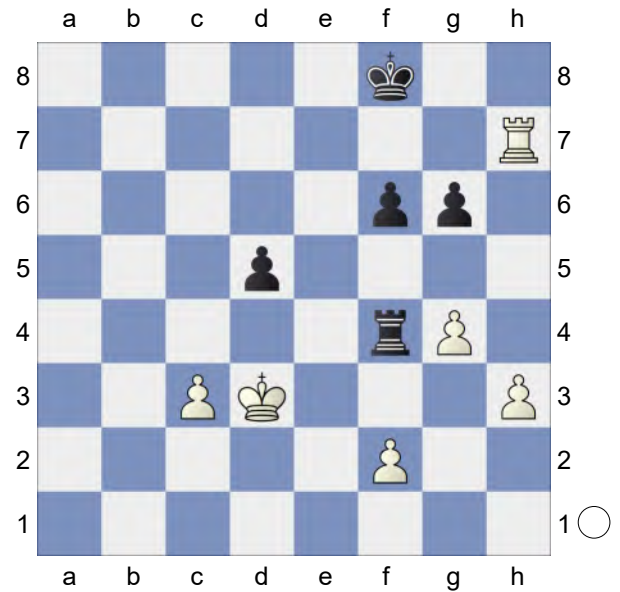


**46.Rd8+ Kg7 47.Re8 Nc6 48.Re6 Kf8
49.g4 Ra4 50.Ke3 Ne5**

(Diagram)



**51.Re8+ Kg7 52.Re7+ Kf8 53.Rxh7
Nc4+ 54.Nxc4 Rxc4 55.Kd3 Rf4**



$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

301

C89

□ Wei,Yi

2706

■ Carlsen,Magnus

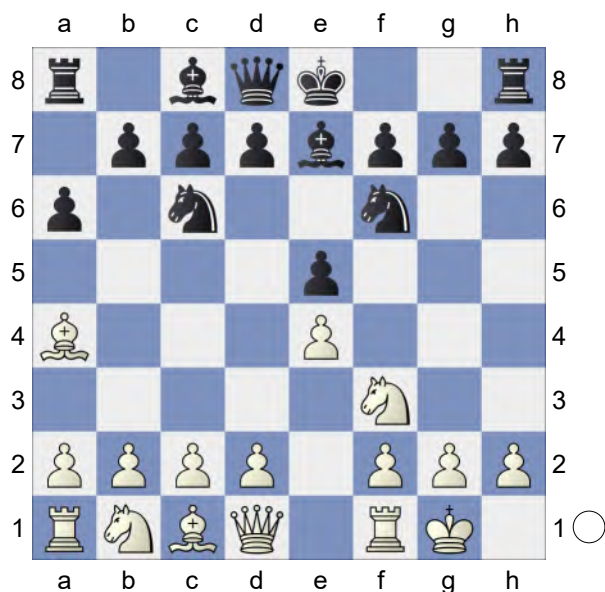
2844

Tata Steel-A 78th (3)

18.01.2016

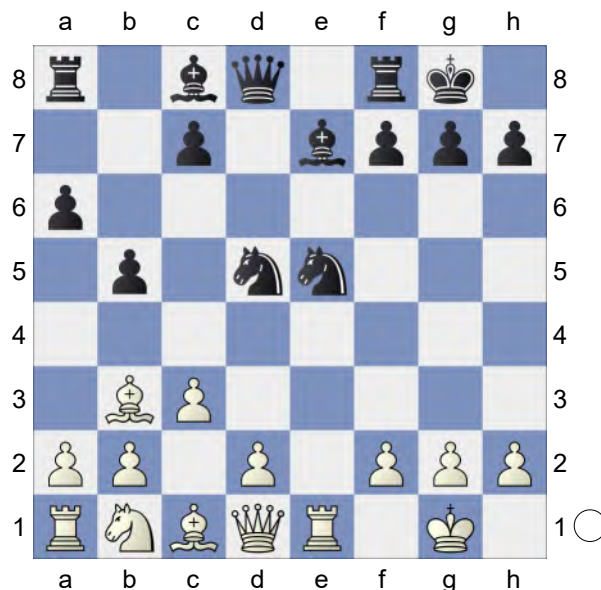
[Marin,Mihail]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4
Nf6 5.0-0 Be7



6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.c3 I might be subjective, but my feeling is that Carlsen is allowed more frequently to play the genuine Marshall than any other of his colleagues. If this is true, the natural question is whether his opponents trust that despite his phenomenal positional feeling Carlsen may be less strong in concrete opening variations or on the contrary they want to play safe, keeping a draw in their pocket. Be it as it may, the present game contradicts both points of view as White got a slightly worse position out of the opening. 8...d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Nxe5 Nxe5

(Diagram)



11.Rxe5 c6 12.d3 Bd6 13.Re1 Bf5

[13...Qh4 is slightly more popular.

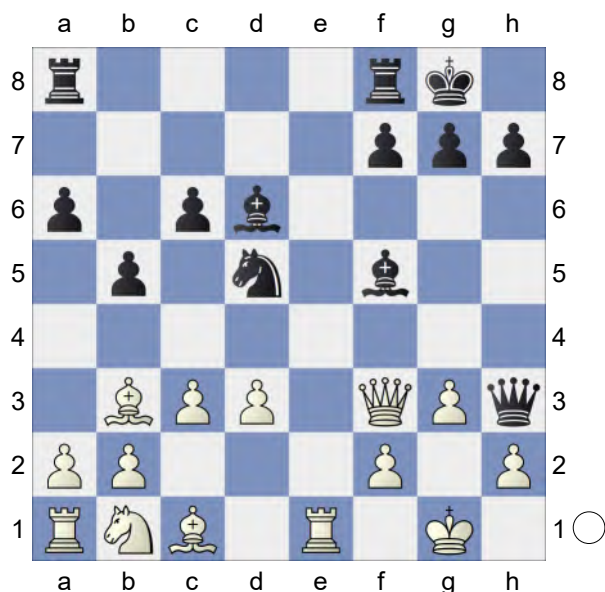
Here is just a recent example: 14.g3 Qh3 15.Re4 Nf6 16.Rh4 Qf5 17.Bc2 Re8 18.d4 Qe6 19.Nd2 Qe1+ 20.Qxe1 Rxe1+ 21.Kg2 Bb7 22.f3 Rae8 23.Bd3 c5 24.Kf2 c4?! (24...cxd4 25.Ne4 R1xe4 26.fxe4 dxc3 27.bxc3 Bxe4) 25.Be4 Nxe4+ 26.Nxe4 Bxe4 27.Kxe1 Bd3+ 28.Re4 Bxe4 29.fxe4 Rxe4+ 30.Kf2 1-0 (62) Ivanov,O (2513)-Balashov,Y (2418) Moscow 2015]

14.Qf3 Qh4

[Deviating from a game of his own: 14...Bg6 15.Bxd5 cxd5 16.Bf4 Anand,V (2791)-Carlsen,M (2863) Shamkir 2015 CBM 166 [Pavlovic,M] (½-½, 53), in which he had to struggle hard to reach a draw.]

15.g3 Qh3

(Diagram)



16.Be3

[It is the Chinese player's turn to deviate from an earlier game between the same players as above, but with reversed colours: 16.Bxd5 cxd5 17.Be3 Bxd3 18.Qxd5 Rad8 19.Qf3 Rfe8 20.Nd2 Qf5 21.Qxf5 Bxf5 Carlsen, M (2548)-Anand, V (2785) Leon 2005 (½-½, 30)]

16...Bxd3 17.Nd2 White has returned the extra pawn for the sake of completing the development. Even though the structure is more or less symmetrical, the position is not dull at all. Black's minor pieces seem more active, but they can easily be exposed depending how things turn out. The same applies to Black's queenside space advantage: due to the permanent threats c3-c4 and a2-a4 Black's pawns may become weak. **17...Qf5** Since Black has no attacking chances anymore, the queen returns to the centre. **18.Bd4** For the time being both players maintain the tension.

[18.Qxf5 Bxf5 19.Bd4 Rfd8 20.a4 Bf8 ½-½ (27) Ivanchuk, V (2751)-Aronian, L (2739) Nice 2008]

[18.Rad1 Rfe8 19.Qxf5 Bxf5 20.Bxd5 cxd5 21.Nb3 Polgar, J (2707)-Leko, P (2753) Wijk aan Zee 2008 (½-½, 35)]

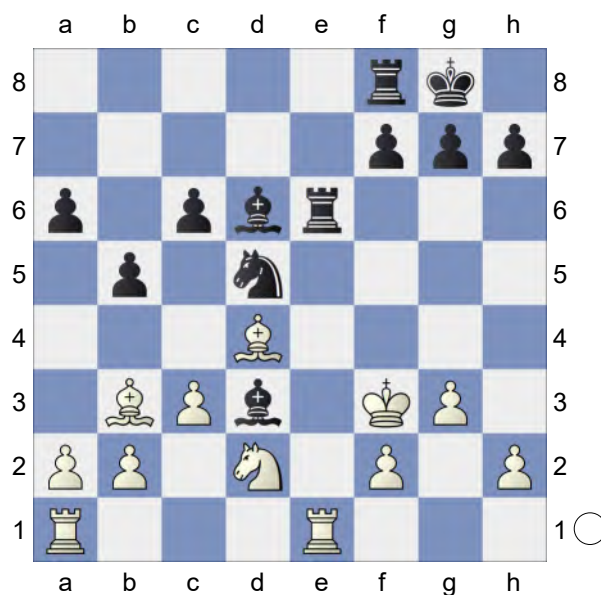
18...Rae8 In view of the next rook lift to e6, it looks logical to keep the other rook on f8,

[but 18...Rfe8 is also played as in Leko, P (2708)-Svidler, P (2745) Reykjavik 2015 (½-½, 41)]

19.Kg2 Mikhalevski, V: 'Theory's last word.' **19...Qxf3+N** Mikhalevski, V: 'A novelty from the world champion.' Preparing the rook lift without losing more time.

[Mikhalevski, V: 'In the only preceding game Black played' 19...h6 - 125/106 - 125/106 Mikhalevski, V: 'Vachier Lagrave, M (2731)-Adams, M (2740)/Biel SUI 2015/ [Mikhalevski, V]. ' 20.a4 Qxf3+ 21.Kxf3 Re6 22.axb5 axb5 23.Kg2 Vachier Lagrave, M (2731)-Adams, M (2740) Biel 2015 CBM 168 [Sagar Shah] (1-0, 42)]

20.Kxf3 Re6!?



21.Rac1 Mikhalevski, V: '!? ' !?' Mikhalevski, V: 'White is supporting an advance of the c-pawn.' With the

obvious idea of finding a good moment to play c3-c4.

[One of the points behind Carlsen's novelty is that 21.a4 can be answered with bxa4!? The e1-rook is hanging and the intermediate exchange on e6 loses a piece after ...fxe6 check! 22.Bxa4 c5⇒ 23.Be3 Nxe3 24.Rxe3 c4]

[21.Rxe6 Mikhalevski, V: '?' '?' Mikhalevski, V: 'is dubious.' fxe6+ 22.Kg2 can lead to interesting play: c5 Mikhalevski, V: '!' '!' 23.Re1 Diagram

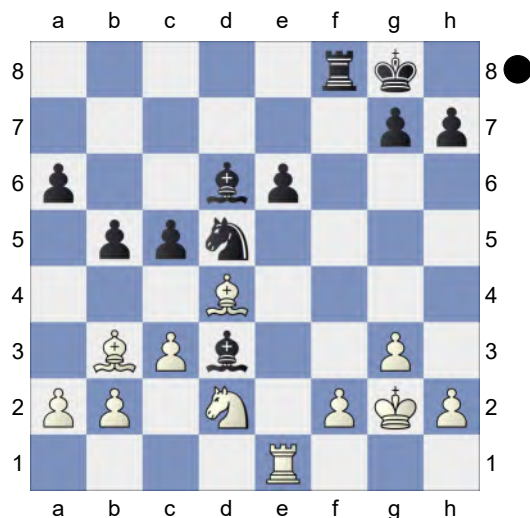


Diagram [#] Mikhalevski, V: '!' '!' Bf4!! Mikhalevski, V: '!' (23...cxd4 24.Rxe6±; 23...Kf7 24.Be5± with a pleasant blockade.) 24.Bxc5 (24.gxf4 cxd4∞; 24.Rxe6? is bad due to c4!⚡ Mikhalevski, V: '!' 24.Bxd5 exd5 25.gxf4 cxd4 26.cxd4 Rxf4 and White still has to equalise.) 24...Bxd2 25.Rxe6 Rd8 26.Rxa6≡ Bc4□ White's three pawns compensate for the missing knight, but possibly not more.]

[21.Kg2 with the idea of 22.Rxe6 is an important alternative, although Black seems to equalise. Rfe8 22.Rxe6 Rxe6 23.c4 bxc4 24.Nxc4 Bxc4 25.Bxc4 Re4 26.Bxd5

(26.Rd1 Bc5! 27.Bxd5 Rxd4 is equal.) 26...Rxd4 27.Bxc6 (or 27.Bb3 c5 28.Rc1 Rd2 29.Rc2 Rxc2 30.Bxc2 c4=) 27...Rd2= with sufficient counterplay.]

21...h6!? Diagram

[Mikhalevski, V: 'Now in case of' True, 21...Rfe8? Mikhalevski, V: 'White doesn't have to wasted time on Kg2 any more and plays' 22.Rxe6 Rxe6 23.c4± Mikhalevski, V: 'with a serious edge.' causes Black problems.]

[But I would consider 21...a5 Black's main candidate, aiming to put Black's queenside space advantage to work. 22.c4 (White could renew the pseudo-zugzwang with the neutral 22.a3!? a4 23.Ba2; 22.a4 bxa4 23.Bxa4 c5⇒) 22...bxc4 23.Bxc4 (23.Nxc4?? a4-+ wins a piece.) 23...Bb4 24.Red1 Bxd2 25.Rxd2 Be4+ 26.Ke2 Bg2+ 27.Kd1 a4!?∞ Black's superior activity and the slight exposure of the white king compensate for the bishop pair.]

[21...Bg6!? deserved serious attention. 22.Kg2 Rd8! 23.a3 h6 24.Rxe6 fxe6 25.Nf3 c5 26.Be5 c4 27.Bc2 Bxc2 28.Rxc2 Bxe5 29.Nxe5 Nb6 and Black equalises thanks to the open d-file.]

(Diagram)

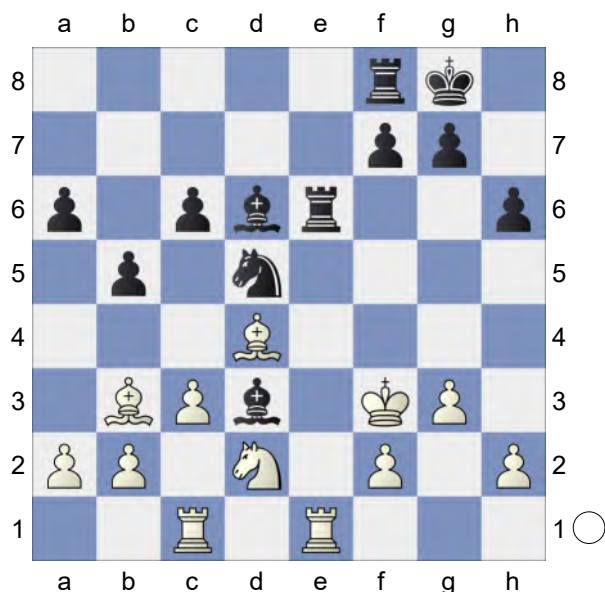


Diagram [#] Mikhalevski, V: 'A waiting move. Black keeps the rook on f8 in order to recapture on e6 with check.' This move and White's reply show that both sides have problems making progress. The position is in some sort of dynamic balance, or, exaggerating a bit, mutual zugzwang. Still, I am not sure about the merits of Black's last move.

22.Kg2 White avoids the check in case of a later exchange on e6, but taking the king away from the centre looks a bit like a counter-developing move.

[22.c4!? Mikhalevski, V: '!' '!' Mikhalevski, V: 'would set some problems.'

A) 22...Nb4?! 23.Rxe6 fxe6+ 24.Ke3±;

B) 22...Rxe1 23.Rxe1 Nb4 (23...Nf6= 24.c5 Bb8 25.Re7±; 23...c5) 24.c5 Bb8 25.Bc3 (25.Re7±) 25...a5 26.Kg2!± Now is a good moment for this retreat!;

C) 22...c5 White has to permanently count with this counter-blow. 23.cxd5 Rxe1 24.Rxe1 cxd4 25.Ne4 Bxe4+ 26.Rxe4 Bc5

27.Ke2 Rc8 (27...Rd8 28.Kd3 Kf8 29.Re1±) 28.Kd3 Kf8 29.Re2± In principle the position should be drawn, but while there are rooks on the board White can try exerting some pressure.. His king is perfectly placed and the black queenside is weakened.]

[22.a3 a5 (What else? If 22...g5 23.Kg2!?± Black does not have the plan based on ... ♖g6 followed by ...

♜f4 anymore.) 23.c4 leads to a similar ending as above: c5 (23...Rxe1 24.Rxe1 Nf6 25.c5 Bb8 26.Re7±) 24.cxd5 Rxe1 25.Rxe1 cxd4 26.Ne4 Bxe4+ 27.Rxe4 Bc5 28.Ke2 a4 29.Ba2 Rc8 30.Kd3± with the same evaluation.]

[By the way, with his king on f3 White cannot try playing against the Isolani with 22.Bxd5?! cxd5 23.Nb3? due to Be4+ 24.Ke2 Bb1+ 25.Kd2 Bxa2♗]

22...Rg6 Mikhalevski, V: '!' '!' Mikhalevski, V: 'Carlsen chooses an active defence. He prepares 23...Nf4.' Finally exiting the tension along the e-file.

[22...a5 23.Rxe6 (23.c4 Rxe1 24.Rxe1 Nb4∞; 23.a3 a4 24.Ba2 Rfe8 25.Rxe6 Rxe6 26.c4 bxc4 27.Bxc4 Re2 28.Nf1 Be4+ 29.Kg1 Rc2 30.Rxc2 Bxc2=) 23...fxe6 24.c4 a4! 25.Bd1 c5 26.cxd5 cxd4 27.dxe6 Bb4 28.Bf3 Bxd2 29.Rd1 Bc4 30.Rxd2 Bxe6=]

[22...Ree8! deserved attention, with the idea to meet 23.c4 with Nf6 With the rook on e8 Black doesn't have to trade rooks. 24.cxb5 cxb5 25.Rxe8 Rxe8 26.Rc6 Bb4 27.Rc7 Re7 28.Rxe7 Bxe7 and Black is close to equalising.]

23.Ne4 Mikhalevski, V: 'A slight

inaccuracy, which allows Black to solve his problems.' This leads to lively play with entirely adequate counterplay for Black.

[Now was a good moment to settle for a slightly better ending against the Isolani with 23.Bxd5!? Mikhalevski, V: '!' '!' Mikhalevski, V: 'is an important alternative.' cxd5 24.Be5 Mikhalevski, V: 'or'

A) 24...Bxe5 25.Rxe5 d4!

An important resource. Otherwise White obtains a stable edge.

26.Rd5 (26.cxd4 Rd6 27.d5 Rfd8

28.Rc5 R6d7= with the idea of 29...

f6 is equal.) 26...dxc3 27.Rxc3

Be2 28.f3 Black's only problem is

his bishop, but it's not easy to solve

this without creating weaknesses.

b4 29.Rc2 Bb5 30.Rd4 Re6

31.Ne4! Rb8 32.Kf2± and Black

still has some problems to solve.;

B) 24...Bc5 25.Nb3 Bb6

(25...Ba7 26.Bd4 Bb8 27.Nc5±)

26.Bd4±]

23...Nf4+ 24.Kf3 As we see the king didn't find peace on g2. After returning to f3, it will soon allow Black to gain another tempo with a knight move.

24...Bxe4+ 25.Rxe4

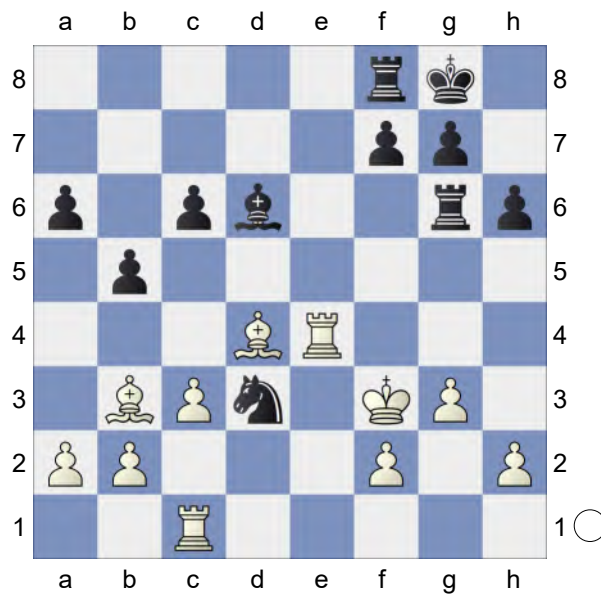
[25.Kxe4 c5! 26.Bxc5 (26.gxf4 cxd4 27.cxd4 Rg4±) 26...Bxc5

27.Kxf4 Rf6+ 28.Kg4 Rxf2=]

25...Nd3

[25...c5 26.gxf4 cxd4 27.cxd4±]

(Diagram)



26.Rd1 Mikhalevski, V: 'White sacrifices a pawn, but lures the knight to a bad position.' The principled move, fighting for the initiative at the cost of a temporary pawn sacrifice.

[Mikhalevski, V: 'In case of' 26.Rb1

Mikhalevski, V: 'Black would play' c5

27.Be3

A) 27...Kh8! preparing 28...f5. For

example, 28.Ke2 f5 29.Re6 Rxe6

30.Bxe6 c4 31.Bd5 (31.b3 f4!

32.gxf4 Nxf4+ 33.Bxf4 Rxf4=)

31...Bc5 32.Bxc5 Nxc5 and Black

equalises.;

B) 27...Rd8 28.Bc2 f5! 29.Rh4

Bf8∞ Xh4 XRh4 with better

coordination for Black,

compensating for White's bishop

pair.]

26...Nxb2 27.Rd2 Ba3= Mikhalevski, V: '!' '!'

[27...Nc4?! 28.Bxc4 bxc4 29.Be3± yields White better chances.]

28.Bb6 Mikhalevski, V: 'White prepares 29.Ree2.'

[28.Ree2 c5 29.Bxc5 Rf6+ 30.Kg2 Bxc5 31.Rxb2 is completely equal.]

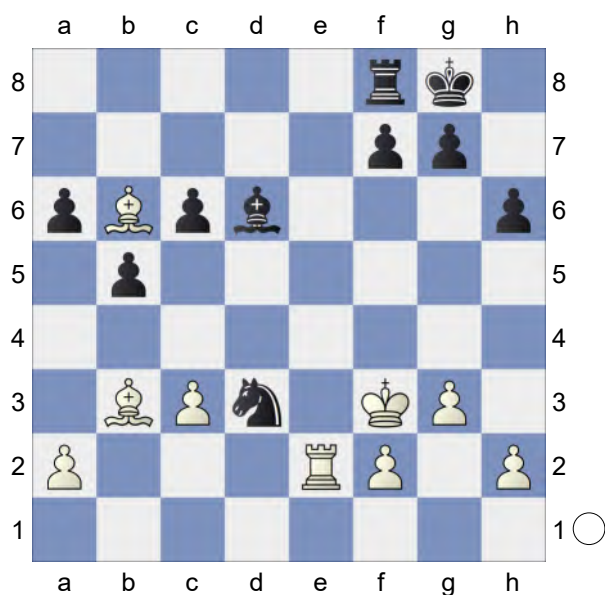
28...Rd6 Mikhalevski, V: '!' '!' **29.Rxd6**

Bxd6 30.Re2

[After 30.Rd4 Be5 31.Rd7!
with the idea of 32.Bc5. Nc4! 32.Bxc4
bxc4 33.Ra7 Bxc3 34.Rxa6 (or
34.Bc5 Rb8 35.Rxa6 Rb2 36.Be3
Bd2=) 34...c5! 35.Bxc5 Rc8 36.Be3
Bb2 37.Rb6 c3 38.a4 Ba3 39.Rb3
Be7 40.Ke2 c2 41.Bc1 Ra8=
The position remain equal.]

30...Nd3!?

[30...Nc4=]

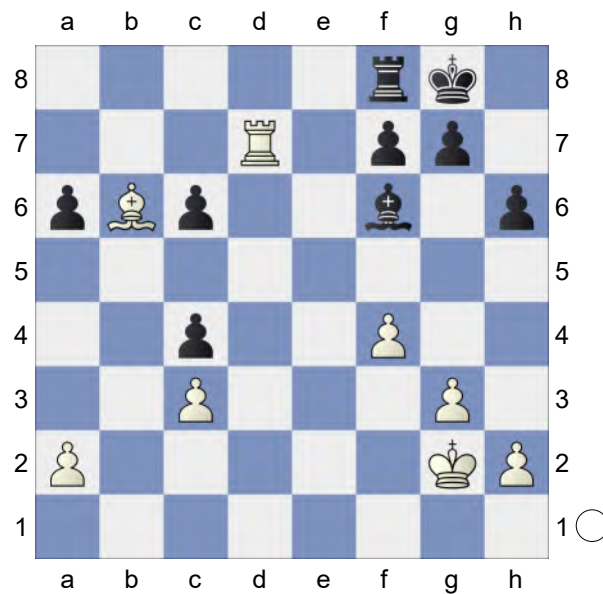


The knight is heading for c4 to neutralise the bishop's pressure against f7, but on the way it will drive the enemy king away from the centre for the second time in this game. **31.Rd2 Ne5+ 32.Kg2 Be7** Mikhalevski, V: 'Black has kept an extra pawn, but White's activity and bishop pair promise him at least equal chances.' **33.f4** Mikhalevski, V: '!' **33...Nc4 34.Bxc4 bxc4 35.Rd7**

[35.Rd4?! would be wrong in view of Rb8 36.Bc7 Rb7! 37.Bd8 Rb2+]

35...Bf6

(Diagram)

**36.Rc7 Bxc3 37.Rxc6 Rb8**

Mikhalevski, V: '!' '!' More or less forced play has resulted in an ending where White needs some caution to make a draw. In principle, due to his activity many roads lead to Rome, but the problem is finding just one of them (and not a false path) and sticking to it. **38.a4** Mikhalevski, V: '!' '!'

[There is no need to simplify to an ending with a pawn down, even though it should be drawn. **38.Rxc4 Rxb6 39.Rxc3 Rb2+ 40.Kf3 Rxa2 41.Rc8+ Kh7 42.Ra8** h5 This type of ending is heavily analysed with the standard pawn positioning on f2, g3, h4, but the present structure is less usual. In principle it looks less favourable for White, as his king is exposed and the pawns more vulnerable, but it should not suffice for a win. I have found a game to which we will transpose after just a few (some of them dumb) moves: **43.Ke4 (43.h3?! Ra3+ 44.Kf2** forces the king to stay passive.) **43...g6 44.Kf3 Kg7 45.Ra7 a5** (This is necessary only for... transposing. But Black does

not get much if he keeps the sixth rank defended for a while: 45...Kf6 46.Ke4 Ke6 47.Kf3) 46.Ra6 a4 47.h3?! This puts White on the edge. (47.Ke3) 47...a3 48.Ra5 Ra1 49.Kg2 Kf6 50.Ra6+ Ke7 51.g4 h4 52.g5 a2 53.Kh2 In order to win, Black needs to create a passed pawn on the f-file, but this is not achievable. A g-pawn or a h-pawn would not suffice. Kd7 54.Kg2 Kc7 55.Ra8 Kb7 56.Ra3 Kc6 57.Ra6+ Kd5 58.Ra7 Ke6 59.Ra6+ Ke7 60.Ra7+ Ke6 61.Ra6+ Kd5 62.Ra7 Ke4 63.Re7+ (Actually even 63.Kh2 Kf3 64.Ra3+ Kxf4 65.Ra5 is drawn. Ke4 66.Kg2 Ke3 67.Ra3+!) 63...Kxf4 64.Rxf7+ Kxg5 65.Ra7 Kh6 66.Ra4 g5 67.Ra6+ Kg7 68.Ra7+ Kg6 ½-½ Fominyh,A (2518)-Deepan Chakkravarthy,J (2428) Hyderabad 2006]

38...Bb2

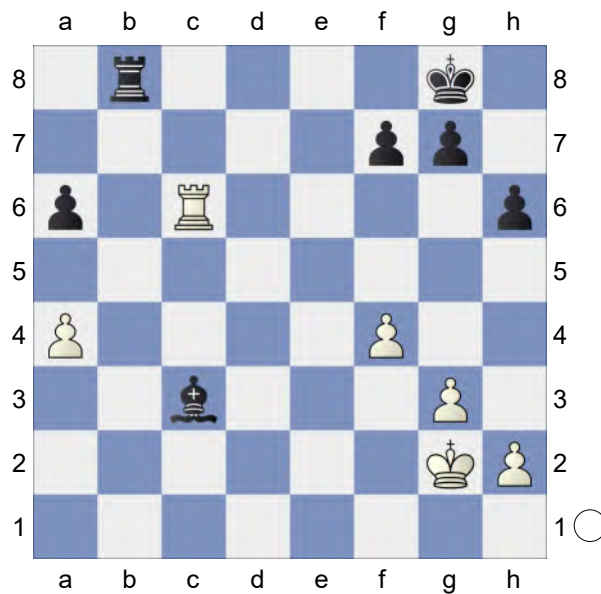
[During the game I thought 38...a5 was more consistent, but it is just an illusion. 39.Kf3 (I had in view 39.Rxc4?! Rxb6 40.Rxc3 Rb4 41.Ra3 when Black has more space than in the game, with increased chances to outplay his opponent.) 39...Bb4 40.Bd4 c3 41.Ke4=]

39.Ba5

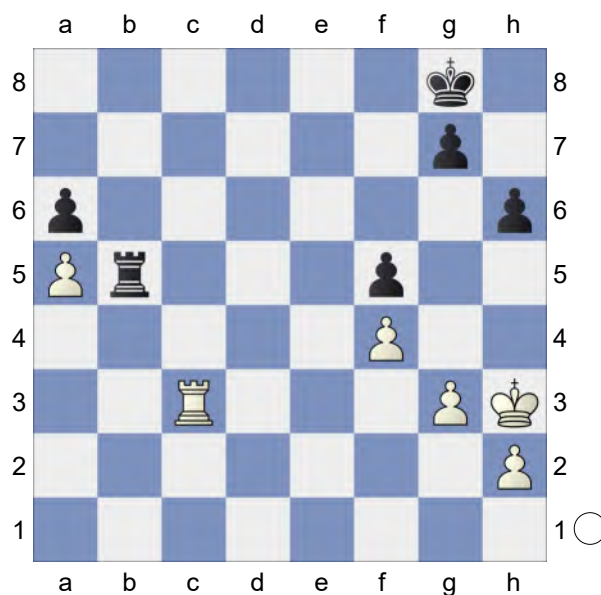
[39.Kf3!? c3 40.a5= is also good for equality.]

39...c3 40.Bxc3 Bxc3

(Diagram)



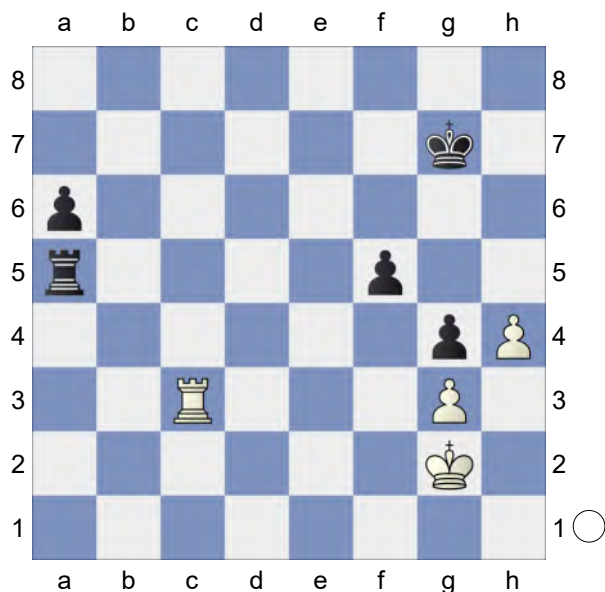
41.Rxc3 Rb4 42.a5 Rb5 43.Ra3 Mikhalevski, V: 'Here Black is marginally better thanks to his more active rook, but White shouldn't have problems holding a draw.' The white rook is passive, but White does not have weaknesses on the kingside, making the draw quite obvious. In the worst case he can transpose to the previous ending, of course, but he can choose the circumstances under which to do it. **43...Rb2+ 44.Kh3 f5 45.Rc3 Rb5**



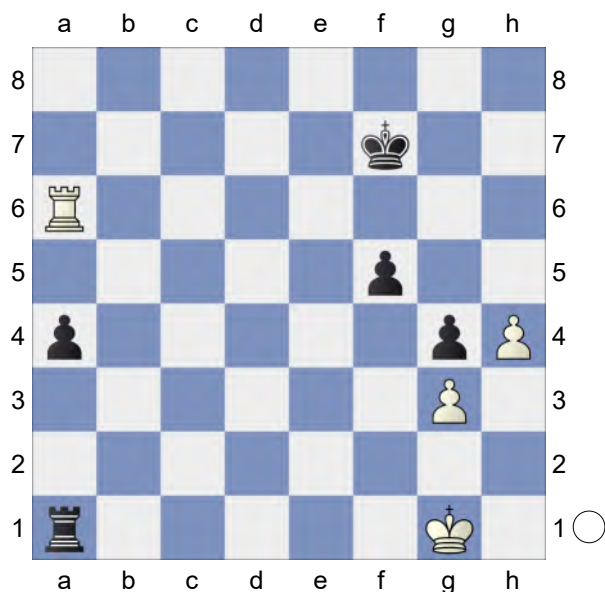
46.Ra3 g5

[46...Kf7 47.Kh4=]

**47.fxg5 hxg5 48.Kg2 Kg7 49.h4 g4
50.Rc3!** Mikhalevski, V: '!' Mikhalevski,
V: 'White finds the right moment to
create counterplay.' **50...Rxa5**

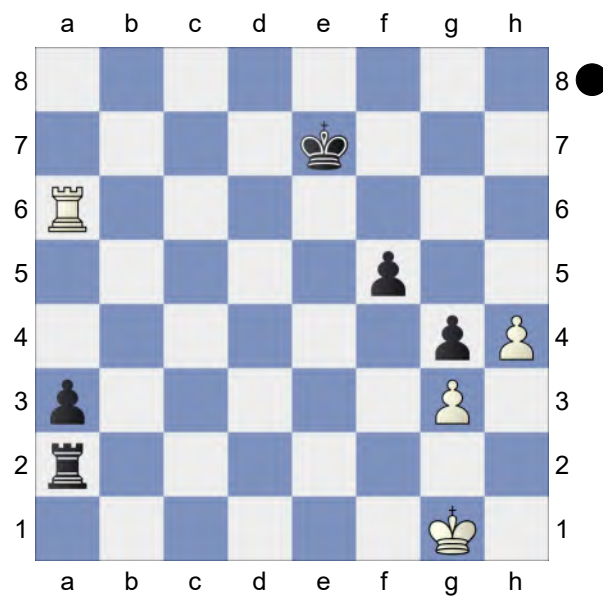


**51.Rc6 Ra2+ 52.Kg1 a5 53.Ra6 a4
54.Kh1 Kf7 55.Kg1 Ra1+**



**56.Kg2 Ra3 57.Kh2 Ra2+ 58.Kg1
Ke7 59.Kh1 a3 60.Kg1**

[60.Kg1 Kd7 61.Kh1 (61.Rf6??
Rb2-+) 61...Kc7 62.Kg1 Kb7 63.Ra4
Kb6 64.h5=]



Mikhalevski, V: 'and a draw was agreed
as Black can't make progress. 19...Qxf3
is a reasonable alternative to 19...h6,
but one should then continue with 21...
Bg6.'

1/2-1/2

277

□ Matlakov, Maxim

■ Wei, Yi

WchT 11th Khanty Mansiysk (7.3)

[Marin, Mihail]

A35

2707

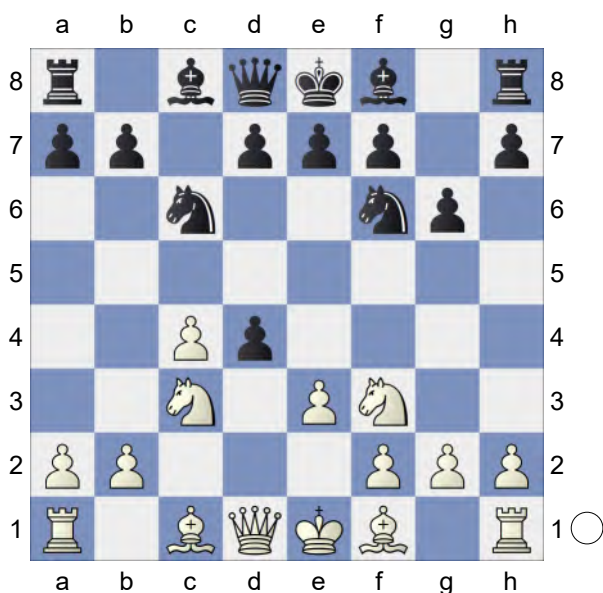
2728

1.c4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 g6

David Cummings: 'A popular move with Grunfeld players. Another key line is the more solid:' 'A popular move with Grunfeld players. Another key line is the more solid: Marin, Mihail: 'David Cummings: 'A popular move with Grunfeld players. Another key line is the more solid:'

[3...e5 see Aronian-Vachier-Lagrave in last month's Update, and other games in the Archives.]

4.e3 Nf6 5.d4 cxd4



6.exd4 d5 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Qb3

David Cummings: 'A mainline position which has been analyzed numerous times on the site.' 'A mainline position which has been analyzed numerous times on the site. Marin, Mihail: 'David Cummings: 'A mainline position which has been analyzed numerous times on

the site.'" 8...e6 David Cummings: 'The alternative is:' 'The alternative is: Marin, Mihail: 'David Cummings: 'The alternative is:'

[David Cummings: '<xml X:en>Objectively</en X/xml> Marin, Mihail: 'Objectively <xml X:en>Objectively</en X/xml>' Objectively David Cummings: 'Marin, Mihail: 'Objectively' 8...Nxc3 David Cummings: '<xml X:en>may have similar merits, but the absence of a black knight in the resulting structure allows White keep some sort of control effortlessly:</en X/xml> Marin, Mihail: 'may have similar merits, but the absence of a black knight in the resulting structure allows White keep some sort of control effortlessly: <xml X:en>may have similar merits, but the absence of a black knight in the resulting structure allows White keep some sort of control effortlessly:</en X/xml>' may have similar merits, but the absence of a black knight in the resulting structure allows White keep some sort of control effortlessly: David Cummings: 'Marin, Mihail: 'may have similar merits, but the absence of a black knight in the resulting structure allows White keep some sort of control effortlessly:' 9.Bc4

David Cummings: 'see Predojevic-Lovik and earlier games in the Archives.' 'see Predojevic-Lovik and earlier games in the Archives. Marin, Mihail: 'David Cummings: 'see Predojevic-Lovik and earlier games in the Archives.'" Nd5 (9...e6?! 10.bxc3 Bg7 11.Ba3 David Cummings: '<xml X:en>leaves Black with nothing better than</en X/xml> Marin, Mihail: 'leaves Black with nothing better than

<xml X:en>leaves Black with nothing better than</:en X/xml>" leaves Black with nothing better than David Cummings: 'Marin,Mihail: 'leaves Black with nothing better than" *Bf8±*) 10.Bxd5 e6 11.Bxc6+ bxc6 12.0-0 Qd5 13.Be3 Be7 14.Rfc1 f6 15.Nd2 Giri,A (2771)-So,W (2812) Leuven (blitz) 2017 (½-½, 32) David Cummings: 'Giri,A (2771)-So,W (2812) Leuven (blitz) 2017 (½-½, 32) <xml X:en>for instance.</:en X/xml> Marin,Mihail: 'Giri,A (2771)-So,W (2812) Leuven (blitz) 2017 (½-½, 32) Giri,A (2771)-So,W (2812) Leuven (blitz) 2017 (½-½, 32) for instance. Giri,A (2771)-So,W (2812) Leuven (blitz) 2017 (½-½, 32) <xml X:en>for instance.</:en X/xml>" for instance. David Cummings: 'Marin,Mihail: 'for instance."]

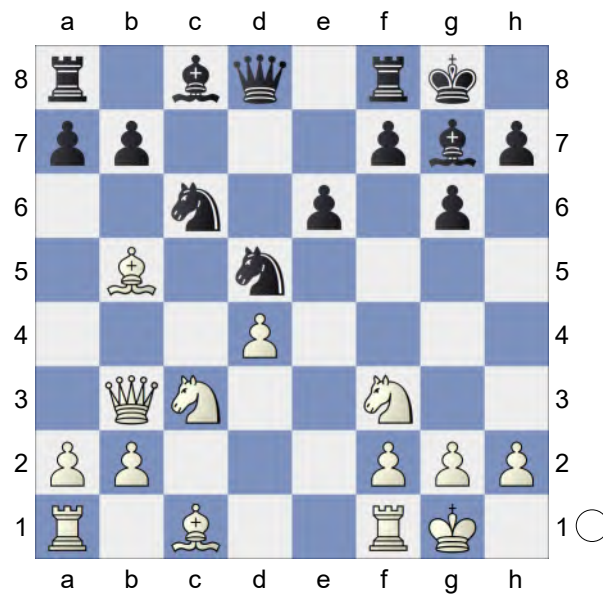
9.Bb5 Bg7 10.0-0 David Cummings: 'The players proceed down the mainline. We have also looked at:"The players proceed down the mainline. We have also looked at: Marin,Mihail: 'David Cummings: 'The players proceed down the mainline. We have also looked at:"

[10.Ne5 Bd7 11.Nxd5 exd5 12.0-0 0-0 13.Qxd5 Nxe5 14.dxe5 Be6 which is Mastrovasilis-Banikas in the Archives]

[10.Bg5 Qb6 11.Qa3 f6 12.Nxd5 exd5 13.Bxc6+ bxc6 14.0-0 Kf7 - see Vorobiov-Grigoriants also in the Archives.]

10...0-0

(Diagram)



11.Bxc6 bxc6 David Cummings:

<xml X:en>An interesting structure. If White manages to block the e- and c-pawns properly (and as his greatest dream, to exchange the dark-squared bishops) then he will get a clear advantage. But Black's strong central knight offers him chances for freeing his position with a central break.</:en X/xml> Marin,Mihail: 'An interesting structure. If White manages to block the e- and c-pawns properly (and as his greatest dream, to exchange the dark-squared bishops) then he will get a clear advantage. But Black's strong central knight offers him chances for freeing his position with a central break. <xml X:en>An interesting structure. If White manages to block the e- and c-pawns properly (and as his greatest dream, to exchange the dark-squared bishops) then he will get a clear advantage. But Black's strong central knight offers him chances for freeing his position with a central break.</:en X/xml>" An interesting structure. If White manages to block the e- and c-pawns properly (and as his greatest dream, to

exchange the dark-squared bishops) then he will get a clear advantage. But Black's strong central knight offers him chances for freeing his position with a central break. David Cummings: 'Marin, Mihail: 'An interesting structure. If White manages to block the e- and c-pawns properly (and as his greatest dream, to exchange the dark-squared bishops) then he will get a clear advantage. But Black's strong central knight offers him chances for freeing his position with a central break.' '12.Na4 David Cummings: '<xml X:en>The knight is heading for c5, preventing ... <sym>Q</sym>b6 at the same time.</:en X/xml> Marin,Mihail: 'The knight is heading for c5, preventing ... ♖b6 at the same time. <xml X:en>The knight is heading for c5, preventing ... <sym>Q</sym>b6 at the same time.</:en X/xml>' The knight is heading for c5, preventing ... ♖ b6 at the same time. David Cummings: 'Marin,Mihail: 'The knight is heading for c5, preventing ... ♖b6 at the same time.'

[12.Ne4 Qb6 David Cummings: '<xml X:en>allows Black to activate his play:</:en X/xml> Marin,Mihail: 'allows Black to activate his play: <xml X:en>allows Black to activate his play:</:en X/xml>' allows Black to activate his play: David Cummings: 'Marin,Mihail: 'allows Black to activate his play:' 13.Rd1 Ba6 14.Ne5 Rad8 15.Be3 Nxe3 David Cummings: '<xml X:en>The start of premature counterplay.</:en X/xml> Marin,Mihail: 'The start of premature counterplay. <xml X:en>The start of premature counterplay.</:en X/xml>' The start of premature counterplay. David Cummings: 'Marin,Mihail: 'The start of

premature counterplay.'" (15...Qxb3 16.axb3 Bb5∞ 17.Rxa7? Nxe3 18.fxe3 Bxe5) 16.fxe3 c5 17.Nxc5 Bxe5 18.Qxb6 axb6 19.Nxa6 Bd6 20.Rac1 Ra8 21.Rc6 Bxh2+ 22.Kxh2 Rxa6 23.a3 Rfa8 24.Rdc1 b5 25.Rxa6 Rxa6 26.Rc8+ Kg7 27.Rb8 Ra5 Sargissian,G (2668)-Sutovsky,E (2623) Tsaghkadzor 2015 (1/2-1/2, 48). David Cummings:

'Sargissian,G (2668)-Sutovsky,E (2623) Tsaghkadzor 2015 (1/2-1/2, 48).

<xml X:en>Black's position remains unpleasant despite the material equality.</:en X/xml> Marin,Mihail:

'Sargissian,G (2668)-Sutovsky,E (2623) Tsaghkadzor 2015 (1/2-1/2, 48).

Sargissian,G (2668)-Sutovsky,E (2623) Tsaghkadzor 2015 (1/2-1/2, 48).

Black's position remains unpleasant despite the material equality.

Sargissian,G (2668)-Sutovsky,E (2623) Tsaghkadzor 2015 (1/2-1/2, 48).

<xml X:en>Black's position remains unpleasant despite the material equality.</:en X/xml>' Black's

position remains unpleasant despite the material equality. David

Cummings: 'Marin,Mihail: 'Black's position remains unpleasant despite the material equality.']

12...Qd6 David Cummings: 'This looks like an improvement over:' This looks like an improvement over:

<xml X:en>Controlling c5 in order to delay <sym>N</sym>c5.</:en X/xml>

Marin,Mihail: 'David Cummings: 'This looks like an improvement over:'

Controlling c5 in order to delay ♘c5.

<xml X:en>Controlling c5 in order to delay <sym>N</sym>c5.</:en X/xml>'

Controlling c5 in order to delay ♘c5.

David Cummings: 'Marin,Mihail:

'Controlling c5 in order to delay ♖c5.'

[David Cummings: '<xml X:en>The seemingly active</:en X/xml> Marin, Mihail: 'The seemingly active <xml X:en>The seemingly active</:en X/xml>' The seemingly active David Cummings: 'Marin,Mihail: 'The seemingly active'' 12...Ba6 David Cummings: '<xml X:en>does not cross White's general plan.</:en X/xml> Marin,Mihail: 'does not cross White's general plan. <xml X:en>does not cross White's general plan.</:en X/xml>' does not cross White's general plan. David Cummings: 'Marin,Mihail: 'does not cross White's general plan.' 13.Re1 David Cummings: '<xml X:en>The rook belongs here anyway, in order to prevent ...e6-e5 for good.</:en X/xml> Marin,Mihail: 'The rook belongs here anyway, in order to prevent ...e6-e5 for good. <xml X:en>The rook belongs here anyway, in order to prevent ...e6-e5 for good.</:en X/xml>' The rook belongs here anyway, in order to prevent ...e6-e5 for good. David Cummings: 'Marin,Mihail: 'The rook belongs here anyway, in order to prevent ...e6-e5 for good.' Nb6 (13...Rb8 14.Qd1 c5 15.Nxc5 Bb7 Khismatullin,D (2679)-Zvjaginsev,V (2655) Kazan 2014 (0-1, 47) 16.Bg5! Ne7 17.d5! Bxd5 18.Bxe7 Qxe7 19.Qxd5±) 14.Nc5 Bc4 15.Qc3 Bd5 16.Ne5 David Cummings: '<xml X:en>White has consolidated his central domination, but making progress is difficult, of course, since Black is solid on the light squares.</:en X/xml> Marin,Mihail: 'White has consolidated his central domination, but making progress is difficult, of

course, since Black is solid on the light squares. <xml X:en>White has consolidated his central domination, but making progress is difficult, of course, since Black is solid on the light squares.</:en X/xml>' White has consolidated his central domination, but making progress is difficult, of course, since Black is solid on the light squares. David Cummings: 'Marin, Mihail: 'White has consolidated his central domination, but making progress is difficult, of course, since Black is solid on the light squares.' Qh4 17.b3 (17.f3 Nc4 18.g3 Qe7 19.Nxc4 Qxc5 20.dxc5 Bxc3 21.bxc3 Bxc4= Wang,Y (2718)-Xu,M (2305) China 2016 (1-0, 47) David Cummings: '=' David Cummings: 'Wang,Y (2718)-Xu,M (2305) China 2016 (1-0, 47) Marin,Mihail: '=' '=' '=' Marin,Mihail: 'Wang,Y (2718)-Xu,M (2305) China 2016 (1-0, 47) '=' '=' Marin,Mihail: 'Wang,Y (2718)-Xu,M (2305) China 2016 (1-0, 47) '=' '=') 17...Rfe8 18.f3 f6 David Cummings: '<xml X:en>The start of a pseudo-active plan resulting in the weakening of the kingside.</:en X/xml> Marin, Mihail: 'The start of a pseudo-active plan resulting in the weakening of the kingside. <xml X:en>The start of a pseudo-active plan resulting in the weakening of the kingside.</:en X/xml>' The start of a pseudo-active plan resulting in the weakening of the kingside. David Cummings: 'Marin, Mihail: 'The start of a pseudo-active plan resulting in the weakening of the kingside.' 19.Ng4 h5 20.Nf2 f5 21.Bb2 Rad8 22.Qe3 g5 23.g3 f4 24.Qxe6+ Rxe6 25.gxh4 Rg6 26.Nh3 gxh4+ 27.Kf2± Aronian,L

(2816)-Caruana,F (2773) Sao Paulo/
Bilbao 2012 (½-½, 73) David
Cummings: 'Aronian,L (2816)-
Caruana,F (2773) Sao Paulo/Bilbao
2012 (½-½, 73) Marin,Mihail: 'Aronian,
L (2816)-Caruana,F (2773) Sao Paulo/
Bilbao 2012 (½-½, 73) Aronian,L
(2816)-Caruana,F (2773) Sao Paulo/
Bilbao 2012 (½-½, 73)"]

[12...Qc7 13.Bd2 Rb8 14.Qa3
The a3-square is a useful post for the queen, limiting Black's activity. In the main game, Wei Yi's 12th move rules this out. Now White gradually improved his position after f6 15.Rac1 g5 16.Ne1 Nf4 17.Bxf4 Qxf4 18.Nc2 with an edge for White in Nepomniachtchi-Areshchenko, see the game in the Archives.]

13.Re1

[13.Nc5 David Cummings:
'<xmlX:en>is premature. In Bocharov,
D (2581)-Alekseev,E (2632) Khanty-
Mansiysk 2016 (1-0, 40) Black in vain
refrained from the thematic</:en X/
xml> Marin,Mihail: 'is premature. In
Bocharov,D (2581)-Alekseev,E (2632)
Khanty-Mansiysk 2016 (1-0, 40) Black
in vain refrained from the thematic
<xmlX:en>is premature. In Bocharov,
D (2581)-Alekseev,E (2632) Khanty-
Mansiysk 2016 (1-0, 40) Black in vain
refrained from the thematic</:en X/
xml>' is premature. In Bocharov,D
(2581)-Alekseev,E (2632) Khanty-
Mansiysk 2016 (1-0, 40) Black in vain
refrained from the thematic David
Cummings: 'Marin,Mihail: 'is
premature. In Bocharov,D (2581)-
Alekseev,E (2632) Khanty-Mansiysk
2016 (1-0, 40) Black in vain refrained
from the thematic" e5 14.Ne4 Qc7
15.Nxe5 (15.dxe5 Bg4

David Cummings: 'Marin,Mihail: ' ̈́' ̈́'
' ̈́') 15...Rb8 16.Qa3 Rb4 17.Nf3
Bg4̈́ David Cummings: 'Marin,Mihail:
' ̈́' ̈́' ̈́']

13...Rb8 14.Qc2 David Cummings: 'Black also equalized after: "Black also equalized after: Marin, Mihail: 'David Cummings: 'Black also equalized after:"'

[14.Qd1 Ne7 15.Bd2 Nf5 16.Bc3 Rd8 17.Re4 Rb5 in Aronian,L (2792)-So,W (2770) Paris (blitz) 2016 1/2-1/2 (31)]

14...c5 David Cummings: '!' '!' '!' David Cummings: 'A very important idea for this line. Black sacrifices the c-pawn in order to free his light-squared bishop and gain active counterplay. Instead:' A very important idea for this line. Black sacrifices the c-pawn in order to free his light-squared bishop and gain active counterplay. Instead: <xml X:en>The crucial answer, taking measures against the blockade on the dark squares.</:en X /xml> Marin,Mihail: 'David Cummings: '!' David Cummings: 'A very important idea for this line. Black sacrifices the c-pawn in order to free his light-squared bishop and gain active counterplay. Instead:' The crucial answer, taking measures against the blockade on the dark squares. <xml X:en>The crucial answer, taking measures against the blockade on the dark squares.</:en X /xml>' The crucial answer, taking measures against the blockade on the dark squares. David Cummings: 'Marin, Mihail: 'The crucial answer, taking measures against the blockade on the dark squares.'

[14...Nb4 15.Qc3 Nd5 (15...c5
transposes below) 16.Qd2
David Cummings: '<xml X:en>keeps
the control at the cost of awkward

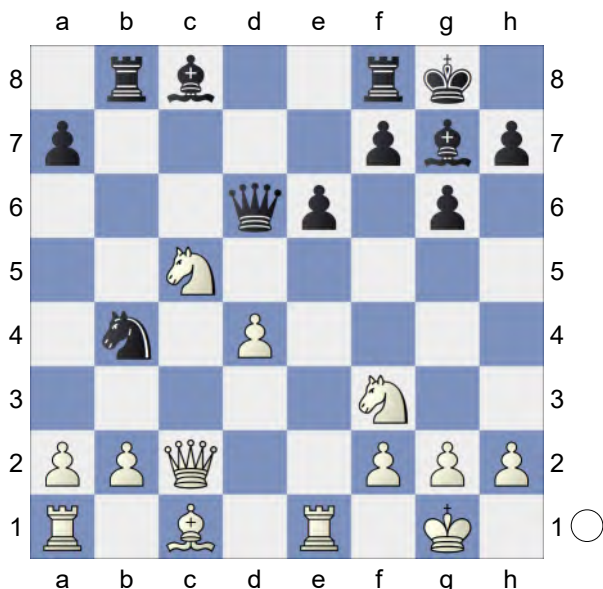
development.</en X/xml> Marin, Mihail: 'keeps the control at the cost of awkward development. <xml X:en>keeps the control at the cost of awkward development.</en X/xml>" keeps the control at the cost of awkward development. David Cummings: 'Marin,Mihail: 'keeps the control at the cost of awkward development.'" c5 17.Nxc5 Bb7 18.b3 gives White a grip on the dark squares, Harutyunian,T (2515)-Alekseev,E (2632) Moscow 2017 1/2-1/2 (35)]

15.Nxc5 David Cummings: 'The other captures are no better:'The other captures are no better: Marin,Mihail: 'David Cummings: 'The other captures are no better:'"

[15.Qxc5 Qa6 16.Qc2 Nb4 17.Qb3 Qd6 with similar play to the game]

[15.dxc5?! Qa6 16.Bd2 Bd7 17.Nc3 Nb4 and Black takes over the initiative]

15...Nb4



16.Qc3 David Cummings: '<xml X:en>After this move Black seems to get adequate compensation as the

queen is exposed on the c-file.</en X/xml> Marin,Mihail: 'After this move Black seems to get adequate compensation as the queen is exposed on the c-file. <xml X:en>After this move Black seems to get adequate compensation as the queen is exposed on the c-file.</en X/xml>" After this move Black seems to get adequate compensation as the queen is exposed on the c-file. David Cummings: 'Marin,Mihail: 'After this move Black seems to get adequate compensation as the queen is exposed on the c-file."

[David Cummings: '<xml X:en>I assume that</en X/xml> Marin,Mihail: 'I assume that <xml X:en>I assume that</en X/xml>" I assume that David Cummings: 'Marin,Mihail: 'I assume that" 16.Qe2!?N David Cummings: '<xml X:en>was not played due to</en X/xml> Marin,Mihail: 'was not played due to <xml X:en>was not played due to</en X/xml>" was not played due to David Cummings: 'Marin,Mihail: 'was not played due to" e5 (16...Bb7 17.Nxb7 Rxb7 18.b3 Rc7 19.Ba3 Rfc8 20.Qd2 Bf8 21.Ne5 Rc2 22.Qf4 Qc7 23.Bxb4 Bxb4 24.Red1±) David Cummings: '<xml X:en>but White can keep things under control in the complications.</en X/xml> Marin,Mihail: 'but White can keep things under control in the complications. <xml X:en>but White can keep things under control in the complications.</en X/xml>" but White can keep things under control in the complications. David Cummings: 'Marin,Mihail: 'but White can keep things under control in the complications.'" 17.a3 (17.Nxe5 Qxd4) 17...Nc6 18.Ne4 Qd5 19.dxe5

Nxe5 20.Nxe5 Qxe5 21.Qf3 Rb6
22.Bd2 Qxb2 23.Bb4± Rd8?!
24.Rab1 Qa2 25.Rbd1+-]

16...Bb7 David Cummings: 'would transpos' Marin, Mihail: 'David Cummings: 'would transpose to the game'' e to the game' **17.Ne5** David Cummings: 'The first new move. Earlier games had seen: "The first new move. Earlier games had seen: Marin, Mihail: 'David Cummings: 'The first new move. Earlier games had seen:"

[17.a3 Nd5 18.Qd3 Ba8?
David Cummings: "?" Marin, Mihail: '?'
'?' '?' (David Cummings:

'<xml X:en>Wasting an important tempo.</:en X/xml> Marin, Mihail:

'Wasting an important tempo.

<xml X:en>Wasting an important tempo.</:en X/xml>" Wasting an

important tempo. David Cummings:

'Marin, Mihail: 'Wasting an important

tempo." 18...Ne7 19.b4 Nf5±

David Cummings: '<xml X:en>was

better</:en X/xml> Marin, Mihail: ' ±' '±'

'±' Marin, Mihail: 'was better

<xml X:en>was better</:en X/xml>"

was better David Cummings: 'Marin,

Mihail: 'was better" 20.Nxb7 Rxb7

21.Be3 Rd8 is also OK for Black)

19.b4 Ne7 Harutyunian, T (2515)-

Vakhidov, J (2561) Moscow 2017

(½-½, 60) David Cummings:

'Harutyunian, T (2515)-Vakhidov, J

(2561) Moscow 2017 (½-½, 60) Marin,

Mihail: 'Harutyunian, T (2515)-

Vakhidov, J (2561) Moscow 2017

(½-½, 60) Harutyunian, T (2515)-

Vakhidov, J (2561) Moscow 2017

(½-½, 60)" 20.Ne4! (20.Bg5 Nf5

21.Ne4 Bxe4 22.Qxe4 Rb5

and Black has enough for the pawn,

Harutyunian, T (2515)-Vakhidov, J

(2561) Moscow 2017 1/2-1/2 (60))

20...Qb6 21.Bg5 f6 22.Bf4±]

[17.Nxb7 Rxb7 18.Bd2 Rfb8

19.Qa3 Qd5± Yilmaz, M (2582)-

Cheparinov, I (2690) Kocaeli 2015

(½-½, 27) David Cummings: 'when

White's extra b-pawn is stymied by

the queenside pressure from Black's

heavy pieces, and Black held

comfortably in Yilmaz, M (2582)-

Cheparinov, I (2690) Kocaeli 2015 1/

2-1/2 (27)"when White's extra b-pawn

is stymied by the queenside pressure

from Black's heavy pieces, and Black

held comfortably in Yilmaz, M (2582)-

Cheparinov, I (2690) Kocaeli 2015 1/

2-1/2 (27) Yilmaz, M (2582)-

Cheparinov, I (2690) Kocaeli 2015

(½-½, 27) Marin, Mihail: ' ±' '±' '±'

Marin, Mihail: 'Yilmaz, M (2582)-

Cheparinov, I (2690) Kocaeli 2015

(½-½, 27) David Cummings: 'when

White's extra b-pawn is stymied by

the queenside pressure from Black's

heavy pieces, and Black held

comfortably in Yilmaz, M (2582)-

Cheparinov, I (2690) Kocaeli 2015 1/

2-1/2 (27)' Yilmaz, M (2582)-

Cheparinov, I (2690) Kocaeli 2015

(½-½, 27)"]

17...Qd5 David Cummings: 'Forcing

White to exchange the c5-knight for the

b7-bishop, when as in the notes above,

Black has enough queenside counter-

pressure to hold the balance."Forcing

White to exchange the c5-knight for the

b7-bishop, when as in the notes above,

Black has enough queenside counter-

pressure to hold the balance. Marin,

Mihail: 'David Cummings: 'Forcing White

to exchange the c5-knight for the b7-

bishop, when as in the notes above,

Black has enough queenside counter-

pressure to hold the balance.'" **18.Nxb7**
David Cummings: 'Instead'"Instead
Marin,Mihail: 'David Cummings:
'Instead'"

[18.f3?! Nxa2! David Cummings: 'and
Black can start thinking of playing for
a win.'"and Black can start thinking
of playing for a win. '!' Marin,Mihail:
'!' '!' '!' Marin,Mihail: 'David
Cummings: 'and Black can start
thinking of playing for a win.'"]

18...Rxb7

[18...Qxb7 19.a3 Nd5
David Cummings: 'Marin,Mihail: ' ♞' ♞'
'♞"]

19.b3

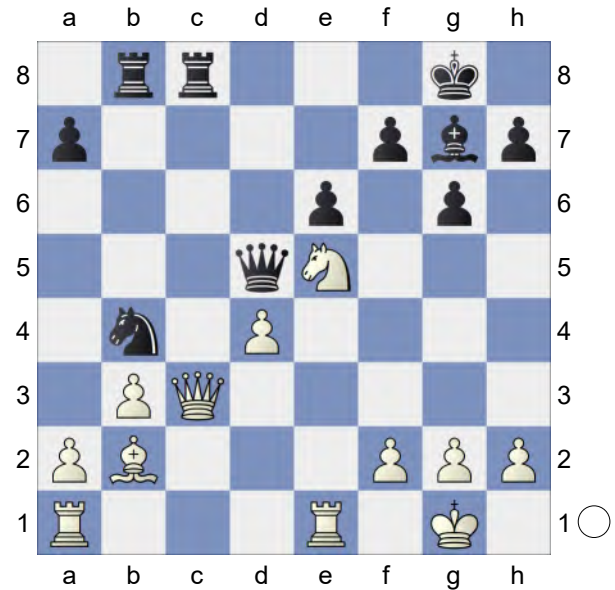
[19.a3 Na2 ♞ David Cummings:
'Marin,Mihail: '♞' ♞' ♞"]

19...Rbb8 ♞

David Cummings: '!' '!' '!'

David Cummings: 'Black coordinates his
rooks.'"Black coordinates his rooks.
<xml X:en>Black's better development
and the weakness of the d4-pawn offer
him excellent compensation.</:en X/
xml> Marin,Mihail: ' ♞' ♞' ♞' Marin,
Mihail: 'David Cummings: '!' David
Cummings: 'Black coordinates his rooks.
' Black's better development and the
weakness of the d4-pawn offer him
e x c e l l e n t c o m p e n s a t i o n .
<xml X:en>Black's better development
and the weakness of the d4-pawn offer
him excellent compensation.</:en X/
xml>" Black's better development and
the weakness of the d4-pawn offer him
excellent compensation. David
Cummings: 'Marin,Mihail: 'Black's better
development and the weakness of the
d4-pawn offer him excellent
compensation.'" **20.Bb2 Rfc8**

(Diagram)

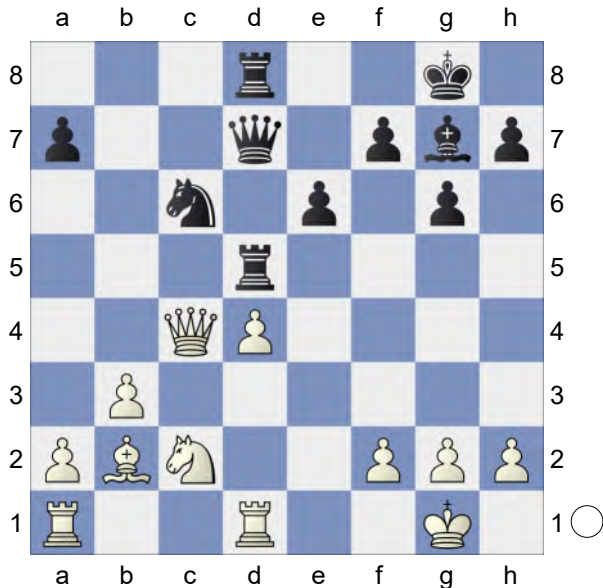


David Cummings: 'White's knight is
evicted from the e5-square, which
enables Black to regroup and pile
pressure on the d4-pawn.'"White's knight
is evicted from the e5-square, which
enables Black to regroup and pile
pressure on the d4-pawn. Marin,Mihail:
'David Cummings: 'White's knight is
evicted from the e5-square, which
enables Black to regroup and pile
pressure on the d4-pawn.'" **21.Nc4 Rd8**
22.Red1 Nc6 23.Ne3 Qd7 24.Nc2
David Cummings: 'White is still a pawn
up, but has had to dedicate all his
forces to defending the d4-pawn, in vain
as it soon turns out.'"White is still a pawn
up, but has had to dedicate all his
forces to defending the d4-pawn, in vain
as it soon turns out. Marin,Mihail: 'David
Cummings: 'White is still a pawn up, but
has had to dedicate all his forces to
defending the d4-pawn, in vain as it
soon turns out.'" **24...Rb5 25.Qc4**
David Cummings: 'If instead:"If instead:
Marin,Mihail: 'David Cummings: 'If
instead:"'

[25.Rd2 Rd5 26.Rad1 e5
and the d4-pawn falls because of the

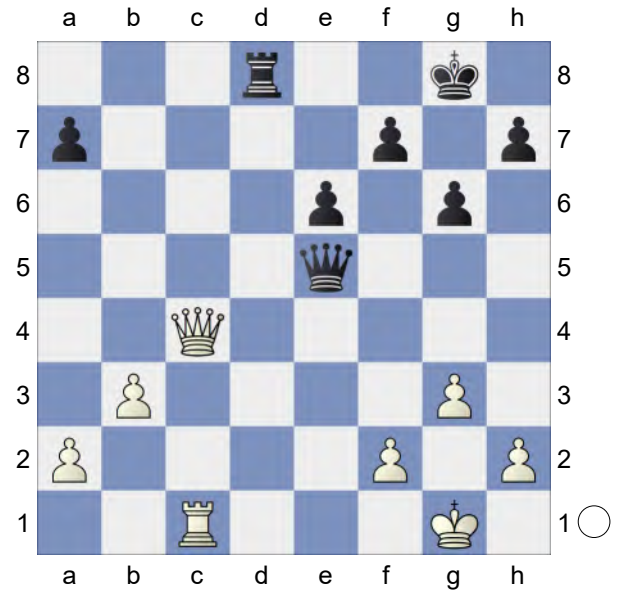
pin along the d-file.]

25...Rd5

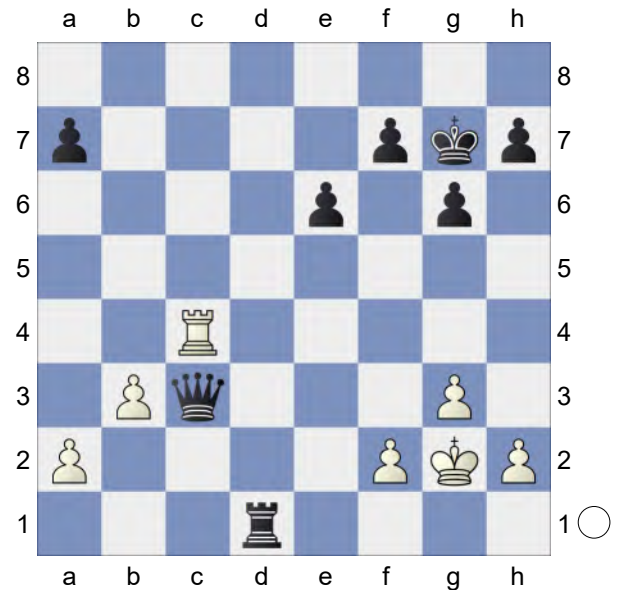


26.Rac1 Nxd4= David Cummings: "=
 <xml X:en>The draw is obvious now.</
 :enX/xml> Marin,Mihail: '=' '=' '=' Marin,
 Mihail: 'The draw is obvious now. '='
 <xml X:en>The draw is obvious now.</
 :en X/xml>' Marin,Mihail: 'The draw is
 obvious now. '=' <xml X:en>The draw is
 obvious now.</:en X/xml> '='" The draw
 is obvious now. David Cummings: 'Marin,
 Mihail: 'The draw is obvious now.'
27.Nxd4 Bxd4 28.Rxd4 Rxd4
29.Bxd4 Qxd4 David Cummings: 'This
 endgame is completely equal and the
 players sign a truce after a few more
 moves.' 'This endgame is completely
 equal and the players sign a truce after
 a few more moves. Marin,Mihail: 'David
 Cummings: 'This endgame is completely
 equal and the players sign a truce after
 a few more moves.'" **30.g3 Qe5**

(Diagram)

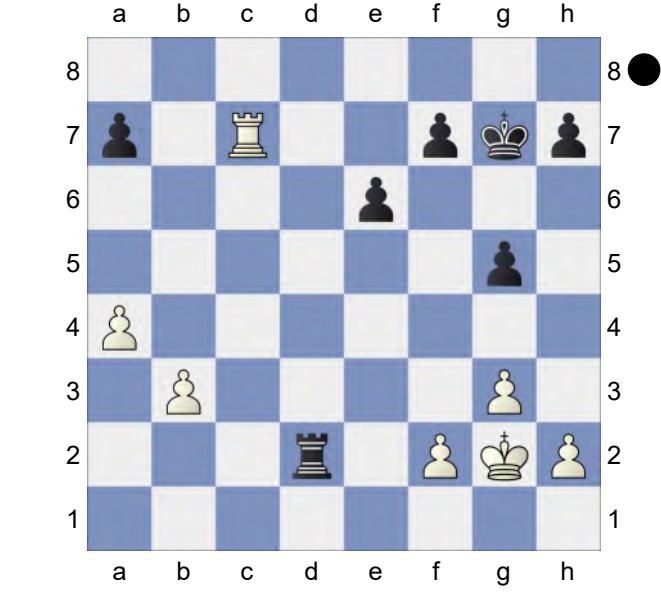


31.Kg2 Rd4 32.Qc6 Kg7 33.Rc4 Rd1
34.Qf3 Qe1 35.Qc3+ Qxc3



36.Rxc3 Rd2 37.a4 g5 38.Rc7

(Diagram)



$\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$

536

□ Wei, Yi

■ Eljanov, Pavel

38 Kigali

[Martin Lokander]

C48

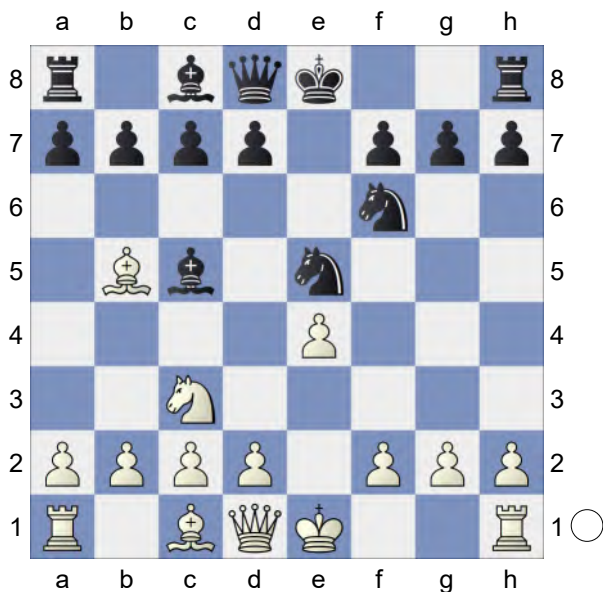
2014

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bb5 Bc5 5.Nxe5!? It is well established that in order to obtain some kind of advantage against 4...Bc5, White has to capture the e5-pawn, either now or after castling. Against all other tries, Black at least equalizes immediately. Since Wei Yi chose this move on two occasions, it's definitely one of the most critical moves, but Eljanov found an idea which I think puts this line under a cloud.

[In my opinion, White should be looking at 5.0-0 0-0 6.Nxe5 in his search for an advantage.]

5...Nxe5

[I always have a feeling of nausea whenever I see a move like 5...Bxf2+ . White is clearly better after 6.Kxf2 Nxe5 7.d4 .]



6.d4 a6! This move has been played

just 14 times out of 314 games in my database. Nevertheless, it was a wonderful discovery by Eljanov and it's notable that after this game Wei Yi switched to 5 0-0 0-0 6 Nxe5.

[6...Bd6 is the main move and it looks like Black is doing fine here as well after 7.f4 Nc6 (7...Neg4 is a favourite of my engine, but Wei Yi is usually incredibly well prepared: 8.e5 Bb4 9.h3 Ne4 10.Qxg4 Nxc3 11.bxc3 Bxc3+ 12.Bd2 Bxd2+ 13.Kxd2 0-0 14.Qg5 Qxg5 15.fxg5 d5 16.exd6 cxd6 17.Bd3 and White enjoyed the better endgame in Wei Yi-I.Salgado Lopez, Leon (rapid) 2014, although Black managed to draw) 8.e5 Bb4 9.exf6 Qxf6 . Now the critical line seems to be 10.a3 Ba5 (10...Bxc3+ is generally a desirable structure, but 11.bxc3 0-0 12.0-0 d5 allows 13.g4! , preventing the activation of the c8-bishop; Black runs the risk of being heavily squeezed on the kingside) 11.Be3 0-0 12.0-0 Bxc3 13.bxc3 d5 14.Qf3 (14.g4? Qe6! wins material) 14...Ne7 and Black's position looks playable, although to be honest I'd rather play White. He has the clear plan of going Bd3 and g4 followed by a slow but clear squeeze on the kingside.]

7.Be2

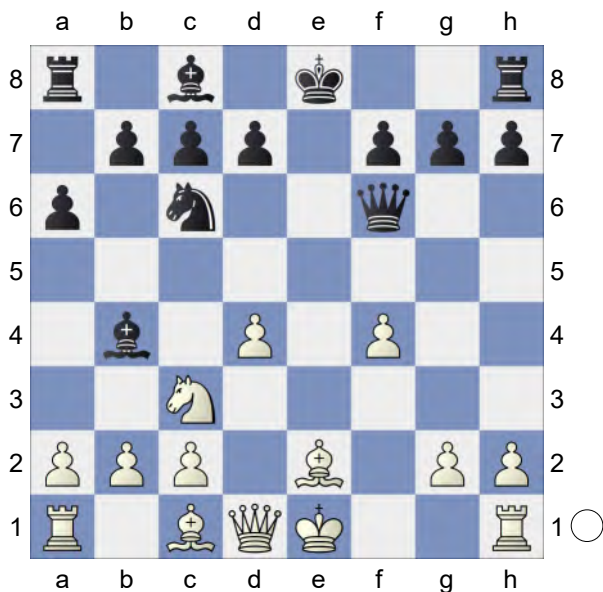
[The main reason why this ...a6 trick works here and not with 5 0-0 0-0 inserted is shown after 7.dxe5 axb5 8.exf6 Qxf6 . Now since Black threatens mate on f2, White is obliged to go 9.0-0 , but Black doesn't have to castle just yet. He has time to include c6! , protecting a valuable pawn first. Here Black has the bishop-pair, an open a-file and certainly can't

complain.]

7...Bd6 8.f4 A standard resource.

[To be fair, White can play 8.dxe5 Bxe5 when his bishop is more useful on e2 than on b5. This means that White has a slightly improved version of Game 41, but this is far from enough to claim any advantage. White has some ideas with 0-0 and f4, but the accurate 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bh4 c6 11.0-0 Qc7 definitely solves all of Black's problems. White has nothing better than the beautiful 12.f4! Bxf4 13.Rxf4! Qxf4 14.Bg3 Qe3+ 15.Bf2 Qf4 16.Bg3 with a draw.]

8...Nc6 9.e5 Bb4! I think the 4...Bc5 line has obtained a bad reputation simply because White's central pawn's look scary to play against, but if Black returns the piece in this manner the pawn on f4 could easily just become misplaced. White always has to watch out for the e4-square, as we will see in the game Berbatov-Hammer. **10.exf6 Qxf6**



This is a key position, and one where Black is better off having included ...a6 and Be2. **11.Be3** A common move, but

not critical in my opinion.

[White's biggest test is 11.a3! , when Black definitely should play Bxc3+ 12.bxc3 d5! 13.0-0 Bf5! when he gets his bishop to a great square before castling and he will establish an advantage based on the e4-square. Had Black not inserted ... a6 and Be2, White would have had Re1+ at this point, disturbing Black's king.]

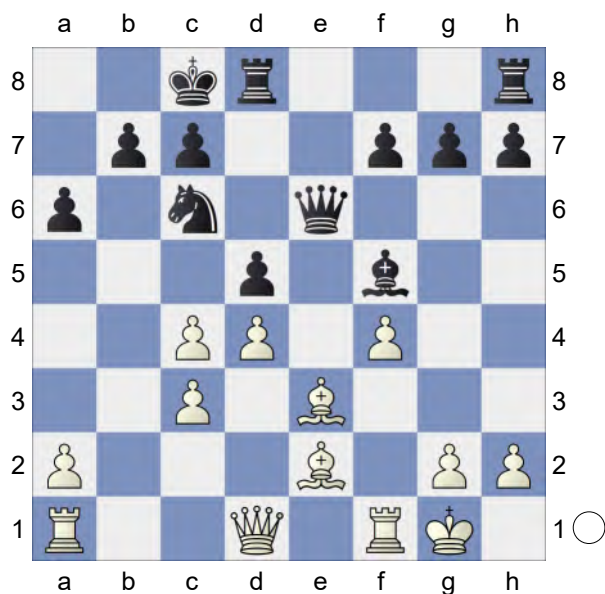
[Instead, 11.a3 Ba5? is my recommendation with the bishop on b5, but here White can play the disturbing 12.b4 Bb6 13.Nd5! , putting pressure on f6, c7 and b6 simultaneously. Had the bishop been on b5, Black would have had the move Qe6 with check.]

11...d5 12.0-0 Bxc3 13.bxc3 Bf5 Black has managed to obtain his dream position. The bishop on f5 is very well placed and he would love to follow up with ...0-0-0, ...h5, doubling the rooks on the e-file and manoeuvring the c6-knight to a better square, preferably d6. **14.c4!** White, who has a statically worse position, tries to play dynamically with the bishop-pair, but it's difficult to break the light-square blockade. **14...0-0-0 15.c3**

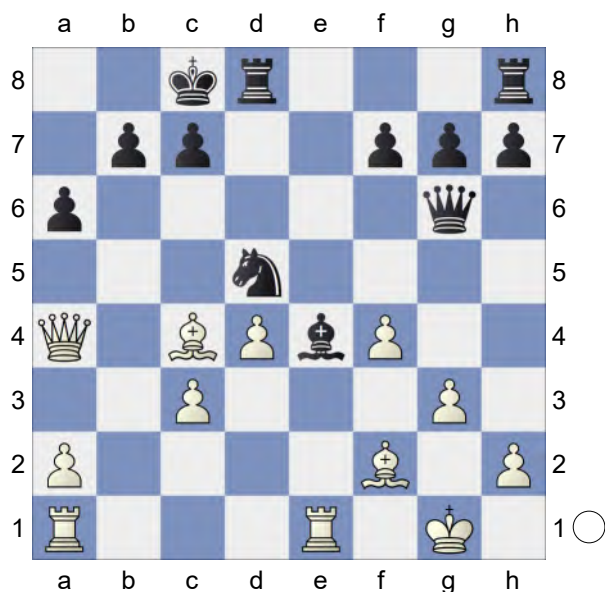
[15.cxd5 Nb4! was Black's main point.]

15...Qe6

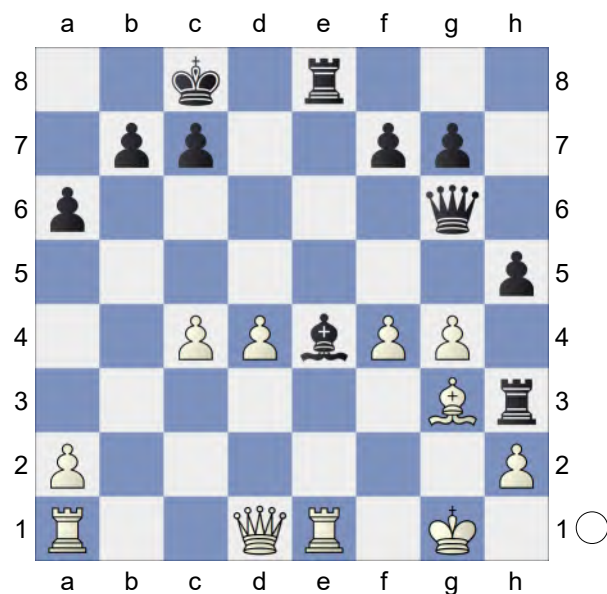
(Diagram)



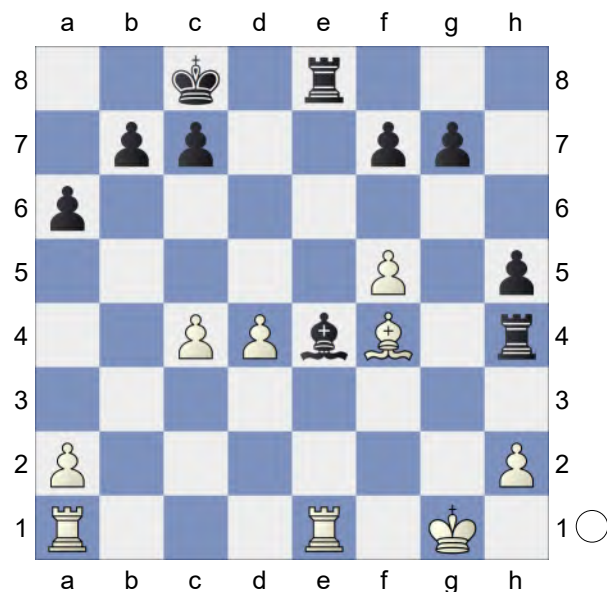
16.Bf2 dxc4 17.Re1 Be4! This bishop is a monster. Black has grabbed a pawn on c4 which White might be able to win back, but it won't break Black's terrific light-square blockade. **18.Qa4 Qg6 19.g3 Ne7 20.Bxc4 Nd5!**



This is light-square domination in a picture. In fact, less than 10 moves later Wei Yi throws in the towel. **21.Bxd5 Rxd5 22.Qd1 Re8 23.c4 Rh5 24.g4 Rh3 25.Bg3** White has finally managed to get some air, but his kingside is left in tatters. **25...h5!**



26.f5 Qg5 27.Qc1 Qxg4 28.Qf4 Qxf4 29.Bxf4 Rh4



. An incredibly well-played game by Eljanov, who employed a theoretically important idea and then executed a strategical masterpiece worthy of any book.

0-1

386

□ Van Kampen, Robin

■ Wei, Yi

(ol) 121/57 Tromsø

[Martinovic, Slobodan]

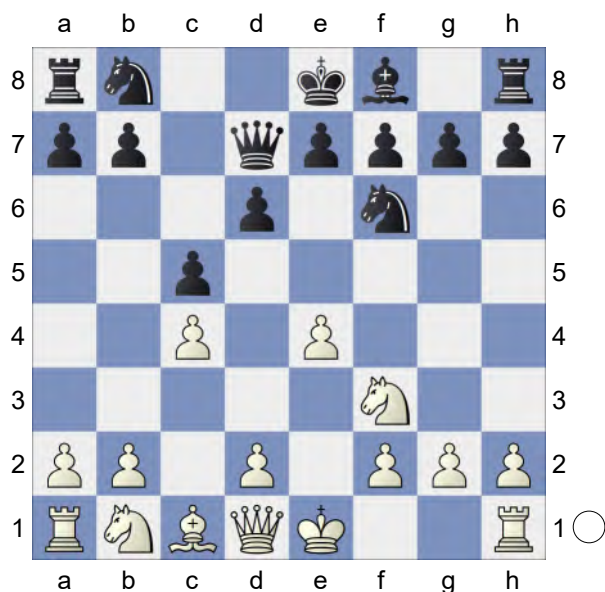
B52

2638

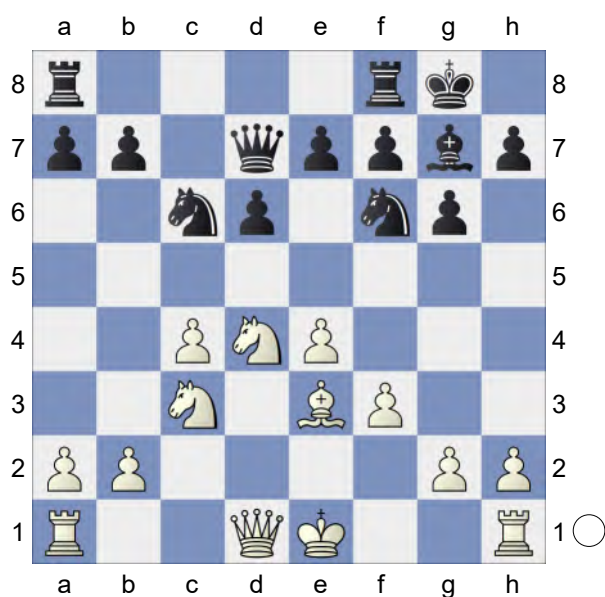
2638

2014

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7
4.Bxd7+ Qxd7 5.c4 Nf6

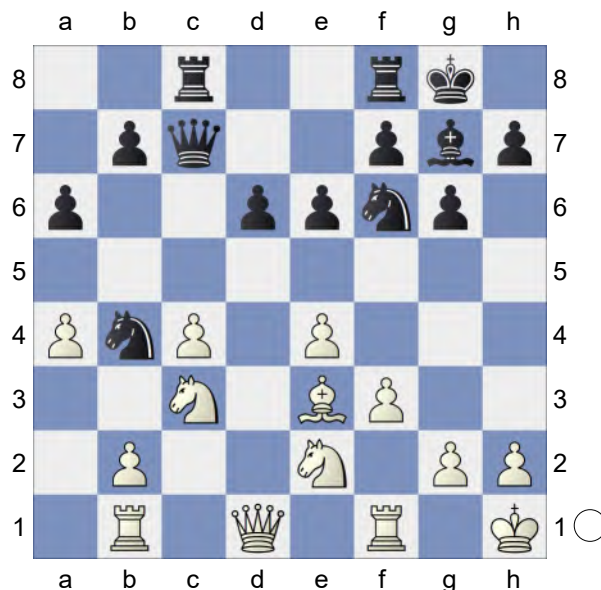


6.Nc3 g6 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bg7 9.f3
0-0 10.Be3 Nc6



11.0-0 a6 12.a4 Rac8 13.Nde2 e6
14.Kh1 Qc7 15.Rb1 Nb4!N

[15...Rfd8 - 120/70]



16.b3 d5! 17.e5

[17.cxd5 exd5 18.Rc1 (18.exd5
Rcd8 19.Rc1 Nfxd5! 20.Nxd5 Qe5
21.Qd2 Nxd5) 18...dxe4 (18...Qe7
19.Bg5 dxe4 20.Nxe4 Nbd5=)
19.Nxe4 Qa5=]

17...Ne8

[17...Qxe5!? 18.Bf4 Qh5

A) 19.g4 Qh3 20.Ng1 (20.Bg5
Nxg4! 21.fxg4 Be5 22.Bf4 Bxf4
23.Rxf4 Nd3 24.Rf1 Ne5) 20...Qh4
21.Qd2 h6 22.Bg3 Qg5 23.Bf4
(23.Qxg5 hxg5 24.Bd6 a5
25.Bxf8 Bxf8) 23...Qh4=;

B) 19.Bd6 a5 20.Bxf8 Bxf8

18.cxd5 Qxe5 19.Bf4?!

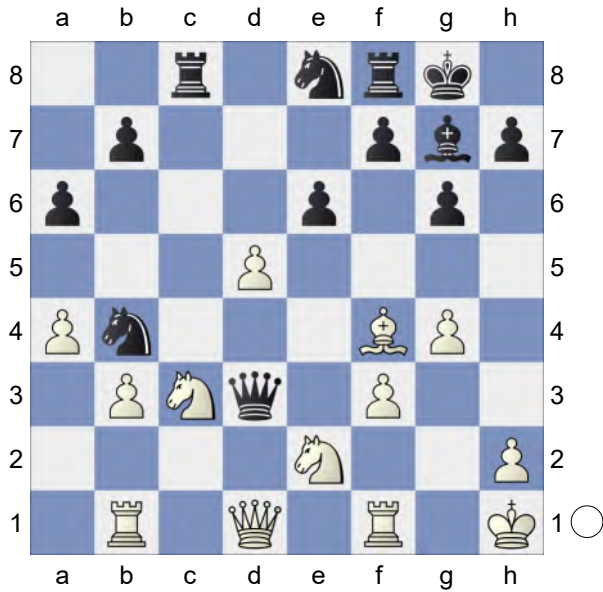
[19.Bd4 Qd6 20.dxe6 Qxe6 21.Ne4
Rd8 22.Qe1 Bxd4 23.Qxb4 Qb6
24.Qxb6 Bxb6 25.Rfd1=]

19...Qf5 20.g4

[20.dxe6 Qxe6 21.Qd2 Nf6 22.Rfd1
Rfe8

20...Qd3

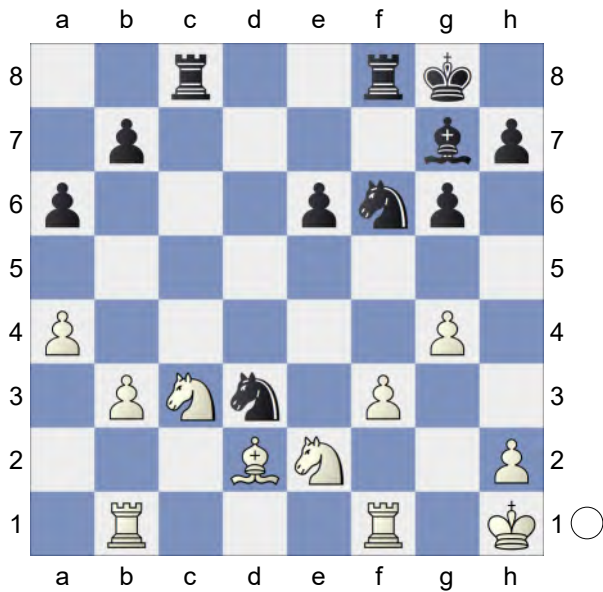
(Diagram)



21.dxe6 fxe6 22.Qxd3 Nxd3 23.Bd2
Nf6 24.Rbd1 Nb2

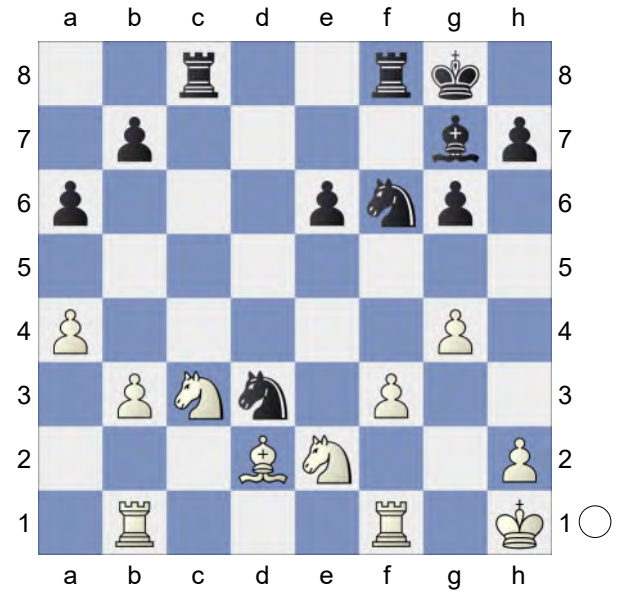
[24...Nc5 25.Nc1 (25.g5 Nd5; 25.b4 Nd3 $\bar{f}$) 25...Rfd8 26.Bg5 Rxd1 27.Nxd1 Nd5 $\bar{f}$]

25.Rb1 Nd3



26.Rbd1 Nb2 27.Rb1 Nd3 28.Rbd1 Nb2 29.Rb1 Nd3

(Diagram)



1/2-1/2

8 **C24**
 □ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2840**
 ■ **Wei,Yi** **2706**
 Tata Steel-A 79th (4) 17.01.2017
[Meier,Georg]

1.e4 Stamenkovic,Zoran Stamenkovic,
 Zoran Mikhalevski,V Mikhalevski,V:
 'Stamenkovic,Zoran Meier,Georg:
 'Stamenkovic,Zoran Mikhalevski,V'
 Mikhalevski,V: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran
 Meier,Georg: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran
 Mikhalevski,V' Meier,Georg:
 'Stamenkovic,Zoran Stamenkovic,Zoran
 Mikhalevski,V' Meier,G: 'Meier,Georg:
 'Mikhalevski,V' **1...e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3**
 Meier,G: 'The Bishops's Opening or
 Italian Game reminds me of the London
 System (1.d4 followed by Bf4 on move 2
 or 3) that has also had a resurgence of
 late, not least due to Magnus's efforts.
 You can of course find fresh ideas
 everywhere, but the main point of these
 openings - at least to me - is to keep a
 lot of pieces on the board and beat your
 opponent by a better understanding of
 positional play and pawn structures.'
 The Bishops's Opening or Italian Game
 reminds me of the London System (1.d4
 followed by ♗f4 on move 2 or 3) that has
 also had a resurgence of late, not least
 due to Magnus's efforts. You can of
 course find fresh ideas everywhere, but
 the main point of these openings - at
 least to me - is to keep a lot of pieces
 on the board and beat your opponent by
 a better understanding of positional play
 and pawn structures. Mikhalevski,V:
 'Meier,Georg: 'The Bishops's Opening
 or Italian Game reminds me of the
 London System (1.d4 followed by ♗f4
 on move 2 or 3) that has also had a

resurgence of late, not least due to
 Magnus's efforts. You can of course find
 fresh ideas everywhere, but the main
 point of these openings - at least to me -
 is to keep a lot of pieces on the board
 and beat your opponent by a better
 understanding of positional play and
 pawn structures." Mikhalevski,V: 'Meier,
 Georg: 'The Bishops's Opening or
 Italian Game reminds me of the London
 System (1.d4 followed by ♗f4 on move 2
 or 3) that has also had a resurgence of
 late, not least due to Magnus's efforts.
 You can of course find fresh ideas
 everywhere, but the main point of these
 openings - at least to me - is to keep a
 lot of pieces on the board and beat your
 opponent by a better understanding of
 positional play and pawn structures.'
 Meier,Georg: 'Meier,G: 'The Bishops's
 Opening or Italian Game reminds me of
 the London System (1.d4 followed by Bf4
 on move 2 or 3) that has also had a
 resurgence of late, not least due to
 Magnus's efforts. You can of course find
 fresh ideas everywhere, but the main
 point of these openings - at least to me -
 is to keep a lot of pieces on the board
 and beat your opponent by a better
 understanding of positional play and
 pawn structures.' The Bishops's Opening
 or Italian Game reminds me of the
 London System (1.d4 followed by ♗f4
 on move 2 or 3) that has also had a
 resurgence of late, not least due to
 Magnus's efforts. You can of course find
 fresh ideas everywhere, but the main
 point of these openings - at least to me -
 is to keep a lot of pieces on the board
 and beat your opponent by a better
 understanding of positional play and
 pawn structures.'" Meier,G: 'The
 Bishops's Opening or Italian Game

reminds me of the London System (1.d4 followed by Bf4 on move 2 or 3) that has also had a resurgence of late, not least due to Magnus's efforts. You can of course find fresh ideas everywhere, but the main point of these openings - at least to me - is to keep a lot of pieces on the board and beat your opponent by a better understanding of positional play and pawn structures. Meier,Georg: 'The Bishops's Opening or Italian Game reminds me of the London System (1.d4 followed by ♗f4 on move 2 or 3) that has also had a resurgence of late, not least due to Magnus's efforts. You can of course find fresh ideas everywhere, but the main point of these openings - at least to me - is to keep a lot of pieces on the board and beat your opponent by a better understanding of positional play and pawn structures.'" The Bishops's Opening or Italian Game reminds me of the London System (1.d4 followed by ♗f4 on move 2 or 3) that has also had a resurgence of late, not least due to Magnus's efforts. You can of course find fresh ideas everywhere, but the main point of these openings - at least to me - is to keep a lot of pieces on the board and beat your opponent by a better understanding of positional play and pawn structures. Meier,G: 'Meier,Georg: 'The Bishops's Opening or Italian Game reminds me of the London System (1.d4 followed by ♗f4 on move 2 or 3) that has also had a resurgence of late, not least due to Magnus's efforts. You can of course find fresh ideas everywhere, but the main point of these openings - at least to me - is to keep a lot of pieces on the board and beat your opponent by a better understanding of positional play and pawn structures.'" **3...c6 4.Nf3**

Mikhalevski,V: 'It has been over two years since we covered this system and so the current game is a good opportunity to fill the gap.'"It has been ov'It has been over two years since we covered this system and so the current game is a good opportunity to fill the gap. Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: 'It has been over two years since we covered this system and so the current game is a good opportunity to fill the gap.'" Meier, Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: 'It has been over two years since we covered this system and so the current game is a good opportunity to fill the gap.'" Mikhalevski, V: 'It has been over two years since we covered this system and so the current game is a good opportunity to fill the gap.'" er two years since we covered this system and so the current game is a good opportunity to fill the gap. Meier, Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: 'It has been over two years since we covered this system and so the current game is a good opportunity to fill the gap.'" **4...d6** Meier,G: 'A bit tame. But it was played after almost 6 minutes of contemplation, indicating that Yi had not made up his mind about this opening beforehand.' A bit tame. But it was played after almost 6 minu'This modest move is pretty rare. Meier,Georg: 'A bit tame. But it was played after almost 6 minutes of contemplation, indicating that Yi had not made up his mind about this opening beforehand. Mikhalevski,V: 'This modest move is pretty rare.' A bit tame. But it was played after almost 6 minutes of contemplation, indicating that Yi had not made up his mind about this opening beforehand.' Meier,Georg: 'Meier,G: 'A bit tame. But it was played after almost 6 minutes of contemplation, indicating

that Yi had not made up his mind about this opening beforehand.' A bit tame. But it was played after almost 6 minutes of contemplation, indicating that Yi had not made up his mind about this opening beforehand. A bit tame. But it was played after almost 6 minutes of contemplation, indicating that Yi had not made up his mind about this opening beforehand. Mikhalevski,V: 'This modest move is pretty rare.' A bit tame. But it was played after almost 6 minutes of contemplation, indicating that Yi had not made up his mind about this opening beforehand." 'This modest move is pretty rare. Meier,Georg: 'A bit tame. But it was played after almost 6 minutes of contemplation, indicating that Yi had not made up his mind about this opening beforehand. Mikhalevski,V: 'This modest move is pretty rare.' A bit tame. But it was played after almost 6 minutes of contemplation, indicating that Yi had not made up his mind about this opening beforehand. Mikhalevski,V: 'This modest move is pretty rare.' A bit tame. But it was played after almost 6 minutes of contemplation, indicating that Yi had not made up his mind about this opening beforehand. Meier,G: 'A bit tame. But it was played after almost 6 minutes of contemplation, indicating that Yi had not made up his mind about this opening beforehand. Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski, V: 'This modest move is pretty rare.' A bit tame. But it was played after almost 6 minutes of contemplation, indicating that Yi had not made up his mind about this opening beforehand." A bit tame. But it was played after almost 6 minutes

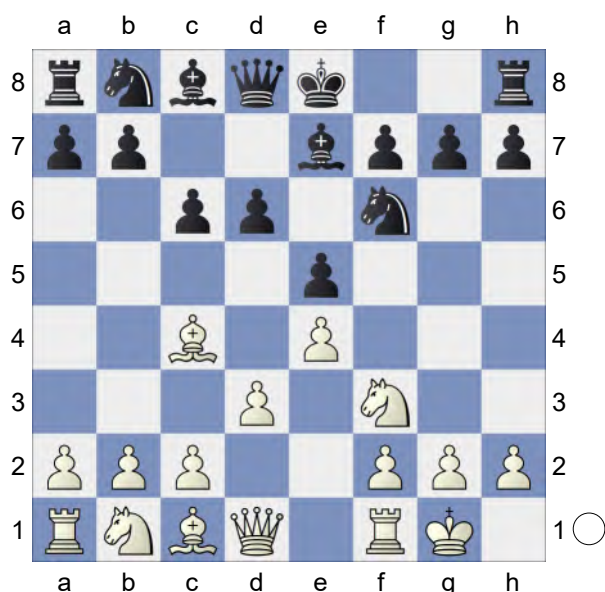
of contemplation, indicating that Yi had not made up his mind about this opening beforehand. Meier,G: 'Meier, Georg: 'A bit tame. But it was played after almost 6 minutes of contemplation, indicating that Yi had not made up his mind about this opening beforehand."

[Mikhalevski,V: 'Earlier we considered only"Earlier we considered only Meier, Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: 'Earlier we considered only"' 4...d5 Mikhalevski, V: 'Carlsen,M (2877)-Caruana,F (2801)/Saint Louis USA 2014/[Mikhalevski,V]."Carlsen,M (2877)-Caruana,F (2801)/Saint Louis USA 2014/[Mikhalevski,V]. Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: 'Carlsen,M (2877)-Caruana,F (2801)/Saint Louis USA 2014/[Mikhalevski,V]."' 5.Bb3 Bb4+ Meier,G: 'sophisticated!' Mikhalevski, V: 'sophisticated! Meier,Georg: 'Meier, G: 'sophisticated!' sophisticated!" sophisticated! Meier,G: 'Meier,Georg: 'sophisticated!' (5...Bd6 6.Nc3 Meier,G: 'would force Black to eventually release the tension in the centre.' would force Black to eventually release the tension in the centre. Mikhalevski,V: 'would force Black to eventually release the tension in the centre. Meier,Georg: 'Meier,G: 'would force Black to eventually release the tension in the centre.' would force Black to eventually release the tension in the centre." Meier,G: 'would force Black to eventually release the tension in the centre. Meier,Georg: 'would force Black to eventually release the tension in the centre." would force Black to eventually release the tension in the centre. Meier,G: 'Meier,Georg: 'would force Black to eventually release the

tension in the centre.") 6.c3 Bd6
 Meier,G: 'is a popular line for Black'
 Mikhalevski,V: 'is a popular line for
 Black Meier,Georg: 'Meier,G: 'is a
 popular line for Black' is a popular
 line for Black" is a popular line for
 Black Meier,G: 'Meier,Georg: 'is a
 popular line for Black"]

[4...Be7 Mikhalevski,V 5.0-0]

5.0-0 Be7



Mikhalevski,V: 'is a more com'Meier,
 Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: 'is a more
 common way to reach the game position.'
 "' mon way to reach the game position.'

6.Bb3 Mikhalevski,V: 'Carlsen removes
 the bishop from a possible attack from
 the d-pawn."Carlsen removes the bishop
 from a possible attack from the d-pawn.
 Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: 'Carlsen
 removes the bishop from a possible
 attack from the d-pawn."

[6.Re1 Mikhalevski,V: 'is the main line.
 'is the main line. Meier,Georg:
 'Mikhalevski,V: 'is the main line.'" 0-0

7.a4 Meier,G: 'would be the modern
 way to play.' Mikhalevski,V: 'would be
 the modern way to play. Meier,Georg:
 'Meier,G: 'would be the modern way to

play.' would be the modern way to
 play." would be the modern way to
 play. Meier,G: 'Meier,Georg: 'would be
 the modern way to play.'" (7.Nbd2
 Mikhalevski,V Mikhalevski,V: 'Meier,
 Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V" Nbd7 8.a3
 Nc5 9.Ba2 Be6 10.Nc4 b5 11.Ne3
 Bxa2 12.Rxa2 with roughly equal
 chances in Grischuk,A (2792)-Aronian,
 L (2815)/Flor & Fjaere 2014.
 Mikhalevski,V: 'with roughly equal
 chances in Grischuk,A (2792)-Aronian,
 L (2815)/Flor & Fjaere 2014. Meier,
 Georg: 'with roughly equal chances
 in Grischuk,A (2792)-Aronian, L
 (2815)/Flor & Fjaere 2014.'"with
 roughly equal chances in Grischuk,A
 (2792)-Aronian, L (2815)/Flor & Fjaere
 2014. Meier,Georg: 'with roughly
 equal chances in Grischuk,A (2792)-
 Aronian, L (2815)/Flor & Fjaere 2014.'
 Meier,Georg: 'with roughly equal
 chances in Grischuk,A (2792)-Aronian,
 L (2815)/Flor & Fjaere 2014.
 Mikhalevski,V: 'with roughly equal
 chances in Grischuk,A (2792)-Aronian,
 L (2815)/Flor & Fjaere 2014.'"]

6...0-0 Meier,G: 'Both sides are free as
 concerns further development, so we get
 an impression of where both players
 feel their pieces belong.' Both sides are
 free as concerns further development, so
 we get an impression of where both
 players feel their pieces belong.
 Mikhalevski,V: 'Meier,Georg: 'Both sides
 are free as concerns further
 development, so we get an impression
 of where both players feel their pieces
 belong.'" Mikhalevski,V: 'Meier,Georg:
 'Both sides are free as concerns further
 development, so we get an impression
 of where both players feel their pieces
 belong.' Meier,Georg: 'Meier,G: 'Both

sides are free as concerns further development, so we get an impression of where both players feel their pieces belong.' Both sides are free as concerns further development, so we get an impression of where both players feel their pieces belong." Meier,Georg: 'Both sides are free as concerns further development, so we get an impression of where both players feel their pieces belong. Meier,Georg: 'Both sides are free as concerns further development, so we get an impression of where both players feel their pieces belong. " **7.c3** Mikhalevski,V: 'We've reached a position similar to the Two Knights Opening with the only, but important difference that the c6-square is occupied by the c-pawn instead of the knight and so the latter can be manoeuvred to a better spot without retreating from c6.'"We've reached a position similar to the Two Knights Opening with the only, but important difference that the c6-square is occupied by the c-pawn instead of the knight and so the latter can be manoeuvred to a better spot without retreating from c6. Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: 'We've reached a position similar to the Two Knights Opening with the only, but important difference that the c6-square is occupied by the c-pawn instead of the knight and so the latter can be manoeuvred to a better spot without retreating from c6."

Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: 'We've reached a position similar to the Two Knights Opening with the only, but important difference that the c6-square is occupied by the c-pawn instead of the knight and so the latter can be manoeuvred to a better spot without retreating from c6.' Mikhalevski,V: 'We've reached a position similar to the Two Knights Opening with the only, but important difference that the c6-square is occupied by the c-pawn instead of the knight and so the latter can be manoeuvred to a better spot without retreating from c6.'" position similar to the Two Knights Opening with the only, but important difference that the c6-square is occupied by the c-pawn instead of the knight and so the latter can be manoeuvred to a better spot without retreating from c6. Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: 'We've reached a position similar to the Two Knights Opening with the only, but important difference that the c6-square is occupied by the c-pawn instead of the knight and so the latter can be manoeuvred to a better spot without retreating from c6.'" **7...Nbd7 8.Re1 Nc5** Mikhalevski,V: 'A very logical idea. Black attacks the light-squared bishop and opens a way for his own bishop.'"A very logical idea. Black attacks the light-squared bishop and opens a way for his own bishop. Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: 'A very logical idea. Black attacks the light-squared bishop and opens a way for his own bishop.'" Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: 'A very logical idea. Black attacks the light-squared bishop and opens a way for his own bishop.'" Mikhalevski,V: 'A very logical idea. Black attacks the light-squared bishop and opens a way for his

own bishop." I idea. Black attacks the light-squared bishop and opens a way for his own bishop. Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: 'A very logical idea. Black attacks the light-squared bishop and opens a way for his own bishop."

9.Bc2 Meier,G: '* pawn center' Mikhalevski,V: 'Meier,Georg: 'Meier,G: '* pawn center'" **9...Bg4** **10.Nbd2** Meier,G: '* limiting counterplay' Mikhalevski,V: 'Meier,Georg: 'Meier,G: '* limiting counterplay'"

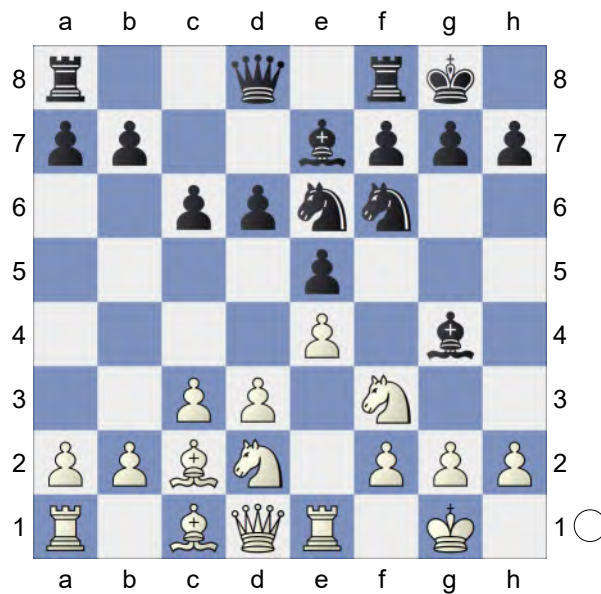
[10.d4 exd4 11.cxd4 Ne6]

[Sometimes White starts with 10.h3 (Mikhalevski,V) , but usually it doesn't change anything and transposes to 10. Nbd2 after Bh5 11.Nbd2]

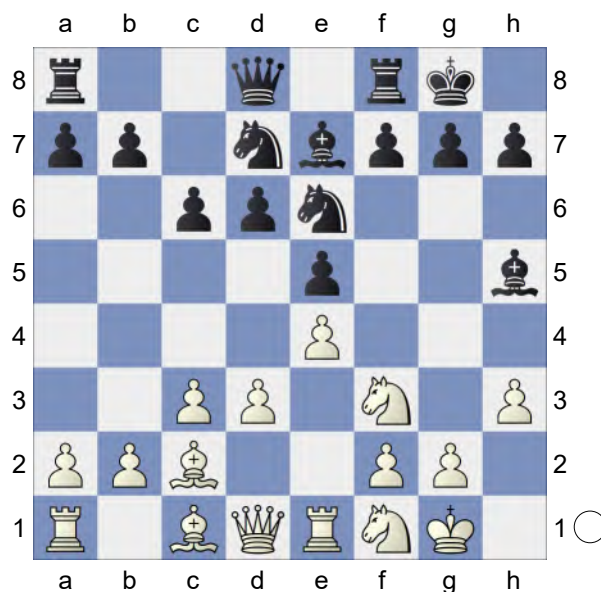
10...Ne6

[Black's compatriot Bu Xiangzhi started with Mikhalevski,V: 'Black's compatriot Bu Xiangzhi started with Meier,Georg: 'Black's compatriot Bu Xiangzhi started with'" Black's compatriot Bu Xiangzhi started with Meier,Georg: 'Black's compatriot Bu Xiangzhi started with' Meier,Georg: 'Black's compatriot Bu Xiangzhi started with Mikhalevski,V: 'Black's compatriot Bu Xiangzhi started with'" 10...Nfd7 (Mikhalevski,V) , but eventually transposed to the text. Mikhalevski,V: ', but eventually transposed to the text. Meier,Georg: '(Mikhalevski,V) , but eventually transposed to the text."]

(Diagram)



11.h3 Bh5 12.Nf1 Mikhalevski,V: 'A very typical transfer of the knight to the kingside.' A very typical transfer of the knight to the kingside. Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: 'A very typical transfer of the knight to the kingside.'" **12...Nd7!** Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Diagram



' Meier,G: 'This is important in connection with ...Bg4: Black must be ready to take on f3 and then he should soon halve White's bishop pair with Bg5. ' Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Diagram [#]' This is important in connection with ... ♗g4:

Black must be ready to take on f3 and then he should soon halve White's bishop pair with ♗g5. Mikhalevski,V: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: '!' Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Diagram [#]' Meier,Georg: '!' Meier,Georg: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Diagram [#]' This is important in connection with ... ♗g4: Black must be ready to take on f3 and then he should soon halve White's bishop pair with ♗g5. " Mikhalevski,V: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: '!' Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Diagram [#]' Meier,Georg: '!' '!' Meier,Georg: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Diagram [#]' This is important in connection with ... ♗g4: Black must be ready to take on f3 and then he should soon halve White's bishop pair with ♗g5. ' Meier,Georg: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Diagram [#]' Meier,G: 'This is important in connection with ...Bg4: Black must be ready to take on f3 and then he should soon halve White's bishop pair with Bg5. ' This is important in connection with ... ♗g4: Black must be ready to take on f3 and then he should soon halve White's bishop pair with ♗g5. Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Diagram [#]' This is important in connection with ... ♗g4: Black must be ready to take on f3 and then he should soon halve White's bishop pair with ♗g5. ' Meier,G: 'This is important in connection with ...Bg4: Black must be ready to take on f3 and then he should soon halve White's bishop pair with Bg5. Meier,Georg: 'This is important in connection with ... ♗g4: Black must be ready to take on f3 and then he should soon halve White's bishop pair with ♗g5. Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Diagram [#]'" This is important in connection with ... ♗g4: Black must be ready to take on f3 and then he should soon halve White's bishop pair with ♗g5. Meier,G: 'Meier,

Georg: 'This is important in connection with ... ♗g4: Black must be ready to take on f3 and then he should soon halve White's bishop pair with ♗g5. " **13.g4!?** Meier,G: '* a trade-off: giving up f4-square to sideline black bishop' Mikhalevski,V: 'A very rare option, which hasn't been seen at the high level yet. White's idea is to secure the f5-square. However it has to be said that the move has an obvious drawback, the f4-square is becoming weak. Stamenkovic,Zoran: '!'?' Meier,Georg: '!'?' '!'?' Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: 'A very rare option, which hasn't been seen at the high level yet. White's idea is to secure the f5-square. However it has to be said that the move has an obvious drawback, the f4-square is becoming weak.' Meier,Georg: 'Meier,G: '* a trade-off: giving up f4-square to sideline black bishop' Mikhalevski,V: 'A very rare option, which hasn't been seen at the high level yet. White's idea is to secure the f5-square. However it has to be said that the move has an obvious drawback, the f4-square is becoming weak.'" ry rare option, which hasn't been seen at the high level yet. White's idea is to secure the f5-square. However it has to be said that the move has an obvious drawback, the f4-square is becoming weak.'" ry rare option, which hasn't been seen at the high level yet. White's idea is to secure the f5-square. However it has to be said that the move has an obvious drawback, the f4-square is becoming weak.'" ry rare option, which hasn't been seen at the high level yet. White's idea is to secure the f5-square. However it has to be said that the move has an obvious drawback, the f4-square is becoming weak. Stamenkovic,Zoran: '!'?'

Meier, Georg: '!?' Meier, Georg: 'Mikhalevski, V: 'A very rare option, which hasn't been seen at the high level yet. White's idea is to secure the f5-square. However it has to be said that the move has an obvious drawback, the f4-square is becoming weak.'" coming weak.' Meier, G: '* a trade-off: giving up f4-square to sideline black bishop Meier, Georg: 'Mikhalevski, V: 'A very rare option, which hasn't been seen at the high level yet. White's idea is to secure the f5-square. However it has to be said that the move has an obvious drawback, the f4-square is becoming weak.'"

[Meier, G: 'The normal move would be' The normal move would be Mikhalevski, V: 'The aforementioned game, as well as 'The aforementioned game, as well as most others, featured Meier, Georg: 'The normal move would be Mikhalevski, V: 'The aforementioned game, as well as most others, featured' The normal move would be Meier, Georg: 'Meier, G: 'The normal move would be' The normal move would be Mikhalevski, V: 'The aforementioned game, as well as most others, featured' The normal move would be Mikhalevski, V: 'The aforementioned game, as well as most others, featured'" 'The aforementioned game, as well as most others, featured Meier, Georg: 'The normal move would be Mikhalevski, V: 'The aforementioned game, as well as most others, featured' The normal move would be Meier, G: 'The normal move would be Meier, Georg: 'Mikhalevski, V: 'The aforementioned

game, as well as most others, featured' The normal move would be" The normal move would be Meier, G: 'Meier, Georg: 'The normal move would be" 13.Ng3 Bxf3 14.Qxf3 g6 Meier, G: 'keeping the Ng3 at bay and with Bg5 soon following.' keeping the ♖g3 at bay and with ♙g5 soon following. Mikhalevski, V: 'Meier, Georg: 'keeping the ♖g3 at bay and with ♙g5 soon following.'" Mikhalevski, V: 'Meier, Georg: 'keeping the ♖g3 at bay and with ♙g5 soon following.' Meier, Georg: 'Meier, G: 'keeping the Ng3 at bay and with Bg5 soon following.' keeping the ♖g3 at bay and with ♙g5 soon following.'" Meier, G: 'keeping the Ng3 at bay and with Bg5 soon following. Meier, Georg: 'keeping the ♖g3 at bay and with ♙g5 soon following.'" keeping the ♖g3 at bay and with ♙g5 soon following. Meier, G: 'Meier, Georg: 'keeping the ♖g3 at bay and with ♙g5 soon following.'" 15.Bh6 Stamenkovic, Zoran Stamenkovic, Zoran Mikhalevski, V Mikhalevski, V: 'Meier, Georg: 'Stamenkovic, Zoran Mikhalevski, V" Mikhalevski, V: 'Meier, Georg: 'Stamenkovic, Zoran Mikhalevski, V' Meier, Georg: 'Stamenkovic, Zoran Stamenkovic, Zoran Mikhalevski, V" Meier, G: 'Meier, Georg: 'Mikhalevski, V' (15.Be3 Stamenkovic, Zoran Stamenkovic, Zoran (Mikhalevski, V) was played in the stem game. Mikhalevski, V: 'was played in the stem game. Meier, Georg: 'Stamenkovic, Zoran (Mikhalevski, V) was played in the stem game.'"was played in the stem game. Meier, Georg: 'Stamenkovic, Zoran (Mikhalevski, V) was played in the stem game.' Meier, Georg:

'Stamenkovic,Zoran Stamenkovic, Zoran (Mikhalevski,V) was played in the stem game. Mikhalevski,V: 'was played in the stem game.'" Bg5= - 60/292 Mikhalevski,V: 'Stamenkovic, Zoran: '=' Stamenkovic,Zoran: '- 60/292' Meier,Georg: '=' Mikhalevski,V: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: '=' Stamenkovic, Zoran: '- 60/292' Meier,Georg: '=' '=' 16.Rad1 Bxe3 17.Qxe3 and here Black missed a chance to equalise in Gelfand,B (2685)-Jussupow,A (2655)/Munich 1994. he should have played Mikhalevski,V: 'and here Black missed a chance to equalise in Gelfand,B (2685)-Jussupow,A (2655)/Munich 1994. he should have played Meier, Georg: 'and here Black missed a chance to equalise in Gelfand,B (2685)-Jussupow,A (2655)/Munich 1994. he should have played Meier,Georg: 'and here Black missed a chance to equalise in Gelfand,B (2685)-Jussupow,A (2655)/Munich 1994. he should have played' Meier,Georg: 'and here Black missed a chance to equalise in Gelfand,B (2685)-Jussupow,A (2655)/Munich 1994. he should have played' Meier,Georg: 'and here Black missed a chance to equalise in Gelfand,B (2685)-Jussupow,A (2655)/Munich 1994. he should have played'" Qb6! 18.Qc1 a5 with roughly equal chances.) 15...Re8 16.Rad1 Bg5= Mikhalevski,V: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: '=' Meier,Georg: '=' Mikhalevski,V: 'Stamenkovic, Zoran: '=' Meier,Georg: '=' '=' Meier, G: 'Meier,Georg: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran:

'=" 17.Bxg5 Qxg5 18.d4 a slight advantage for White in the center. Ghaem Maghami,E (2570)-Bu,X (2670)/Moscow 2012. Here the most accurate would have been Mikhalevski, V: 'Ghaem Maghami,E (2570)-Bu,X (2670)/Moscow 2012. Here the most accurate would have been Meier, Georg: 'Ghaem Maghami,E (2570)-Bu, X (2670)/Moscow 2012. Here the most accurate would have been' Ghaem Maghami,E (2570)-Bu,X (2670)/Moscow 2012. Here the most accurate would have been Meier, Georg: 'Ghaem Maghami,E (2570)-Bu, X (2670)/Moscow 2012. Here the most accurate would have been' Meier, Georg: 'a slight advantage for White in the center. Ghaem Maghami,E (2570)-Bu,X (2670)/Moscow 2012. Here the most accurate would have been Mikhalevski,V: 'Ghaem Maghami,E (2570)-Bu,X (2670)/Moscow 2012. Here the most accurate would have been'" Meier,G: 'a slight advantage for White in the center. Meier,Georg: 'Ghaem Maghami,E (2570)-Bu,X (2670)/Moscow 2012. Here the most accurate would have been'" Nf6! with good chances to equalise. Mikhalevski,V: 'with good chances to equalise. Meier,Georg: 'with good chances to equalise.'"with good chances to equalise. Meier,Georg: 'with good chances to equalise.' Meier,Georg: 'with good chances to equalise. Mikhalevski,V: 'with good chances to equalise.'"]

13...Bg6 14.Ng3 Meier,G: 'The bishop on g6 will be passive for a long time, but White has also created a hole on f4.' Mikhalevski,V: 'Meier,Georg: 'The bishop on g6 will be passive for a long time, but

White has also created a hole on f4." Mikhalevski,V: 'Meier,Georg: 'The bishop on g6 will be passive for a long time, but White has also created a hole on f4.' Meier,Georg: 'Meier,G: 'The bishop on g6 will be passive for a long time, but White has also created a hole on f4.' The bishop on g6 will be passive for a long time, but White has also created a hole on f4." The bishop on g6 will be passive for a long time, but White has also created a hole on f4. Meier,G: 'Meier,Georg: 'The bishop on g6 will be passive for a long time, but White has also created a hole on f4.'" **14...Ng5** Meier,G: '*exchanging passive pieces' Being a bit cramped, Black wants to exchange pieces. Mikhalevski,V: 'A natural idea. Black wants to exchange dark-squared bishops, which can only be achieved if Black trades the f3-knight. Meier,Georg: 'Being a bit cramped, Black wants to exchange pieces. Mikhalevski,V: 'A natural idea. Black wants to exchange dark-squared bishops, which can only be achieved if Black trades the f3-knight.' Being a bit cramped, Black wants to exchange pieces.' Meier,Georg: 'Meier,G: '*exchanging passive pieces' Being a bit cramped, Black wants to exchange pieces. Being a bit cramped, Black wants to exchange pieces. Mikhalevski,V: 'A natural idea. Black wants to exchange dark-squared bishops, which can only be achieved if Black trades the f3-knight.' Being a bit cramped, Black wants to exchange pieces. Mikhalevski,V: 'A natural idea. Black wants to exchange dark-squared bishops, which can only be achieved if Black trades the

f3-knight.'" 'A natural idea. Black wants to exchange dark-squared bishops, which can only be achieved if Black trades the f3-knight. Meier,Georg: 'Being a bit cramped, Black wants to exchange pieces. Mikhalevski,V: 'A natural idea. Black wants to exchange dark-squared bishops, which can only be achieved if Black trades the f3-knight.' Being a bit cramped, Black wants to exchange pieces." k trades the f3-knight.' Being a bit cramped, Black wants to exchange pieces. Meier,G: '*exchanging passive pieces' Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: 'A natural idea. Black wants to exchange dark-squared bishops, which can only be achieved if Black trades the f3-knight.' Being a bit cramped, Black wants to exchange pieces." Being a bit cramped, Black wants to exchange pieces. Meier,G: 'Meier,Georg: 'Being a bit cramped, Black wants to exchange pieces. "

[14...Nf4 15.Bxf4 exf4 16.Nf5 Ne5 17.d4 Nxf3+ 18.Qxf3 * f4-pawn turns out to be weak]

15.Bxg5 Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'N' Meier,G: 'After 20 minutes thought! I don't think Magnus was too thrilled with his position at this point.' Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'N' 'N' After 20 minutes thought! I don't think Magnus was too thrilled with his position at this point. Mikhalevski,V: '!?' Mikhalevski,V: 'Surprisingly, Magnus exchanges his strong bishop' After 20 minutes thought! I don't think Magnus was too thrilled with his position at this point.' Meier,Georg: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'N' 'N' Meier,G: 'After 20 minutes

thought! I don't think Magnus was too thrilled with his position at this point.' After 20 minutes thought! I don't think Magnus was too thrilled with his position at this point. Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'N' After 20 minutes thought! I don't think Magnus was too thrilled with his position at this point. Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'N' After 20 minutes thought! I don't think Magnus was too thrilled with his position at this point. Mikhalevski,V: '!?' '!?' Mikhalevski,V: 'Surprisingly, Magnus exchanges his strong bishop' After 20 minutes thought! I don't think Magnus was too thrilled with his position at this point." 'Surprisingly, Magnus exchanges his strong bishop Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'N' Meier,Georg: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'N' 'N' After 20 minutes thought! I don't think Magnus was too thrilled with his position at this point. Mikhalevski,V: '!?' '!?' Mikhalevski,V: 'Surprisingly, Magnus exchanges his strong bishop' After 20 minutes thought! I don't think Magnus was too thrilled with his position at this point. Meier,G: 'After 20 minutes thought! I don't think Magnus was too thrilled with his position at this point. Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: '!?' Mikhalevski,V: 'Surprisingly, Magnus exchanges his strong bishop' After 20 minutes thought! I don't think Magnus was too thrilled with his position at this point. Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'N'" After 20 minutes thought! I don't think Magnus was too thrilled with his position at this point. Meier,G: 'Meier,Georg: 'After 20 minutes thought! I don't think Magnus

was too thrilled with his position at this point."

[15.Kg2 Nxf3 Mikhalevski,V: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran' (15...Re8! Mikhalevski,V Mikhalevski,V: 'Meier, Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V" 16.Nh4 Ne6 17.Nf3 leads to a repetition of moves. Mikhalevski,V: 'leads to a repetition of moves. Meier,Georg: 'leads to a repetition of moves.'"leads to a repetition of moves. Meier,Georg: 'leads to a repetition of moves.' Meier,Georg: 'leads to a repetition of moves. Mikhalevski,V: 'leads to a repetition of moves.'"') 16.Qxf3 Re8! Meier,G: 'A smart waiting move, opening the d7-f8-e6 route for the knight.' A smart waiting move, opening the d7-f8-e6 route for the knight. Mikhalevski,V: 'Meier,Georg: 'A smart waiting move, opening the d7-f8-e6 route for the knight.'" Mikhalevski,V: 'Meier,Georg: 'A smart waiting move, opening the d7-f8-e6 route for the knight.' Meier,Georg: 'Meier,G: 'A smart waiting move, opening the d7-f8-e6 route for the knight.'" Meier,G: 'A smart waiting move, opening the d7-f8-e6 route for the knight. Meier,Georg: 'A smart waiting move, opening the d7-f8-e6 route for the knight.'" A smart waiting move, opening the d7-f8-e6 route for the knight. Meier,G: 'Meier, Georg: 'A smart waiting move, opening the d7-f8-e6 route for the knight.'" 17.Be3 Bg5 18.Bxg5 Qxg5 19.Rad1 Rad8 Stamenkovic,Zoran: '=' Meier,G: 'is completely satisfactory for Black.' Stamenkovic,Zoran: '=' '=' is completely satisfactory for Black. Mikhalevski,V: '=' '=' Mikhalevski,V:

'Meier,Georg: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: '='
 '=' is completely satisfactory for Black.
 " Mikhalevski,V: 'Meier,Georg:
 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: '=' '=' is
 completely satisfactory for Black.'
 Meier,Georg: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: '='
 '=' Meier,G: 'is completely satisfactory
 for Black.' is completely satisfactory
 for Black. Stamenkovic,Zoran: '=' is
 completely satisfactory for Black."
 Meier,G: 'is completely satisfactory
 for Black. Meier,Georg: 'is
 completely satisfactory for Black.
 Stamenkovic,Zoran: '=''' is
 completely satisfactory for Black.
 Meier,G: 'Meier,Georg: 'is
 completely satisfactory for Black."]

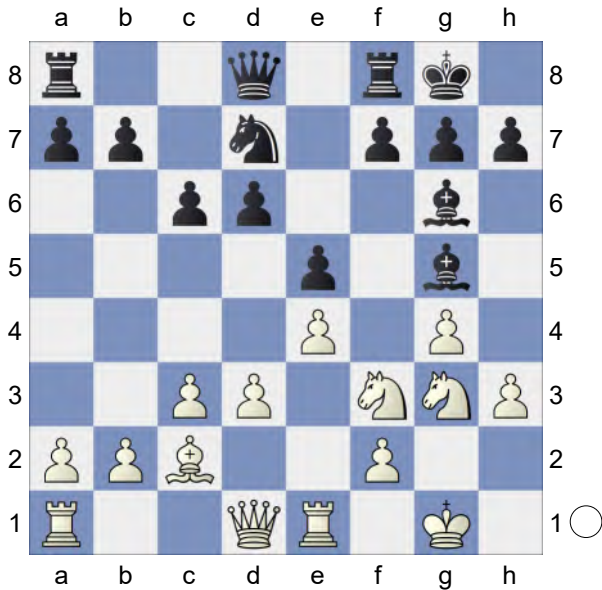
[15.Nf5 Mikhalevski,V: 'Stamenkovic,
 Zoran' Bxf5 16.gxf5 Nxf3+ 17.Qxf3
 Bg5 Stamenkovic,Zoran: '=' Meier,G:
 'with a good position for Black was
 mentioned by Carlsen.' Stamenkovic,
 Zoran: '=' '=' with a good position for
 Black was mentioned by Carlsen.
 Mikhalevski,V: '=' '=' Mikhalevski,V:
 'Meier,Georg: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: '='
 '=' with a good position for Black
 was mentioned by Carlsen.'
 Mikhalevski,V: 'Meier,Georg:
 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: '=' '=' with a
 good position for Black was
 mentioned by Carlsen.' Meier,
 Georg: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: '=' '='
 Meier,G: 'with a good position for
 Black was mentioned by Carlsen.' with
 a good position for Black was
 mentioned by Carlsen. Stamenkovic,
 Zoran: '=' with a good position for
 Black was mentioned by Carlsen."
 Meier,G: 'with a good position for
 Black was mentioned by Carlsen.
 Meier,Georg: 'with a good position for
 Black was mentioned by Carlsen.

Stamenkovic,Zoran: '=''' with a good
 position for Black was mentioned by
 Carlsen. Meier,G: 'Meier,Georg: 'with
 a good position for Black was
 mentioned by Carlsen."]

[15.Nxg5 Mikhalevski,V Mikhalevski,
 V: 'Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V" Bxg5
 16.d4 looks more logical, as the
 exchange of the dark-squared bishops
 can't be avoided anyway. Mikhalevski,
 V: 'looks more logical, as the
 exchange of the dark-squared bishops
 can't be avoided anyway. Meier,
 Georg: 'looks more logical, as the
 exchange of the dark-squared bishops
 can't be avoided anyway.'''looks
 more logical, as the exchange of the
 dark-squared bishops can't be
 avoided anyway. Meier,Georg: 'looks
 more logical, as the exchange of the
 dark-squared bishops can't be
 avoided anyway.' Meier,Georg: 'looks
 more logical, as the exchange of the
 dark-squared bishops can't be
 avoided anyway. Mikhalevski,V: 'looks
 more logical, as the exchange of the
 dark-squared bishops can't be
 avoided anyway.']

15...Bxg5

(Diagram)



16.d4

Mikhalevski,V: '!?' '!?' '!?'

Mikhalevski,V: 'White's idea is to keep more pieces on the board in order to retain some winning chances. Anyway, the idea of exchanging your dark-squared bishop with a hole on f4 is pretty rare and would be severely criticised by coaches if their students played something similar! However, we shouldn't judge the World Champion by the same standards. Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: '!?' Mikhalevski,V: 'White's idea is to keep more pieces on the board in order to retain some winning chances. Anyway, the idea of exchanging your dark-squared bishop with a hole on f4 is pretty rare and would be severely criticised by coaches if their students played something similar! However, we shouldn't judge the World Champion by the same standards. Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: '!?' Mikhalevski,V: 'White's idea is to keep more pieces on the board in order to retain some winning chances. Anyway, the idea of exchanging your dark-squared bishop with a hole on f4 is pretty rare and would be severely criticised by coaches if their students played something

similar! However, we shouldn't judge the World Champion by the same standards. " Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: '!?' '!?' Mikhalevski,V: 'White's idea is to keep more pieces on the board in order to retain some winning chances. Anyway, the idea of exchanging your dark-squared bishop with a hole on f4 is pretty rare and would be severely criticised by coaches if their students played something similar! However, we shouldn't judge the World Champion by the same standards.' Mikhalevski,V: 'White's idea is to keep more pieces on the board in order to retain some winning chances. Anyway, the idea of exchanging your dark-squared bishop with a hole on f4 is pretty rare and would be severely criticised by coaches if their students played something similar! However, we shouldn't judge the World Champion by the same standards. " e sta'White's idea is to keep more pieces on the board in order to retain some winning chances. Anyway, the idea of exchanging your dark-squared bishop with a hole on f4 is pretty rare and would be severely criticised by coaches if their students played something similar! However, we shouldn't judge the World Champion by the same standards. Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: '!?' Mikhalevski,V: 'White's idea is to keep more pieces on the board in order to retain some winning chances. Anyway, the idea of exchanging your dark-squared bishop with a hole on f4 is pretty rare and would be severely criticised by coaches if their students played something similar! However, we shouldn't judge the World Champion by the same standards. " ndards.'

[Otherwise he would capture on g5.
 16.Nxg5 Mikhalevski,V Mikhalevski,V:
 'Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V" Qxg5
 17.Qe2 with roughly equal chances.
 Mikhalevski,V: 'with roughly equal
 chances. Meier,Georg: 'with roughly
 equal chances.'"with roughly equal
 chances. Meier,Georg: 'with roughly
 equal chances.' Meier,Georg: 'with
 roughly equal chances. Mikhalevski,V:
 'with roughly equal chances.'"]

16...Bf4 Meier,G: 'From here on it looks
 very much like Black was looking for
 active ideas, when all he had to do is
 patiently improve his position.' From
 here on it looks very much like Black
 was looking for active'Black creates a
 positional threat of 17...Bxg3. Meier,
 Georg: 'From here on it looks very much
 like Black was looking for active ideas,
 when all he had to do is patiently
 improve his position. Mikhalevski,V:
 'Black creates a positional threat of 17...
 Bxg3.' From here on it looks very much
 like Black was looking for active ideas,
 when all he had to do is patiently
 improve his position.' Meier,Georg:
 'Meier,G: 'From here on it looks very
 much like Black was looking for active
 ideas, when all he had to do is patiently
 improve his position.' From here on it
 looks very much like Black was looking
 for active ideas, when all he had to do is
 patiently improve his position. From here
 on it looks very much like Black was
 looking for active ideas, when all he had
 to do is patiently improve his position.
 Mikhalevski,V: 'Black creates a
 positional threat of 17...Bxg3.' From
 here on it looks very much like Black
 was looking for active ideas, when all he
 had to do is patiently improve his
 position.'" 'Black creates a positional

threat of 17...Bxg3. Meier,Georg: 'From
 here on it looks very much like Black
 was looking for active ideas, when all he
 had to do is patiently improve his
 position. Mikhalevski,V: 'Black creates a
 positional threat of 17...Bxg3.' From
 here on it looks very much like Black
 was looking for active ideas, when all he
 had to do is patiently improve his
 position.'" ideas, when all he had to do is
 patiently improve his position.
 Mikhalevski,V: 'Black creates a
 positional threat of 17...Bxg3.' From
 here on it looks very much like Black
 was looking for active ideas, when all he
 had to do is patiently improve his
 position. Meier,G: 'From here on it looks
 very much like Black was looking for
 active ideas, when all he had to do is
 patiently improve his position. Meier,
 Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: 'Black creates a
 positional threat of 17...Bxg3.' From
 here on it looks very much like Black
 was looking for active ideas, when all he
 had to do is patiently improve his
 position.'" From here on it looks very
 much like Black was looking for active
 ideas, when all he had to do is patiently
 improve his position. Meier,G: 'Meier,
 Georg: 'From here on it looks very much
 like Black was looking for active ideas,
 when all he had to do is patiently
 improve his position."

[16...Re8 Meier,G: 'getting the rook
 into play and vacating f8 for the knight;
 good value for a tempo.' getting the
 rook into play and vacating f8 for the
 knight; good value for a tempo.
 Mikhalevski,V: 'getting the rook into
 play and vacating f8 for the knight;
 good value for a tempo. Meier,Georg:
 'Meier,G: 'getting the rook into play
 and vacating f8 for the knight; good

value for a tempo.' getting the rook into play and vacating f8 for the knight; good value for a tempo." Meier,G: 'getting the rook into play and vacating f8 for the knight; good value for a tempo. Meier,Georg: 'getting the rook into play and vacating f8 for the knight; good value for a tempo." getting the rook into play and vacating f8 for the knight; good value for a tempo. Meier, G: 'Meier,Georg: 'getting the rook into play and vacating f8 for the knight; good value for a tempo."]

17.Ne2 Mikhalevski,V: '!' '!' '!' Mikhalevski, V: 'Now the bishop on f4 is slight'Now the bishop on f4 is slightly misplaced. Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: '!' Mikhalevski,V: 'Now the bishop on f4 is slightly misplaced.'" Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: '!' '!' Mikhalevski,V: 'Now the bishop on f4 is slightly misplaced.'" ly m'Now the bishop on f4 is slightly misplaced. Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: '!' Mikhalevski,V: 'Now the bishop on f4 is slightly misplaced.'" isplaced.' **17...Qf6**

Mikhalevski,V: '!' '!' '!'Me'Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: '!' Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: '!' '!' '!' ier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: '!' **18.Kg2** Mikhalevski, V: '!' '!' '!'Me'Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski, V: '!' Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: '!' '!' '!' ier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: '!' **18...exd4?**

Stamenkovic,Zoran: '?!' Meier,G: '"An absolute gift" (Carlsen). Black is giving up the centre for no reason.' Stamenkovic,Zoran: '?!' '?!' "An absolute gift" (Carlsen). Black is giving up the centre for no reason. Mikhalevski, V: '?!' '?!' '?!' Mikhalevski,V: 'T'This exchange is wrong. There was no reason to give up the centre, as Black isn't yet ready to play ...d5. Meier, Georg: '?' '?' Meier,Georg: 'Stamenkovic,

Zoran: '?!' '?!' "An absolute gift" (Carlsen). Black is giving up the centre for no reason. Mikhalevski,V: '?!' Mikhalevski,V: 'This exchange is wrong. There was no reason to give up the centre, as Black isn't yet ready to play ... d5.' "An absolute gift" (Carlsen). Black is giving up the centre for no reason.' Meier,Georg: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: '?!' '?!' Meier,G: '"An absolute gift" (Carlsen). Black is giving up the centre for no reason.' "An absolute gift" (Carlsen). Black is giving up the centre for no reason. Stamenkovic,Zoran: '?!' "An absolute gift" (Carlsen). Black is giving up the centre for no reason. Stamenkovic,Zoran: '?!' "An absolute gift" (Carlsen). Black is giving up the centre for no reason. Mikhalevski,V: '?!' '?!' Mikhalevski,V: 'This exchange is wrong. There was no reason to give up the centre, as Black isn't yet ready to play ...d5.' "An absolute gift" (Carlsen). Black is giving up the centre for no reason. Mikhalevski,V: 'This exchange is wrong. There was no reason to give up the centre, as Black isn't yet ready to play ...d5.'" h'This exchange is wrong. There was no reason to give up the centre, as Black isn't yet ready to play ... d5. Meier,Georg: '?' Meier,Georg: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: '?!' '?!' "An absolute gift" (Carlsen). Black is giving up the centre for no reason. Mikhalevski,V: '?!' Mikhalevski,V: 'This exchange is wrong. There was no reason to give up the centre, as Black isn't yet ready to play ... d5.' "An absolute gift" (Carlsen). Black is giving up the centre for no reason." is exchange is wrong. There was no reason to give up the centre, as Black isn't yet ready to play ...d5.' "An absolute gift" (Carlsen). Black is giving

up the centre for no reason. Meier,G: "An absolute gift" (Carlsen). Black is giving up the centre for no reason. Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: '?!' Mikhalevski,V: 'This exchange is wrong. There was no reason to give up the centre, as Black isn't yet ready to play ... d5.' "An absolute gift" (Carlsen). Black is giving up the centre for no reason. Stamenkovic,Zoran: '?!' "An absolute gift" (Carlsen). Black is giving up the centre for no reason. Meier,G: 'Meier, Georg: "An absolute gift" (Carlsen). Black is giving up the centre for no reason."

[18...Rad8 Stamenkovic,Zoran: '♠ Stamenkovic,Zoran: ' ♠ ' ♠ ' Mikhalevski,V: ' ♠ ' ♠ ' Mikhalevski,V: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran Meier,Georg: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: ' ♠ ' ♠ " Meier,G: 'Meier,Georg: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: ' ♠ " 19.Nxf4 Qxf4 20.Qc1 Qxc1 21.Raxc1 f6= Meier,G: 'Meier,Georg: '= '= " 22.Nh4 Bf7 23.Nf5 * looks ever so slightly better for White, but Black is probably just fine]

[T h e i m m e d i a t e 18...Rfe8= (Mikhalevski,V) deserved attention. Mikhalevski,V: 'deserved attention. Meier,Georg: '(Mikhalevski,V) deserved attention.'"deserved attention. Meier,Georg: '(Mikhalevski,V) deserved attention.' Meier,Georg: '(Mikhalevski,V) deserved attention. Mikhalevski,V: 'deserved attention.'"]

19.Nfxd4 Meier,G: '* backward pawn on d6' Mikhalevski,V: '!' '!' '!' Mikhalevski,V: 'White isn't in a hurry to trade the'White isn't in a hurry to trade the dark-squared bishop as the latter can't escape. Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: '!' Mikhalevski,V: 'White isn't in a hurry to trade the dark-squared bishop

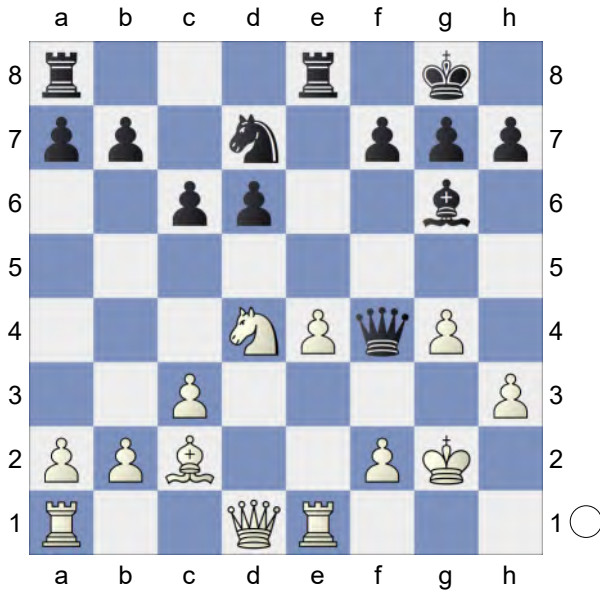
as the latter can't escape." Meier,Georg: 'Meier,G: '* backward pawn on d6' Mikhalevski,V: '!' '!' Mikhalevski,V: 'White isn't in a hurry to trade the dark-squared bishop as the latter can't escape.' Mikhalevski,V: 'White isn't in a hurry to trade the dark-squared bishop as the latter can't escape.'" dark'White isn't in a hurry to trade the dark-squared bishop as the latter can't escape. Meier, Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: '!' Mikhalevski,V: 'White isn't in a hurry to trade the dark-squared bishop as the latter can't escape.'" -squared bishop as the latter can't escape.' Meier,G: '* backward pawn on d6 Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: '!' Mikhalevski,V: 'White isn't in a hurry to trade the dark-squared bishop as the latter can't escape.'"]

[19.cxd4 Rae8]

19...Rfe8

[19...Be5? (Mikhalevski,V) would be wrong because of Mikhalevski,V: 'would be wrong because of Meier, Georg: '(Mikhalevski,V) would be wrong because of'"would be wrong because of Meier,Georg: '(Mikhalevski,V) would be wrong because of Mikhalevski,V: 'would be wrong because of'" Meier, G: 'Meier,Georg: '?' Meier,Georg: '(Mikhalevski,V) would be wrong because of' 20.f4! and since the pawn is untouchable White obtains a clear edge. Meier,G: 'Meier,Georg: 'and since the pawn is untouchable White obtains a clear edge.'" Bxf4?? is a blunder due to Meier,G: 'Meier, Georg: '??' Meier,Georg: 'is a blunder due to" (20...Bxd4 21.g5! Qd8 22.Nxd4+-) 21.Rf1+- Meier,G: 'Meier, Georg: '+-']

20.Nxf4 Qxf4



21.f3 Meier,G: '* limiting counterplay, isolating the bishop on g6. king is safe on g2' Now White has a straightforward plan: Get rid of the queen on f4 and push his kingside pawns. At this point Black had to look for ways to limit the damage, and quickly. Mikhalevski,V: ' ±!' ' ±!' ' ±!' Mikhalevski,V: 'White consolidates his position in the centre and is slightly better thanks to his central pawn on e4.' Meier,Georg: 'Now White has a straightforward plan: Get rid of the queen on f4 and push his kingside pawns. At this point Black had to look for ways to limit the damage, and quickly.' Mikhalevski,V: ' ±!' Mikhalevski,V: 'White consolidates his position in the centre and is slightly better thanks to his central pawn on e4.' Now White has a straightforward plan: Get rid of the queen on f4 and push his kingside pawns. At this point Black had to look for ways to limit the damage, and quickly.' Meier, Georg: 'Meier,G: '* limiting counterplay, isolating the bishop on g6. king is safe on g2' Now White has a straightforward plan: Get rid of the queen on f4 and push

his kingside pawns. At this point Black had to look for ways to limit the damage, and quickly. Now White has a straightforward plan: Get rid of the queen on f4 and push his kingside pawns. At this point Black had to look for ways to limit the damage, and quickly. Mikhalevski,V: ' ±!' ' ±!' Mikhalevski,V: 'White consolidates his position in the centre and is slightly better thanks to his central pawn on e4.' Now White has a straightforward plan: Get rid of the queen on f4 and push his kingside pawns. At this point Black had to look for ways to limit the damage, and quickly. Mikhalevski,V: 'White consolidates his position in the centre and is slightly better thanks to his central pawn on e4.' 'White 'White consolidates his position in the centre and is slightly better thanks to his central pawn on e4. Meier,Georg: 'Now White has a straightforward plan: Get rid of the queen on f4 and push his kingside pawns. At this point Black had to look for ways to limit the damage, and quickly. Mikhalevski,V: ' ±!' Mikhalevski, V: 'White consolidates his position in the centre and is slightly better thanks to his central pawn on e4.' Now White has a straightforward plan: Get rid of the queen on f4 and push his kingside pawns. At this point Black had to look for ways to limit the damage, and quickly.' consolidates his position in the centre and is slightly better thanks to his central pawn on e4.' Now White has a straightforward plan: Get rid of the queen on f4 and push his kingside pawns. At this point Black had to look for ways to limit the damage, and quickly. Meier,G: '* limiting counterplay, isolating the bishop on g6. king is safe on g2 Meier, Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: ' ±!' Mikhalevski,

worry after' Meier,Georg: 'Meier,G: 'would guarantee that Black does not run out of space. The isolated pawn would remain his only worry after' would guarantee that Black does not run out of space. The isolated pawn would remain his only worry after" Meier,G: 'would guarantee that Black does not run out of space. The isolated pawn would remain his only worry after Meier,Georg: 'would guarantee that Black does not run out of space. The isolated pawn would remain his only worry after" would guarantee that Black does not run out of space. The isolated pawn would remain his only worry after Meier,G: 'Meier,Georg: 'would guarantee that Black does not run out of space. The isolated pawn would remain his only worry after" 22.exd5 Bxc2 (22...cxd5 23.Rxe8+ Rxe8 24.Ba4! Stamenkovic,Zoran: ' ♖!' Meier,G: 'leaves White with the superior minor piece forever.' Stamenkovic,Zoran: '♖!' '♖!' leaves White with the superior minor piece forever. Mikhalevski,V: '♖!' '♖!' Mikhalevski,V: 'Meier,Georg: '!' Meier,Georg: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: '♖!' '♖!' leaves White with the superior minor piece forever." Mikhalevski,V: 'Meier,Georg: '!' '!' Meier,Georg: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: ' ♖!' '♖!' leaves White with the superior minor piece forever.' Meier,Georg: 'Stamenkovic, Zoran: ' ♖!' '♖!' Meier,G: 'leaves White with the superior minor piece forever.' leaves White with the superior minor piece forever. Stamenkovic,Zoran: '♖!' leaves White with the superior minor piece forever." Meier,G: 'leaves White with the superior minor piece forever. Meier,Georg: 'leaves White

with the superior minor piece forever. Stamenkovic,Zoran: ' ♖!' leaves White with the superior minor piece forever. Meier,G: 'Meier,Georg: 'leaves White with the superior minor piece forever. "; 22...c5!?) 23.Qxc2 cxd5 24.Re2♖ Stamenkovic,Zoran Mikhalevski,V: 'Meier,Georg: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran"]

22.Qc1 Meier,G: '* trading Black's strongest piece' Mikhalevski,V: '!' '!' '!' Mikhalevski,V: 'After the exchange of queens White will be able to answer ... d5 with 'After the exchange of queens White will be able to answer ...d5 with e5. This wouldn't be possible with the black queen on f4. Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski, V: '!' Mikhalevski,V: 'After the exchange of queens White will be able to answer ... d5 with e5. This wouldn't be possible with the black queen on f4.'" Meier, Georg: 'Meier,G: '* trading Black's strongest piece' Mikhalevski,V: '!' '!' Mikhalevski,V: 'After the exchange of queens White will be able to answer ... d5 with e5. This wouldn't be possible with the black queen on f4.'" Mikhalevski, V: 'After the exchange of queens White will be able to answer ...d5 with e5. This wouldn't be possible with the black queen on f4.'" e5. 'After the exchange of queens White will be able to answer ... d5 with e5. This wouldn't be possible with the black queen on f4. Meier, Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: '!' Mikhalevski,V: 'After the exchange of queens White will be able to answer ...d5 with e5. This wouldn't be possible with the black queen on f4.'" This wouldn't be possible with the black queen on f4.' Meier,G: '* trading Black's strongest piece Meier, Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: '!' Mikhalevski,V: 'After the exchange of queens White will be able to answer ...d5 with e5. This

wouldn't be possible with the black queen on f4.'" **22...Qxc1 23.Raxc1**

Meier,G: ' ±' '±' Mikhalevski,V:'Meier, Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: ' ±" Meier,Georg: 'Meier,G: ' ±' Mikhalevski,V: ' ±' '±'" 'Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: ' ±' '±'" '±' **23...d5** Meier,G: '?!' '?!' Mikhalevski, V: 'Meier,Georg: 'Meier,G: '?!'"

[Δ23...a5 24.f4 (24.a4) 24...f6 25.Rcd1 a4]

[In case of 23...f6 (Mikhalevski,V) , which prepares 24...d5, White could play Mikhalevski,V: ' , which prepares 24...d5, White could play Meier, Georg: '(Mikhalevski,V) , which prepares 24...d5, White could play"', which prepares 24...d5, White could play Meier,Georg: '(Mikhalevski,V) , which prepares 24...d5, White could play Mikhalevski,V: ' , which prepares 24...d5, White could play"' 24.Bb3+ Bf7 25.Bxf7+ Kxf7 26.c4± and his better control over the centre and the backward pawn on d6 yield White the upper hand. Mikhalevski,V: 'and his better control over the centre and the backward pawn on d6 yield White the upper hand. Meier,Georg: 'and his better control over the centre and the backward pawn on d6 yield White the upper hand.'"and his better control over the centre and the backward pawn on d6 yield White the upper hand. Meier,Georg: 'and his better control over the centre and the backward pawn on d6 yield White the upper hand. Mikhalevski,V: 'and his better control over the centre and

the backward pawn on d6 yield White the upper hand.'"]

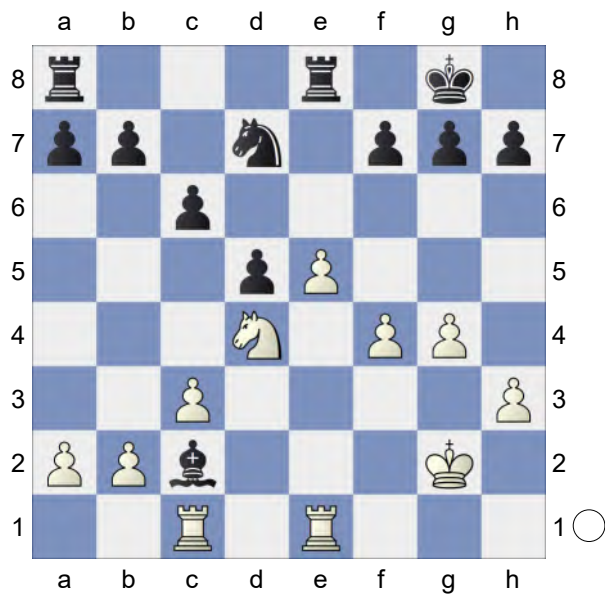
24.e5 Meier,G: '* superior understa'Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: '!' Meier,Georg: 'Meier,G: '* superior understanding of pawn structures - White's pawn majority is more potent' Mikhalevski,V: '!' '!' 'Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: '!' '!' nding of pawn structures - White's pawn majority is more potent' Mikhalevski,V: '!' '!' Meier, G: '* superior understanding of pawn structures - White's pawn majority is more potent Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski, V: '!' **24...Nd7**

[24...c5 25.Nf5 Nc4 (25...Bxf5 26.gxf5) 26.f4 Nxb2 27.Rb1 Nc4 28.Rxb7±]

[24...Nc4 (Mikhalevski,V) with a double attack on e5 and b2, isn't dangerous for White due to Mikhalevski,V: 'with a double attack on e5 and b2, isn't dangerous for White due to Meier,Georg: '(Mikhalevski,V) with a double attack on e5 and b2, isn't dangerous for White due to'"with a double attack on e5 and b2, isn't dangerous for White due to Meier, Georg: '(Mikhalevski,V) with a double attack on e5 and b2, isn't dangerous for White due to' Meier,Georg: '(Mikhalevski,V) with a double attack on e5 and b2, isn't dangerous for White due to Mikhalevski,V: 'with a double attack on e5 and b2, isn't dangerous for White due to'" 25.f4!± with a threat of 26.f5.]

25.f4 Bxc2

(Diagram)

**26.Rxc2**

Meier,G: 'Black must have underestimated the dangers of this endgame. Clearly, digging in and holding the fort does not come easy to the Chinese prodigy. He proceeds to lose in no time.' Black must have underestimated the dangers of this endgame. Clearly, digging in and holding the fort does not come easy to the Chinese prodigy. He proceeds to lose in no time. Mikhalevski,V: 'Meier,Georg: 'Black must have underestimated the dangers of this endgame. Clearly, digging in and holding the fort does not come easy to the Chinese prodigy. He proceeds to lose in no time.' Meier,Georg: 'Meier,G: 'Black must have underestimated the dangers of this endgame. Clearly, digging in and holding the fort does not come easy to the Chinese prodigy. He proceeds to lose in no time.' Black must have underestimated the dangers of this endgame. Clearly, digging in and holding the fort does not come easy to the Chinese prodigy. He proceeds to lose in no time.' Meier,Georg: 'Meier,G: 'Black must have underestimated the dangers of this endgame. Clearly, digging in and holding the fort does not come easy to the Chinese prodigy. He proceeds to lose in no time.' Black must have underestimated the dangers of this

endgame. Clearly, digging in and holding the fort does not come easy to the Chinese prodigy. He proceeds to lose in no time." Meier,G: 'Black must have underestimated the dangers of this endgame. Clearly, digging in and holding the fort does not come easy to the Chinese prodigy. He proceeds to lose in no time. Meier,Georg: 'Black must have underestimated the dangers of this endgame. Clearly, digging in and holding the fort does not come easy to the Chinese prodigy. He proceeds to lose in no time.' Black must have underestimated the dangers of this endgame. Clearly, digging in and holding the fort does not come easy to the Chinese prodigy. He proceeds to lose in no time. Meier,G: 'Meier,Georg: 'Black must have underestimated the dangers of this endgame. Clearly, digging in and holding the fort does not come easy to the Chinese prodigy. He proceeds to lose in no time.' Black must have underestimated the dangers of this endgame. Clearly, digging in and holding the fort does not come easy to the Chinese prodigy. He proceeds to lose in no time." **26...Nc5** Meier,G: '* e4-outpost' Mikhalevski,V: 'Black is transferring his knight to the weak spot on e4, but the question is whether the knight can stay there. Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: 'Black is transferring his knight to the weak spot on e4, but the question is whether the knight can stay there.' Meier,Georg: 'Meier,G: '* e4-outpost' Mikhalevski,V: 'Black is transferring his knight to the weak spot on e4, but the question is whether the knight can stay there.' Mikhalevski,V: 'Black is transferring his knight to the weak spot on e4, but the question is whether the knight can stay there.'" 'Black is transferring his knight to the weak spot

Georg: 'Meier,G: '* centralization'''
28...Ne4 29.b4± Meier,G: '±!' '±!' Meier,
 G: '* fixing the pawn structure; white has
 a space advantage.' The black knight
 has no way back, and White is ready to
 saddle Black with a weakness by c3-
 c4xd5 and decisively open the c-file.
 Mikhalevski,V: '!? '!? '!? Mikhalevski,V:
 'A clever idea. Before und"A clever idea.
 Before undermining the knight by means
 of c4 White takes away the escape
 square on c5. Meier,Georg: ' ±' '±' Meier,
 Georg: 'The black knight has no way
 back, and White is ready to saddle Black
 with a weakness by c3-c4xd5 and
 decisively open the c-file. Mikhalevski,V:
 '!? Mikhalevski,V: 'A clever idea. Before
 undermining the knight by means of c4
 White takes away the escape square on
 c5.' The black knight has no way back,
 and White is ready to saddle Black with
 a weakness by c3-c4xd5 and decisively
 open the c-file.' Meier,Georg: 'Meier,G:
 '±!' Meier,G: '* fixing the pawn structure;
 white has a space advantage.' The
 black knight has no way back, and White
 is ready to saddle Black with a weakness
 by c3-c4xd5 and decisively open the c-
 file. The black knight has no way back,
 and White is ready to saddle Black with
 a weakness by c3-c4xd5 and decisively
 open the c-file. Mikhalevski,V: '!? '!?'
 Mikhalevski,V: 'A clever idea. Before
 undermining the knight by means of c4
 White takes away the escape square on
 c5.' The black knight has no way back,
 and White is ready to saddle Black with
 a weakness by c3-c4xd5 and decisively
 open the c-file. Mikhalevski,V: 'A clever
 idea. Before undermining the knight by
 means of c4 White takes away the
 escape square on c5.'" A clever idea.
 Before undermining the knight by means

of c4 White takes away the escape
 square on c5. Meier,Georg: ' ±' Meier,
 Georg: 'The black knight has no way
 back, and White is ready to saddle Black
 with a weakness by c3-c4xd5 and
 decisively open the c-file. Mikhalevski,V:
 '!? Mikhalevski,V: 'A clever idea. Before
 undermining the knight by means of c4
 White takes away the escape square on
 c5.' The black knight has no way back,
 and White is ready to saddle Black with
 a weakness by c3-c4xd5 and decisively
 open the c-file." ermining the knight by
 means of c4 White takes away the
 escape square on c5.' The black knight
 has no way back, and White is ready to
 saddle Black with a weakness by c3-
 c4xd5 and decisively open the c-file.
 Meier,G: '* fixing the pawn structure;
 white has a space advantage. Meier,
 Georg: ' ±' '±' Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,
 V: '!? Mikhalevski,V: 'A clever idea.
 Before undermining the knight by means
 of c4 White takes away the escape
 square on c5.' The black knight has no
 way back, and White is ready to saddle
 Black with a weakness by c3-c4xd5 and
 decisively open the c-file." The black
 knight has no way back, and White is
 ready to saddle Black with a weakness
 by c3-c4xd5 and decisively open the c-
 file. Meier,G: 'Meier,Georg: 'The black
 knight has no way back, and White is
 ready to saddle Black with a weakness
 by c3-c4xd5 and decisively open the c-
 file.'" **29...g5?** Stamenkovic,Zoran:
 'Diagram

[29...f6! Meier,G: '* undermining the
 pawn chain' Mikhalevski,V: 'was a
 better try. Now White can choose
 between"was a better try.'was a better
 try. Now White can choose between
 Stamenkovic,Zoran: '!' Meier,Georg: '!

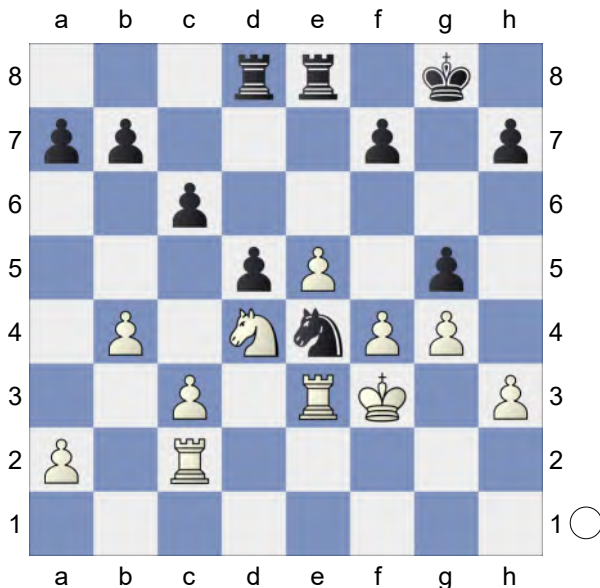
'!' Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: 'was a better try. Now White can choose between" Meier,Georg: 'Meier,G: '* undermining the pawn chain' Mikhalevski,V: 'was a better try. Now White can choose between' Mikhalevski,V: 'was a better try. Now White can choose between'" Now White can choose between Stamenkovic,Zoran: '!' Meier,Georg: '!' Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: 'was a better try. Now White can choose between'" Meier,G: '* undermining the pawn chain Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: 'was a better try. Now White can choose between'"

A) 30.e6 Mikhalevski,V: 'and"and Meier, Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: 'and'" 30.e6 Nd6 Meier,G: 'looks like a decent blockade still' looks like a decent blockade still Mikhalevski,V: 'Meier, Georg: 'looks like a decent blockade still'" Mikhalevski,V: 'Meier,Georg: 'looks like a decent blockade still' Meier,Georg: 'Meier, G: 'looks like a decent blockade still' looks like a decent blockade still'" Meier,G: 'looks like a decent blockade still Meier,Georg: 'looks like a decent blockade still'" looks like a decent blockade still Meier,G: 'Meier,Georg: 'looks like a decent blockade still'" 31.f5↑ Stamenkovic, Zoran Stamenkovic, Zoran (Mikhalevski,V) with the idea to meet Mikhalevski,V: ' ±' ±' Mikhalevski,V: 'with the idea to meet Stamenkovic,Zoran: ' ↑' Meier, Georg: ' ↑' Meier,Georg: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran (Mikhalevski,V) with the idea t'with the idea to meet Stamenkovic,Zoran: ' ↑' Meier, Georg: ' ↑' ↑' Meier,Georg:

'Stamenkovic,Zoran (Mikhalevski,V) with the idea to meet' Meier,Georg: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran Stamenkovic, Zoran (Mikhalevski,V) with the idea to meet Mikhalevski,V: ' ±'" o meet" Meier,G: 'Meier,Georg: ' ±' Meier, Georg: '(Mikhalevski,V) with the idea to meet Stamenkovic,Zoran: '↑'" Kf8 (31...g6 with 32.g5! Kg7 33.e7! Rc8 34.Ne6+ Kf7 35.Nd8+±);

B) 30.exf6 Nxf6 31.Ne6 Rc8 Mikhalevski,V: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran' (31...Ra8 Mikhalevski,V Mikhalevski,V: 'Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V" 32.Rce2 Rec8±) 32.Rce2 Kf7 33.Ng5+ Kf8 34.f5 Stamenkovic,Zoran: ' ↑' Meier,G: 'with a large advantage, but exchanges will ease some of the pressure.' Stamenkovic,Zoran: ' ↑' '↑' with a large advantage, but exchanges will ease some of the pressure. Mikhalevski,V: ' ↑' ↑' Mikhalevski,V: 'Meier,Georg: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: ' ↑' ↑' with a large advantage, but exchanges will ease some of the pressure.'" Mikhalevski,V: 'Meier,Georg: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: ' ↑' ↑' with a large advantage, but exchanges will ease some of the pressure.' Meier, Georg: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: ' ↑' ↑' Meier,G: 'with a large advantage, but exchanges will ease some of the pressure.' with a large advantage, but exchanges will ease some of the pressure. Stamenkovic, Zoran: ' ↑' with a large advantage, but exchanges will ease some of the pressure.'" Meier,G: 'with a large advantage, but exchanges will ease some of the pressure. Meier,

Georg: 'with a large advantage, but exchanges will ease some of the pressure. Stamenkovic,Zoran: ' ↑''' with a large advantage, but exchanges will ease some of the pressure. Meier,G: 'Meier,Georg: 'with a large advantage, but exchanges will ease some of the pressure.'"]

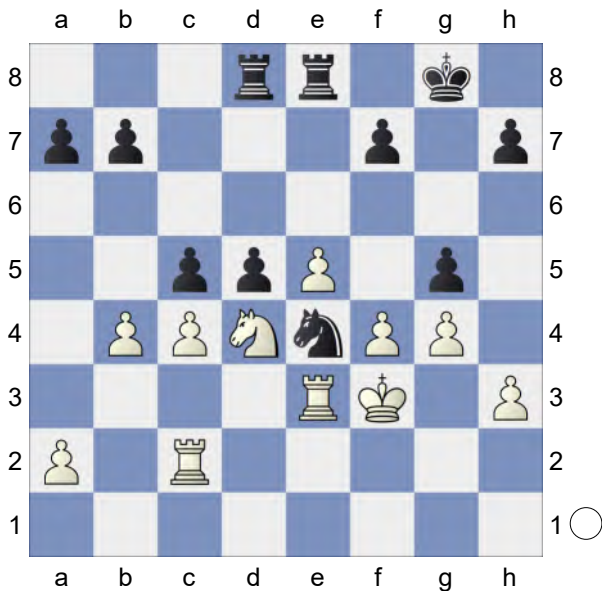


' Meier,G: 'Only creating more weaknesses.' Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Diagram [#]' Only creating more weaknesses. Mikhalevski,V: 'This attempt to cr'This attempt to create counterplay backfires. Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Diagram [#]' Meier,Georg: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Diagram [#]' Only creating more weaknesses. Mikhalevski,V: 'This attempt to create counterplay backfires.' Only creating more weaknesses.' Meier,Georg: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Diagram [#]' Meier,G: 'Only creating more weaknesses.' Only creating more weaknesses. Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Diagram [#]' Only creating more weaknesses. Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Diagram [#]' Only creating more

weaknesses. Mikhalevski,V: 'This attempt to create counterplay backfires.' Only creating more weaknesses. Mikhalevski,V: 'This attempt to create counterplay backfires.'" 'This attempt to create counterplay backfires. Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Diagram [#]' Meier,Georg: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Diagram [#]' Only creating more weaknesses. Mikhalevski,V: 'This attempt to create counterplay backfires.' Only creating more weaknesses." eate counterplay backfires.' Only creating more weaknesses. Meier,G: 'Only creating more weaknesses. Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: 'This attempt to create counterplay backfires.' Only creating more weaknesses. Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Diagram [#]''' Only creating more weaknesses. Meier,G: 'Meier,Georg: 'Only creating more weaknesses.'" **30.c4** Stamenkovic,Zoran: '+-!' Meier,G: '* White undermines opponent's pawn chain first!' S'Stamenkovic,Zoran: '+-!' Meier,Georg: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: '+-!' '+-!' Mikhalevski,V: '!' Meier,Georg: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: '+-!' '+-!' Meier,G: '* White undermines opponent's pawn chain first!' Stamenkovic,Zoran: '+-!' Mikhalevski,V: '!' '!' 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: '+-!' Meier,Georg: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: '+-!' '+-!' Mikhalevski,V: '!' '!' tamenkovic,Zoran: '+-!' '+-!' Mikhalevski,V: '!' '!' Meier,G: '* White undermines opponent's pawn chain first! Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: '!' Stamenkovic,Zoran: '+-!' '!" **30...c5**

[30...gxf4 31.Kxf4 f6 32.e6+- Mikhalevski,V: ' ±' ±' ±' Mikhalevski,V: 'is not much fun either, but at least Black would stay in the game.'is not much fun either, bu'is not much fun either, but at least Black would

stay in the game. Stamenkovic,Zoran: '+-' Meier,Georg: '+-' '+-' Meier, Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: ' ±' Mikhalevski, V: 'is not much fun either, but at least Black would stay in the game.' Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: ' ±' ±' Mikhalevski,V: 'is not much fun either, but at least Black would stay in the game.' t at least Black would stay in the game. Stamenkovic,Zoran: '+-' Meier,Georg: '+-' Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: ' ±' Mikhalevski,V: 'is not much fun either, but at least Black would stay in the game.'"]



Mikhalevski,V: '?' '?' '?' Mikhalevski,V: 'Suicide. Now the d5-pawn loses its support and Black's position collapses. Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: '?' Mikhalevski,V: 'Suicide. Now the d5-pawn loses its support and Black's position collapses.' Meier, Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: '?' '?' Mikhalevski, V: 'Suicide. Now the d5-pawn loses its support and Black's position collapses.' Mikhalevski,V: 'Suicide. Now the d5-pawn loses its support and Black's

position collapses.'" n co'Suicide. Now the d5-pawn loses its support and Black's position collapses. Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: '?' Mikhalevski,V: 'Suicide. Now the d5-pawn loses its support and Black's position collapses.'" llapses.'

31.Nb5 Meier,G: '* now the e4-knight has lost its footing' Mikhalevski,V: '+-!' '+-!' '+-'The threat of 32.cxd5 can't be stopped, and so after Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: '+-!' Mikhalevski,V: 'The threat of 32.cxd5 can't be stopped, and so after" Meier,Georg: 'Meier,G: '* now the e4-knight has lost its footing' Mikhalevski,V: '+-!' '+-!' Mikhalevski,V: 'The threat of 32.cxd5 can't be stopped, and so after'" !' Mik'The threat of 32.cxd5 can't be stopped, and so after Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: '+-!' Mikhalevski,V: 'The threat of 32.cxd5 can't be stopped, and so after'" halevski, V: 'The threat of 32.cxd5 can't be stopped, and so after' Meier,G: '* now the e4-knight has lost its footing Meier, Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: '+-!' Mikhalevski, V: 'The threat of 32.cxd5 can't be stopped, and so after'" **31...gxf4**

32.Kxf4 cxb4 33.cxd5 Meier,G: 'This game clearly showed Wei not being comfortable with a quiet manoeuvring struggle. And obviously Carlsen is aware of this shortcoming. Given a strategically superior position out of nowhere he converted with ease.' This game clearly 'Meier,Georg: 'This game clearly showed Wei not being comfortable with a quiet manoeuvring struggle. And obviously Carlsen is aware of this shortcoming. Given a strategically superior position out of nowhere he converted with ease. Mikhalevski,V: 'Black resigned. A very interesting strategical concept from the

world champion reaped its fruits. Nevertheless, I believe Black shouldn't have problems in the line with 13.g4.18... Rfe8 is a way to improve upon Black's play in this game, and 16...Bf4 isn't forced either.' This game clearly showed Wei not being comfortable with a quiet manoeuvring struggle. And obviously Carlsen is aware of this shortcoming. Given a strategically superior position out of nowhere he converted with ease.' Meier,Georg: 'Meier,G: 'This game clearly showed Wei not being comfortable with a quiet manoeuvring struggle. And obviously Carlsen is aware of this shortcoming. Given a strategically superior position out of nowhere he converted with ease.' This game clearly showed Wei not being comfortable with a quiet manoeuvring struggle. And obviously Carlsen is aware of this shortcoming. Given a strategically superior position out of nowhere he converted with ease. This game clearly showed Wei not being comfortable with a quiet manoeuvring struggle. And obviously Carlsen is aware of this shortcoming. Given a strategically superior position out of nowhere he converted with ease. Mikhalevski,V: 'Black resigned. A very interesting strategical concept from the world champion reaped its fruits. Nevertheless, I believe Black shouldn't have problems in the line with 13.g4.18... Rfe8 is a way to improve upon Black's play in this game, and 16...Bf4 isn't forced either.' This game clearly showed Wei not being comfortable with a quiet manoeuvring struggle. And obviously Carlsen is aware of this shortcoming. Given a strategically superior position out of nowhere he converted with ease.

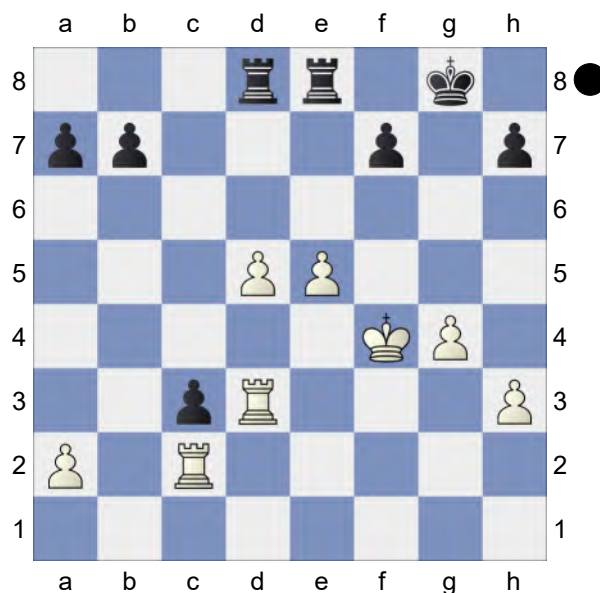
Mikhalevski,V: 'Black resigned. A very interesting strategical concept from the world champion reaped its fruits. Nevertheless, I believe Black shouldn't have problems in the line with 13.g4.18... Rfe8 is a way to improve upon Black's play in this game, and 16...Bf4 isn't forced either.'" 'Meier,Georg: 'This game clearly showed Wei not being comfortable with a quiet manoeuvring struggle. And obviously Carlsen is aware of this shortcoming. Given a strategically superior position out of nowhere he converted with ease. Mikhalevski,V: 'Black resigned. A very interesting strategical concept from the world champion reaped its fruits. Nevertheless, I believe Black shouldn't have problems in the line with 13.g4.18... Rfe8 is a way to improve upon Black's play in this game, and 16...Bf4 isn't forced either.' This game clearly showed Wei not being comfortable with a quiet manoeuvring struggle. And obviously Carlsen is aware of this shortcoming. Given a strategically superior position out of nowhere he converted with ease." showed Wei not being comfortable with a quiet manoeuvring struggle. And obviously Carlsen is aware of this shortcoming. Given a strategically superior position out of nowhere he converted with ease. Mikhalevski,V: 'Black resigned. A very interesting strategical concept from the world champion reaped its fruits. Nevertheless, I believe Black shouldn't have problems in the line with 13.g4.18...Rfe8 is a way to improve upon Black's play in this game, and 16...Bf4 isn't forced either.' This game clearly showed Wei not being comfortable with a quiet manoeuvring struggle. And obviously

Carlsen is aware of this shortcoming. Given a strategically superior position out of nowhere he converted with ease. Mikhalevski,V: 'Black resigned. A very interesting strategical concept from the world champion reaped its fruits. Nevertheless, I believe Black shouldn't have problems in the line with 13.g4.18... Rfe8 is a way to improve upon Black's play in this game, and 16...Bf4 isn't forced either.' Meier,G: 'This game clearly showed Wei not being comfortable with a quiet manoeuvring struggle. And obviously Carlsen is aware of this shortcoming. Given a strategically superior position out of nowhere he converted with ease. Meier, Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V: 'Black resigned. A very interesting strategical concept from the world champion reaped its fruits. Nevertheless, I believe Black shouldn't have problems in the line with 13.g4.18... Rfe8 is a way to improve upon Black's play in this game, and 16...Bf4 isn't forced either.' This game clearly showed Wei not being comfortable with a quiet manoeuvring struggle. And obviously Carlsen is aware of this shortcoming. Given a strategically superior position out of nowhere he converted with ease." This game clearly showed Wei not being comfortable with a quiet manoeuvring struggle. And obviously Carlsen is aware of this shortcoming. Given a strategically superior position out of nowhere he converted with ease. Meier,G: 'Meier, Georg: 'This game clearly showed Wei not being comfortable with a quiet manoeuvring struggle. And obviously Carlsen is aware of this shortcoming. Given a strategically superior position out of nowhere he converted with ease."

33...Nc3

[33...Rxd5 Mikhalevski,V Mikhalevski, V: 'Meier,Georg: 'Mikhalevski,V'" 34.Nc7+- is too simple for anyone to be executed on the board. 1-0 (34) Carlsen,M (2840)-Wei,Y (2706) Wijk aan Zee 2017 CBM 177 [Meier, Georg] Mikhalevski,V: 'is too simple for anyone to be executed on the board. Meier,Georg: 'is too simple for anyone to be executed on the board. 1-0 (34) Carlsen,M (2840)-Wei, Y (2706) Wijk aan Zee 2017 CBM 177 [Meier,Georg]"]

34.Nxc3 bxc3 35.Rd3



1-0 (35) 4.1) Carlsen,M (2840)-Wei,Y (2706) Wijk aan Zee 2017 CBM 177 [Meier,G]

1-0

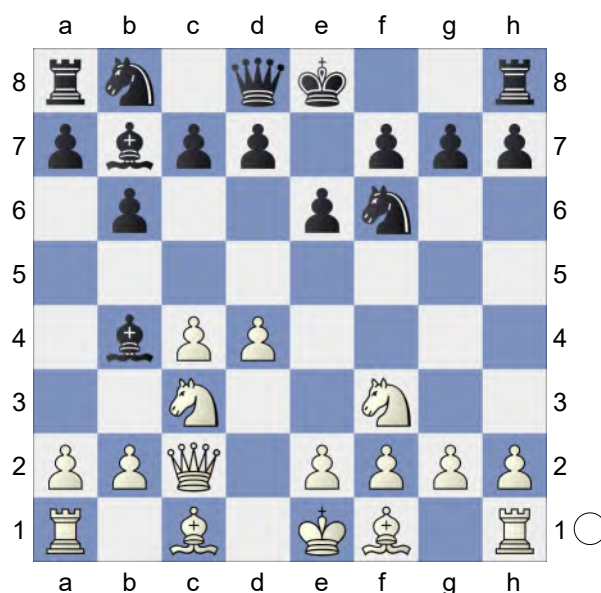
7 **E21**
 ♖ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2840**
 ♜ **Wei,Yi** **2706**
 Tata Steel-A 79th (4) 17.01.2017
 [Meier,Georg]

1.d4 Stamenkovic,Zoran **1...Nf6** **2.c4**
e6 **3.Nc3** Meier,G: 'The Bishops's
 Opening or Italian Game reminds me of
 the London System (1.d4 followed by Bf4
 on move 2 or 3) that has also had a
 resurgence of late, not least due to
 Magnus's efforts. You can of course find
 fresh ideas everywhere, but the main
 point of these openings - at least to me -
 is to keep a lot of pieces on the board
 and beat your opponent by a better
 understanding of positional play and
 pawn structures.' The Bishops's Opening
 or Italian Game reminds me of the
 London System (1.d4 followed by ♘f4
 on move 2 or 3) that has also had a
 resurgence of late, not least due to
 Magnus's efforts. You can of course find
 fresh ideas everywhere, but the main
 point of these openings - at least to me -
 is to keep a lot of pieces on the board
 and beat your opponent by a better
 understanding of positional play and
 pawn structures. **3...Bb4** **4.Nf3** **b6**
 Meier,G: 'A bit tame. But it was played
 after almost 6 minutes of contemplation,
 indicating that Yi had not made up his
 mind about this opening beforehand.' A
 bit tame. But it was played after almost
 6 minutes of contemplation, indicating
 that Yi had not made up his mind about
 this opening beforehand.

[4...d5 5.Bg5 Nbd7 6.cxd5 exd5
 7.Nd2 c6 8.e3 Nf8 9.Bd3 Ng6
 10.0-0 0-0 11.f4 h6 12.Bxf6 Qxf6
 13.f5 Ne7 (13...Qg5) 14.Nde4 dxe4

15.Nxe4 Qh4 16.g3 Qh3 17.Nf2
 Qxf1+ 18.Kxf1]
 [4...c5 5.g3 Nc6 6.Bg2 Ne4 7.Bd2
 Bxc3 8.bxc3 0-0 9.0-0 f5 10.Be3
 Nxc3 11.Qd3 cxd4 12.Nxd4 Ne4
 13.c5]
 [4...0-0 5.Bg5 c5 6.Rc1 cxd4
 7.Nxd4 h6 8.Bh4 d5 9.e3 e5 10.Nf3
 g5 11.Bg3 d4 12.exd4 exd4
 13.Nxd4 Qb6 14.a3 Bxc3+ 15.bxc3
 Rd8]

5.Qc2 Bb7

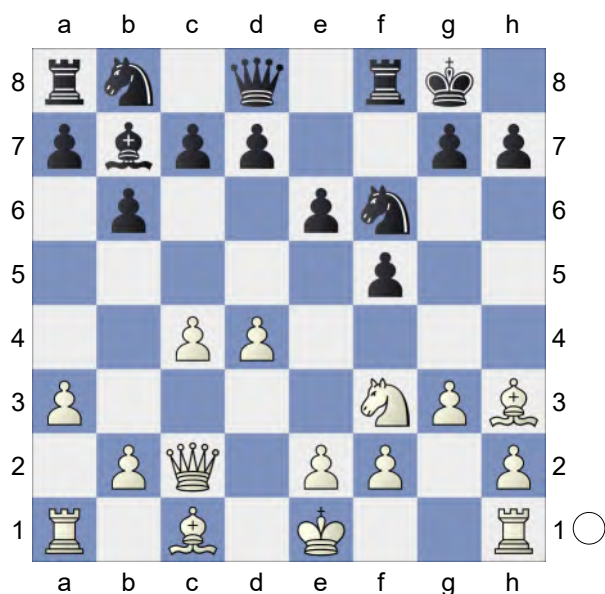


6.a3 **Bxc3+** Meier,G: 'Both sides are
 free as concerns further development, so
 we get an impression of where both
 players feel their pieces belong.' Both
 sides are free as concerns further
 development, so we get an impression
 of where both players feel their pieces
 belong. **7.Qxc3** **Ne4**

[7...0-0 8.e3 (8.Bg5)]

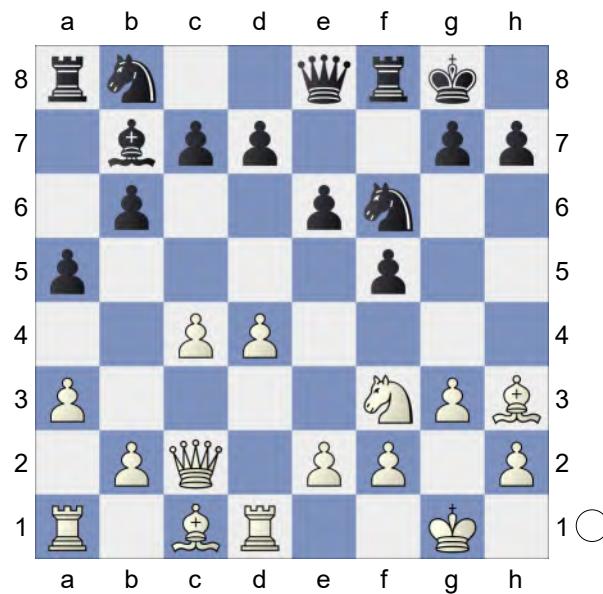
8.Qc2 **f5** **9.g3** Meier,G: '* pawn center'
 [9.e3 0-0 10.Be2 d6 11.0-0 Nd7
 12.b4 Rf6 13.d5 Rg6 (13...exd5
 14.Bb2 Rg6 15.cxd5 Bxd5 16.Bc4)
 14.Nd4 Qg5 15.g3 exd5 (15...Ne5
 16.Nxe6 Rxe6 17.dxe6 Qg6)
 16.cxd5 Bxd5 17.Bc4 Bxc4

18.Qxc4+ Kh8 19.Qc6 Rd8 20.Qxc7
Ne5 21.Ra2 Rf8 22.f4 Qg4 23.Qe7
Rg8 24.Rg2]
9...Nf6 10.Bh3 Meier,G: '* limiting
counterplay' **10...0-0**



11.0-0 a5
[11...Qe8 12.d5 Qh5 13.Bg2 exd5
14.Rd1]
12.Rd1
[12.d5]
12...Qe8! Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Diagram
[12...Be4 13.Qc3 Qe8 14.Bf4 Qh5
15.Bf1 d6 16.Ng5 Re8 17.Nxe4
fxe4]

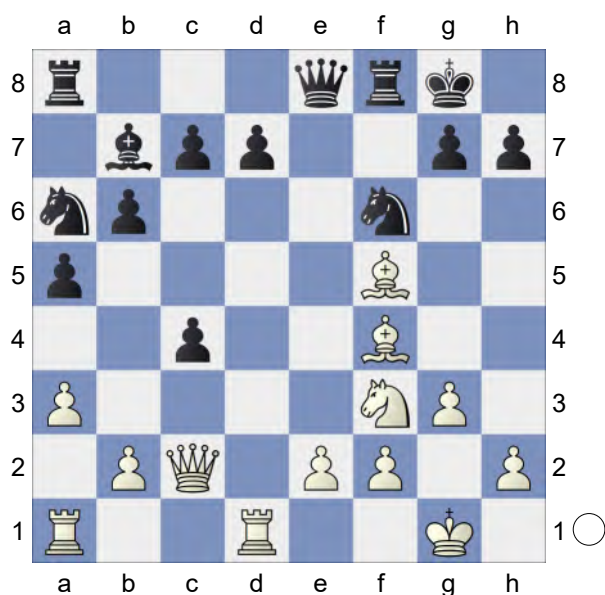
(Diagram)



' Meier,G: 'This is important in connection with ...Bg4: Black must be ready to take on f3 and then he should soon halve White's bishop pair with Bg5. ' This is important in connection with ... ♗g4: Black must be ready to take on f3 and then he should soon halve White's bishop pair with ♗g5. **13.d5!?** Meier,G: '* a trade-off: giving up f4-square to sideline black bishop' **13...Na6 14.Bf4** Meier,G: 'The bishop on g6 will be passive for a long time, but White has also created a hole on f4.' The bishop on g6 will be passive for a long time, but White has also created a hole on f4. **14...exd5** Meier,G: '*exchanging passive pieces' Being a bit cramped, Black wants to exchange pieces.

[14...Qh5 15.Bg2 exd5 16.Nd4
Rae8 17.cxd5 Nxd5 18.Qc4 Re4
19.Bf3 Qg6 20.Bxe4 fxe4 21.Be3
c6]
15.Bxf5 Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'N' Meier,G: 'After 20 minutes thought! I don't think Magnus was too thrilled with his position at this point.' After 20 minutes thought! I don't think Magnus was too thrilled with his position at this point. **15...dxc4**

[15...Ne4 16.Bh3 Meier,G: 'would be the modern way to play.' would be the modern way to play. Qh5 17.Bg2 a4 Meier,G: 'sophisticated!' sophisticated! 18.cxd5 (18.Qxa4 Nac5 19.Qc2 dxc4 20.Qxc4+ d5 21.Qc2 Ne6 22.Be3 c5) 18...Nac5 Meier,G: 'is a popular line for Black' is a popular line for Black 19.d6 cxd6 Meier,G: 'would force Black to eventually release the tension in the centre.' would force Black to eventually release the tension in the centre. 20.Bxd6 Rf7 21.Bf4 Nb3 22.Qc7 d6 23.Qxb6 Nxa1 24.Rxa1]



16.Ng5 Qh5 Meier,G: 'From here on it looks very much like Black was looking for active ideas, when all he had to do is patiently improve his position.' From here on it looks very much like Black was looking for active ideas, when all he had to do is patiently improve his position.

[16...g6 17.Bxd7 Meier,G: 'keeping the Ng3 at bay and with Bg5 soon following.' keeping the ♘g3 at bay and with ♙g5 soon following. Nxd7

Stamenkovic,Zoran 18.Qxc4+ Kg7 19.Ne6+= Kh8 20.Rxd7 Qxd7 a slight advantage for White in the center. 21.Nxf8 Stamenkovic,Zoran Qd5= - 60/292 (21...Rxf8 22.Be5+) 22.Qxd5 Bxd5 23.Nd7]

17.Rxd7

[17.Bxd7 Nc5 18.Bf5 Kh8 * f4-pawn turns out to be weak Meier, G: 'The normal move would be' The normal move would be 19.f3 Rae8]

17...Kh8

[17...Nxd7 18.Bxh7+ Stamenkovic, Zoran: '=' Meier,G: 'with a good position for Black was mentioned by Carlsen.' with a good position for Black was mentioned by Carlsen. Kh8 19.Bg6 Qg4 20.f3]

18.Re7

[18.Rd4 Stamenkovic,Zoran: '=' Meier, G: 'is completely satisfactory for Black.' 'is completely satisfactory for Black. Nc5 19.Rxc4 Bd5 20.Rc3]

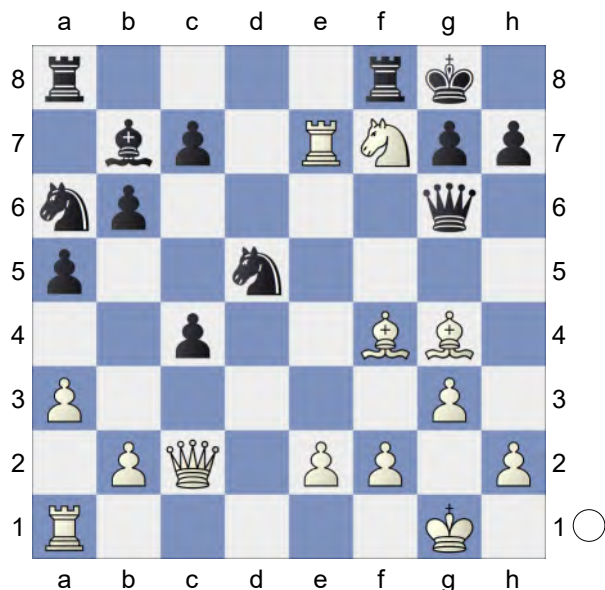
18...Nd5? Stamenkovic,Zoran: '?!' Meier, G: "An absolute gift" (Carlsen). Black is giving up the centre for no reason.' "An absolute gift" (Carlsen). Black is giving up the centre for no reason. **19.Bg4** Meier,G: '* backward pawn on d6'

[19.Re5 Nxf4! Meier,G: 'A smart waiting move, opening the d7-f8-e6 route for the knight.' A smart waiting move, opening the d7-f8-e6 route for the knight. 20.gxf4 Rae8 21.Rxe8 Rxe8 22.f3]

19...Qg6 20.Nf7+ Kg8

[20...Rxf7 * looks ever so slightly better for White, but Black is probably just fine 21.Qxg6 Meier,G: 'getting the rook into play and vacating f8 for the knight; good value for a tempo.' getting the rook into play and vacating f8 for the knight; good value for a

tempo. hxg6 22.Rxf7]

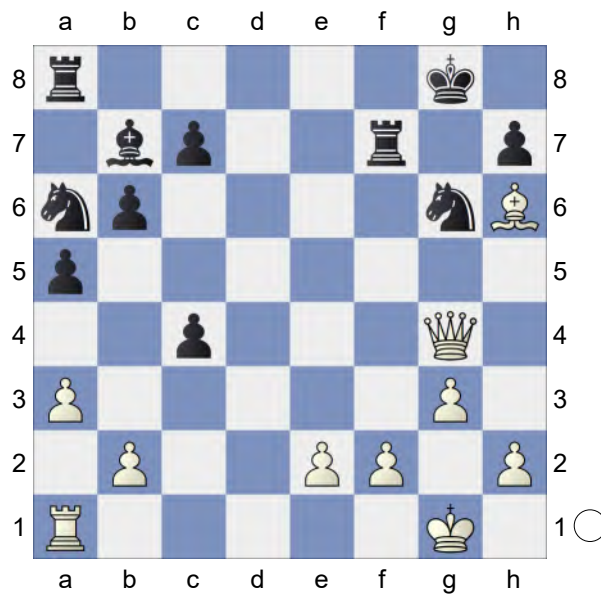


21.Bf5 Meier,G: '* limiting counterplay, isolating the bishop on g6. king is safe on g2' Now White has a straightforward plan: Get rid of the queen on f4 and push his kingside pawns. At this point Black had to look for ways to limit the damage, and quickly. **21...Qxf5?!** Meier,G: 'Further drifting...' Further drifting...

[21...Qh5 22.g4 Qh4∞ Stamenkovic, Zoran 23.Bg3 Qh3! 24.Ng5 Qh6 25.Re5 Nc5 26.Qxc4 Stamenkovic, Zoran: ' ♖' Kh8 27.h4 Rad8 28.e4 Nf6 29.Nf7+= Rxf7 30.Qxf7]

22.Qxf5 Meier,G: '* trading Black's strongest piece' **22...Nxe7** **23.Nh6+** Meier,G: ' ♚' **23...gxh6** Meier,G: '?!' **24.Qg4+** Meier,G: '* superior understanding of pawn structures - White's pawn majority is more potent' **24...Ng6** **25.Bxh6** **Rf7**

(Diagram)



26.Rd1 Meier,G: 'Black must have underestimated the dangers of this endgame. Clearly, digging in and holding the fort does not come easy to the Chinese prodigy. He proceeds to lose in no time.' Black must have underestimated the dangers of this endgame. Clearly, digging in and holding the fort does not come easy to the Chinese prodigy. He proceeds to lose in no time. **26...Re8** Meier,G: '* e4-outpost' **27.h4** **Nc5**

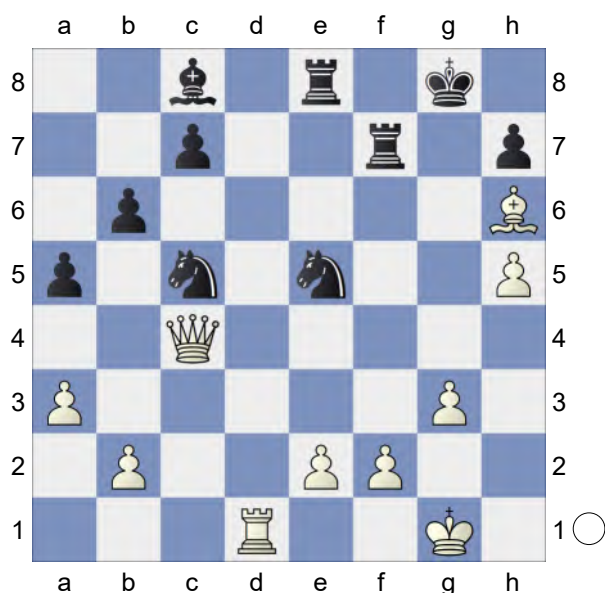
[27...Kh8± Stamenkovic,Zoran 28.h5 Nf8 29.Qxc4 Rfe7! Stamenkovic, Zoran: ' ±!' Meier,G: 'leaves White with the superior minor piece forever.' leaves White with the superior minor piece forever. 30.Qd4+!? Kg8 31.Qg4+ Kh8 32.Bd2 h6 33.Bc3+ Kh7 Meier,G: 'looks tempting, but Black still holds on with' looks tempting, but Black still holds on with 34.Qd4 Nd7 35.Qd3+]

28.h5 Meier,G: '* centralization' **28...Bc8** **29.Qxc4±** Meier,G: '±!' Meier,G: '* fixing the pawn structure; white has a space advantage.' The black knight has no way back, and White is ready to saddle Black

with a weakness by c3-c4xd5 and decisively open the c-file.

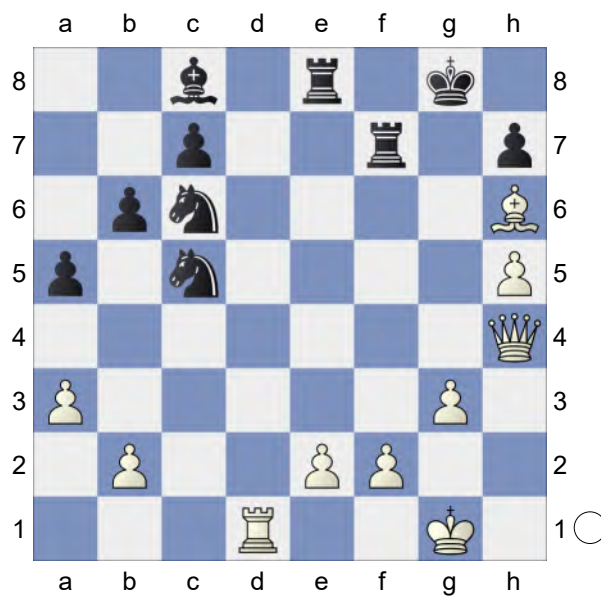
[29.Qg5 Rf5 30.Qg4 (30.Qc1 Rxh5 31.Qxc4+ Be6) 30...Rf4 31.Qg5 Rf5 Meier,G: 'would guarantee that Black does not run out of space. The isolated pawn would remain his only worry after' would guarantee that Black does not run out of space. The isolated pawn would remain his only worry after]

29...Ne5? Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Diagram



' Meier,G: 'Only creating more weaknesses.' Only creating more weaknesses. **30.Qh4** Stamenkovic, Zoran: '+-!' Meier,G: '* White undermines opponent's pawn chain first!' **30...Nc6**

(Diagram)



31.Rd5 Meier,G: '* now the e4-knight has lost its footing' **31...Ne6**

[31...Rxe2 Δ32.Qd8+]

32.Qc4

[32.Qa4 Bb7 Stamenkovic,Zoran: '±' 33.Qg4+ Ng7 34.Rg5 Ree7 35.f4 Nd4 36.f5 Ndx5 37.Rxf5 Rxf5± 38.Bxg7]

32...Ncd8

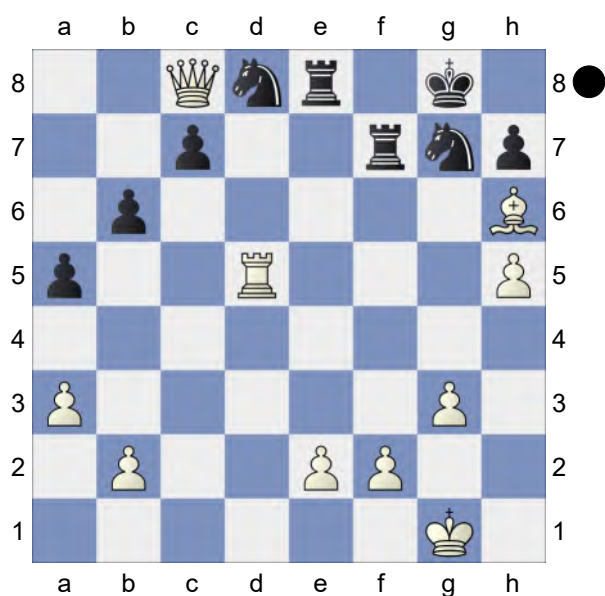
[32...Ne7 33.Qa4 Ref8 34.Rd2 Ng7 35.e4 Stamenkovic,Zoran: '↑' Meier,G: 'with a large advantage, but exchanges will ease some of the pressure.' with a large advantage, but exchanges will ease some of the pressure. Bg4 36.f4 Meier,G: 'looks like a decent blockade still' looks like a decent blockade still Bxh5↑ Stamenkovic, Zoran 37.Rd7 Meier,G: 'To put up a line of defence Black should take f5 under control, grab space with a5 to somewhat secure c5 for his knight and then centralise his king. A reasonable sequence would be:' To put up a line of defence Black should take f5 under control, grab space with a5 to somewhat secure c5 for his knight and

then centralise his king. A reasonable sequence would be: c5 38.Qb3 Re8 39.Qxb6 Bf3 40.Bxg7 Stamenkovic, Zoran: '±' Kxg7 41.Qxc5]

33.Qg4+ Meier,G: 'This game clearly showed Wei not being comfortable with a quiet manoeuvring struggle. And obviously Carlsen is aware of this shortcoming. Given a strategically superior position out of nowhere he converted with ease.' This game clearly showed Wei not being comfortable with a quiet manoeuvring struggle. And obviously Carlsen is aware of this shortcoming. Given a strategically superior position out of nowhere he converted with ease. **33...Ng7**

[33...Kh8 34.Bd2 1-0 (35) 4.1) Carlsen,M (2840)-Wei,Y (2706) Wijk aan Zee 2017 CBM 177 [Meier,G] Bb7 35.Bc3+ Ng7 36.Rd7+- Rxd7! Meier,G: '* undermining the pawn chain' 37.Qxd7 Rg8 38.h6]

34.Qxc8



1-0

155

□ Wei,Yi

■ Banusz,Tamas

ProChessLeague (Int.-rapid) 147/(93)

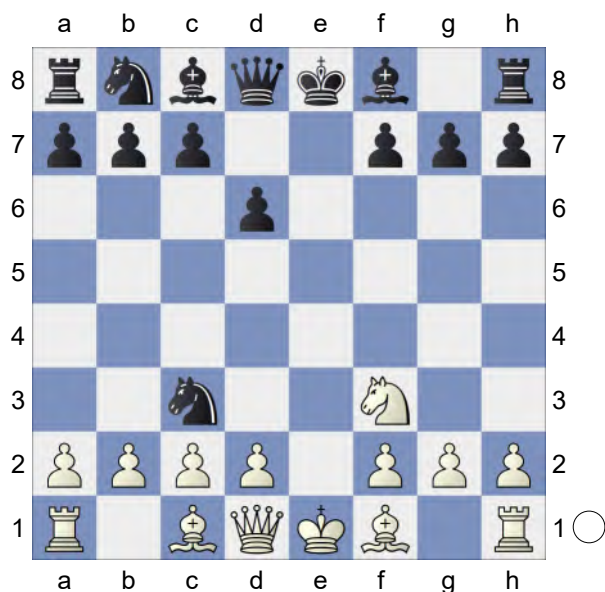
[Melao,Hindenburg jr]

C42

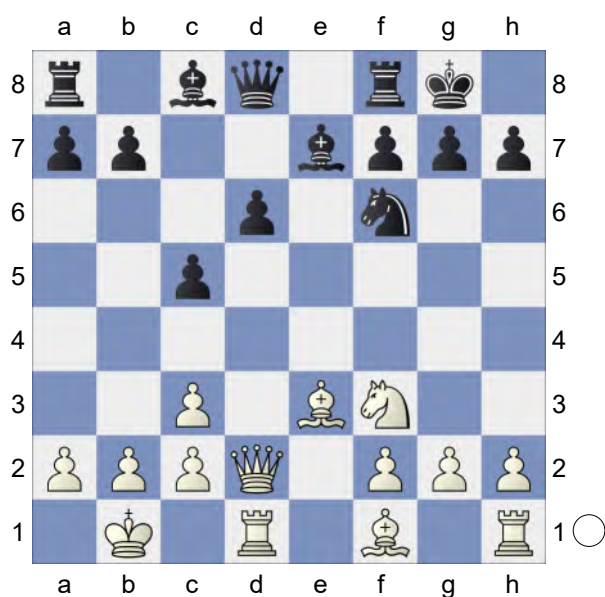
2732

2620

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3
Nxe4 5.Nc3 Nxc3



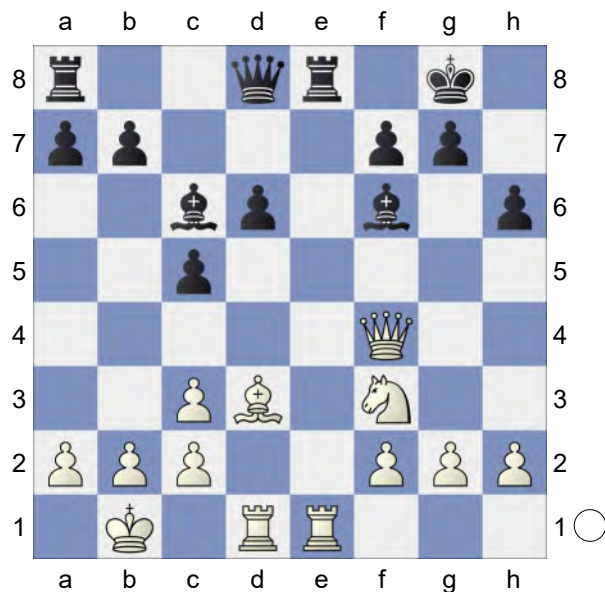
6.dxc3 Be7 7.Be3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nd7
9.0-0-0 Nf6 10.Kb1 c5



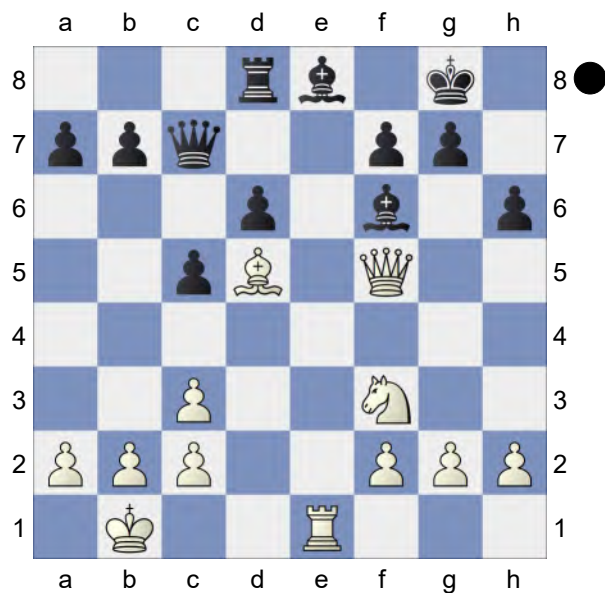
11.Bd3 Bd7 12.Rhe1 Re8 13.Bg5 *
13...Bc6N

[13...h6 - 147/93]

14.Qf4 h6 15.Bxf6 Bxf6



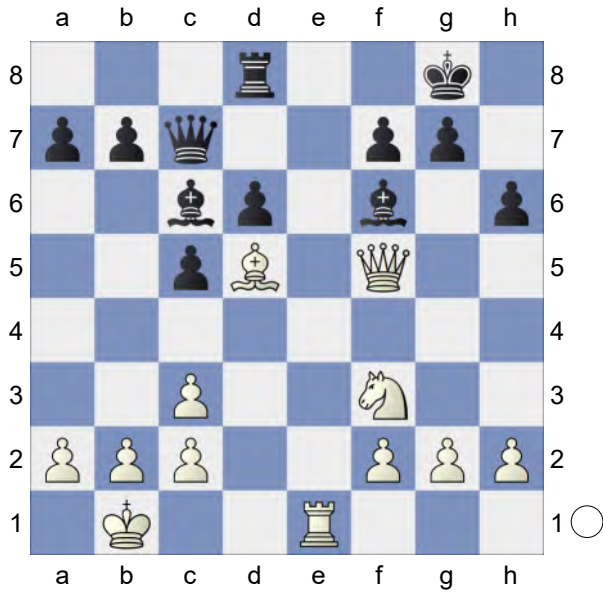
16.Rxe8+ Bxe8 17.Be4 Qe7 18.Bd5
Rd8 19.Re1 Qc7 20.Qf5 Diagram



20...Bc6

[20...Bd7!?]

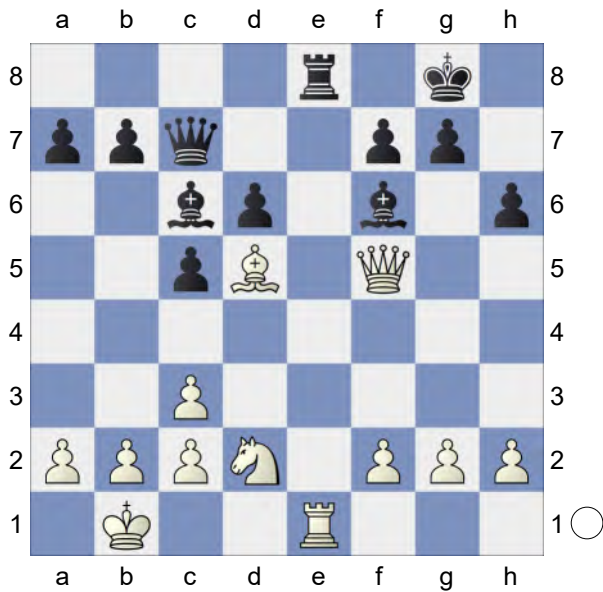
(Diagram)



21.Nd2 Re8

[21...Re8 22.Rxe8+ Bxe8 23.Ne4
Be7 24.g4↑]

[21...b5 22.a3 Qb7 23.Be4 Bxe4
24.Nxe4 Be7=]



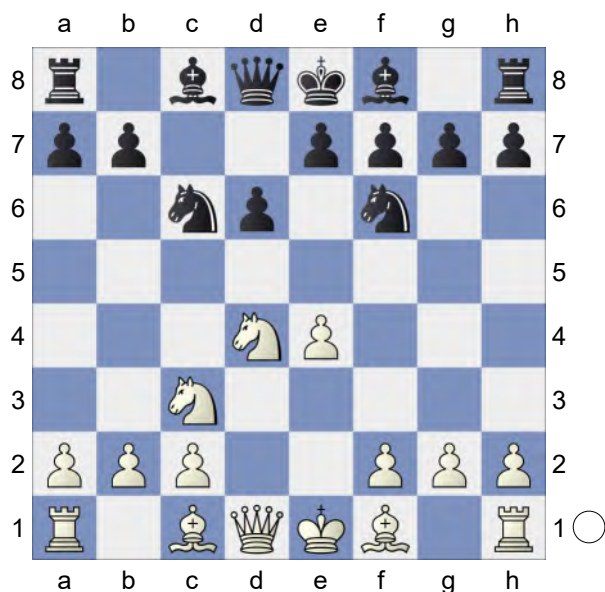
505

□ Reference Games

■ Wei,Yi

[Mickey Mouse]

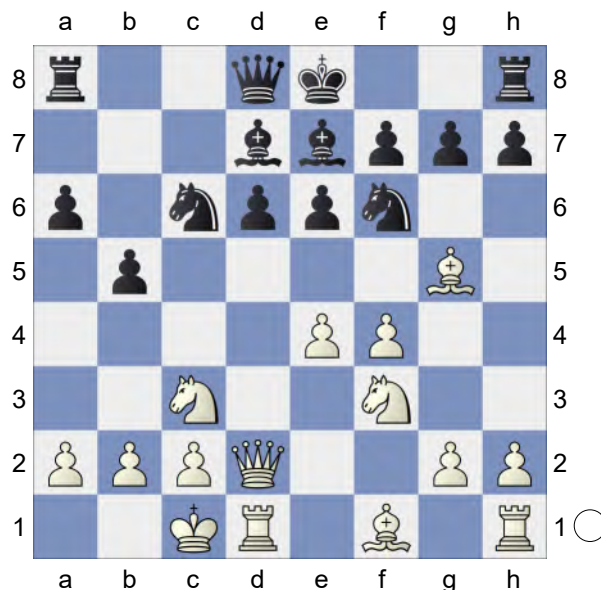
The finish. Black's play was very easy. Rc8 , Na7 and the pieces just coming towards White's King. White's play, on the other hand, was not at all easy. The finish. Black's play was very easy. Rc8 , Na7 and the pieces just coming towards White's King. White's play, on the other hand, was not at all easy. The finish. Black's play was very easy. Rc8 , Na7 and the pieces just coming towards White's King. White's play, on the other hand, was not at all easy. B69: Sicilian: Richter-Rauzer: 7...a6 8 0-0-0 Bd7 9 f4 Be7 10 Nf3 b5 Bxf6 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 d6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6



6.Bg5 e6 7.Qd2 a6 8.0-0-0 Be7 9.f4 Bd7 10.Nf3 b5

(Diagram)

B69



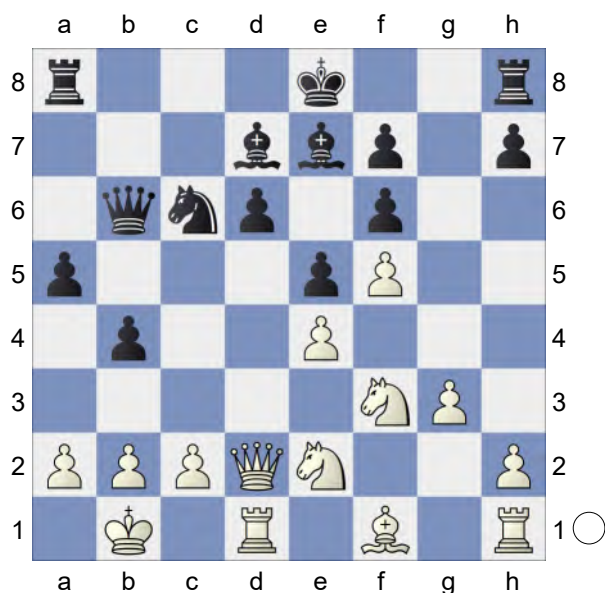
11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.Kb1 Qb6 13.g3 b4N

[13...0-0-0 14.Bh3 (14.Bg2 Kb8 15.Ne2 Na5 16.b3 Nb7 17.Nfd4 Rc8 18.c3 Rhd8 19.Nc2 Rc7 20.f5 Rdc8 21.Rhf1 Bf8 22.b4 a5 23.a3 Qa6 24.fxe6 Bxe6 25.Ncd4 axb4 26.axb4 Bh6 27.Qb2 Bc4 28.Rf5 Nc5 Chapter B50-Game 11 Game 11 (48)) 14...Kb8 15.f5 Rhe8 16.fxe6 fxe6 17.Qh6 Qc5 18.Ne2 Rc8 19.Nf4 Qc4 20.Nd2 Qa4 21.c3 b4 22.b3 Qb5 23.c4 Qg5 24.Qh5 Nd4 25.Rhf1 Qxh5 26.Nxh5 Rc5 27.Nxf6 Bxf6 28.Rxf6 Exam Time!-Chigaev,M (52)]

[13...Na5 14.f5 b4 15.fxe6 fxe6 16.Ne2 Nc4 17.Qd4 Qxd4 18.Rxd4 Ne5 19.Bg2 a5 20.Re1 Rc8 21.Rdd1 Kf7 22.Nf4 Ng6 23.Nxg6 hxg6 24.e5 d5 25.exf6 Bxf6 26.h4 Rh5 27.Bh3 Rc4 28.Re3 6.dc5 (2640) -Krueger,A (2675) Maribor 2016 Telechess CBM 89 [Harding/Busemann] 0-1 (61)]

14.Ne2 a5 The trainable ends here. It is instructive to see how a former prodigy rated 2742 loses control of the position pretty quickly. The trainable ends here.

It is instructive to see how a former prodigy rated 2742 loses control of the position pretty quickly. The trainable ends here. It is instructive to see how a former prodigy rated 2742 loses control of the position pretty quickly. The position is equal. **15.f5 e5**



With the center closed like this, it is not easy for White in practical play unless their minor pieces can use the d5 -square. With the center closed like this, it is not easy for White in practical play unless their minor pieces can use the d5 -square. With the center closed like this, it is not easy for White in practical play unless their minor pieces can use the d5 -square. Against Ne2-f4 **16.Nc1**

[16.g4!?]

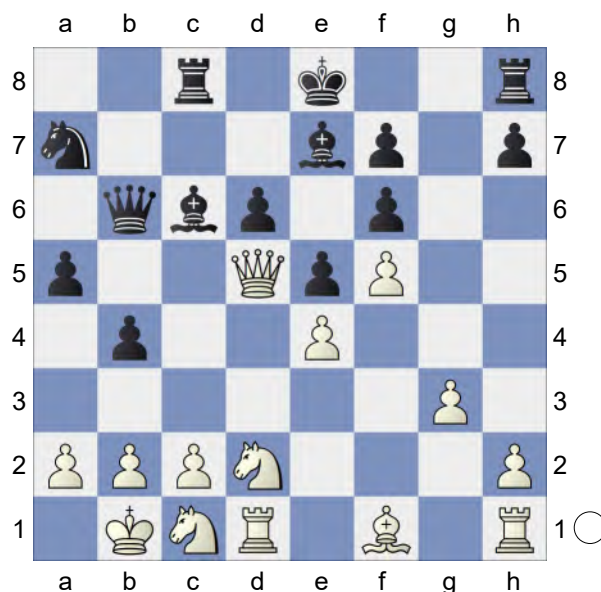
16...Rc8 17.Qd5 -0.31/20

[17.Qh6= 0.06/19]

17...Na7 An instructive way of improving the Knight. **18.Nd2 Bc6**

[But not 18...Qc7 19.Ba6±]

(Diagram)



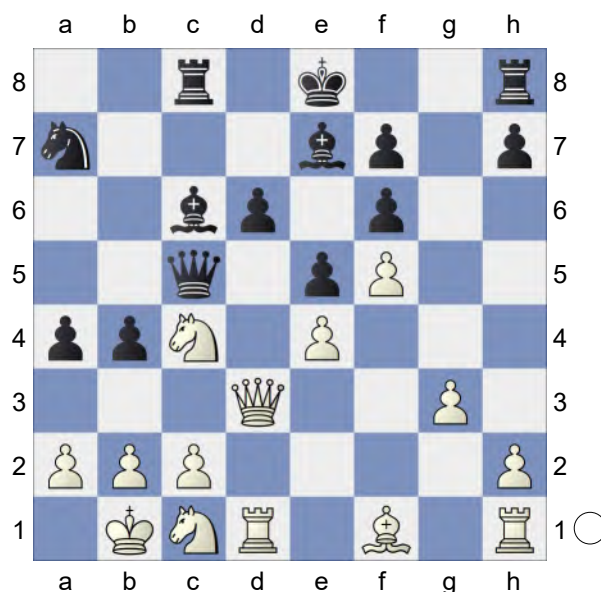
19.Qd3 -0.32/22

[19.Nc4!=

0.01/24

is more appropriate. Qc7 20.Qd3]

19...a4 20.Nc4 Qc5



21.Qf3 Nb5 All the Black pieces are moving towards White's King, while White's pieces themselves are going nowhere. All the Black pieces are moving towards White's King, while White's pieces themselves are going nowhere. All the Black pieces are moving towards White's King, while White's pieces themselves are going nowhere.

nowhere. **22.Qe3** -1.48/22

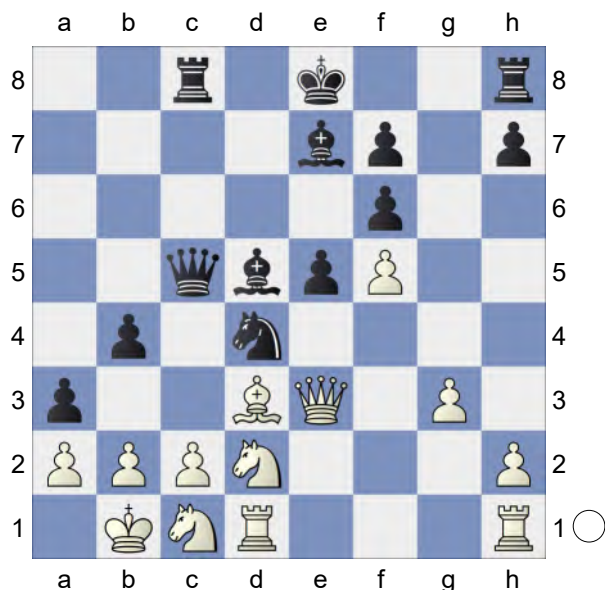
[**Better is** 22.Ne3 -0.83/21]

22...Nd4 Threatens to win with ...d6-d5.

23.Bd3 -2.38/24

[23.b3 -1.54/22]

23...d5+ 24.Nd2 a3 25.exd5 Bxd5



26.Ne4 Qc6 Strongly threatening ...a3xb2. **27.Nb3** 0-0 White's King is beyond salvage so Black can spend one move towards King safety before going for the finish. White's King is beyond salvage so Black can spend one move towards King safety before going for the finish. White's King is beyond salvage so Black can spend one move towards King safety before going for the finish.

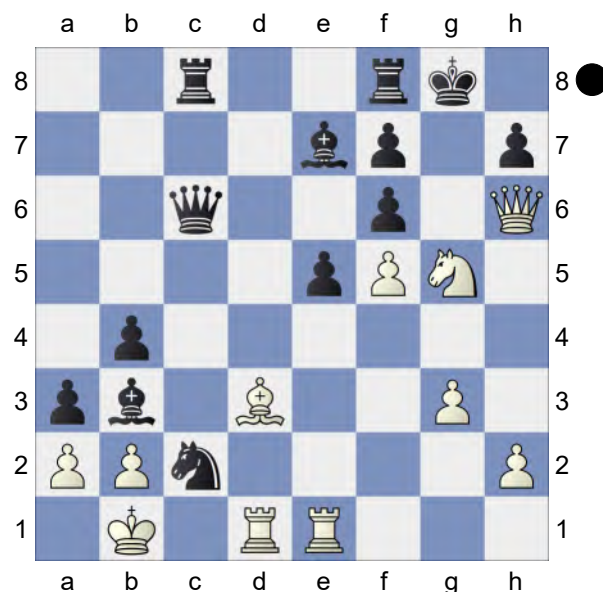
[**Inferior is** 27...Nxc2 28.Qe2 Bxb3 29.Bb5 Bxa2+ 30.Kxa2 b3+ 31.Kxb3=]

28.Rhe1? -8.51/23

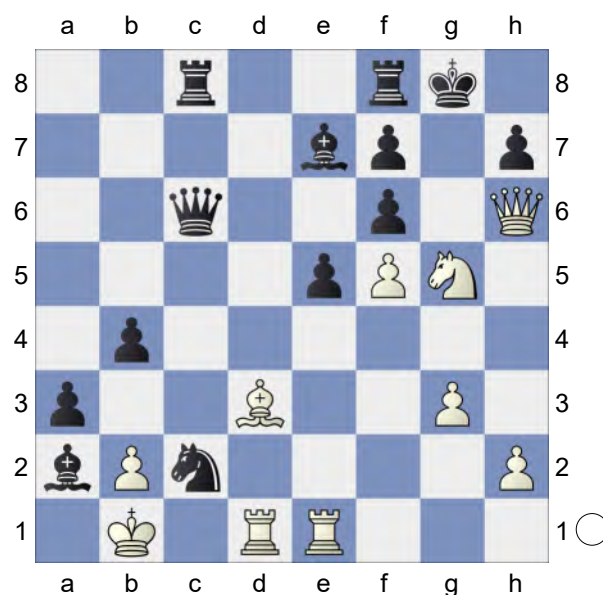
[28.bxa3 -2.65/23 Nxc2 29.Qe2 Nxa3+ 30.Ka1]

28...Nxc2 29.Qh6 Bxb3 A strong pair of Bishops. **30.Ng5**

(Diagram)



Bxa2+!



31.Kc1

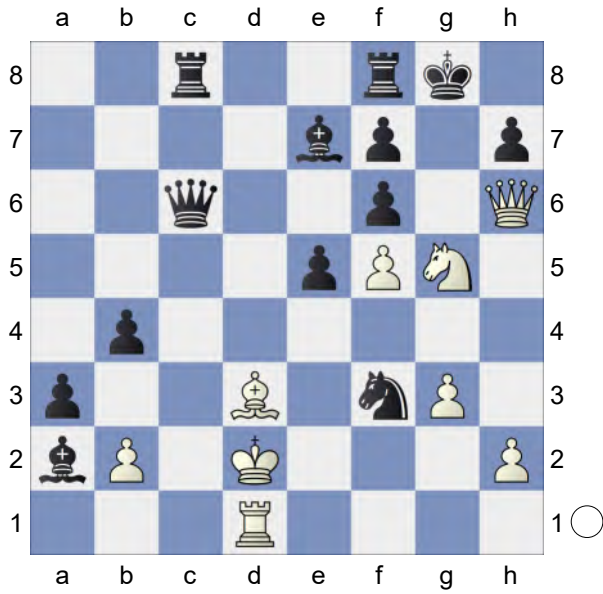
[31.Kxa2 b3+]

31...Nxe1+ -14.43/5

[31...Nd4+ -#4/10 32.Kd2 Nb3+ 33.Ke3 Bc5+ 34.Ke2 Qg2#]

32.Kd2 Nf3+

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.86/
Black=0.35

119

□ Yu, Yangyi

■ Wei, Yi

1st Chess King 2015 (2.3)

27.11.2015

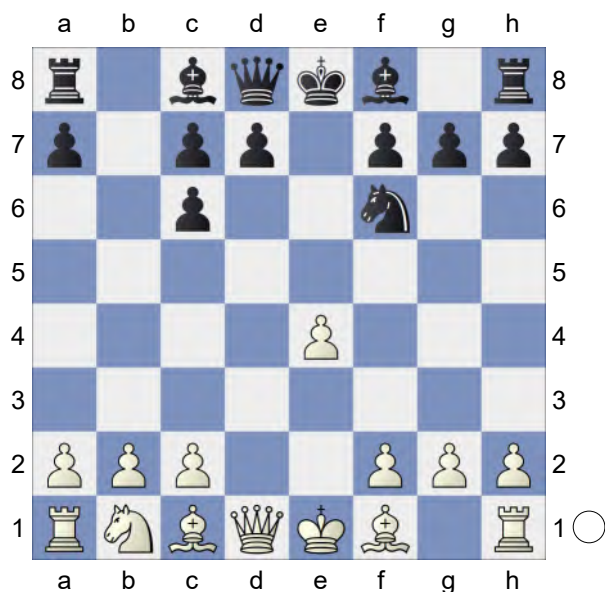
[Mikhalevski, V]

C45

2734

2737

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nxc6 bxc6



6.Qe2 White's idea is to play 7.e5 when Black won't be able to pin the e-pawn by means of...Qe7. **6...Bc5 7.e5**

[In the previous update I considered 7.g3? Nepomniachtchi, I (2705)-Kramnik, V (2777)/Berlin GER 2015/ [Mikhalevski, V].]

7...Nd5 8.c4 Ne7 Usually this square is occupied by the black queen. Here, thanks to White's move order, it's available and Black takes advantage of that fact.

[8...Nb6 was tested just once. 9.Qg4 g6 10.Bg5 Be7 (10...d5!? is also an option.) 11.Bh6 d5 12.Qf3 (12.Qg3 is better.) 12...Bg5! 13.Bg7 Rg8 14.Bf6 Bxf6 15.exf6 Bf5 with some edge for Black in Das, A (2439) -Pruijssers, R (2517)/Dieren

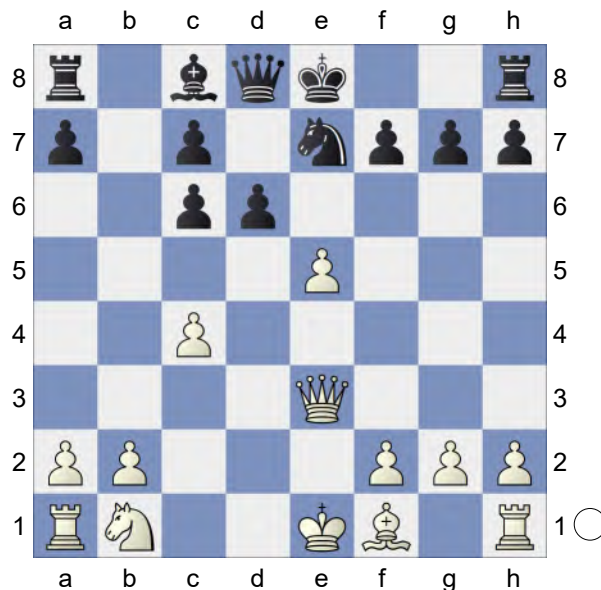
2014.]

9.Be3 A logical exchange of Black's strong dark-squared bishop, which also helps to develop White's kingside.

[9.Bg5 doesn't make much sense as Black can easily unpin the knight and then the bishop on g5 will be misplaced. 0-0 10.Nc3 Qe8 11.0-0-0 Ng6 with a slight edge for Black.]

9...Bxe3 10.Qxe3 d6!?

[Earlier Black tried 10...Rb8 11.Nd2 (11.b3!?) 11...Rxb2? (11...Nf5 12.Qe4 g6 was better.) 12.Nb3 0-0 13.Qc3± 1/2-1/2 Chernyshov, K (2450)-Sulskis, S (2525)/Swidnica 1997.]



The first novelty from the young Chinese star, though it transposed to a preceding game, which saw 10... d5 before 11. exd6. **11.exd6 Qxd6** And the second novelty. Wei Yi hopes to compensate the defects of his pawn structure by the activity of his pieces. The game will show if he was right.

[In the only preceding game Black recaptured with the pawn, which looks more natural. 11...cxd6 12.Bd3 Qb6

13.b3 (13.Nd2!? is worth attention.)
 13...Be6 14.Nd2 Qxe3+ 15.fxe3 0-0
 (15...Ng6!?= bringing the knight to e5
 looks better.) 16.0-0 Rfd8 17.Nf3
 with a slight edge for White in Nijboer,
 F (2559) -Wiedenkeller, M (2453)/
 Skopje MKD 2015.]

12.Bd3 An inaccurate move order.

[12.Nc3! was critical. Now after 0-0
 13.Rd1! Qb4 14.Rd2 Re8 15.Be2
 Bg4 16.Qe4! White seems to obtain
 some edge thanks to his better
 pawn structure, while Black can't
 take advantage of the position of
 White's king.]

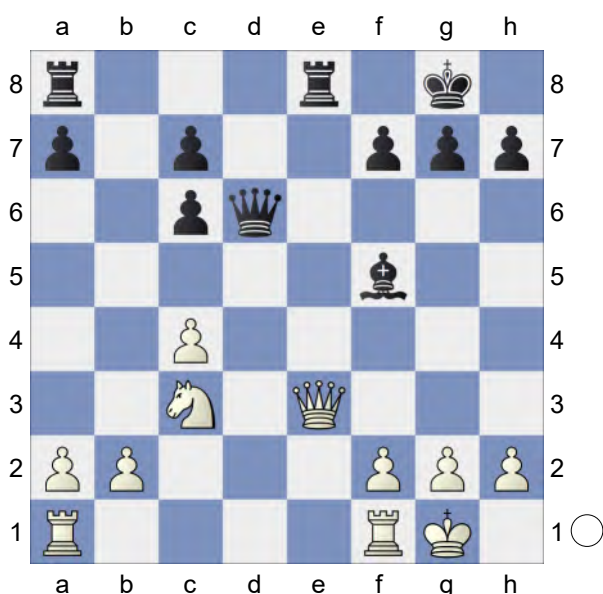
12...0-0 13.Nc3 White wants to meet 13...Nf5 with long castles.

[After 13.0-0 Black would play Bf5
 14.Be4 Rfe8 15.Nc3 Qb4 16.b3
 Nd5! 17.cxd5 Bxe4 18.Rae1 cxd5
 19.Nxd5 Qd6 20.Nc3 Bc6=
 with equal chances.]

13...Nf5!

[13...Bf5?! 14.0-0-0± is better for
 White.]

14.Bxf5 Bxf5 15.0-0 Rfe8!



An important move. If Black doesn't play
 it White takes both the d- and e-files

with his rooks. **16.Qf3** Now White has to
 consolidate in order to claim an
 advantage, though it's easier to say than
 to do. **16...Bg6**

[It's not obvious, but 16...Re5
 doubling the rooks was more precise.
 17.Rae1 (or 17.Rad1 Qe6)
 17...Rae8 18.Rxe5 Rxe5 19.Qd1
 (After 19.h3 Bc2! is strong, covering
 the d1-square.; The immediate 19.Rd1
 is strongly answered by Bc2!=)
 19...h5 20.Qxd6 cxd6 21.Rd1 Kf8
 and Black shouldn't have big problems
 to hold.]

17.b3 Yu Yangyi decides to stabilize his
 position on the queenside.

[17.h4 is an interesting alternative.]

17...h6 Wei Yi makes a useful move as
 well.

[Black could have started with
 17...Re6!? in order to meet 18.Rad1
 with Qe7 when the queen is behind
 the rook.]

18.h3 Re6 19.Rad1 Qe5

[19...Qe7 looks safer.]

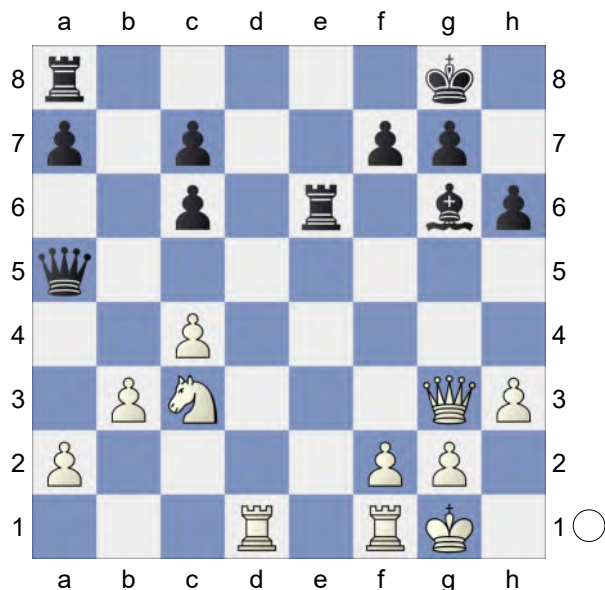
20.Qg3! White is offering a favourable
 exchange of queens.

[Another interesting option would be
 20.Rfe1 sacrificing two rooks for a
 queen. Qxe1+ Black has to accept
 the offer. 21.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 22.Kh2
 Now White can hope to exploit the
 weak pawns on the queenside, though
 Black seems to be solid enough after
 Re6]

20...Qa5!

[After 20...Qxg3 21.fxg3±
 Black's queenside pawns allow White
 to claim a slight edge.]

(Diagram)



Correctly avoiding the trade. **21.Rfe1 Rxe1+** I would call this move inaccurate.

[The natural 21...Rae8 22.Rxe6 Rxe6 is more accurate as it avoids the exchange of queens, which occurred in the game.]

22.Rxe1 Rd8 Black prefers to take the d-file, as this way he creates a threat of **23...Rd3. 23.Qe5!**

[White could also build up his advantage with queens on the board. 23.Re3 Rd2 24.Qf3 Rc2 25.g3±]

23...Qxe5 If Black avoided the trade it would lead to a passive position.

24.Rxe5 Rd2

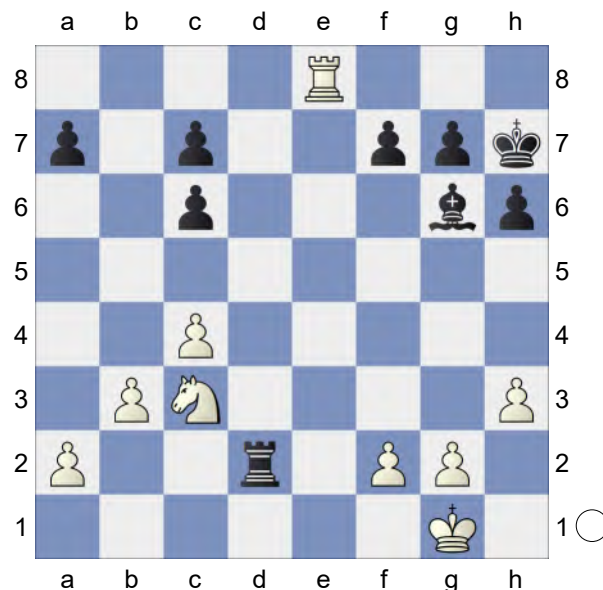
[24...Rd3! is the best defence. For example, 25.Na4 Rd1+ 26.Kh2 Rd2 27.Nc5 Rxa2 28.f4 Ra5 29.f5 f6 30.Re6 Bxf5 31.Rxc6 Ra3 32.Rxc7 a5 and White's chances to win are not too big.]

25.Re8+

[The straightforward 25.Ra5! Rc2 26.Na4 Rxa2 27.Rxa7 Bc2 28.Rxc7 Bxb3 29.Nb6± leads to an extra pawn for White.]

25...Kh7

(Diagram)



26.Re2 An evaluation of this move depends on the assessment of the exchange on e2.

[Instead White could have attacked Black's weaknesses. 26.Rc8!? Rc2 27.Na4 Rxa2 28.Rxc7 Ra1+ 29.Kh2 Ra2 30.Rxa7 Rxf2 31.Nc5±]

26...Rd3?!

[I believe 26...Rxe2! was better, and promised Black a rather simple equality. 27.Nxe2 Bd3 28.Nc3 g5! 29.f3 f5! 30.Kf2 f4=]

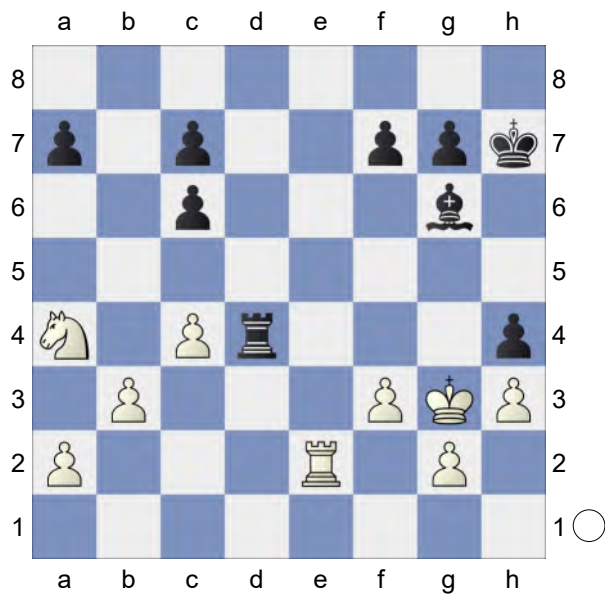
27.Na4± Now Black is under pressure.

27...Rd1+ 28.Kh2 h5 Black wants to keep White's king in a cage by means of **29... h4. 29.Kg3**

[White could have ignored the idea of 29...h4. 29.Nc5! h4 30.a4! and Black has to defend passively. Rd8 31.Re7 Rc8 32.g4 hxg3+ 33.fxg3± with a clear edge.]

29...Rd4 30.f3 h4+

(Diagram)



31.Kf2 Rd1 32.Nc5 Kh6

[32...Bd3!± is a tougher defence.]

33.f4? It's clear that Yu wanted to prevent the activation of the black king, but missed Black's reply.

[After the correct 33.Re7 Rd2+ 34.Kg1 Rxa2 35.Rxc7 Kg5 36.Rxc6 Kf4 37.Kh2! Ke3 38.Rd6±

White retains winning chances, though the activity of the black king yields Black certain counterplay.]

33...Bh5! = Now the position is equal.

34.Re7

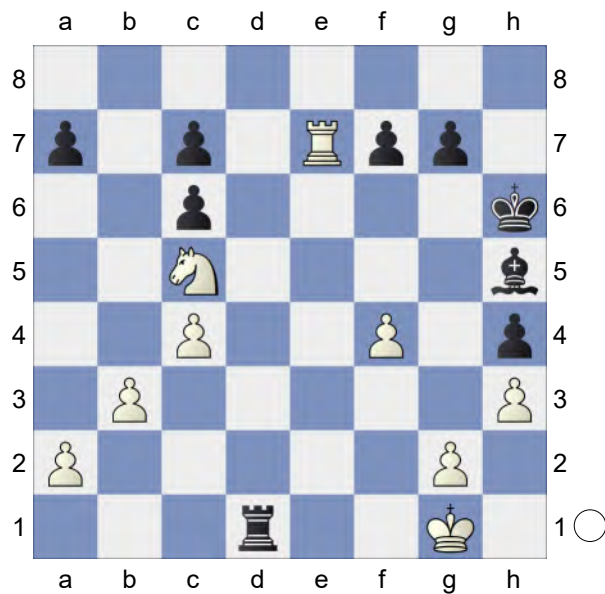
[In case of 34.Rc2 Black can activate the king. Kg6=]

34...Rd2+ 35.Kg1

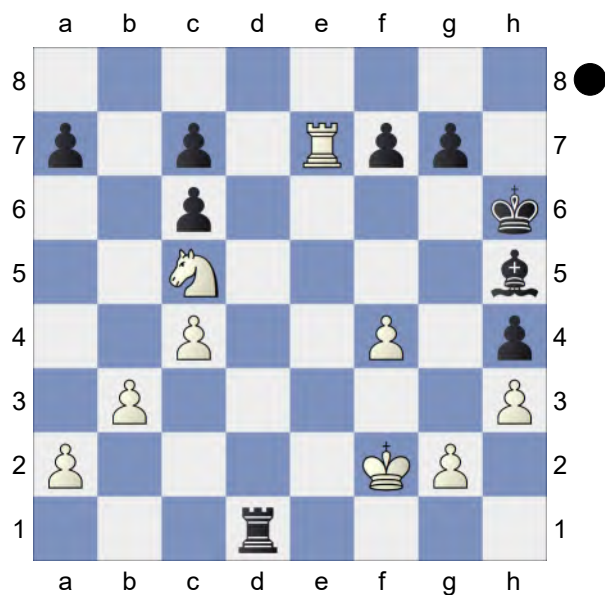
[or 35.Kf1 Rd1+ 36.Re1 Rd4 37.Re4 Rd1+=]

35...Rd1+

(Diagram)



36.Kf2 Rd2+ 37.Kg1 Rd1+ 38.Kf2



The line with 6.Qe2 is not as innocent as I thought and Black has to be careful to retain the balance. I prefer 11...cxd6 to the 11...Qxd6 which occurred in the game.

1/2-1/2

285

□ Wei, Yi

■ Xiu Deshun

TCh-CHN 2015 (4.4)

[Mikhalevski, V]

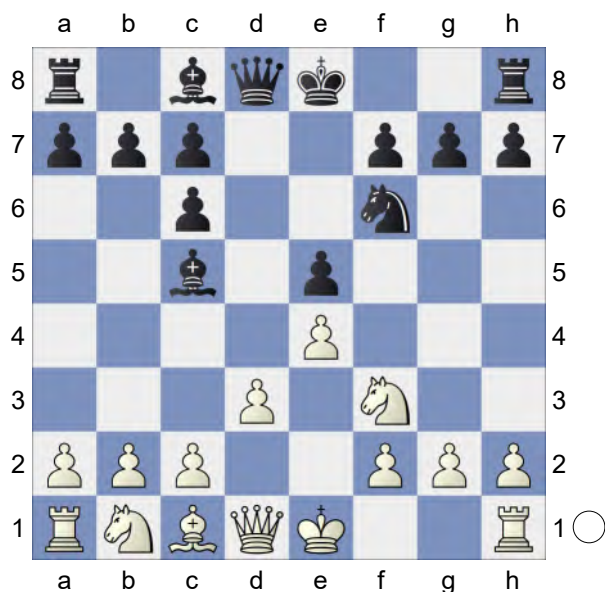
C65

2706

2557

13.04.2015

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3
Bc5 5.Bxc6 dxc6



6.0-0

[Earlier we considered the following alternatives: the main line 6.Nbd2 Yu Yangyi (2705) -Kramnik, V (2760)/ Doha QAT 2014/[Mikhalevski, V].]

[6.Be3 Andreikin, D (2709)-Anand, V (2770)/Khanty-Mansiysk RUS 2014/[Mikhalevski, V].]

[and 6.h3 , which prevents 6...Bg4 in Anand, V (2773)-Nakamura, H (2789)/ Zurich SUI 2014/[Mikhalevski, V].]

6...Bg4!?

[In a few recent games Black preferred 6...Bd6]

[6...Nd7 is also a reasonable option.]

7.h3 Bh5 A very aggressive idea, which is connected with a piece sacrifice. If the sacrifice yields Black sufficient counterplay than the text should be

preferred over 7... Bxf3.

[7...Bxf3 was much more common recently.]

8.g4!? White accepts the challenge.

[8.Nbd2 avoiding the sacrifice occurred in a couple of games. Here is an example: Qe7 (I prefer 8...Nd7) 9.Nc4 0-0-0 (Once again 9...Nd7 looks better.) 10.Qe2 b5?! 11.Ne3 and White obtained a clear edge in Bedia, M (2513)-Bondarev, B (2112)/ Armavir 2011.]

8...Nxcg4 This is obviously the most critical continuation.

[8...Bg6 9.Nxe5 Qe7 10.Nf3 0-0-0 11.Qe1 h5 12.g5 Nd7 is playable despite White's extra pawn. Cabral, P (2066) -Almeida Junior, C (2066)/Rio de Janeiro 2013.]

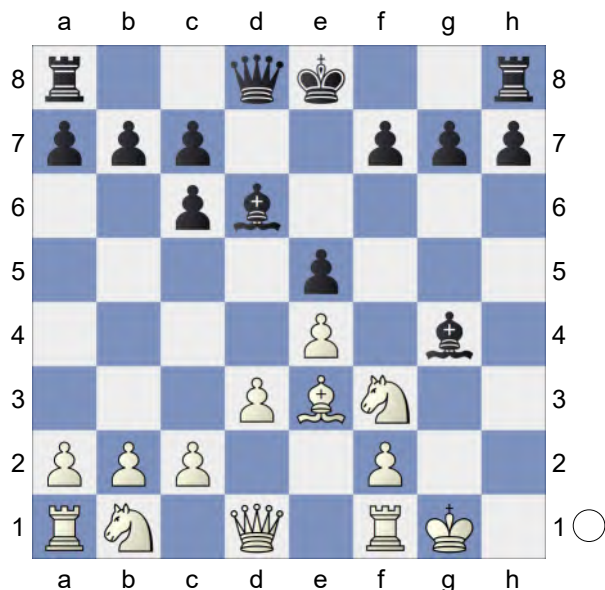
9.hxcg4 Bxcg4 10.Be3! The best defence.

[In case of 10.Re1? Black plays f5! 11.exf5 0-0! 12.Rxe5 Bd6 13.Re4 Bh5 14.Nbd2 Rxf5 and White is in trouble.]

10...Bd6!?

[10...Qf6 also yields Black compensation. 11.Kg2 Bxe3 12.fxe3 Qe6 13.Rf2 (13.Ng5? is met by Qd7!) 13...h5 14.Qe1 h4 15.Kh1 Bh5 16.Nbd2 f6 with compensation for the sacrificed material.]

(Diagram)



Black saves his dark-squared bishop from exchange in order to keep the f-file closed. **11.Nbd2?! This natural move turns out to be a mistake.**

[White should have got ready for the 11...f5 break. 11.Kh1!

A) Now after 11...f5 12.Rg1 Qd7 13.exf5 h5 (13...Qxf5? is strongly met by 14.Nh4! Bxd1 15.Nxf5 Bxc2 16.Rxg7±) 14.Nbd2 Qxf5 15.Nh4 Qf6 16.Ndf3 0-0-0! (16...0-0? is bad because of 17.Rxg4! hxg4 18.Ng5+-; or 16...Rf8? 17.Rxg4! hxg4 18.Ng5+-) 17.Bg5 Qf7 18.Bxd8 Rxd8 19.Qe2 Rf8 20.Raf1! g5 21.Nxg5 Bxe2 22.Nxf7 Rxf7 23.Re1 Rxf2 24.Rg2± Black's compensation seems to be insufficient;

B) 11...Qd7! 12.Rg1 Bh5! 13.Rg3 f5! 14.Rg5 g6 15.exf5 Now Black has two interesting options: Rf8 (15...Be7!? 16.Rxh5 gxh5 17.Nfd2 Qxf5 18.Qf3 Qg4! 19.Qxg4 hxg4 20.Nc3± with slightly better chances for White.)

B1) 16.Rxh5 gxh5 17.Nh4 Qf7 18.Nd2 Be7 19.f6 (19.Ndf3?! 0-0-0 is fine for Black.) 19...Bxf6 20.Nf5 0-0-0 21.Ne4 Bg5! with serious counterplay;

B2) 16.Nbd2! Rxf5 17.Rg3 0-0-0 18.Qg1 e4 19.dxe4 Bxf3+ 20.Rxf3 Rh5+ 21.Kg2 Bc5 22.Bxc5 Rxc5 23.Nf1 Qg4+ 24.Ng3 h5 25.Rd1 Re8 with compensation.]

11...f5! Now Black's initiative is sufficient for at least equality. **12.exf5 0-0!**

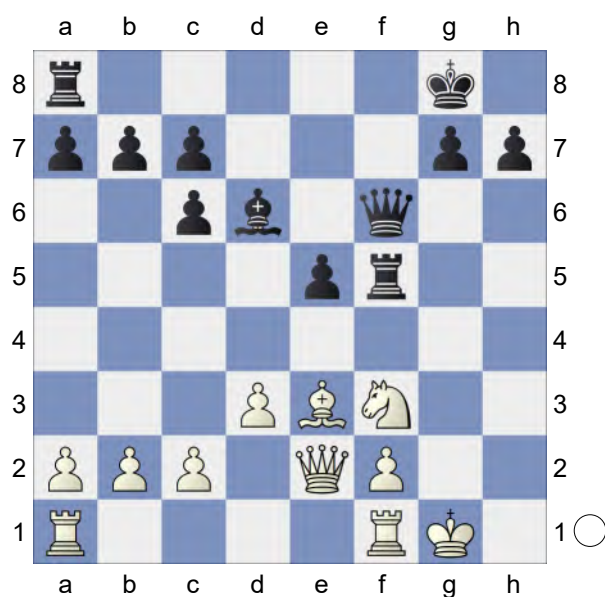
13.Qe1! The best defence. White is unpinning the f3-knight before it was attacked by the black rook. **13...Bxf3** One of a few possible options here.

[13...Bxf5!? 14.Kg2 Qf6 was also interesting.]

14.Nxf3 Rxf5 15.Qe2!

[One inaccurate move, such as 15.Nh2? may lead to problems. e4! 16.f3 (16.dxe4 loses to Bxh2+ 17.Kg2 Rh5-+) 16...exf3 17.Nxf3 Qf6± and Black is clearly better.]

15...Qf6!



16.Nh2! The best defence again.

[16.Ne1?! Qh4 17.Ng2 Qh3

is dangerous for White.]

16...e4! Both sides have to make the very best moves to retain equal chances.

17.Qg4!?

[17.dxe4 leads to a forced draw after Bxh2+ 18.Kxh2 Qh4+ 19.Kg2 Qxe4+ 20.f3 Rg5+ 21.Kh1 Rh5+ 22.Kg1 Rg5+ with a repetition.]

17...exd3! 18.cxd3 Re8! With two pawns for a piece and a vulnerable white king Black's chances are at least not worse. **19.Rae1!**

[19.Rfe1?! would be inaccurate in view of Rxe3! 20.Qc4+ Rd5 21.Rxe3 Bxh2+ 22.Kf1 Bd6=]

19...Re6!? Black's time to deviate from a forced draw. He has been preparing 20...Qf7 followed by 21...Rg6.

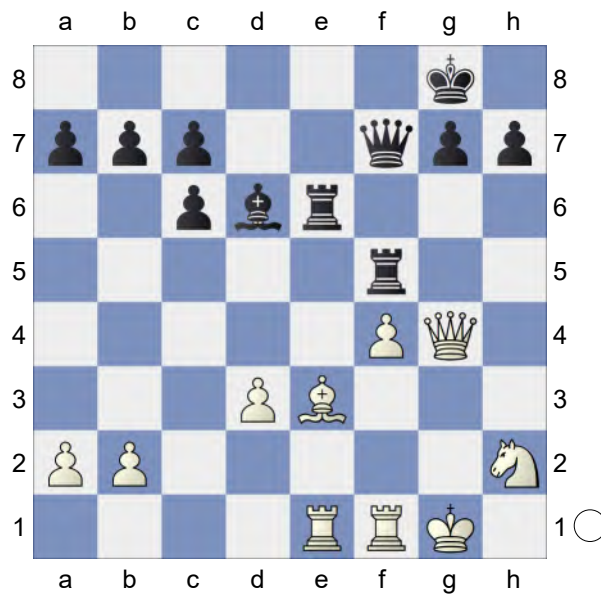
[He could force a draw by means of 19...Bxh2+ 20.Kxh2 Rxe3 21.Rxe3 Rxf2+ 22.Kg3 Rxf1 23.Qc8+ Qf8 24.Re8 Rf3+ 25.Kg4 Rf4+ and Black checks along the f-file.]

20.f4!? Wei Yi is blocking the dark-squared bishop.

[20.Bd2!? is a reasonable alternative. Qg6! Black is threatening to play 21...Bxh2. So, 21.Re4! The only defence. Ref6! 22.f3 Qf7! 23.Qh3 Rg6+ 24.Kh1 Rg3 25.Qh4 h6= with sufficient compensation for a piece.]

20...Qf7!

(Diagram)



21.Kh1 Rg6 22.Qf3 Qxa2!? Black restores the material balance. **23.Re2!**

[23.Ra1 Qxb2 24.Rxa7 (24.Rab1 Qc2 25.Rxb7 Rh6 26.Rf2 Qxd3 27.Rd2 Qc4=) 24...Rh5 25.Rf2 Qb1+ 26.Rf1 Qb5 looks promising for Black.]

23...Qd5 24.Bd2!? White is opening the e-file for his rook.

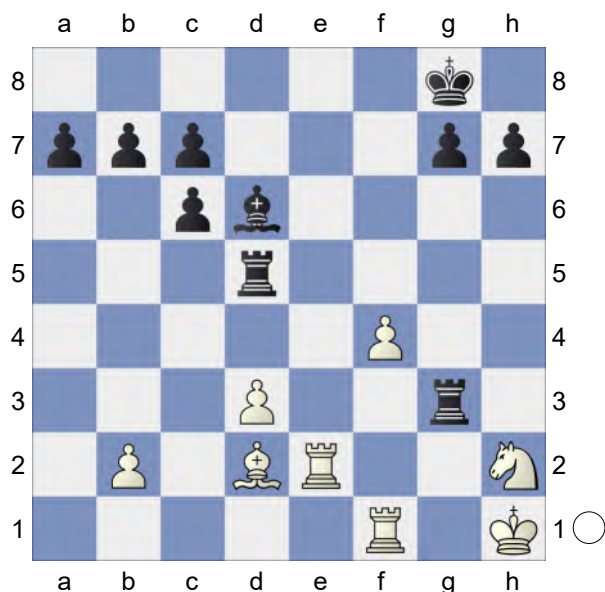
[Since White couldn't avoid this exchange it made sense to exchange the queens right away. 24.Qxd5+!? Rxd5 25.d4=]

24...Rg3!? Black is forcing an exchange of queens in order to win the d3-pawn.

[24...Rh5 also makes sense.]

25.Qxd5+ Rxd5

(Diagram)



26.f5?! The first inaccuracy after a long series of strong and sometimes only moves.

[26.Nf3!? deserved attention, with the idea to meet Rxd3 with (26...Rh5+!? 27.Rh2 Rf5= is more accurate.) 27.Ng5 and White has been developing an initiative.]

26...Rh3

[It would be better to start with 26...Rgxd3! and only after 27.Bc3 Rh3 with slightly better chances.]

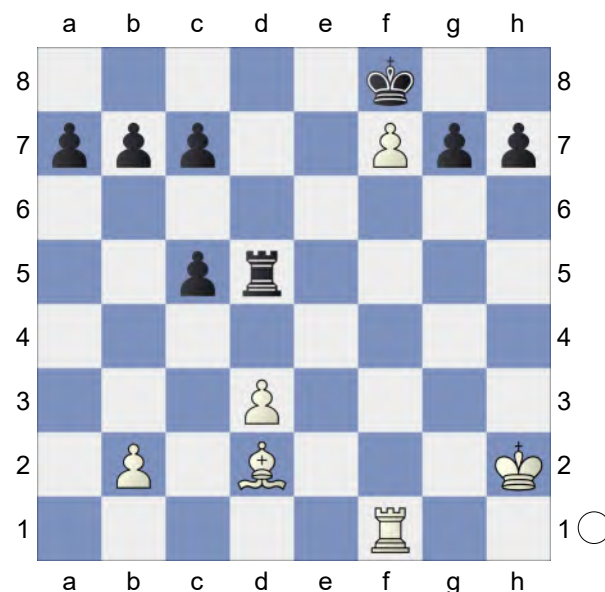
27.f6 White is trying to open up Black's king, but the move is slightly inaccurate again.

[27.Bc3! was better.]

27...Rxf2+? Black returns the favour with a serious mistake.

[Instead he should have played 27...Re5! 28.Rg2 g6 29.d4 Re6 30.Bc3 Kf7 31.Kg1 Rxf6 32.Ra1 a6 33.Ng4 Rf5 with the slightly better chances for Black.]

28.Rxf2 Bxf2 29.f7+! An important intermediate move, which saves the d-pawn. **29...Kf8 30.Kxf2±** Suddenly Black has to fight for his life, as White's f-pawn is very strong. **30...c5!?**



Xiu Deshun is covering the a3-f8 diagonal. **31.Bc3!** With an obvious threat of 32.Bxg7. So, **31...Rg5 32.Kh3!**

b6 33.Rf3 a5

[33...h6!? was worth a try.]

34.b3!?

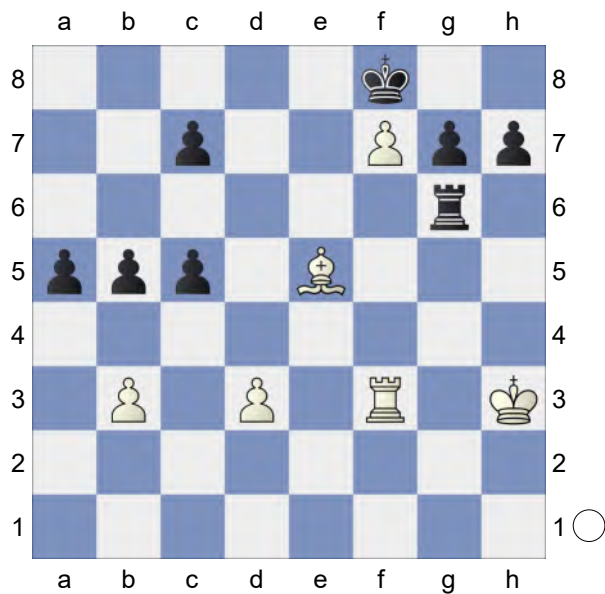
[After the correct 34.Kh4! Rg6 (Now 34...h6? is bad because of 35.b3!+- and soon Black will find himself in zugzwang.) 35.Rf5 Rh6+ 36.Kg3 Rg6+ 37.Kf3 Rg1 38.Kf2 Rg6 39.Be5+- Black shouldn't survive.]

34...Rg6 35.Be5!?

[35.Rf5!?+- was also strong.]

35...b5

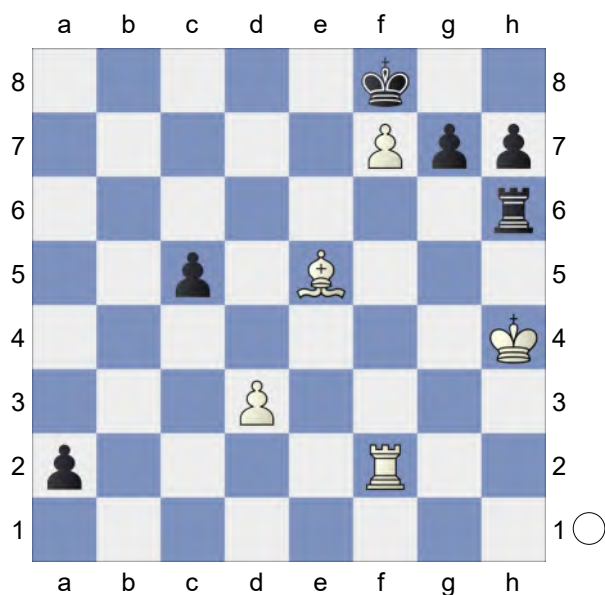
(Diagram)



36.Bxc7+- a4 37.bxa4 bxa4 38.Be5!
 Now Black is lost. **38...a3 39.Kh4?**
 A mistake, which makes White's win difficult, if possible at all.

[39.d4! was strong, as after cxd4
 40.Bxd4 Black can't stop an
 appearance of the white bishop on
 either the a3-f8 or f8-h6 diagonals.
 Rh6+ 41.Kg3 Rg6+ 42.Kf2 Rg5
 43.Rf4! a2 44.Bc3! Rb5
 45.Bxg7+!+-]

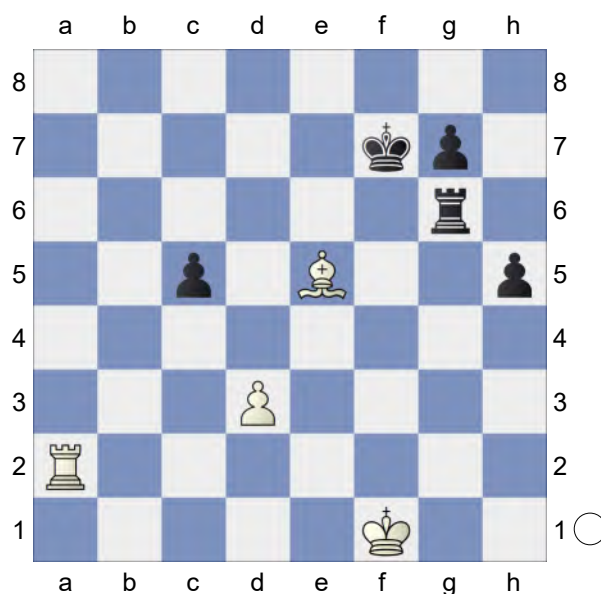
39...a2 40.Rf2 Rh6+



41.Kg3 Rg6+ 42.Kh3 Rh6+ 43.Kg2

Rg6+ 44.Kf1 The king escaped the checks, but Black starts advancing his h-pawn. **44...h5! 45.Rxa2** White can't do without this move. **45...Kxf7?**

[Black should have started with
 45...Rg5! 46.Bc3 and then Kxf7
 47.Ra7+ Kg8 with some chances to
 hold thanks to the reduced material.]

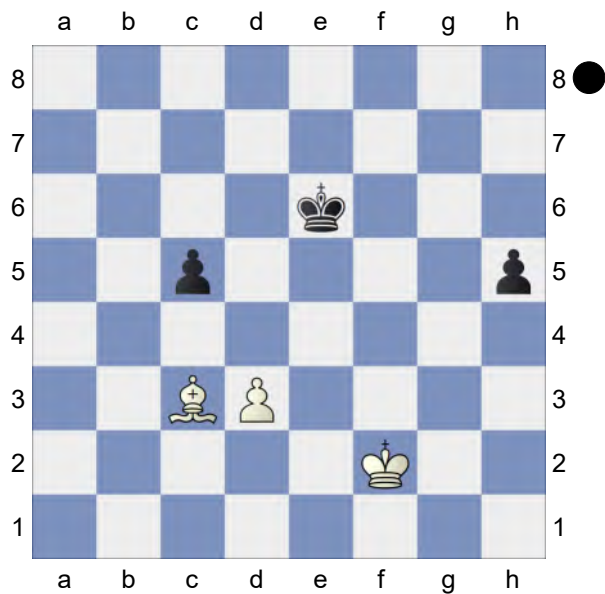


A losing move. 46.Ra7+ Ke6

[or 46...Kg8 47.Rc7+- White wins the
 c5-pawn and obtains good winning
 chances.]

47.Rxg7 Rxg7 48.Bxg7 Kd5
49.Bc3!+- White's idea is to answer 49...
 c4 with 50.d4. **49...Ke6 50.Kf2**

(Diagram)



and Black resigned as he loses one of his pawns. A well-played game by both players despite some mistakes towards the end. Black's piece sacrifice is extremely interesting and requires more practical tests.

1-0

287

□ Wei, Yi

■ Navara, David

78th Tata Steel GpA (9)

[Mikhalevski, V]

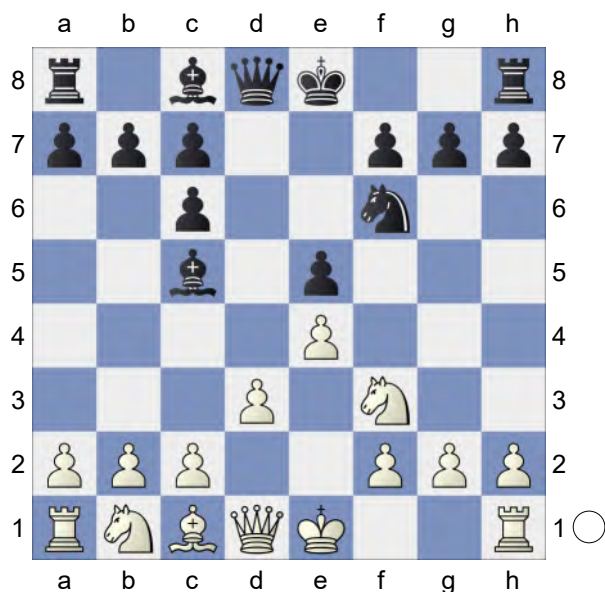
C65

2706

2730

26.01.2016

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3
Bc5 5.Bxc6 dxc6



6.Nbd2 0-0 7.Nc4 Nd7 8.Qe2

A pretty rare move. White's idea is to castle long and create an attack on the kingside. A pretty rare move. White's idea is to castle long and create an attack on the kingside. A pretty rare move. White's idea is to castle long and create an attack on the kingside.

[Usually White chooses between 8.0-0 which took place in Caruana, F (2772)-Karjakin, S (2786)/Zug SUI 2013/[Mikhalevski, V] which took place in Caruana, F (2772)-Karjakin, S (2786)/Zug SUI 2013/[Mikhalevski, V] which took place in Caruana, F (2772)-Karjakin, S (2786)/Zug SUI 2013/[Mikhalevski, V]]

[and 8.Be3, which hasn't been analysed on our pages yet.]

8...Re8 The f2-pawn is protected and so Black has to protect his e5-pawn. The same position occurred in a recent game Anand-Giri by transposition. You can find it below. The f2-pawn is protected and so Black has to protect his e5-pawn. The same position occurred in a recent game Anand-Giri by transposition. You can find it below. The f2-pawn is protected and so Black has to protect his e5-pawn. The same position occurred in a recent game Anand-Giri by transposition. You can find it below.

9.Bd2 Another transposition has occurred and we've reached an even more recent game of top players Adams-Nakamura, London Classics 2015. That game will be also given below. Another transposition has occurred and we've reached an even more recent game of top players Adams-Nakamura, London Classics 2015. That game will be also given below. Another transposition has occurred and we've reached an even more recent game of top players Adams-Nakamura, London Classics 2015. That game will be also given below. Another transposition has occurred and we've reached an even more recent game of top players Adams-Nakamura, London Classics 2015. That game will be also given below.

[9...f6 has been seen just once. Here Black prepares the maneuver of the knight to e6 via f8. has been seen just once. Here Black prepares the maneuver of the knight to e6 via f8. has been seen just once. Here Black prepares the maneuver of the knight to e6 via f8. has been seen just once. Here Black prepares the maneuver of the knight to e6 via f8. 10.h4 Nf8 11.h5 Be6 12.Ne3 Qd7 13.h6 g6 14.0-0 Bg4 (14...a5!? deserved attention.) 15.Nxg4 (Here White had an option of Here White had an option of Here White had an option of Here White had an option of 15.b4!? That's why 14...a5 deserved

better not to create a hook on the kingside and continue with the plan he started on the previous move. It would have been better not to create a hook on the kingside and continue with the plan he started on the previous move. 11...Nb8 12.0-0-0 Nc6 13.Ne3 Be6 14.Nf5 Qd7 15.g4 a5 and a lot of play is still ahead.]

12.0-0-0 This natural move gives Black a chance to stop g4. This natural move gives Black a chance to stop g4. This natural move gives Black a chance to stop g4.

[The immediate 12.g4!? looks strong. Play could continue looks strong. Play could continue looks strong. Play could continue f6 13.Ne3 Nb8 14.Nh4 Nc6 15.Ng6 Be6 16.Nf5 Nd4 17.Qd1 Qd7 18.c3±]

12...Nb8

[12...Nf6! 13.Nh4 Be6 14.Ne3 a5± and though White still looks better his attack is not as strong as in the game. and though White still looks better his attack is not as strong as in the game. and though White still looks better his attack is not as strong as in the game.]

13.Rdg1 White prepares an advance of the g-pawn, although it could have been played even without the rook move. White prepares an advance of the g-pawn, although it could have been played even without the rook move. White prepares an advance of the g-pawn, although it could have been played even without the rook move.

[13.g4 could have been played even here, as Bxg4? is just bad due to (13...f6 14.Rdg1 Nc6 transposes to the game.) 14.Rdg1+- with a decisive attack along the g-file.]

13...Nc6? Black doesn't take his chance to prevent 14.g4 and gets into trouble. Black doesn't take his chance to prevent 14.g4 and gets into trouble. Black doesn't take his chance to prevent 14.g4 and gets into trouble.

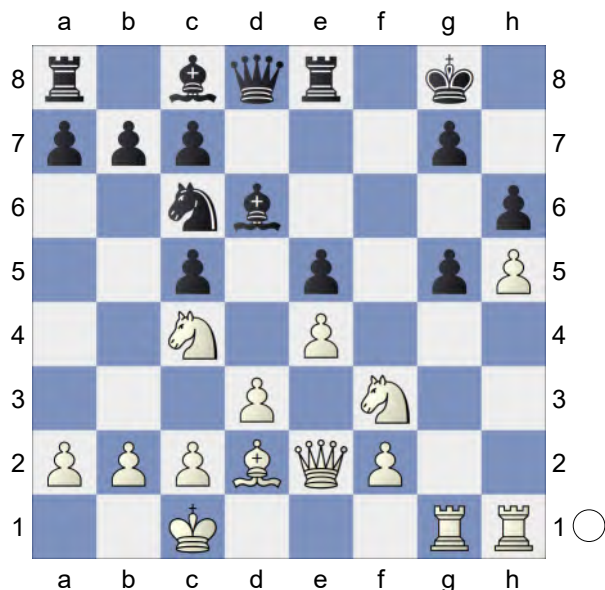
[13...Bg4!? 14.Ne3 Qc8! would delay White's attack. 15.Nxg4 (15.Rh4 Be6 16.g4 f6 17.Nf5 Nc6 also looks playable for Black.) 15...Qxg4 16.Nd4 Qxe2 17.Nxe2 Nc6 18.c3± and though White is better in the endgame the immediate danger has gone. and though White is better in the endgame the immediate danger has gone. and though White is better in the endgame the immediate danger has gone.]

14.g4 f6 www.rules-chess-strategies.com: 'Diagram #' transposes to the game. **15.g5!** David has definitely underestimated this move. The direct attack turns out to be too strong. David has definitely underestimated this move.

The direct attack turns out to be too strong. David has definitely underestimated this move. The direct attack turns out to be too strong. David has definitely underestimated this move. The direct attack turns out to be too strong. www.rules-chess-strategies.com: '!!!' **15...fxg5**

[15...hxxg5 16.h6 gxh6 (16...g6 17.Nxxg5 fxg5 18.Bxxg5→) 17.Nxxg5! hxg5 18.Qh5→]

(Diagram)



16.Nxg5! The point of the previous move. The point of the previous move. The point of the previous move. **16...Nd4**

[16...hxg5 17.h6! www.rules-chess-strategies.com: '→' g4 18.hxg7! Nd4 19.Qe3 Qf6 20.Rh8+ Kxg7 21.Rxe8+- is winning for White.]

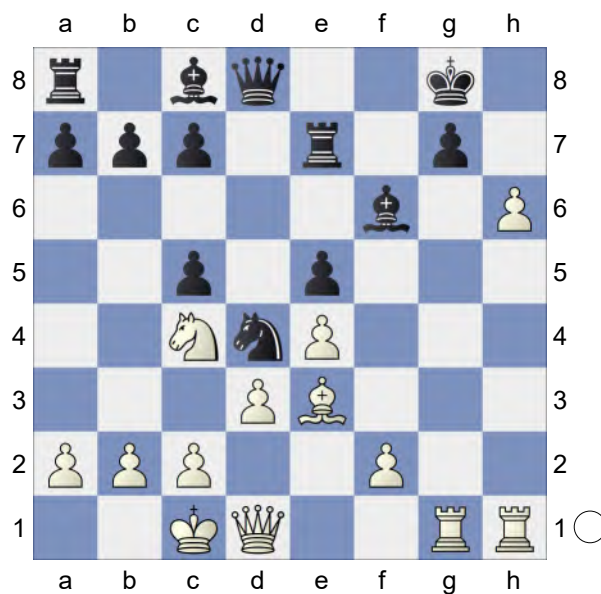
17.Qd1 hxg5

[17...b5 18.Nxd6 cxd6 19.Nf3 Re6 20.Nxd4 cxd4 21.f4± is also very unpleasant.]

18.Bxg5 Be7 19.Be3!+- This cold-blooded move emphasizes Black's helplessness. 20. h6 opening the g and h-files can't be stopped. This cold-blooded move emphasizes Black's helplessness. 20. h6 opening the g and h-files can't be stopped. This cold-blooded move emphasizes Black's helplessness. 20. h6 opening the g and h-files can't be stopped. **19...Bf6 20.h6 Re7**

[20...g5 21.Bxg5! Bxg5+ 22.f4! Ne6! The best practical chance. (or 22...exf4 23.Qh5! Kh8 24.Rxg5+- and Black can't stop 25.h5 with the subsequent 26.Rg8. and Black can't stop 25.h5 with the subsequent 26.

Rg8. and Black can't stop 25.h5 with the subsequent 26.Rg8.) 23.fxg5 Nf4 24.h7+ Kg7 (24...Kh8 25.g6 Kg7 26.Qd2+- isn't better.) 25.Qd2! Nh3 (25...Be6 26.Qh2 Qe7 27.Nxe5 Nh3 28.Ng4!+- is also hopeless.) 26.Rg3 Kxh7 27.Ne3 Kg7 28.Rgxh3! Bxh3 29.Qh2! Qd7 30.Nf5+! Kf7 31.Qxh3 Rh8 32.g6+ Kf6 33.Qg2+- with a decisive attack. However, it wouldn't be easy for White to find all these precise moves and so 20...g5 should have been played. with a decisive attack. However, it wouldn't be easy for White to find all these precise moves and so 20...g5 should have been played.]



21.hxg7 Now the attack develops all by itself. Now the attack develops all by itself. Now the attack develops all by itself. **21...Rxg7 22.Qh5 Be6 23.Bh6!?** A simple practical solution, which doesn't require any calculation. A simple

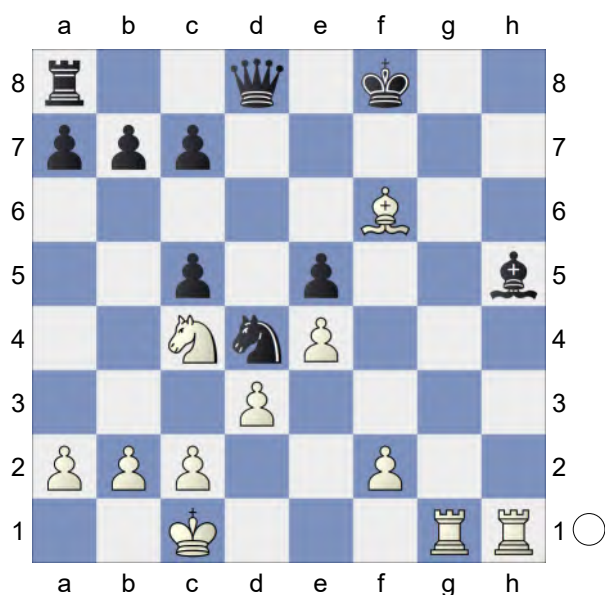
practical solution, which doesn't require any calculation. A simple practical solution, which doesn't require any calculation.

[The computer's way of winning is
23.Qh8+ Kf7 24.Rxg7+ Bxg7
25.Nxe5+ Bxe5 26.Rh7+ Kg6
27.Rh6+ Kf7 28.Qxe5+-]

23...Bf7 www.rules-chess-strategies.com: 'Diagram #'

[23...Qe8 leads to a winning rook endgame. 24.Bxg7 Qxh5 25.Bxf6+ Kf7 26.Rxh5 Ne2+ 27.Kd2 Nxg1 28.Bxe5 Bxc4 29.dxc4 Nf3+ 30.Ke3 Nxe5 31.Rxe5+-]

24.Bxg7 Bxh5 25.Bxf6+ Kf8

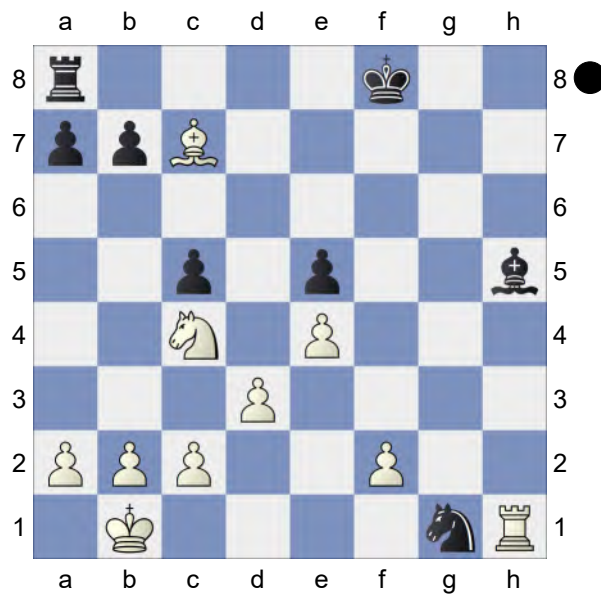


26.Bxd8 Ne2+

[After 26...Rxd8 27.Rg5+- Black is completely helpless.]

27.Kb1 Nxg1 28.Bxc7

(Diagram)



White wins a piece and so Black resigned. A well conducted attack by the Chinese superstar. 9.Bd2 seems to set some problems and so the ball is now in Black's court. White wins a piece and so Black resigned. A well conducted attack by the Chinese superstar. 9.Bd2 seems to set some problems and so the ball is now in Black's court. White wins a piece and so Black resigned. A well conducted attack by the Chinese superstar. 9.Bd2 seems to set some problems and so the ball is now in Black's court.

1-0

449

□ Wei, Yi

■ Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar

FIDE World Cup 2013 (3.2) 18.08.2013

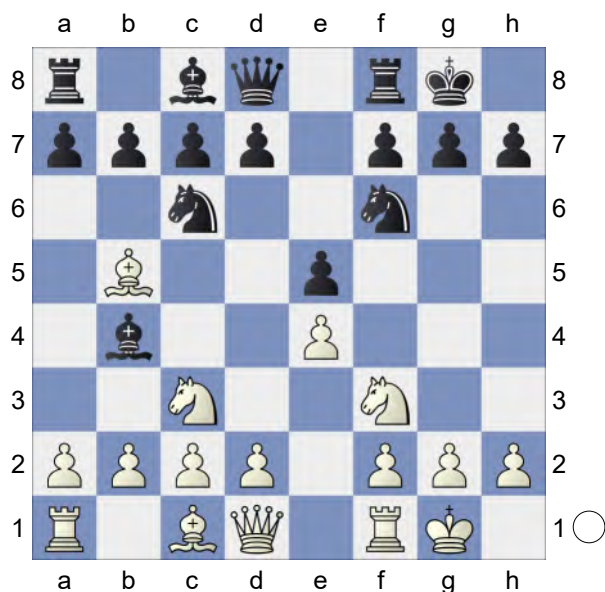
[Mikhalevski, V]

C49

2551

2775

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bb5
Bb4 5.0-0 0-0



6.d3 d6 7.Bg5 Ne7 This old line is gaining popularity and it was already tested by some top players, including Aronian and Ponomarev. In fact, the latter turned out to be a driving force behind its rediscovery in the last few years after his crushing victory over Nisipeanu. 8.Nh4 The main line.

[After 8.Bxf6 in Vallejo Pons, F (2722)-Granda Zuniga, J (2614) Bahia Feliz ESP 2011 [Mikhalevski, V] Black slowly but surely outplayed his opponent.]

8...c6 9.Bc4 d5 10.Bb3 This line was played by Caruana in the game given below. 10...Qd6

[In a few recent games Black experimented with 10...a5!? and achieved good results. Here is

how the games developed:

A) In case of 11.Bxf6!? gxf6 12.a4 Black can play dxe4 13.dxe4 Qxd1 14.Rfxd1 b6! 15.Bc4 Be6= with equal chances.;

B) 11.a3 Bxc3 12.bxc3 a4 13.Ba2 Qd6 14.f4 (14.Qf3!? h6 15.Bxf6 Qxf6 16.Qxf6 gxf6 17.f4 Ra5! and Black seems to maintain the balance.) 14...dxe4 15.Qe1? (15.fxe5 Qxe5 16.Bxf6 gxf6 17.dxe4 Qxc3 is good for Black too.) 15...Ned5! 16.Bxd5 Nxd5 17.Qxe4 exf4 and in this much better position for Black a draw was agreed in Haslinger, S (2524)-Harika, D (2503) Vlissingen 2012 (17...Qc5+! 18.d4 exd4 19.cxd4 Qc3 is even better.);

C) 11.a4

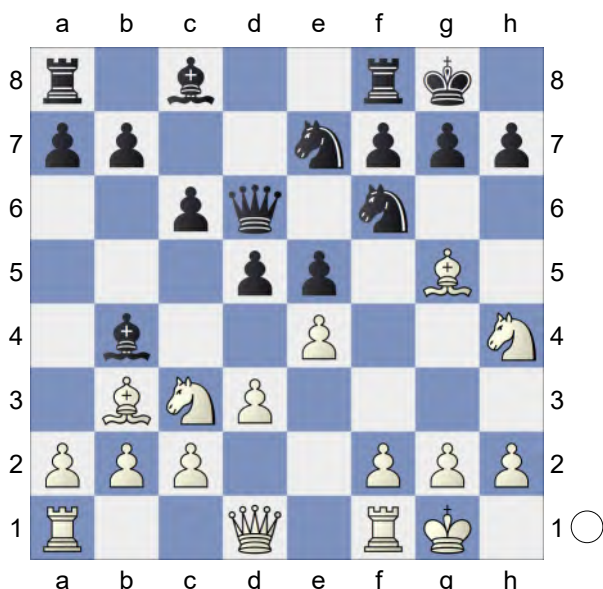
C1) 11...Bg4!? A decent alternative to 11...Qd6. 12.f3 (12.Qc1!? Qd6 looks ok for Black.) 12...Be6 13.f4 exf4

C1a) 14.Rxf4?! Nd7 15.Rf1 and a draw was agreed in Brkic, A (2575)-Kuljasevic, D (2577) Split CRO 2013, while Black could have continued with Nc5 16.exd5 (16.e5 Nxb3 17.cxb3 h6 18.Bc1 Ng6 19.Nxg6 Qb6+! 20.d4 fxg6 is clearly better for Black.) 16...Nxb3 17.cxb3 Bxd5 and Black's advantage is beyond question thanks to his better pawn structure.;

C1b) 14.Bxf6! gxf6 15.exd5 cxd5 16.Ne2 Bd6 (16...Ng6 17.Nxg6 hxg6 18.Nxf4 looks more pleasant for White.) 17.Nxf4 Bxf4 18.Rxf4 Ng6 19.Nxg6 hxg6 20.Qe1

Kg7 with roughly equal chances in Wei Yi (2530)-Ni Hua (2646) Danzhou CHN 2013;

C2) 11...Qd6 12.Qf3 h6 13.Bxf6 Qxf6 14.Qxf6 gxf6 15.f4 Be6 16.f5 (16.exd5 cxd5 17.Nb5 Rad8 18.Kh1 e4! 19.c3 Bc5 with a good position for Black in Yu, R (2431) - Harikrishna, P (2666) Mashhad 2011) 16...Bd7 17.Ne2 (17.exd5 Bxc3 18.bxc3 cxd5 is fine for Black.) 17...dxe4? (Black should have played 17...Bc5+ 18.Kh1 Rad8= with equal chances.) 18.dxe4± Kotsur, P (2558) -Pashikian, A (2616) Khanty-Mansiysk 2011 (18.Ng3! is much stronger. exd3 19.Ne4! Kg7 20.c3! is clearly better for White.)]



Mamedyarov is following Aronian. 11.f4! This principled move has been known for 100 years! 11...Bxc3! The most accurate.

[As I have already mentioned in my

annotations to Caruana-Aronian 11...Bc5+?! , which was played by Yates in 1912(!) is dubious.]

[In a few recent games Black played 11...Qc5+ which may seem to be a reasonable alternative of the Aronian's 11...Bxc3. However after 12.Kh1 Ng4 This way Black virtually forces 13.fxe5 Nf2+ 14.Rxf2 Qxf2

A) 15.exd5?! Bxc3! 16.Bxe7! Re8

A1) 17.bxc3!? is better. Rxe7 18.Qf3! Qxf3! (18...Qxh4 19.d6! Bg4 20.Qe4 Ree8 21.Rf1 Rf8 22.h3 with good compensation for the sacrificed material.) 19.Nxf3 cxd5 20.Bxd5 Be6 with slightly better chances for Black.;

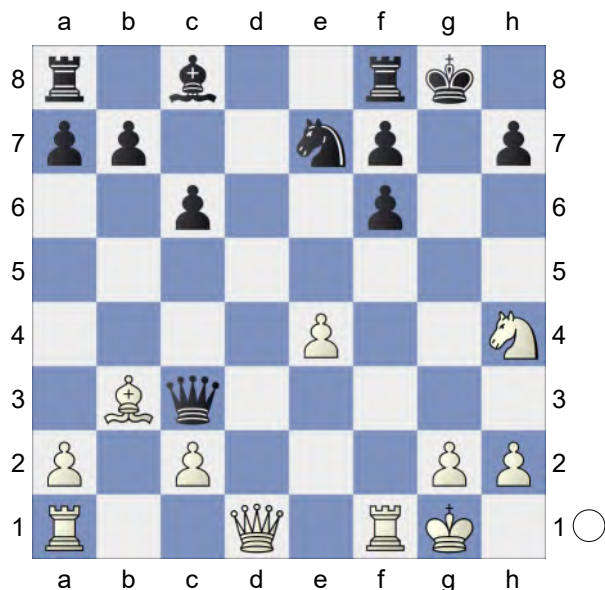
A2) 17.d6 Kadric, D (2420)-Nestorovic, N (2436) Paracin 2012. Now Black had to play 17...Bxe5± with Black's superiority.;

B) 15.Nf3! White sets problems and I don't see a clear way to equality. 15...d4 (15...Re8!? 16.d4 Bxc3 17.bxc3 Bg4 18.Qd3! dxe4 19.Qxe4 Bf5 20.Qf4 Bg6 21.Bh4 Qe2 22.Re1 Qa6 23.Bxe7 Rxe7 24.h4!± White's chances are higher.) 16.Bh4 Qe3 17.Bg5 Qf2 18.Ne2!± and White obtained an advantage in Perunovic, M (2614) - Strikovic, A (2539) Valjevo 2012]

12.bxc3 dxe4! 13.fxe5 Qxe5 14.Bxf6 gxf6 15.dxe4 Qxc3!N

[In the aforementioned game Black played 15...Ng6?! Caruana, F (2709)-Aronian, L (2801) Moscow RUS 2010 [Mikhalevski, V], which after 16.Qe1! promises White some edge.]

(Diagram)

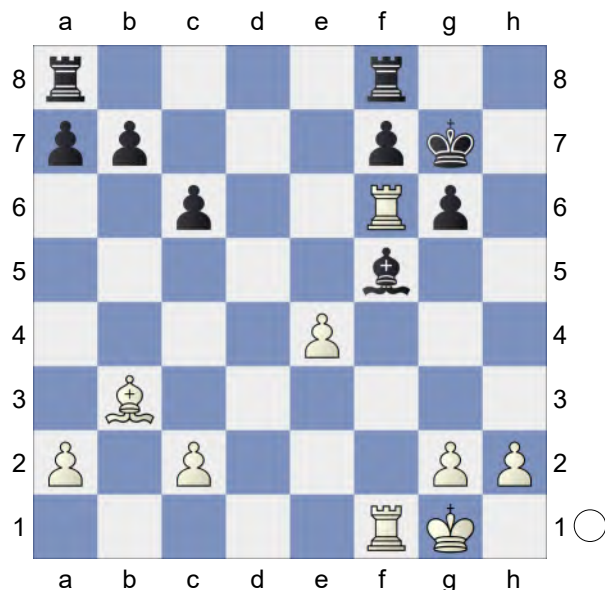


I offered this novelty in my annotations to Aronian's game. **16.Qd6** This move looks rather toothless.

[I checked the critical 16.Kh1!? Qe5, but missed 17.Nf3! Qxe4 18.Qd6. Nevertheless, Black seems to be able to maintain the balance with Nd5 19.Bxd5 cxd5 20.Rae1 Qg6 21.Nd4 Be6! However, the line with 16.Kh1 requires practical tests.]

16...Ng6! The following exchanges lead to an equal endgame. **17.Nxg6 hxg6 18.Qxf6 Qxf6 19.Rxf6 Kg7 20.Raf1 Bf5!**

(Diagram)

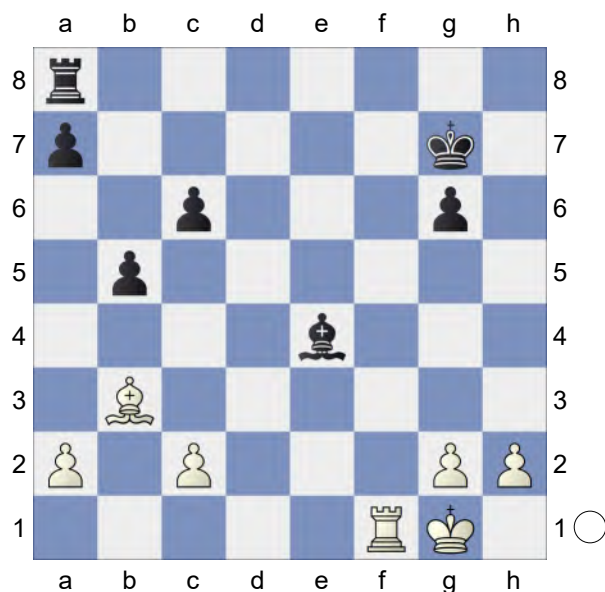


21.Rxf7+

[or 21.Rd6 Bxe4 22.Rd7 Kh6! 23.Rdxf7 Rxf7 24.Rxf7 c5=]

21...Rxf7 22.Bxf7 Bxe4 23.Bb3 b5

[23...Rf8!? is equal too.]

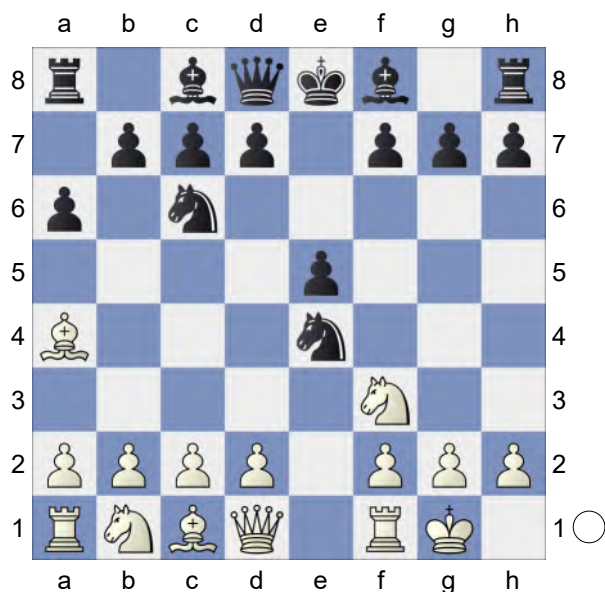


and in this roughly equal position a draw was agreed. A short but important game, which indicates in which direction the theory of this line has been developing.

1/2-1/2

19 **C83**
 □ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2787**
 ■ **Wei,Yi** **2706**
 78th Tata Steel GpA (10) 27.01.2016
[Mikhalevski, V]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4
Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3
 Marin,M: 'Caruana chooses the old main line,'
 Marin,Mihail: 'Caruana chooses the old main line,'

[Marin,M: 'probably disappointed by his recent draws with the fashionable' probably disappointed by his recent draws with the fashionable 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 Be7 11.Bc2 d4 12.Nb3 d3 13.Bb1 (Marin,M: 'For' For 13.Nxc5 Marin,M: 'See the last round games Adams,M (2744)-So,W (2773) Wijk aan Zee 2016 [Marin] (1/2-1/2, 33) and Carlsen,M (2844)-Ding Liren (2766) Wijk aan Zee 2016 [Marin] (1/2-1/2, 99)' See the last round games Adams,M (2744)-So,W (2773) Wijk aan Zee 2016 [Marin] (1/2-1/2, 33) and Carlsen,M (2844)-Ding Liren (2766)

Wijk aan Zee 2016 [Marin] (1/2-1/2, 99))
 13...Nxb3 14.axb3 Bf5 15.Re1 0-0
 16.Be3 (16.b4 Qd7 17.h3 Rfd8
 18.g4 Bg6 19.Bf4 a5 Caruana,F
 (2805)-Giri,A (2773) Stavanger 2015
 (1/2-1/2, 43) Marin,M: 'Caruana,F (2805)-
 Giri,A (2773) Stavanger 2015 (1/2-1/2,
 43)') 16...Qd5 17.b4 Qd7 18.h3
 Rfd8 19.g4 Be6 20.Bf4 h5 21.Re3
 Bxg4! Caruana,F (2808)-Mamedyarov,
 S (2736) Baku 2015 (1/2-1/2, 40) Marin,
 M: 'Caruana,F (2808)-Mamedyarov,S
 (2736) Baku 2015 (1/2-1/2, 40)']

9...Be7

[In my book "The Open Spanish" I recommend the 9...Bc5 line.]
 [Marin,M: 'My only doubt is how would he have avoided a transposition above after' My only doubt is how would he have avoided a transposition above after 9...Nc5 10.Bc2 Bg4 11.Re1 Be7]

10.Bc2 This rare line has been seen in a few recent computer games. Marin, Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: 'This rare line has been seen in a few recent computer games.'

[Last year I analysed the main line for you 10.Nbd2 Sengupta, D (2567)-Wei Yi (2706)/Tsaghkadzor ARM 2015/ [Mikhalevski, V].]

10...Bg4

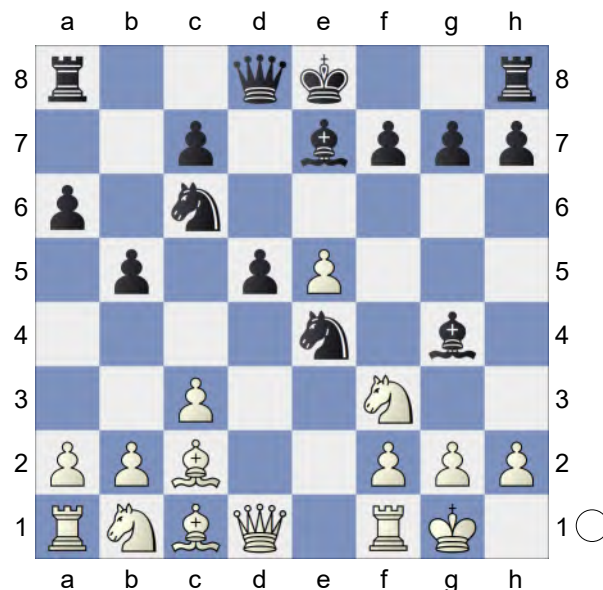
[I wonder what Caruana planned on Marin,M: 'The traditional move order is' Marin,Mihail: 'The traditional move order is' 10...0-0 as Marin,M: 'Beside 11.Nbd2, transposing to one of the main lines, White tried' Marin,Mihail: 'Beside 11. ♘bd2, transposing to one of the main lines, White tried'

A) 11.Qe2 is another option. Marin, M: 'in a few historic games:' Marin, Mihail: 'in a few historic games:'

Qd7! Marin,M: 'Since White has deviated from the natural course of development, Black can ignore the threat on e4.' Since White has deviated from the natural course of development, Black can ignore the threat on e4. (Marin,M: 'Curiously, a few years ago the player who can be considered the greatest Open Spanish specialist ever did not react too well in two games against the same opponent:' Curiously, a few years ago the player who can be considered the greatest Open Spanish specialist ever did not react too well in two games against the same opponent: 11...f5 12.exf6 Bxf6 13.Nbd2 Bf5 14.Nxe4 Bxe4 15.Bxe4 dxe4 16.Qxe4 Qd7 17.Bf4 Rae8 18.Qc2± Bronstein,D-Kortschnoj,V Leningrad 1962 (1-0, 39) Marin,M: 'Bronstein, D-Kortschnoj,V Leningrad 1962 (1-0, 39)'; 11...Nc5 12.Nd4 Qd7 13.Nd2 Nxd4 14.cxd4 Nb7 15.Nf3± Bronstein,D-Kortschnoj,V Leningrad 1962 (½-½, 24) Marin,M: 'Bronstein, D-Kortschnoj,V Leningrad 1962 (1/2-1/2, 24)') 12.Rd1 (12.Bxe4 dxe4 13.Qxe4 Bf5 14.Qf4 f6↑) 12...f5 13.Nbd2 Kh8 14.Nb3 (14.Nxe4? fxe4 15.Bxe4 dxe4 16.Rxd7 exf3 17.Qd3 Bxd7 18.Qxd7 Rad8-+) 14...Bf7 15.Nbd4 Bh5∞ 16.Nxf5? Qxf5 17.Rxd5 Bg6± Tal,M-Keres,P Moscow 1967 MCL [Dolmatov] (0-1, 30);

B) 11.Nbd2_____ transposes into the main line.]

(Diagram)



This position is already pretty rare. Black's idea is very simple- he puts pressure on e5. Marin,Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: 'This position is already pretty rare. Black's idea is very simple- he puts pressure on e5.' **11.h3** This is the move White played in the most recent human games. Marin, Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: 'This is the move White played in the most recent human games.'"

[Two recent computer games continued 11.a4 b4 and only then 12.h3 Bxf3 13.Qxf3 Nxe5 14.Qf5 Bd6 (Equinox played 14...f6 15.cxb4 g6 16.Qf4 Ng5 17.Nc3 Ne6 18.Qe3 with a complicated position in Fire 4 64-bit 4CPU (3209)-Equinox 3.20 64-bit 4CPU (3188)/CCRL 2015.) 15.Bxe4 g6! 16.Qf4 dxe4 17.Qxe4 0-0 18.cxb4 Rb8 19.b5 axb5 20.a5 Re8 with roughly equal chances in Gull 3 64-bit 4CPU (3199) -Komodo 9. 3 64-bit 4CPU (3338)/CCRL 2015.]

11...Bh5! The correct retreat. Marin, Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: 'Mikhalevski, V: 'The correct retreat.'"

[11...Bxf3 Marin,Mihail: '- 51/334'

12.gxf3 Nc5 13.f4 Qd7 14.Qf3
has been known to be better for White
since Bannik, A-Shianovsky, V/
Yerevan 1962/URS-ch. Rd8 15.Rd1
f5 16.Be3 Qe6 17.Nd2 0-0 18.Nb3
Na4 19.Rab1 Rd7 20.Kh1 g6
21.Bd3!!

Marin,M: 'The start of an
instructive manoeuvre, aimed at
activating the only piece which was
not doing anything positive.' The start
of an instructive manoeuvre, aimed at
activating the only piece which was
not doing anything positive. Bh4
22.Bf1 Rdd8 23.Bg2± Polgar,J
(2540)-Huebner,R (2620) Munich
1991 CBM 023 [Polgar,J] (1-0, 38)
Marin,M: 'Polgar,J (2540)-Huebner,R
(2620) Munich 1991 CBM 023 [Polgar,
J] (1-0, 38)']

12.g4 Bg6 13.Nd4 Caruana's novelty.
White prepares an advance of the f-
pawn. Marin,Mihail: 'N' 'N' 'N' 'N' 'N'
Marin,Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: 'Caruana's
novelty. White prepares an advance of
the f-pawn.' Marin,M: 'N'

[Marin,M: 'Another classical game
went' Marin,Mihail: 'Another classical
game went' 13.Bb3 has to be
answered by Marin,Mihail:
'Mikhalevski, V: 'has to be answered
by"]

A) 13...Na5?! 14.Bxd5 c6 15.Bxe4
Bxe4 16.Qxd8+ (16.Nd4)
16...Rxd8 17.Nbd2 Bd5 18.Re1±
was better for White in Fischer, R-
Olafsson, F/ Havana 1966. h5
19.Ne4 hxcg4 20.hxcg4 Nc4
21.Kg2± Fischer,R-Olafsson,F
Havana 1966 EXT 1999 [Bulletin]
(1-0, 37) Marin,M: 'Fischer,R-
Olafsson,F Havana 1966 EXT 1999
[Bulletin] (1-0, 37)';

B) 13...Nc5! 14.Bxd5 (or 14.Qxd5

Na5! Marin,Mihail: '☞' '☞' '☞' '☞'
Marin,M: ' ☞') 14...Qd7! 15.Bxc6
Qxc6 16.Nd4 Qb7 17.f4 h5!
with sufficient compensation for a
pawn. 18.f5 hxcg4 19.Qxcg4 Bh5☞
20.Qg2? Qxcg2+ 21.Kxcg2 Nd3☞
22.e6 c5 23.Nc6 (23.Nf3 fxe6
24.fxe6? Bxf3+ 25.Kxf3 Rf8+
26.Kg2 Rxf1 27.Kxf1 Nxc1-+)
23...Be2 24.Rh1 Bd6-+
Marin,M: 'with complete domination.
' with complete domination.]

13...Qd7 Wei Yi delays exchanging on
d4. Marin,Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: 'Wei Yi
delays exchanging on d4.' Marin,M:
'Black should not hurry about
strengthening the white centre with an
exchange on d4 before it is really
necessary.' Marin,Mihail: 'Black should
not hurry about strengthening the white
centre with an exchange on d4 before it
is really necessary. '

[13...Nxd4! was critical and led to a
forced draw. 14.cxd4 h5! 15.f4 hxcg4
16.f5 Rxh3 17.Bxe4 (17.fxcg6?
is bad in view of Rg3+ 18.Kh2
Bd6!-+) 17...dxe4 18.fxcg6 f5!!
A very difficult move to find over the
board, and the only one to retain
equality. 19.exf6 (19.Rxf5?
is strongly met by Bc5! 20.Qxcg4 Rh4!
21.Qd1 Qd7!-+ with decisive
threats.) 19...Rg3+ 20.Kh2! (20.Kf2?
Rf3+ 21.Kg2 Qd6! 22.Qe1 Qxf6
is dangerous for White.; 20.Kh1??
loses instantly to Qd5!-+) 20...Rf3!
(But not 20...Rh3+? 21.Kg2+-
and White wins.) 21.Rxf3 gxf3
22.Bf4! (22.fxe7?? Qd6+ 23.Kh3
Qxcg6-+ is hopeless for White.)
22...Bd6! 23.Qc1! Qxf6 24.Qc6+
Kd8! 25.Bxd6 (25.Qxa8+ Kd7
26.Bxd6 Qh4+ is also equal.)

25...Qh4+ 26.Kg1 Qe1+
with a perpetual.]

14.f4 White gets on with his plan. Marin, Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: 'White gets on with his plan.'

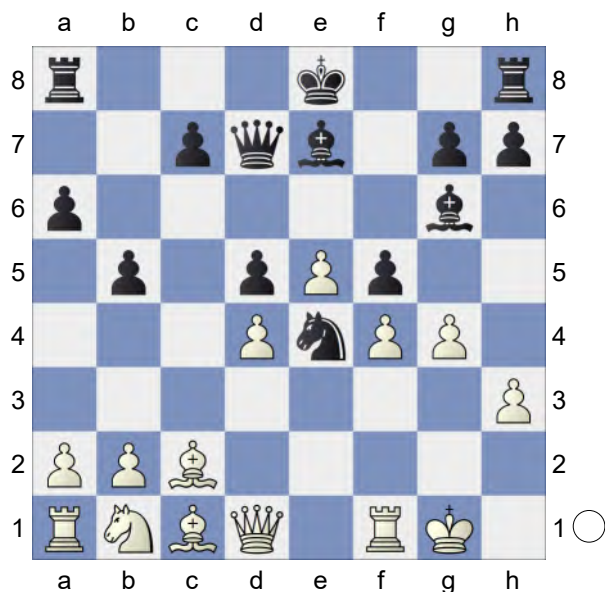
[14.f3 Nc5 15.Nf5 Ne6 16.f4 h5±
Marin,M: 'leads to a typical Open RL blockade.' leads to a typical Open RL blockade.]

14...Nxd4 Marin,Mihail: '!' '!' '!' '!' Marin,M: '!'

[14...f5?! 15.e6]

[14...Ng3 15.f5 Nxf1 16.fxg6 hxg6
17.e6 Qd6 18.exf7+ Kd7 19.Qxf1
Nxd4 20.cxd4 Qg3+ 21.Qg2 Qe1+
22.Qf1 Qg3+ 23.Qg2=]

15.cxd4 f5!



Black has to stop the advance of White's f-pawn. Marin,Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: '!' Mikhalevski, V: 'Black has to stop the advance of White's f-pawn.' **16.Be3**

[Marin,M: 'Caruana must have rejected the more natural' Caruana must have rejected the more natural 16.Nc3 Marin,M: 'on account of' on account of fxg4 Marin,M: 'when in certain lines the queen is overloaded with the defence of the g4-square and

the c2-bishop.' when in certain lines the queen is overloaded with the defence of the g4-square and the c2-bishop. 17.Nxe4 (17.hxg4 Nxc3 18.Bxg6+ Marin,M: 'White is forced to open the h-file in order to keep g4 defended.' White is forced to open the h-file in order to keep g4 defended. hxg6 19.bxc3 0-0-0→ Marin,Mihail: '±' '±') 17...Bxe4 18.Bxe4 dxe4 19.hxg4 0-0-0 20.Be3 h5±]

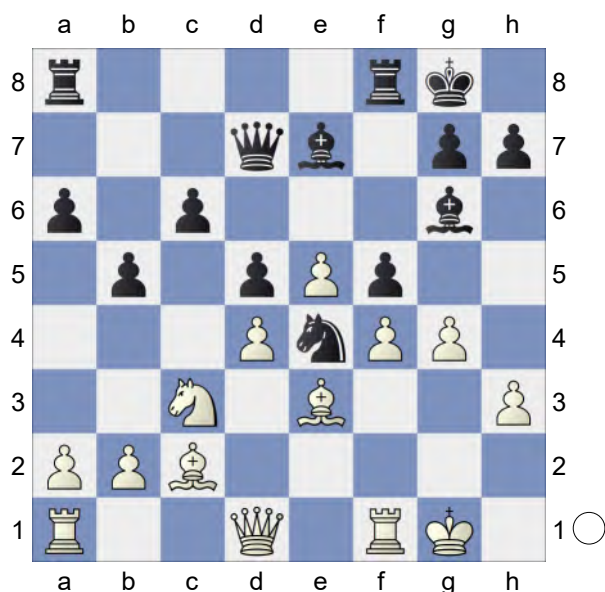
16...0-0?! An inaccuracy. Marin,Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: '?!' Mikhalevski, V: 'An inaccuracy.' Marin,M: 'Too mild. Black should have used the offered tempo to clear up matters on the kingside.' Marin, Mihail: 'Too mild. Black should have used the offered tempo to clear up matters on the kingside.'

[16...h5! trying to determine the kingside position was more accurate. Marin,Mihail: '!' '!' '!' '!' Marin, Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: '!' Mikhalevski, V: 'trying to determine the kingside position was more accurate.' Marin,M: '!' 17.g5 0-0= (17...h4!? Marin,M: 'looks principled, but it more or less forces Black into castling long as otherwise the h4-pawn would be in danger.' looks principled, but it more or less forces Black into castling long as otherwise the h4-pawn would be in danger.) 18.Nc3 c6 19.Bxe4? fxe4±]

17.Nc3!± White creates an obvious threat of 18.Nxd5. So, Marin,Mihail: '!' '!' '!' '!' Marin,Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: '±!' Mikhalevski, V: 'White creates an obvious threat of 18.Nxd5. So,' Marin,M: '!' Marin,M: 'Suddenly Black has serious problems of stability. The immediate threat is Nxd5.' Marin,Mihail: 'Suddenly Black has serious problems of stability.'

The immediate threat is ♖xd5.' **17...c6**
 Marin,Mihail: '?!' '?!' '?!' '?!' Marin,
 Mihail: 'Diagram

[17...Nxc3 Marin,M: 'does not solve all Black's problems. After' Marin, Mihail: 'does not solve all Black's problems. After' 18.bxc3 Marin,M: 'he is doomed to passivity as the attempts to free himself hand the initiative to White.' Marin,Mihail: 'he is doomed to passivity as the attempts to free himself hand the initiative to White.' Rac8 (18...c5 19.dxc5 Rac8 20.Bb3 Bf7 21.gxf5 Qxf5 22.Qg4↑; 18...c6±) 19.Bb3!± with the subsequent 20.Qf3 is still better for White, but Black had to play this way.]



' Marin,Mihail: 'Diagram ♖ ' **18.Bxe4!?**
 Marin,Mihail: '!' '!' '!' '!' '!' Marin,
 Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: '!?' Marin,M: '!

[18.Nxe4!? dxe4 19.Bb3+ Bf7 20.Bxf7+ Rxf7 21.Qb3 Qd5 22.Rac1!± is also clearly better for White.]

18...dxe4

[18...fxe4? Marin,Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: '?' 19.f5± is just bad for Black.

Marin,Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: 'is just bad for Black.' Marin,M: 'is crushing.' ' Marin,Mihail: 'is crushing.']

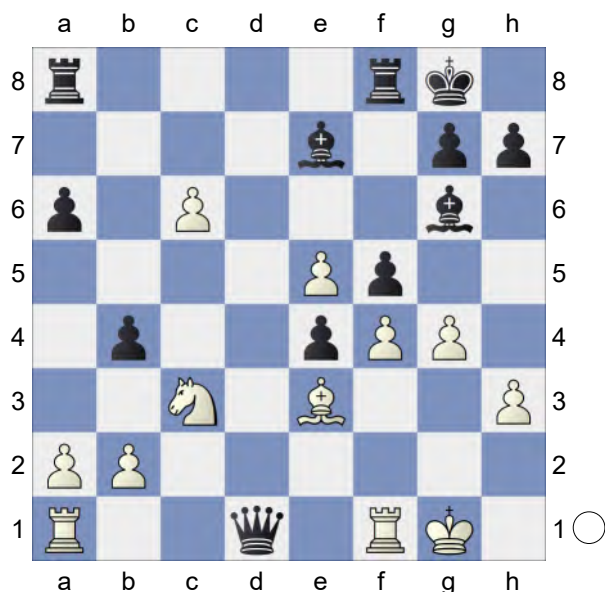
19.d5! White breaks through in the centre and obtains a clear edge. Marin, Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: 'White breaks through in the centre and obtains a clear edge.' **19...b4**

[19...cxd5 20.Qxd5+ Qxd5 21.Nxd5 Marin,M: 'Black cannot defend his bishop without losing the exchange.' Marin,Mihail: 'Black cannot defend his bishop without losing the exchange.' Bd8 22.Bc5 (22.Rac1 Bf7 23.Rfd1 Be6 24.g5± Marin,M: 'White is perfectly centralised while most of Black's pieces are passive and his queenside weak.' White is perfectly centralised while most of Black's pieces are passive and his queenside weak.) 22...Re8 23.Ne3! is not much fun either.]

20.dxc6 Qxd1

[20...Qxc6 21.Qd5+ Marin,Mihail: '±' '±' '±' '±' Marin,M: 'is even worse than the previous line because in the end the b4-pawn would be hanging, but it was maybe still preferable to the game continuation.' Marin,Mihail: 'is even worse than the previous line because in the end the b4-pawn would be hanging, but it was maybe still preferable to the game continuation.' Qxd5 22.Nxd5 Bd8 is the lesser evil, although Black's position is already very unpleasant.]

(Diagram)



Marin,Mihail: '?' '?' '?' '?' **21.Nxd1+**
Now White is a healthy pawn up and the rest is a matter of technique in good hands. Marin,Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: 'Now White is a healthy pawn up and the rest is a matter of technique in good hands.' **21...Rfd8 22.Rc1** Marin,M: 'White has a strong extra pawn and only needs to activate his knight to reach a winning position.' Marin,Mihail: 'White has a strong extra pawn and only needs to activate his knight to reach a winning position.' **22...Rd3 23.Bc5**

[23.Re1! Rc8 24.Nf2+- is a better way to continue.]

[23.Kg2!?+- Marin,Mihail: '+-']

23...Bd8! Marin,Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: '!"

[23...Bxc5+ 24.Rxc5 Rxh3 25.c7 Rc8 26.e6! and the threat of 27.Rd5 forces Kf8 27.gxf5 Bh5 28.Re1+- with an easy win for White.]

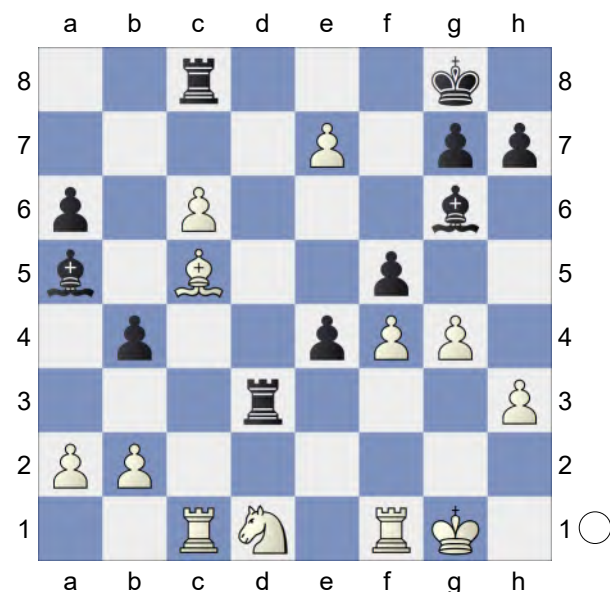
24.e6

[Both 24.Bxb4 and]

[24.Ne3 is also strong.]

24...Rc8 25.e7 Ba5

[25...Bc7 was worth a try.]



26.gxf5

[or 26.Nf2 Rg3+ 27.Kh2 Rf3 28.gxf5 Bxf5 29.Ng4 with a clear edge.]

26...Be8? Marin,Mihail: '?' '?' '?' '?'

Marin,Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: '?' Marin, M: '?' Marin,M: 'Ignoring the f-pawns with the illusory hope of eliminating the c6-pawn.' Marin,Mihail: 'Ignoring the f-pawns with the illusory hope of eliminating the c6-pawn.'

[26...Bxf5 is a better practical chance. Marin,Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: 'is a better practical chance.' 27.Nf2

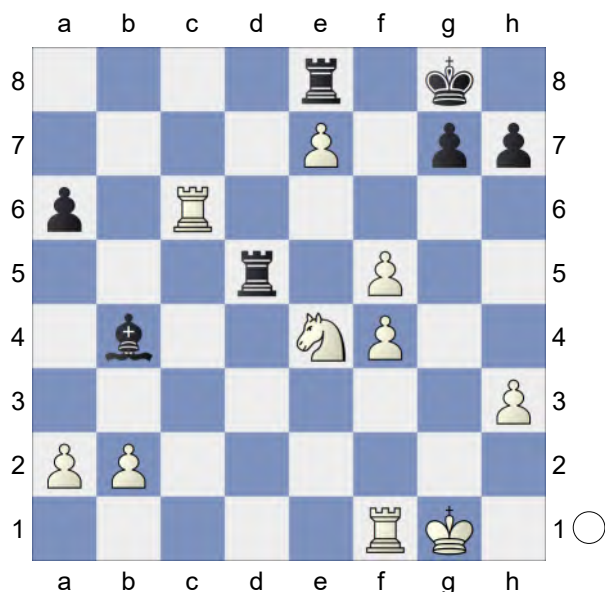
(27.Ne3 Bxh3 28.Rf2± Marin,Mihail: '+-' '+-') 27...Rg3+ 28.Kh2 Rg6 29.Bd4! Rd6 30.Rc5! Rxd4 31.Rxa5 g6 32.Rc1 Kf7 33.Re5 Ke8 34.Ng4 Rd6 35.c7 Bxg4 36.hxg4 Rd7 37.Rxe4 Rdx7 38.Rxc7 Rxc7 39.Rxb4 a5± and Black retains drawing chances.]

27.Nf2 Rd5 28.Nxe4 Bxc6

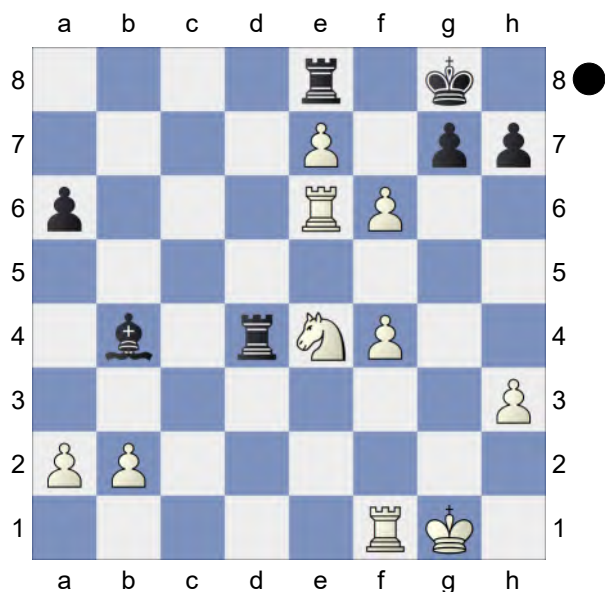
[28...Rxc6 29.Rfd1! Marin,Mihail: '+-' '+-' '+-' Marin,Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: '!" Rxd1+ 30.Rxd1+- is also hopeless]

29.Bxb4! Marin,Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: '!" 29...Bxb4 30.Rxc6 Marin,Mihail: '!" '!"

'!' '!' Marin,M: '!' 30...Re8



31.f6!+- White is three pawns up and his position is completely winning. Marin, Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: '+-!' Mikhalevski, V: 'White is three pawns up and his position is completely winning.' **31...Rd4**
32.Re6!



with the idea of 33.a3 and 34. Nd6. An interesting game from a theoretical point of view, though Black seems to equalise with 13...Nxd4! Marin,Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: '!' Mikhalevski, V: 'with the idea of 33. a3 and 34. Nd6. An interesting game

from a theoretical point of view, though Black seems to equalise with 13...Nxd4!"
1-0

20□ **Caruana, Fabiano**■ **Wei, Yi**

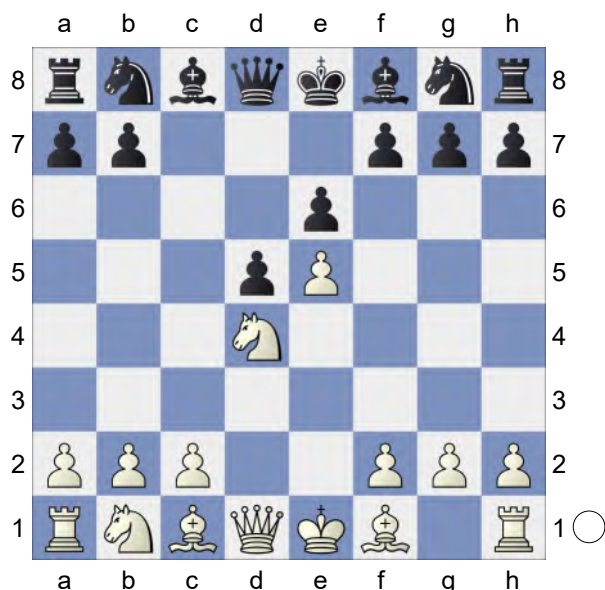
78th Tata Steel GpA (10)

27.01.2016

[Mikhalevski, V]

B12**2787****2706****1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5**

[3...Bf5]

4.Nf3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 e6**6.c4**

[6.Nd2 Nc6 7.N2f3 Nge7 8.Bd3 Ng6 (8...Bd7 9.0-0 Ng6 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.c4 Be7 12.Be3 Qb8 13.Bxg6 hxg6 14.Qc2 a5 15.Rfc1 0-0 16.Qe2 Rc8 17.Rc3 Qc7 18.Rac1) 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.0-0 Be7 11.c4 0-0 12.Qc2 c5 13.h4 Bxh4 14.cxd5 Bb7 (14...exd5 15.Nxh4 Qxh4 16.Qxc5 d4) 15.dxe6 Bxf3 16.exf7+ Rxf7 17.Bxg6 hxg6 18.gxf3]

[6.Bd3 Nc6 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.0-0 Ne7 9.c4 Ng6 10.Qe2 (10.f4 Bc5+ 11.Kh1 0-0 12.Nd2 a5) 10...Be7 11.f4 0-0 12.Nd2 a5 13.Nf3 Ba6 14.Be3 a4 15.Rac1]

6...Bb4+

[6...Bc5 7.Nc3 Ne7 8.Be3 Bb6 (8...Bxd4 9.Bxd4 0-0 10.cxd5 exd5 11.Bb5 Bd7 12.Be2 Nbc6 13.0-0 Be6 14.Nb5 a6 15.Nd6) 9.Be2 (9.Qg4 0-0 10.Rd1 Nbc6 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.c5 Bc7) 9...dxc4 10.Bxc4 0-0 11.0-0 Qc7 12.Bd3 Qxe5 13.Re1]

[6...Nc6 7.Nc3 Bb4 8.Nxc6 bxc6 9.Qa4 Bxc3+ 10.bxc3 Qc7 11.Be2 Bd7 12.0-0 Ne7 13.Ba3 c5 14.Qa6]

7.Bd2

[7.Nc3 Ne7 8.h4 (8.Be2 Nbc6 9.0-0 0-0 10.Nf3) 8...Nbc6 9.a3 Bxc3+ 10.bxc3 Nxe5 11.Bf4 N5g6 12.Bg3 e5 13.h5 exd4 14.hxg6 Nxg6 15.Qxd4 0-0 16.cxd5 Re8+ 17.Be2 Ne7 18.Rd1 Nf5 19.Qd3 Qg5]

7...Bxd2+ 8.Qxd2 Ne7 9.Nc3
Marin, Mihail: 'Caruana chooses the old main line,' **9...Nbc6**

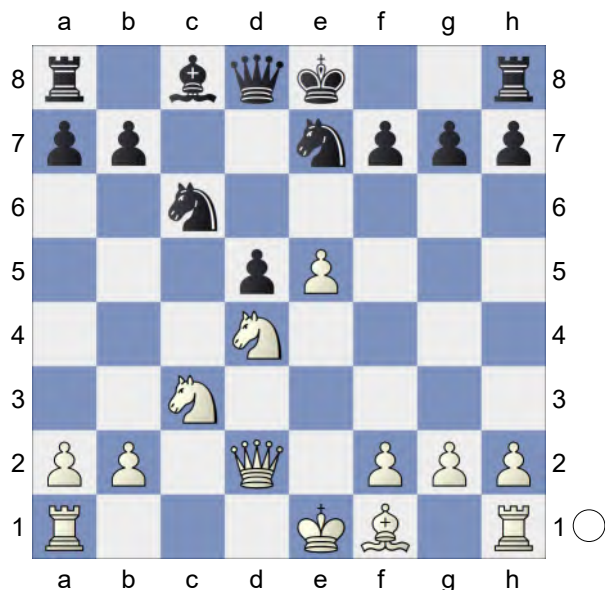
[9...0-0 10.cxd5 (10.0-0-0) 10...exd5 11.Be2 Nbc6 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.0-0 Rb8 14.Na4 Ng6 15.f4 Qe7 16.g3 Bh3 17.Rf2 f6 18.exf6 Rxf6 19.Bd3 Nf8 20.Rc1 Nd7 21.Re2]

10.cxd5 This rare line has been seen in a few recent computer games. Marin, Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: 'This rare line has been seen in a few recent computer games.'

[10.0-0-0 0-0 11.f4 Nxd4 12.Qxd4 Qa5 13.Kb1 Bd7 14.cxd5 exd5]

10...exd5

(Diagram)



This position is already pretty rare. Black's idea is very simple- he puts pressure on e5. Marin, Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: 'This position is already pretty rare. Black's idea is very simple- he puts pressure on e5.' **11.f4** This is the move White played in the most recent human games. Marin, Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: 'This is the move White played in the most recent human games.'

[11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Bd3 0-0 13.0-0 Bf5 14.Bxf5 Nxf5 15.Na4 f6]

11...0-0! The correct retreat. Marin, Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: 'Mikhalevski, V: 'The correct retreat.' **12.0-0-0**

[12.Rd1 Be6 (12...Nxd4 13.Qxd4 Be6 14.Qf2 Nc6 15.Be2 d4 16.0-0 Caruana, F (2805)-Giri, A (2773) Stavanger 2015 (½-½, 43) For Qa5 See the last round games Adams, M (2744)-So, W (2773) Wijk aan Zee 2016 [Marin] (½-½, 33) and Carlsen, M (2844)-Ding Liren (2766) Wijk aan Zee 2016 [Marin] (½-½, 99) 17.Ne4 Qxa2 18.Bf3) 13.Ncb5 (13.Nf3 f6 14.exf6 Rxf6 15.Be2 Qb6! Caruana, F (2808)-Mamedyarov, S (2736) Baku 2015

(½-½, 40)) 13...a6 probably disappointed by his recent draws with the fashionable 14.Nd6 Bg4 15.Be2 Bxe2 16.Qxe2 Qa5+ 17.Qd2 Qxd2+ 18.Rxd2 Nxd4 19.Rxd4 f6 20.0-0 fxe5 21.fxe5 Rxf1+ 22.Kxf1 Rf8+ 23.Kg1 b5]

12...Nxd4 13.Qxd4 Caruana's novelty. White prepares an advance of the f-pawn. Marin, Mihail: 'N' 'N' 'N' 'N' Marin, Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: 'Caruana's novelty. White prepares an advance of the f-pawn.' **13...Nf5** Wei Yi delays exchanging on d4. Marin, Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: 'Wei Yi delays exchanging on d4.' Marin, Mihail: 'Black should not hurry about strengthening the white centre with an exchange on d4 before it is really necessary.'

[13...Be6

A) 14.Bd3 Nc6

A1) 15.Qa4 Qb6+ (15...a5) 16.f5 d4 17.fxe6 dxc3 18.exf7+ Rxf7↑ Curiously, a few years ago the player who can be considered the greatest Open Spanish specialist ever did not react too well in two games against the same opponent: 19.bxc3 Nxe5 20.Bc2 Kh8;

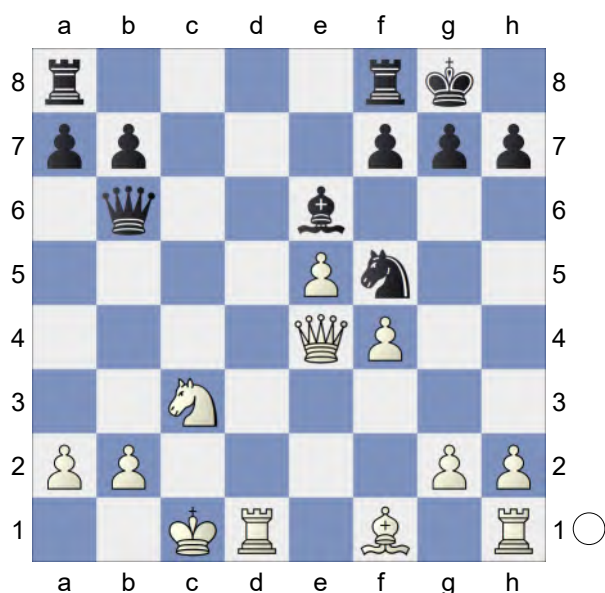
A2) 15.Qf2 d4 16.Ne4 Nb4;

B) 14.Kb1 Nf5 15.Qa4 d4 16.Ne4 Qd5 17.Bd3 Ne3 18.Rd2± Bronstein, D-Kortschnoj, V Leningrad 1962 (1-0, 39) (18.Rc1 Bf5 19.Rc5 Bxe4 20.Rxd5 Bxd3+± Bronstein, D-Kortschnoj, V Leningrad 1962 (½-½, 24) ; Last year I analysed the main line for you 18.Nd6 Sengupta, D (2567)-Wei Yi (2706)/Tsaghkadzor ARM 2015/ [Mikhalevski, V]. In my book "The Open Spanish" I recommend the

Nxd1 line. My only doubt is how would he have avoided a transposition above after *19.Rxd1*) *18...b5 19.Qb3*;

C) 14.Qf2 *Qa5 15.Kb1 Rfd8*
16.a3? Nf5 17.Bd3 d4
 Tal,M-Keres,P Moscow 1967 MCL
 [Dolmatov] (0-1, 30) *18.Ne4? Qd5*]

14.Qxd5 White gets on with his plan.
 Marin,Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: 'White gets on with his plan.' **14...Qb6**
 Marin,Mihail: '!' '!' '!' **15.Qe4 Be6!**



Black has to stop the advance of White's f-pawn. Marin,Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: '!' Mikhalevski, V: 'Black has to stop the advance of White's f-pawn.' **16.Bd3**

[*16.g4 Qe3+* (*16...Ne3* with roughly equal chances in Gull 3 64-bit 4CPU (3199) -Komodo 9.3 64-bit 4CPU (3338)/CCRL 2015. Equinox played *17.Rd6 Qc5 18.Bd3 g6 19.f5 gxf5 20.Qf4 Nxe4* with a complicated position in Fire 4 64-bit 4CPU (3209)-Equinox 3.20 64-bit 4CPU (3188)/CCRL 2015. I wonder what Caruana planned on Marin,Mihail: 'The traditional move order is' *21.Bxf5* as Marin,Mihail: 'Beside 11. *Qd2*,

transposing to one of the main lines, White tried' *Qe3+* transposes into the main line. *22.Qxe3* is another option. Marin,Mihail: 'in a few historic games:' *Nxe3!* Since White has deviated from the natural course of development, Black can ignore the threat on e4. *23.Bxe6 fxe6 24.Ne4*) *17.Rd2 Qxe4 18.Nxe4 Ne3 19.b3* (Two recent computer games continued *19.f5 Bxa2* and only then *20.b3 Nxf1 21.Rxa2 Rfc8+ 22.Kb2 Ne3 23.h3 a6! 24.Rc1 Re8 25.Rc5 b6 26.Rc7 Rxe5 27.Rxa6 Rf8; 19.Nd6*) *19...Bxg4 20.Nd6 Bf3 21.Rg1 Nxf1 22.Rxf1 Bc6!!* The start of an instructive manoeuvre, aimed at activating the only piece which was not doing anything positive. *23.f5 Rad8 24.f6 g6±* Polgar,J (2540)-Huebner,R (2620) Munich 1991 CBM 023 [Polgar,J] (1-0, 38)]

16...h5?! An inaccuracy. Marin,Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: '?!' Mikhalevski, V: 'An inaccuracy.' Marin,Mihail: 'Too mild. Black should have used the offered tempo to clear up matters on the kingside.'

[*16...g6 17.g4* (*17.Bc2* Marin,Mihail: '- 51/334' *Rac8 18.Rd2 Rc4 19.Qf3 Rfc8* has been known to be better for White since Bannik, A-Shianovsky, V/ Yerevan 1962/URS-ch.) *17...Ne3 18.f5*

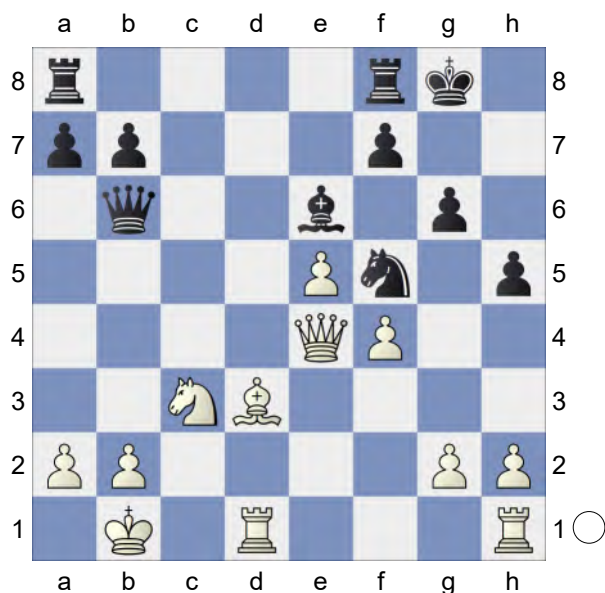
A) 18...gxf5

A1) 19.Qf4 *Nxd1 20.Rxd1 fxe4 21.Qg5+* (*21.Qh6 f5 22.exf6±* Fischer,R-Olafsson,F Havana 1966 EXT 1999 [Bulletin] (1-0, 37) *Rf7*) *21...Kh8±* was better for White in Fischer, R-Olafsson, F/ Havana 1966. *22.Qf6+ Kg8 23.Qg5+*;

A2) 19.gxf5 Bxf5 20.Qf3 Bg6+
or 21.Rde1 Bxd3! Marin,Mihail:
'☞' '☞!' '☞' 22.Qxe3?! Qxe3+
23.Rxe3 Bg6;

B) 18...Bd7-+ _____ with complete
domination. 19.Rde1 Bc6 20.Qf4?
Bxh1 21.Rxe3]

17.Kb1!± White creates an obvious
threat of 18.Nxd5. So, Marin,Mihail: '!' '!'
'!' Marin,Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: ' ±!
Mikhalevski, V: 'White creates an
obvious threat of 18.Nxd5. So," Marin,
Mihail: 'Suddenly Black has serious
problems of stability. The immediate
threat is ♖xd5.' **17...g6** Marin,Mihail: '?!'
'?!' '?!' Marin,Mihail: 'Diagram



' **18.Bc2!?** Marin,Mihail: '!' '!' '!' '!' Marin,
Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: '!?"

[18.Na4☞ Qa5? 19.b3 Rac8
20.Qe1☞ Qc7]

18...Rad8 19.Nd5! White breaks
through in the centre and obtains a clear
edge. Marin,Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V:
'White breaks through in the centre and
obtains a clear edge."

[19.Qf3 Rd4!-+ (19...Nd4 20.Qf2
Qb4 21.a3! with sufficient
compensation for a pawn. Qc4

22.Bd3 Qb3) Marin,Mihail: 'Another
classical game went' 20.Rxd4
has to be answered by Marin,Mihail:
'Mikhalevski, V: 'has to be answered
by" Nxd4! 21.Qe3 Rc8! 22.Rd1
Rc4]

19...Qf2

[19...Bxd5! 20.Rxd5

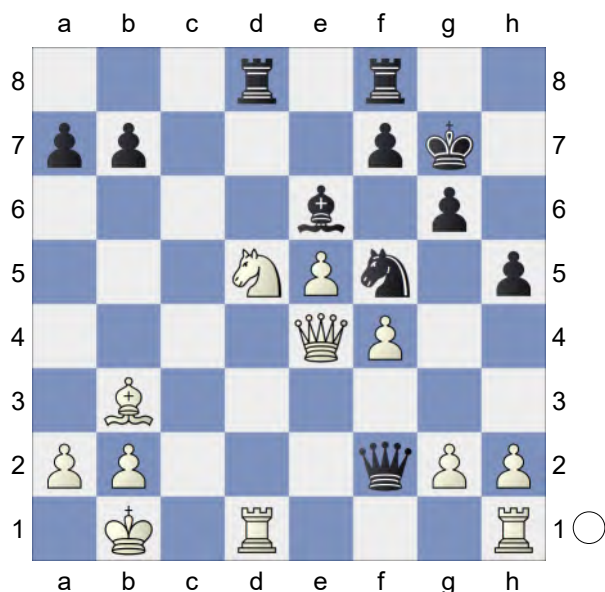
A) 20...Rxd5? 21.Qxd5 Ne3
22.Qe4! (22.Qb3 Qxb3
is dangerous for White. 23.Bxb3??
loses instantly to Nxd2!-+ 24.f5?
is strongly met by Nh4! 25.Rg1
Kh7! 26.fxd6+ Nxd6!-+
with decisive threats. 27.Rg5?
is bad in view of h4);

B) 20...Ne3 21.Rxd8 Rxd8
22.Bb3 Rd4 23.Qf3 Rd2!!
A very difficult move to find over the
board, and the only one to retain
equality. 24.Rc1 Kg7 (24...Qd4
25.Rc3! Rxd2! 26.Bxf7+! Kxf7
27.Qxb7+ Ke6! 28.Qc8+ Qd7
29.Qxd7+ Kxd7 with a perpetual.
30.Rxe3 Rxd2 31.Rg3 Rf2
is also equal.; 24...Nf5?? 25.e6
fxe6 26.g4-+ is hopeless for White.
But not hxg4? 27.Qxg4+-
and White wins.) 25.Qe4! Rf2!
26.Ka1]

20.Bb3 Kg7

[20...Rxd5 21.Bxd5 Ng3 22.Qf3
Bf5+ 23.Ka1☞ leads to a typical Open
RL blockade. Nxd1! was critical and
led to a forced draw. 24.Rxd1]

(Diagram)



Marin,Mihail: '?' '?' '?' **21.Rhf1+**-
Now White is a healthy pawn up and the
rest is a matter of technique in good
hands. Marin,Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V:
'Now White is a healthy pawn up and the
rest is a matter of technique in good
hands.' **21...Qc5 22.Rfe1** Marin,Mihail:
'White has a strong extra pawn and only
needs to activate his knight to reach a
winning position.' **22...a5**

[22...b5 23.Nf6 Nd6 24.Qf3 Nc4
25.Ne4 Qb4 26.a3 Nxe5 27.fxe5
Rxd1+ 28.Qxd1 Qxb3=]

23.Rc1

[23.Nf6 Bxb3 (23...Nd6 24.Qd4≠
Bf5+ 25.Ka1 Qxd4 White is forced to
open the h-file in order to keep g4
defended. 26.Rxd4 Nb5 27.Rxd8→
Marin,Mihail: ' ≠' '≠' Rxd8?! 28.Rd1
Nd4 29.Ne8+ Rxe8 30.Rxd4 g5)
24.axb3]

23...Qf2! Marin,Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: '!'

[23...Bxd5 Marin,Mihail: 'he is
doomed to passivity as the attempts to
free himself hand the initiative to
White.' 24.Rxc5 Bxe4+!± with the
subsequent 20.Qf3 is still better for
White, but Black had to play this way.

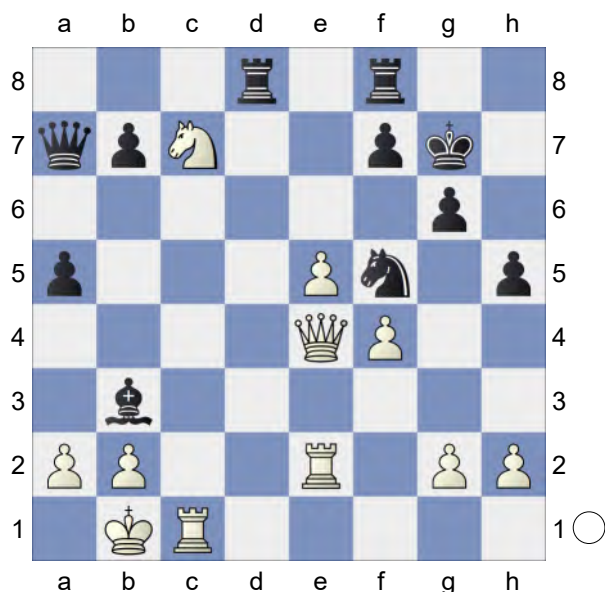
25.Rxe4 Rd2 26.Rc2 (26.Rxa5!?
looks principled, but it more or less
forces Black into castling long as
otherwise the h4-pawn would be in
danger. Caruana must have rejected
the more natural Rxb7 on account of
27.Ra7 when in certain lines the
queen is overloaded with the defence
of the g4-square and the c2-bishop.
Rxb7 28.Rxb7 h4) 26...Rd1+ 27.Rc1
Rd2 28.Rg1 (28.Rc7 Rxb7= 29.e6
Rg1+ 30.Kc2? Rg2+≠) 28...Nd4↑
29.Bd1± Rd8! trying to determine the
kingside position was more accurate.
Marin,Mihail: '!' '!' '!' Marin,Mihail:
'Mikhalevski, V: '!' Mikhalevski, V:
'trying to determine the kingside
position was more accurate.']

24.Re2 Qa7

[24...Qd4 25.Nc7 Bxb3! is not much
fun either. (25...Qxe4+ 26.Rxe4!±
is also clearly better for White. Bxb3
Marin,Mihail: 'does not solve all
Black's problems. After') 26.axb3
Qxe4+ 27.Rxe4 Rd2 28.e6±
White is perfectly centralised while
most of Black's pieces are passive
and his queenside weak. Kf6?
Marin,Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: '!''
29.Rce1± is just bad for Black. Marin,
Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: 'is just bad for
Black.' Marin,Mihail: 'is crushing.'
fxe6!? 30.Rxe6+ Kf7 31.R6e2 Rxe2
32.Rxe2 Rd8]

25.Nc7 Bxb3

(Diagram)



26.axb3 Rd4? Marin,Mihail: '?!' '?!' '?!' Marin,Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: '?' Marin,Mihail: 'Ignoring the f-pawns with the illusory hope of eliminating the c6-pawn.'

[26...Rd7 27.e6 is the lesser evil, although Black's position is already very unpleasant. Re7 28.Qe5+ Kh7 (28...f6 Marin,Mihail: 'Black cannot defend his bishop without losing the exchange.' 29.Qe4)]

27.Qf3 a4

[27...Rd7!?+- Marin,Mihail: '+-' 28.e6 Re7 Marin,Mihail: '♣♣♣ Marin,Mihail: 'is even worse than the previous line because in the end the b4-pawn would be hanging, but it was maybe still preferable to the game continuation.' 29.Re5]

28.e6

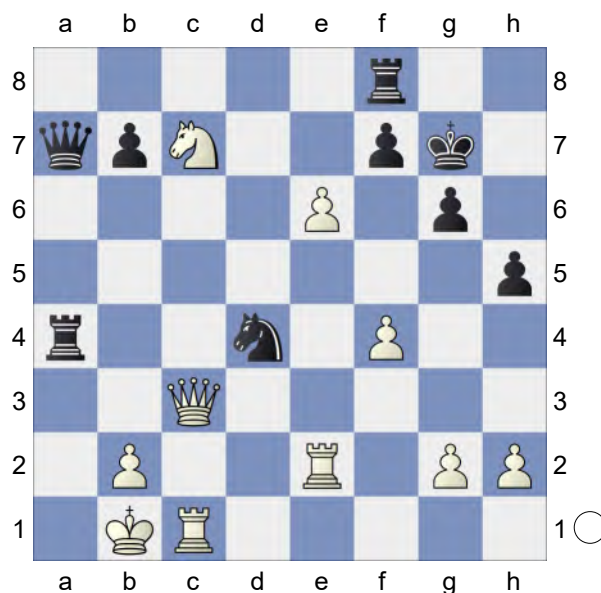
[28.Nb5+- with an easy win for White. Qa5! 29.Nxd4 Nxd4+- is a better way to continue.]

28...axb3

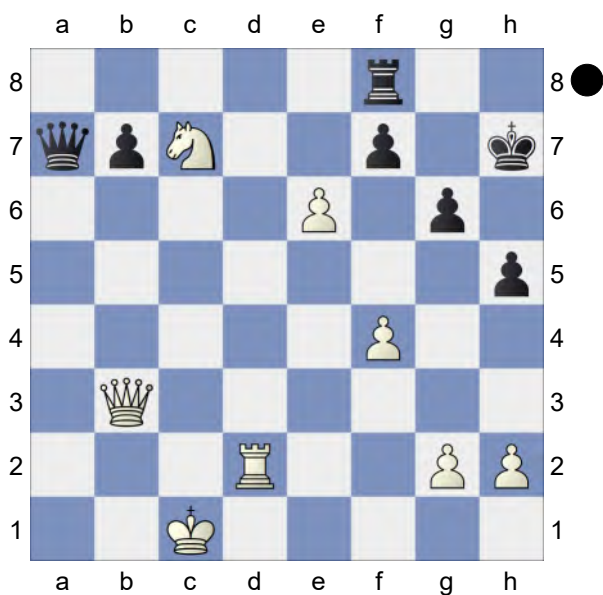
[28...Rc8 29.exf7 Rxc7 30.Rxc7 Rd1+ 31.Rc1 Rxc1+ 32.Kxc1 Qg1+ 33.Kd2 Qd4+ 34.Kc2 (Both 34.Qd3 and Qxb2+ is also strong. 35.Ke1 Qc1+ 36.Qd1 Qc5 37.f8Q+ Kxf8!]

and the threat of 27.Rd5 forces 38.Qd8+ Kg7 39.bxa4) 34...Qc5+ 35.Kd1 (or 35.Qc3+ Nd4+ 36.Kd3 Qxc3+ 37.bxc3 Nxe2 38.Kxe2 with a clear edge. a3 was worth a try.) 35...Qd4+ 36.Rd2 Qg1+ 37.Kc2 Nd4± and Black retains drawing chances. 38.Rxd4 Qxd4 39.Qc3± Marin,Mihail: '+-' '+-']

29.Qxb3! Marin,Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: '!' 29...Ra4 30.Qc3+ Marin,Mihail: '!' '!' 30...Nd4 [30...Kh7 31.b3 Rxf4 32.Nd5! Rd4 33.e7!]



31.b3!+- White is three pawns up and his position is completely winning. Marin,Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: '+-' Mikhalevski, V: 'White is three pawns up and his position is completely winning.' **31...Kh7 32.Rd2!** with the idea of 33.a3 and 34. Nd6. An interesting game from a theoretical point of view, though Black seems to equalise with 13...Nxd4! Marin,Mihail: 'Mikhalevski, V: '!' Mikhalevski, V: 'with the idea of 33.a3 and 34. Nd6. An interesting game from a theoretical point of view, though Black seems to equalise



1-0

85

□ Wei,Yi

■ Rapport,Richard

10th Danzhou GM 2019 (7.4) 07.07.2019

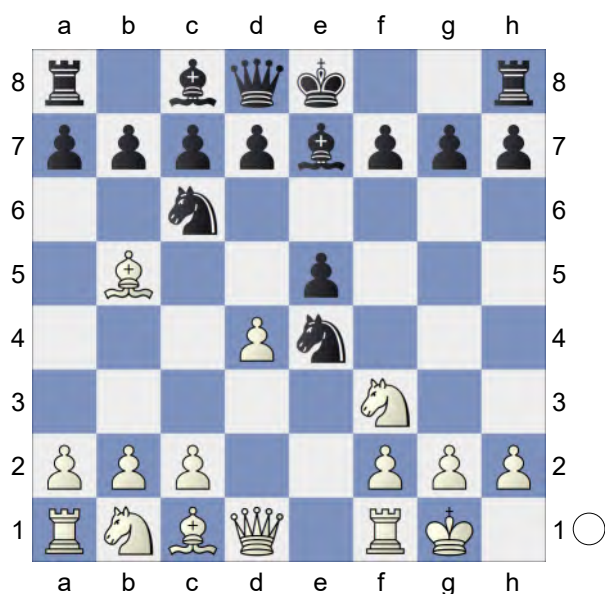
[Mikhalevski,V]

C67

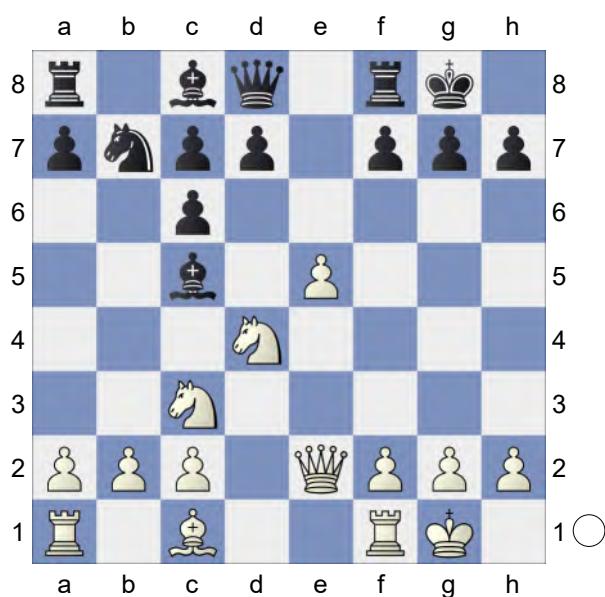
2741

2735

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0
Nxe4 5.d4 Be7



6.Qe2 Nd6 7.Bxc6 bxc6 8.dxe5 Nb7
9.Nc3 0-0 10.Nd4 Bc5



It has been a while we last considered
this line. In fact, the entire 5...Be7

complex is out of fashion, although
Carlsen played it on a couple of
occasions in 2017. 11.Rd1 Re8 12.Qh5
This move hasn't been seen for nine
years! White takes the h4-square away
from the black queen and creates a
threat of 13.Nxc6. I want to remind you
that the immediate 12.Nxc6 runs into
12...Qh4.

[Earlier we considered. 12.Bf4
Grischuk,A (2717)-Malakhov,V (2679)
Elista RUS 2007 [TonyK]]

12...Qe7 This move has been known
since 1958! Even Smyslov tried it in one
of his games. Black removes the queen
from the d-file and attacks the e5-pawn.

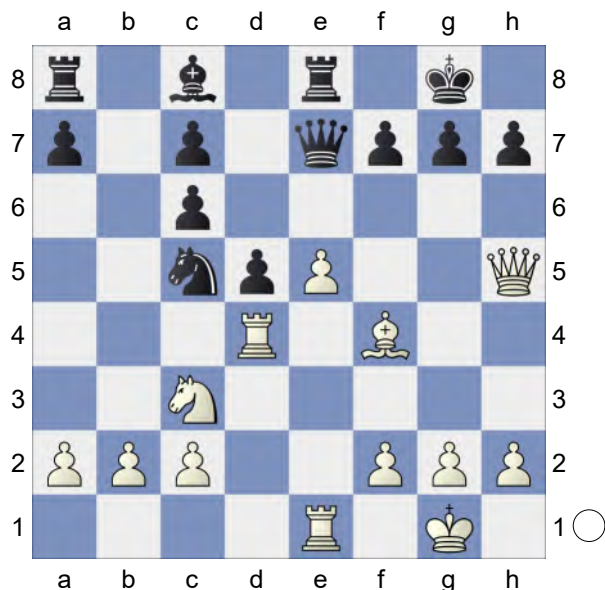
[12...Bxd4!? is a reasonable
alternative. Black exchanges one of
his bishops in order to play...d5.
13.Rxd4 d5 14.Bd2 (14.Rh4?
is strongly met by Bf5!) 14...Qd7
15.Rf4 (15.Re1!? Qf5 16.Qxf5 Bxf5
17.g4 Be6=) 15...Qe6 16.Re1 Qg6
17.Qxg6 and in this slightly better
position for Black a draw was agreed
in Naiditsch,A (2686)-Motylev,A
(2704) Poikovsky 2010]

13.Bf4 Bxd4 14.Rxd4 d5 This move is
possible, since en passant leads to
checkmate. 15.Re1

[15.exd6?? Qe1+]

15...Nc5

(Diagram)



The knight comes to e6. **16.Bd2**
A clever move. The rook will stay on the fourth rank.

[16.Rdd1!? is a logical alternative.
Ne6 17.Bc1 Nf8 18.h3! with some pressure.]

16...Qe6 Black plans on trading queens.

[After 16...Ne6 17.Rg4 White can set some problems.]

[16...a5! would take control of the b4-square and was more accurate.]

17.b4!?

[17.Na4!? fighting for the c5-square was interesting. For example, Nxa4 18.Rxa4 c5 19.Ra5 Qb6 20.Qf3±]

17...Nd7 18.b5 This direct attack doesn't achieve its goal. **18...c5**
An interesting tactical trick.

[18...Bb7! 19.bxc6 Qxc6! was strong. 20.Rxd5 (20.Nxd5? Qc5!⚡) 20...f6! 21.e6 Ne5 with the slightly better chances for Black.]

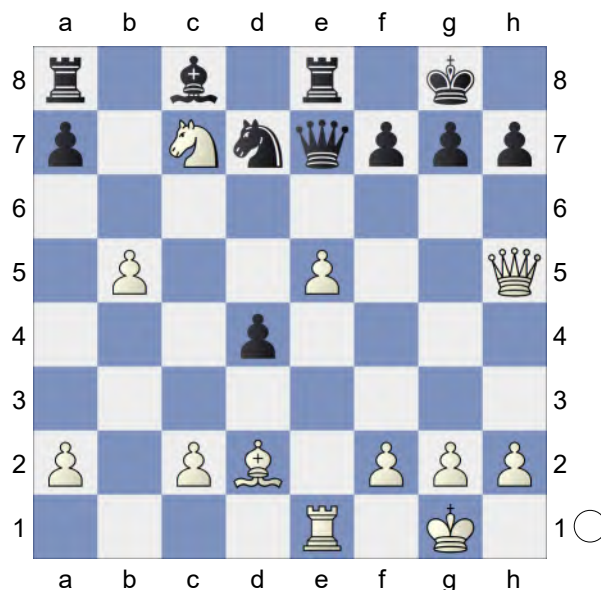
19.Nxd5?! A risky move.

[19.Rxd5? loses to Nf6!]

[19.Rg4! was more precise, although after d4! (19...Nxe5) 20.Ne4 Bb7 21.h3 g6 (21...Qxe5? runs into

22.Rg5± with the subsequent 23. Nxc5.) 22.Qg5 Qxe5 23.Qxe5 Rxe5 24.Nf6+ Nxf6 25.Rxe5 Nxg4 26.hxg4 c4 Black should be able to hold.]

19...cxd4 20.Nxc7 Qe7

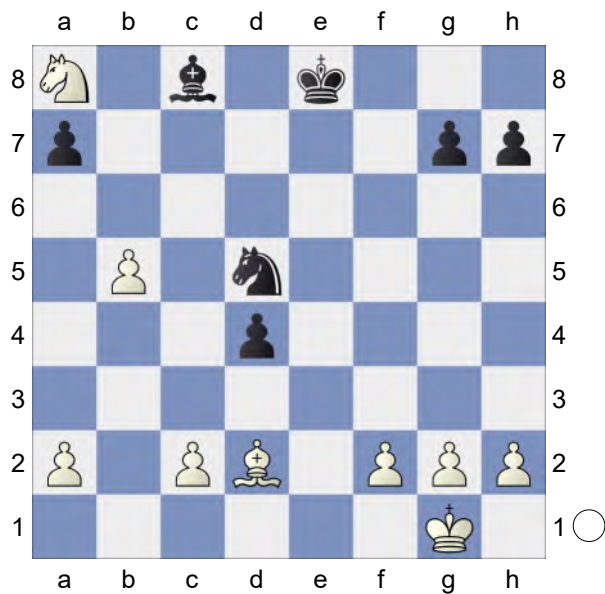


21.e6! An important intermediate move.

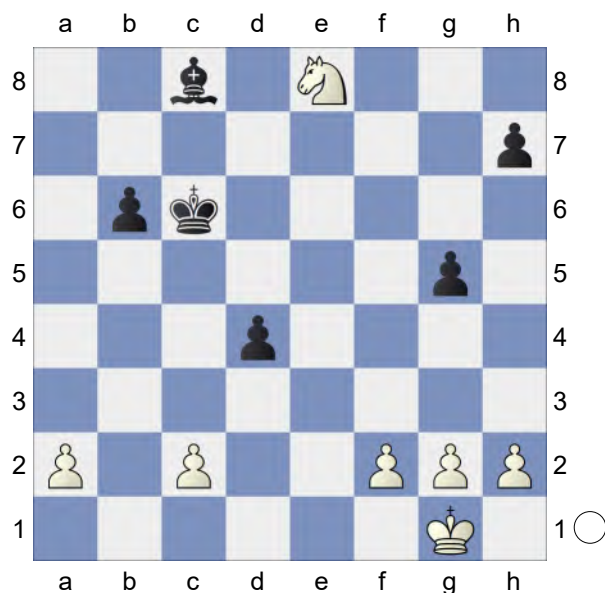
[The immediate 21.Nxa8? would be wrong in view of Qc5!⚡]

21...Nf6 22.exf7+ Qxf7 23.Qxf7+ Kxf7 24.Nxa8 White has won two pawns, but his knight on a8 will be stuck after Black's next move. **24...Nd5! 25.Rxe8 Kxe8**

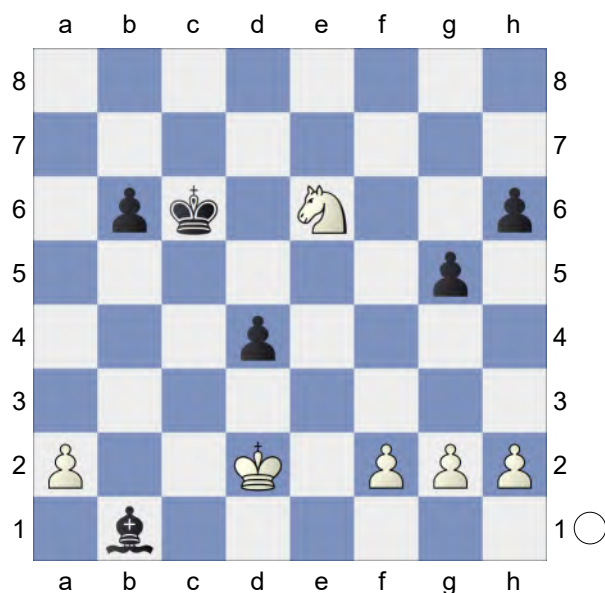
(Diagram)



means of 31.Kf1! Bd7 32.Nxg7 Kc4 33.Ke1 Kc3 34.Nh5 Kxc2 35.Ng3]



31.Kf1 Bf5 32.Ng7! Bxc2 33.Ne6 Bd3+ 34.Ke1 h6 35.Kd2 Bb1



36.Nxd4+ Kc5 37.Kc3 Bxa2 38.Nf5! h5 39.Ng3 Bd5 40.Nxh5 Bxg2=

(Diagram)

26.Ba5! White had to prepare for 26...**Bb7.** **26...Kd7!** **27.b6!** **Kc6!**
Rapport wins back one of the pawns.
28.Nc7

[28.bxa7? Bb7! wins a piece.]

28...Nxb6 White's knight is still misplaced. **29.Bxb6**

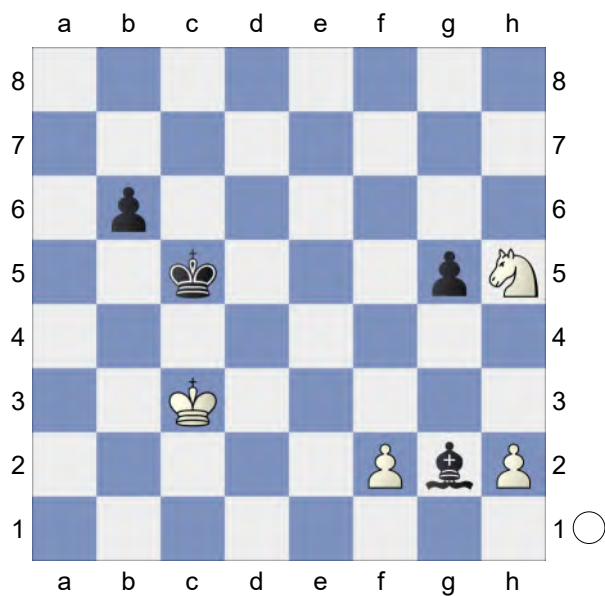
[29.Ne8!? deserved attention. Nc4 30.Be1 Bf5 31.Nxg7 Bxc2 32.Ne6 Kd5 33.Ng5 Bb1 34.a4 Bc2 35.a5 d3 36.Nf3 Bd1 37.Nd2 Nxa5 38.Nf1 Nc4 39.Ne3+ Nxe3 40.fxe3 and White probably survives the endgame with opposite-coloured bishops.]

29...axb6?! An inaccuracy, which allows White to escape with a draw. Black should have kept the pawn on the a-file, as it would be a potential passed pawn.

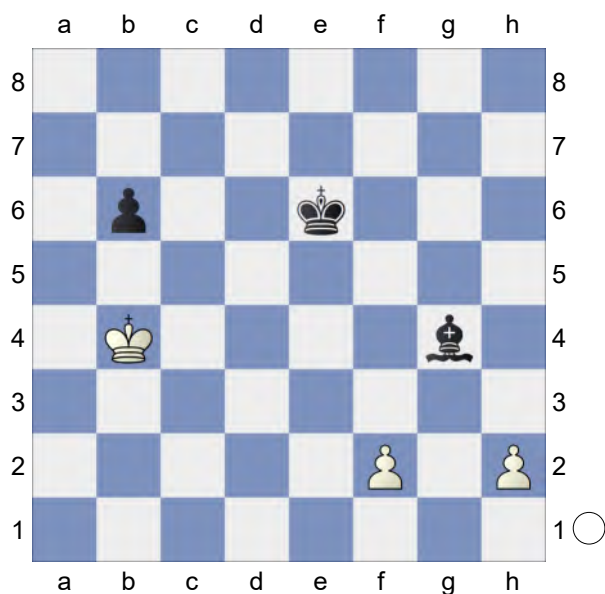
[29...Kxb6! was correct, with the idea to meet 30.Ne8 with Kc5! 31.Nxg7 Kb4 32.f4 Kc3 33.f5 Kxc2 34.f6 d3 35.f7 d2 36.f8Q d1Q+ 37.Kf2 (37.Qf1 Qxf1+ 38.Kxf1 Kb1!-+) 37...Qd2+ 38.Kg3 Qg5+ 39.Kf2 Qh4+! with a clear edge for Black.]

30.Ne8 g5

[After 30...Kc5 White survives by



Now the chances are equal. **41.Nf6 Kd6**
42.Nh7 g4 43.Nf6 Bf3 44.Kb4 Ke6
45.Nxg4 Bxg4

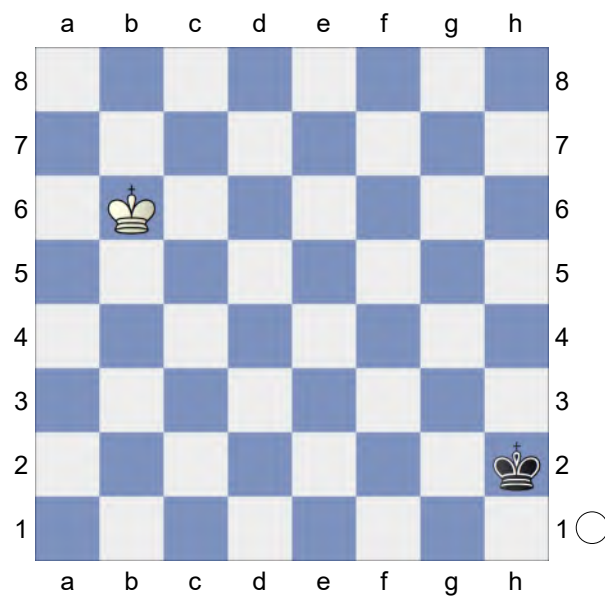


46.f3 The players found a fast way to exchange all the pieces.

[or 46.Kb5=]

46...Kf5 47.fxg4+ Kxg4 48.Kb5 Kh3
49.Kxb6 Kxh2

(Diagram)



The line with 5...Be7 is a reasonable alternative to the Berlin endgame, while, after 12.Qh5, 12...Bxd4 looks slightly more accurate than 12...Qe7.

1/2-1/2

192

□ Wei, Yi

■ Karjakin, Sergey

FIDE Grand Prix (2.3)

[Mikhalevski, V]

C22

2725

2754

16.12.2019

Krysa, Leandro: 'La apertura del centro en la Elite mundial. En el Gran Prix de la Fide del 2019 (Torneo Lento), el GM chino Wei Yi empleó la idea de 4...

Dc4!? ante Sergey Karjakin, obteniendo una posición razonable y luego la

victoria."La apertura del centro en la Elite mundial. En el Gran Prix de la Fide del 2019 (Torneo Lento), el GM chino Wei Yi empleó la idea de 4...Dc4!? ante Sergey Karjakin, obteniendo una posición razonable y luego la victoria.

Mikhalevski, V: 'Krysa, Leandro: 'La apertura del centro en la Elite mundial. En el Gran Prix de la Fide del 2019 (Torneo Lento), el GM chino Wei Yi empleó la idea de 4...Dc4!? ante Sergey Karjakin, obteniendo una posición razonable y luego la victoria.'"

1.e4 Krysa, Leandro Krysa, Leandro Krysa, Leandro: 'Mikhalevski, V Mikhalevski, V: 'Krysa, Leandro Krysa, Leandro" 1...e5

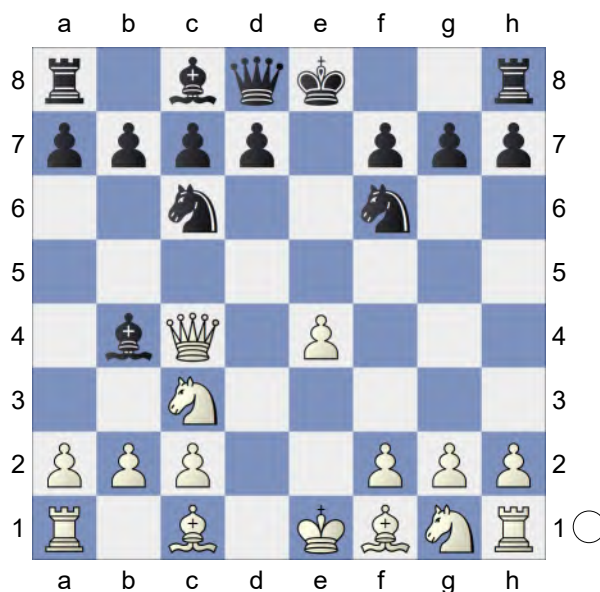
2.d4 A rare guest at top level events. Mostly we see it in games with faster time controls. The current game is also a rapid game. Krysa, Leandro: 'Mikhalevski, V: 'A rare guest at top level events. Mostly we see it in games with faster time controls. The current game is also a rapid game." 2...exd4 3.Qxd4

Nc6 4.Qc4 A side line, which scored extremely well recently. After the current game it was played by another Chinese player, Xu Xianzhi, who scored 6 out of 6(!) with it. It has to be said that the text has been known since 1837 and

was played by world-class players of the past, such as Gunsberg and Mieses at the end of the 19th century and first quarter of the 20th century respectively. Krysa, Leandro: 'Mikhalevski, V: 'A side line, which scored extremely well recently. After the current game it was played by another Chinese player, Xu Xianzhi, who scored 6 out of 6(!) with it. It has to be said that the text has been known since 1837 and was played by world-class players of the past, such as Gunsberg and Mieses at the end of the 19th century and first quarter of the 20th century respectively."

[4.Qe3 is the main line. See Taichman, O (2291) -Mikhalevski, V (2503) Tiberias 2016 [Mikhalevski, V] Krysa, Leandro: '(Mikhalevski, V) is the main line. See Taichman, O (2291) - Mikhalevski, V (2503) Tiberias 2016 [Mikhalevski, V]']

4...Nf6 5.Nc3 Bb4



The most logical. Krysa, Leandro: 'Mikhalevski, V: 'The most logical." 6.Bd2 White applies the same setup as in the 4. Qe3 line. Krysa, Leandro: 'Mikhalevski, V: 'White applies the same setup as in

the 4.Qe3 line." **6...0-0 7.0-0-0**

White has obtained a theoretical position with the queen on c4 instead of e3, which seems to be in White's favour as after 7...Re8 the queen doesn't get x-rayed by the rook. Krysa, Leandro: 'Mikhalevski,V: 'White has obtained a theoretical position with the queen on c4 instead of e3, which seems to be in White's favour as after 7...Re8 the queen doesn't get x-rayed by the rook.'

7...d6 This natural move was played by almost everyone who faced this line. However, it seems that Black has a stronger alternative. Krysa, Leandro: 'Mikhalevski,V: 'This natural move was played by almost everyone who faced this line. However, it seems that Black has a stronger alternative.'

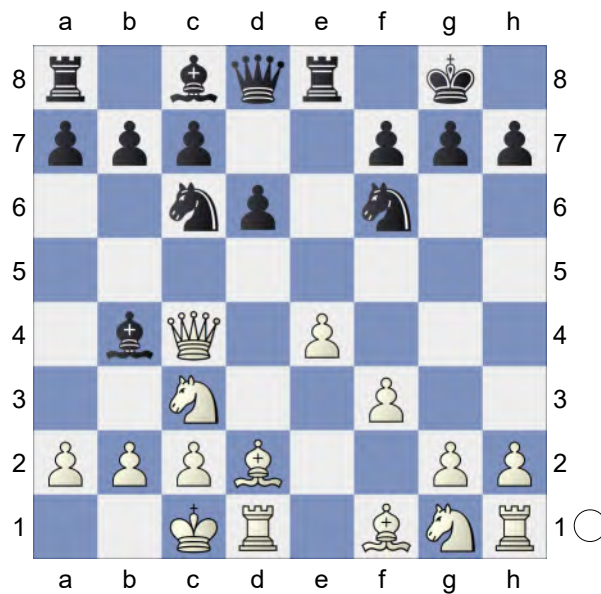
[7...a5!? The idea behind the move is to protect the bishop so that Black can play ...Ne5 with tempo. Krysa, Leandro: '(Mikhalevski,V) The idea behind the move is to protect the bishop so that Black can play ...Ne5 with tempo.'

A) 8.f3 Ne5 9.Qd4 d6 10.Bf4 (10.Qf2 c6 $\bar{f}$) 10...Qe7;

B) 8.Nh3 d6 9.Qe2 Re8 10.f3 Ne5 $\bar{f}$]

8.f3 Re8 Krysa, Leandro: '

(Diagram)



"[#] Mikhalevski,V: 'Krysa, Leandro: '[#]'"

9.Qe2 Krysa, Leandro: 'No es de mi agrado regresar con la dama directamente. Prefiero esperar el ataque negro con Ae6.' 'No es de mi agrado regresar con la dama directamente. Prefiero esperar el ataque negro con Ae6. Mikhalevski,V: 'Krysa, Leandro: 'No es de mi agrado regresar con la dama directamente. Prefiero esperar el ataque negro con Ae6.'"

[9.g4 (Krysa, Leandro) Es mi sugerencia Krysa, Leandro: 'Es mi sugerencia Mikhalevski,V: '(Krysa, Leandro) Es mi sugerencia"]

9...Be6 Karjakin makes the most natural moves. Krysa, Leandro: 'Mikhalevski,V: 'Karjakin makes the most natural moves. "

[Black played 9...a5!? in a blitz game which was played roughly two weeks later Krysa, Leandro: '(Mikhalevski,V) in a blitz game which was played roughly two weeks later' 10.a3 Ne5 11.g4 (11.Qe1!?) 11...Be6 12.Qg2 Nc4 (12...d5!? deserved attention. 13.g5 Nh5 14.exd5 Bxd5 with the idea 15.Nxd5? Qxd5

16.Bxb4 Qa2!-+) 13.Bxc4 Bxc4
14.g5 Nd7 15.h4 b5 with a strong
attack for Black in Ponkratov,P
(2632)-Matlakov,M (2699) Moscow
2019]

[9...Ne5!? is worth attention too.
Krysa, Leandro: '(Mikhalevski,V) is
worth attention too.']

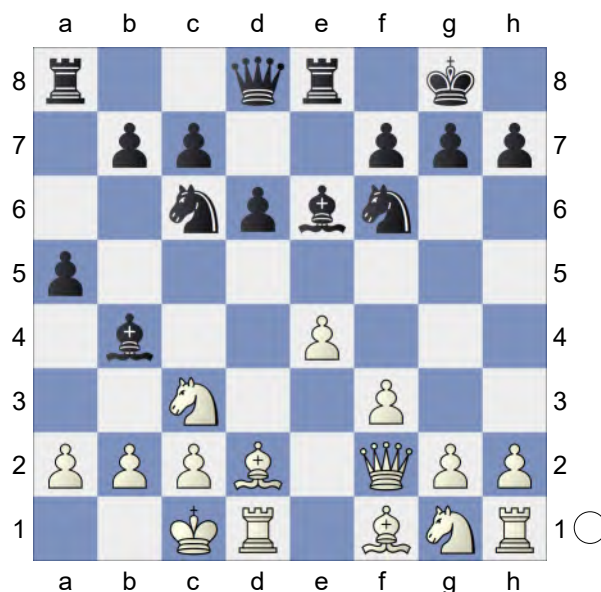
10.Qf2 Krysa, Leandro: 'Wei Yi opta en
esta partida por un juego más posicional.
Libera la casilla e2 para el caballo de g1
e intentar aprovechar su ventaja de
espacio.' Wei Yi opta en esta partida por
un juego más posicional. Libera la
casilla e2 para el caballo de g1 e
intentar aprovechar su ventaja de
espacio. Mikhalevski,V: 'Krysa, Leandro:
'Wei Yi opta en esta partida por un
juego más posicional. Libera la casilla
e2 para el caballo de g1 e intentar
aprovechar su ventaja de espacio.'"

[It's unclear who is favoured by the
inclusion of the moves a3 and ...a5.
10.a3 Krysa, Leandro: 'Mikhalevski,V'
a5 11.Nh3 d5 12.Be1 Qc8 13.Ng5
dxe4 14.Ngxe4 Nxe4 15.Nxe4 Bxe1
16.Qxe1 with roughly equal chances.]

10...a5

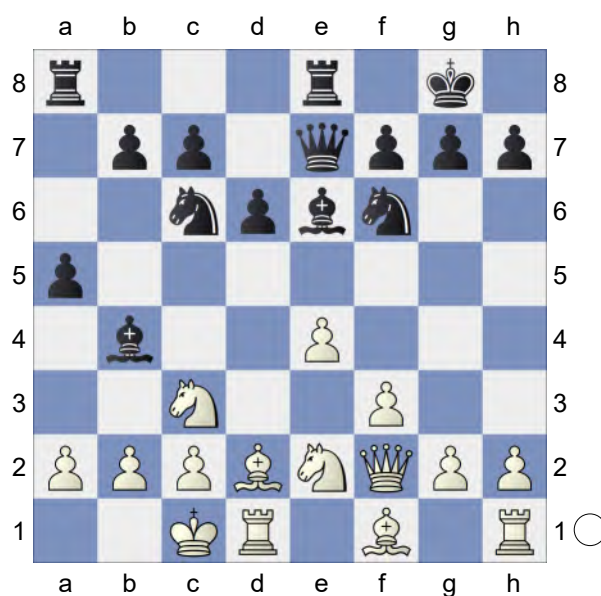
[10...Ne5!? deserved attention,
preparing to advance the queenside
pawns. For example, Krysa, Leandro:
'(Mikhalevski,V) deserved attention,
preparing to advance the queenside
pawns. For example,' 11.g4 (or
11.Nge2 c6 12.Nd4 b5) 11...Nfd7
12.h4 c6 13.a3 a5 14.Qg3 Nc5
15.h5 b5 16.h6 g5 with a complex
position.]

[10...Bxc3 Krysa, Leandro Krysa,
Leandro: 'Mikhalevski,V: 'Krysa,
Leandro" 11.Bxc3 Bxa2 12.b3 a5
13.Kb2 a4 14.Kxa2 axb3+ 15.Kb1
Es caótico, con chances mutuas.]



11.Nge2 Qe7? This move is an
important waste of time. Krysa, Leandro:

[Black still had to play 11...Ne5!
Krysa, Leandro: 'Mikhalevski,V'
12.Nd4 c6 13.g4 b5
with counterplay.]



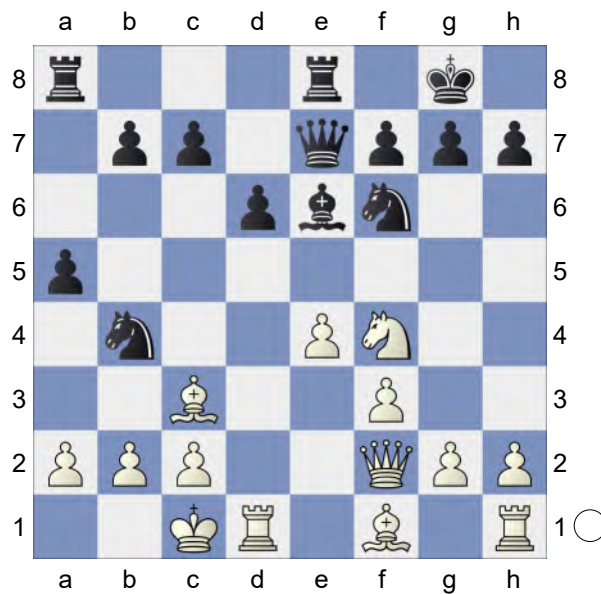
"[#] Mikhalevski,V: '?' Mikhalevski,V:
'This move is an important waste of time.
Krysa, Leandro: '[#]'' **12.Nf4?**
Wei Yi misses a chance to set serious

problems. Krysa, Leandro: 'Era importante mantener el caballo en e2, para respaldar a su par de c3. Tras esta imprecisión, el negro se hizo de la ventaja.' 'Era importante mantener el caballo en e2, para respaldar a su par de c3. Tras esta imprecisión, el negro se hizo de la ventaja. Mikhalevski,V: 'Wei Yi misses a chance to set serious problems. Krysa, Leandro: 'Era importante mantener el caballo en e2, para respaldar a su par de c3. Tras esta imprecisión, el negro se hizo de la ventaja.'"

[12.g4! was strong, preparing 13.Ng3 followed by 14. g5. Krysa, Leandro: 'Hubiese sido mejor, con ventaja blanca.' 'Hubiese sido mejor, con ventaja blanca. Mikhalevski,V: '!' Mikhalevski,V: 'was strong, preparing 13.Ng3 followed by 14. g5. Krysa, Leandro: 'Hubiese sido mejor, con ventaja blanca.' Bc5 Krysa, Leandro: ' M i k h a l e v s k i , V ' (12...Ne5 Krysa, Leandro: 'Mikhalevski,V' 13.Ng3) 13.Qg3 a4 14.Nf4 a3 15.b3 Nd4 (15...Bd4 16.g5 Nd7 17.Nfe2!±) 16.g5 Nd7 17.Nxe6 Nxe6 18.f4 c6 19.Bg2 with a clear edge for White.]

12...Bxc3! 13.Bxc3 Nb4! Now White is the one who experiences problems. Krysa, Leandro: '

(Diagram)



Y aquí las negras obtuvieron la iniciativa, aunque luego Wei Yi terminaría imponiéndose."[#] Y aquí las negras obtuvieron la iniciativa, aunque luego Wei Yi terminaría imponiéndose. Mikhalevski,V: 'Now White is the one who experiences problems. Krysa, Leandro: '[#] Y aquí las negras obtuvieron la iniciativa, aunque luego Wei Yi terminaría imponiéndose.'"

14.a3? This mistake could cost White the game. Krysa, Leandro: 'Mikhalevski, V: '?' Mikhalevski,V: 'This mistake could cost White the game.'"

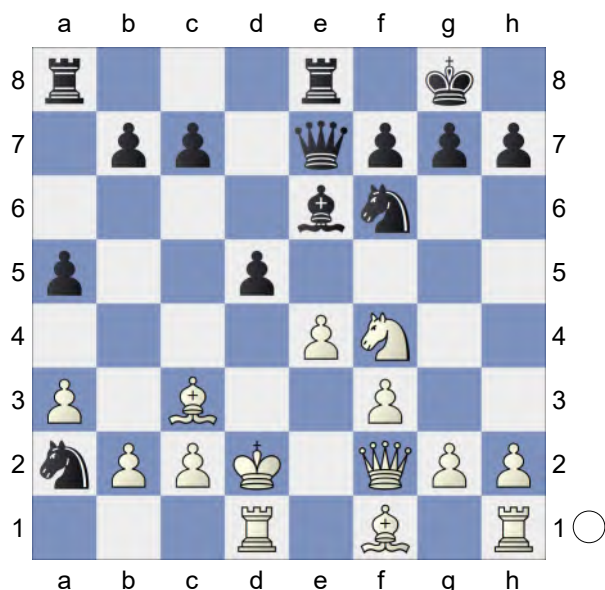
[14.Bxf6! was necessary. Krysa, Leandro: '(Mikhalevski,V) was necessary.' Qxf6 (14...Nxa2+ 15.Kb1 Qxf6 16.Nxe6 Qxe6 17.c3 Nxc3+ 18.bxc3 Qb3+ 19.Kc1 Qxc3+ 20.Qc2 with roughly equal chances.) 15.Nxe6 Nxa2+ (15...Rxe6 is also equal.) 16.Kb1 Qxe6 17.c3 transposing to 14...Nxa2.]

14...Na2+ 15.Kd2

[15.Kb1 Krysa, Leandro: 'Mikhalevski, V' Nxc3+ 16.bxc3 b5!-+ is bad for White.]

15...d5!?

[However, 15...Nxc3! Krysa, Leandro: 'Mikhalevski,V' 16.Kxc3 Bg4! was even stronger. 17.Kd2 Qe5 18.Ne2 Qxb2 19.Qd4 Qxd4+ (19...Nxe4+!? 20.fxe4 Qxd4+ 21.Nxd4 Bxd1 22.Kxd1 Rxe4 is also clearly better for Black.) 20.Nxd4 Bd7♣ with a healthy extra pawn.]



It looks very logical to open the d-file against White's king. Krysa, Leandro: 'Mikhalevski,V: '!?' Mikhalevski,V: 'It looks very logical to open the d-file against White's king.' **16.Bxf6** It makes a lot of sense to move the bishop away from an attack from the a2-knight, trying to leave Black with a misplaced piece. Krysa, Leandro: 'Mikhalevski,V: 'It makes a lot of sense to move the bishop away from an attack from the a2-knight, trying to leave Black with a misplaced piece.'

[Nevertheless, 16.exd5!? deserved attention. Krysa, Leandro: '(Mikhalevski,V) deserved attention.' Nxd5 17.Nxd5 Bxd5 18.Bd4 Rad8 19.Bd3 Be6 20.Rhe1 b6 21.Ke2 c5

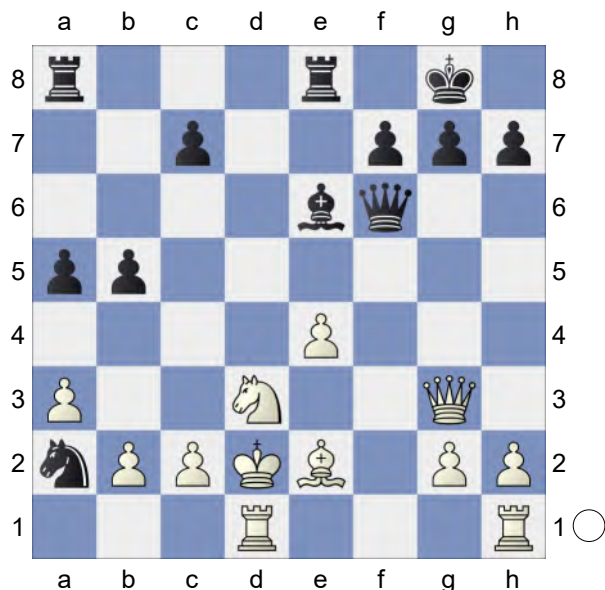
22.Be5 f6 23.Qh4 g5 24.Bxh7+ Qxh7 25.Qxh7+ Kxh7 26.Rxd8 Rxd8 27.Bxf6♣ with a worse, but playable position.]

16...Qxf6 17.Nd3 dxe4 18.fxe4 Qg6♣ The material on the board is equal, but the white king is in the centre, so Black's chances are better. Krysa, Leandro: 'Mikhalevski,V: ' ♣' Mikhalevski, V: 'The material on the board is equal, but the white king is in the centre, so Black's chances are better.' **19.Be2!** Time to finish development, even at the cost of a pawn. Krysa, Leandro: 'Mikhalevski,V: '!' Mikhalevski,V: 'Time to finish development, even at the cost of a pawn.' **19...b5?** This inaccurate move throws away all the advantage. Karjakin's idea was to free his knight from a2. Instead, he had to think how to create problems for White's king. Krysa, Leandro: 'Mikhalevski,V: '?' Mikhalevski, V: 'This inaccurate move throws away all the advantage. Karjakin's idea was to free his knight from a2. Instead, he had to think how to create problems for White's king.'

[19...Rad8! What could be better than this simple move? Krysa, Leandro: '(Mikhalevski,V) What could be better than this simple move?' 20.Bf3 Bc4 21.Rhe1 Qa6 22.Re3 and only now, when White is tied to defence, Black plays b5! 23.Ke1 b4 24.Kf1 bxa3 25.bxa3 Qd6♣ and wins the a-pawn.]

20.Qg3! It's clear that an exchange of queens favours White and so Wei Yi offers it. Krysa, Leandro: 'Mikhalevski,V: '!' Mikhalevski,V: 'It's clear that an exchange of queens favours White and so Wei Yi offers it.' **20...Qf6!**

(Diagram)



Sergey also understands that it has to be avoided. Krysa, Leandro: 'Mikhalevski, V: '!' Mikhalevski, V: 'Sergey also understands that it has to be avoided.'

21.Qe5

[After 21.Rhf1!? Krysa, Leandro: 'Mikhalevski, V' Qe7 22.Ke1= the king on e1 is pretty safe and so White's chances are not worse.]

21...Qe7?! An inaccuracy. Krysa, Leandro: 'Mikhalevski, V: '?!' Mikhalevski, V: 'An inaccuracy.'

[21...Qd8!? Krysa, Leandro: 'Mikhalevski, V' 22.Qc5 b4 was worth a try, although after 23.Bf3 bxa3 24.bxa3 Rb8 25.Ke3! White seems to equalise.]

22.Qxb5

[22.Qc5! is an important tempo White could win. Krysa, Leandro: '(Mikhalevski, V) is an important tempo White could win.' Qh4 23.Ke3!± and it turns out that White consolidates while the knight on a2 remains out of play.]

22...Rab8? A mistake. White's queen is well placed on c5 and so Black had to prevent it, instead of forcing the queen

to this square. Krysa, Leandro: 'Mikhalevski, V: '?!' Mikhalevski, V: 'A mistake. White's queen is well placed on c5 and so Black had to prevent it, instead of forcing the queen to this square.'

[22...Rad8! Krysa, Leandro: 'Mikhalevski, V' 23.Bf3 c5 24.Ke3 c4 25.Nf4 Qa7+ 26.Ke2 Rb8 27.Qe5 c3 28.Nxe6 Rxe6 29.Qd5 Qa6+ 30.Rd3 Ree8! and Black creates enough counterplay.]

23.Qc5± Now White is better due to the bad position of the knight on a2, while White's king is getting to safety. Krysa, Leandro: 'Mikhalevski, V: ' ±' Mikhalevski, V: 'Now White is better due to the bad position of the knight on a2, while White's king is getting to safety.'

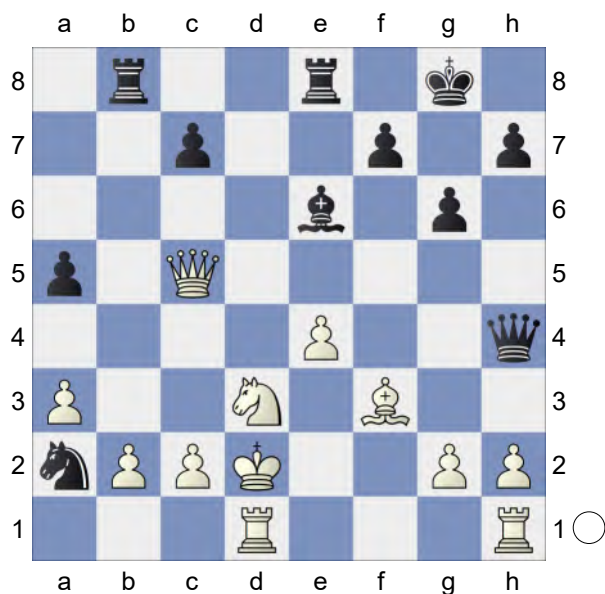
23...Qh4 24.Bf3

[The immediate 24.Ke3!+- was also strong. Krysa, Leandro: '(Mikhalevski, V) was also strong.']

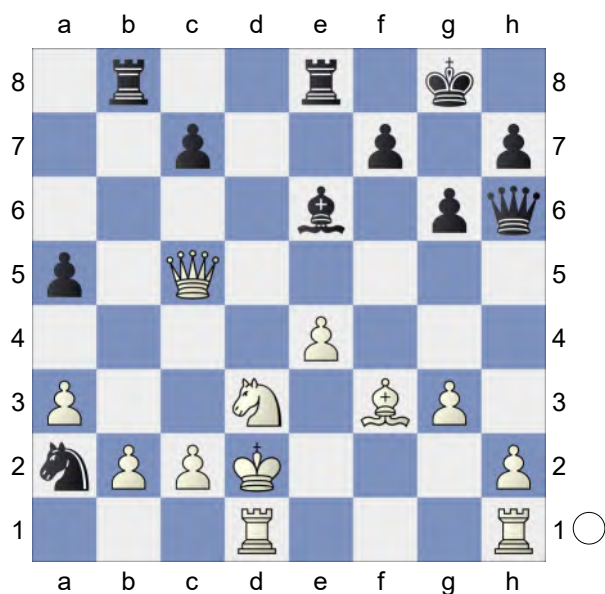
24...g6 Krysa, Leandro: '

[24...c6!? Krysa, Leandro: 'Mikhalevski, V' 25.Ke3 Rb5 26.Qxc6 Qg5+ 27.Kf2+- is also winning for White.]

(Diagram)

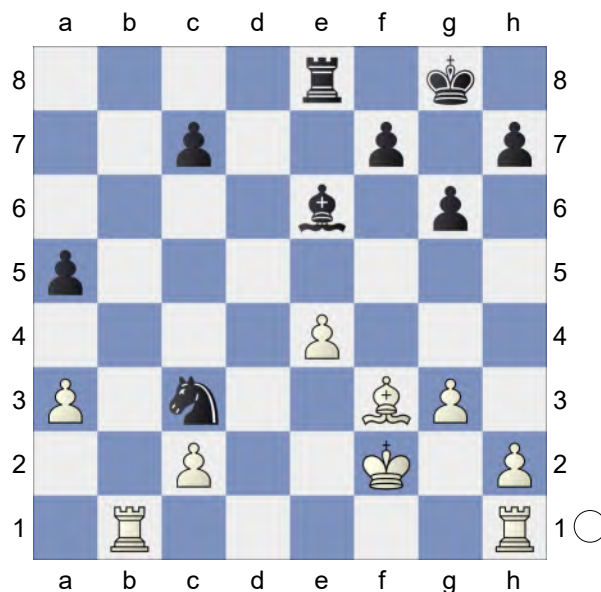


"[#] Mikhalevski,V: 'Krysa, Leandro: '[#]'"
25.g3 Krysa, Leandro: '!' '!'"Mikhalevski,
 V: 'Krysa, Leandro: '!' '!'" **25...Qh6+**



26.Ke2 Qg7 27.Kf2+- The position has changed drastically during the last ten moves. Now White has a healthy extra pawn and Black's knight on a2 is in trouble. So, Black decides to sacrifice an exchange and free the knight. Krysa, Leandro: 'Mikhalevski,V: '+-' Mikhalevski, V: 'The position has changed drastically during the last ten moves. Now White has a healthy extra pawn and Black's

knight on a2 is in trouble. So, Black decides to sacrifice an exchange and free the knight." **27...Rxb2 28.Nxb2 Qxb2 29.Rb1 Qc3 30.Qxc3 Nxc3**

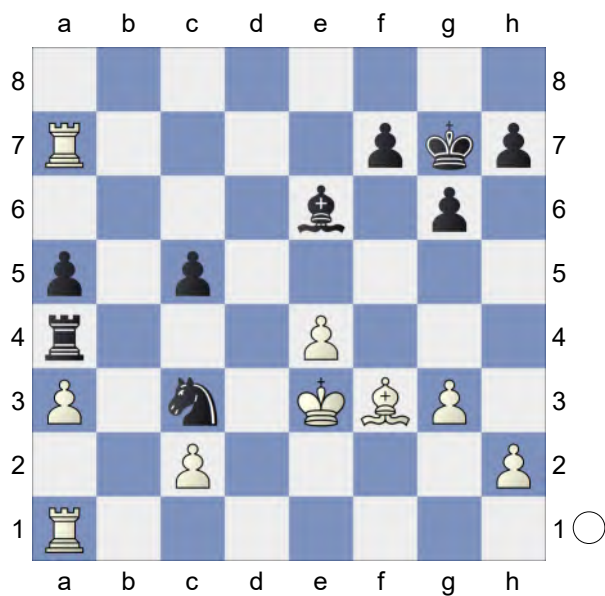


31.Rb7 The endgame is clearly winning. Krysa, Leandro: 'Mikhalevski,V: 'The endgame is clearly winning.'" **31...c5 32.Re1**

[32.a4!?+- fixing the a-pawn on a5 was also strong. Krysa, Leandro: '(Mikhalevski,V) fixing the a-pawn on a5 was also strong.']

32...Rd8 33.Ke3 Rd4 34.Ra1 Kg7 35.Ra7 Ra4

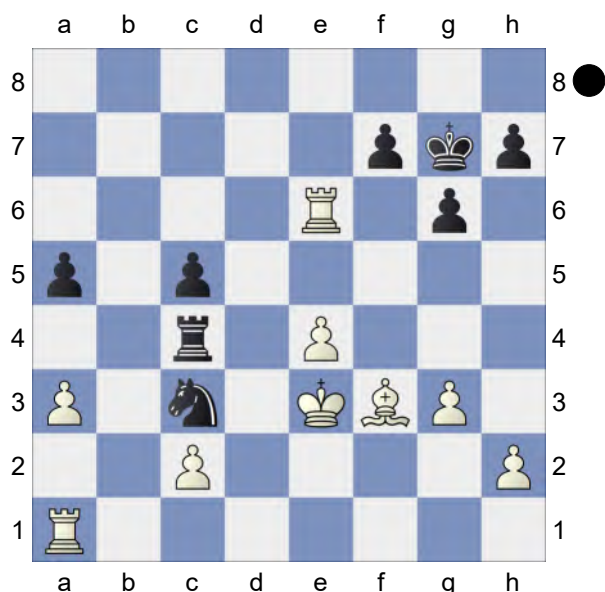
(Diagram)



36.Rb7 Rd4 37.Rb6 Rc4? A blunder in a lost position. Krysa, Leandro: 'Mikhalevski,V: '?' Mikhalevski,V: 'A blunder in a lost position.'

[37...Na4 could prolong the fight, but it wouldn't change the outcome. Krysa, Leandro: '(Mikhalevski,V) could prolong the fight, but it wouldn't change the outcome.' 38.Rb5 Rc4 39.Kd2 Rd4+ 40.Ke1 Rc4 41.Rxa5+-]

38.Rxe6!



Black loses the knight on c3 and so he

resigned. The Centre game is a semi-correct opening, although in order to prove it Black needs time. So, it makes sense to try it once in a while in games with fast time controls. Both 7. .a5 and 9...a5 look like possible improvements on Black's play in this game. Krysa, Leandro: 'Mikhalevski,V: '!' Mikhalevski, V: 'Black loses the knight on c3 and so he resigned. The Centre game is a semi-correct opening, although in order to prove it Black needs time. So, it makes sense to try it once in a while in games with fast time controls. Both 7. .a5 and 9...a5 look like possible improvements on Black's play in this game.'

1-0

34

□ Nepomniachtchi, Ian

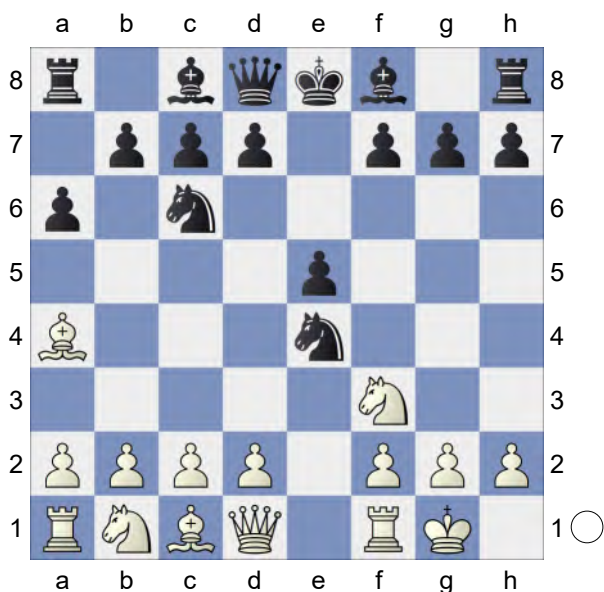
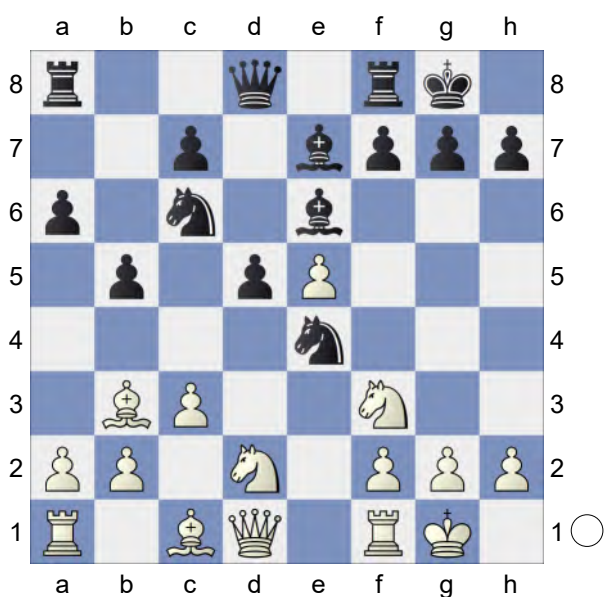
■ Wei, Yi

Moscow FIDE Grand Prix (2.2) 21.05.19
[Mikhalevski, V]

C83

2773

2736

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4
Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe46.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6
9.Nbd2 Be7 10.c3 0-011.Bc2 f5 12.exf6 An old line, which is
completely out of fashion these days.Nevertheless, I was surprised to see that
we had not yet considered it on our
pages. Time to fill the gap.[12.Nb3 can be found in the current
update see Svidler, P (2739)-Vitiugov,
N (2734) Moscow RUS 2019
[Mikhalevski, V]]12...Nxf6 13.Re1!? A pretty rare
continuation. White's idea is to exploit
the weakness of the queenside and the
e6-square.[13.Nb3 is still the most popular
continuation.]

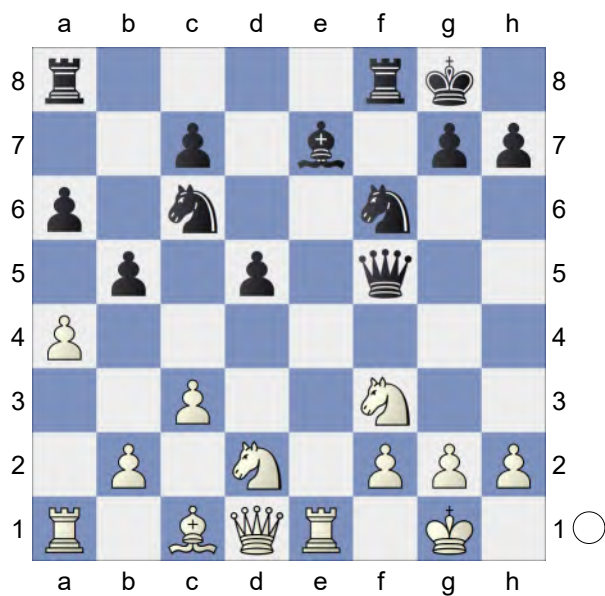
13...Qd7

[13...Bg4!? is a possible alternative.]

14.a4! An interesting novelty in a very
uncommon position. White is trying to
create a target on b5.[Earlier White played 14.Nf1 Rae8?!
(14...Bd6! was more accurate.)
15.Ng5 Baramidze, D (2542)-L'Ami, E
(2541) Germany 2006 (White could
set problems by means of 15.Bg5!
Bc5 16.b4 Bb6 17.Bb3±) 15...Bg4!
16.f3 Bf5=]14...Bf5?! An exchange of the light-
squared bishops in such a position is
double-edged. On one side Black
exchanges his "bad" bishop for White's
"good" bishop. On the other it weakens
the light squares in Black's camp.[14...b4! keeping the a-file closed was
better. 15.a5! White is preparing 16.
Ba4. bxc3 16.bxc3 Bc5 17.Ba3!
Bxa3 18.Rxa3 Bf7 19.Qc1 Qd6±
with just a slight edge for White.]

15.Bxf5 Qxf5

(Diagram)



16.axb5! axb5 17.Rxa8 Rxa8 18.Nf1!± Suddenly Black starts to experience problems, as his b5 and d5-pawns are weak and the knight on c6 is misplaced. The latter prevents Black from playing ...c6 and consolidating his position. **18...Qd7**

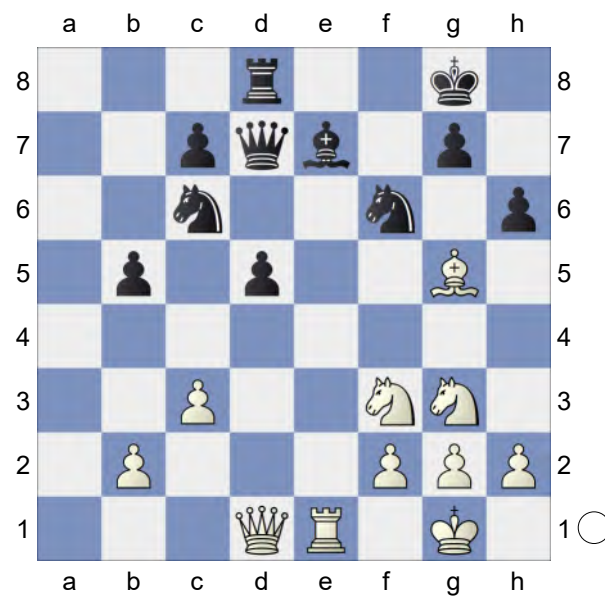
[An attempt to get rid of the b-pawn by means of 18...b4 doesn't solve all the problems. 19.Bg5! bxc3 20.bxc3 Qd7 21.Ne3 Rd8 22.c4! dxc4 23.Qc2± and despite the limited material Black still has problems to solve.]

19.Bg5! White is going to exchange an important defender of the d5-pawn and the kingside. **19...Rd8** Wei Yi strengthens the d5-pawn.

[19...b4!? was still reasonable.]

20.Ng3! Ian is preparing 21.Qd3 followed by 22.Nf5. **20...h6**

(Diagram)

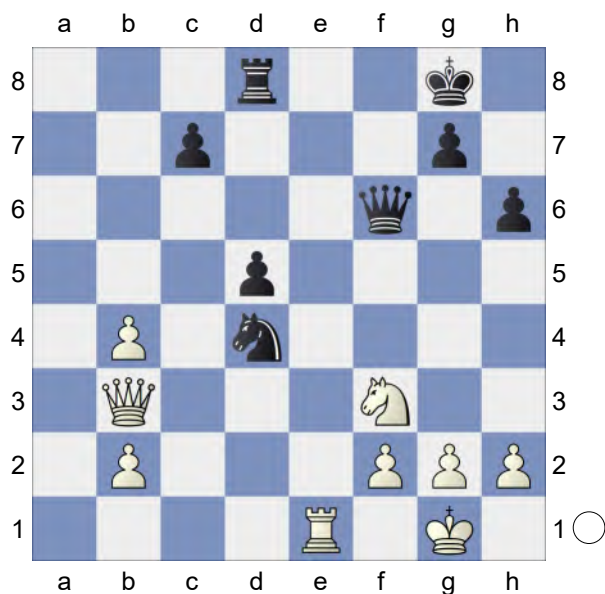


21.Bxf6 Bxf6 22.Nh5!± An annoying move, which distracts Black from protecting his queenside pawns. **22...Qf5!?**

[22...Rf8!? deserved attention. For example, 23.Nf4 Bxc3! 24.Nxd5 Bd4! 25.Qb3! Qf7 26.Qxb5 Ne5 27.Ne7+ Qxe7 28.Nxd4 c5 29.Qb3+ Qf7 30.Qxf7+ Rxf7 31.Rxe5 cxd4 32.Re2 Rb7 with good chances to survive. Probably White can deviate from this line.]

23.Nxf6+ Qxf6 24.Qb3 b4! An important resource. The Chinese player gives up a pawn, but creates doubled pawns on the b-file and a passed pawn on the d-file. **25.cxb4 Nd4**

(Diagram)



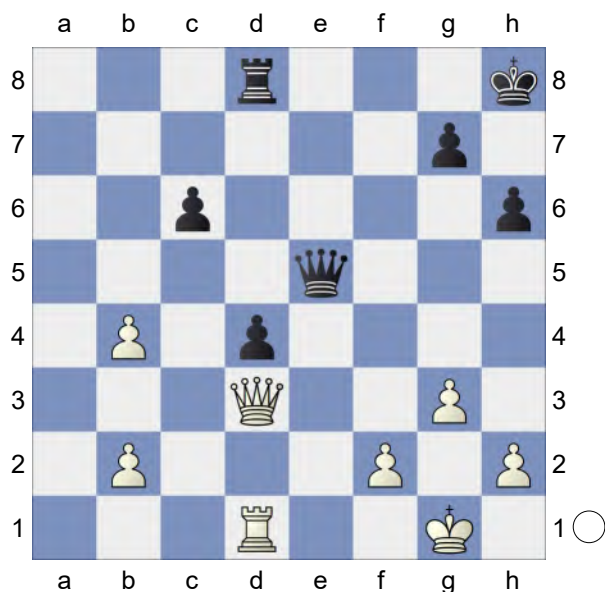
26.Nxd4 Qxd4 27.Rd1 Qe5

Now Black's goal to trade the queenside pawns and queens reaching a drawish rook endgame of 3 vs 2 on one side.

28.g3± Kh8! 29.Qc3 d4! 30.Qd3

[30.Qc5!? Rd5 31.Qc4±
was interesting.]

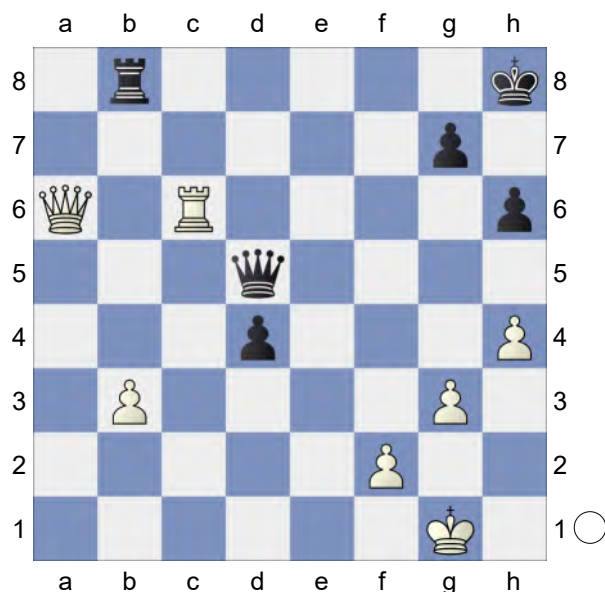
30...c6!



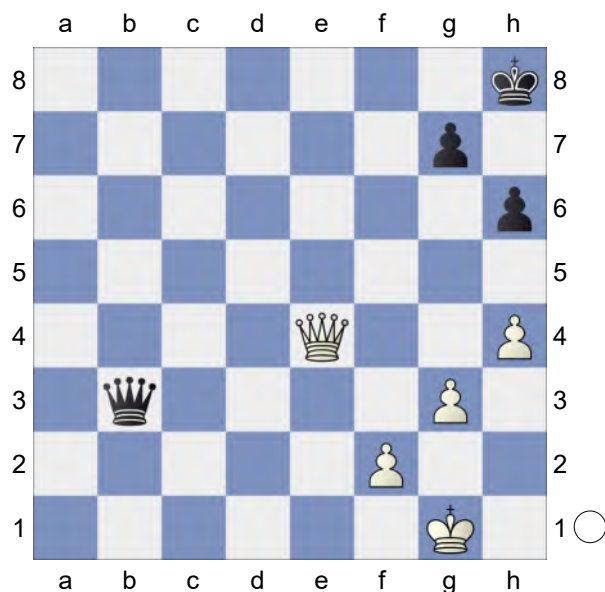
Black fixes the b-pawn on b4 in order to attack it with his heavy pieces. **31.b3 Qd6! 32.Rc1 Rb8! 33.h4! Rxb4**

[Black could also wait on the d-file.
33...Qd7 34.Rc4 Rd8±]

34.Qa6! White's idea behind the pawn sacrifice. **34...Rb8 35.Rxc6 Qd5**

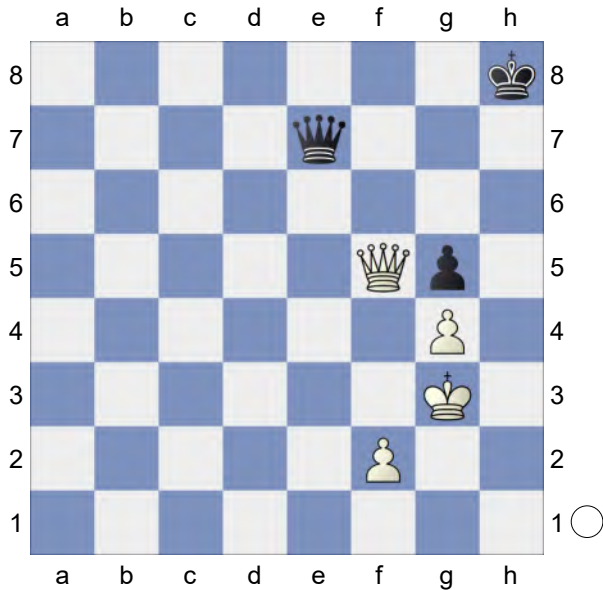


36.Rc8+ Rxc8 37.Qxc8+ Kh7 38.Qc4 Qf3! 39.Qxd4 Qxb3 This endgame with the queens is more dangerous than the one with rooks, but probably still defendable, as Black showed in the game. **40.Qe4+ Kh8**

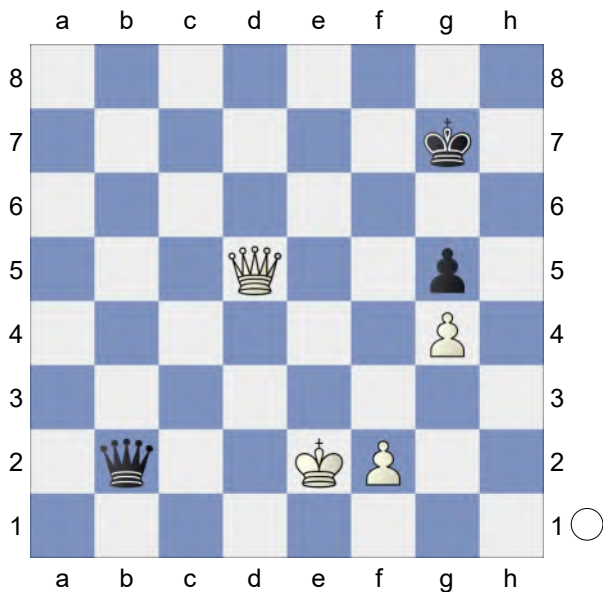


41.Kg2 Qf7 42.g4 Qf6 43.Kg3 g5 44.hxg5 hxg5 45.Qf5 Qe7

(Diagram)

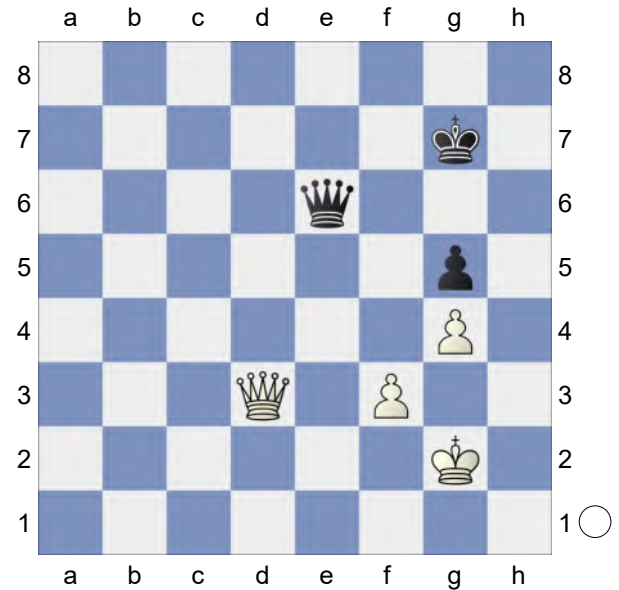


**46.Kf3 Kg7 47.Qe4 Qf6+ 48.Qf5 Qe7
49.Qd5 Qf6+ 50.Ke2 Qb2+**

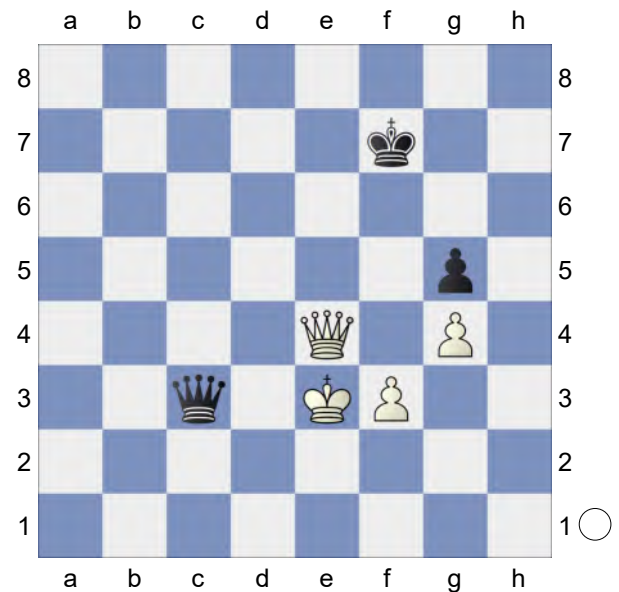


**51.Qd2 Qb5+ 52.Qd3 Qb2+ 53.Kf1
Qc1+ 54.Kg2 Qc6+ 55.f3 Qe6**

(Diagram)

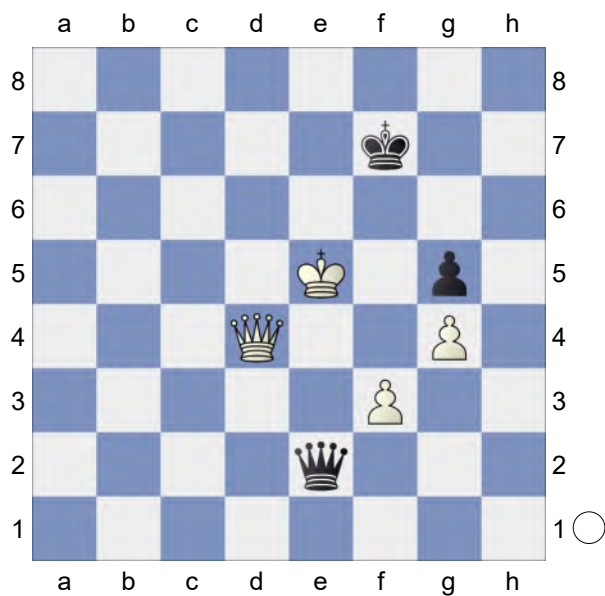


**56.Qd4+ Qf6 57.Qb4 Qe5 58.Kf2 Kf7
59.Qe4 Qb2+ 60.Ke3 Qc3+**

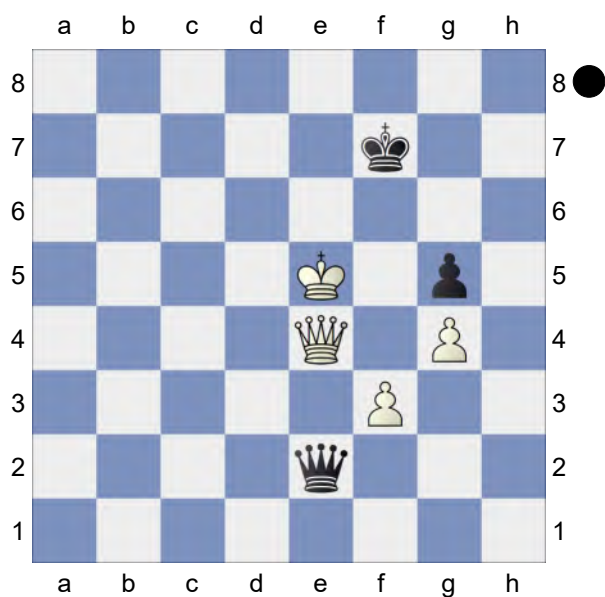


**61.Ke2 Qb2+ 62.Kd3 Qb3+ 63.Kd4
Qb4+ 64.Ke5 Qb2+ 65.Qd4 Qe2+**

(Diagram)



66.Qe4 Qb2+ 67.Qd4 Qe2+ 68.Qe4



This game demonstrated that the line with 12.exf6 is not without venom and I'm expecting more practical tests at the top level.

$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

303

C83

□ Kasimdzhanov, Rustam

2703

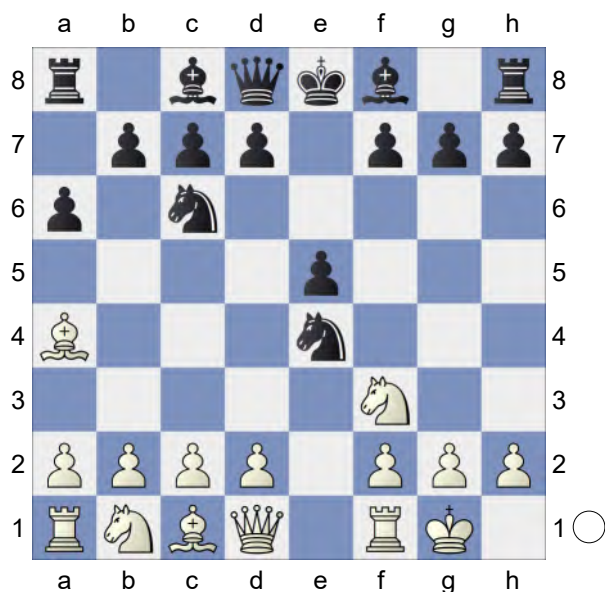
■ Wei, Yi

2694

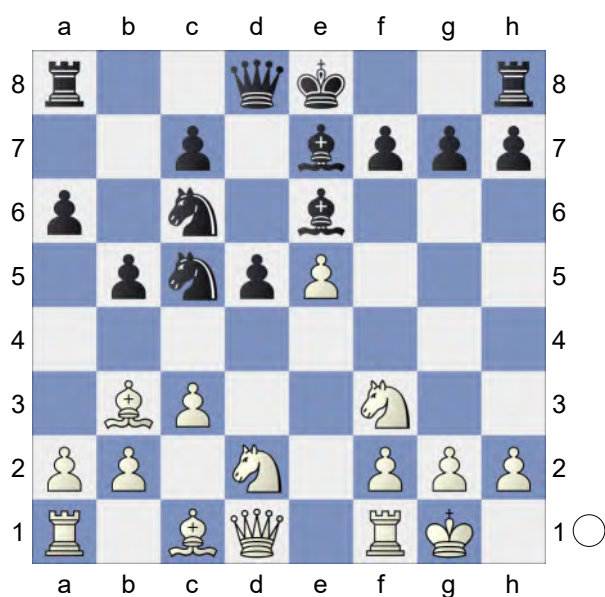
15th Asian Continental (8.2) 02.06.2016

[Mikhalevski, V]

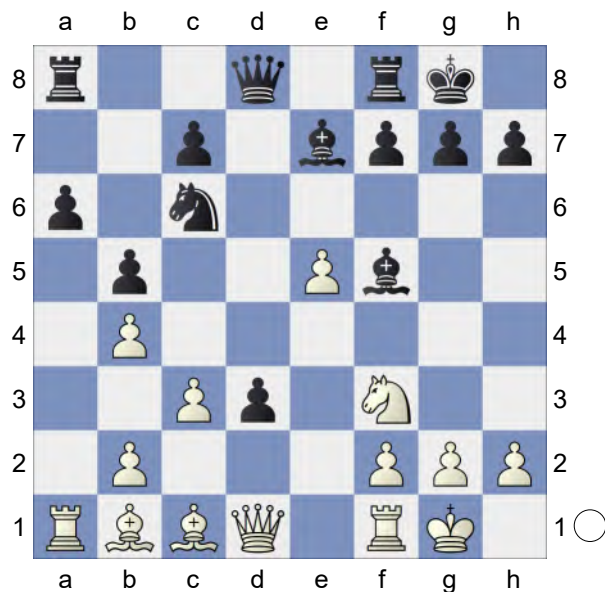
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4
Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6
9.Nbd2 Be7 10.c3 Nc5



11.Bc2 d4 12.Nb3 d3 13.Bb1 Nxb3
14.axb3 Bf5 15.b4 0-0



16.Re1 Qd7 17.Bf4 A new move in a well-known position.

[Earlier we considered 17.Bg5 in Safarli, E (2660)-Nakamura, H (2772)/Tromso NOR 2013/ [Mikhalevski, V]]

[and the main line 17.h3 in Caruana, F (2805)-Giri, A (2773)/Stavanger NOR 2015/[Mikhalevski, V] and some other games.]

17...Rfd8 Wei Yi is offering a transposition into the main line.

[An old correspondence game saw the typical 17...a5? , which is premature here because of 18.bxa5 Nxa5 19.Nd4 and White won a pawn in Hauptmann, G-Allermann, H/Germany 1989/Corr 2000.]

18.h4 A surprising and slightly dubious idea, as the pawn on h4 may become vulnerable.

[18.h3 would transpose back into 17. h3 Svidler, P (2745)-Mamedyarov, S (2743)/Reykjavik ISL 2015/ [Mikhalevski, V].]

18...h6! The most accurate reaction. Black takes control of the g5-square and makes a luft. Black is also making a

waiting move before playing ...a5 in order to provoke White's rook to e3.

[I also checked out the immediate 18...a5 19.bxa5 Rxa5 20.Rxa5 Nxa5 21.Nd4 c5 22.e6! Bxe6 23.Qxd3 g6 24.Nxe6 Qxd3 25.Bxd3 Rxd3 26.Nc7 Bxh4 27.Re8+ Kg7 28.g3 Bd8 29.Nxb5 is a little bit more pleasant for White, but Black shouldn't have problems to hold here.]

19.Re3

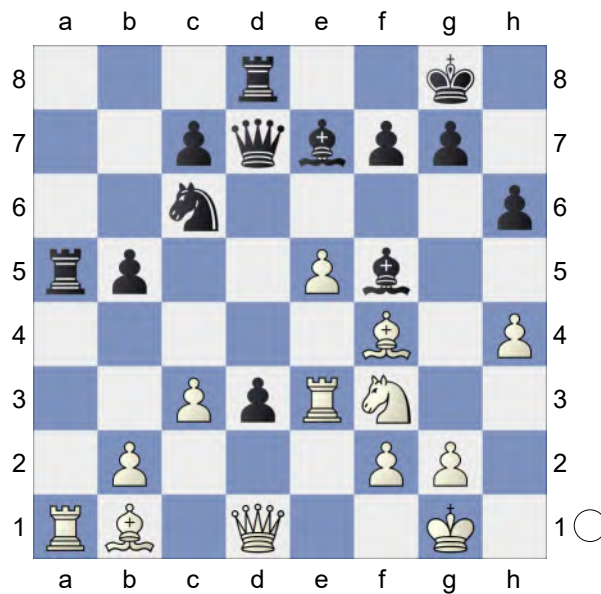
[19.Ba2!?= supporting an advance of the e-pawn deserved attention.]

19...a5! 20.bxa5 Rxa5

[20...Bc5 leads to some complications after 21.Re1 b4! 22.a6 Ne7 when Black still has to prove his compensation for the sacrificed pawn is sufficient.]

[20...Nxa5 is also sufficient for equality. 21.e6 (21.Nd4?! Nc4 22.Rxa8 Rxa8 is a better version of the game for Black.) 21...fxe6 22.Nd4 Nc4 23.Rxa8 Rxa8 24.Nxf5 exf5 25.Rxd3 Qe6 26.b3 Nb2 27.Re3 Nxd1 28.Rxe6 Ra1 29.Bd3 Nxc3+ 30.Kh2 Nd5 31.Bxf5 Bxh4 32.Be5 Ra2 33.Bg6 Rxf2 34.Re8+ Rf8 35.Bh7+ Kf7 36.Bg6+ Kg8]

(Diagram)



21.Rxa5 Nxa5 22.Nd4

[22.e6 fxe6 23.Nd4 Nc4 24.Nxf5 Nxe3 25.Nxe3 c5 leads to the game with the moves e6 and ...fxe6 included. It's not easy to say who is favoured by this inclusion.]

22...Nc4 This is why the rook was provoked to e3. **23.Nxf5!?** The most ambitious option.

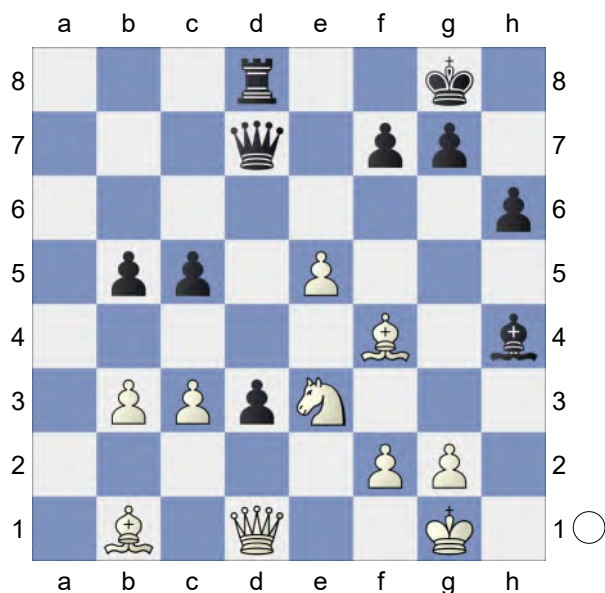
[23.Rg3 is interesting, but insufficient for an advantage. Bxh4 24.Rxg7+! Kxg7 25.Qh5 Bg5 26.Bxg5 hxg5 27.Qxg5+ Bg6 28.Bxd3 Black is a full rook up, but White's attack is very strong and Black should return some material. Nxe5! 29.Qxe5+ Kg8 30.Bxb5 Qd6 with a roughly equal endgame.]

23...Nxe3 24.Nxe3 A complex position with two minor pieces versus rook has occurred. Black's main trump here is obviously his passed d-pawn and so Black is going to support it with his c-pawn. **24...c5 25.b3** Kasimdzhanov is preventing an advance of the c-pawn to c4.

[25.c4!? disconnecting the pawns deserved serious attention.. Bxh4

26.g3 Bg5 27.Bxg5 hxc5 28.Ba2!
 White's idea is to block the d-file by means of 29. Nd5. b4 (28...Qd4? 29.cxb5 Qxb2 30.Bd5+ favours White.) 29.Nd5 White wins the d-pawn, but Black is going to win the e-pawn. Qe6 30.Bb1 Qxe5 31.Bxd3 g6! and the chances are roughly equal. (31...Qxb2 32.Qh5 g6 33.Qxg5 is more risky for Black.)
 [25.h5 c4 is not something a human player is happy about, but my computer still considers the position to be equal.]

25...Bxh4



26.c4 Once again White is trying to win the d-pawn by means of 27. Nd5, which explains Black's reaction.

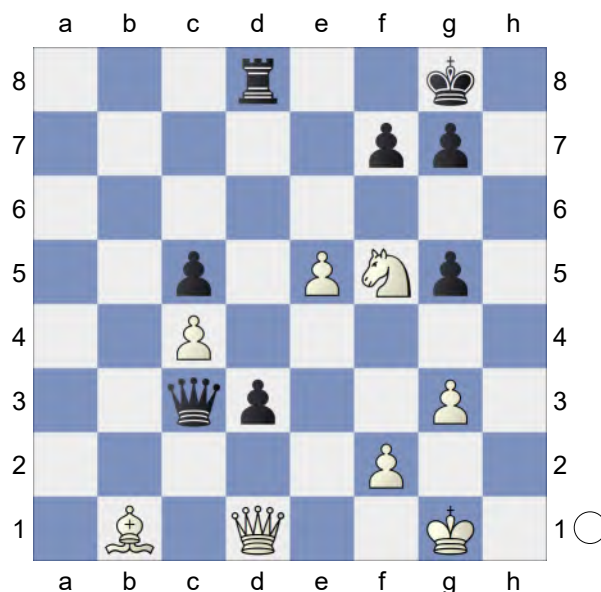
[26.Qf3 Qe6 27.Qd1 Qd7= is a possible repetition of moves.]

26...Qd4! 27.g3 bxc4 28.bxc4 Bg5
 Black is trying to win the e5-pawn and keep his d-pawn at the same time.

29.Nf5! An important intermediate move.

[29.Bxg5?! hxc5 is a little risky for White.]

29...Qc3 30.Bxg5 hxc5
 (Diagram)



31.Ne3 Probably Rustam wanted to preserve winning chances.

[It would be safer not to retreat his knight from an active position. Instead, 31.Qf3! would force a draw.

A) 31...Qe1+ 32.Kg2 Qxb1 33.Ne7+ Kf8 34.Ng6+ Kg8 (34...Ke8? 35.Qc6+ Rd7 36.e6!+- wins for White.) 35.Ne7+ leads to a repetition;

B) but not 31...Kf8?? 32.Nd6+-;

C) 31...Qxc4 32.Ne7+ Kf8 33.Ng6+]

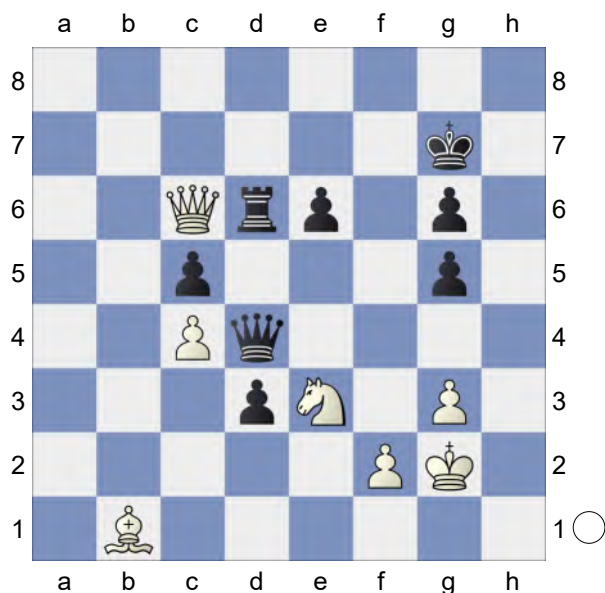
31...g6! 32.Kg2 Kg7 33.e6!?
 An attempt to open up the position of the black king. **33...fxe6 34.Qa4?!**
 This is already risky.

[White should have created an attack from the other side, when White's queen is supported by the knight. 34.Qf3! Qd4 35.Ng4! Rd7 (35...d2 36.Bc2 Rf8 37.Qe2= leads to a fortress position.) 36.Bxd3! Qxd3 37.Qf6+ Kh7 (37...Kg8 38.Qxe6+ Kf8 39.Qf6+ is also equal.) 38.Qe5! White vacates the f6-square and forces a draw. Rf7 39.Nf6+ Kh6 (or 39...Kh8 40.Ng4+ Rg7 41.Qb8+ Rg8

42.Qe5+=) 40.Ng4+ Kh7 41.Nf6+ with a draw.]

34...Qd4! 35.Qc6 Rd6

[35...e5!? was probably a better try, but it's difficult to evaluate which move is better than the other. 36.Qe6 (36.Bxd3 Qxd3 37.Qc7+ Qd7 38.Qxe5+ Kh6 39.Qxc5 Qb7+ 40.Nd5 Re8 is slightly better for Black, though I'm not sure he can win.) 36...Rd7 37.Bxd3 Qxd3 38.Qxe5+ Kf7 39.Qxc5 Qe4+ 40.Kg1 Rb7 41.Kh2 Rb1 42.Qc7+ Qe7 43.Qa5 Kg8 with some winning chances.]



36.Qb7+?! I wonder if Kasimdzhanov was still trying to play for a win.

[36.Qe8! is still ok for White. Qf6 37.Qc8! Qe7 38.Qxc5 Qb7+ 39.Kh2 Rd8 40.Qe5+ Kh7 41.Qxe6 Rh8! 42.Qd5 Kg7+ 43.Kg2 Qxb1 44.Qd7+ Kg8 45.Qd8+ with a draw by perpetual.]

36...Rd7 37.Qc6?! An inaccuracy again.

[37.Qb8! g4 38.Bxd3! Qxd3 39.Qe5+ Kf8 40.Qxc5+ Qd6 41.Qb5 (The endgame 41.Qxd6+ Rxd6 42.Nxg4 also yields White reasonable

drawing chances.) 41...Qc7 42.Nxg4 Qb7+ 43.Qxb7 Rxb7 44.Kf3 and White might be able to hold.]

37...e5 38.Qe6 e4?! Black returns the favour. Probably both players were already short of time.

[38...Rf7!? is a better chance. 39.Bxd3! Qxd3 40.Qxe5+ Kh7 41.Qxg5 (41.Qxc5 Qe2 42.Nf1 is a little passive.) 41...Qd2 42.Qh4+ Kg8 43.Ng4 Kg7+]

39.Qg4? Only this move is losing.

[After the correct 39.Ng4! Rf7 40.Qe8! White holds on.]

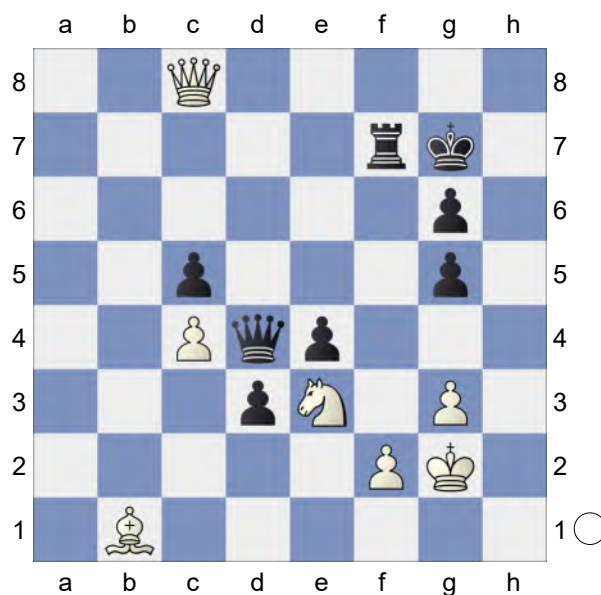
39...Rb7!?

[39...Rf7! 40.Qe6 Qf6! 41.Qxe4 Qxf2+ 42.Kh3 Qf3! 43.Qxf3 Rxf3 44.Nd5 d2 45.Bc2 Rf1 46.Ne3 Re1 47.Nd1 Kf7! 48.Kg4 Kf6-+ and Black converts his positional advantage into a win.]

40.Qc8

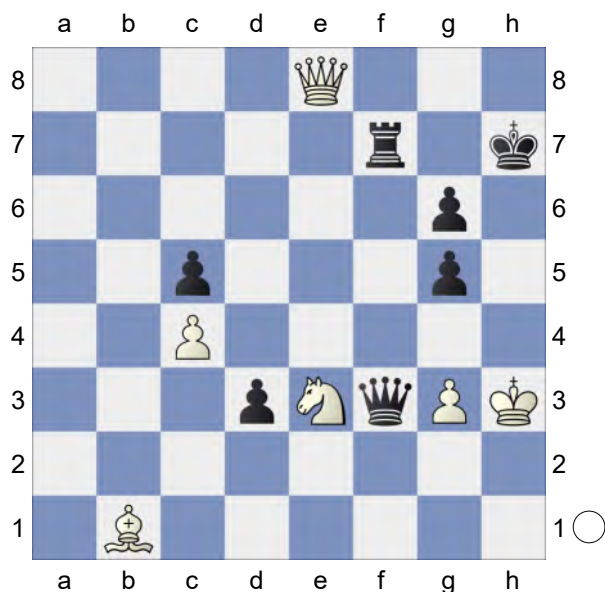
[40.Qe6! is a better defence, though it may not save the game.]

40...Rf7!-+



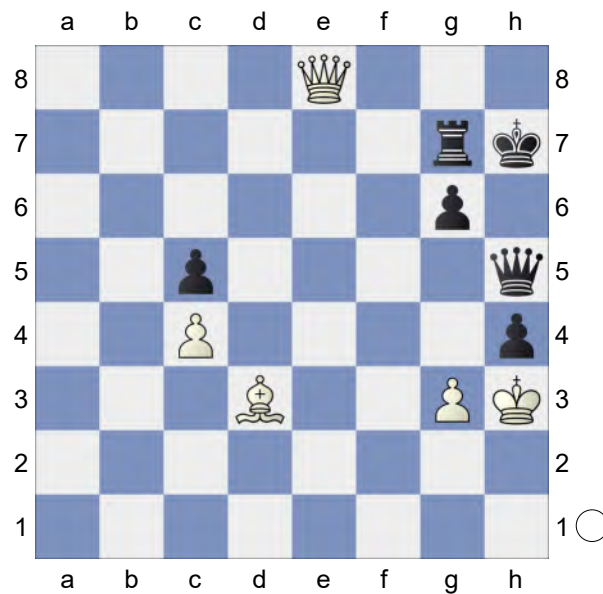
Now White either loses the f2-pawn or exchanges queens. In both cases his position is lost. **41.Qe6 Qf6! 42.Qxe4**

[42.Qxf6+ Kxf6 is hopeless.]
42...Qxf2+ 43.Kh3 Qf3! Offering
 another favourable exchange of queens.
44.Qe5+
 [44.Bxd3 fails to Qxe4 45.Bxe4
 Re7-+]
44...Kg8
 [44...Kh7-+ is equally strong.]
45.Qe8+ Kh7



46.Ng2 A sad necessity due to the threat
 of mate in one. **46...Qh5+ 47.Nh4 Rg7**
 A safe way to win.
 [47...Rf3!?-+ is what computers
 prefer.]
48.Bxd3 gxh4

(Diagram)

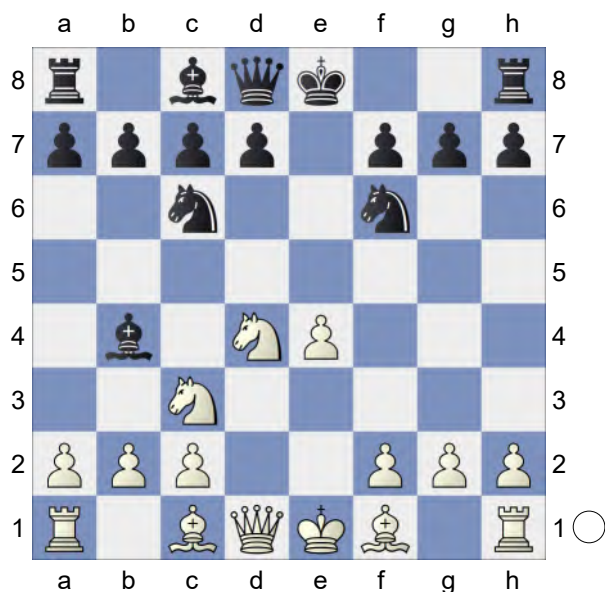


A very interesting game, though I still
 don't understand the hidden idea behind
 the advance of the h-pawn to h4.
 Nevertheless, the line with 13.Bb1
 remains a critical test of Black's opening
 system with 10...Be7 and 11...d4.

0-1

127 **C47**
 ☐ Wei,Yi **2734**
 ■ Vidiť,Santosh Gujrathi **2707**
 China vs World Team 2018 rapid (10.5)
 [Mikhalevski,Victor]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Bb4



6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.Bd3 d5 8.exd5 0-0!? 9.0-0 White is intending to transpose to the main line, 8...cxd5.

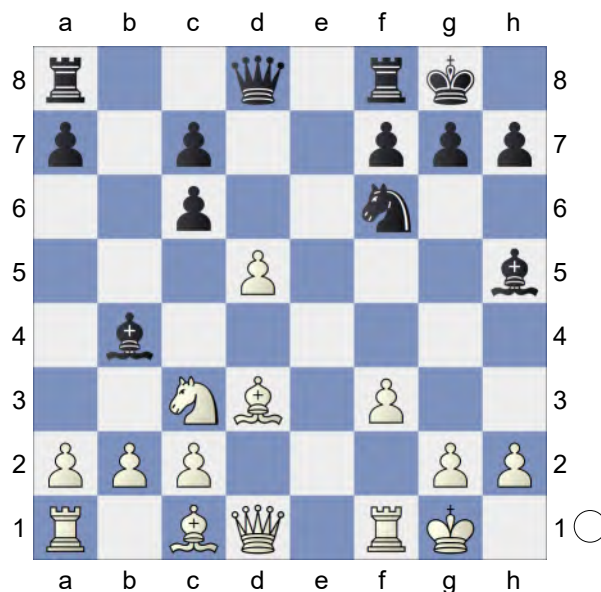
[9.dxc6 Bg4 10.f3 (10.Be2 Qe8! with the idea of 11...Rd8 is dangerous for White.; 10.Qd2 Re8+ 11.Kf1 Be6!= yields Black good compensation for two sacrificed pawns.) 10...Re8+ 11.Kf1 Be6!= with good compensation, since White lost his right to castle.]

9...Bg4! An interesting and aggressive approach, which hasn't been considered on our site yet, as this is the first time it has occurred in over the board play. In fact, it had only one predecessor, which can be found below.

[9...cxd5 has been seen many times before. The most recent example is

Morozevich,A (2724) -Karjakin,S (2770) Kazan RUS 2014 [Mikhalevski,V]]

10.f3 Bh5



11.dxc6

[The aforementioned correspondence game saw 11.g4 Bg6 12.Bxg6 hxg6 13.dxc6

A) 13...Bxc3!? equalises. 14.bxc3 (or 14.Qxd8 Rfxd8 15.bxc3 Rd6=) 14...Qe8! 15.g5 Nh5 16.Qd5 Qe2! 17.Qd3 Rfe8 18.Qxe2 Rxe2 19.Rf2 Re1+ 20.Rf1 Re2= and Black equalises.;

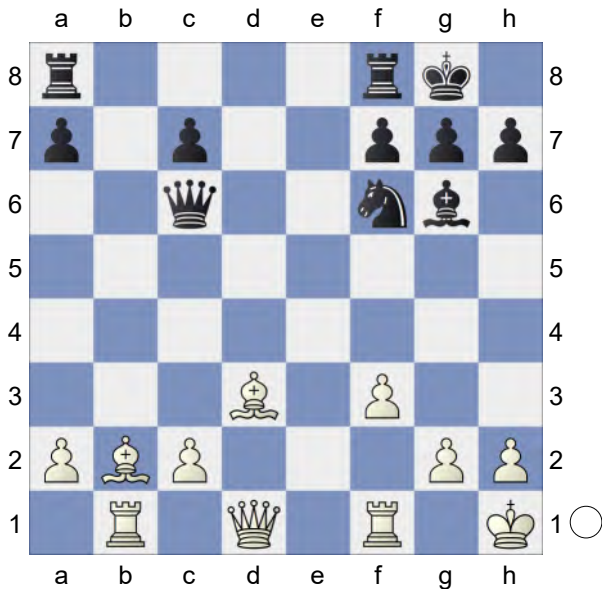
B) 13...Qe7?! 14.Qe2 Rfe8? (14...Qc5+ was necessary.) 15.Qxe7 Rxe7 16.Na4 Re2 17.Bf4! Nd5 18.Bg3± and Black's compensation was insufficient in Ciklabakkal,M (2004)-Ikegami,O (1999) ICCF email 2012]

11...Qd4+ 12.Kh1 Bxc3 13.bxc3 Qxc3 Black won back one of the sacrificed pawns, while the other one is hanging **14.Rb1 Bg6!** It's important to trade a pair of bishops to take away the advantage of the bishop pair.

[14...Qxc6 would yield White some

chances of obtaining an edge thanks to the bishop pair. For example, 15.Bb5 Qb6 16.Qe1! Rfe8 17.Qc3 Re6 (17...Nd5 18.Qc6 Red8 19.Ba3±) 18.Ba3 and Black still has some problems to solve.]

15.Bb2 Qxc6

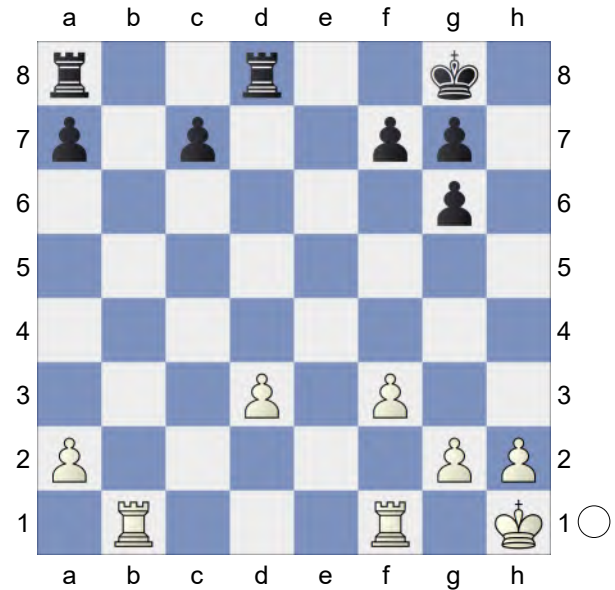


16.Bxf6 Encountering a strong novelty Wei Yi decides to simplify into a draw. **16...Qxf6 17.Bxg6 hxg6 18.Qd7 Qc3 19.Qd3** This is necessary and leads to massive exchanges. **19...Qxd3**

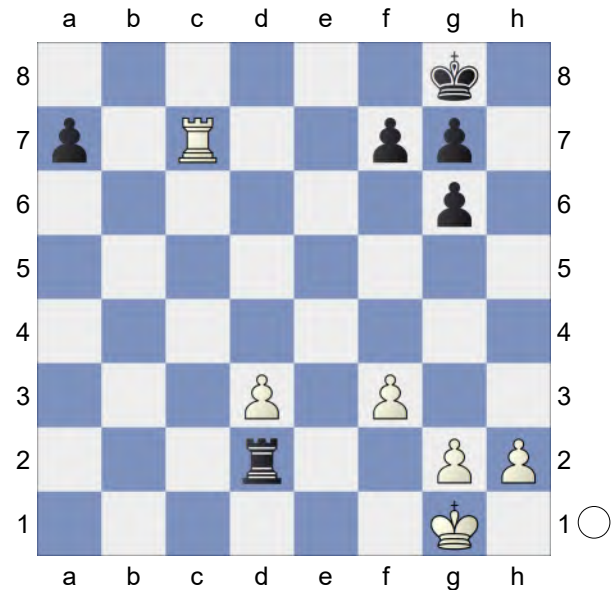
[Black can try to keep queens on the board, but his chances to win the game are very slim. 19...Qc6 20.Rfd1 Rfe8 21.h3=]

20.cxd3 Rfd8

(Diagram)

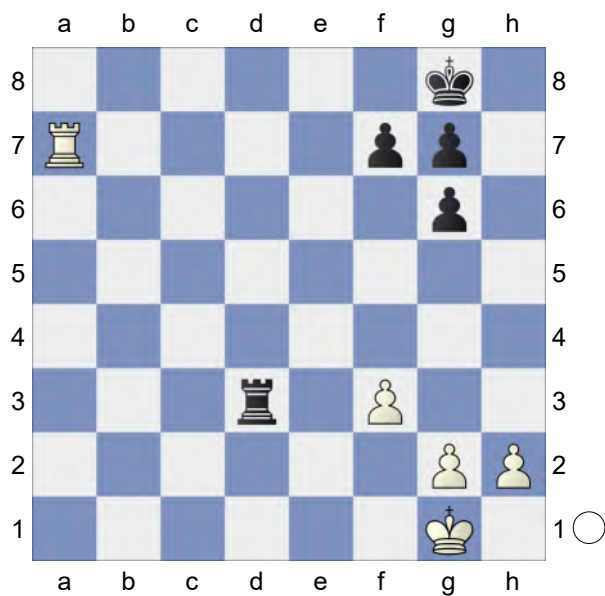


21.Rb3 Rab8 22.Rxb8 Rxb8 23.Rc1 Rb2 24.Kg1 Rxa2 25.Rxc7 Rd2



26.Rxa7 Rxd3

(Diagram)



A short, but highly important theoretical game. It seems that 9...Bg4! equalises easily and so the entire Scotch Four Knights is now in trouble.

$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

163

□ Wei,Yi

■ Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi

9th Hainan Danzhou GM (6.4) 02.08.18

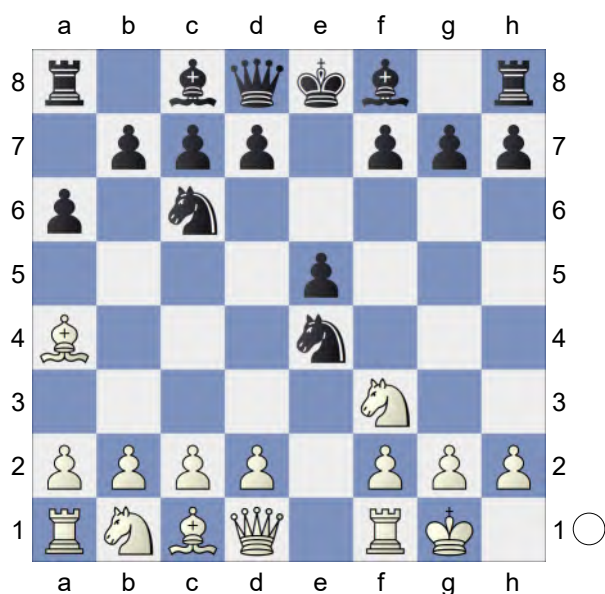
[Mikhalevski,Victor]

C81

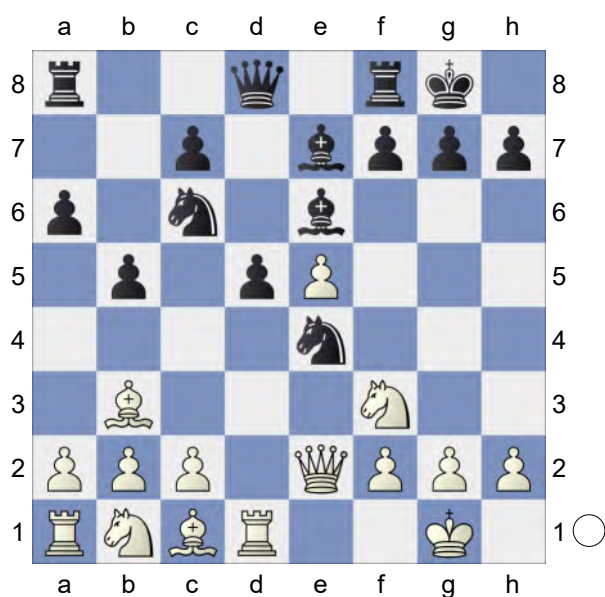
2729

2718

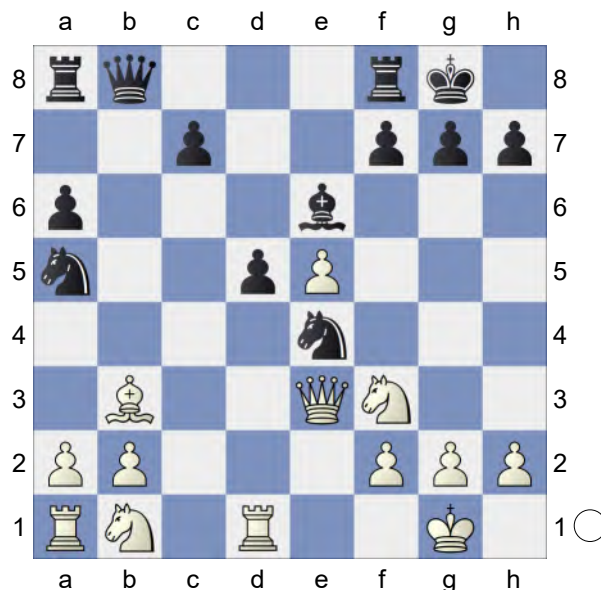
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4
Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Qe2
Be7 10.Rd1 0-0



11.c4 bxc4 12.Bxc4 Bc5 13.Be3
Bxe3 14.Qxe3 Qb8 15.Bb3 Na5



16.Nd4 c5 An important alternative to 16...Qb6, which hasn't been considered on our pages yet and leads to the following sequence:

[16...Qb6 Hansen,E (2574)-Mikhalevski,V (2550) Hoogeveen 2014 [Mikhalevski,V]]

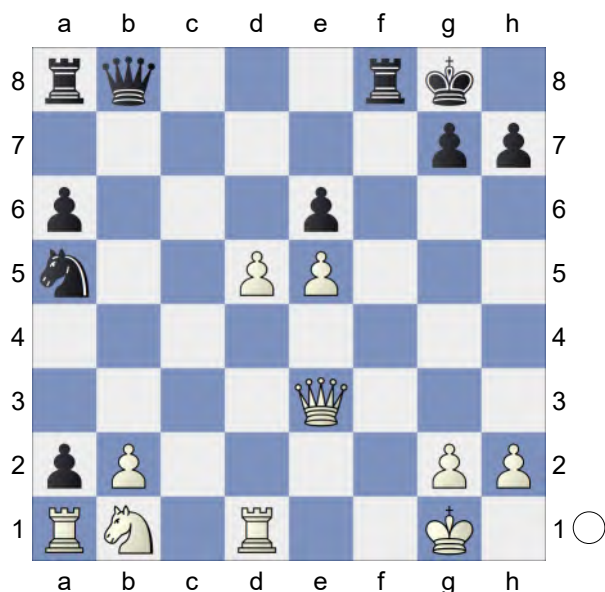
17.Nxe6 fxe6 18.f3 White traps the knight on e4 and so Black's reply is rather forced. **18...c4! 19.fxe4** White doesn't have any choice either.

[19.Bc2? runs into Qxb2]

19...cxb3 20.exd5 bxa2!

[In two early games Black started with 20...Nc4 and 21.Qd4 Qa7 is the correct move. 22.Qxa7 Rxa7 23.axb3 (23.Nc3!? is more challenging.) 23...Ne3 24.Rc1 Raf7! 25.Nd2 Rf2 (25...exd5!?) 26.Nc4 Kosteniuk,A (2489)-Muzychuk, A (2594) Belgrade 2013, and now Rxd5+ 27.Kh1 Re2 led to equality.]

(Diagram)



This improvement was introduced by Anish Giri in 2016. **21.Rxa2 Nc4 22.Qd4!** The only square for the queen.

[After 22.Qc3 Qb6+ 23.Qd4 Qxd4+ 24.Rxd4 Ne3 25.Nd2 Rac8 26.Nf3 Rc2 27.dxe6 h6! Black develops an initiative.]

22...Qb3 23.Nc3 Rac8! An important point behind Black's preceding play. He creates the threat of 24... Nxb2, which explains White's next move. **24.Rb1**

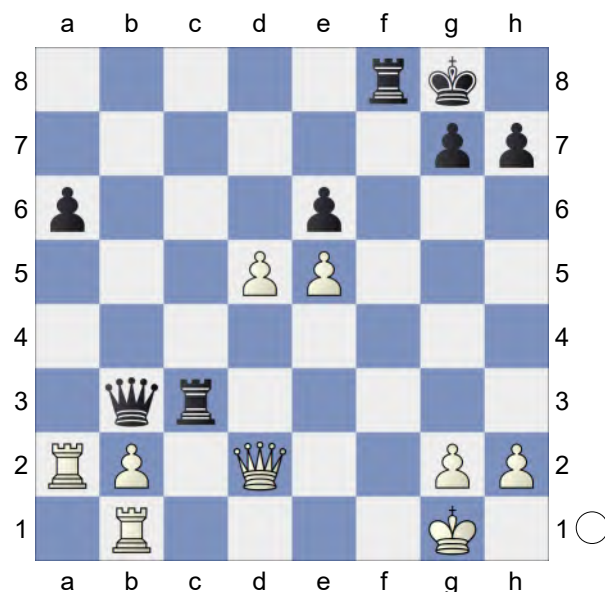
[After 24.dxe6 Black played Nxb2 25.e7 Rfe8 26.Qd5+ Qxd5 27.Rxd5 Rxc3 28.Rxb2 Rxe7 with full equality.]

24...Nd2 This is only a formal novelty, as two moves later the players will transpose to the previously played 24... Ne3.

[Giri played 24...Ne3]

25.Qxd2 Other moves make no sense.
25...Rxc3

(Diagram)

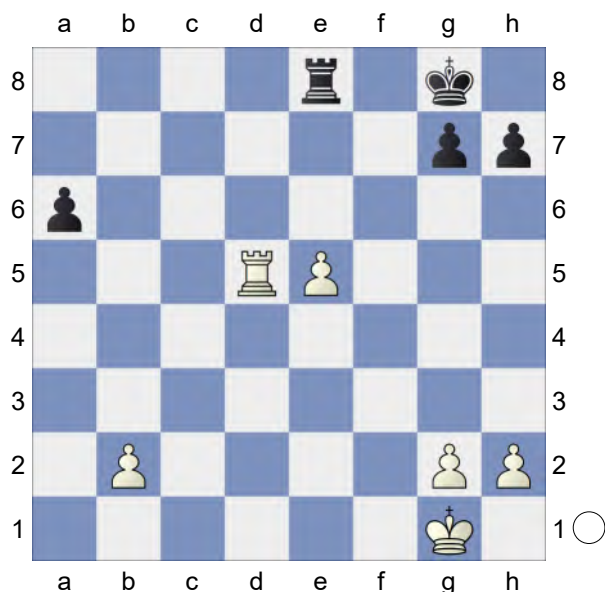


26.Qxc3 Qxa2 27.Rd1 exd5 28.Qd4 White is putting pressure on d5.
28...Qc4 One of a few moves which lead to equality. Black offers a pawn to force a rook endgame.

[In the preceding game Black played 28...Re8 29.Rc1 h6 30.h3 Kh8 31.e6 Rxe6? (31...Qb3! was necessary, with equal chances.) 32.Rc8+ Kh7 33.Qd3+ Re4 34.Qf1! Re5 and after 35.Qd3+ Re4 36.Qf1! Re5 37.Qd3+ (After the correct 37.Qf7! Qxb2 38.Qg8+ Kg6 39.Rc6+ Kf5 40.Qf7+ Ke4 41.Qf3+ Kd4 42.Qd1+ Ke4 43.Kh2!+- Black would be in trouble.) 37...Re4 38.Qf1 a draw was agreed in Caruana,F (2804)-Giri,A (2790) Shamkir 2016]

29.Qxd5+ There is no alternative to play for a win. **29...Qxd5 30.Rxd5 Re8!**

(Diagram)



Black ties White's rook to the defence of the e5-pawn, preparing 31...Kf7 or 31...Kf8 followed by 32... Rb8. **31.Rd6** White has nothing to wait for.

[31.Kf2 Rb8 32.Kf3 Rb3+ 33.Ke4 Rxb2 34.Rd8+ Kf7 35.Rd7+ Kf8 36.Kd5 a5 37.g4 h6 38.Ra7 Rxb2 39.Ke6 g5 40.Rxa5 h5 and White's symbolic edge isn't sufficient for a win.]

31...Rxe5 32.Rxa6 Re2 This move shouldn't miss a draw, but 32...Rb5 was better.

[32...Rb5 looks more accurate. For example, 33.Ra2 Rb3 34.Kf2 h5! 35.Ke2 (or 35.h4 Kf7) 35...h4 36.Kd2 h3 37.g3 Rf3 38.Ke2 Rb3= and White can't make progress due to his bad rook on a2.]

33.Rb6 h5! 34.h4

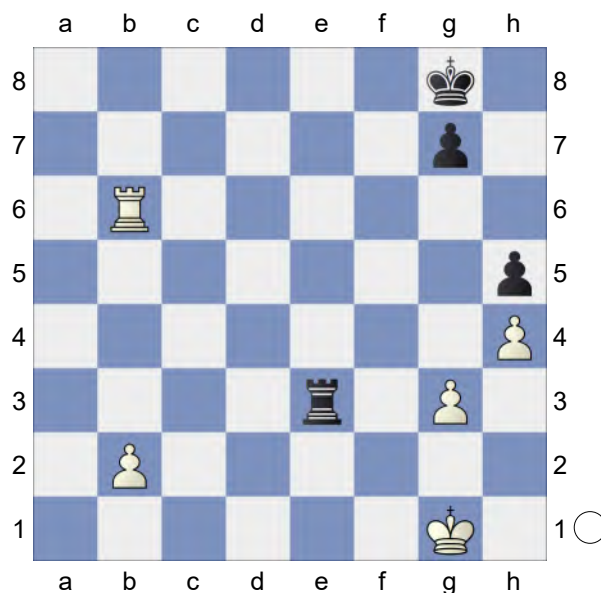
[34.Rb7! cutting off Black's king was a better practical chance. h4 35.h3 Kf8 36.b4 Rb2 37.b5 g6 38.b6 Ke8 39.Rb8+ Kd7 40.b7 Kc6 41.Rc8+ (41.Rg8 Rxb7 42.Rxg6+ Kd5 43.Rg4 Rh7 with a theoretically drawish position.) 41...Kxb7 42.Rc4 g5 43.Rc5

A) 43...g4? loses to 44.hxg4 Rb4 45.g5 Kb6 46.Rc8 Rg4 47.Rg8 Kc7 48.Kh2 Rg3 49.g6 Kb6! (49...Kd7?? loses to 50.g7 Ke7 51.Ra8+-) 50.g7 Kb7 51.Rh8 Rxb7 52.Rxb4 Kc6 53.Rd4 Kc5 54.Rd2+-;

B) 43...Rb1+ 44.Kh2 Rb6 45.Rxg5 Kc7 46.Rg7+ Kd8 47.Kg1 Ke8 48.Kf2 Kf8 49.Rg4 Rh6 50.Kf3 Kf7= and White can't make progress.]

34...Re4 35.g3 Re3

[35...Re2!? is also fine.]



36.Kf2 Rd3 37.Rb5

[or 37.Rb7 Kh7=]

37...Kf7!

[37...g6? would be wrong in view of 38.Rb7 Kf8 39.b4 Rb3 40.b5 Kg8 41.b6 Kf8 42.Ke2! The king goes to c2 and then up to b5, while Rxb7? loses instantly to 43.Rc7+-]

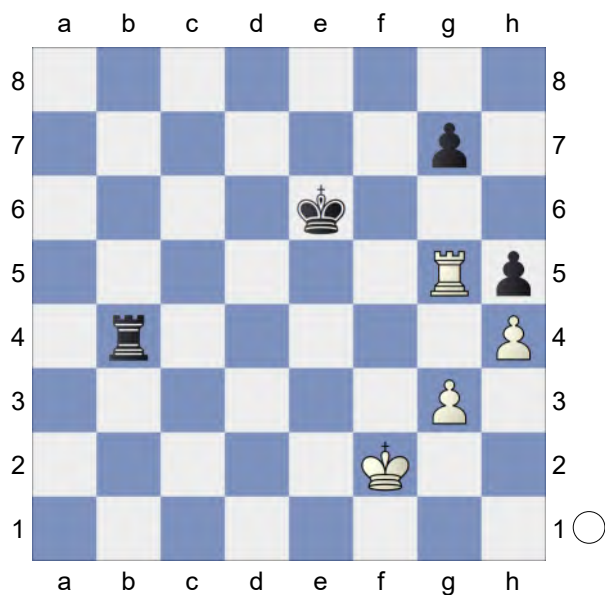
38.b4 Rb3 39.Rf5+

[or 39.Rb8 Kf6 40.b5 Kf5 41.b6 g6 42.b7 Kg4 43.Rg8 Rxb7 44.Rxg6+ Kh3 45.Rg5 Rb3=]

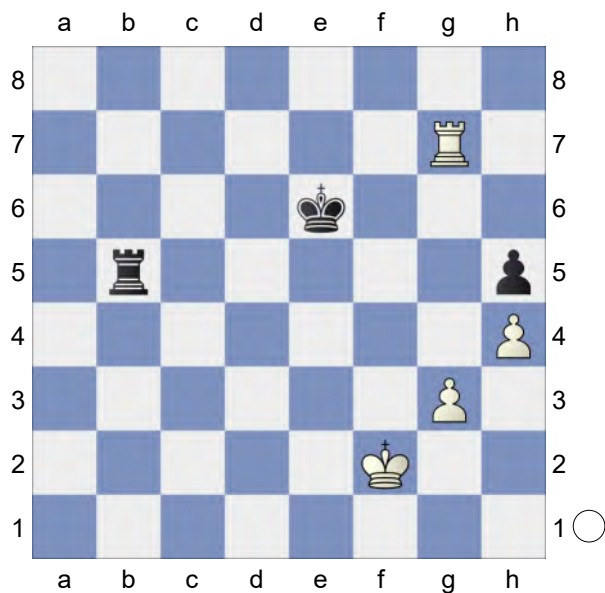
39...Ke6

[White hopes for 39...Kg6?? 40.Rg5+ Kf6 41.b5+- and White wins.]

40.Rg5 Rxb4



41.Rxg7 Rb5

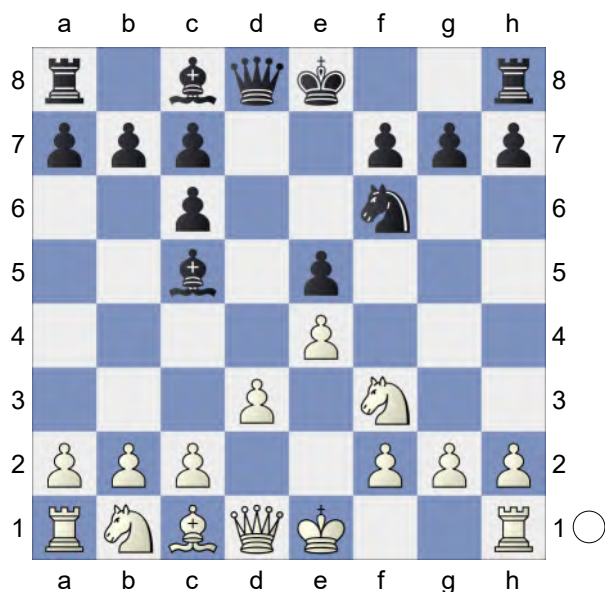


with an easy draw. An important game for the theory, which confirms that the line with 16...c5 leads to equality.

1/2-1/2

57 **C65**
 ☐ **Wei,Yi** **2753**
 ■ **Grischuk,Alexander** **2783**
 TCh-2017 Chiva CHN (15.6) 21.08.2017
 [Mikhalevski,Victor]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Bxc6 dxc6



6.Nbd2 Nd7 7.Nc4 0-0 8.0-0 Re8 9.Bd2 Bd6

[Earlier we only considered 9...Bf8
 See Anand,V (2775) -Kramnik,V
 (2795) London ENG 2012
 [Mikhalevski,V]]

10.Bc3!? Wei Yi is putting pressure on e5 and thus preventing the 10...Nf8-g6 regrouping. In order to transfer the knight to g6 Black will have to play ...f6, which will give White the option of playing on the kingside with Nh4.

[10.b4 trying to prevent 10...c5 and take some space on the queenside can be answered by Nb6!?
 (The only game after 10.b4 saw 10...Nf8 , which is also OK for Black..
 11.a4 Ng6 12.h3 b6 13.Re1 Be6 14.Ne3 c5 15.b5 a6 16.c4 Nf4

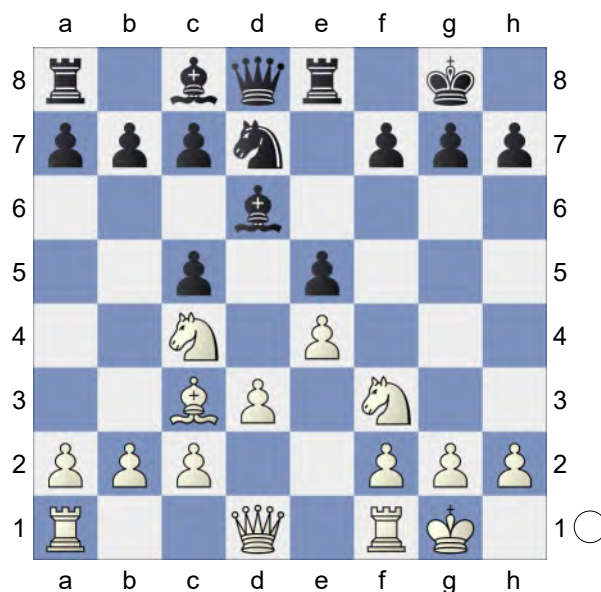
17.Bc3 Qf6 with a slight edge for Black in Bologan,V (2670)-Melkumyan, H (2634) Germany 2014) 11.Na5 (11.Nxd6 cxd6 12.a4 Bg4 is fine for Black.) 11...c5 12.b5 a6 13.a4 Qf6= with the idea of 14...Ra7 and Black can develop his light-squared bishop.]

10...c5

[In case of the immediate 10...f6 White can play

A) White played only 11.Nh4 Nf8 12.Kh1 Ng6 13.Qh5 Be6 (13...Nf4!? 14.Qf3 Bf8 looks good for Black.) 14.Nf5 Qd7 15.Nce3 Bc5 16.g3 Ne7 17.g4 Ng6 18.Ng2 Bd6 with roughly equal chances in Wei,Y (2706)-Balogh,C (2655) Tsaghkadzor 2015;

B) 11.d4 , although after 11...exd4 12.Nxd6 cxd6 13.Qxd4 Ne5! Black equalises.]



Grischuk prefers to eliminate the option of 11.d4. **11.a4 f6** Alexander is planning on bringing the knight via f8 to g6 or e6.

[Black also tried to delay 11...f6, but it

didn't stop White from playing on the kingside. 11...b6 12.g3! f6 13.Nh4 Nb8 14.f4 Nc6 15.Qh5 (15.f5!?) 15...Be6 16.fxe5 Bf7 17.Qg4 Bxe5 18.Nf5 Bg6 19.Nxe5 Nxe5 20.Qf4 Bxf5 21.Qxf5 yielded White some pressure on the kingside. Alekseenko, K (2539)-Sakaev, K (2594) St Petersburg 2015]

12.Nh4 Almost an automatic reaction to ...f6. **12...Nf8** **13.g3** The most natural. White is going for f4.

[In two preceding games White tested two other options. 13.Ne3 Ne6 14.g3 Kh8?! (14...b6!?) 15.Qh5 Nd4 16.f4 Be6?! 17.f5 Bd7 18.Rf2 Kg8 19.g4± was better for Black in Kokarev, D (2622)-Sharafiev, A (2435) Sochi 2016]

[13.Nf5 Be6 (13...Ne6!?) 14.Qf3 Qd7 15.Nce3 Ng6 16.h4± with some pressure in Borisek, J (2565) -Mastrovasilis, A (2544) Reykjavik 2015]

13...Bh3!? It would be good to force the f1-rook away from the f-file, but White isn't obliged to do so.

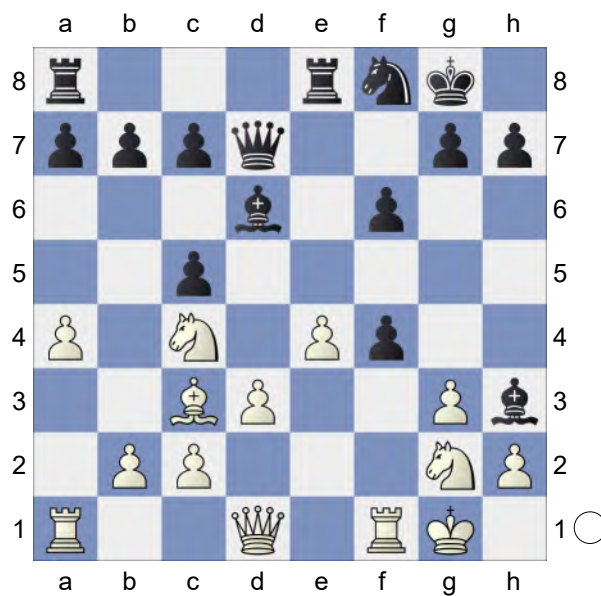
[In case of 13...Ne6, which prevents the immediate 14. f4, White would play 14.Qd2 Nd4 15.f4 Be6 16.f5 Bf7 17.g4 with some chances for an attack.]

14.Ng2 Qd7!

[14...Ng6 would be inaccurate as Black can't stop an advance of the f-pawn, while the knight on g6 may turn out to be misplaced. 15.Nce3 Qd7 16.b3 Rad8 17.Qh5± with the idea of 18.f4.]

15.f4 exf4

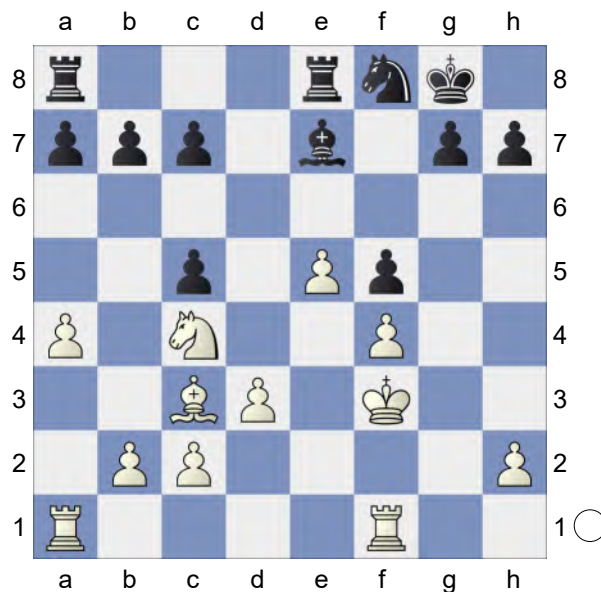
(Diagram)



16.gxf4 Bxg2 17.Kxg2 f5! White should be stopped from playing 18. f5. **18.e5 Qc6+!** It's important to take control of the a8-h1 diagonal before White plays 19. Qf3.

[18...Be7?! 19.Qf3!± yields White the upper hand.]

19.Qf3 Sooner or later White would have to exchange the queen on c6. **19...Qxf3+ 20.Kxf3 Be7**



Now Black's plan includes blocking the position on the kingside by putting his pawns on g6 and h5, the knight will

block the e5-pawn from e6 and White will have a hard time breaking through Black's fortress. **21.Ne3**

[In case of the immediate 21.Rh1 Black would first block the e5-pawn with Ne6! in order to prevent the e5-e6 option, which is strong after black places his pawns on h5 and g6. 22.h4 h5 and the position is similar to the one in the game.]

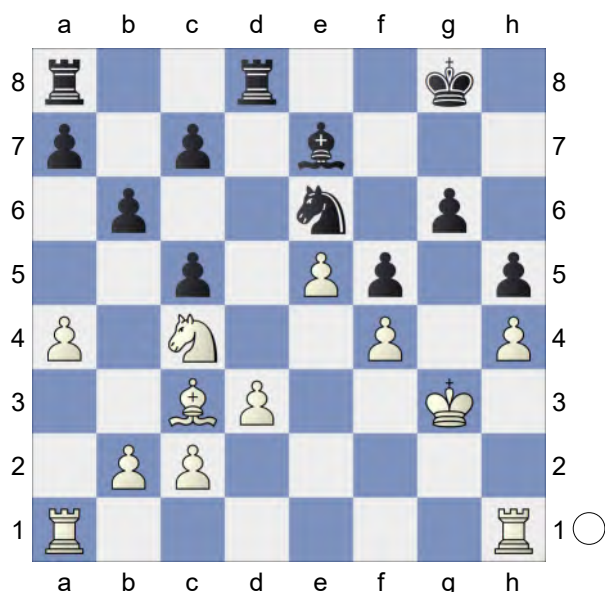
21...g6 22.Rh1

[22.Nd5 doesn't present a problem as Black can easily part with his bishop. Ne6 23.Nxe7+ Rxe7 24.h4 h5 with a solid position.]

22...Red8!?

[Black could also put the other rook on d8. 22...Rad8 with a similar position, when the other rook can be used on the kingside protecting the g6-pawn after Black plays ...h5.]

23.h4 h5! This move is a necessity. Otherwise, Black would come under an attack on the kingside. **24.Kg3** White protects the h4-pawn in order to free his h1-rook from defence. **24...Ne6** **25.Nc4 b6**



A useful move. Now the idea of a5 can

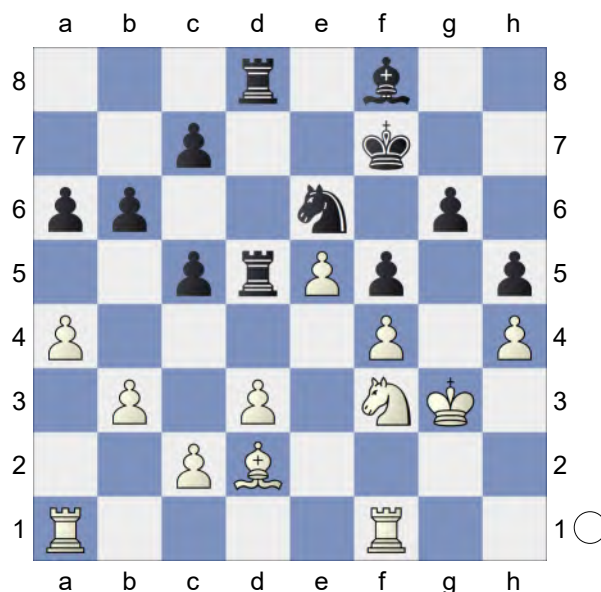
be always met by...b5. **26.Nd2 Bf8!?** Black's idea is to meet 27.Nf3 with 27...Bh6! **27.Rhf1**

[In case of 27.Nf3 Bh6 White would have to exchange his knight for Black's bishop, which favours Black. 28.Ng5 Bxg5 29.hxg5 Kf7 and Black is fine.]

27...a6 28.Nf3 Kf7 The king is coming closer to e6 in order to blockade the e5-pawn after an exchange of knights on g5. **29.b3**

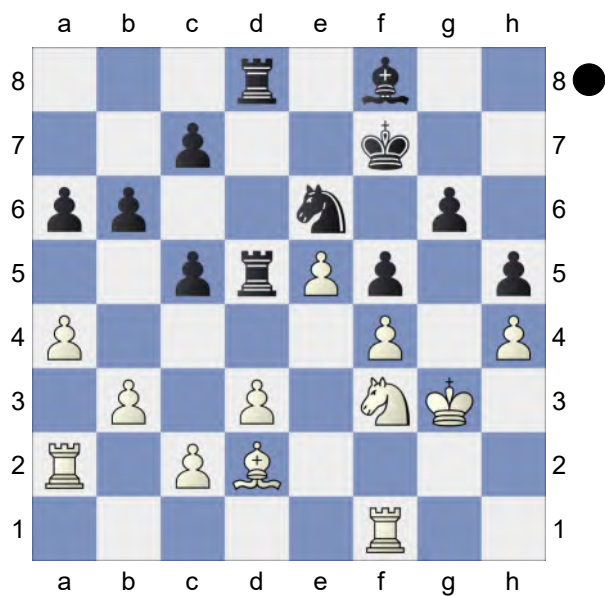
[29.Ng5+ Nxg5 30.hxg5 Ke6=]

29...Rd5 30.Bd2 Rad8



Now neither side can make progress and so after repeating the moves a few times the players agreed to a draw. **31.Ra2 R5d7 32.Be3 Rd5 33.Bd2 R5d7 34.Be3 Rd5 35.Bd2**

(Diagram)



A well-played game. Grischuk showed a good understanding of these type of positions and equalised comfortably. The ball is in White's court.

1/2-1/2

55

□ Wei, Yi

■ Grischuk, Alexander

TCh-CHN 2017 (15.6)

[Mikhalevski, Victor]

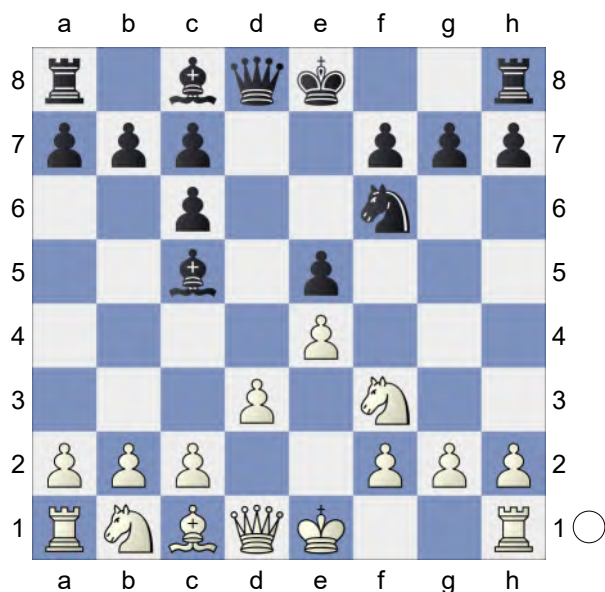
C65

2753

2783

21.08.2017

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3
Bc5 5.Bxc6 dxc6



6.Nbd2 Nd7 7.Nc4 0-0 8.0-0 Re8
9.Bd2 Bd6

[Earlier we only considered 9...Bf8
See Anand, V (2775) -Kramnik, V
(2795) London ENG 2012
[Mikhalevski, V]]

10.Bc3!? Wei Yi is putting pressure on e5 and thus preventing the 10...Nf8-g6 regrouping. In order to transfer the knight to g6 Black will have to play ...f6, which will give White the option of playing on the kingside with Nh4.

[10.b4 trying to prevent 10...c5 and take some space on the queenside can be answered by Nb6!?
(The only game after 10.b4 saw 10...Nf8 , which is also OK for Black..
11.a4 Ng6 12.h3 b6 13.Re1 Be6
14.Ne3 c5 15.b5 a6 16.c4 Nf4

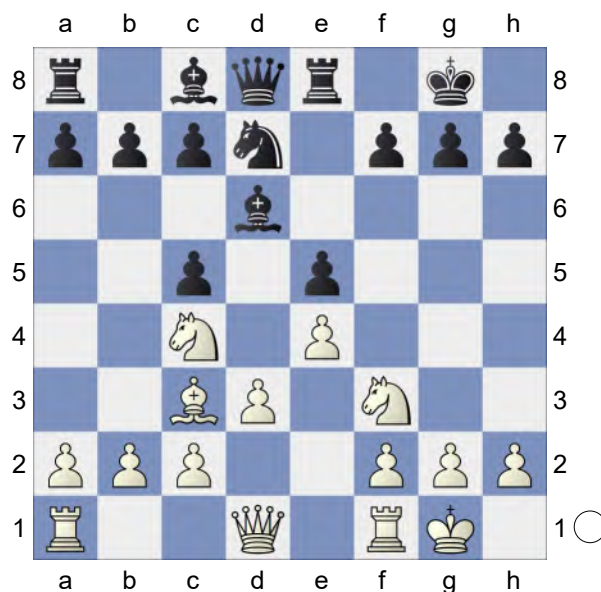
17.Bc3 Qf6 with a slight edge for Black in Bologan, V (2670)-Melkumyan, H (2634) Germany 2014) 11.Na5 (11.Nxd6 cxd6 12.a4 Bg4 is fine for Black.) 11...c5 12.b5 a6 13.a4 Qf6= with the idea of 14...Ra7 and Black can develop his light-squared bishop.]

10...c5

[In case of the immediate 10...f6 White can play

A) White played only 11.Nh4 Nf8 12.Kh1 Ng6 13.Qh5 Be6 (13...Nf4!? 14.Qf3 Bf8 looks good for Black.) 14.Nf5 Qd7 15.Nce3 Bc5 16.g3 Ne7 17.g4 Ng6 18.Ng2 Bd6 with roughly equal chances in Wei, Y (2706)-Balogh, C (2655) Tsaghkadzor 2015;

B) 11.d4 , although after 11...exd4 12.Nxd6 cxd6 13.Qxd4 Ne5! Black equalises.]



Grischuk prefers to eliminate the option of 11.d4. **11.a4 f6** Alexander is planning on bringing the knight via f8 to g6 or e6.

[Black also tried to delay 11...f6, but it

didn't stop White from playing on the kingside. 11...b6 12.g3! f6 13.Nh4 Nb8 14.f4 Nc6 15.Qh5 (15.f5!?) 15...Be6 16.fxe5 Bf7 17.Qg4 Bxe5 18.Nf5 Bg6 19.Nxe5 Nxe5 20.Qf4 Bxf5 21.Qxf5 yielded White some pressure on the kingside. Alekseenko, K (2539)-Sakaev, K (2594) St Petersburg 2015]

12.Nh4 Almost an automatic reaction to ...f6. **12...Nf8** **13.g3** The most natural. White is going for f4.

[In two preceding games White tested two other options. 13.Ne3 Ne6 14.g3 Kh8?! (14...b6!?) 15.Qh5 Nd4 16.f4 Be6?! 17.f5 Bd7 18.Rf2 Kg8 19.g4± was better for Black in Kokarev, D (2622)-Sharafiev, A (2435) Sochi 2016]

[13.Nf5 Be6 (13...Ne6!?) 14.Qf3 Qd7 15.Nce3 Ng6 16.h4± with some pressure in Borisek, J (2565) -Mastrovasilis, A (2544) Reykjavik 2015]

13...Bh3!? It would be good to force the f1-rook away from the f-file, but White isn't obliged to do so.

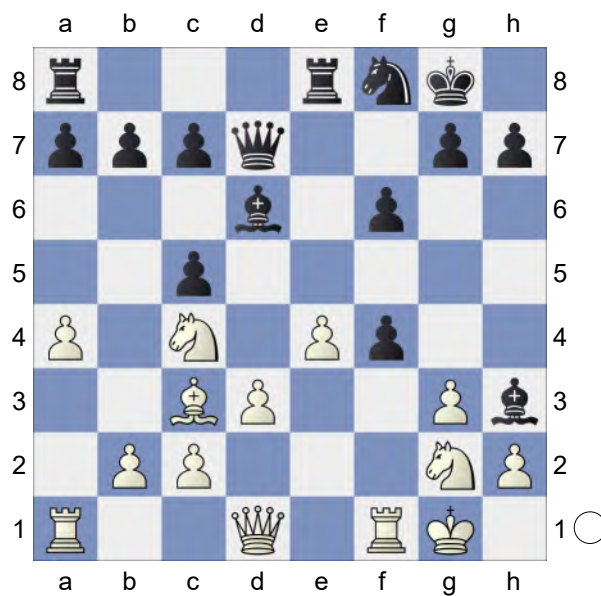
[In case of 13...Ne6, which prevents the immediate 14. f4, White would play 14.Qd2 Nd4 15.f4 Be6 16.f5 Bf7 17.g4 with some chances for an attack.]

14.Ng2 Qd7!

[14...Ng6 would be inaccurate as Black can't stop an advance of the f-pawn, while the knight on g6 may turn out to be misplaced. 15.Nce3 Qd7 16.b3 Rad8 17.Qh5± with the idea of 18.f4.]

15.f4 exf4

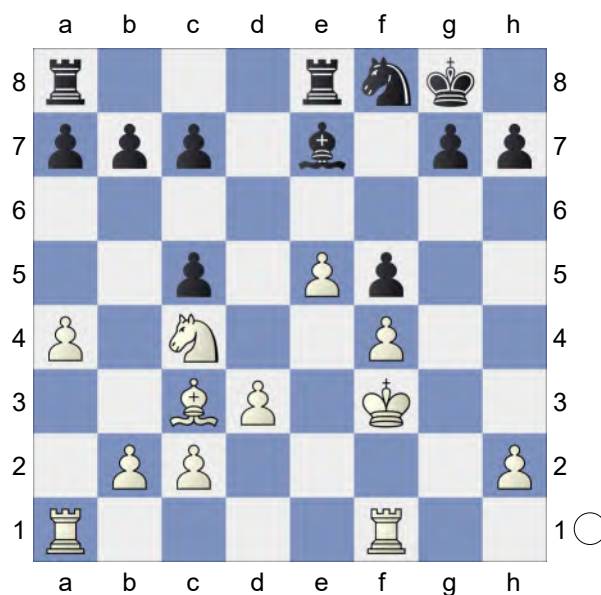
(Diagram)



16.gxf4 Bxg2 17.Kxg2 f5! White should be stopped from playing 18. f5. **18.e5 Qc6+!** It's important to take control of the a8-h1 diagonal before White plays 19. Qf3.

[18...Be7?! 19.Qf3!± yields White the upper hand.]

19.Qf3 Sooner or later White would have to exchange the queen on c6. **19...Qxf3+ 20.Kxf3 Be7**



Now Black's plan includes blocking the position on the kingside by putting his pawns on g6 and h5, the knight will

block the e5-pawn from e6 and White will have a hard time breaking through Black's fortress. **21.Ne3**

[In case of the immediate 21.Rh1 Black would first block the e5-pawn with Ne6! in order to prevent the e5-e6 option, which is strong after black places his pawns on h5 and g6. 22.h4 h5 and the position is similar to the one in the game.]

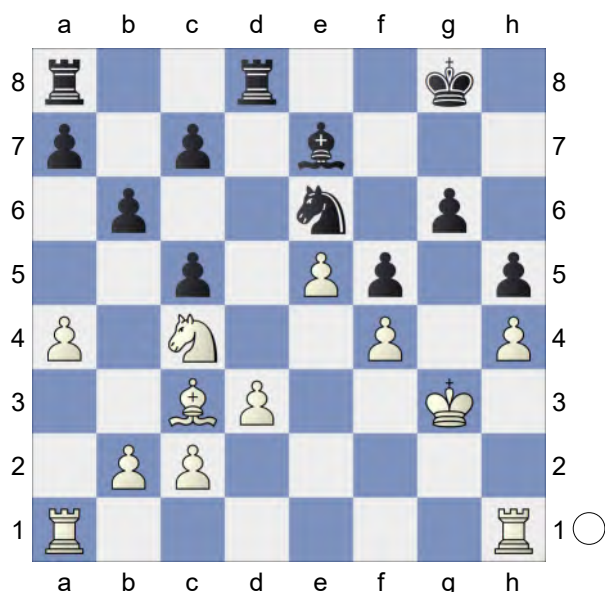
21...g6 22.Rh1

[22.Nd5 doesn't present a problem as Black can easily part with his bishop. Ne6 23.Nxe7+ Rxe7 24.h4 h5 with a solid position.]

22...Red8!?

[Black could also put the other rook on d8. 22...Rad8 with a similar position, when the other rook can be used on the kingside protecting the g6-pawn after Black plays ...h5.]

23.h4 h5! This move is a necessity. Otherwise, Black would come under an attack on the kingside. **24.Kg3** White protects the h4-pawn in order to free his h1-rook from defence. **24...Ne6** **25.Nc4 b6**



A useful move. Now the idea of a5 can

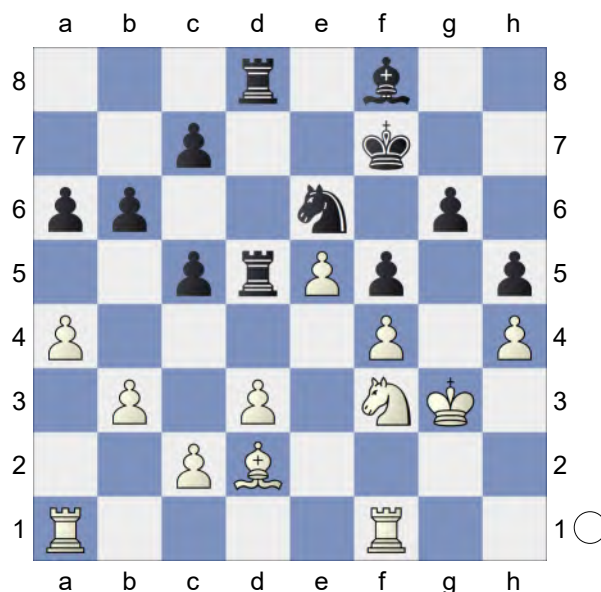
be always met by...b5. **26.Nd2 Bf8!?** Black's idea is to meet 27.Nf3 with 27...Bh6! **27.Rhf1**

[In case of 27.Nf3 Bh6 White would have to exchange his knight for Black's bishop, which favours Black. 28.Ng5 Bxg5 29.hxg5 Kf7 and Black is fine.]

27...a6 28.Nf3 Kf7 The king is coming closer to e6 in order to blockade the e5-pawn after an exchange of knights on g5. **29.b3**

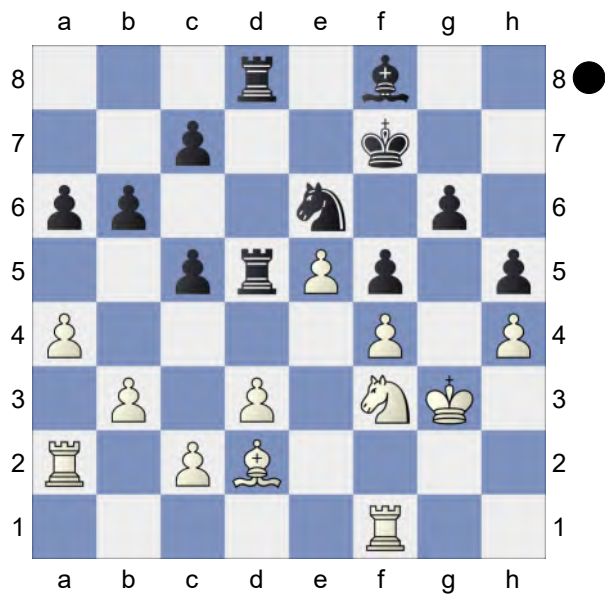
[29.Ng5+ Nxg5 30.hxg5 Ke6=]

29...Rd5 30.Bd2 Rad8



Now neither side can make progress and so after repeating the moves a few times the players agreed to a draw. **31.Ra2 R5d7 32.Be3 Rd5 33.Bd2 R5d7 34.Be3 Rd5 35.Bd2**

(Diagram)



A well-played game. Grischuk showed a good understanding of these type of positions and equalised comfortably. The ball is in White's court.

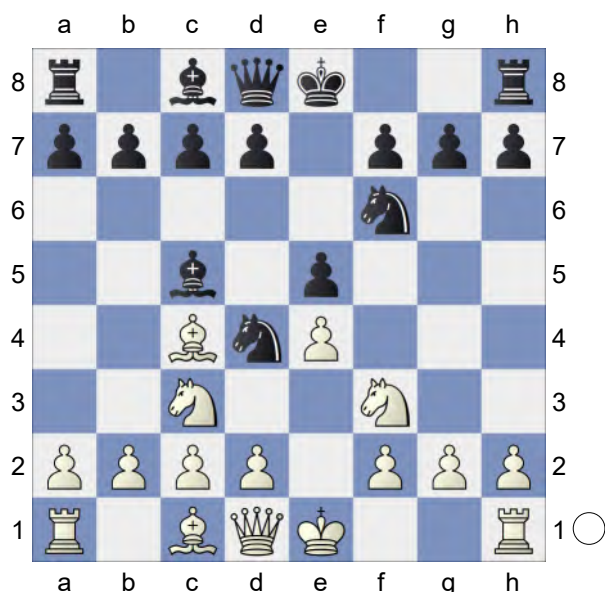
 $1/2-1/2$

81 **C48**
 □ **Wei,Yi** **2743**
 ■ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2811**
 80th Tata Steel GpA (10.6) 24.01.2018
 [Mikhalevski,Victor]

1.e4 0 Fernandez,Daniel Howard:
 'Fernandez,D' **1...e5 5 2.Nf3 0 Nc6 4**
3.Nc3 53 Nf6 9 4.Bb5 8 Nd4 15
 Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Black had no
 truly adventurous choices in any case,
 except the slightly odd 4... ♘d6. Quite
 solid are the well-known 4...d6 and 4...
 ♙b4.' **5.Bc4 1:07**

[5.Ba4!? is the main line, trying to
 prevent Black from playing ...d5
 under favourable conditions. Play
 could continue: Bc5!? (5...Nxf3+
 6.Qxf3 Bc5= is stable equality,
 though White has also tried the
 pawn recapture.) 6.Nxe5 0-0 7.Nd3
 Bb6 8.e5 Ne8 9.Nd5 Now see, for
 instance, Morozevich-Svidler,
 Thessaloniki 2013, or Kasparov-
 Dominguez, Saint Louis 2017.]

5...Bc5 11



6.d3 2:00

[6.Nxe5 Qe7! is vaguely reminiscent
 of the Traxler Counter-Gambit and is
 in any case more dangerous for White
 than Black.]

6...d6 12 7.Na4 2:00 This knight move
 can be considered the main line.
 Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Mikhalevski,
 Victor: 'This knight move can be
 considered the main line.' Fernandez,
 Daniel Howard: 'Initiating large-scale
 exchanges in a tried and tested manner.'

[7.h3 is most played, but seems a
 little slow, especially since Black can
 just respond to ♗g5/♘d5 ideas with
 a laconic ...c6.]

7...b5 1:29 Nowadays this is the most
 popular reply. Fernandez,Daniel
 Howard: 'Mikhalevski,Victor: 'Nowadays
 this is the most popular reply.'

[Earlier we only considered 7...Nxf3+
 in Svidler,P (2749) -Karjakin,S
 (2785) Moscow RUS 2012
 [Mikhalevski,V]]

8.Nxd4 39

[8.Nxc5?! is dubious due to bxc4
 9.Nxd4 exd4! 10.Na4 Bd7 11.b3
 c3⚡ with the better chances for Black
 as the knight on a4 is completely out
 of play, while Black may consider
 taking it at any time.]

8...bxc4 13 9.Nf5! 52 The best retreat.
 Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Mikhalevski,
 Victor: '!' Mikhalevski,Victor: 'The best
 retreat.' Fernandez,Daniel Howard:
 'Mikhalevski,Victor: '!' '!' Mikhalevski,
 Victor: 'The best retreat.'

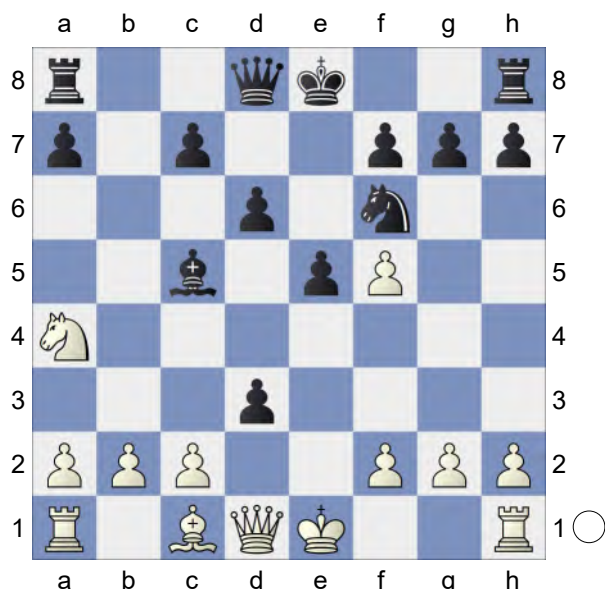
[In a recent game Svidler tested 9.Ne2
 cxd3 (9...Bb6 is also interesting.)
 10.Qxd3 Bb4+ (There is also nothing
 wrong with 10...Bb6 11.0-0 0-0
 12.Ng3 Qe8 13.Nxb6 axb6=
 Post,E-Flamberg,A Mannheim 1914)
 11.c3

A) 11...Ba5! was better, having in mind to meet 12.Qb5+ with c6 13.Qxc6+ Bd7 14.Qxd6 Bc7 (14...Bxa4 15.Qxe5+ Kf8 also looks fine for Black.) 15.Qa6 Nxe4 16.0-0 Nd6 17.c4 Bc8 18.Qc6+ Bd7 19.Qa6 with a repetition.;

B) 11...Qd7?! 12.b3 Ba5 13.0-0 (13.Bg5!± was the only chance to fight for an opening advantage.) 13...Bb7 14.f3 Bc6 15.Qa6 Bb6+ 16.Nxb6 axb6 17.Qd3 d5 and Black at least equalised. Svidler,P (2768)-Giri,A (2752) Wijk aan Zee NED 2018]

[9.Nf3 Bb6 10.Bg5 cxd3 11.Qxd3 Qd7 (11...h6!? 12.Bh4 0-0 is more comfortable for Black.) 12.Nc3 Ng4 13.Bh4 f6 and Black was fine in Artemiev,V (2621)-Babujian,L (2491) Yerevan 2014]

9...Bxf5 39 10.exf5 18 cxd3 37



11.Nxc5 5:41 dxc5 50 12.cxd3 4:21 Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'So far following a source game from 2 years ago. What seems likely is that central pawn exchanges will follow and then a

draw.'

[White also tested two alternatives. 12.Bg5 e4! 13.cxd3 exd3 14.Bxf6

A) Black could try to set some problems with 14...gxf6! 15.0-0 Qd5 (15...0-0!? 16.Qg4+ Kh8 17.Qc4 Qd6 18.Rad1 Rad8 19.Rd2 Rfe8) 16.Re1+ Kf8 17.Re3 Rg8 18.Qf3 Rd8 19.Rd1 c4 20.Qxd5 Rxd5 21.b3 cxb3 22.axb3 Rg5 23.Rexd3 Rxd3 24.Rxd3 Rxf5 with an extra pawn for Black. although White retains good drawing chances.;

B) 14...Qxf6 15.Qxd3 0-0 16.0-0 Qxb2 17.Qc4 Qe5 18.Rac1 Qxf5 and a draw was agreed in Ivanchuk, V (2710)-Cheparinov,I (2687) Varadero 2016]

[12.Qxd3 0-0?! (12...Qxd3! 13.cxd3 0-0-0 14.Ke2 Nd5= promises Black equal chances.) 13.Be3± and White was better in Baenziger,F (2379)-Kranz,A (2054) Austria AUT 2018]

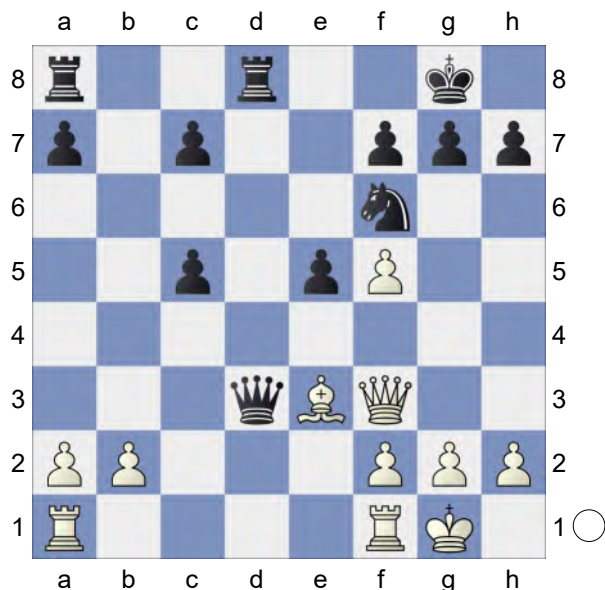
12...Qd7!? 8:38 Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Mikhalevski,Victor: '!'?' Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Mikhalevski, Victor: '!'?' '!'?"

[Black could also start with 12...0-0!? 13.Be3 Qd7 14.Rc1 Qxf5 15.Rxc5 Rfd8 16.0-0 Rxd3 17.Qc2 h6 18.Rxc7 Nd5 19.Rxa7 Rxa7 20.Bxa7 Nf4 21.Be3 Nxc2! 22.Kxc2 Qg4+ with a draw.]

13.Qf3 2:45 0-0 2:25 14.0-0 33

[14.Bg5 doesn't promise any advantage either. Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Mikhalevski,Victor: 'doesn't promise any advantage either.' Nd5 (14...e4 15.dxe4 Nxe4=) 15.0-0 f6 16.Be3 Nxe3 17.fxe3 Rad8! 18.Rac1 Qb5=]

14...Rfd8 8:39 15.Be3 57 Qxd3 40



16.Rac1 28 Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'To be honest with you, I doubt it makes much difference which rook White plays with here.'

[16.Rfc1 e4 17.Qg3 Qd5 18.Qxc7 Rac8 19.Qf4= Maze,S-Fressinet,L Agen 2016, was the source game, maybe marginally more pleasant for Black but still ultimately agreed drawn without much trouble.]

16...c4! 3:13 Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Mikhalevski,Victor: '!' Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Mikhalevski,Victor: '!' '!' **17.h3! 9:03** A clever move. There is no rush in winning back the c4-pawn. Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'Mikhalevski,Victor: '!' Mikhalevski,Victor: 'A clever move. There is no rush in winning back the c4-pawn.' Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Mikhalevski,Victor: '!' '!' Mikhalevski, Victor: 'A clever move. There is no rush in winning back the c4-pawn.' **17...h6!? 5:15** Caruana also prefers to make a luft. Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Mikhalevski, Victor: '!' Mikhalevski,Victor: 'Caruana also prefers to make a luft.' Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'Mikhalevski,Victor: '!' '!' Mikhalevski,Victor: 'Caruana also

prefers to make a luft."

[17...a5!? with the idea to bring the a8-rook into play deserved serious attention as well. 18.Rc3 e4!

A) 19.Rxd3 exf3 20.Rxd8+ Rxd8 21.Rc1 Ne4 22.gxf3 (or 22.Rxc4 Rd1+ 23.Kh2 Nd2! 24.Bxd2 Rxd2 25.Rxc7 g5!=) 22...Nd6 23.Bf4 Kf8 24.Bxd6+ Rxd6 25.Rxc4 Rd2= with equal chances.;

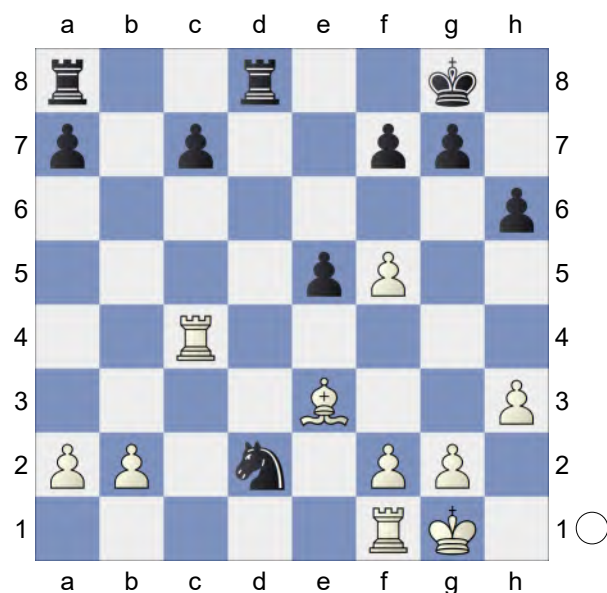
B) 19.Qg3 Qd5 20.Bg5 Qxf5 21.Rxc4 Rd3 22.Qh4 Rad8 23.Rxc7 h6 24.Bxf6 Qxf6 25.Qxf6 gxf6=]

[17...e4= kept equality more easily.]

18.Rc3 16:53 Qe4 8:35

[18...Qd5! 19.Qxd5 Nxd5 20.Rxc4 a5= keeps everything watertight.]

19.Qxe4 1:38 Nxe4 5 20.Rxc4 11 Nd2! 3:21



The point of the move 17...h6. In the coming rook endgame Black obtains good drawing chances. Fernandez, Daniel Howard: 'Mikhalevski,Victor: '!' Mikhalevski,Victor: 'The point of the move 17...h6. In the coming rook endgame Black obtains good drawing chances.' Fernandez,Daniel Howard:

'Mikhalevski,Victor: '! '!' Mikhalevski, Victor: 'The point of the move 17...h6. In the coming rook endgame Black obtains good drawing chances.'" **21.Bxd2** 8

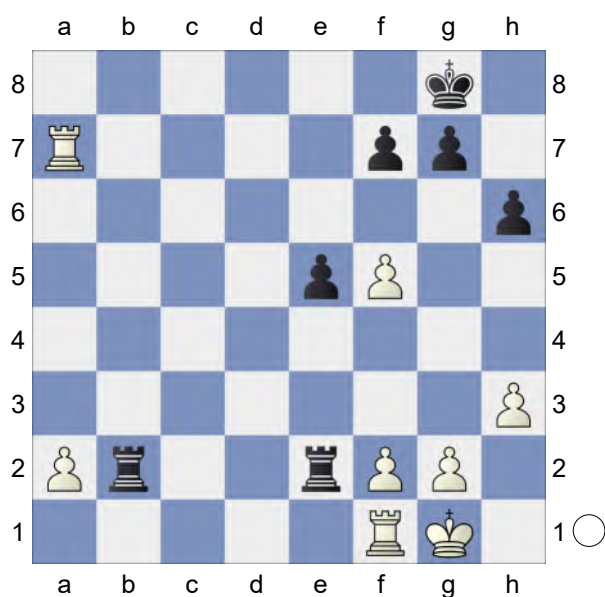
Rxd2 5 **22.Rb1** 4:46

[Black has made a few very minor inaccuracies, and now 22.Rxc7!? Rxb2 23.Re1! Rxa2 24.Rxe5± might still make Black do a little bit of work in an unpleasant 4-v-3 rook endgame.]

22...Rad8! 8:08 Fabiano activates his rooks. Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Mikhalevski,Victor: '! Mikhalevski, Victor: 'Fabiano activates his rooks.'" Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Mikhalevski, Victor: '! '!' Mikhalevski,Victor: 'Fabiano activates his rooks.'" **23.Rxc7** 1:04 **Re2!** 29

Now Rdd2 can't be stopped and Black fully equalises. Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Mikhalevski,Victor: 'Now Rdd2 can't be stopped and Black fully equalises.'" Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'The sacrificed pawns will return home.'

24.Rxa7 1:04 **Rdd2** 8 **25.Rf1** 16 **Rxb2** 6

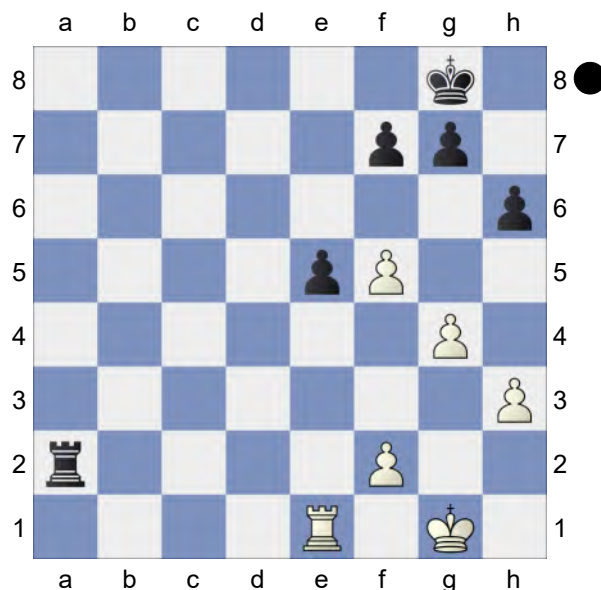


26.g4 8:58

[26.a4 e4 27.a5 e3 28.Ra8+ Kh7

29.g4 exf2+ 30.Kg2 Re3 31.Rxf2 Rbb3= and the activity of the black rooks yields Black enough counterplay.]

26...Rxa2 58 **27.Rxa2** 5 **Rxa2** 3 **28.Re1** 6



and in this completely equal position a draw was agreed. A short but well-played game, which proves that White doesn't have many winning chances in the line with 7.Na4. Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'Mikhalevski,Victor: 'and in this completely equal position a draw was agreed. A short but well-played game, which proves that White doesn't have many winning chances in the line with 7.Na4.'" Fernandez,Daniel Howard: 'The draw was agreed here, none too soon.'

1/2-1/2

140

□ Wei, Yi

■ Ju, Wenjun

(ch) 147/3 Chiva

[Milanovic, Danilo]

A09

2732

2560

2020

1.Nf3 David Cummings David Cummings
David Cummings David Cummings:
'Milanovic, Danilo Milanovic, Danilo
Milanovic, Danilo: 'David Cummings'

1...d5 2.c4 d4 3.b4 c5

David Cummings: 'Black has a host of alternatives on the 3rd move. In addition to the text move, we have covered 3...f6, 3...g5, 3...Bg4, and 3... g6 in the Archives. Ju Wenjun's choice avoids some of the more irrational lines and goes for a reversed Benoni/Benko approach.' 'Black has a host of alternatives on the 3rd move. In addition to the text move, we have covered 3...f6, 3...g5, 3...Bg4, and 3... g6 in the Archives. Ju Wenjun's choice avoids some of the more irrational lines and goes for a reversed Benoni/Benko approach. Milanovic, Danilo: 'David Cummings: 'Black has a host of alternatives on the 3rd move. In addition to the text move, we have covered 3...f6, 3...g5, 3...Bg4, and 3... g6 in the Archives. Ju Wenjun's choice avoids some of the more irrational lines and goes for a reversed Benoni/Benko approach.'"

4.g3 David Cummings: 'Wei Yi opts for a pure reversed Benko Gambit. On the evidence of this game (and the notes) at least, this doesn't look like such a great attempt for an advantage if Black is an experienced 1 d4 player. Instead: "Wei Yi opts for a pure reversed Benko Gambit. On the evidence of this game (and the notes) at

least, this doesn't look like such a great attempt for an advantage if Black is an experienced 1 d4 player. Instead: Milanovic, Danilo: 'David Cummings: 'Wei Yi opts for a pure reversed Benko Gambit. On the evidence of this game (and the notes) at least, this doesn't look like such a great attempt for an advantage if Black is an experienced 1 d4 player. Instead:"

[4.e3 (David Cummings) The Blumenfeld is a regarded as a riskier opening for Black than the Benko, but perhaps the reversed version is a better winning attempt for White? Indeed, it is the recommendation for GM Demuth in his repertoire book for White in the Reti. Now David Cummings: 'The Blumenfeld is a regarded as a riskier opening for Black than the Benko, but perhaps the reversed version is a better winning attempt for White? Indeed, it is the recommendation for GM Demuth in his repertoire book for White in the Reti. Now Milanovic, Danilo: '(David Cummings) The Blumenfeld is a regarded as a riskier opening for Black than the Benko, but perhaps the reversed version is a better winning attempt for White? Indeed, it is the recommendation for GM Demuth in his repertoire book for White in the Reti. Now" dxe3 5.fxe3 cxb4 6.d4 (6.a3 is analyzed in Sadorra-Kacheishvili in the Archives.) 6...Nf6 7.Bd3 g6 8.0-0 Bg7 9.a3 bxa3 10.Bxa3 0-0 11.Nc3 Nc6 and now Demuth's suggestion 12.Qe1 was tested in a game that continued b6 13.d5 Na5 14.e4 Ba6 (14...Bg4 is a better attempt) 15.e5 when White was clearly better due to his central

control, Edouard,R (2641)-Duda,J (2734) chess24.com INT 2020 1/2-1/2 (28)]

[4.bxc5 David Cummings David Cummings: 'Milanovic,Danilo: 'David Cummings' Nc6 5.e3 is covered in Schaeffer-Bronznik in the Archives.]

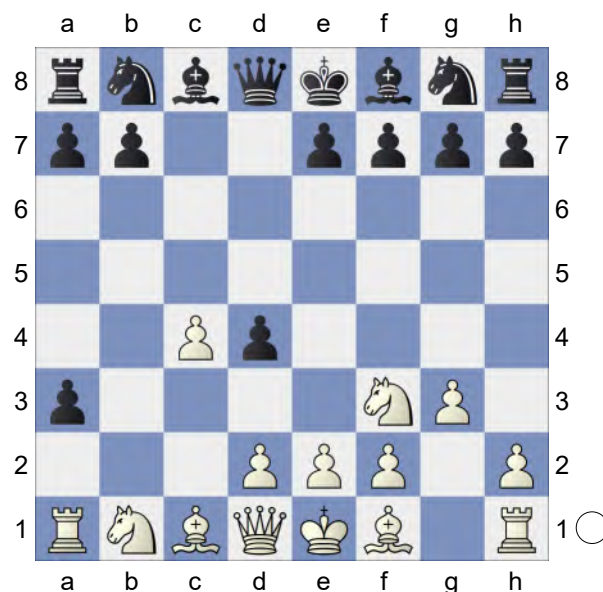
[4.Bb2 David Cummings David Cummings: 'Milanovic,Danilo: 'David Cummings' a5 5.bxc5 (5.b5 Nd7 6.e3 e5 locks the b2-bishop out of play, Maghsoodloo,P (2676)-Carlsen, M (2862) Chess. com INT 2020 0-1 (34)) 5...Nc6 6.e3 e5 and now the unusual sac 7.Nxe5!? Nxe5 8.exd4 Bg4 9.Qb3 gave White some initiative in Papadimitriou,L (1956) -Poulos,G (1926) Athens 2019 0-1 (40)]

4...cxb4 5.a3 bxa3

[5...b3 David Cummings David Cummings: 'Milanovic,Danilo: 'David Cummings' 6.Bg2 Nc6 7.Qxb3 Nf6 8.0-0 e5 9.d3 Be7 10.a4 0-0 11.Ba3 with balanced chances, Chigaev,M (2615)-Giri,A (2764) Chess.com INT 2020 1-0 (34)]

[5...e6 David Cummings David Cummings: 'Milanovic,Danilo: 'David Cummings' 6.Bg2 Nc6 7.0-0 a5 8.axb4 Bxb4 9.Ne1 Nge7 10.Nd3 0-0 11.Nxb4 Nxb4 12.Ba3 Ra6 13.d3 e5 with another typical reversed Benko position, Svidler,P (2737)-Vitiugov,N (2719) St Petersburg 2018 1/2-1/2 (27)]

(Diagram)



David Cummings: 'Simply taking the offered "Benko" pawn. Black has also played:"Simply taking the offered "Benko" pawn. Black has also played: Milanovic,Danilo: 'David Cummings: 'Simply taking the offered "Benko" pawn. Black has also played:"' **6.Bg2 Nc6 7.0-0** David Cummings: 'Another high-level game continued:"Another high-level game continued: Milanovic,Danilo: 'David Cummings: 'Another high-level game continued:"

[7.Bxa3 e5 David Cummings David Cummings: 'Milanovic,Danilo: 'David Cummings' 8.Bxf8 Kxf8 This castling by hand approach is one of the mainlines in the Benko proper. 9.d3 g6 10.0-0 Kg7 11.Na3 Nf6 12.Qb3 Rb8 13.Rfb1 Bg4 14.Nc2 Re8 15.h3 Bxf3 16.Bxf3 e4 17.dxe4 Nxe4 18.Qd3 Nc5 19.Qd1 d3 20.exd3 Qxd3 21.Qxd3 Nxd3 Duda,J (2734)-Anton Guijarro,D (2674) Batumi 2019 1/2-1/2 (32). The course of this game illustrates the challenge for White if Black (in contrast to the reversed colour situation) is happy to play for equal

chances.]

7...e5

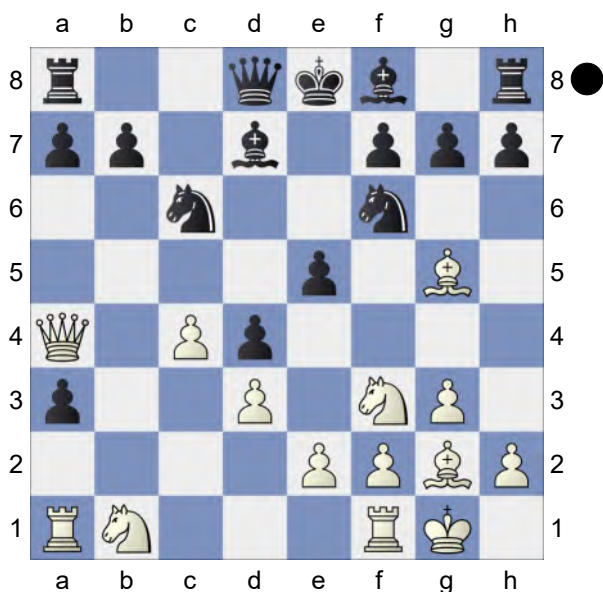
[7...Nf6 - 127/6 David Cummings:
'(Milanovic,Danilo) - 127/6']

8.Qa4 Bd7 9.d3 Nf6

[9...a2!? David Cummings: 'Milanovic,
Danilo' 10.Qxa2 (10.Rxa2?? Nb4-+)
10...Nf6 11.Ba3 Be7 12.Nbd2 0-0
13.Rfb1 Rb8 14.Bxe7 Qxe7
15.Qa3∞]

10.Bg5?!N Diagram

[10.Bxa3 David Cummings David
Cummings: 'Milanovic,Danilo: 'David
Cummings' Bxa3 11.Qxa3 Qe7
12.Nbd2 Qxa3 13.Rxa3 is fine for
White, but likely not more, for example
Ke7 14.Nb3 a5 15.Rfa1 b6 16.c5
bxc5 17.Nxc5 Rhb8 with equal
chances, 1-0 (50) Pajeken,W (2328)-
Dyballa,M (2398) Germany 2005]



David Cummings: '?!' '?!' '?!' David
Cummings: 'Perhaps White was trying to
move the game away from typical
Benko patterns, but the trade of bishop
for knight appears to be positionally
questionable.' 'Perhaps White was trying
to move the game away from typical

Benko patterns, but the trade of bishop
for knight appears to be positionally
questionable. Milanovic,Danilo: 'N?!'
'N?!' Milanovic,Danilo: 'Diagram [#]
David Cummings: '?!' David Cummings:
'Perhaps White was trying to move the
game away from typical Benko patterns,
but the trade of bishop for knight
appears to be positionally questionable.'"

10...Be7

[10...a2!? David Cummings:
'Milanovic,Danilo'

A) 11.Rxa2 Nb4 12.Qb3 Nxa2
13.Nxe5

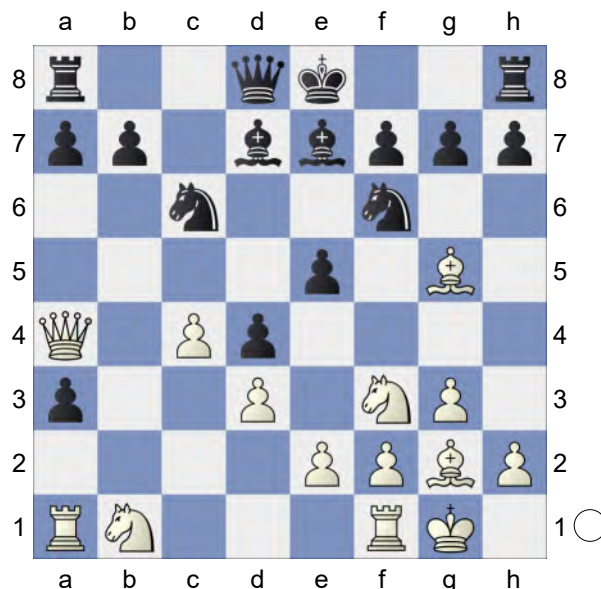
A1) 13...Nc3?! 14.Nxc3 dxc3
15.c5 Qe7 16.Qxb7 (16.d4!?∞);

A2) 13...Nb4 14.c5 Qe7

A2a) 15.Bxf6 gxf6 16.Nxd7
Qxd7 17.Qxb4 Rc8 18.Qd2
Rxc5 (18...Bxc5 19.Qh6∞)
19.Qf4 Bd6 (19...Be7
20.Nd2∞) 20.Qxd4 Be7!?

A2b) 15.Nxd7;

B) 11.Qxa2 Be7 12.Qb2 a5
(12...Rb8 13.e3∞)]



11.Nxa3 0-0 12.Nd2

[12.Rfb1 David Cummings: 'Milanovic, Danilo'

A) 12...b6 13.Nd2 Na5 (13...Rc8 14.Qa6!?) 14.Qd1

A1) 14...Rc8 15.Bxf6 Bxf6 16.Nb5 a6 (16...Bxb5?! 17.Rxb5±) 17.Nd6 Rb8 18.Bd5!? Be7 19.N2e4∞;

A2) 14...Bc6 15.Bxc6 Nxc6 16.Qa4 Qd7 17.Bxf6 Bxf6 18.Nc2 Be7 19.Nb4!? Bxb4 20.Rxb4∞;

B) 12...Rb8 13.Nd2 a5 (13...h6 14.Bxf6 Bxf6 15.Nb5±) 14.Qb5!?±]

12...a6!? David Cummings: 'Black could have instead claimed more space, with: "Black could have instead claimed more space, with: Milanovic, Danilo: '!? '!? Milanovic, Danilo: 'David Cummings: 'Black could have instead claimed more space, with: "'

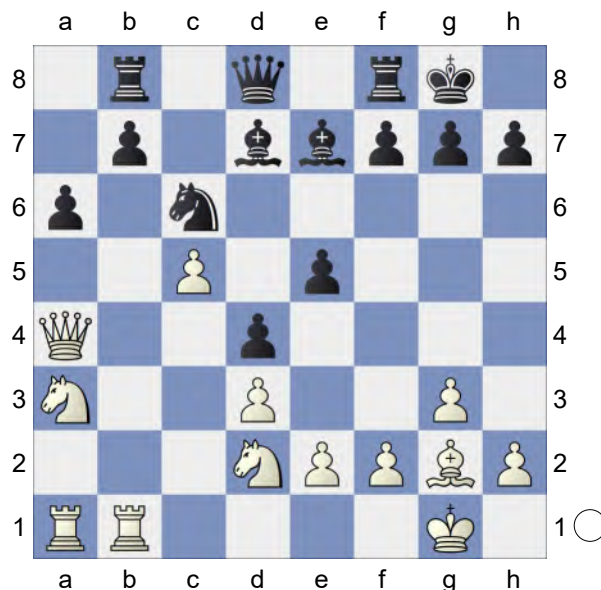
[12...a5 David Cummings: 'when White is struggling to generate compensation.' 'when White is struggling to generate compensation. Milanovic, Danilo: 'David Cummings: 'when White is struggling to generate compensation.' ' 13.Rfb1 David Cummings: 'Milanovic, Danilo']

13.Bxf6 Bxf6

[13...gxf6 (David Cummings) is actually preferred by the engines, but it would be hard for a human player to voluntarily spoil the kingside structure. David Cummings: 'is actually preferred by the engines, but it would be hard for a human player to voluntarily spoil the kingside structure. Milanovic, Danilo: '(David Cummings) is actually preferred by the engines, but it would be hard for a human player to voluntarily spoil

the kingside structure."]

14.Rfb1 Rb8 15.c5 Be7



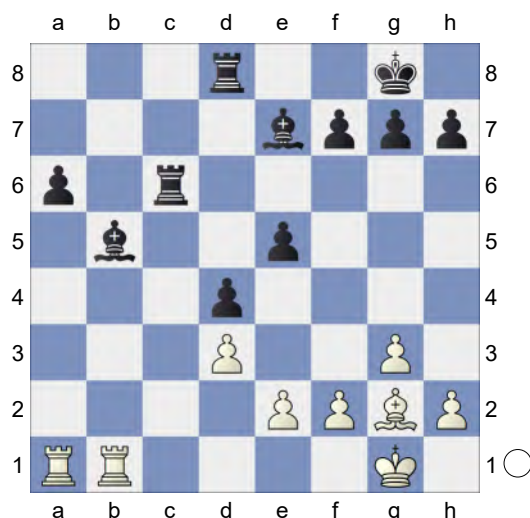
16.Ne4 David Cummings: 'The knight doesn't have a stable post here, and before long White loses the c5-pawn. Instead: "The knight doesn't have a stable post here, and before long White loses the c5-pawn. Instead: Milanovic, Danilo: 'David Cummings: 'The knight doesn't have a stable post here, and before long White loses the c5-pawn. Instead: "'

[16.Nb3 Na7 David Cummings: 'Milanovic, Danilo' (16...Qc7 David Cummings David Cummings: 'Milanovic, Danilo: 'David Cummings' 17.Nc4 keeps the game within bounds) 17.Qa5

A) 17...Qxa5 18.Nxa5 Bxc5 19.Rxb7 Rxb7 20.Nxb7 Bxa3 (20...Be7?! 21.Nc4±) 21.Rxa3 Nb5 (21...Bb5 22.Nd6 Nc8 23.Nc4 f6 24.Bb7=) 22.Rxa6 Nc3 23.Kf1=;

B) 17...Nb5 18.Qxd8 Rfxd8 19.Nxb5 Bxb5 20.Na5 b6 (20...Bxc5 21.Nxb7 Rdc8 22.Nxc5 Rxc5 23.Rxa6=) 21.cxb6 Rxb6

22.Nc6 Rxc6 Diagram



23.Rxb5! axb5 (23...Rc1+
24.Rxc1 axb5 25.Rc7 Kf8 26.Rb7
b4 27.Bc6) 24.Bxc6 b4 25.Ra7
Kf8 26.Rb7

16...Na5 17.Qc2 Qc7 18.Nc4

[18.Rb6?! David Cummings:
'Milanovic,Danilo' Rfc8

A) 19.Nd6 Bxd6 20.Rxd6 b5
21.Rxa6 b4

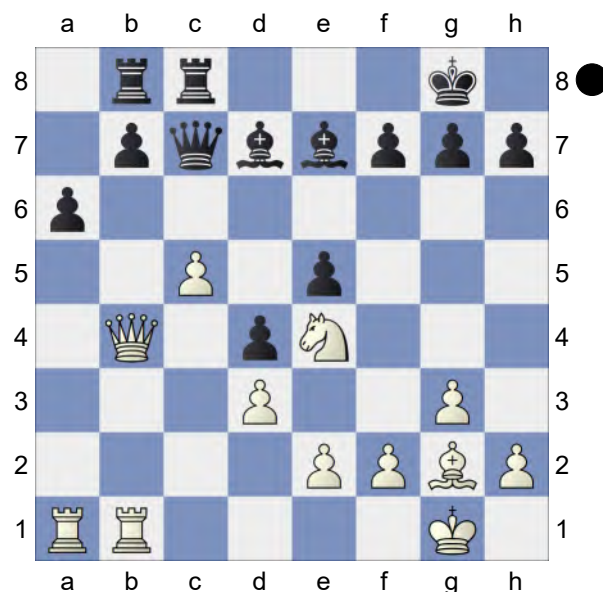
A1) 22.Nc4 Nxc4 23.dxc4
(23.Qxc4?? Bb5-+)
23...Qxc5-+;

A2) 22.Nb1 b3 23.Qd1 Qxc5!
24.R1xa5 Qc1 25.Qf1 b2 26.h4
Qxf1+ 27.Bxf1 Rc1 28.Ra8 Rf8
29.Nd2 Rd1;

B) 19.Rab1 Bxc5 20.Nxc5 Qxc5
21.Qxc5 (21.Qa2? Bc6-+)
21...Rxc5 22.Rxa6 (22.Bxb7??
Rxb7 23.Rxb7 Nxb7 24.Rxb7
Rc1+ 25.Kg2 Bc6-+-) 22...bxa6
23.Rxb8+ Rc8 24.Rb1 (24.Rb6
Rc1+ 25.Bf1 g5 26.Kg2 Rc6
27.Rb8+ Kg7-+) 24...g5

18...Nxc4 19.Qxc4 Rfc8 20.Qb4
Diagram

(Diagram)



David Cummings: 'Milanovic,Danilo:
'Diagram [#]' 20...h6

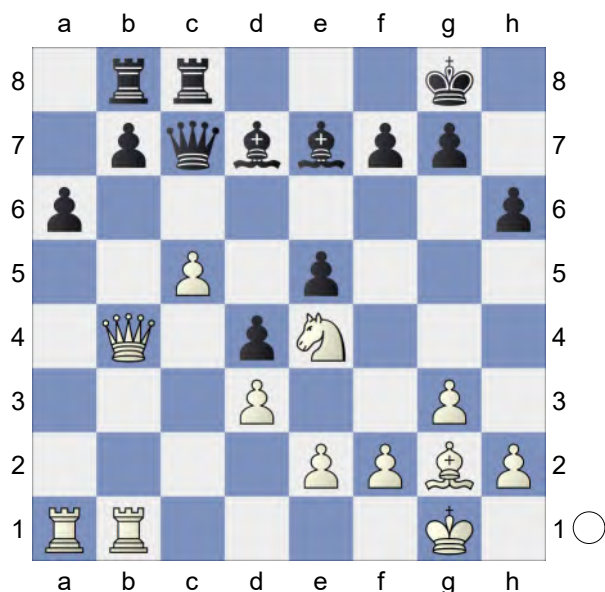
[20...Bxc5!? David Cummings:
'Milanovic,Danilo: '!' '!' 21.Nxc5
David Cummings: 'Milanovic,Danilo'
(21.Qxc5 David Cummings Qxc5
22.Nxc5) 21...Qxc5

A) 22.Bxb7 Qxb4 23.Rxb4 Rc7
24.Rab1 (24.Rxa6 Bc8-+) 24...a5
25.Rb6 a4-+;

B) 22.Qxc5 Rxc5 23.Rxa6 bxa6
24.Rxb8+ Rc8 25.Rb1

David Cummings: 'Milanovic,Danilo'
(25.Rb7 David Cummings David
Cummings: 'Milanovic,Danilo:
'David Cummings' Rc1+ 26.Bf1
Bc8 27.Rb8 Kf8 with good winning
chances in the endgame.) 25...Kf8
26.f4 exf4 27.gxf4 Rc7 28.Rb8+
(28.Rb4? Ra7 29.Rxd4 a5
30.Rc4 a4 31.Rc1 a3 32.Bd5
Ke7 33.Kf2 a2 34.Ra1 Be6
35.Bxe6 Kxe6 36.e4 Kd6-+)
28...Ke7 29.Ra8 Bb5

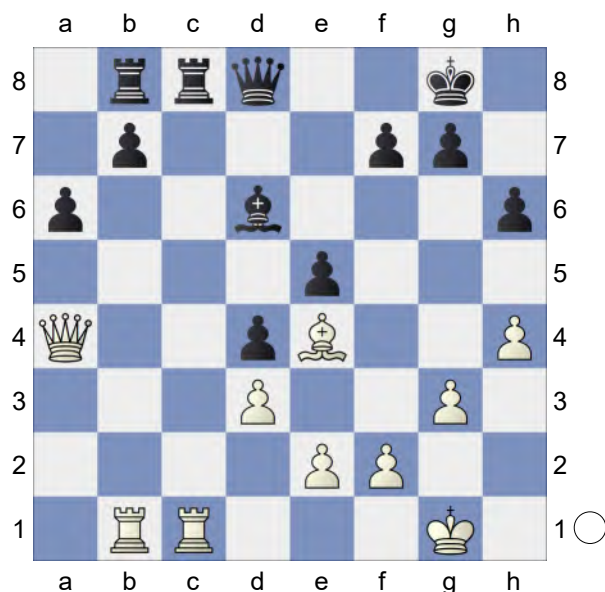
(Diagram)



David Cummings: 'Black could also just take the pawn immediately:"Black could also just take the pawn immediately: Milanovic,Danilo: 'David Cummings: 'Black could also just take the pawn immediately:" **21.h4 Bc6**

[21...Bxc5!? David Cummings: 'Milanovic,Danilo' 22.Nxc5 Qxc5 23.Qxc5 Rxc5 24.Rxa6 b5!? (24...bxa6 25.Rxb8+ Rc8 26.Rb7 Rc1+ 27.Kh2 Be6 28.Ra7 Ra1 29.Ra8+ Kh7 30.Be4+ f5 31.Bb7 a5 32.Re8 Bb3 33.Rxe5∞) 25.Ra7 Be6 26.Ra5 Kf8♣]

22.Rc1 Bxe4 23.Bxe4 Bxc5 David Cummings: 'The presence of opposite coloured bishops gives White hope, but being 2 pawns down after 23 moves is a miserable outcome.'"The presence of opposite coloured bishops gives White hope, but being 2 pawns down after 23 moves is a miserable outcome. Milanovic,Danilo: 'David Cummings: 'The presence of opposite coloured bishops gives White hope, but being 2 pawns down after 23 moves is a miserable outcome.'" **24.Qa4 Qd8 25.Rab1 Bd6**



26.Rd1 Rc7 27.Qa5 Qd7

[27...Qc8!? David Cummings: 'Milanovic,Danilo' 28.Qd5 Qd7 29.Qa5 h5♣]

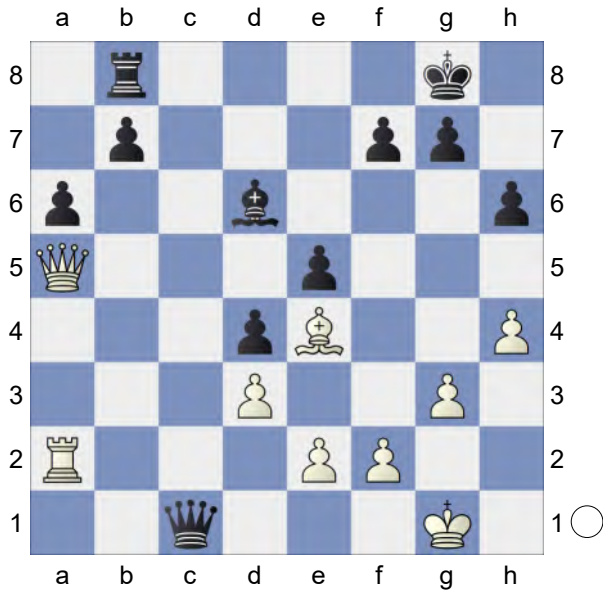
28.Rd2

[28.h5!? David Cummings: 'Milanovic, Danilo']

28...Qc8!? David Cummings: 'Milanovic, Danilo: '!?' '!?' 29.Ra2 Rc1+

David Cummings: 'Trading one pair of rooks makes sense from Black's viewpoint, since it reduces White's potential for counterplay.'"Trading one pair of rooks makes sense from Black's viewpoint, since it reduces White's potential for counterplay. Milanovic, Danilo: 'David Cummings: 'Trading one pair of rooks makes sense from Black's viewpoint, since it reduces White's potential for counterplay.'" **30.Rxc1 Qxc1+**

(Diagram)

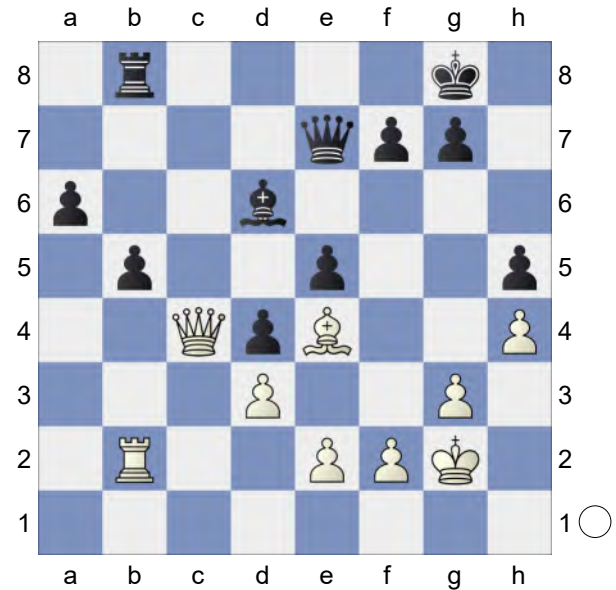


31.Kg2 Qc7 32.Qa4 h5!?
 David Cummings: 'Milanovic,Danilo: '!'?'
 '!'?' **33.Rc2 Qd8 34.Rb2 Qe7**
35.Qc4?! David Cummings: 'Now the
 pawns starting rolling forward.'"Now the
 pawns starting rolling forward. Milanovic,
 Danilo: '?!' '?!' Milanovic,Danilo: 'David
 Cummings: 'Now the pawns starting
 rolling forward.'"

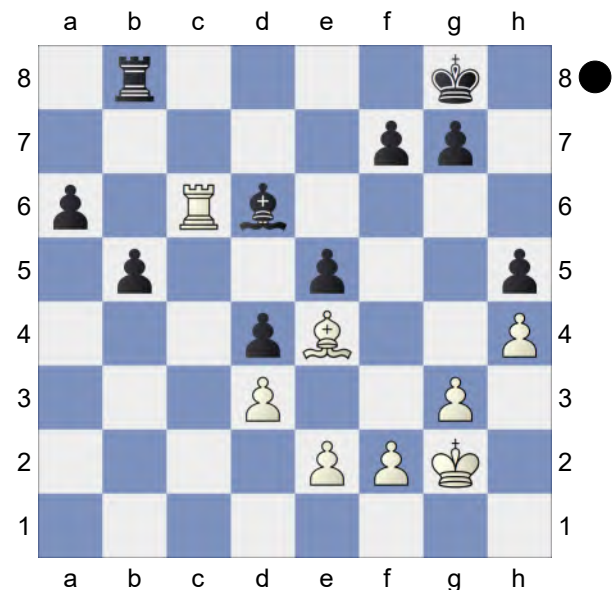
[35.Qa5♞ David Cummings: 'asks
 Black to show how progress can be
 made.'"asks Black to show how
 progress can be made. Milanovic,
 Danilo: ' ♞' ♞' Milanovic,Danilo:
 'David Cummings: 'asks Black to show
 how progress can be made.'"]

35...b5♞

(Diagram)



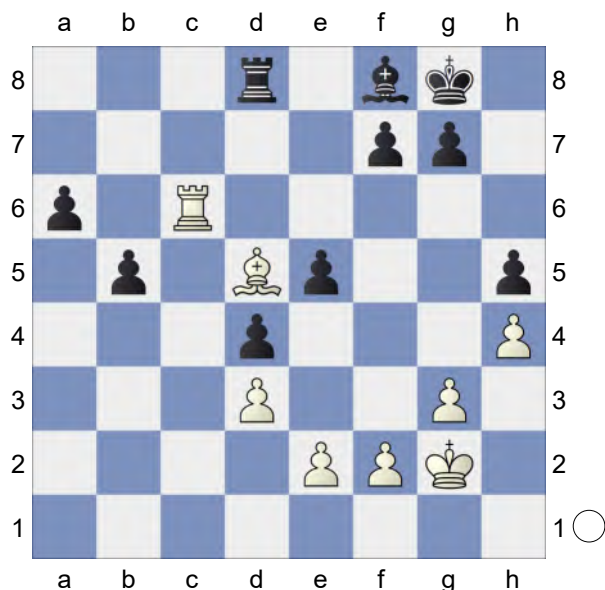
David Cummings: 'Milanovic,Danilo: ' ♞'
 '♞' **36.Qc6 Ba3 37.Rc2 Qd6**
 [37...a5?! David Cummings:
 'Milanovic,Danilo' 38.Qa6 a4
 39.Rc8+ Rxc8 40.Qxc8+ Qf8 41.Qf5
 g6 42.Qxe5♞]
38.Qxd6 Bxd6 39.Rc6 Diagram



David Cummings: 'Milanovic,Danilo:
 'Diagram [#]' **39...Bf8**
 [39...Be7! David Cummings: 'blocks
 the 7th rank and so shields the f7
 pawn from attack by both of White's
 pieces. Now, for example"blocks the

7th rank and so shields the f7 pawn from attack by both of White's pieces. Now, for example Milanovic,Danilo: 'David Cummings: 'blocks the 7th rank and so shields the f7 pawn from attack by both of White's pieces. Now, for example'" 40.Rc7 David Cummings: 'Milanovic,Danilo' (40.Rxa6?? David Cummings: 'Milanovic,Danilo: '??' '??' b4+- David Cummings: 'Milanovic,Danilo: '-+' '-+' 41.Ra8 David Cummings David Cummings: 'Milanovic,Danilo: 'David Cummings" Rxa8 42.Bxa8 b3 43.Bd5 b2 44.Ba2 Bb4 45.Kf3 Be1 and Black should win the opposite coloured bishop endgame.) 40...Kf8 41.Ra7 Bc5 42.Rxa6 b4+-]

40.Bd5 Rd8



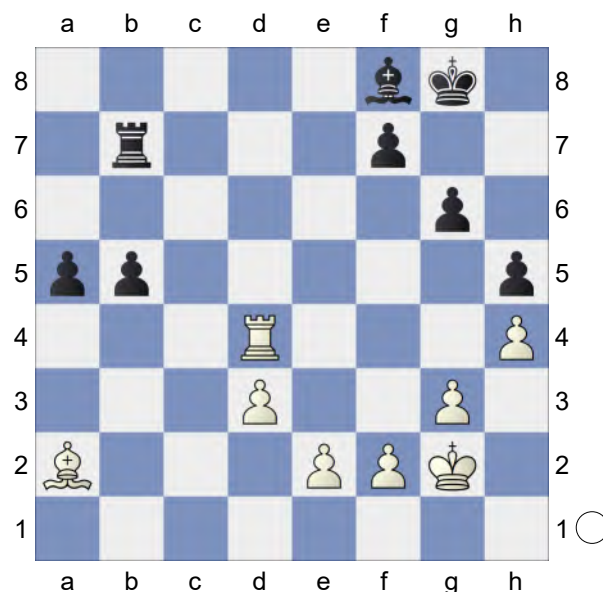
41.Ba2 Rd6 42.Rc5 Rb6 43.Rxe5 g6 44.Re4 a5 45.Rxd4 David Cummings: 'White has picked up 2 central pawns so now has much improved his practical chances.'"White has picked up 2 central pawns so now has much improved his practical chances. Milanovic,Danilo: 'David Cummings: 'White has picked up 2 central pawns so now has much

improved his practical chances.'" 45...Rb7?!

[45...Bd6 David Cummings: 'Milanovic, Danilo' 46.Rd5 a4 47.d4 Kf8

A) 48.e4?! b4! 49.Ra5 b3 50.Rxa4 bxa2 51.Rxa2 Bc7!? (51...Rb4 52.e5 Bc7 53.Rc2 Bb6 54.d5z) 52.Ra7 (52.e5 Rb5f) 52...Bd8 53.Ra8 Ke7 54.Ra7+ Ke8 55.d5 Rb2f;

B) 48.e3!? Ke7f (48...b4?! 49.Ra5 b3 50.Rxa4 bxa2 51.Rxa2f)]

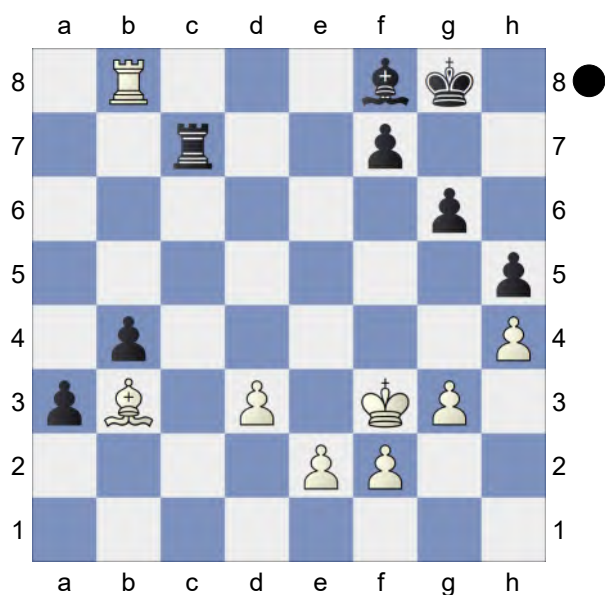


David Cummings: 'Milanovic,Danilo: '?!' '?!' 46.Rd8f David Cummings: 'Milanovic,Danilo: 'f' 'f' 46...a4 David Cummings: '?!' '?!' '?!' David Cummings: 'Now White manages to hold up the pawns with a light squar'Now White manages to hold up the pawns with a light squared blockade. Milanovic, Danilo: 'David Cummings: '?!' David Cummings: 'Now White manages to hold up the pawns with a light squared blockade.'" ed blockade.' 47.Ra8 a3 48.Kf3 David Cummings: '?!' '?!' '?!' Milanovic,Danilo: 'David Cummings:

'?!'

[48.Bd5!? David Cummings:
'Milanovic,Danilo: '!' '!' Re7
David Cummings: 'Milanovic,Danilo'
(48...Rc7 David Cummings David
Cummings: 'Milanovic,Danilo: 'David
Cummings' 49.e3 b4 50.Ra6
holds up the pawns. Now Black gets
renewed chances.) 49.e3 b4
50.d4∞]

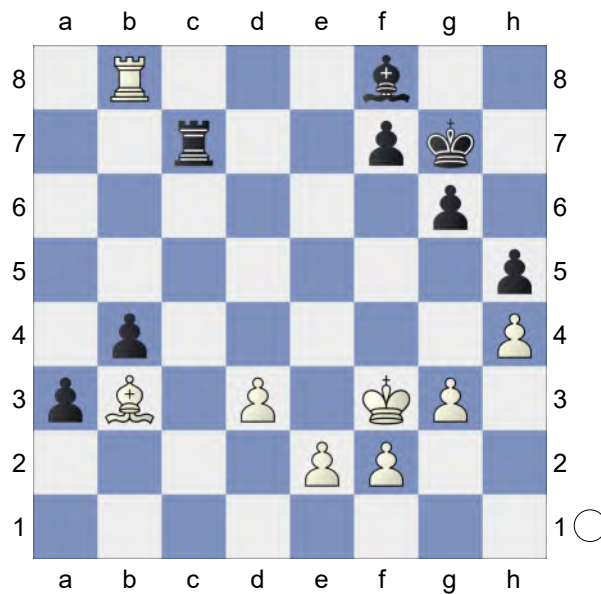
48...b4 49.Bb3 Rc7 50.Rb8 Diagram



David Cummings: 'Milanovic,Danilo:
'Diagram [#]" 50...Kg7?!

[50...Rc3! David Cummings:
'Milanovic,Danilo' 51.Ba2 (51.Bd5
b3 52.Rxb3 a2 53.Rxc3 a1Q-+)
51...Rc2 52.Bb3 Rb2 53.Bc4 b3-+]

(Diagram)



David Cummings: 'Milanovic,Danilo: '?!'
'?!' **51.Rb5?** David Cummings:
'Milanovic,Danilo: '?' '?'

[51.Kg2! David Cummings: 'Milanovic,
Danilo' Rc3 52.Bd5 b3 53.Rxb3 a2
54.Rxc3 a1Q 55.Rc7!=]

51...Bc5? David Cummings: '?!' '?!'
'?!' Milanovic,Danilo: '?' '?' Milanovic,
Danilo: 'David Cummings: '?!'

[51...Rc3-+ David Cummings:
'Milanovic,Danilo: '-+' '-+' 52.Bd5
David Cummings David Cummings:
'Milanovic,Danilo: 'David Cummings'
b3! is a decisive breakthrough since
after 53.Bxb3 Rxb3 54.Rxb3 a2
the a-pawn cannot be stopped.]

52.e3

[52.Bd5! David Cummings: 'Milanovic,
Danilo' Bd6 53.Rb6 Rc5 54.Bb3⚡]

52...Be7

[52...Bd6!? David Cummings:
'Milanovic,Danilo' 53.Bd5 (53.Rb6
Bf8-+) 53...Rc3⚡]

53.Bd5 Kf8

[53...Rc3 David Cummings: 'Milanovic,
Danilo' 54.Rb7 Rxd3 55.Bc4 Rc3
56.Ba2=

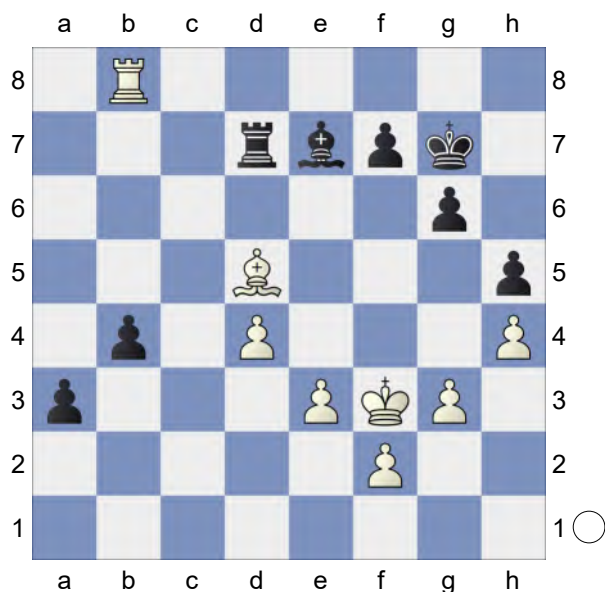
A) 56...Rc2 57.Bb3

A1) 57...Rb2 58.Bc4 Rc2=
(58...b3? 59.Rxe7 a2 60.Rxf7+
Kh6 61.Ra7 Rb1 62.Bxb3 a1Q
63.Rxa1 Rxa1 64.Bd5=);

A2) 57...Rc3 58.Ba2=;

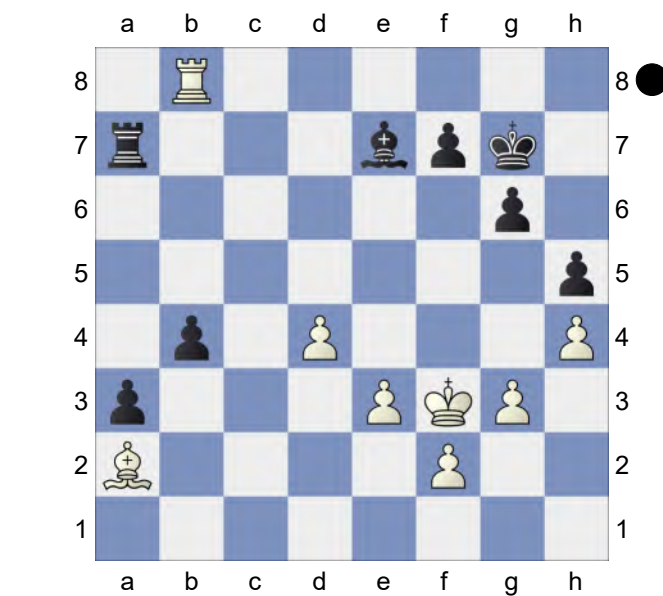
B) 56...Kf6 57.Rb6+ Ke5 58.Bxf7
Bd6

54.Rb8+ Kg7 55.d4 Rd7



56.Bb3 Rc7 57.Bd5 David Cummings:
'Black can no longer make any progress.'
"Black can no longer make any progress."
Milanovic,Danilo: 'David Cummings:
'Black can no longer make any progress.'
''' 57...Ra7 58.Ba2 Rc7 59.Bd5 Ra7
60.Ba2

(Diagram)



1/2-1/2

144

□ Wei,Yi

■ Ding,Liren

chess.com (Int.-rapid) 147/24

[Milanovic,Danilo]

B12

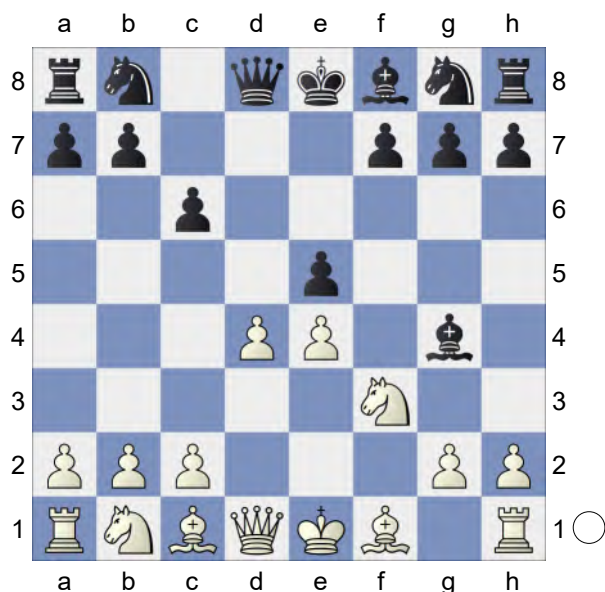
2732

2791

2020

1.e4 Postny, Evgeny Postny, Evgeny
 Postny, Evgeny Postny, Evgeny:
 'Milanovic,Danilo' **1...c6 2.d4 d5 3.f3**
dxe4 4.fxe4 e5 5.Nf3 Bg4

[5...Be6 Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic,
 Danilo']

**6.Bc4**

[6.c3 Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic,
 Danilo']

6...Nd7 7.c3

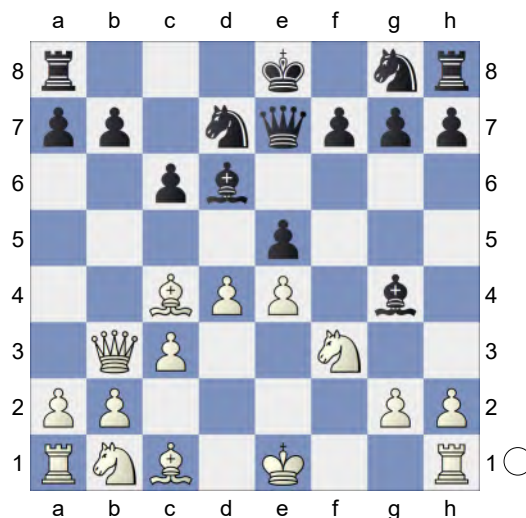
[7.0-0 Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic,
 Danilo']

**7...Bd6!? Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic,
 Danilo: '!'?**

[7...Bh5 Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic,
 Danilo']

8.0-0

[8.Qb3 Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic,
 Danilo' Qe7 Diagram
 (Diagram)

**A) 9.Ng5 0-0-0!?****A1) 10.Nxf7 exd4**

A1a) 11.Nxd8?? Qxe4+
 12.Kf2 d3 13.Qxb7+ Kxd8
 14.Qa8+ Nb8 15.Re1 Be2
 16.Bg5+ Nf6-+;

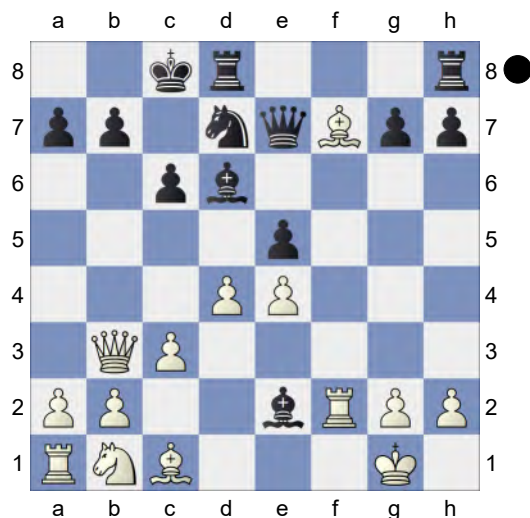
A1b) 11.Nxd6+?! Qxd6
 12.0-0 (12.cxd4? Nc5!
 13.Qe3 Qxd4 14.Qxd4 Rxd4
 15.Nd2 b5 16.Be2 Bxe2
 17.Kxe2 Nf6 18.Re1 Re8-+)
 12...d3±;

A1c) 11.cxd4 Qxe4+ 12.Qe3
 Bb4+□ (12...Qxe3+??
 13.Bxe3 Nb6 14.Bb3 Nf6
 15.0-0+; 12...Qxg2??
 13.Nxd6+ Kc7 14.Rg1 Qxh2
 15.Rxg4+-) 13.Kf1 Ngf6
 14.Qxe4 Nxe4 15.Nxh8 Rxh8
 16.Kg1 Rf8 17.Be3
 (xa1, Nb1, Rh1) Re8±;

A2) 10.0-0 Nh6

A2a) 11.Nxf7?? Nxf7 12.Bxf7
 (12.Rxf7 Qh4 13.g3 Qh5-+
 v g1) 12...Be2 13.Rf2
 Diagram

(Diagram)



Nc5!! 14.dxc5 Bxc5 15.Nd2
Rh8 16.Qe6+ Rd7-+;

A2b) 11.h3 f6 12.Ne6 Bxe6
13.Bxe6 Kb8 14.Be3 Rhe8

A2b1) 15.Bc4? exd4
16.cxd4 Qxe4 17.Rf3
(17.Bf2 Qf4 18.g3 Qg5-+)
17...Nb6-+;

A2b2) 15.Bxd7 Qxd7♞;

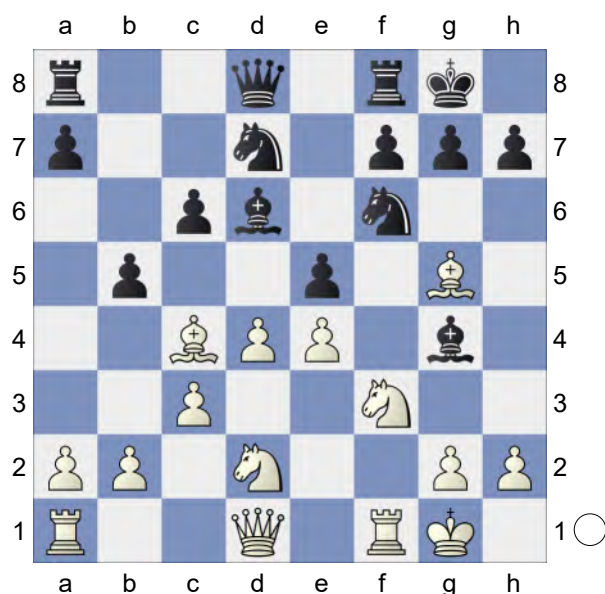
B) 9.Qxb7?! Rb8 10.Qxc6
(10.Qxa7? exd4 11.Qxd4 Ngf6
12.Nbd2 0-0♞) 10...Bxf3 11.gxf3
Ngf6 12.dxe5 (12.0-0? 0-0
13.Bb3 Rb6! 14.Qc4 exd4
15.cxd4 Bxh2+! 16.Kxh2 Nh5
17.Rf2 Rg6 18.Rg2 Qh4+ 19.Kg1
Ng3-+) 12...Bxe5 13.Be3 0-0
(13...Rxb2? 14.Qc8+ Qd8
15.Qxd8+ Kxd8 16.f4 Bc7 17.e5
Ng4 18.Bc1 Rxh2 19.Rxh2 Nxh2
20.Bxf7+-) 14.Nd2 Rxb2↑;

C) 9.0-0 Bxf3 10.Rxf3 Ngf6
11.Bd3 0-0∞]

8...Ngf6 9.Bg5 0-0 10.Nbd2 b5

[10...Bh5 - 146/(30) Postny, Evgeny:
'(Milanovic,Danilo) - 146/(30)']

[10...h6 Postny, Evgeny 11.Bh4 Qc7
- 1/2-1/2 (54) Xiong,J (2709)-Le,Q
(2709) Lichess.org INT 2020]



11.Bb3

[11.Be2 Qb6 12.Kh1!?

Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic,Danilo'
(12.Be3 Postny, Evgeny Rae8
13.Nh4 Be6 14.Kh1 exd4 15.Bxd4
Qc7♞ 1/2-1/2 (62) Leon Hoyos,M (2563)-
Matamoros Franco,C (2542) Forni di
Sopra 2011) 12...Bxf3 13.gxf3!? exd4
14.cxd4 Qxd4 15.Nb3 Qxd1
16.Raxd1 Be5 17.Nd4 Rac8 18.Nf5
Kh8 19.Bc1 Nb6 20.b3♞]

11...c5N Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic,
Danilo: 'N'

[11...Qb6

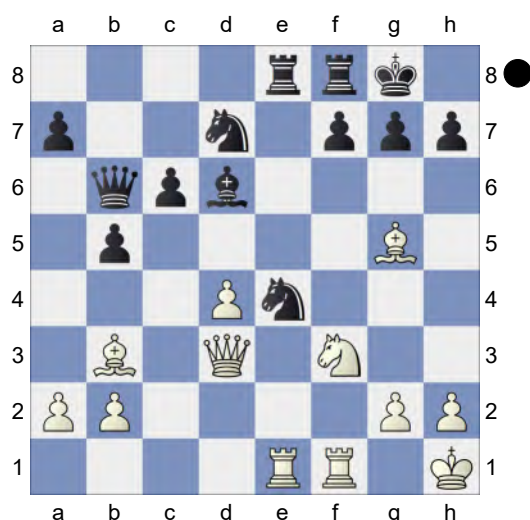
A) 12.Qe1 Postny, Evgeny Rae8
(12...Bxf3 13.Nxf3 Rae8 14.Bc2
exd4 15.cxd4 Nxe4 16.Be3 f5♞
0-1 (21) Solonkovich,I (2128)-
Lenderman,A (2515) Mineola
2008) 13.Qg3 exd4 14.Qxd6
dxc3+ 15.Kh1 cxd2 16.Nxd2 c5♞
0-1 (69) Tseshkovsky,V (2528)-
Zolotukhin,V (2348) Moscow 2011;

B) 12.Kh1

B1) 12...exd4? Postny, Evgeny:
'Milanovic,Danilo' 13.cxd4 Bxf3
14.Nxf3 Nxe4

B1a) 15.Qd3?! Rae8

16.Rae1 Diagram



c5! 17.Bxf7+ (17.Rxe4 c4
18.Qe3 Rxe4 19.Qxe4 cxb3
20.axb3∞) 17...Rxf7 18.Rxe4
Rxe4 19.Qxe4∞;

B1b) 15.Qc2!? Rae8
(15...Nxcg5?? 16.Nxcg5 g6
17.Bxf7+ Kh8 18.Qe4+-)
16.Rae1 Nef6 17.Rxe8 Rxe8
(17...Nxe8 18.Ne5 Nxe5
19.dxe5 Bxe5 20.Be7±)
18.Bxf6 Nxf6 19.Ng5 Re7
20.Qd3!?±;

B2) 12...Rae8 13.Bc2∞
Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic,
Danilo' (13.dxe5
Postny, Evgeny Bxe5 14.Qe1
Bb8 15.Qh4 c5 16.Rae1 h6
17.Bxf6 Nxf6 18.e5 Bxf3
19.exf6 Rxe1 20.Rxe1 Ba8
21.fxg7 Kxg7 The black queen
protects the king across the sixth
rank, so Black should be fine.)]

12.dxc5?! Postny, Evgeny: 'This looks
like a concession to me. Two alternative
moves by the d-pawn were preferable.'

[12.dxe5 Bxe5 Postny, Evgeny:
'Milanovic, Danilo' (12...Nxe5
Postny, Evgeny 13.Bd5 Rb8 14.Bxf6
Bxf3 15.Bxd8 Bxd1 16.Raxd1 Rbxd8

17.Nf3=) 13.Qe1

A) 13...Qb6 14.Nxe5 Nxe5
15.Bxf6 c4+ 16.Kh1 gxf6
17.Bd1±;

B) 13...Bxf3 14.Nxf3

B1) 14...Qc7? 15.Nxe5 Qxe5
16.Rf5 Qc7 (16...Qxe4
17.Qxe4 Nxe4 18.Be7+-)
17.Qh4+-;

B2) 14...Qb6 15.Nxe5 Nxe5
16.Bc2±;

C) 13...c4 14.Nxe5 Nxe5 15.Bc2
Qb6+ 16.Be3 Qe6 17.Bd4±]

[12.d5 Postny, Evgeny c4 13.Bc2 h6
14.Be3 Bh5 15.Kh1 Bg6 16.Bg1
(16.Nh4?! Nxd5)]

12...Bxc5+ 13.Kh1 h6 14.Bh4

[14.Bxf6 Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic,
Danilo' Nxf6 15.h3

A) 15...Bh5 16.g4 Bg6 17.Nxe5
Nxe4 18.Nxcg6

A1) 18...Nxd2?? 19.Nxf8 Nxf1
20.Bxf7+! Kxf7 (20...Kxf8
21.Qxf1 Qf6 22.Qg2 Rd8
23.Rf1 Rd2 24.Qa8+ Rd8
25.Rxf6 Rxa8 26.Rf5 Ke7
27.Rxc5 Kxf7 28.Rxb5+-)
21.Qb3+ Kxf8 22.Rxf1+ Ke7
23.Qf7+ Kd6 24.Rd1+ Kc6
25.Rxd8 Rxd8 26.Qxg7+-;

A2) 18...Ng3+ 19.Kg2 Nxf1
20.Nxf1 Qf6! (20...Qxd1
21.Rxd1+-) 21.Qc2 (21.Qf3??
Qxg6+-) 21...Rfe8 (21...Qc6+
22.Kh2 Rfe8 23.Ng3∞);

B) 15...Bxf3 16.Nxf3 (16.Rxf3
Qb6 17.Qe2 Rad8±)

B1) 16...Qxd1 17.Raxd1 Nxe4
18.Kh2 Rad8!? (18...Rae8?!
19.Nh4±) 19.Rxd8 Rxd8
20.Nxe5 Bd6 21.Kg1 Bxe5
22.Rxf7 Re8 23.Re7+ Kf8
24.Rf7+ Kg8=;

B2) 16...Qe7 17.Nh4 Nxe4
18.Nf5 Qg5 19.Qe1 Nf6
20.Qxe5 Rac8

14...Be3

[14...g5!? Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic, Danilo'

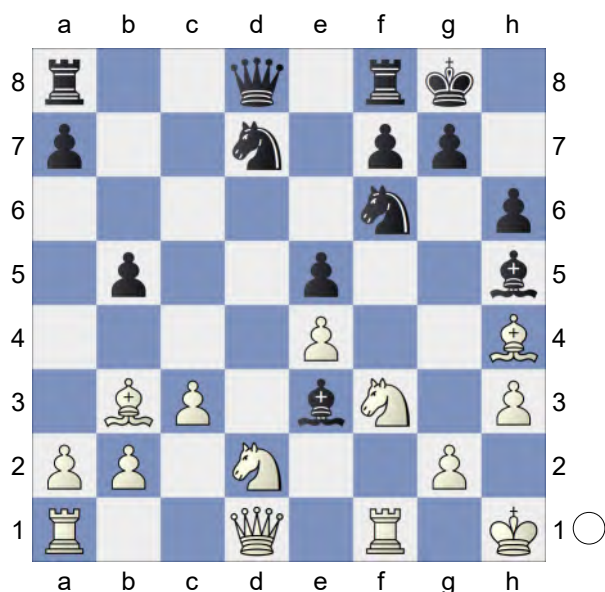
A) 15.Bf2 Bxf2 16.Rxf2 a5 17.a4
(17.Bc2 Be6) 17...bxa4 18.Bxa4
Qb6 19.Qe1 Be6 (19...Qxb2??
20.Nb3+-);

B) 15.Bg3 Nh5 16.Qe1 Nf4;

C) 15.Be1 Rb8 16.h3 Bh5
17.Qe2 Bg6

[Black has a good position also after
the simple 14...Qc7 Postny, Evgeny
His structure is superior, the white e4-
pawn is vulnerable.]

15.h3 Bh5



16.Qe1?! Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic, Danilo: '?'

[16.Qe2 Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic, Danilo' Bf4 17.Rad1 (17.Qxb5 Rb8
18.Qe2 Nc5) 17...Qb6]

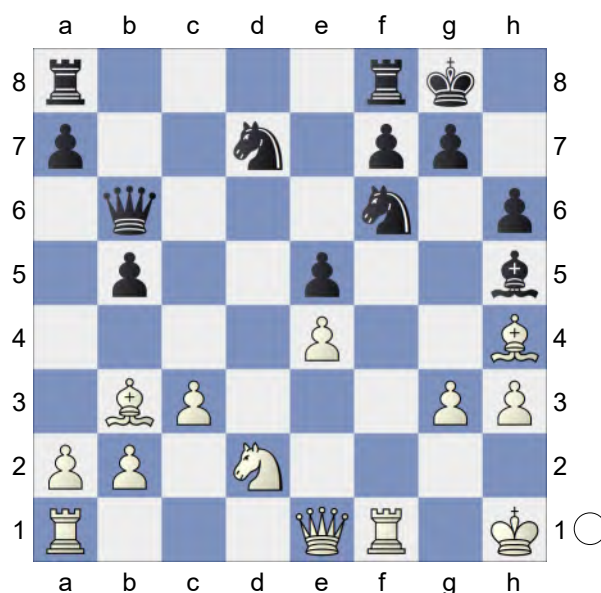
16...Bf4!? Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic, Danilo: '?' 17.g3 Bxd2 18.Nxd2 Qb6
Diagram

[18...a5 Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic, Danilo' 19.g4 (19.Qe3 a4 20.Bc2

Ra6!? 21.Bd3 Qb6 22.Rae1 g5
23.g4 gxh4 24.gxh5 Nxh5)
19...Bg6

A) 20.a3 Ra6!? 21.Qe3 a4
22.Ba2 Kh7!? 23.g5 (23.Rf2??
Nxc4 24.Bxd8 Nxe3 25.Be7 Re8
26.Bh4 f5-+; 23.Bg3? Rd6-+;
23.Qe2 Rd6) 23...hxg5 24.Bxg5
Qc7;

B) 20.Kh2 Qc7 21.a3 (21.a4
Rfb8) 21...Ra6!? 22.Qe3 Rd6



Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic, Danilo:
'Diagram [#]' 19.Bc2?! Postny, Evgeny:
'Milanovic, Danilo: '?'

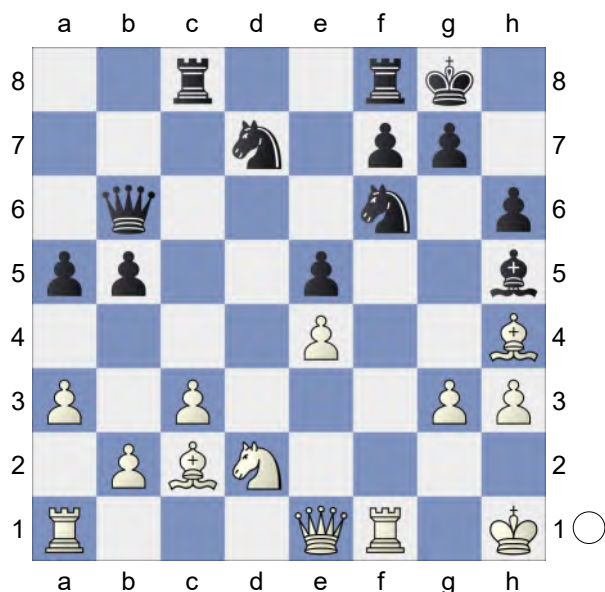
[19.g4 Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic, Danilo' Bg6 20.Kh2 a5 21.a3
Rac8]

19...Rac8 Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic, Danilo: '?'

[19...b4 Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic, Danilo' 20.c4 Qd4 21.Rb1 a5 22.g4
Bg6 23.Bf2 Qd6]

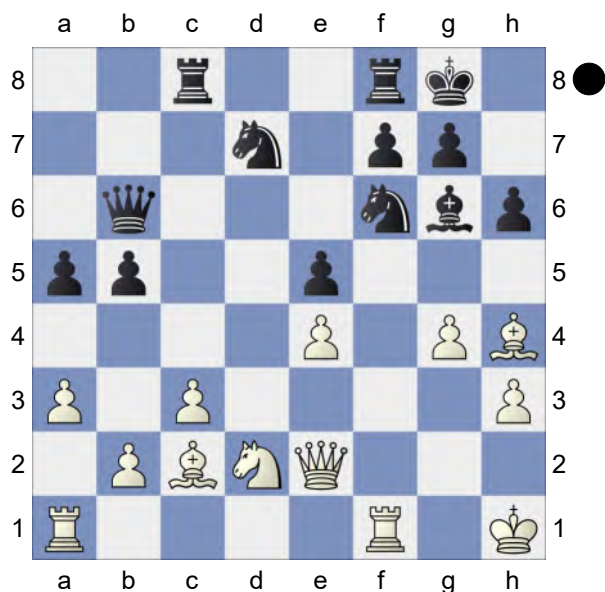
20.a3 a5

(Diagram)



Postny, Evgeny: ' ♔ ' ♔ ' ♔ ' 21.g4 Bg6
22.Qe2?! Diagram

[22.Qf2 Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic,
Danilo' Rfd8 23.g5 hxg5 24.Bxg5 b4
25.Qxb6 Nxb6 26.axb4 axb4 ♔]



Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic,Danilo: '?!
Milanovic,Danilo: 'Diagram [#]'
22...Rfe8? Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic,
Danilo: '?"

[22...b4! Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic,
Danilo' 23.axb4 (23.Bf2 Qc6
24.axb4 axb4-+) 23...axb4

A) 24.c4 Qd4 25.Rab1 b3!?

A1) 26.Bxb3 Nc5 27.Bc2
(27.Bf2 Bxe4+ 28.Nxe4 Qxe4+
29.Qxe4 Nfxe4 30.Bc2 Nd2-+;
27.Bxf6 Nxb3 28.Nxb3 Qxe4+
29.Qxe4 Bxe4+ 30.Kg1 Bxb1
31.Bxe5 Bd3 32.Re1 Bxc4
33.Nd4 Rfe8-+) 27...Ncxe4
28.Nxe4 Nxe4 29.Rfd1 Qxc4
30.Qxc4 (30.Bd3 Qb3-+)
30...Rxc4 31.Bd3 Rd4-+;

A2) 26.Nxb3 Qxc4 27.Qxc4
Rxc4 28.Bd3 Rb4

A2a) 29.Nd2 Rd4 30.Rf3
Nc5 31.Bf2 Rxd3 32.Bxc5
Rxd2 33.Rxf6 (33.Bxf8
Bxe4-+) 33...gxf6 34.Bxf8
Bxe4+ 35.Kg1 Kxf8-+;

A2b) 29.Na5 Nc5 30.Bc2
Bxe4+ 31.Bxe4 Ncxe4-+;

B) 24.Bf2 Qc6-+ Postny, Evgeny:
'-+' '-+' 'Milanovic,Danilo: '-+' 25.c4
(25.Ra6 Qc7 26.Ra7 Qd6 27.Ra6
Qe7-+) 25...Nc5 26.Rfe1
(26.Bxc5 Qxc5-+) 26...Ne6-+]

23.Kh2 Nd5 ♔ Postny, Evgeny:
'Milanovic,Danilo: ♔"

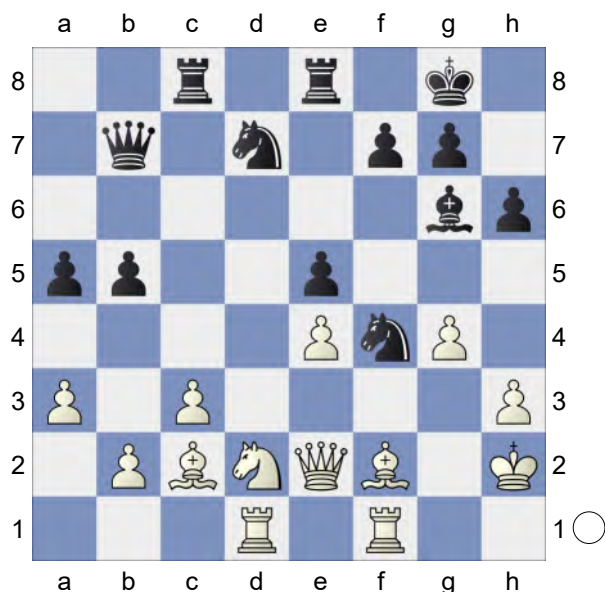
[23...b4 ♔ Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic,
Danilo']

24.Bf2?! Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic,
Danilo: '?!"

[24.exd5!? Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic,
Danilo' Bxc2 25.Ne4 Bxe4 26.Qxe4
Qd6±]

24...Qb7 25.Rad1 Nf4

(Diagram)



26.Qe3 Nc5

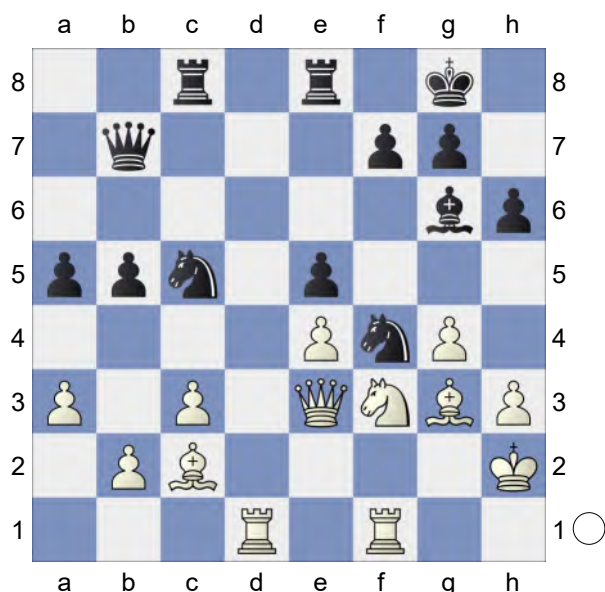
[26...b4? Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic, Danilo']

27.Bg3 Nce6?! Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic, Danilo: '?'

[27...Nd5!? Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic, Danilo' 28.Qe2 Nf6 29.Rde1 b4?]

28.Nf3 Nc5?! Diagram

[28...f6 Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic, Danilo' 29.Nh4 b4?]



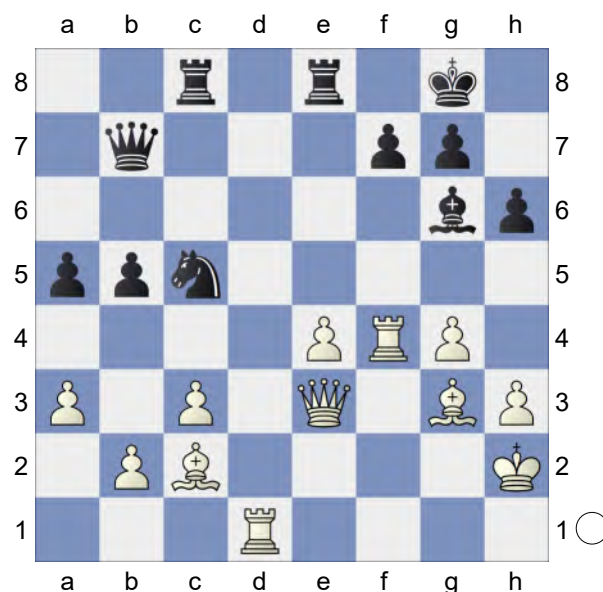
Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic, Danilo: '?'

Milanovic, Danilo: 'Diagram [#]'
29.Nxe5?! Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic, Danilo: '?'

[29.Rfe1!? Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic, Danilo' f6 (29...Na4 30.Nxe5 Rxe5 31.Qxf4 Ree8 32.Rb1 Nc5∞; 29...b4 30.axb4 axb4 31.Nxe5 Rxe5 32.Bxf4 Re6 33.Rd4 bxc3 34.bxc3 Rce8 35.Rb4 Qe7 36.Rb5 Nxe4 37.Bb3 Nxc3 38.Bxe6 Nxb5 39.Bc4 Qxe3 40.Rxe3 Rxe3 41.Bxe3 Nd6 42.Bd5=) 30.Nh4 b4 31.axb4 axb4 32.Nf5 Bxf5 33.gxf5 bxc3 34.bxc3∞]

29...Rxe5 30.Rxf4 Ree8?!]

[30...Bxe4!? Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic, Danilo' 31.Bxe4 Rxe4 32.Rxe4 Nxe4 33.Qf3 Re8? ∞h2]



Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic, Danilo: '?'

31.Re1 b4 32.axb4 axb4 33.cxb4?!

Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic, Danilo: '?'

[33.h4∞ Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic, Danilo']

33...Qxb4 34.Qc3? Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic, Danilo: '?'

[34.Bb1!? Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic, Danilo' Qxb2+ 35.Rf2 Qb7 36.Qd4 Red8 37.Qe3 Qb4?]

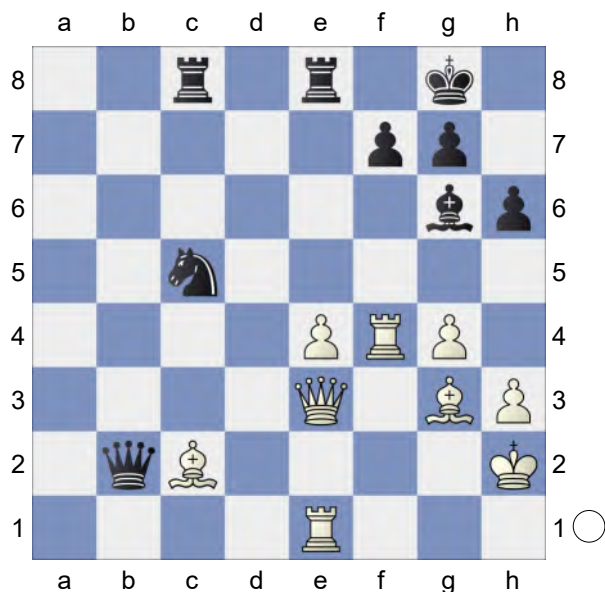
34...Qb7? Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic, Danilo: '?'

[34...Na6! Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic, Danilo' 35.Qd3 (35.Qxb4?? Rxc2+ 36.Rf2 Nxb4-+) 35...Red8 36.Qxa6 (36.Qe2?? Rd2-+) 36...Rxc2+

A) 37.Kh1 Rxb2 38.Qf1 Rb3 39.Qg2 (39.Bh2 Rxh3-+) 39...Rdd3 40.e5 Qa3 41.Bh2 Rxh3-+;

B) 37.Rf2 Qxe1 (37...Rxb2 38.Rxb2 Qxb2+ 39.Re2 Rd2 40.Rxd2 Qxd2+ 41.Kg1 Bxe4 42.Qf1 Bc6+) 38.Rxc2 Qb1 39.Qe2 Bxe4 40.Qxe4 Rd2+ 41.Rxd2 Qxe4+]

35.Qe3 Qxb2



36.Rf2 Qb7 37.e5

[37.Rfe2 Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic, Danilo'

A) 37...Bxe4? 38.Qd4

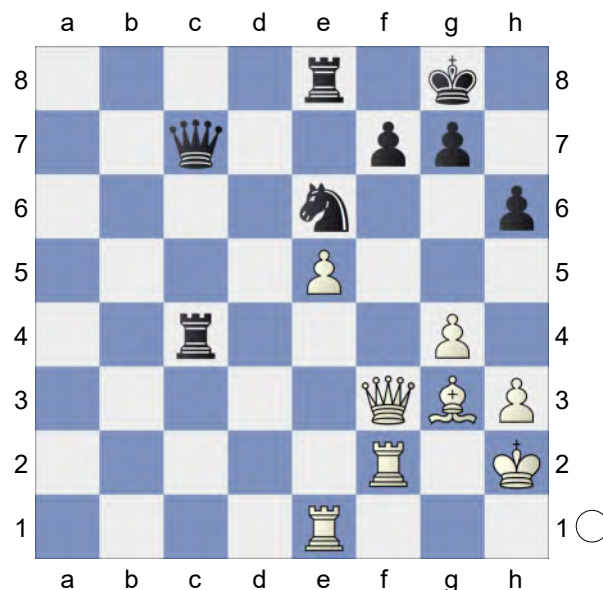
A1) 38...Red8?! 39.Rxe4 Nxe4 (39...Rxd4?? 40.Re8+ Rxe8 41.Rxe8# #) 40.Bxe4 Rxd4 41.Bxb7 Rc2+ 42.Kg1±;

A2) 38...f5 39.gxf5 Red8□ 40.Qc4+ Bd5 41.Qf4∞;

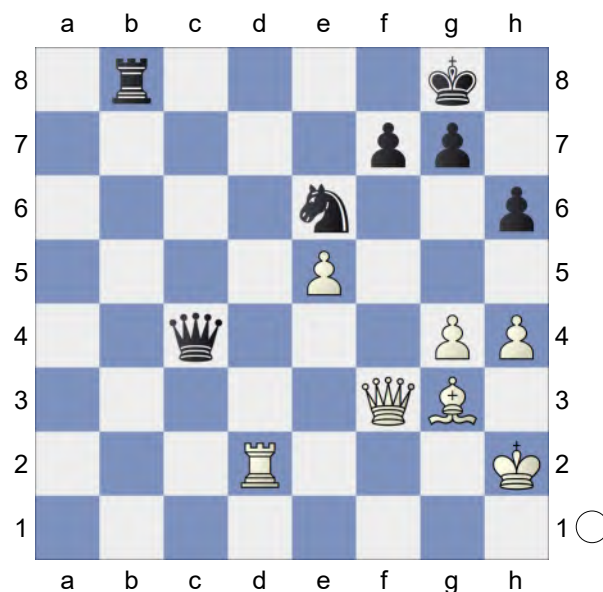
B) 37...Qa8 38.Qf4 Ne6 39.Qf2

Red8 40.Bb1 Rc3+]
37...Bxc2 38.Rxc2 Ne6 39.Rf2 Rc4 40.Qf3 Qc7

[40...Qxf3?! Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic,Danilo' 41.Rxf3∞]

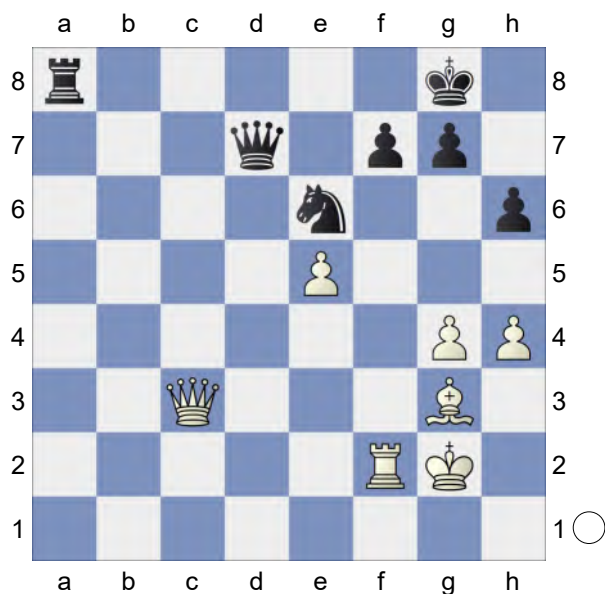


41.Ref1 Rc2 42.Rxc2 Qxc2+ 43.Rf2 Qc7 44.Rd2 Rb8 45.h4 Qc4

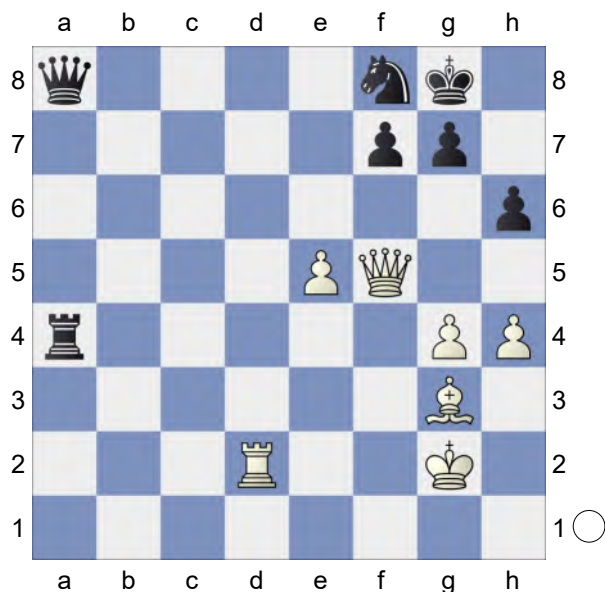


46.Rf2 Qc7 47.Rd2 Qa7 48.Kg2 Qa4 49.Rf2 Qd7 50.Qc3 Ra8

(Diagram)



51.Rd2 Qe8 52.Qf3 Ra4 53.Kh2 Qc8
54.Kg2 Nf8 55.Qf5 Qa8+

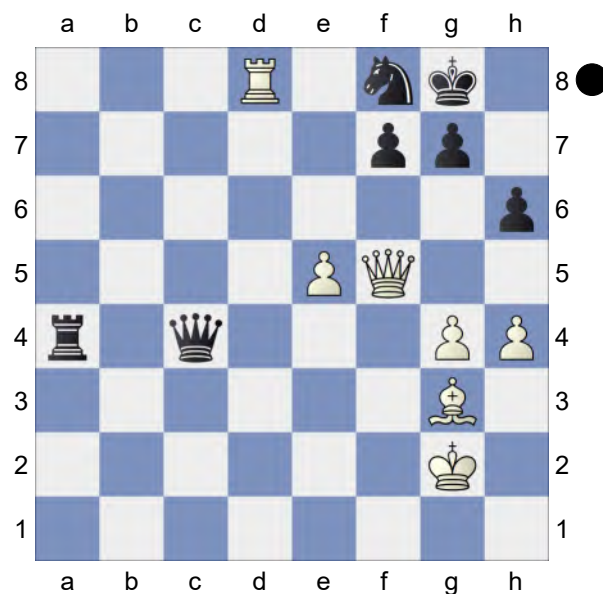


56.Qf3 Qc8 57.Qf5 Qc4 58.Rd8??⊕
Diagram

[58.Qf3 Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic,
Danilo'

A) 58...Qxg4? 59.Qxg4 Rxg4
60.Rd8 (vg8) g5 61.Kf3 h5 62.e6!
(62.hxg5?? Kg7 63.Rd3 Ne6-+)
62...fxe6 63.Bd6 Rxh4 64.Rxf8+
Kg7∞;

B) 58...Rb4±]



Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic,Danilo: ' ⊕??'
Milanovic,Danilo: 'Diagram [#]''
58...Ra2+? Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic,
Danilo: '?'

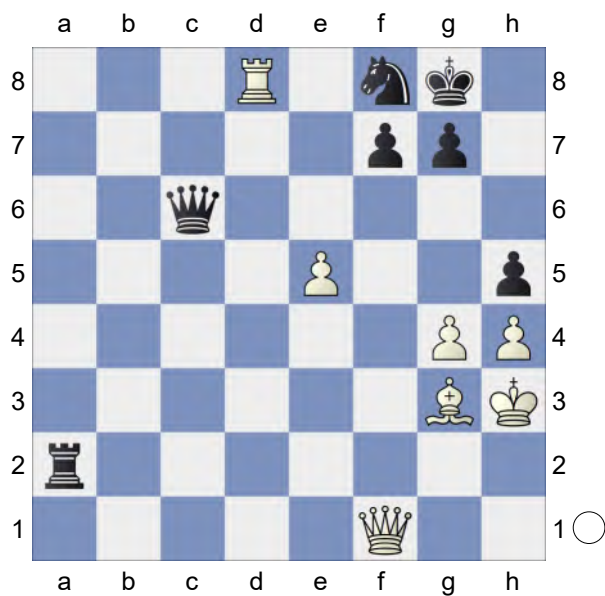
[58...Qc6+! Postny, Evgeny:
'Milanovic,Danilo' 59.Kh2 (59.Qf3
Ra2+ 60.Bf2?? Postny, Evgeny: '??'
'??' Rxf2+! 61.Kxf2 Qb6+ 62.Kg2
Qxd8+- Postny, Evgeny: '-+' '-+')
59...Ra2+ 60.Bf2 Qb6 61.Rxf8+
Kxf8 62.Kg1 Qc6-+]

59.Kh3?? Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic,
Danilo: '??'

[59.Bf2 Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic,
Danilo' Qc6+ 60.Kg3 (60.Qf3??
Rxf2+ 61.Kxf2 Qb6+ 62.Kg2
Qxd8-+) 60...Qc3+ 61.Rd3 Qc7±]

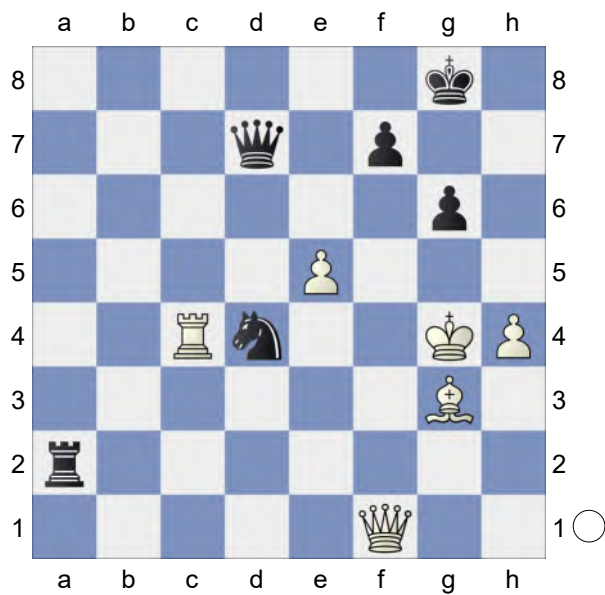
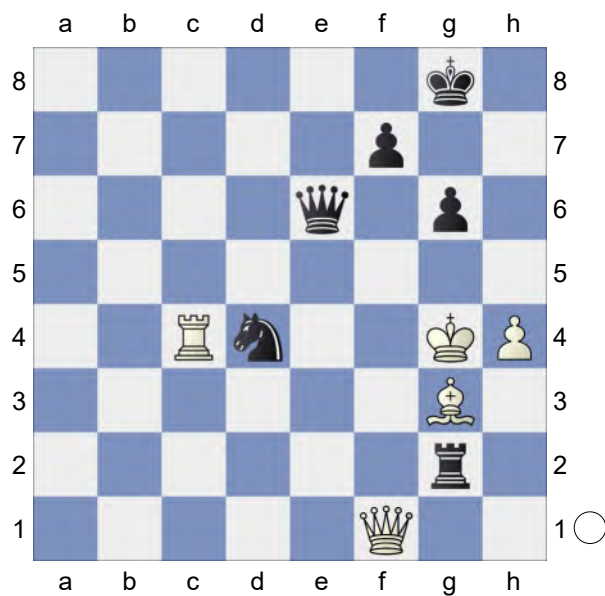
59...Qc6-+ Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic,
Danilo: '-+' 60.Qf1 h5!

(Diagram)



Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic,Danilo: '!'
 61.Rd4 Ne6 62.Rc4 hxg4+ 63.Kxg4
 Qd7! Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic,Danilo:
 '! 64.Kh5 g6+ 65.Kg4 Nd4+

0-1



66.Kg5 Rg2! Postny, Evgeny: 'Milanovic,
 Danilo: '! 67.e6 Qd5+ 68.Kg4 Qxe6+

(Diagram)

429

□ Potkin, Vladimir

■ Wei, Yi

127/7 Moscow

[Milanovic, Danilo]

A10

2585

2714

2016

1.c4 Schulz, Andre Schulz, Andre Schulz, Andre Schulz, Andre: 'Milanovic, Danilo'

1...g6 2.e4 e5 Schulz, Andre: 'Um den geplant weißen Aufmarsch im Zentrum zu stören.'

[2...Bg7 Schulz, Andre 3.d4 d6 4.Nc3 Nf6 ergäbe die Königsindische Verteidigung.]

3.d4 Nf6

[3...exd4 Schulz, Andre 4.Qxd4 Nf6 5.Bg5 Be7 ist nicht im Sinne des Erfinders, auch wenn Robatsch das mal überlebt hat. 6.Nc3 h6 7.Be3 Nc6 8.Qd1 Bf8 9.f3 Bg7 10.Nh3 Nh5 11.Qd2 d6 12.Nf2 Be6 13.Be2 Ne5 14.b3 g5 15.Rc1 Nf4 16.0-0 Nxe2+ 17.Nxe2 b6 18.Nd4 Qd7 19.Nh1 Nc6 20.Ng3 Nxd4 21.Bxd4 Be5 22.Nh5 0-0-0 23.Nf6 Qe7 24.Nd5 Qf8 25.b4 c6 26.b5 cxd5 27.cxd5+ Kb7 28.dxe6 fxe6 29.Rc6 Qf4 30.Rd1 Qxh2+ 31.Kf1 1/2-1/2 (31) Polugaevsky, L-Robatsch, K Palma de Mallorca 1972]

[Spielbar ist auch 3...d6 Schulz, Andre]

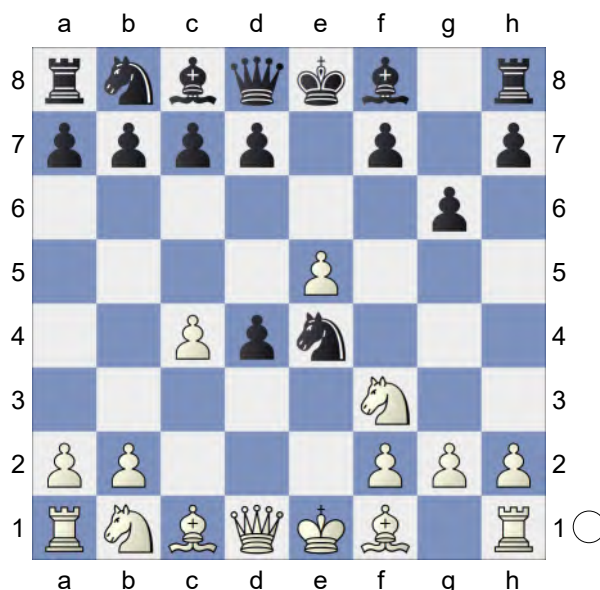
4.Nf3 exd4

[4...Bb4+ Schulz, Andre kam auch einige Male vor.]

[4...Nxe4 Schulz, Andre fand wenig Nachfolger: 5.Bd3 d5 6.0-0 Nd6 7.dxe5 Nxc4 8.Bxc4 dxc4 9.Qa4+ c6 10.Rd1 Qc7 11.Qxc4 Be6 12.Qh4 Nd7 13.Nc3 Be7 14.Bg5 Bxg5 15.Qxg5 h6 16.Qe3 Qb6 17.Rd4 0-0-0 18.b4 Qc7 19.Rc1

Kb8 20.a4 Nb6 21.b5 Nd5 22.Nxd5 Bxd5 23.bxc6 Bxc6 24.Rxd8+ Rxd8 25.Nd4 Qd7 26.Rd1 Ka8 27.Rd2 b6 28.a5 Re8 29.axb6 Bb7 30.h3 g5 31.Qa3 a6 32.Qd6 Qa4 33.e6 Qa1+ 34.Kh2 Qf1 35.f3 Qc4 36.e7 Qc8 37.Rc2 Qb8 38.Rc7 1-0 (38) Portisch, L (2630)-Timman, J (2585) Buenos Aires 1978]

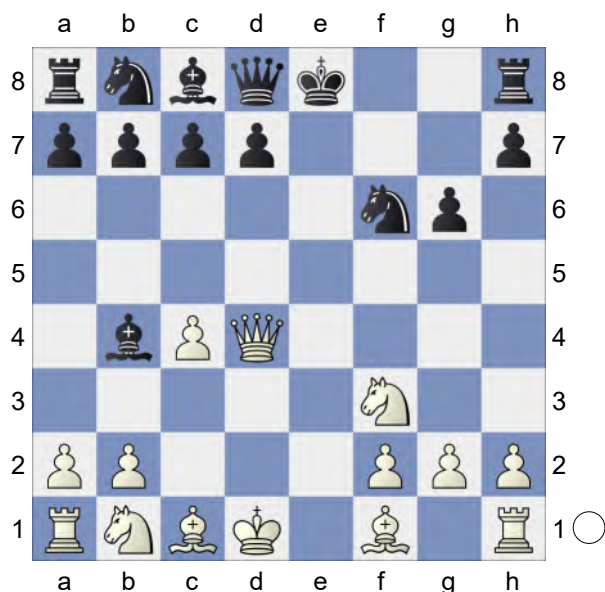
5.e5 Ne4



6.Qxd4 Bb4+ 7.Kd1!? Schulz, Andre: 'Milanovic, Danilo: '!?' Schulz, Andre: 'Gibt das Rochaderecht auf, um die Spannung aufrechtzuerhalten.'

[7.Nbd2 Schulz, Andre Nxd2 8.Bxd2 Nc6 9.Qf4 Bxd2+ 10.Qxd2 Qe7 11.0-0-0 b6 12.Bd3 Bb7 13.Be4 0-0-0 14.Rhe1 f6 15.exf6 Qxf6 16.Qg5 Qg7 17.h4 Rhe8 18.h5 Nb4 19.Bxb7+ Kxb7 20.Rxe8 Rxe8 21.Qd2 Nc6 22.Qxd7 Qh6+ 23.Rd2 Rd8 24.Qg4 gxh5 25.Qg5 Qxg5 26.Nxg5 Rg8 27.f4 h4 28.Nxh7 Ne7 29.Rf2 Nf5 30.Ng5 Rd8 31.b3 Rd3 32.Nf3 Re3 33.Kd2 Re4 34.Ng5 Re3 35.Rf3 Re7 36.Rd3 a5 37.Rd5 Ne3 0-1 (37) Svidler, P (2753)-Carlsen, M (2881) Flor & Fjaere 2014]

7...f5 8.exf6 Nxf6 Diagram



Schulz,Andre: 'Milanovic,Danilo:
'Diagram " Schulz,Andre: 'Das sieht
alles sehr wild aus, ist aber noch
bekannt.' **9.Qh4N** Schulz,Andre:
'Milanovic,Danilo: 'N' Schulz,Andre:
'Das ist ein neuer Zug.'

[9.Bh6 - 127/(7) Schulz,Andre:
'Milanovic,Danilo: '- 127/(7)' Qe7
Schulz,Andre 10.Bd3 Nc6 11.Qh4
d5 12.a3 Ng4 13.Bg5 Qd6 14.Kc1
Bc5 15.Re1+ 1/2-1/2 (15) Nabaty,T
(2590)-Fier,A (2601) Skopje 2015]

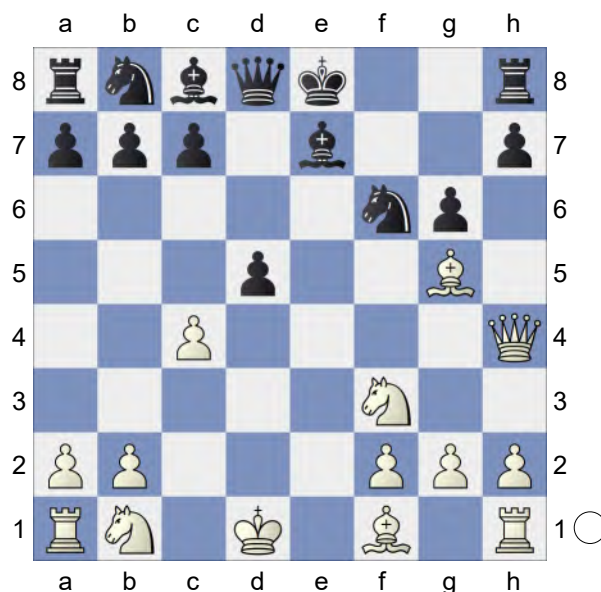
9...d5!? Schulz,Andre: 'Milanovic,Danilo:
'!?"

[9...0-0 Schulz,Andre: 'Milanovic,
Danilo' 10.c5!/? Nc6 11.a3 Bxc5
12.Qc4+ d5 13.Qxc5 Ne4 14.Qe3
Re8=]

10.Bg5 Be7

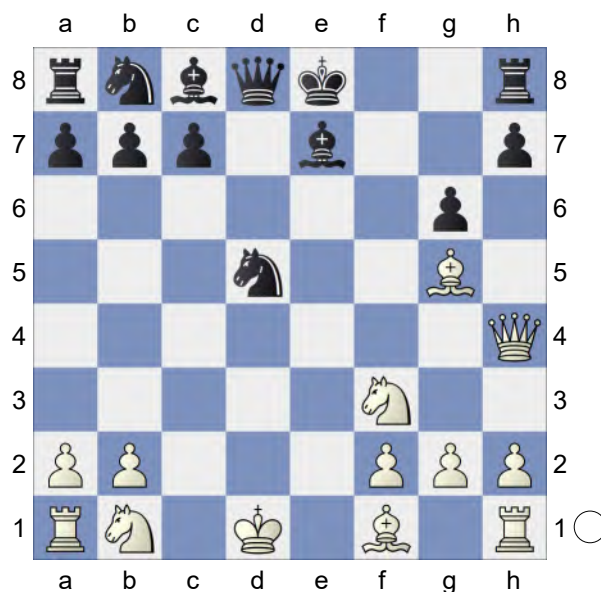
[10...0-0!? Schulz,Andre: 'Milanovic,
Danilo' 11.cxd5 Bg4 (11...Qxd5+?!
12.Nbd2 Qd6 13.Bc4+ Kh8 14.Re1
Nc6 15.Re2!±) 12.Kc1 Qd6=]

(Diagram)



11.cxd5 Nxd5 Diagram

[11...Qxd5+ Schulz,Andre: 'Milanovic,
Danilo' 12.Kc1 Qe4 13.Bb5+
(13.Bxf6 Qc6+≠) 13...c6 14.Re1
Qxh4 15.Bxh4↑]
[11...c6!? Schulz,Andre 12.Nc3 0-0]



Schulz,Andre: 'Milanovic,Danilo:
'Diagram " Schulz,Andre: 'Nun wird
es aber noch wilder:' **12.Bc4!**
Schulz,Andre: 'Schwarz hat nun zwei
Abzugs-Doppelschachs, die aber beide
zu nichts führen:' **12...Nc6**

[12...Nb6+ Schulz,Andre: 'Milanovic, Danilo' 13.Kc1 Nxc4 14.Bxe7 Schulz,Andre: 'Milanovic, Danilo' (14.Re1 Schulz,Andre Nc6 15.Qxc4) 14...Qxe7 15.Re1 Be6 16.Ng5+-]

[12...Nc3+? Schulz,Andre 13.Kc1 Nxb1 14.Bxe7]

[12...Ne3+? Schulz,Andre 13.Kc1]

13.Bxd5? Schulz,Andre: 'Milanovic, Danilo: '?'

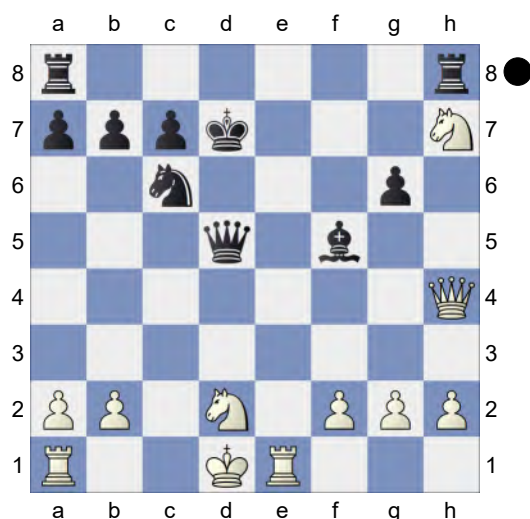
[13.Nbd2!↑ Schulz,Andre: 'Milanovic, Danilo']

13...Be6?! Schulz,Andre: 'Der Ld5 ist gefesselt.'

[Schulz,Andre: 'Besser scheint aber'

13...Qxd5+! Schulz,Andre: 'Milanovic, Danilo: '!'

A) 14.Nbd2 Bxg5 15.Nxg5 Schulz,Andre: 'Milanovic, Danilo' (15.Qxg5 Schulz,Andre Qxg5 16.Nxg5+) 15...Bf5 16.Re1+ Kd7 17.Nxh7 Diagram



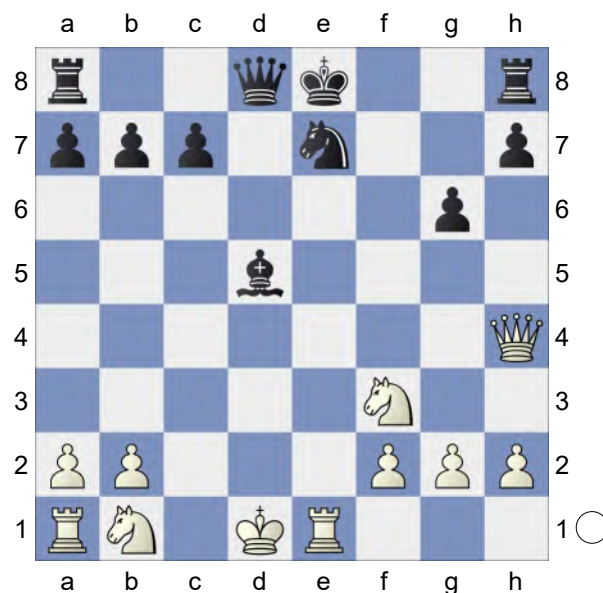
Schulz,Andre: 'Diagram Rad8! 18.Nf6+ Kc8+;

B) 14.Kc1 Schulz,Andre: 'Milanovic, Danilo' 14...Qc5+ 15.Nc3 0-0+]

14.Bxe7 Nxe7 15.Re1 Bxd5

[Δ15...Qxd5+ Schulz,Andre: '!' '?' '!' '?' Schulz,Andre: 'Milanovic, Danilo: 'Δ' 16.Nbd2 Schulz,Andre: '±' '±' '±'

Rf8 Schulz,Andre: 'Milanovic, Danilo' Δ17.Rc1 Rxf3!? 18.gxf3 0-0-0=]



Schulz,Andre: 'Beide Könige hängen in der Mitte fest.' **16.Kc2 Qd7**

[16...Bxf3!? Schulz,Andre 17.gxf3 Kf7]

17.Nc3 Qf5+?

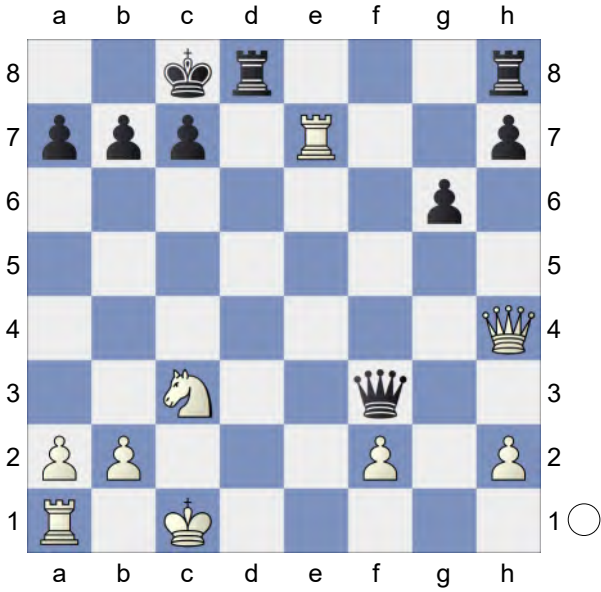
[Schulz,Andre: 'Anders herum war es besser:' 17...Bxf3 18.gxf3 Qf5+ 19.Re4 (19.Kc1 Schulz,Andre Qc5=) 19...g5 20.Qh5+ Kf8 21.h4± Schulz,Andre: 'Milanovic, Danilo: ' ±' Schulz,Andre: 'Nicht schön, aber Schwarz kann noch kämpfen.']

18.Kc1+- Schulz,Andre: 'Milanovic, Danilo: '+-' **18...0-0-0** Schulz,Andre: 'Es gab keine Zug mehr, der das Matt deckt und Materialverlust vermeidet.'

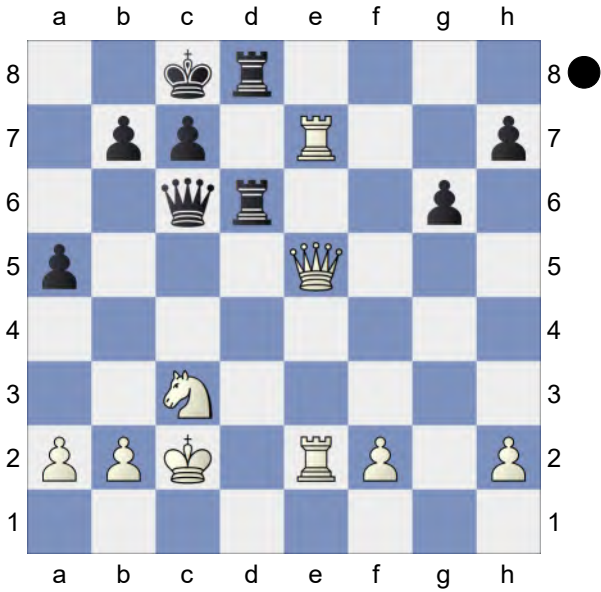
[18...Qf7 Schulz,Andre 19.Nxd5+-]

19.Rxe7 Bxf3 20.gxf3 Qxf3

(Diagram)



21.Qg3 Qc6 22.Kc2 Rd6 23.Rae1
Rhd8 24.R1e2 a5 25.Qe5



1-0

126

□ Wei,Yi

■ Zhou Jianchao

CHN Team Men 2018 (7.4) 23.06.2018

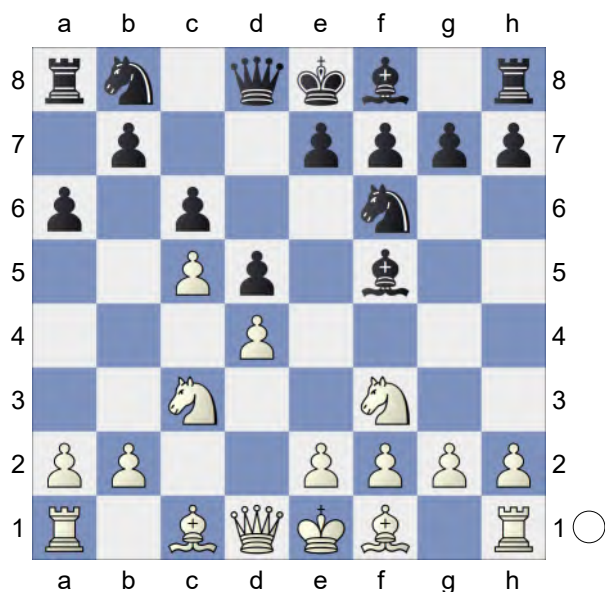
[Milos Pavlovic]

D15

2734

2615

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.Nc3 a6
5.c5 Bf5



A popular idea here. 6.Qb3 Ra7 7.Nh4 Bg6

[7...Be6!? 8.Bf4 Nh5 9.Bd2 g6
10.Nf3 Bg7 11.Qc2 f5 12.0-0-0!?
0-0

Unusual, but this is a very interesting position for both sides.

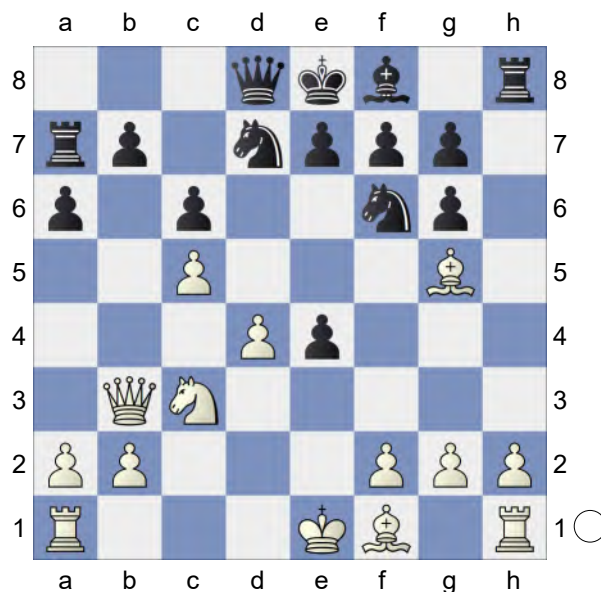
13.Ne5 Nd7 14.f4 Nhf6 15.e3 Nxe5
16.fxe5 Ne4 17.Re1 Bh6 18.g3 b6
19.cxb6 Qxb6 20.Na4 Qc7 21.Bg2
a5 22.Bxe4 fxe4 23.Rhf1 Raa8
24.Nc5 Bh3 With unclear play, Tan
Zhongyi (2517)-Stefanova,A (2500)
Huai'an CHN 2017 0-1 (66)]

8.Bg5 Developing a bishop is not the
only choice here:

[8.Nxg6 hxg6 9.e3 Nbd7 10.Bd2 e6
11.Be2 Be7 12.0-0-0 b6 13.cxb6
Qxb6 14.Qxb6 Nxb6 15.Kb1 Kd7
16.Rc1 Rb8 17.Rc2 White has

typical symbolic pressure here, which
may become bigger if Black misplays
it. Edouard,R (2621)-Malakhov,V
(2691) Brest FRA 2018 1/2-1/2 (26)]

8...Nbd7 9.Nxg6 hxg6 10.e4! dxe4

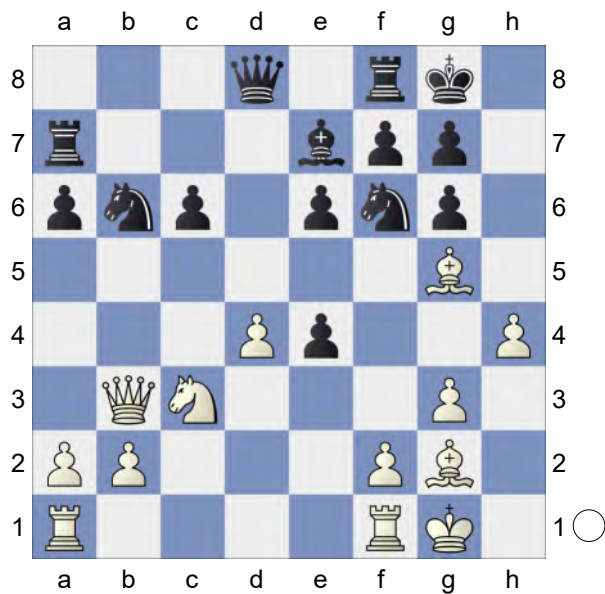


11.g3 e6 12.Bg2 Be7 13.0-0 0-0

[Alternatively: 13...Nd5 14.Bxe7
Nxe7 15.Nxe4 0-0 16.Rac1 Nf5
17.Rfd1 Nf6 18.Ng5 Qe7 19.Nf3
Rd8 20.Rd3 Raa8 21.Rcd1
White has the slightly better chances,
his main idea is to put pressure on
the h1-a8 diagonal by pushing the a
and b pawns, Grischuk,A (2785)-
Malakhov,V (2691) Antalya TUR 2017
1/2-1/2 (100)]

14.h4 White has more space and Black's
pieces are restricted. 14...b6 15.cxb6
Nxb6

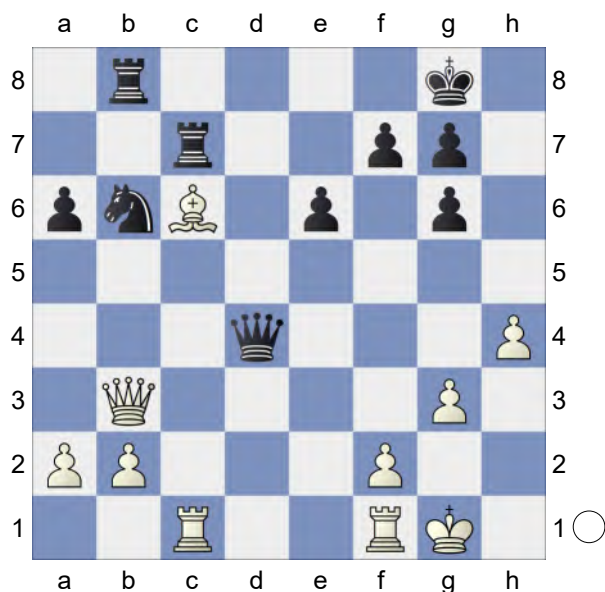
(Diagram)



16.Nxe4 Nxe4 17.Bxe7 Rxe7 18.Bxe4 Qxd4 19.Bxc6 This particular bishop versus knight position slightly favors White. **19...Rc7**

[19...Rb8 20.Rad1 Qe5 21.Qa3 Rc7 22.Bg2 a5 23.b3 With some small advantage for White.]

20.Rac1 Rb8

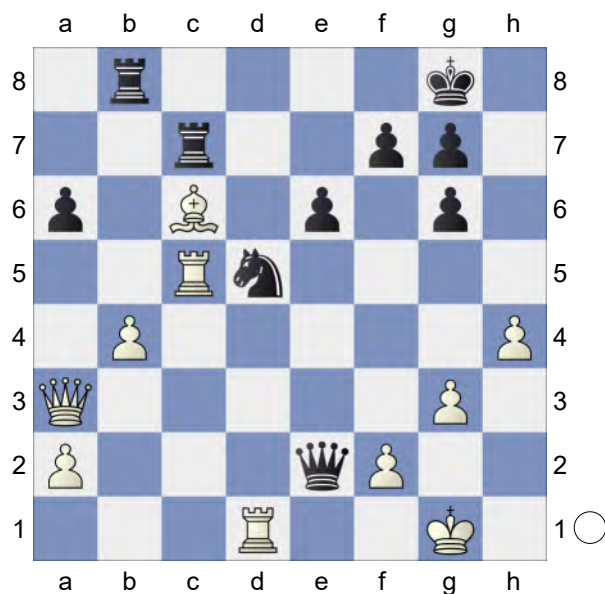


21.Rfd1 Qe5 22.Rc3 Nd7! 23.Qa3

[23.Qc2 Nf6 24.a3 a5 Also gives Black enough play.]

23...Nf6 After this good manoeuvre Black equalizes. **24.b4 Nd5 25.Rc5**

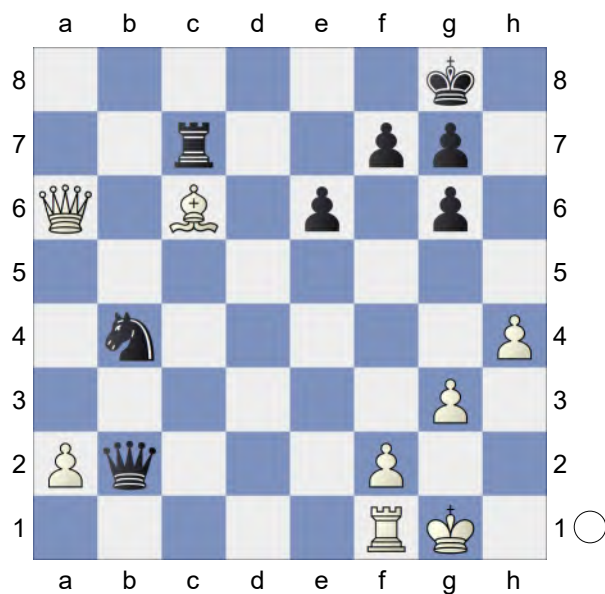
Qe2



26.Rdc1 Rxb4 27.R5c2 Qe5 28.Qxa6 Rb2 29.Rxb2?!

[29.Qa5! Rxc2 30.Rxc2 Qa1+ 31.Kg2 Qd4 With equal play.]

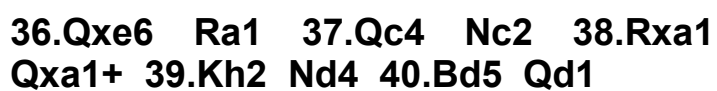
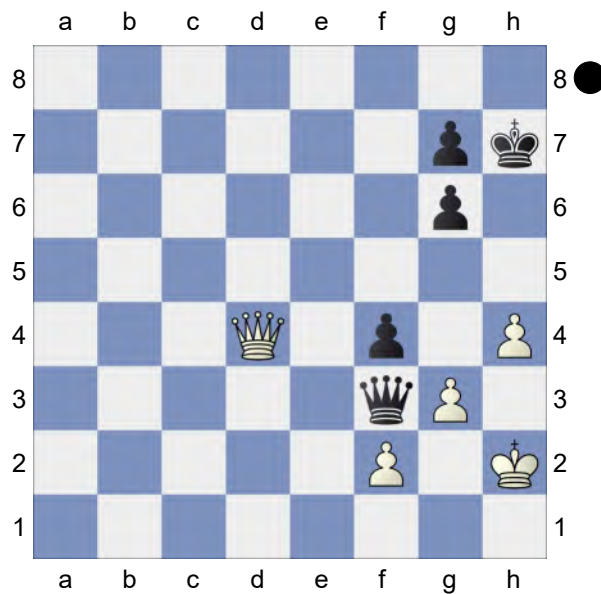
29...Qxb2 30.Rf1 Nb4



31.Qa8+ Kh7 32.Be4 f5

[An alternative could have created a problem for White... 32...Qxa2! 33.Qxa2 Nxa2 34.h5 Kh6 35.hxg6 f5 A pawn up and this is no easy task for White to defend this position.]

33.Qb8 Rc1 34.Bg2! Now its equal

 $1/2-1/2$ 

358

□ Wei,Yi

■ Rodshtein,M.

Gibraltar Masters 2015 (8.7) 03.02.2015

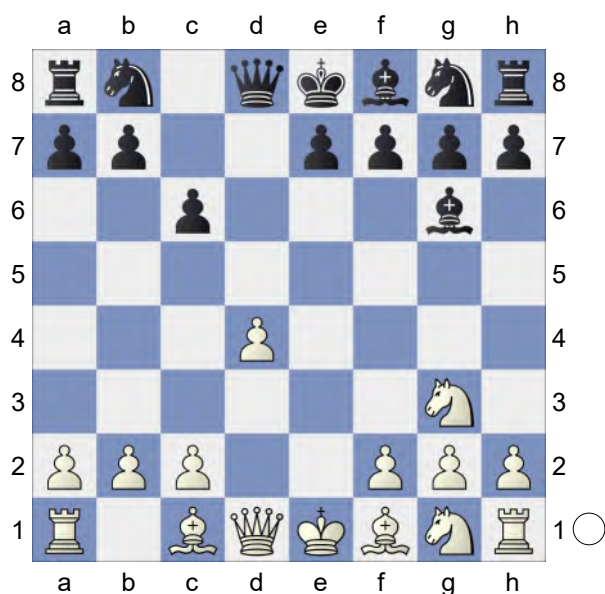
[Milos Pavlovic]

B19

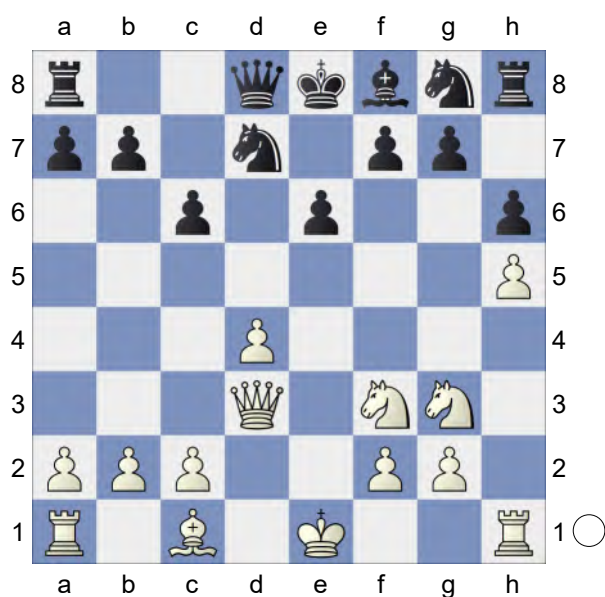
2675

2680

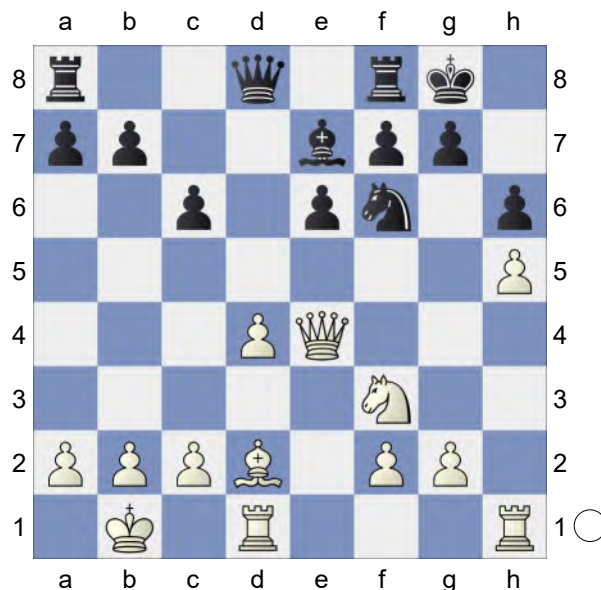
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4
Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6



6.h4 h6 7.Nf3 Nd7 8.h5 Bh7 9.Bd3
Bxd3 10.Qxd3 e6



11.Bd2 Ngf6 12.0-0-0 Be7 13.Kb1
0-0 14.Ne4 Nxe4 15.Qxe4 Nf6



16.Qe2 Qd5 17.Be3 Ng4 18.Bc1
Rfd8

[18...Nf6 is Karjakin- Gustafsson, in
the PGN Archive.]

19.c4 The alternative is interesting but
can hardly offer more than equal
chances

[19.Ne5 Nxe5 20.dxe5

A) 20...Qc5 21.Rdg1 Rd4
(21...Qb5!?!=) 22.f4 Qc4
(22...Rad8 23.g4 Qb5 24.Qg2↑)
23.Qf3

A1) 23...Bb4!? 24.g4 (24.c3
Rd3∞) 24...Bd2!≠;

A2) 23...Qd5 24.Qh3 Bc5
25.Rf1 Rd8 26.g4 Qe4 27.Re1
Qd5 28.g5+- 1-0 (41) Mista, A
(2616) -Batsiashvili, N (2442)
Doha 2014;

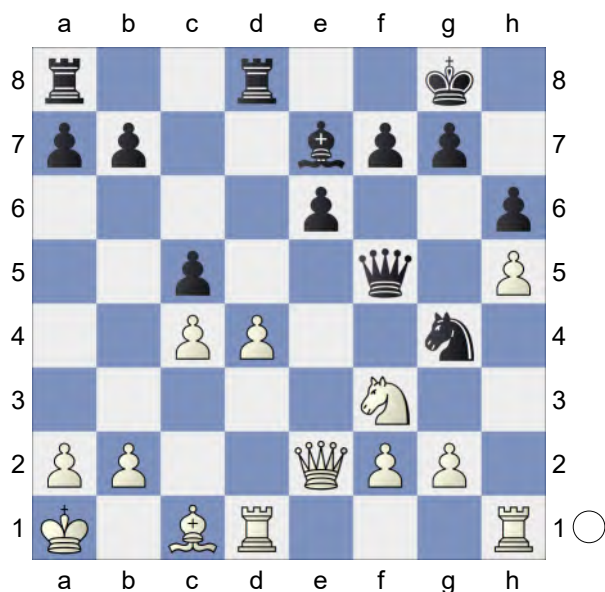
B) 20...Qa5 21.g4 Rxd1 22.Rxd1
Rd8 23.Rg1 Rd5 24.f4 Qb6
25.Rg3 Qd4 26.c3 Qd1 27.Qxd1
Rxd1 28.Kc2 Rd5= 1/2-1/2 (39)
Garcia Castellote, O (2071)-Garcia
Playa, D (2019) Catalunya 2014;

C) 20...Qb5! 21.Qxb5 cxb5 22.c3
Kf8 23.Kc2 Rac8 24.g4 b4
25.Be3 bxc3 26.bxc3 Rxd1

27.Rxd1 Ke8 28.Bxa7 Ra8
 29.Bd4 Rxa2+= 1/2-1/2 (81) Burg,
 T (2518)-Seger, R (2372)
 Hockenheim 2014]

19...Qf5+ 20.Ka1 c5!?

[20...Rd7 21.Nh4 Bxh4 22.Rxh4 Nf6
 23.g4 Qe4 24.Be3 c5 25.f3 Qc6
 26.g5→ 1/2-1/2 (41) Bok, B (2511)-
 Ducarmon, Q (2368) Limburg 2012]

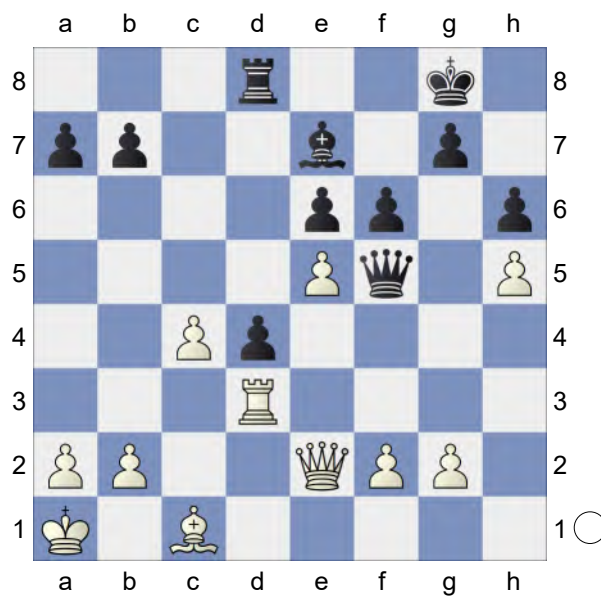


An interesting new idea **21.Ne5 Nxe5**
22.dxe5 Rd4!? **23.Rxd4 cxd4 24.Rd1**
 Probably critical for the assessment is ..

[24.f4! Rc8! (24...Rd8 25.g4 Qh7
 Black's queen is awkwardly placed
 26.Bd2±) 25.g4 Qh7 26.Rd1 d3!
 27.Rxd3 Rxc4 28.Rd8+ (28.Rd1
 Qc2 29.Qxc2 Rxc2 30.Kb1 Rc7
 31.Be3 b6=) 28...Bxd8 29.Qxc4 b5!
 30.Qc6 (30.Qxb5 Qc2! 31.Qf1 Bb6±
 Black is very active) 30...Qd3=
 It seems that Black is holding easily]

24...Rd8 25.Rd3 Stopping the d-pawn
 from progressing but.. **25...f6!**

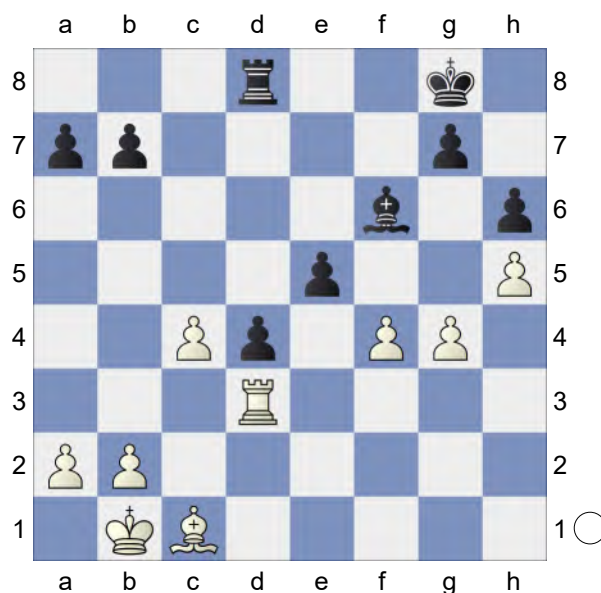
(Diagram)



26.exf6

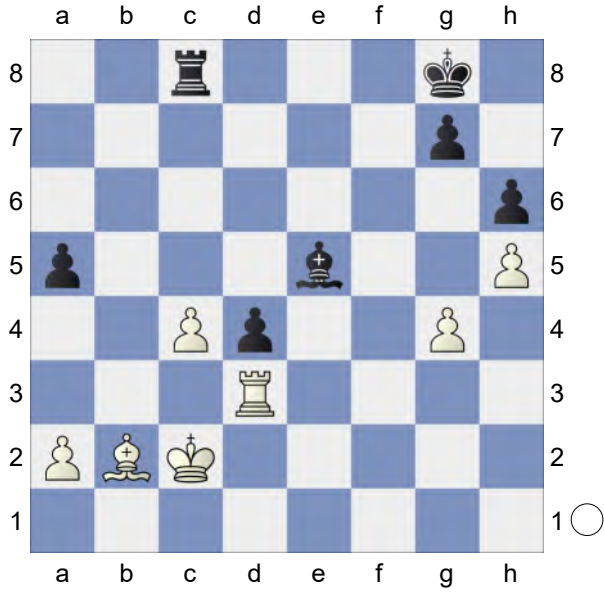
[26.f4 fxe5 27.g4 Qf7 28.Qxe5 Bf6
 29.Qe1 e5 30.fxe5 Bxe5!∞]

26...Bxf6 27.g4 Qe5 28.Qxe5 Bxe5
29.Kb1 Bf6 30.f4 e5

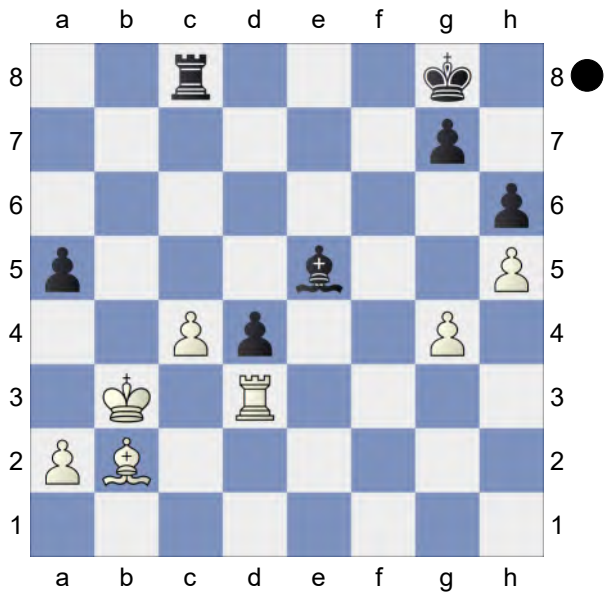


31.fxe5 Bxe5 32.Kc2 Rc8 33.b3 b5
 Black is fine **34.Bb2 bxc4 35.bxc4 a5**

(Diagram)



36.Kb3 Rb8+ 37.Kc2 Rc8 38.Kb3



1/2-1/2

251

□ Wei, Yi

■ Liu Qingnan

Xinghua (6.1)

[Milos Pavlovic]

B09

2718

2523

24.05.2015

1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.f4

The always dangerous Austrian Attack.

4...Nf6 5.Nf3 c5

[5...0-0 6.e5 Recently this old line started to create serious problems for black. I will give a few interesting examples.

A) 6...Nfd7 7.Bc4 A dodgy position for Black, c5 8.e6 Nb6 9.exf7+ Kh8 10.h4! Nxc4 11.h5 Rxf7 (11...Bf5 12.hxg6 Bxg6 13.f5 Bxf5 14.Ng5 Qd7 15.Qh5 h6 16.d5! Ne5 17.Ne6 Rxf7 18.Bxh6 Bxh6 19.Qxh6+ Bh7 20.Ne4 Qa4 21.N4g5 Kg8 22.Nxf7 Qe4+ 23.Kf1 1-0 Laurent, B (2369)-Gulbas, C (2377) Belgium 2014) 12.hxg6 Rf6

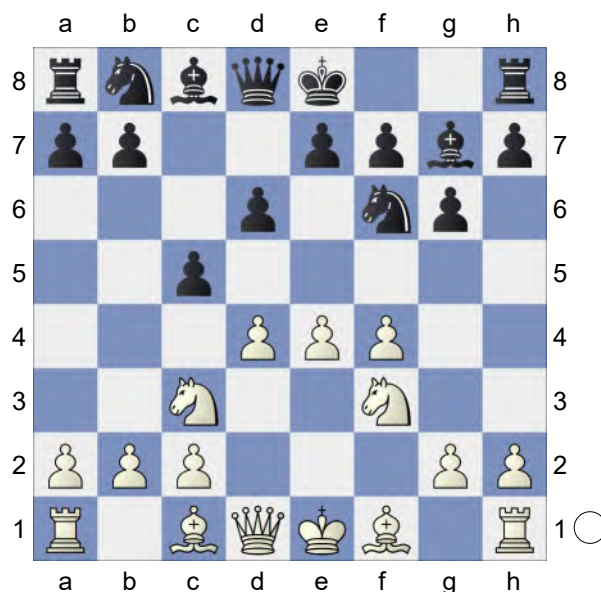
A1) 13.Rxh7+! Kg8 14.Nh4 Rxg6 (14...Nd7 15.f5 Nf8 16.Qh5 Also White wins.) 15.Nxg6 Kxh7 16.Qh5+ Kg8 17.Ne4 White wins.;

A2) 13.Ng5 h6 14.Nf7+ Rxf7 15.gxf7 Bf5 16.g4 cxd4 17.gxf5 dxc3 18.Qh5 cxb2 (18...Nc6! 19.b3 Nd2 20.Qg6 Qf8 21.Bxd2 cxd2+ 22.Kxd2 Nd8 23.Rag1 Nxf7 Unclear.) 19.Bxb2 Nxb2 20.Qg6! White has a strong attack Wirig, A (2496)-Pel, B (2287) Montpellier 2015, 1-0 (28).;

B) 6...Ne8 7.h4 Bg4 8.h5 gxh5 9.Be2 c5 10.d5 Nd7 11.Ng5 h6 12.Bxg4 hxg4 13.Qd3 f5 14.Ne6

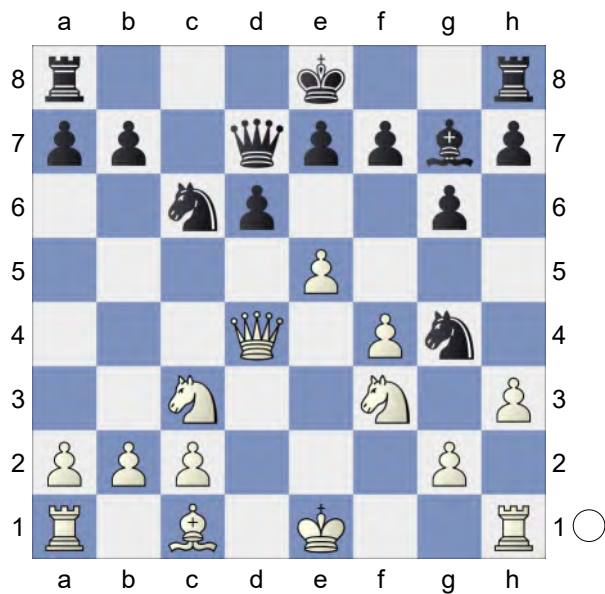
with complete control of the game Fridman, D (2647) -Ehlvest, J (2547) Jurmala (blitz) 2015 1-0 (27).;

C) 6...dxe5 7.fxe5 Nd5 8.Bc4 Be6 9.Nxd5 Bxd5 10.Bxd5 Qxd5 11.Qe2 Nc6 12.c4 Qa5+ 13.Bd2 Qb6 14.Bc3 e6 15.0-0-0 Qa6 16.Kb1 Rab8 17.h4 b5 18.c5 Qc8 19.h5 White has the much better chances, Salem, A (2603)-Petrosian, T (2671) Moscow 2015 1-0 (36).]



Of course we have a major alternative here: **6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.e5 Ng4 8.Bxd7+ Qxd7 9.h3** Not the most popular line, but a very interesting one. **9...cxd4 10.Qxd4 Nc6**

(Diagram)



11.Qe4 Nh6 12.Be3 An alternative is also interesting:

[12.g4 0-0-0 13.Qe2 dxe5 14.fxe5 Qe6 15.0-0 (15.Bd2 Nxe5 16.Nxe5 Rxd2 17.Kxd2 Bxe5 18.Qe3 g5 With complicated play.) 15...Rhe8 16.Bf4 f6 17.Qg2 (17.Ne4!? Nxg4 18.Qb5 Rd5 19.Nc5 Rxc5 20.Qxc5 fxe5 21.Rae1 It seems to me that White preserves the better chances.) 17...Nf7 18.exf6 Bxf6 19.Rae1 Qc4 Black has counterplay, Huschenbeth, N (2533) -Jugelt, T (2412) Hamburg 2014 1/2-1/2 (63).]

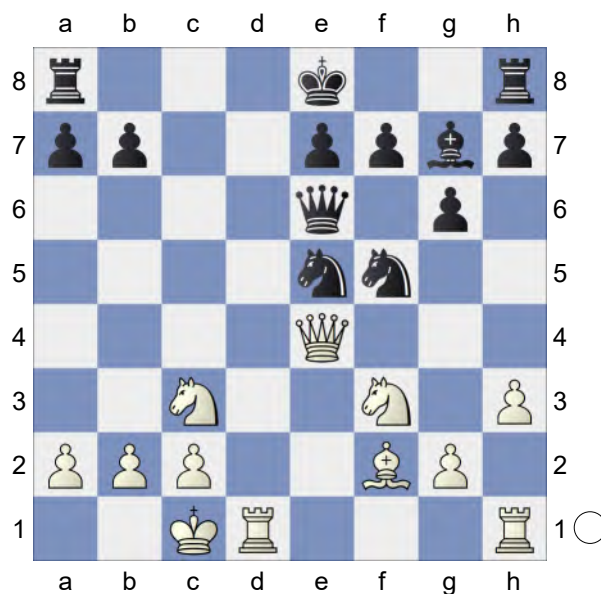
12...Nf5

[12...dxe5 13.fxe5 0-0-0 is Shirov-Markowski, in the Archive.]

13.Bf2 dxe5 14.fxe5 Qe6

[14...Nxe5 15.Nxe5 Qe6 16.0-0-0 Bxe5 17.Rhe1 Bxc3 18.Qxb7 Qc8 19.Qxc8+ Rxc8 20.bxc3 Rc7 21.g4 Ng7 22.Bg3 Rb7 23.Re4 h5 24.Rc4 0-0 25.Rb4 Rb6 26.Rd7 White has the initiative in this endgame. hxg4 27.hxg4 Ra6 28.a4 Ne6 29.Rxe7 Nc5 30.Be5 Rc8 31.Rc7 1-0 Shirov, A (2691)-Zaragatski, I (2472) Eppingen 2015]

15.0-0-0 Nxe5



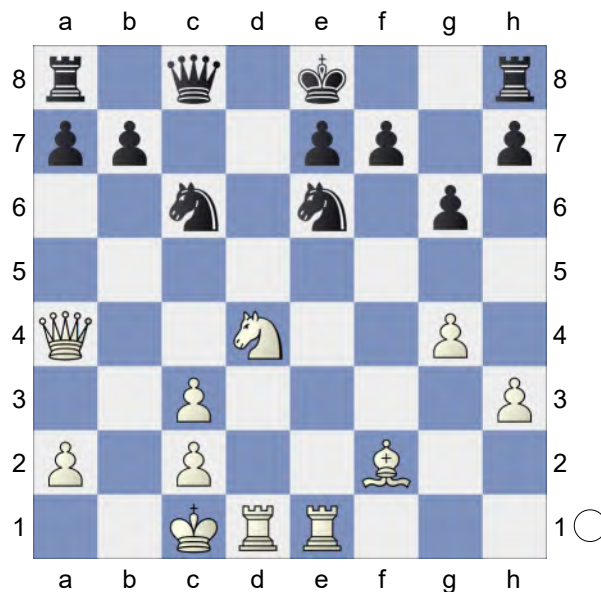
16.Rhe1

[16.Nxe5 Transpose to the Shirov game above.]

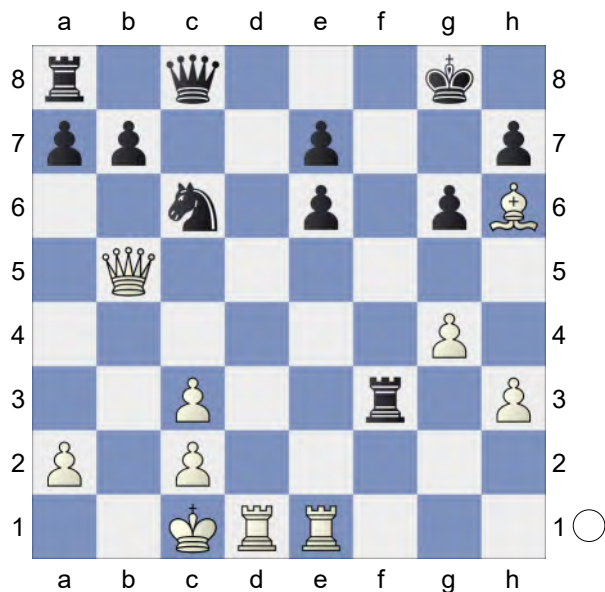
16...Nc6 17.Qa4 Qc8 18.g4 Bxc3

19.bxc3 Ng7 20.Nd4 Ne6

[20...0-0 21.Nxc6 Qxc6 22.Qxc6 bxc6 23.Rxe7 White is slightly better.]



21.Nxe6 fxe6 22.Qb3 Na5 23.Qb5+ Nc6 24.Be3 0-0 25.Bh6 Rf3
(Diagram)

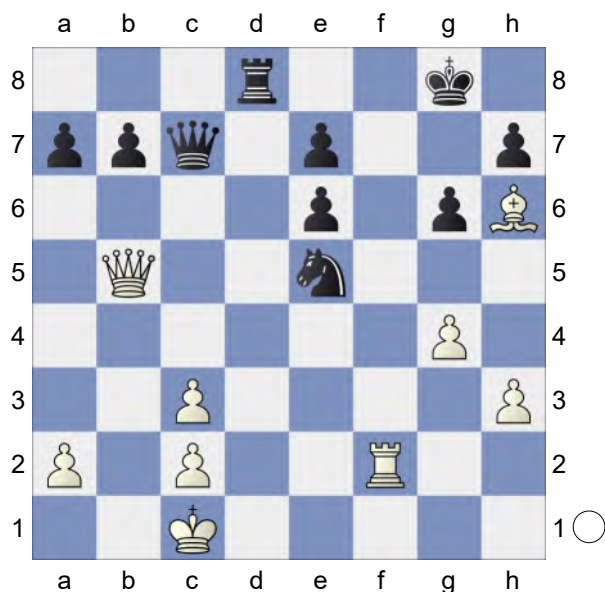


26.Rf1 Rxf1 27.Rxf1 Qc7 28.Rf2 Re8 29.Qe2

White missed a better continuation...

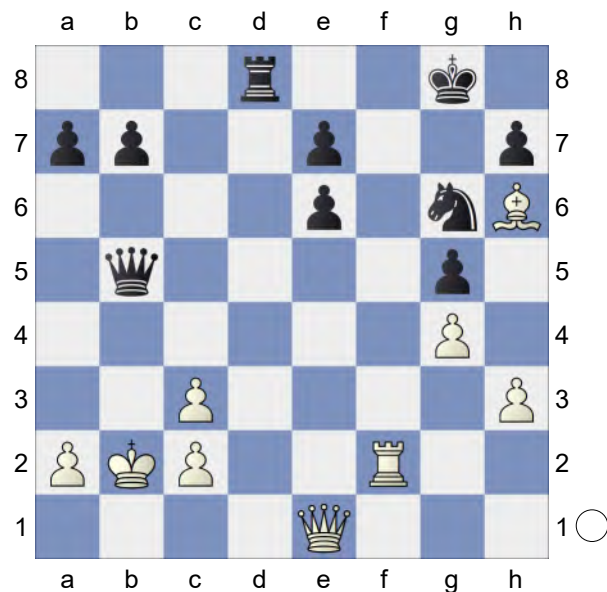
[29.h4! a6 30.Qc4 Qd6 31.h5 b5 32.Qe4 Ne5 33.Qf4 Qb8 34.hxg6 hxg6 35.Qe4 Qd6 36.Bf4 Rd8 37.Rf1 *White wins*]

29...Ne5 30.Qb5 Rd8



31.Qf1 Qc8 32.Rf4 g5! 33.Rf2 Ng6 34.Qe1 Qc4 35.Kb2 Qb5+

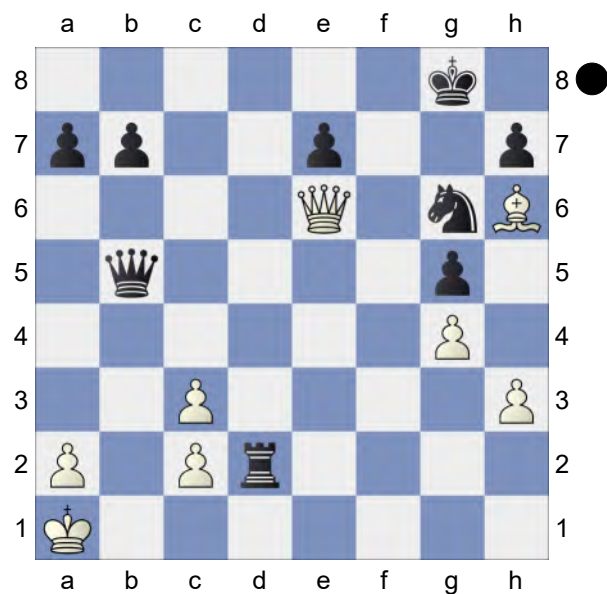
(Diagram)



36.Ka1 Rd6 37.Rd2 Rxd2??
A blunder

[*Instead of winning the game Black lost the game! 37...Rb6! 38.Qc1 Qc4 39.Rd3 Nf4 40.Rf3 Ra6 41.Qb1 Qd5 Black should win.]*

38.Qxe6+



1-0

160

□ Wei, Yi

■ Basso, Pier Luigi

Masters Open 2015 (2.45)

[Milos Pavlovic]

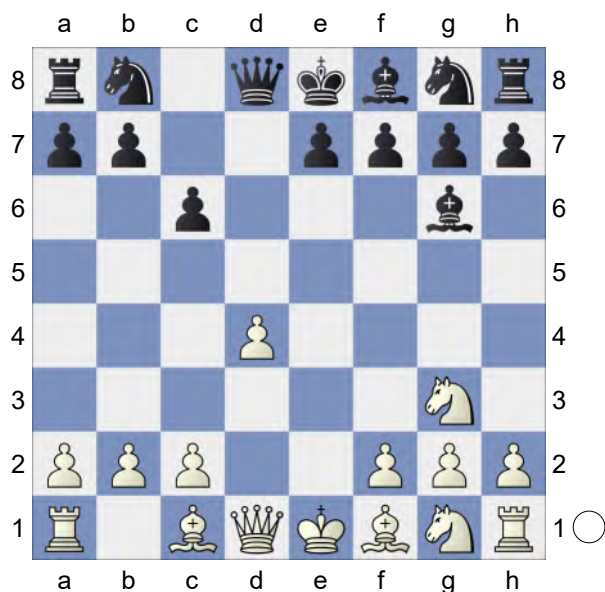
B19

2730

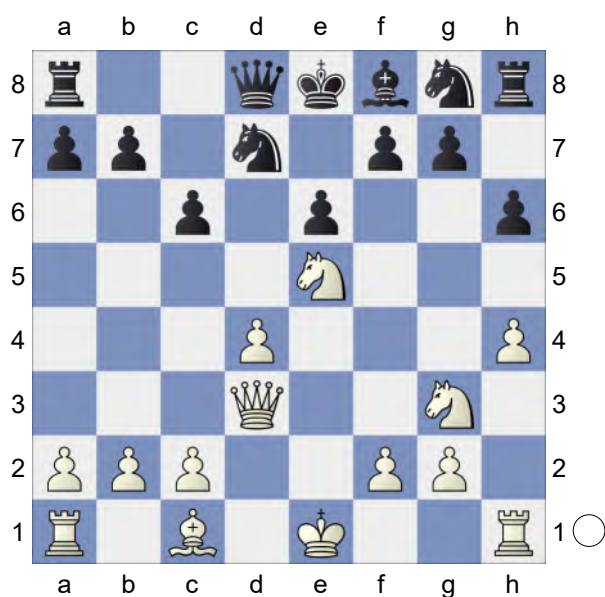
2438

21.12.2015

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4
Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6



6.h4 h6 7.Nf3 e6 8.Ne5 Bh7 9.Bd3
Bxd3 10.Qxd3 Nd7

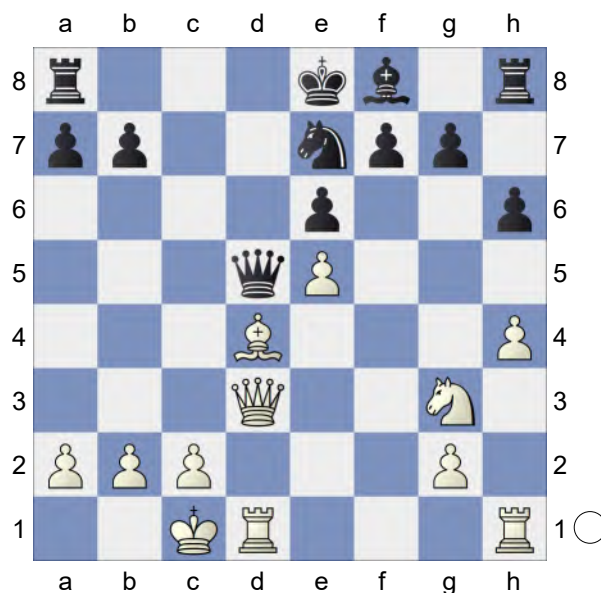


11.f4 c5

[11...Bb4+ is more common, see the

PGN Archive for several examples.]

12.Be3 Nxe5 13.fxe5 cxd4 14.0-0-0
Qd5 15.Bxd4 Ne7



16.Ne2!? A new idea and it seems like
an interesting one.

[16.Ne4 is normal, and is considered
in Saric-Nisipeanu, see the Archive.]

16...Nf5

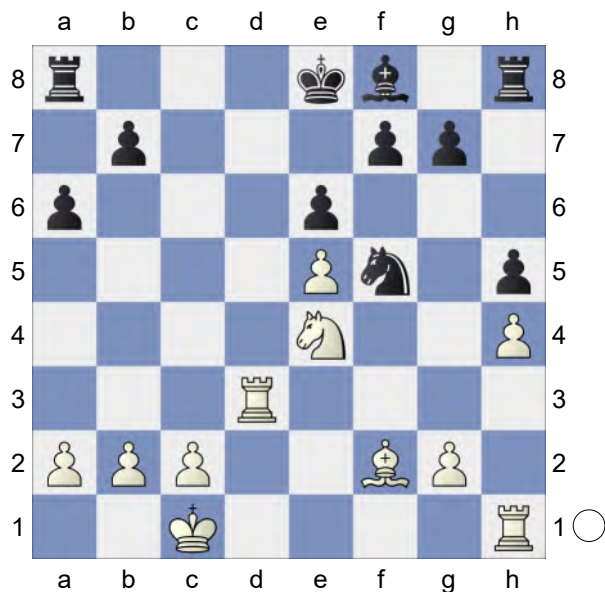
[16...Nc6 17.c4 Qxg2!? (17...Qd7
18.Qg3 Qc7 19.Nc3! a6 20.Ne4
0-0-0 21.Bc3 White is better.)
18.Rhg1 Qh2 19.Qe4 0-0-0 20.Rg2
Rxd4 21.Nxd4 Qxe5 22.Re2 Qxe4
23.Rxe4 Be7 24.Nxc6 bxc6 25.h5
It is White who can really try to play
on for a win.]

[16...Qxa2?? loses to 17.Qb5+ Nc6
18.Qxb7]

17.Nc3! Qd7

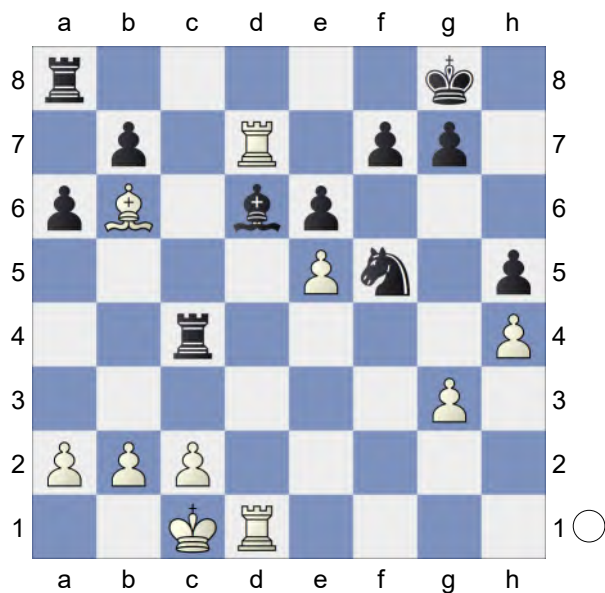
[17...Qc6 18.g4! (18.Bf2 h5 19.Ne4
Be7 20.Qe2 0-0 21.Kb1 Rfd8
Black has counterplay.) 18...Nxd4
19.Qxd4 Be7 20.Ne4 0-0 21.g5
Rfd8 22.Nd6 White has the initiative.]
[17...Qxd4? 18.Qb5+ White wins.]

18.Bf2! Qxd3 19.Rxd3 Due to the Nb5
threat Black doesn't have time for h5...
19...a6 20.Ne4 h5



21.Rhd1 Be7 22.g3 0-0 23.Bb6
 [23.Rd7 b5 24.Nd6 *White is much better.*]

23...Rfc8 24.Rd7 Rc4 25.Nd6 Bxd6

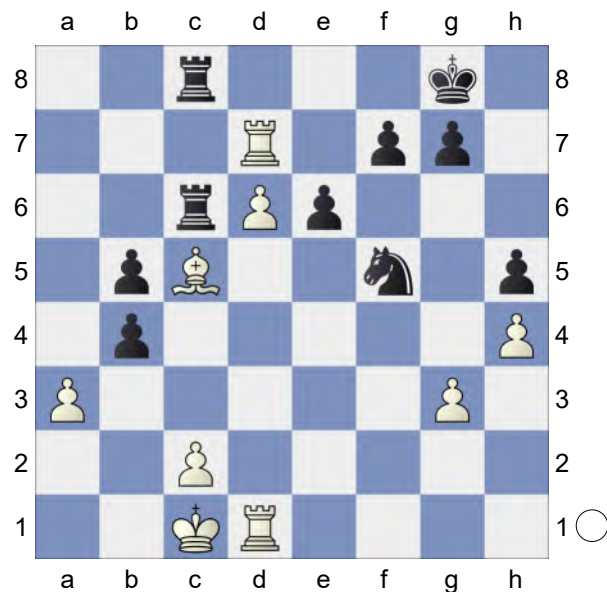


26.exd6 Rc6 27.Bf2 b5?!

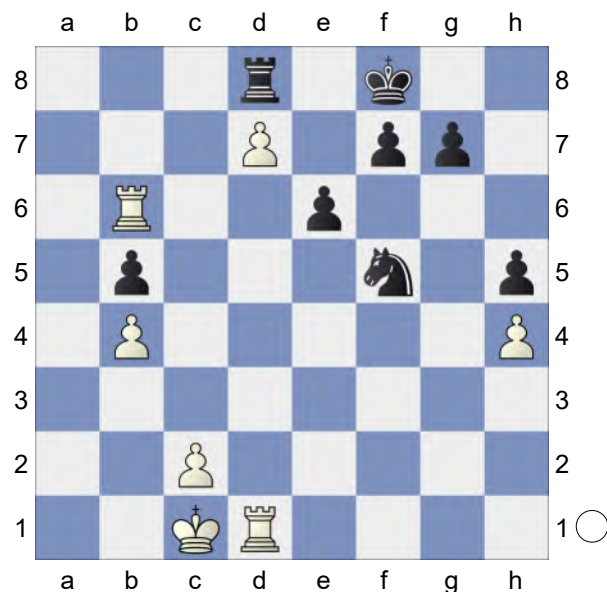
[27...Rac8! 28.Rd2 Kf8! *Not an easy defence to find!* 29.Rxb7 Nxd6
 30.Ra7 Ne4 31.Re2 f5
With counterplay.]

28.b4! a5 29.Bc5 *Now it is close to winning for White.* **29...Rac8 30.a3 axb4**

(Diagram)

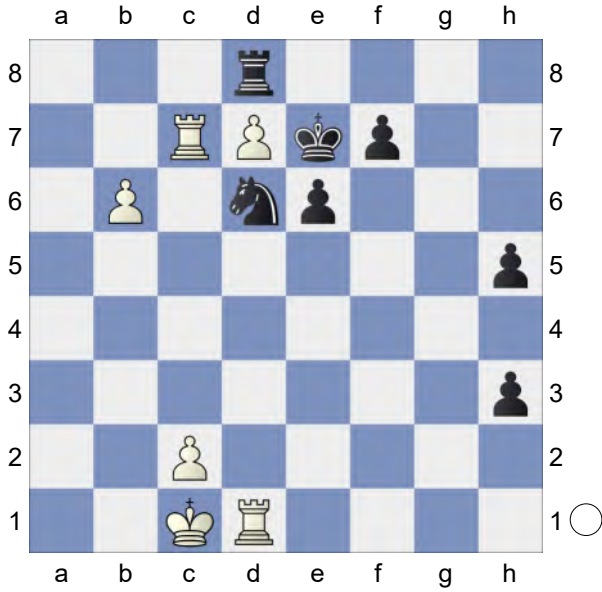


31.axb4 Nxg3 32.Rb7 Nf5 33.d7 Rd8
34.Bb6 Rxb6 35.Rxb6 Kf8

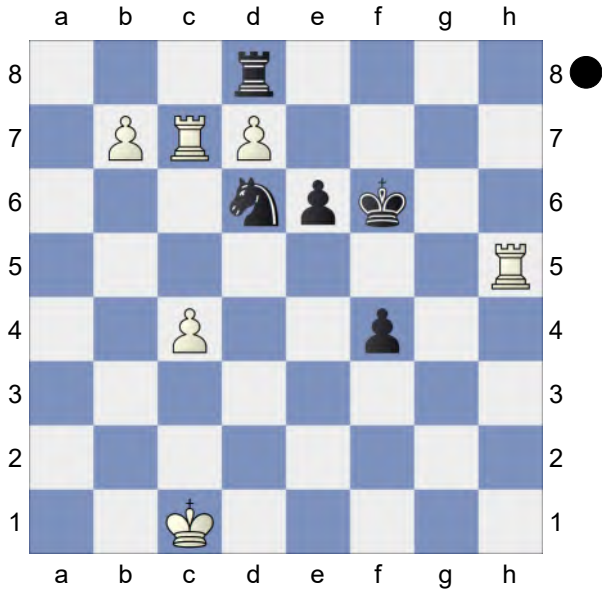


36.Rxb5 Ke7 37.Rc5 g5 38.b5 gxh4
39.b6 Nd6 40.Rc7 h3

(Diagram)



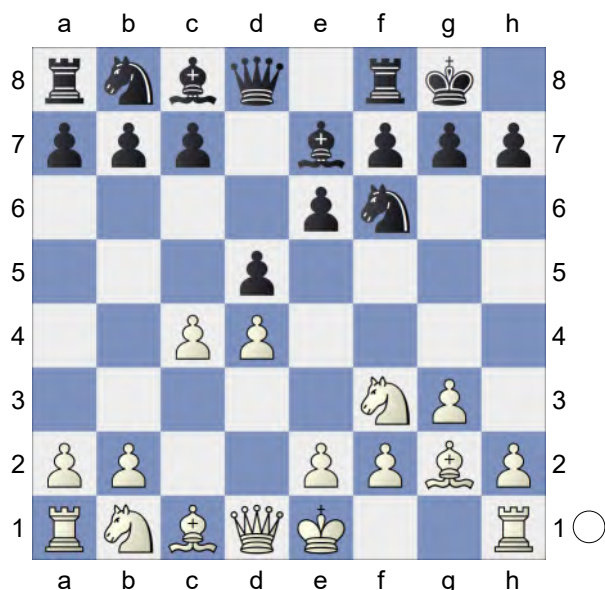
**41.b7 h2 42.Rh1 f5 43.Rxh2 f4
44.Rxh5 Kf6 45.c4**



1-0

14 **E05**
 ☐ **Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar** **2804**
 ■ **Wei, Yi** **2743**
 80th Tata Steel GpA (7.5) 20.01.2018
[Milos Pavlovic]

1.d4 Marin, M: 'Marin, Mihail Marin, Mihail:
 'Marin, M' 1...Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.c4 e6
 4.g3 Be7 5.Bg2 0-0



6.0-0 dxc4 7.Qc2 a6 8.a4 Bd7
9.Qxc4 Bc6 10.Bg5 h6

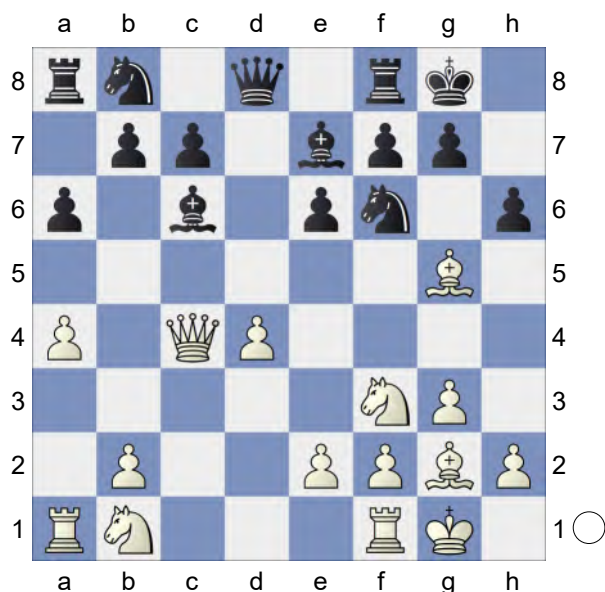
['The classical treatment of this line is
 Marin, Mihail: 'Marin, M: 'The classical
 treatment of this line is'" The classical
 treatment of this line is Marin, M:
 'Marin, Mihail: 'The classical treatment
 of this line is'" 10...a5 11.Nc3
 'but now Marin, Mihail: 'Marin, M: 'but
 now'" but now Marin, M: 'Marin, Mihail:
 'but now' Ra6!? So, W (2794)-Adams,
 M (2748) London 2016 CBM 176
 [Marin, M] (1-0, 40)'So, W (2794)-
 Adams, M (2748) London 2016 CBM
 176 [Marin, M] (1-0, 40) surely is a
 bit exotic. Marin, Mihail: 'So, W (2794)-
 Adams, M (2748) London 2016 CBM
 176 [Marin, M] (1-0, 40) Marin, M: 'So,

W (2794)-Adams, M (2748) London
 2016 CBM 176 [Marin, M] (1-0, 40)
 surely is a bit exotic.'" surely is a bit
 exotic. Marin, M: 'Marin, Mihail: 'surely
 is a bit exotic.'"]

[10...Nbd7 11.Nc3 h6 12.Bf4 Bd6
 13.Ne5 Bxg2 14.Kxg2 Nb6 15.Qb3
 a5 Vachier Lagrave, M (2804)-
 Dominguez Perez, L (2739) Doha
 2016 (½-½, 48)'Vachier Lagrave, M
 (2804)-Dominguez Perez, L (2739)
 Doha 2016 (½-½, 48) Marin, Mihail:
 'Vachier Lagrave, M (2804)-
 Dominguez Perez, L (2739) Doha
 2016 (½-½, 48) Marin, M: 'Vachier
 Lagrave, M (2804)-Dominguez Perez, L
 (2739) Doha 2016 (½-½, 48)'"
 16.e4!?]

[10...Bd5 'is an open attempt of
 reaching a draw in a somewhat worse
 position, for instance Marin, Mihail:
 'Marin, M: 'is an open attempt of
 reaching a draw in a somewhat worse
 position, for instance'" is an open
 attempt of reaching a draw in a
 somewhat worse position, for instance
 Marin, M: 'Marin, Mihail: 'is an open
 attempt of reaching a draw in a
 somewhat worse position, for instance
 11.Qd3 c5 12.Nc3 Bc6
 Vachier Lagrave, M (2789)-Nakamura,
 H (2787) Paris 2016 CBM 173
 [Besenthal, K] (1-0, 54)'Vachier
 Lagrave, M (2789)-Nakamura, H (2787)
 Paris 2016 CBM 173 [Besenthal, K]
 (1-0, 54) Marin, Mihail: 'Vachier
 Lagrave, M (2789)-Nakamura, H (2787)
 Paris 2016 CBM 173 [Besenthal, K]
 (1-0, 54) Marin, M: 'Vachier Lagrave, M
 (2789)-Nakamura, H (2787) Paris 2016
 CBM 173 [Besenthal, K] (1-0, 54)'"]

(Diagram)



'One of the many possible moves. Black wastes a tempo to get the bishop pair, which is far from one-sided with the development incomplete. Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'One of the many possible moves. Black wastes a tempo to get the bishop pair, which is far from one-sided with the development incomplete.'" Marin, M: 'One of the many possible moves. Black wastes a tempo to get the bishop pair, which is far from one-sided with the development incomplete.'"Marin,Mihail: 'One of the many possible moves. Black wastes a tempo to get the bishop pair, which is far from one-sided with the development incomplete. Milos Pavlovic: 'Marin,M: 'One of the many possible moves. Black wastes a tempo to get the bishop pair, which is far from one-sided with the development incomplete.'" **11.Bxf6 Bxf6 12.Nc3**

['The main alternative is Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'The main alternative is'" The main alternative is Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'The main alternative is'" 12.Rd1 'overprotecting d4 before developing the knight. Of course the two variations could transpose to each

other if Black does not take the pawn as in the main game (which will this time prove a not entirely edible pawn). But I am not sure whether the main game move order offers White any additional ideas to that with 12.Rfd1. Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'overprotecting d4 before developing the knight. Of course the two variations could transpose to each other if Black does not take the pawn as in the main game (which will this time prove a not entirely edible pawn). But I am not sure whether the main game move order offers White any additional ideas to that with 12. Rfd1. Marin,M: 'Marin, Mihail: 'overprotecting d4 before developing the knight. Of course the two variations could transpose to each other if Black does not take the pawn as in the main game (which will this time prove a not entirely edible pawn). But I am not sure whether the main game move order offers White any additional ideas to that with 12. Rfd1." a5 13.Nc3 Bxf3 14.Bxf3 c6 15.h4 Nd7 16.e3 Ra6 17.Rab1 Be7 18.Be4 Rb6 19.Bc2± Inarkiev,E (2660)-Kasimdzhanov,R (2704) Berlin 2015 (½-½, 53)'Inarkiev,E (2660)-Kasimdzhanov,R (2704) Berlin 2015 (½-½, 53) Compare also with Eljaov-Adams below. Marin,Mihail: 'Inarkiev, E (2660)-Kasimdzhanov,R (2704)

Berlin 2015 (½-½, 53) Marin,M:
'Inarkiev,E (2660)-Kasimdzhanov,R
(2704) Berlin 2015 (½-½, 53)
Compare also with Eljaov-Adams
below.'" Compare also with Eljaov-
Adams below. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail:
' Compare also with Eljaov-Adams
below.'"]

12...Bxf3

[12...a5 13.e4 Na6 14.Rfd1
'is a tabyia which can arise via either
move order. Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'is
a tabyia which can arise via either
move order.'" is a tabyia which can
arise via either move order.'" Nb4
15.Ne1!? Be7 (15...b6 16.e5±)
16.Rac1 Rb8 17.Nb5 Bxb5 18.axb5±
Gabuzyan,H (2525)-Kravtsiv,M (2589)
Yerevan 2013 (0-1, 39)]

13.Bxf3 Qxd4 A straightforward attempt
to try to find a clear path to a draw
which doesn't look bad. Marin,M: 'Marin,
Mihail: 'Milos Pavlovic: 'A
straightforward attempt to try to find a
clear path to a draw which doesn't look
bad.'"]

[The solid'A more solid try is Marin,
Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'A more solid try is'
Milos Pavlovic: 'The solid'" Marin,M:
'A more solid try is'"Marin,Mihail: 'A
more solid try is Milos Pavlovic: 'Marin,
M: 'A more solid try is'" 13...c6
was considered in the game Aronian -
Jakovenko, see the PG'even though
White retains an edge: Marin,Mihail:
'Marin,M: 'even though White retains
an edge:' Milos Pavlovic: 'was
considered in the game Aronian -
Jakovenko, see the PGN Archive.'" N
Archive. Marin,M: 'even though White
retains an edge:"Marin,Mihail: 'even

though White retains an edge: Milos
Pavlovic: 'Marin,M: 'even though
White retains an edge:"" 14.e3 a5
15.h4 Na6 16.Rfd1 Qb6 17.Qe2±
Eljanov,P (2723)-Adams,M (2740) Biel
2015 CBM 168 [Marin,M] (0-1,
59)'Eljanov,P (2723)-Adams,M (2740)
Biel 2015 CBM 168 [Marin,M] (0-1,
59) Marin,Mihail: 'Eljanov,P (2723)-
Adams,M (2740) Biel 2015 CBM 168
[Marin,M] (0-1, 59) Marin,M: 'Eljanov,
P (2723)-Adams,M (2740) Biel 2015
CBM 168 [Marin,M] (0-1, 59)"]

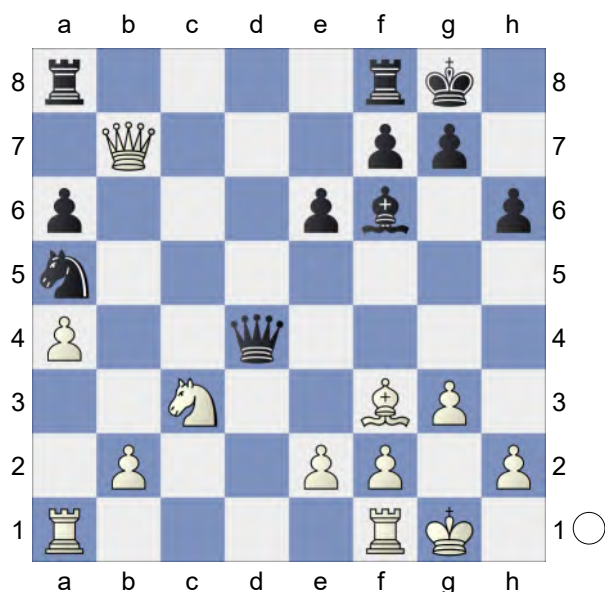
14.Qxc7 'Apparently the only challenging
move. Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M:
'Apparently the only challenging move.'"
Marin,M: 'Apparently the only
challenging move.'"Marin,Mihail:
'Apparently the only challenging move.
Milos Pavlovic: 'Marin,M: 'Apparently the
only challenging move.'"]

[14.Qxd4 'Kasimdzhanov defended
Black's point of view twice after Marin,
Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'Kasimdzhanov
defended Black's point of view twice
after'" Marin,M: 'Kasimdzhanov
defended Black's point of view twice
after'"Marin,Mihail: 'Kasimdzhanov
defended Black's point of view twice
after Milos Pavlovic: 'Marin,M:
'Kasimdzhanov defended Black's point
of view twice after'" Bxd4 15.Bxb7
Ra7 16.Bg2 Nd7 17.Rfd1 c5
(Interesting is: 17...Bxc3 Marin,M:
'Marin,Mihail' 18.bxc3 Nc5 19.a5
Rb8 20.Rdb1 Rxb1+ 21.Rxb1 Kf8
22.f4 Ke7 23.Kf2 Kd6 24.Ke3 f6
25.Rb8 c6 26.Rb6 Rc7 I am not sure
that White has any chances of
breaking such a fortress.) 18.e3 Bf6
19.Rab1 (19.Rd2 Rb8 20.Ne4 Be7
21.Rc2 Rb4 ½-½ Landa,K (2626)-
Kasimdzhanov,R (2704) Germany

2016) 19...Rb8 Marin,M: 'Aronian,L (2805)-Kasimdzhanov,R (2683) Riyadh 2017 (½-½, 51)"Aronian,L (2805)-Kasimdzhanov,R (2683) Riyadh 2017 (½-½, 51) Marin,Mihail: 'Aronian,L (2805)-Kasimdzhanov,R (2683) Riyadh 2017 (½-½, 51) Marin,M: 'Aronian,L (2805)-Kasimdzhanov,R (2683) Riyadh 2017 (½-½, 51)' Milos Pavlovic: 'Marin,M: 'Aronian,L (2805)-Kasimdzhanov,R (2683) Riyadh 2017 (½-½, 51)""

20.Ne4 Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail' Bxb2 21.Rd2 Be5 22.Rbd1 Nf6 23.Nxc5 a5 Black is ok in this endgame. 1/2-1/2 (5 1) A r o n i a n , L (2 8 0 5) - K a s i m d z h a n o v , R (2 6 8 3) R i y a d h K S A 2 0 1 7]

14...Nc6 15.Qxb7 Na5



'Black's chances to retrieve the pawn are obvious. But in the process White may use the available time to regroup properly for setting up some sort of central domination. Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'Black's chances to retrieve the pawn are obvious. But in the process White may use the available time to regroup properly for setting up some sort of central domination.'" Marin,M: 'Black's

chances to retrieve the pawn are obvious. But in the process White may use the available time to regroup properly for setting up some sort of central domination.'" Marin,Mihail: 'Black's chances to retrieve the pawn are obvious. But in the process White may use the available time to regroup properly for setting up some sort of central domination. Milos Pavlovic: 'Marin,M: 'Black's chances to retrieve the pawn are obvious. But in the process White may use the available time to regroup properly for setting up some sort of central domination.'" **16.Qc7**

[Another recent game:'Once again it looks better avoiding the queen exchange to be able creating some kingside threats. If Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'Once again it looks better avoiding the queen exchange to be able creating some kingside threats. If Milos Pavlovic: 'Another recent game:'" Marin,M: 'Once again it looks better avoiding the queen exchange to be able creating some kingside threats. If"Marin,Mihail: 'Once again it looks better avoiding the queen exchange to be able creating some kingside threats. If Milos Pavlovic: 'Marin,M: 'Once again it looks better avoiding the queen exchange to be able creating some kingside threats. If"" 16.Qe4 Rab8 17.Qxd4 Bxd4 18.Rad1 Be5 19.Ne4 Nb3 20.Nd2 Taking on d2 and b2 secures a draw, 1/2-1/2 Andriasian,Z (2585)-Harutyunian,T (2487) Yerevan ARM 2018 Marin,M: '½-½ Andriasian,Z (2585)-Harutyu'½-½ Andriasian,Z (2585)-Harutyunian,T (2487) Yerevan 2018 Marin,Mihail: '½-½ Andriasian,Z (2585)-Harutyunian,T (2487) Yerevan

2018 Marin,M: '1/2-1/2 Andriasian,Z (2585)-Harutyunian,T (2487) Yerevan 2018' Milos Pavlovic: 'Taking on d2 and b2 secures a draw, 1/2-1/2 Andriasian,Z (2585)-Harutyunian,T (2487) Yerevan ARM 2018 Marin,M: '1/2-1/2 Andriasian,Z (2585)-Harutyunian,T (2487) Yerevan 2018''' nian,T (2487) Yerevan 2018']

16...Qd8 17.Qf4 'Same issue. Marin, Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'Same issue.'" Marin, M: 'Same issue.'"Marin,Mihail: 'Same issue. Milos Pavlovic: 'Marin,M: 'Same issue.'" **17...Rb8 18.Rfd1** 'Molaei,M (2327)-Magalashvili,D (2506) Fajr op 26th 2018 (5) 1/2-1/2 A draw was agreed here in So I assume this aks the next move a novelty: Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'Molaei,M (2327)-Magalashvili,D (2506) Fajr op 26th 2018 (5) 1/2-1/2 A draw was agreed here in So I assume this aks the next move a novelty.'" Marin,M: 'A draw was agreed here in"Marin,Mihail: 'A draw was agreed here in Milos Pavlovic: 'Marin,M: 'A draw was agreed here in'" Marin,M: 'So I assume this aks the next move a novelty:"Marin,Mihail: 'So I assume this aks the next move a novelty: Milos Pavlovic: 'Marin,M: 'So I assume this aks the next move a novelty:''' **18...Qe7** A logical move, although an alternative also looks sound, but its an engine type of move though... 'Black aims for natural development but this delays his queenside counterplay. Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'Black aims for natural development but this delays his queenside counterplay.' Milos Pavlovic: 'A logical move, although an alternative also looks sound, but its an engine type of move though...' Marin,M: 'Black aims for natural development but this delays his queenside counterplay.'"Marin,Mihail:

'Black aims for natural development but this delays his queenside counterplay. Milos Pavlovic: 'Marin,M: 'Black aims for natural development but this delays his queenside counterplay.'"

['From this point of view Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'From this point of view'" Marin,M: 'From this point of view'"Marin,Mihail: 'From this point of view Milos Pavlovic: 'Marin,M: 'From this point of view'"'] **18...Qc8** Having the queen on the c-file looks unsound and probably the Chinese GM was doubtful, but actually its not bad:'is better suited. On the other hand, after retrieving the pawn the queen will be slightly misplaced in the almost symmetrical position. Marin, Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'is better suited. On the other hand, after retrieving the pawn the queen will be slightly misplaced in the almost symmetrical position.' Milos Pavlovic: 'Having the queen on the c-file looks unsound and probably the Chinese GM was doubtful, but actually its not bad:'" Marin,M: 'is better suited. On the other hand, after retrieving the pawn the queen will be slightly misplaced in the almost symmetrical position. "Marin,Mihail: 'is better suited. On the other hand, after retrieving the pawn the queen will be slightly misplaced in the almost symmetrical position. Milos Pavlovic: 'Marin,M: 'is better suited. On the other hand, after retrieving the pawn the queen will be slightly misplaced in the almost symmetrical position.'"

A) 19.Ne4 Bxb2 20.Rab1 Nc4 Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail' (20...Ba3 21.Kg2!/?± 'Black will not find it easy getting coordinated. Marin,Mihail:

'Marin,M: 'Black will not find it easy getting coordinated.'" Black will not find it easy getting coordinated. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'Black will not find it easy getting coordinated.'; 20...Qc4 21.Bh5± g6? 22.Rxb2 Rxb2 23.Nf6+ Kg7 24.Qe5+-) 21.Nd6 Nxd6 22.Rxd6 a5 Also doesn't look bad for Black.;

B) 19.Rab1 'fails to consolidate the queenside due to Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'fails to consolidate the queenside due to'" Marin,M: 'fails to consolidate the queenside due to'"Marin,Mihail: 'fails to consolidate the queenside due to Milos Pavlovic: 'Marin,M: 'fails to consolidate the queenside due to'" 19...Nc4 20.Qc1 Marin,M: 'Marin, Mihail' Nxb2 21.Rxb2 Qxc3 22.Qxc3 Bxc3 23.Rb7 Rxb7 24.Bxb7 a5=]

19.Rab1 Rfc8? Definitely a mistake after which White seizes the initiative. Much better was: 'Black is perfectly regrouped now, but after the next move so will White be! And taking on b2 will induce some chaos in Black's position again. Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'Black is perfectly regrouped now, but after the next move so will White be! And taking on b2 will induce some chaos in Black's position again.' Milos Pavlovic: '?' Milos Pavlovic: 'Definitely a mistake after which White seizes the initiative. Much better was:'" Marin,M: 'Black is perfectly regrouped now, but after the next move so will White be! And taking on b2 will induce some chaos in Black's position again.'"Marin,Mihail: 'Black is perfectly regrouped now, but after the next move so will White be! And taking on b2 will induce some chaos in Black's position

again. Milos Pavlovic: 'Marin,M: 'Black is perfectly regrouped now, but after the next move so will White be! And taking on b2 will induce some chaos in Black's position again.'"

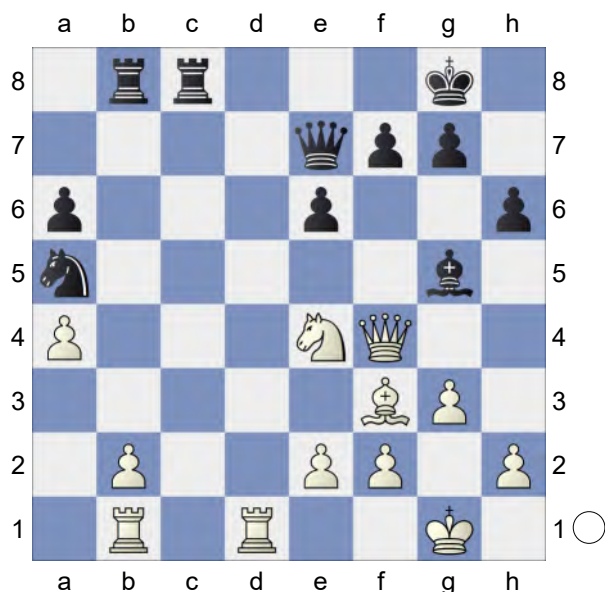
[Marin,M: 'Quite possibly, the best chance was' Marin,M: 'Quite possibly, the best chance was' 19...g5! Marin,M: '!? '!? ' Marin,M: 'when it is hard keeping the possibility Ne4 as an answer to ... Rfc8:' Marin,Mihail: '!? '!? '!? ' Marin,M: 'when it is hard keeping the possibility  e4 as an answer to ... Rfc8:' 20.Qe4 (20.Qc1 Rfc8; 20.Qg4 Bg7) 20...Rfc8 21.Qd3 Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail' Nc4 22.Ne4 Nxb2! 23.Qd6 Kg7 24.Nxf6 Qxf6 25.Rdc1 Rxc1+ 26.Rxc1 Rd8 27.Qc7 (27.Qxa6 g4! 28.Bb7 Nd1 29.Qb6 Rd4 Black has counterplay.) 27...Rd1+ 28.Rxd1 Nxd1 Black is not worse here.]

[19...Rb4 20.Ne4± 'fails to bother White. Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'fails to bother White.'" fails to bother White. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'fails to bother White.'" Bxb2?! 21.Qd6 Qxd6 22.Rxd6±]

20.Ne4! This is a key idea for White, the knight on a5 looks bad now. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'Milos Pavlovic: 'This is a key idea for White, the knight on a5 looks bad now.'" **20...Bg5**

[20...Bxb2 21.Nd6 'causes serious problems on f7. Marin,Mihail: 'Marin, M: 'causes serious problems on f7.'" Marin,M: 'causes serious problems on f7.'"Marin,Mihail: 'causes serious problems on f7. Milos Pavlovic: 'Marin, M: 'causes serious problems on f7.'" Rf8 (21...Rd8 22.Nxf7!±) 22.Qd2 Ba3 23.Rxb8 Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail' (23.Nxf7±) 23...Rxb8 24.Qxa5

White is better.]

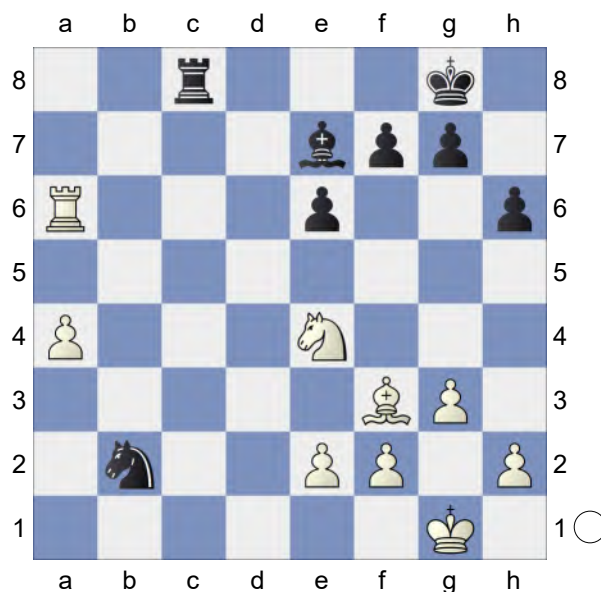


'Giving up the idea of retrieving the pawn. Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'Giving up the idea of retrieving the pawn.'" Marin,M: 'Giving up the idea of retrieving the pawn.'" Marin,Mihail: 'Giving up the idea of retrieving the pawn. Milos Pavlovic: 'Marin,M: 'Giving up the idea of retrieving the pawn.'" **21.Qd6 Qxd6 22.Rxd6** The pawn on a6 is lost.' White has kept his pawn and a6 is hanging while Black is poorly coordinated. With a bit of accuracy from White, the game is as good as over. Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'White has kept his pawn and a6 is hanging while Black is poorly coordinated. With a bit of accuracy from White, the game is as good as over.' Milos Pavlovic: 'The pawn on a6 is lost.'" Marin,M: 'White has kept his pawn and a6 is hanging while Black is poorly coordinated. With a bit of accuracy from White, the game is as good as over.' Marin,Mihail: 'White has kept his pawn and a6 is hanging while Black is poorly coordinated. With a bit of accuracy from White, the game is as good as over.'

Milos Pavlovic: 'Marin,M: 'White has kept his pawn and a6 is hanging while Black is poorly coordinated. With a bit of accuracy from White, the game is as good as over.'" **22...Be7 23.Rxa6 Nc4 24.Rc1?** An inaccuracy that gives Black a chance to continue the game. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'Milos Pavlovic: '?' Milos Pavlovic: 'An inaccuracy that gives Black a chance to continue the game.'" [24.b3! Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail' Ne5 25.Bg2 Rc2 26.f4 Ng4 27.a5 Two passed pawns are a critical asset that will decide the game.]

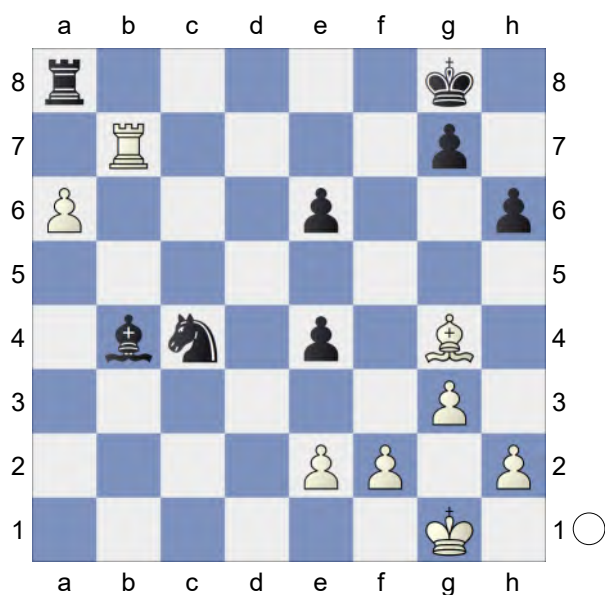
24...Nxb2? Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'Milos Pavlovic: '?' [The last chance... 24...Rxb2! Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail' 25.g4 Ra2 26.h3 g6 Black is still very much in the game.]

25.Rxc8+ Rxc8

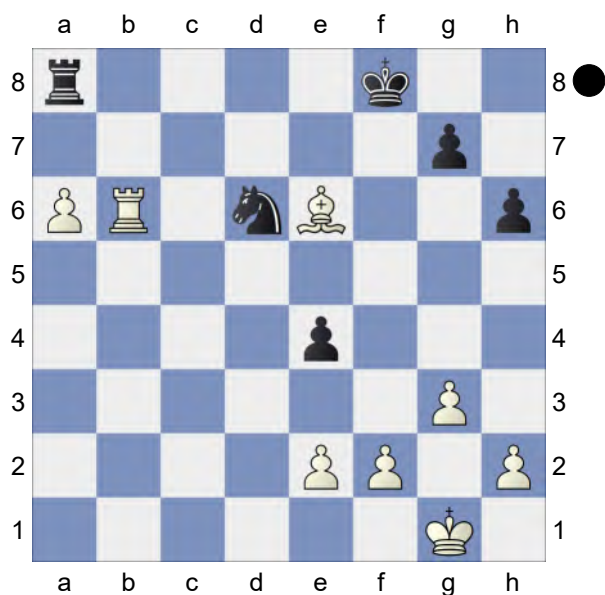


26.a5 The pawn on a5 is unstoppable now.' Sustained by all White's pieces, this pawn is unstoppable already. Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'Sustained by all White's pieces, this pawn is unstoppable already.' Milos Pavlovic: 'The pawn on a5 is unstoppable now.'" [26.a5 The pawn on a5 is unstoppable now.' Sustained by all White's pieces, this pawn is unstoppable already. Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'Sustained by all White's pieces, this pawn is unstoppable already.' Milos Pavlovic: 'The pawn on a5 is unstoppable now.'"]

Marin,M: 'Sustained by all White's pieces, this pawn is unstoppable already.'"Marin, Mihail: 'Sustained by all White's pieces, this pawn is unstoppable already. Milos Pavlovic: 'Marin,M: 'Sustained by all White's pieces, this pawn is unstoppable already.'" **26...Nc4 27.Ra7 Bb4 28.a6 f5 29.Rb7!** Marin,M: '!' '!'?' '!'?' '!'?' 'Milos Pavlovic: '!' Milos Pavlovic: 'Marin,M: '!'?" **29...fxe4 30.Bg4 Ra8**



31.Rxb4 Nd6 32.Bxe6+ Kf8 33.Rb6



1-0 (33) Mamedyarov,S (2804)-Wei,Y

(2743) Wijk aan Zee 2018 CBM 183 [Marin,M]'With two pawns less and a passive position, Black resigned. Marin, Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'With two pawns less and a passive position, Black resigned.' Milos Pavlovic: '1-0 (33) Mamedyarov,S (2804)-Wei,Y (2743) Wijk aan Zee 2018 CBM 183 [Marin,M]'" With two pawns less and a passive position, Black resigned. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'With two pawns less and a passive position, Black resigned."

1-0

248

□ Bu,Xiangzhi

■ Wei,Yi

CHN Team Men 2018 (3.1) 20.06.2018

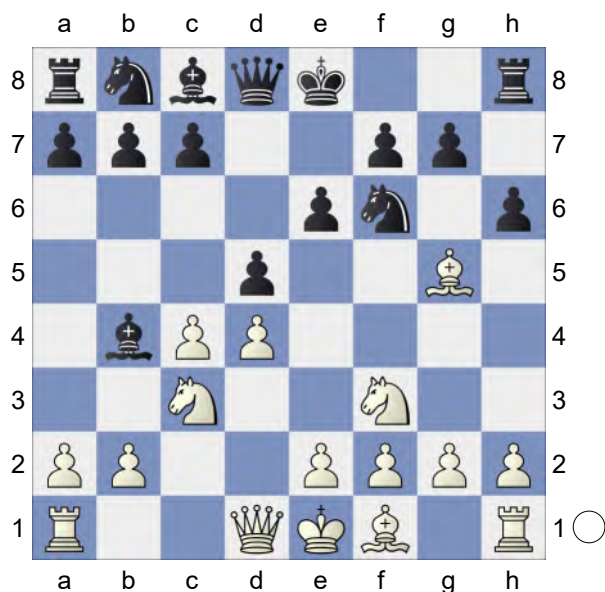
[Milos Pavlovic]

D38

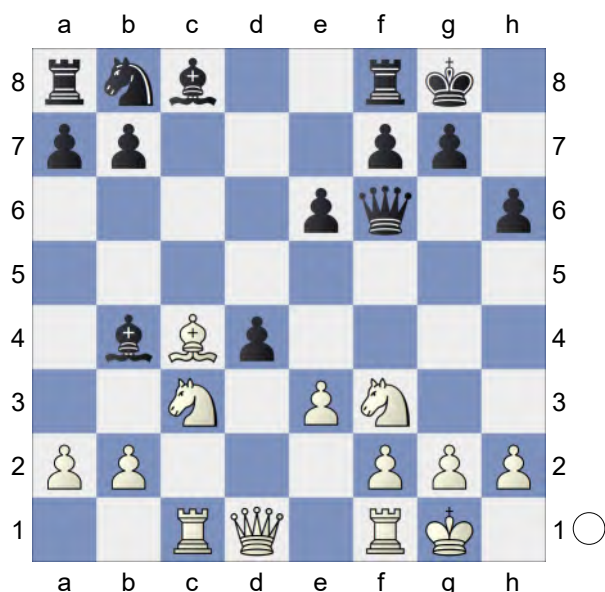
2718

2734

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.d4
Bb4 5.Bg5 h6



6.Bxf6 Qxf6 The popular Ragozin. 7.e3
0-0 8.Rc1 dxc4 9.Bxc4 c5 10.0-0
cxd4



11.Ne4 Qe7 12.a3 Ba5 13.Qxd4 Rd8

14.Qc5!?

alternative.

[14.Qe5 which is more complicated,
was also seen recently:

A) An interesting idea is 14...Bc7!?

15.Qh5 b6

A1) 16.Nfg5!? Nd7 17.Bxe6

Bxh2+ 18.Kxh2 fxe6 19.Nf3

(19.Rc7!? hxg5 20.Rd1 Qf7

21.Qxg5 Rf8 22.g4!?

Preventing the ... Qf5 idea. Qf3

23.Rdxd7 Bxd7 24.Rxd7 Rf7

25.Rxf7 Kxf7 26.Qh5+ Kg8

Black is OK.) 19...Bb7 20.Qg4

Rac8 Doesn't look bad for

Black.;

A2) 16.Nd4 Bb7 17.Bd3 Rd5

18.Qe2 Be5 19.Nb5 a6

20.Nbc3 Rd8 21.Rfd1 Nd7

Black is fine. Miknevicius, L

(2150)-Capone, N (2392) Prague

2016 1/2-1/2 (50);

B) 14...Nc6 15.Qh5 Bd7 16.g4 f6

17.Rfd1 Bb6 18.Nd6 Na5!?

A new idea, but probably not that
good.

B1) 19.Nf5 Qf7 20.Ba2!?

(20.Qxf7+ Kxf7 21.Ba2 Kf8

Black is OK here. Guo Qi (2359)-

Nie, X (2233) Hangzhou CHN

2018 0-1 (67)) 20...Qxh5

21.gxh5 Kh7 22.Ne7 Be8

23.Bxe6 Bxh5 24.Kg2 Rxd1

25.Rxd1 Rd8 26.Rxd8 Bxd8

27.Nc8 Nc6 28.Bd5 Bg4

29.Nd6 Bc7 30.Be4+ g6

31.Nxb7 Bxf3+ 32.Bxf3 Na5

Leads to a draw.;

B2) 19.Ba2! Ba4 20.Nf5 Rxd1+

21.Rxd1 Qe8 22.Bxe6+!

This is easily missed. Kf8

(22...Qxe6 23.Qg6 White wins.)

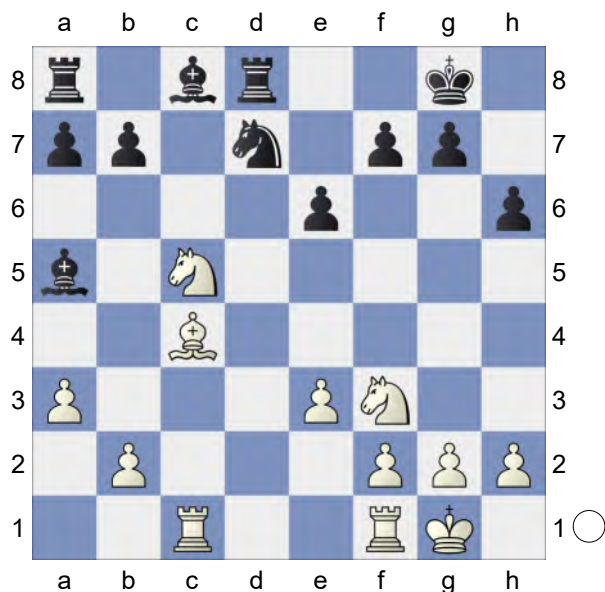
23.Rd6 Qxh5 24.gxh5 Be8

25.N3h4 Rd8 26.Ng6+ Bxg6

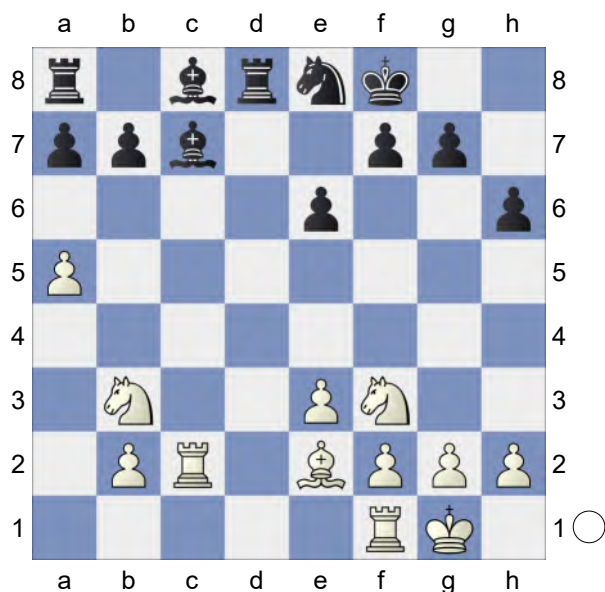
27.Rxd8+ Bxd8 28.hxg6

White is better.]

14...Qxc5 15.Nxc5 Nd7

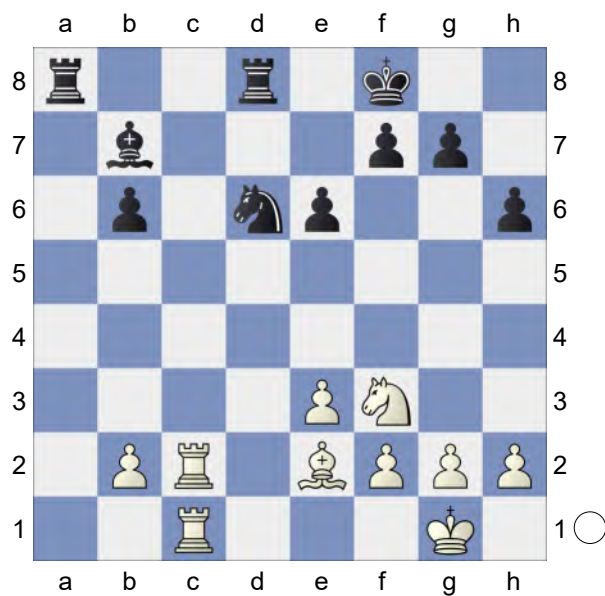


16.Nb3 Bb6 17.a4 Nf6! A good move, Black doesn't weaken his structure.
18.Be2 Ne8! 19.a5 Bc7 20.Rc2 Kf8

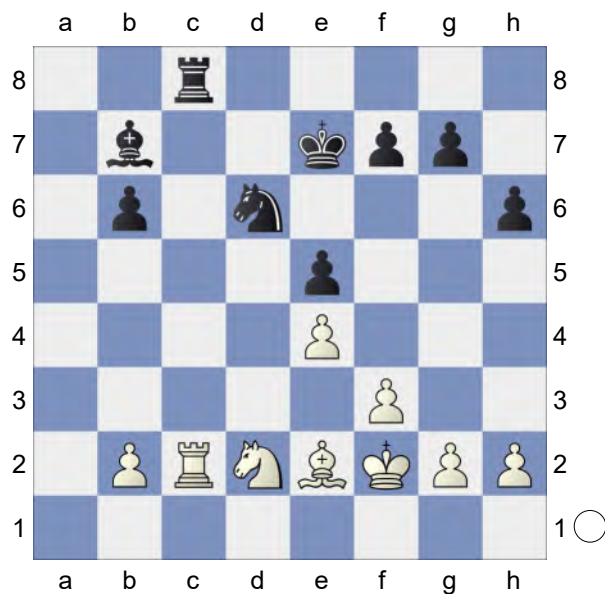


21.Rfc1 Bd6 22.Nc5 b6 23.axb6
axb6 24.Ne4 Bb7 Black has easily
reached equality. 25.Nxd6 Nxd6

(Diagram)

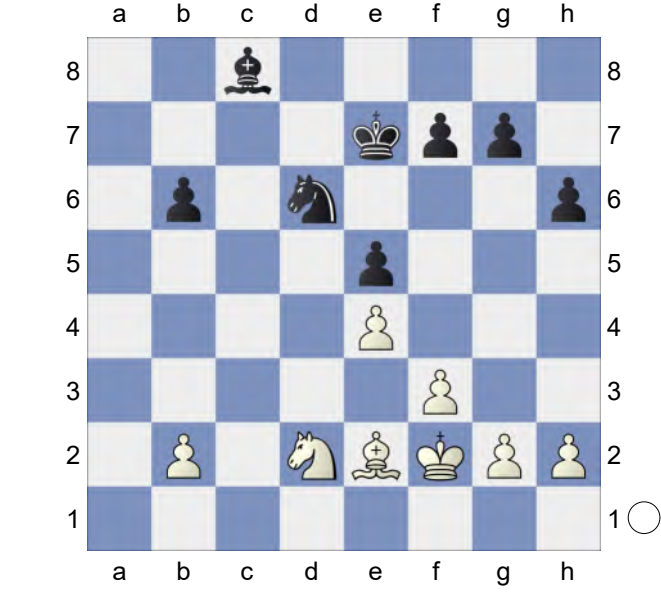


26.Nd2 Rac8 27.f3 Ke7 28.Kf2 e5
29.e4 Rxc2 30.Rxc2 Rc8



31.Rxc8 Bxc8

(Diagram)



1/2-1/2

247

E81

□ Bu,Xiangzhi

2718

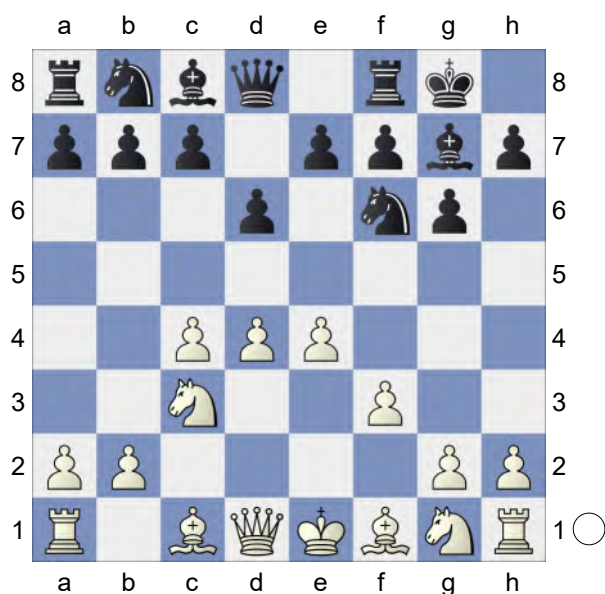
■ Wei,Yi

2734

CHN Team Men 2018 (3.1) 20.06.2018

[Milos Pavlovic]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6
5.f3 0-0



6.Be3 Nbd7 The popular Ragozin.

7.Nge2

[7.Nh3 c5 8.d5]

[7.Bd3 c5]

7...c5 8.Qd2

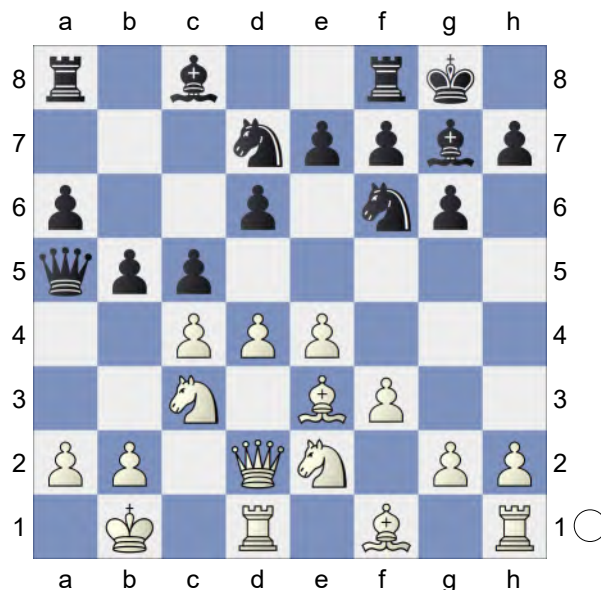
[8.d5 Ne5]

8...a6 9.0-0-0

[9.dxc5 dxc5 10.0-0-0 Qc7 11.Nf4 e6]

9...Qa5 10.Kb1 b5

(Diagram)



11.Nd5

[11.dxc5 dxc5 12.Nd5 Nxd5

A) 13.cxd5 Qxd2 (13...Qc7 14.Bh6 a5 15.h4 Nb6 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.h5 Rh8 18.hxg6 hxg6 19.Rxh8 Kxh8 20.Qh6+ Kg8 21.Nf4; 13...Qa4 14.h4) 14.Rxd2 f5

A1) 15.exf5 Rxf5 16.Ng3 Re5 17.Ne4 (17.Bf2 Bb7 18.d6 Re8 19.Be2 Bh6 20.Rdd1 Nf6) 17...Bb7 18.d6 Bxe4+ 19.fxe4 Rxe4 20.dxe7 Rxe3 21.Rxd7 Re8;

A2) 15.Nc3 c4 16.Be2 (16.a3 Bxc3 17.bxc3 fxe4 18.fxe4 Nf6) 16...fxe4 17.Nxe4 Nf6;

A3) 15.Nf4 Ne5 16.Be2 fxe4 17.fxe4 c4 18.g3 (18.Ne6 Bxe6 19.dxe6 Rf6) 18...Bd7 19.Bc5 (19.Rc1 Rfc8 20.Bd4 Rab8) 19...Bf6 20.Rc2 Rfc8;

B) 13.Qxa5 Doesn't look bad for Black. 13...Nxe3!?

B1) 14.Rxd7 Bxd7 15.Qd2 Nxc4 (15...Nxf1 16.Rxf1 Be6) 16.Qxd7 Rad8 17.Qxe7 Rd1+ 18.Nc1 Bh6 19.Bxc4 Rxh1

20.Bxf7+ Rxf7 21.Qe8+ Kg7
22.Qe5+;

B2) 14.Rc1

B2a) 14...Ne5 15.Nf4
(15.Nc3 Nxf1 16.Rhxf1 Nxc4
17.Qc7 Nd2+ 18.Ka1 Nxf1
19.Rxf1 Bxc3 20.bxc3 Be6)
15...N5xc4 16.Bxc4 Nxc4
17.Rxc4 bxc4 18.Qc7;

B2b) 14...Nxc4 15.Rxc4 bxc4
16.Nc3

B2b1) 16...Rb8

B2b11) 17.Bxc4 Ne5
18.Be2 Be6 19.Rd1 Nc6
20.Qa3 (20.Qxc5 Nb4)
20...Nb4;

B2b12) 17.f4 Bd4
(17...Nf6 18.e5 Bf5+
19.Ka1 Ng4 20.Qxc5)
18.Bxc4 Rb4 19.Nd5
Rxc4 20.Nxe7+ Kg7
21.Nxc8 Rb4 22.b3
Rxc8;

B2b2) 16...Ne5!?

Preventing the ... Qf5 idea.
17.Be2 (17.Qxc5 Be6
18.f4 Nd3 19.Bxd3 cxd3
20.e5 f6 21.Nd5 Rad8
22.Nxe7+ Kh8 23.f5 gxf5
24.Qc6 Bd7 25.Qxa6 fxe5
26.Qxd3 f4) 17...Be6
18.Rd1 Rab8 (18...Rfb8
19.Kc2) 19.Ka1 Rfc8
20.Qa3 Nc6 21.f4
Black is OK. Nd4 22.Rd2
Nb5 23.Nxb5 axb5 24.e5
f6 25.Qe3 fxe5 26.fxe5 b4
27.Rc2 c3 28.bxc3 c4]

11...Nxd5 12.Qxa5 Nxe3 13.Rd3

[13.Rc1 Nxc4 14.Rxc4 (14.Qc3
Ndb6) 14...bxc4 15.Nf4 (15.Nc1
Rb8 16.Bxc4 Nb6 17.Bb3 Bxd4
18.Qd2 Bg7 19.Ne2 c4 20.Bc2

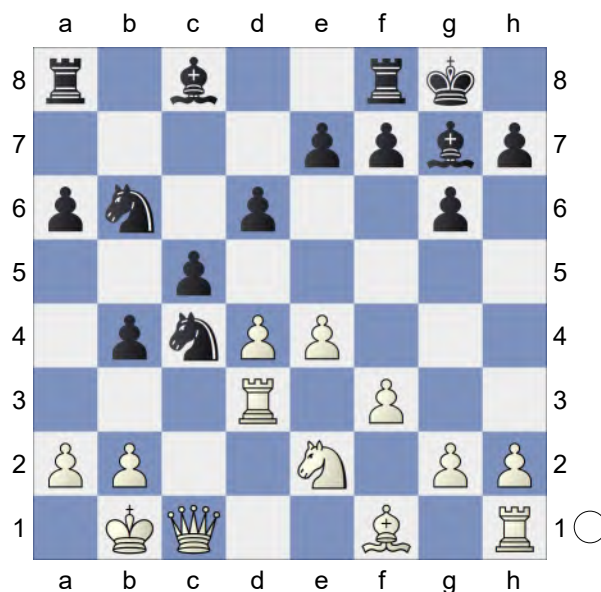
Black is fine. Miknevicius, L (2150)-
Capone, N (2392) Prague 2016 1/2-1/2
(50) c3!? 21.Qd3 cxb2) 15...Rb8
Leads to a draw. 16.Bxc4 Nb6
17.Bxa6 Bxd4 Black is OK here. Guo
Qi (2359)- Nie, X (2233) Hangzhou
CHN 2018 0-1 (67) An interesting idea
is 18.b3!? c4 19.Bxc8 Rfxc8]

13...Nxc4 14.Qe1!? This is a less played alternative. 14...Ndb6

[14...Rb8!? 15.h4 (15.Qc1)
15...cxd4 16.Nxd4 Nc5 17.Rd1 Na4
18.Bxc4 bxc4 19.b3 cxb3 20.axb3
Be6 21.Qa5 Bxb3 22.Rd2 Rfc8
23.Nxb3 Nc5]

15.Qc1 b4

[15...cxd4 16.Nxd4 Bd7 (16...Na4
17.b3 White wins.) 17.Rd1 Rfc8
18.b3 White is better.]
[15...Bd7 16.b3]

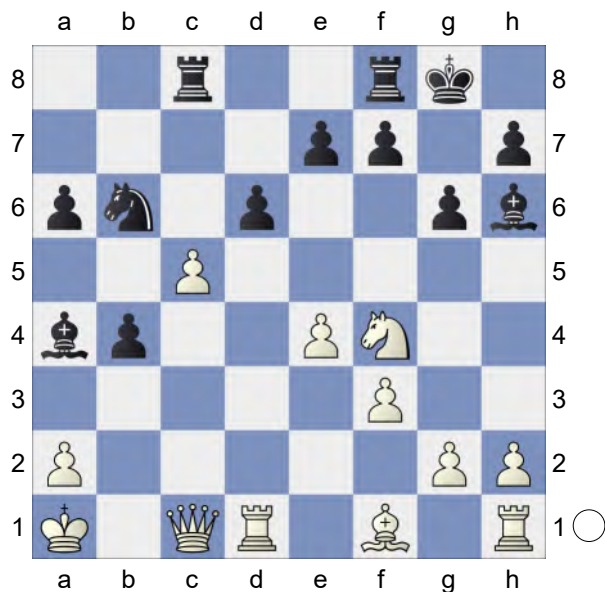


16.Rd1 Bd7 17.Nf4 Nxb2! A good move, Black doesn't weaken his structure.

[17...Bb5 18.Nd5]

18.Kxb2 Bh6! 19.Ka1 Ba4 20.dxc5 [20.Re1]

20...Rac8



21.cxb6

[21.Qd2 Bxd1 22.Bxa6!
This is easily missed. Rxc5 23.Rxd1
Ra8]

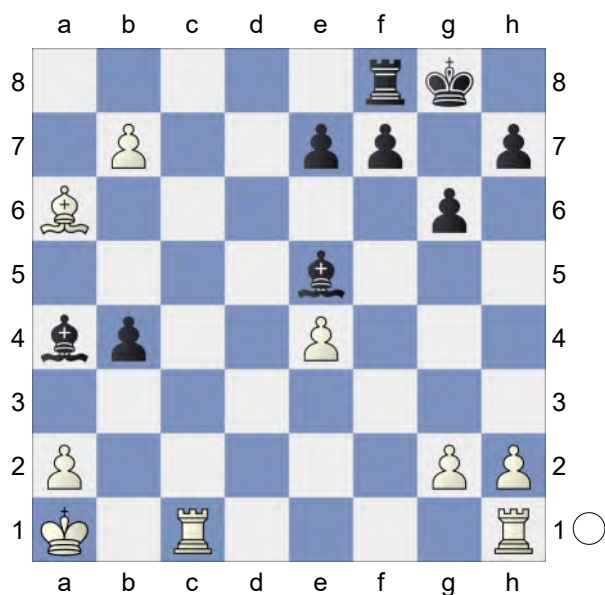
21...Rxc1+ 22.Rxc1 Bxf4 23.Bxa6

[23.Rc7 d5 24.Rxe7!? A new idea,
but probably not that good. Rb8!
25.exd5 Rxb6 26.Bc4]

23...d5

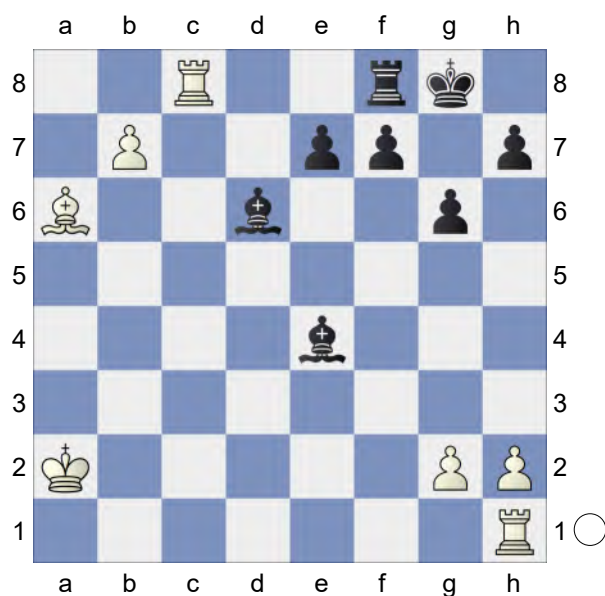
[23...Bxc1 24.Rxc1 Bd7 25.b7]

**24.b7 dxe4 Black has easily reached
equality. 25.fxe4 Be5+**

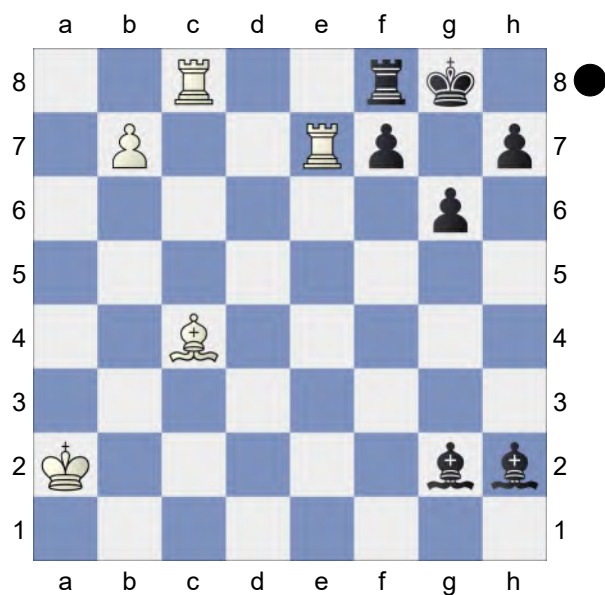


26.Kb1 Bc3 27.a3 Bc6 28.axb4

Bxe4+ 29.Ka2 Bxb4 30.Rc8 Bd6



31.Re1 Bxg2 32.Rxe7 which is more
complicated, was also seen recently:
32...Bxh2 33.Bc4



$\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$

528

□ Wei, Yi

■ Duda, Jan Krzysztof

Pune (13)

19.10.2014

[Milon Kamil]

C57

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Nd4

[5...Na5 6.Bb5+ c6 7.dxc6 bxc6 is the main line.]

[5...Nxd5? ? 6.Nxf7! ! Kxf7 7.Qf3+ Ke6 8.Nc3 Nce7 9.d4 with decisive pressure.]

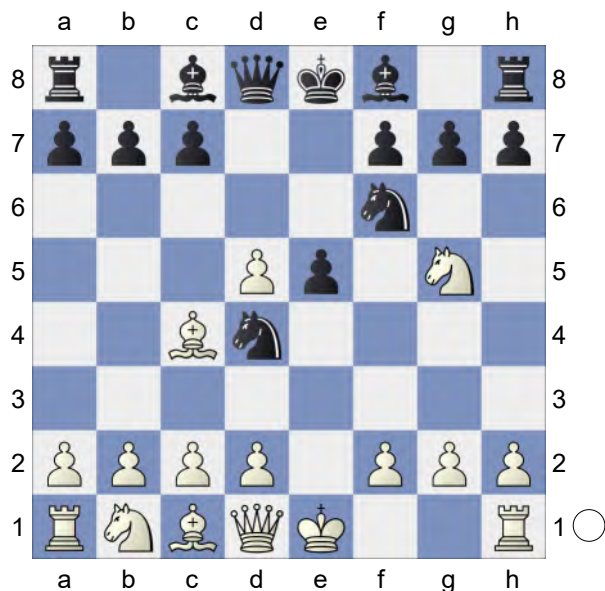


Diagram # It is a big surprise to see this old and interesting line on this level but the situation before the last round forced the Polish GM to go "all-in". Diagram # It is a big surprise to see this old and interesting line on this level but the situation before the last round forced the Polish GM to go "all-in". **6.c3** is the main move and other moves don't bring White any advantage.

[6.Nc3 h6 7.Nf3 (7.Nge4 Nxe4

8.Nxe4 b5! ! and Black recaptures the d5 pawn.) 7...Bg4 8.Be2 Bxf3 9.Bxf3 Bb4 10.0-0 0-0 11.Re1 Re8= with the idea to exchange on c3, f3 and then take on d5. with the idea to exchange on c3, f3 and then take on d5.]

[6.d6? ? Qxd6 7.Nxf7?? ?? is a famous trap! (7.Bxf7+ Ke7 threatening h6. 8.Bb3 Nxb3 9.axb3 h6 10.Nf3 e4 11.Ng1 Kf7= î±) 7...Qc6 8.Nxh8 Qxg2 9.Rf1 Qe4+ 10.Be2 Nf3# Diagram #]

6...b5 7.Bf1

[7.cxd4 bxc4 8.Qa4+ Qd7 9.Qxd7+ Bxd7 10.dxe5 Nxd5+ Black controls the light squares. Black controls the light squares.]

[7.Bd3 Bf5±]

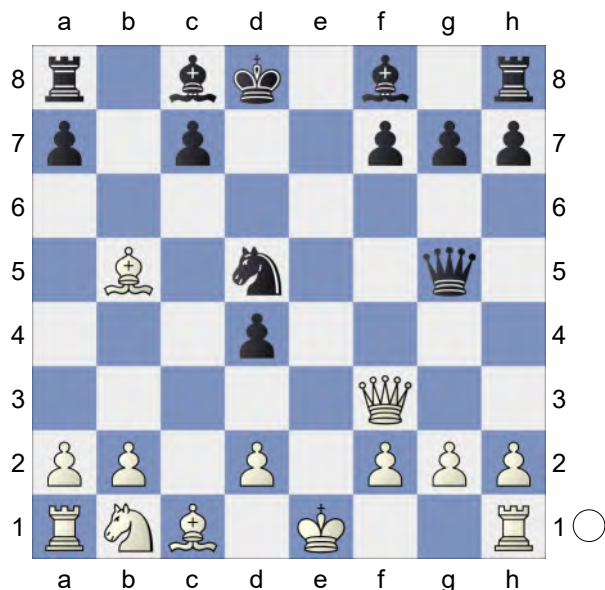
7...Nxd5 8.cxd4 Qxg5 9.Bxb5+ Kd8 Diagram # 10.Qf3

[10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qf3= î±]

10...exd4

[10...Bb7 11.0-0 (11.Qxf7? ? Nf6+ [%t Shrt] î± + threatening Bd5 and Qxg2.) 11...e4!? !? (11...Rb8= î±) 12.Qxe4 Bd6 The black pieces are very active. 13.d3? ? and this is a huge mistake which was played in one famous Fischer game, where Black is winning now after a nice combination: (13.Re1 was the right move.) 13...Bxh2+! ! 14.Kxh2 Diagram # Nf4!! !! 15.Qxb7 (15.Qxf4 Qxg2#; 15.Bxf4 Qh4+ 16.Kg1 Bxe4 17.dxe4 Qxf4+ [%t Shrt] î± +) 15...Qh4+ 16.Kg1 Ne2#]

(Diagram)



11.Bc6 Nf4

[11...Nb4 12.Bxa8 Nc2+ 13.Kd1 Bg4 14.Kxc2 Bxf3 15.Bxf3 Qc5+ 16.Kd1 d3 17.Nc3 Qxf2 18.b3 White has the advantage because he will slowly manage to develop his pieces. White has the advantage because he will slowly manage to develop his pieces.]

12.0-0

[12.Bxa8 Bg4 13.Qe4 Bd6 14.Bc6 f5 15.Qxd4 Diagram # Re8+! ! 16.Bxe8 Qe7+ 17.Qe3 Black can now win thanks to the check on e8: Black can now win thanks to the check on e8: Nxe3+ 18.Kf1 Nxe3+ 19.dxe3 Qe4+ [%t Shrt] â^â +]

12...Bg4 13.Re1 Bd6 14.Qe4

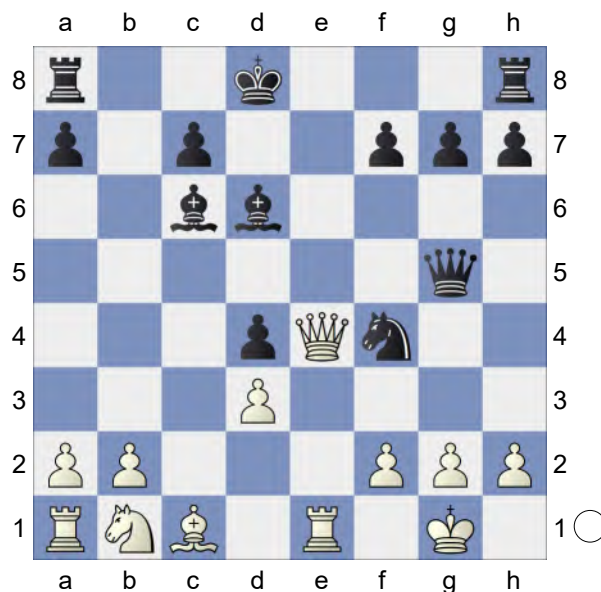
Diagram # Black has to prevent the mate on e8. Diagram # Black has to prevent the mate on e8. 14...Bd7 is a safe option, but Black could also try

[14...Ne2+ 15.Kf1! ! (15.Rxe2?? ?? Bxe2 16.Qxe2 Qc5!-+ ! [%t Shrt] â^â +)]

[14...Be2!? !? threatening Nh3. 15.g3 f5 (15...d3 16.Nc3 Rb8â^â) 16.Qxd4 Nh3+ 17.Kh1 (17.Kg2

Nf4+=) 17...Re8 18.Bg2 preventing Bf3+. Qg4 with very complex play. 19.Qd5 Rb8 20.f3 Nf2+ 21.Kg1 Nh3+ 22.Kh1=]

15.d3 Bxc6



16.Qxc6 Qd5 17.Qxd5 Nxd5

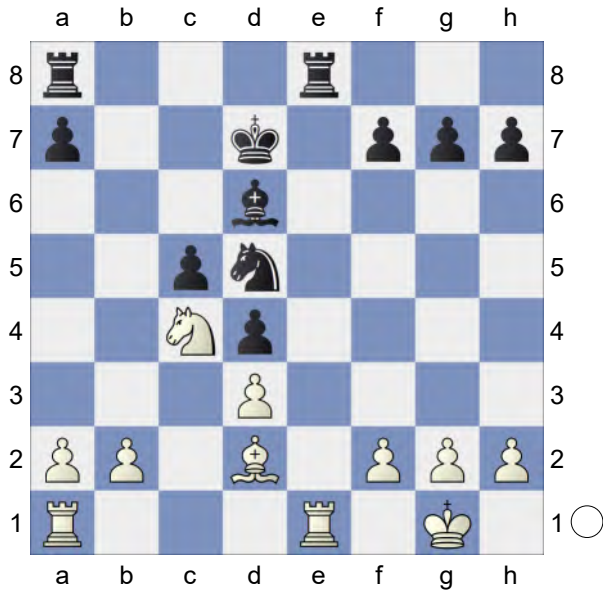
Diagram # After a very complicated opening we now have a simple, equal endgame. Diagram # After a very complicated opening we now have a simple, equal endgame. 18.Nd2 Kd7 [18...Nb4 19.Rd1 Nxd3?! ?! 20.Nc4 and White takes the initiative.]

19.Nc4 Rhe8

[19...Nb4 20.Rd1 Rhe8 21.Kf1]

20.Bd2 c5

(Diagram)



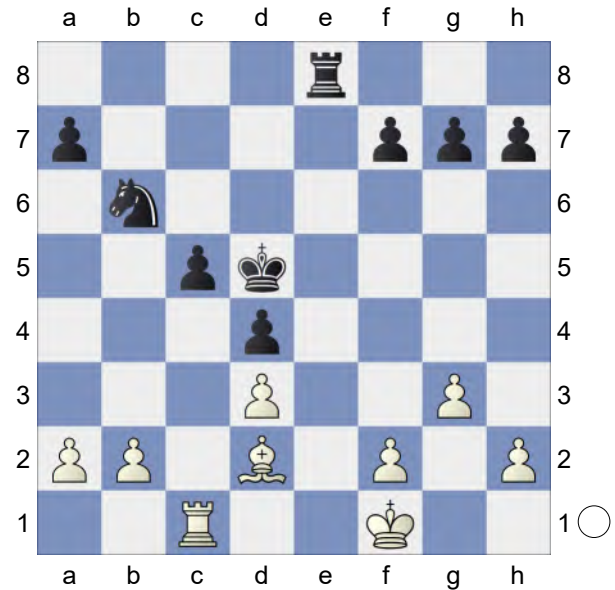
21.Kf1 Rac8 possibly with the idea to activate the rook by playing Rc6-Ra6, but it is very hard to improve the position. possibly with the idea to activate the rook by playing Rc6-Ra6, but it is very hard to improve the position. **22.g3 Nb6** **23.Nxd6** The position is of course still equal, but in my opinion White had more solid options: The position is of course still equal, but in my opinion White had more solid options:

[23.Na5 c4 24.Rxe8 Kxe8 25.dxc4 Nxc4 26.Nxc4 Rxc4 27.Rc1 Rxc1+ 28.Bxc1 Kd7 29.Ke2 Kc6 30.Kd3 Kd5 31.Bd2 and White even has a small plus here.]

[23.Rxe8 Rxe8 24.Re1 Nxc4 25.dxc4= (25.Rxe8 Nxd2+-+ [%t Shrt] â¬â +)]

23...Kxd6 24.Rxe8 Rxe8 25.Rc1 Kd5

(Diagram)



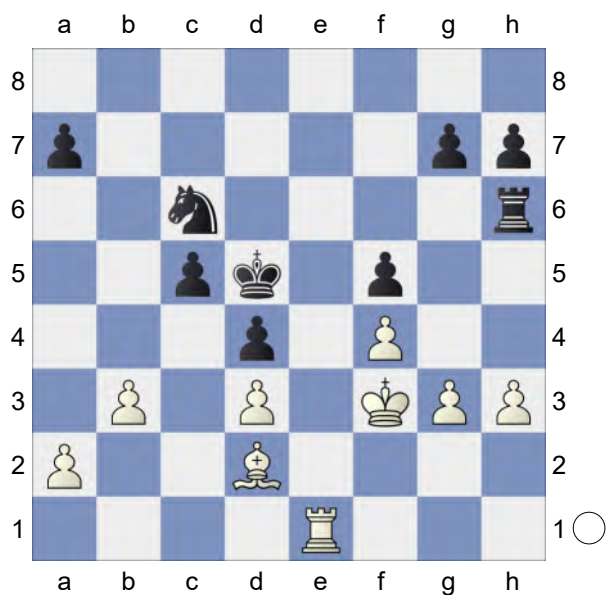
26.b3 Diagram # is the only move to stop c4. **26...Re6** Black is trying to create some threats over the 6th rank. Black is trying to create some threats over the 6th rank. **27.f4** White is going to improve his king, but this move also weakens some squares. White is going to improve his king, but this move also weakens some squares. **27...f5** Black's position is hard to improve, but he could for example try: Black's position is hard to improve, but he could for example try:

[27...Nd7 28.Rc4 Ra6 29.Rc2 Nf6 30.h3 (30.b4 Nd7; 30.Ke2 Ng4 31.h3 Ne3! ! 32.Bxe3 Re6+ â¬â) 30...Ne8 31.Ke2 Nd6 32.Kf3 Nb5 with the idea Nc3.]

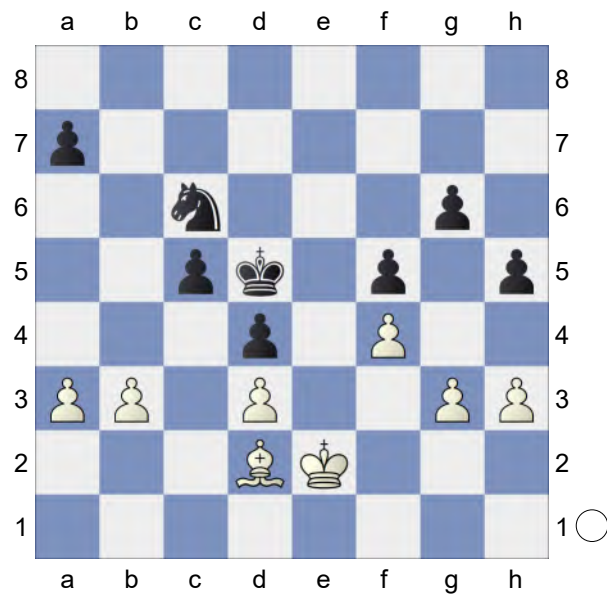
28.Kf2 Rh6 29.Kg2 Re6 30.Kf3 Rh6

(Diagram)

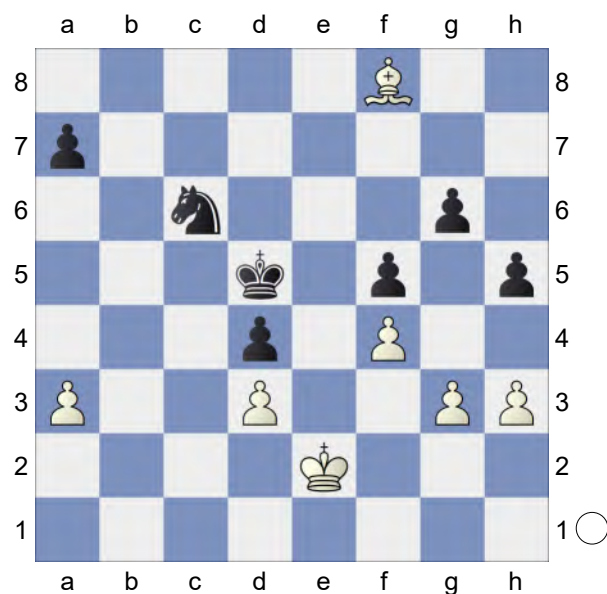
34.h3 Nb8 35.Re1 Nc6



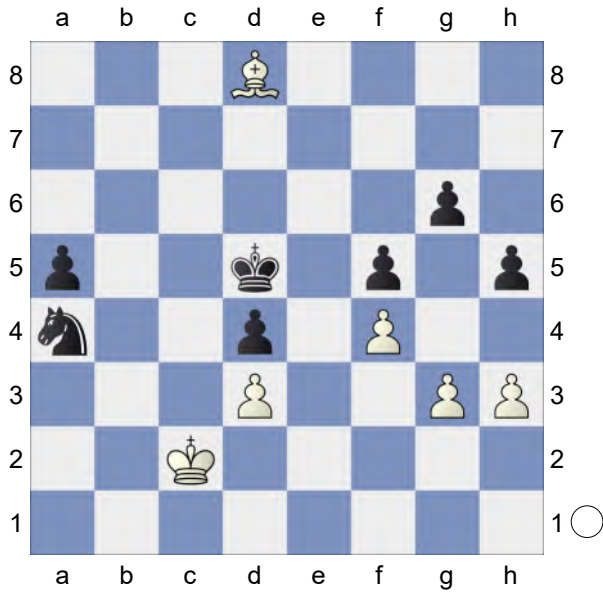
(Diagram)



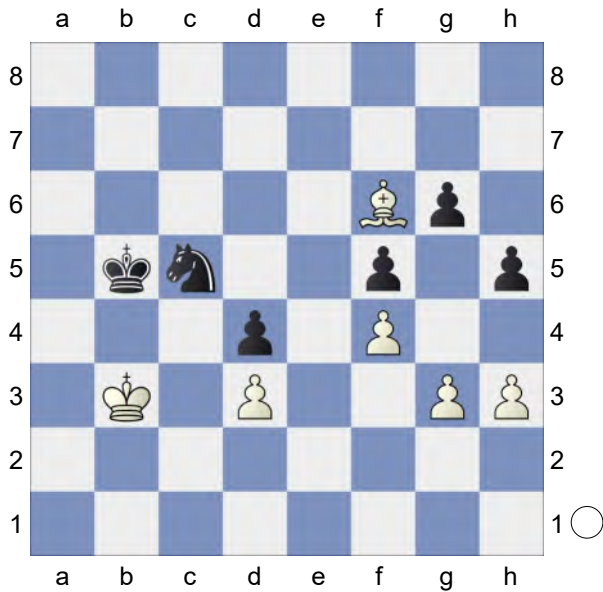
41.Kd1 Ne7 42.Ke2 The position is
drawish. 42...Ke6 43.b4 cxb4 44.Bxb4
Nc6 45.Bf8 Kd5



(Diagram)



51.Bxa5 Nc5 52.Bb4 Ne6 53.Be7 $\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$
Kc6 54.Kb3 Kb5 55.Bf6 Nc5+



56.Kc2 Ne6 57.Kb3 Nc5+

(Diagram)

215

□ Wei,Yi

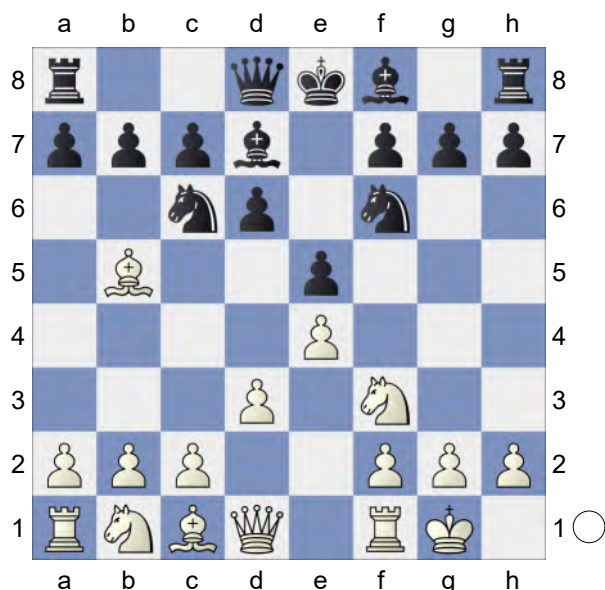
■ Kamsky,Gata

Chessable Masters Div 3 Win rapid (3.3)

[Mon Hokmome]

C66**2722****2665**

C66: Ruy Lopez: Steinitz Defence 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 d6 5.O-O Bd7



6.Re1 g6! The main line 6...g6 scores better than 6...Be7. Die Hauptvariante 6...g6 punktet besser als 6...Le7. The main line 6...g6 scores better than 6...Be7. Die Hauptvariante 6...g6 punktet besser als 6...Le7. **7.d4 Bg7 8.d5** White is slightly better. **8...Nb8**

[8...Ne7 9.Bxd7+ Nxd7 10.Be3 f5 (10...h6 11.Nfd2 f5 12.f3 c5 13.Nc4 Nb6 14.Nxb6 Qxb6 15.Nd2 f4 16.Bf2 Qa6 17.a4 Kf7 18.b3 g5 19.Nc4 Rac8 20.Qd3 Ng6 21.g3 Rc7 22.Qf1 Kg8 23.Qh3 Kh7 24.Kg2 Rf8 25.Qe6 2.♘c3 ♘c6 3.g3 g6 4.♙g2 (2683)-Trkaljanov,V (2616) B21) 13.♘e2 2010 Telechess CBM 89 [HB] 1-0 (41)) 11.Ng5 Nf8 12.exf5 gxf5 13.f4 Qd7 14.c4 Neg6 15.Nc3

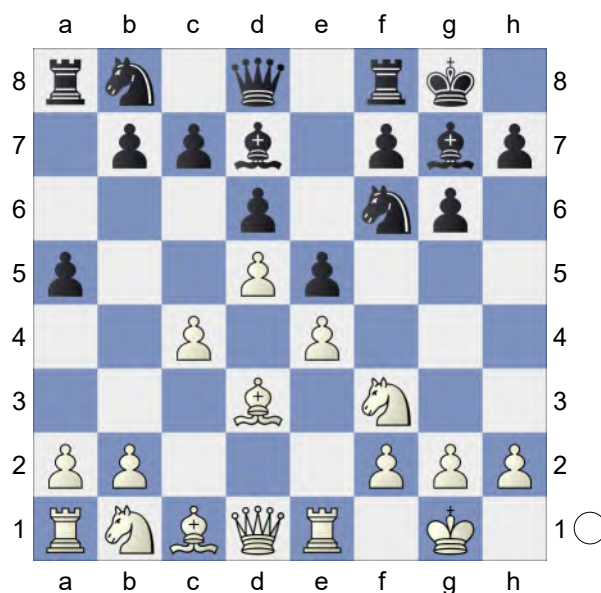
h6 16.Nf3 e4 17.Nd4 h5 18.Ncb5 Kf7 19.Ne6 Nxe6 20.dxe6+ Kxe6 21.Qd5+ Ke7 22.c5 c6 23.cxd6+ 2 b4 and 2 a3 (2674)-Hantel,T (2744) Münster 2005 Squeeze Play [FM Egor Lashkin] 1-0 (51)]

9.Bd3N

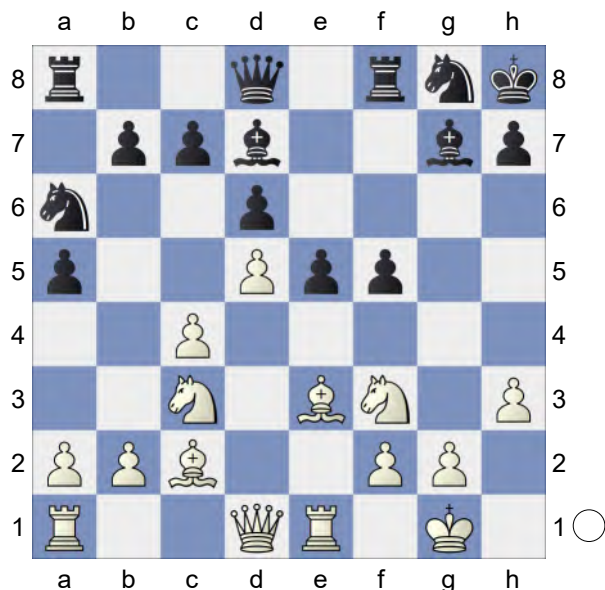
[9.Bxd7+ Nbx d7 10.c4 0-0 11.Nc3 Reference games-1-0 Karjakin,S a5 12.Rb1 27. Ruy Lopez Anti-Berlin (4.- Anti-Berlin 4.d3 d6 5.O-O Bd7]

9...0-0 10.c4 a5N

[Vorgänger: 10...Nh5 11.Nc3 a5 12.Rb1 Na6 13.a3 c5 **0.76/20** (13...Nc5= **0.27/19** deserves consideration.) 14.Bg5± Bf6 15.Bd2 Be7 16.h3 Ng7 ½-½ (53) Bartel,M (2662)-Voloshin,L (2387) Czech Republic 2015]

**11.Nc3 Na6 12.h3 Kh8 0.63/20**[12...b6= **0.26/20** was preferable.]**13.Be3 -0.11/18**[13.a3± **0.63/20**]**13...Ng8!= 14.Bc2 f5 15.exf5 gxf5**

(Diagram)



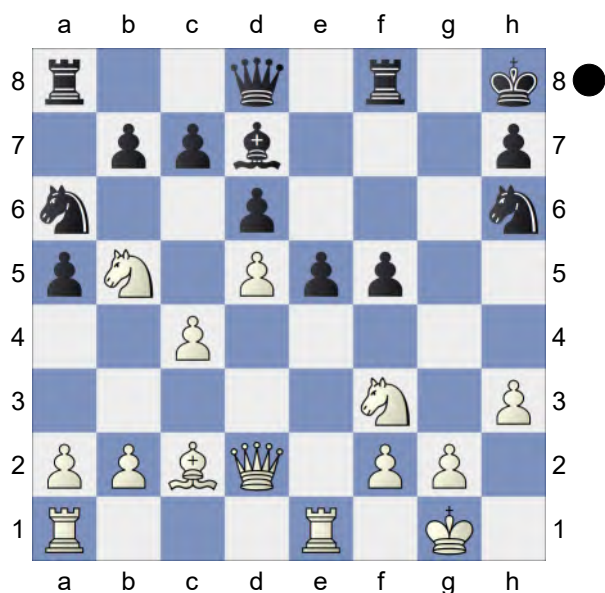
16.Nb5 -0.66/19

[16.a3= 0.01/18]

16...Bh6!? **17.Bxh6** -0.74/19

[17.Bd2? -0.36/21]

17...Nxh6? **18.Qd2**



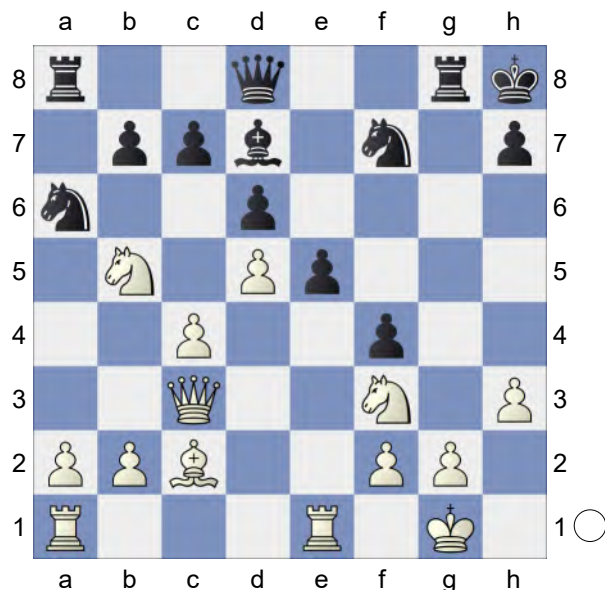
f4 -0.45/20

[Black should try 18...Qf6! -0.88/21]

19.Qxa5? **Rg8!** **20.Qc3** **Nf7** -0.01/21

[20...Rg7? -0.34/22 might be stronger.]

(Diagram)



21.Kf1 -1.33/21

[21.Kh1!= -0.01/21 keeps the balance.]

21...Qf6 -1.00/20

[21...Rg7 -1.33/21]

22.a4 **Rg7**

[Of course not 22...Qg7?! 23.b3? (23.Nh4 Raf8?)]

23.Nd2 -1.70/20

[23.Red1? -1.20/20]

23...Rag8+

[Weaker is 23...Qg5 24.Be4=]

24.Be4 **Ng5** -1.35/18

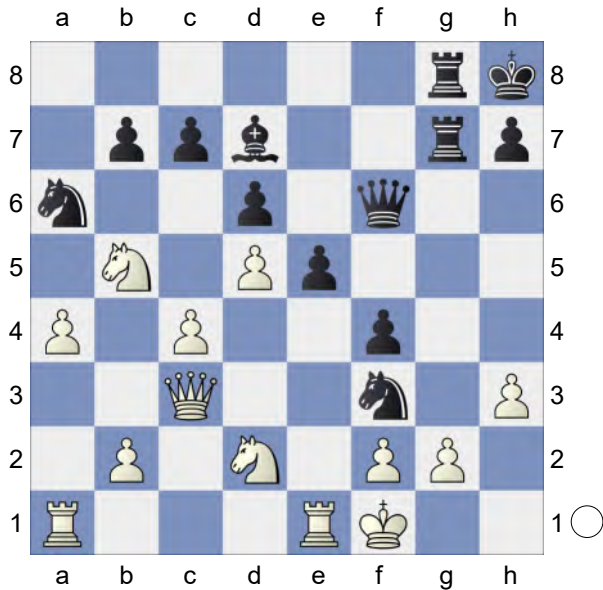
[24...Nc5+ -2.71/21 25.Bf3 (25.Nxc7? Nxe4 26.Nxe4 Qf5-+) 25...Bf5]

25.Bf3 -5.70/20 Loses the game.

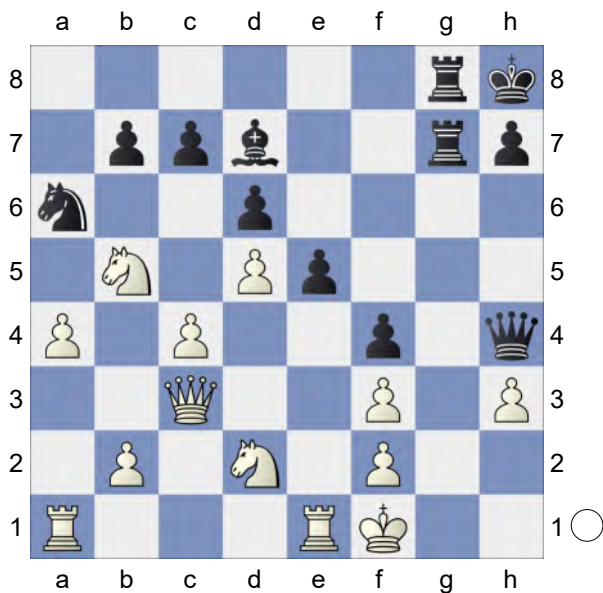
[25.Bc2? -1.35/18]

25...Nxf3

(Diagram)

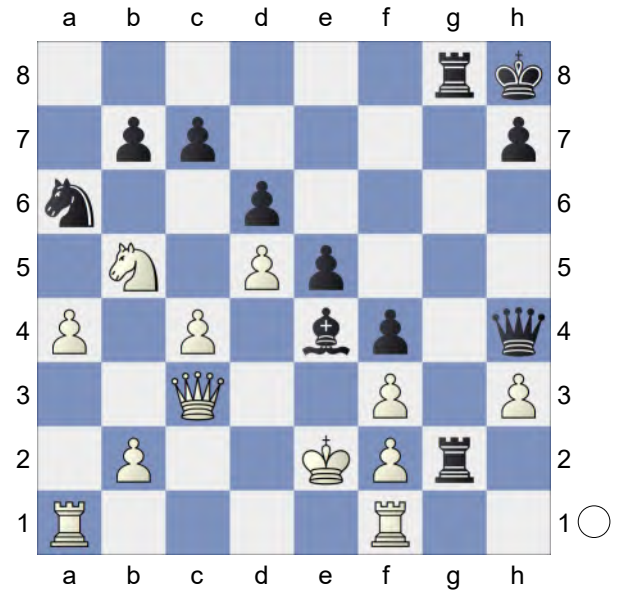


Black is clearly winning. **26.gxf3 Qh4**



(→ ...Qh4xf2+!) **27.Ne4 Bf5**
 White must now prevent ...Bf5xe4.
28.Ke2 Rg2 Strongly threatening ...
Bf5xe4. 29.Rf1 Bxe4

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.63/
 Black=0.17 (very precise)
0-1

218

□ Wei,Yi

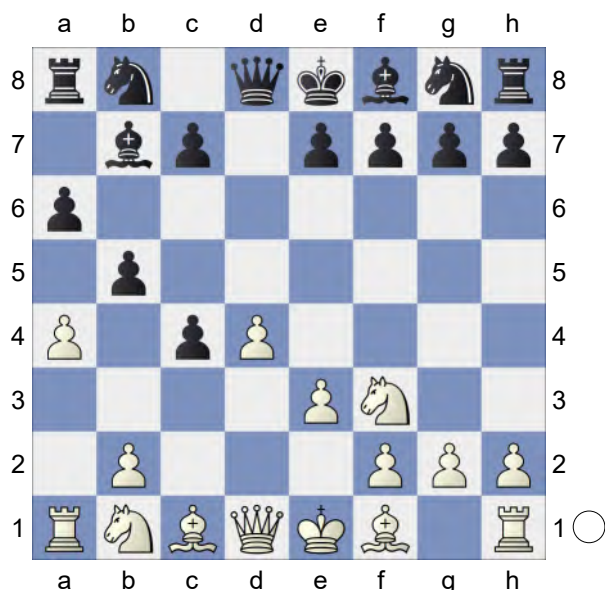
■ Bu,Xiangzhi

Shaoxing Hua Yi Rapid Cup 2nd (4.2)

[Mon Hokmome]

D22**2722****2694**

D22: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3
 a6 e3 1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nf3 a6
 4.e3 b5 5.a4 Bb7



6.b3 e6 7.bxc4! 7.bxc4 is better than 7. axb5. 7.bxc4 ist besser als 7.axb5. 7...bxc4 8.Bxc4 Nf6 White has an edge. 9.0-0 c5 10.Bb2!?N Exploring less charted territory. Erkundet wenig bekanntes Terrain.

[10.Nbd2 cxd4 11.Nxd4 Nbd7 12.Bxe6 fxe6 13.Nxe6 Qb6 14.Nxf8 Kxf8 15.Rb1 Qc7 16.e4

Queen's Gambit Accepted 3.Nf3]

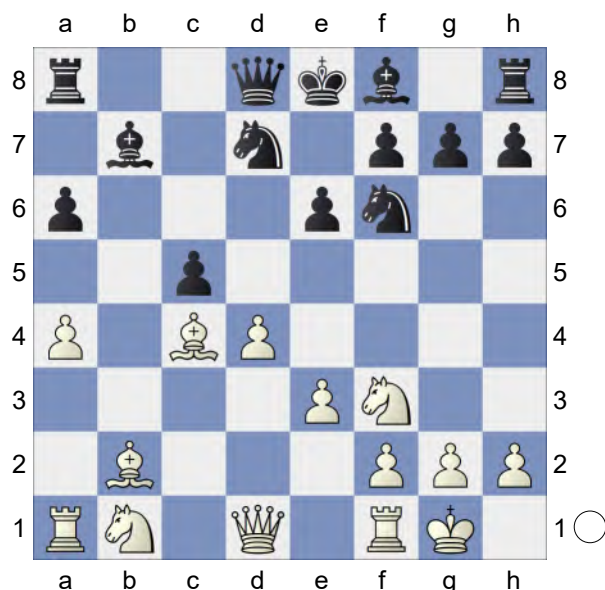
[10.Qe2 Nbd7 11.Rd1 Be7 12.Bb2 0-0 13.Nbd2 cxd4 14.Bxd4 Bb4 15.e4 Qe7 16.e5 Nd5 17.Ne4 Rfc8 18.Rac1 a5 19.Bb5 h6 20.g3 Rxc1 21.Rxc1 Rc8 22.Rd1 Rd8 23.Ne1 Nc7 24.Bd3 Nb8 12.0-0 b6 13.Rad1 Bb7_107 (2557)-Tetenkina,I (2536) corr 2008 CBM 058 [Ham/ Harding]

1-0 (39)]

[10.Ba3 Nbd7 11.Nbd2 cxd4 12.Bxf8 Nxf8 13.Nxd4 N8d7 14.Rb1 Rb8 15.Qe2 Nc5 16.N2b3 Nxa4 17.Ra1 Nc3 18.Qb2 Ncd5 19.Na5 Ba8 20.Qa3 Qe7 21.Qa4+ Qd7 22.Qa3 Qe7 23.Qa4+ Qd7 24.Qa3 Qe7 10 Chapter D00-Game 10

Game]

10...Nbd7



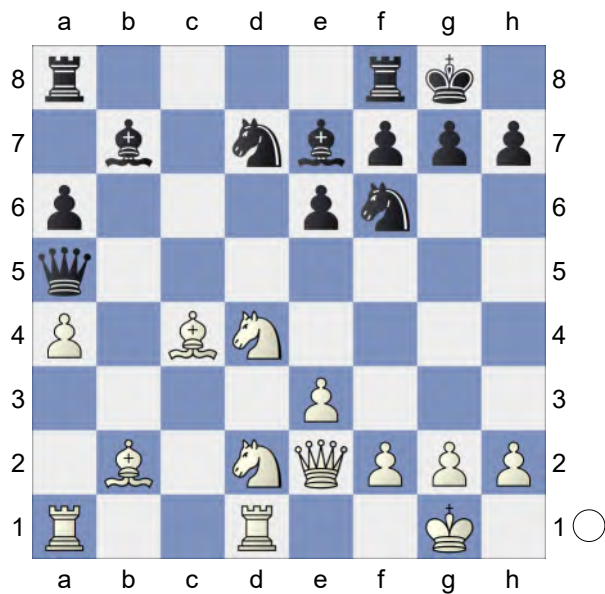
11.Qe2 cxd4 12.Nxd4 Be7 13.Nd2 0-0N

[Vorgänger: 13...Ba3 14.Rxa3 Qe7 15.Raa1 0-0 16.Rfb1 Nc5 17.f3 Rfd8 18.N2b3 Nxb3 19.Nxb3 a5 20.e4 Bc6 21.Qe3 Qb4 22.Bf1 h6 23.Qc5 Bxa4 24.Qxb4 ½-½ Kretchetov,A (2288)-Karan,B (2168) Philadelphia op 10th 2016 (5)]

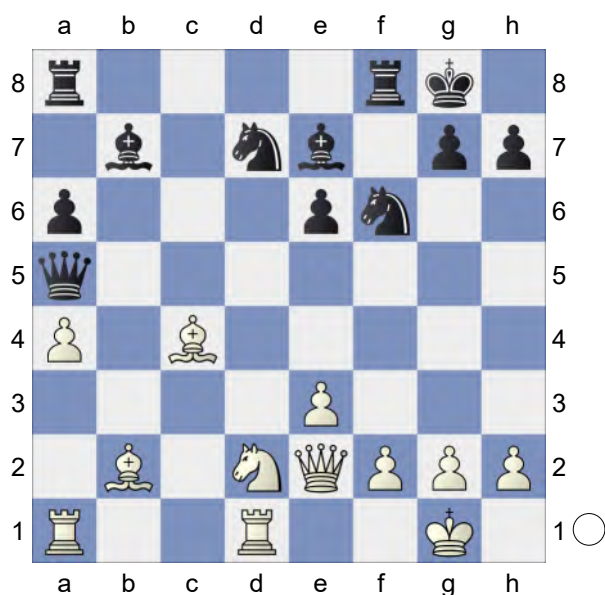
14.Rfd1 Qa5 1.57/24

[14...Nb6= 0.23/18]

(Diagram)

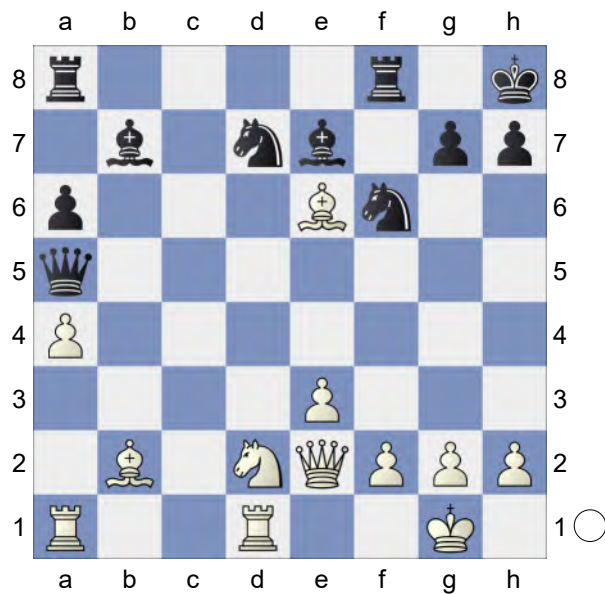


15.Nxe6! 0.91/19 fxe6±



16.Bxe6+ Kh8

(Diagram)



Strongly threatening ...Qa5-b6. **17.Nc4**
Inhibits Qa5-b6. **17...Qc7** And now ...
Ra8-d8 would win.

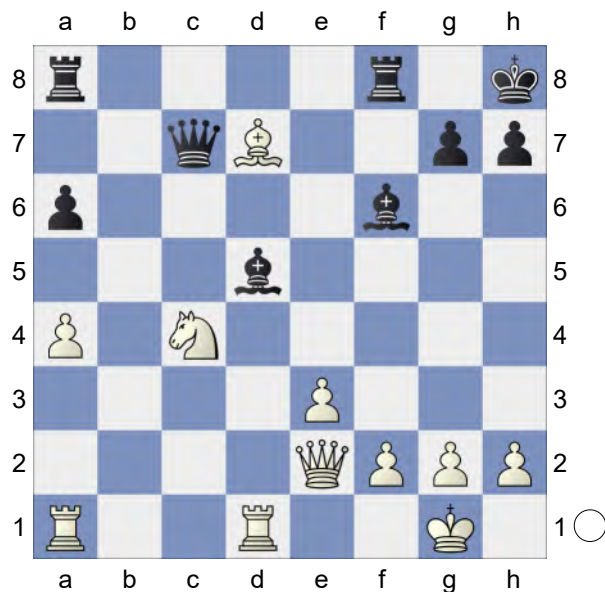
[17...Qg5? 18.f4 Qxg2+ 19.Qxg2
Bxg2 20.Kxg2+-]

18.Bxd7 & Bianco is more active.

18...Bd5? 2.53/24 Loses the game.

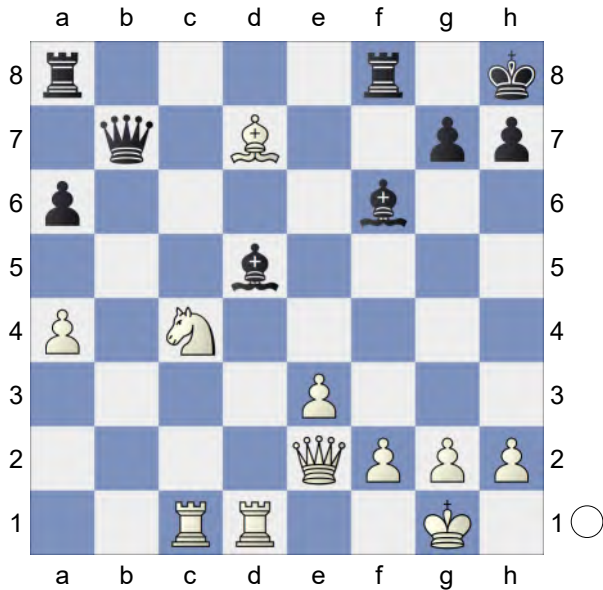
[18...Nxd7± 0.80/23 19.Bxg7+ Kxg7
20.Qg4+ Kh8 21.Rxd7 Qc8]

19.Bxf6 Bxf6



20.Rac1 Qb7

[20...Bf7 21.Bf5]



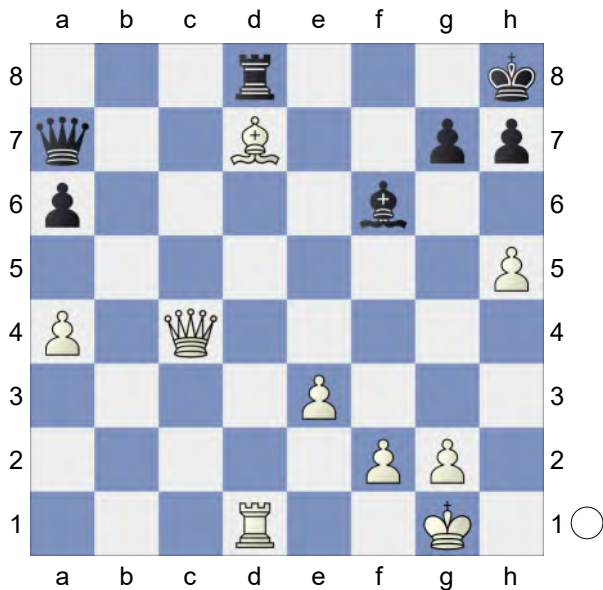
21.Rb1! Bxc4

[21...Qxd7 22.Nb6]

22.Qxc4

[22.Rxb7? *too greedy.* Bxe2 23.Rd2 Bc4-+]

22...Qa7 23.h4 Rab8 24.Rxb8 Rxb8 25.h5 Rd8



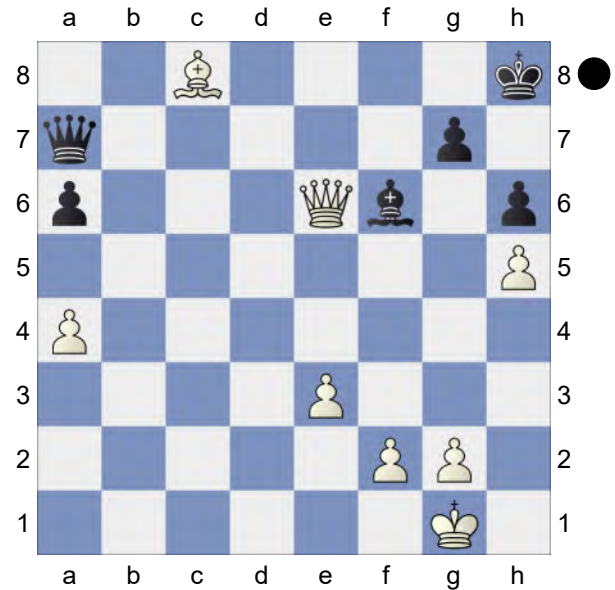
26.Qc6 Qa8 27.Qe6 h6 5.11/27

[27...Qa7 3.43/22 28.h6 Rf8 29.hxg7+ Bxg7]

28.Rc1+- *White is clearly winning.*

28...Qa7 29.Rc8 Rxc8 30.Bxc8

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.48

1-0

272

B09

□ Wei,Yi

2707

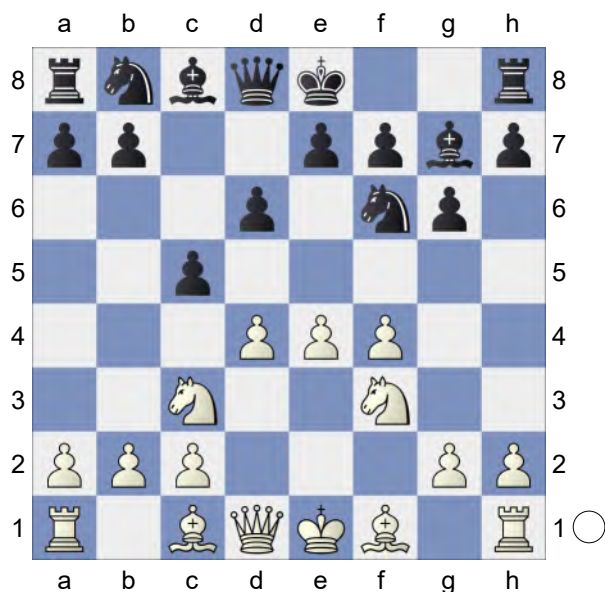
■ Rapport,Richard

2717

Wei Yi - Rapport Match TB (2) 23.12.16

[Moulthun Ly]

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.f4 Nf6
5.Nf3 c5



6.Bb5+ Nc6!? A really surprising move especially for someone whom only knows of the main line. At first it looks to simply be a blunder and White has multiple paths to an advantage however if he isn't careful Black can get a lot of counterplay. He should play accurately to get an advantage here.

[6...Bd7 Is of course the main line with thousands of games played and a large body of theory. There are many games in the archives already in this line.]

7.e5 Quite a natural response but here I'm not sure if it is correct since the White centre will soon break apart.

[7.dxc5 GM Nigel Davies considered this to be the critical continuation being the only game analysed in the

archives. Qa5

A) 8.0-0 0-0 9.cxd6 exd6 10.Qe2 (10.Qe1 Nxe4!? 11.Qxe4 Bxc3 12.Bxc6 Bg7 13.Bxb7 Qb6+ 14.Be3 Bxb7=) 10...Re8 11.Bd3 (11.Bd2 Qd8 With some chances for Black to complicate matters.) 11...Bf5∞;

B) 8.Bd2 0-0 9.Qe2 (9.cxd6 exd6 10.Qe2 Re8 11.0-0-0 Be6 12.Bc4 Rac8 13.Bxe6 Rxe6 14.Kb1 When Black could have played Nxe4! 15.Nxe4 Nb4! 16.a3 Rxc2→ and get a big attack in Alsina Leal,D (2537)-Movsziszian,K (2484) Barcelona 2015) 9...Bg4 10.Nd5 (10.cxd6 exd6 11.Bd3 Qh5 12.0-0±) 10...Qd8 11.Nxf6+ Bxf6 12.c3 dxc5 13.0-0 e5! Gave Black enough counterplay in the game: Alsina Leal,D (2535)-Peralta,F (2591) Catalunya 2012]

[7.d5 a6 8.Ba4! I believe this to be the most accurate way to an advantage. (8.Be2 Na7 9.0-0 0-0 10.a4 Rb8 11.f5 b5 Gave Black sufficient counterplay in Cabrera Trujillo,J (2357)-Del Rio de Angelis, S (2533) Las Palmas 2012) 8...b5 9.dxc6 Qc7

A) 10.Bb3 c4 11.a4 b4 12.Bxc4 bxc3 13.e5 dxe5 14.Nxe5 0-0∞;

B) 10.0-0 bxa4 11.e5 dxe5 12.fxe5 Ng4 13.h3 (13.Bf4 Qxc6=; 13.Qd5 Be6 14.Qxc5 Nxe5 15.Nd4 Rd8∞) 13...Nxe5 14.Nd5 Qxc6 15.Bh6! Nxf3+ 16.Qxf3 Bd4+ 17.Kh1 f5 It looks as though White should simply be much better but it's not at all easy to prove. 18.Nf6+ Qxf6 19.Qxa8 Kf7∞;

C) 10.e5! I like this variation for

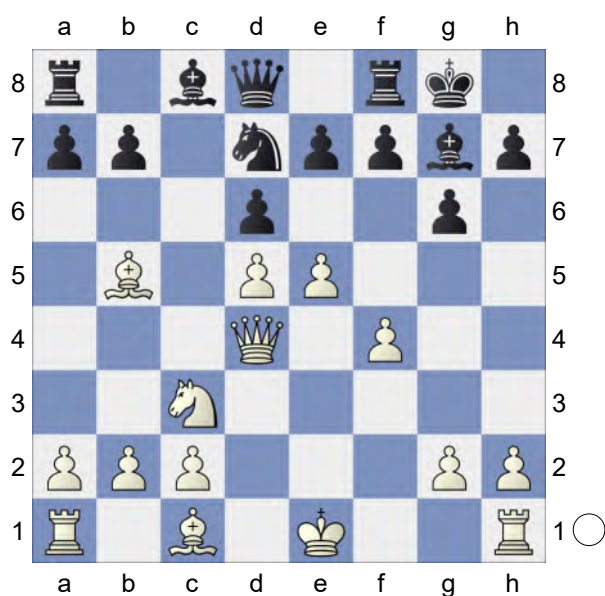
White since it is very concrete and almost by forces Black into the resulting position. 10...dxe5 11.fxe5 Ng4 12.Bf4 bxa4 13.Qd5 a3!? 14.Qxc5 axb2 15.Rb1 Qa7 16.Qxa7 Rxa7 17.Rxb2± Gave White a much better endgame in Vocaturo,D (2574)-Movsziszian,K (2458) Barcelona ESP 2016]

7...Nd7 Of the very few games I've found in this position, Black has gone on to win all of them. Clearly indicating that once the situation in the centre is resolved he usually stands to have the favourable outcome. **8.d5** This was also the move played previously, other moves do not help White's position.

[8.exd6 0-0!? 9.Be3 exd6=]

[8.Be3 cxd4 9.Nxd4 Nxd4 10.Qxd4 (10.Bxd4 dxe5 11.Bxe5 0-0=) 10...a6 is the simplest way to equalise. 11.Bxd7+ Bxd7]

8...Nd4 9.Nxd4 cxd4 10.Qxd4 0-0



11.Bxd7 Qxd7± After a series of semi-forced moves we reach this position whereby Black has nothing to worry about. He has enough compensation for

the pawn and some decent chances with the bishop pair as the game goes on.

[11...Bxd7 12.0-0 b5!? is also fine for Black.]

12.0-0 Qf5 13.Qd1 This retreat makes Black's life easier since it now takes longer to bring both rooks into the game.

[13.Be3

A) 13...dxe5

A1) 14.fxe5 Qxe5 15.Qd2 (15.Qxe5 Bxe5=) 15...Bf5 16.Rae1 Rfc8=;

A2) 14.Qd2 exf4 15.Rxf4 Qd7 16.Re1 b6 17.Rf3 (17.Rf2 Bb7 18.Bh6 Bxh6 19.Qxh6 f6 20.Rd2 Rac8 21.Re4

White has a very active position but Black is still very solid.)

17...Re8 18.Bh6 Bh8±;

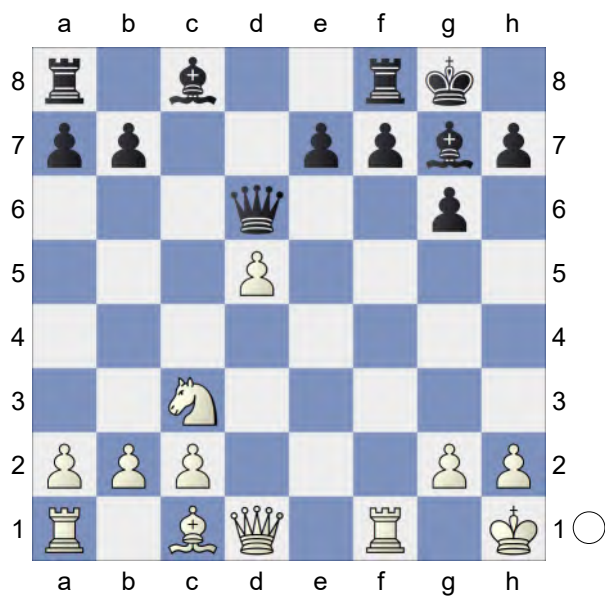
B) 13...Qxc2 14.Rf2 Qf5 15.Qd2 b6 16.Bd4 Ba6 17.exd6 exd6 18.Bxg7 Kxg7 19.Qd4+ Qf6 20.Qb4±]

13...dxe5 14.fxe5 Qxe5 15.Kh1 Sensible move to side step the queen trades.

[15.Bf4 Qd4+ 16.Qxd4 Bxd4+ 17.Kh1 Bf5±]

15...Qd6

(Diagram)



Other options such as ...Bf5 or ...Qc7 were also possible. **16.Bf4 Qb6**

[16...Qb4 17.Rb1 Bf5 18.d6!? e6[∞]

White will have trouble holding the d6-pawn forever and in the meantime the bishops remain a real force.]

17.Rb1 Bf5 18.Qe2

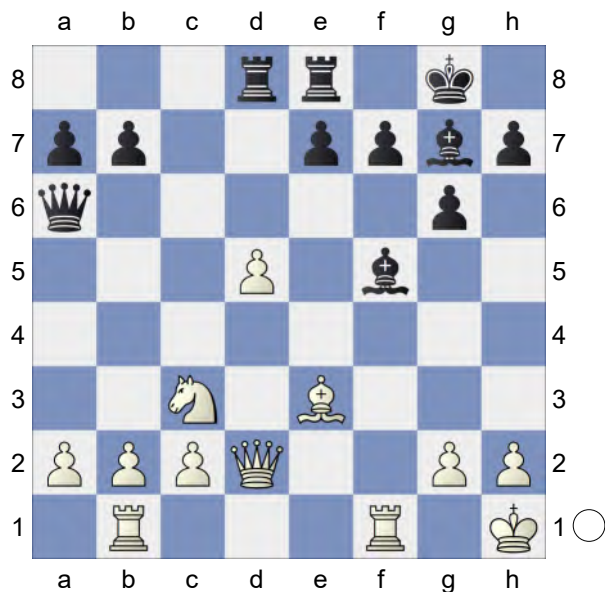
[18.g4?! is too weakening. Bd7[⚡]]

[18.Re1 Rfe8 19.Qd2 e6[⚡]]

18...Rfe8 19.Be3 Qa6! 20.Qd2

[20.Qxa6 bxa6 21.Rf2 Red8[⚡]]

20...Rad8[⚡]



Now Black starts to get a serious

advantage. **21.Qf2**

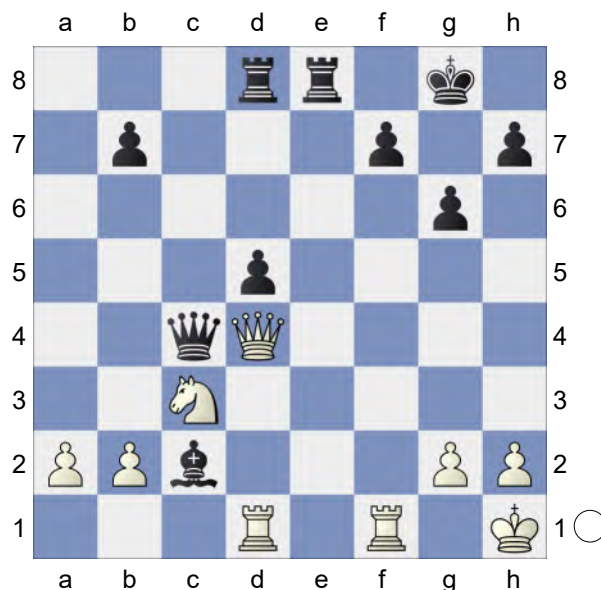
[21.Bh6 Be5 22.Rbe1 f6[⚡]]

21...e6 22.Bxa7 exd5 23.Bd4 Bxd4

24.Qxd4 Qc4

[24...Bxc2 25.Rbc1 Be4[⚡]]

25.Rbd1 Bxc2



26.Nxd5? The simplification will make it easier for Black to convert.

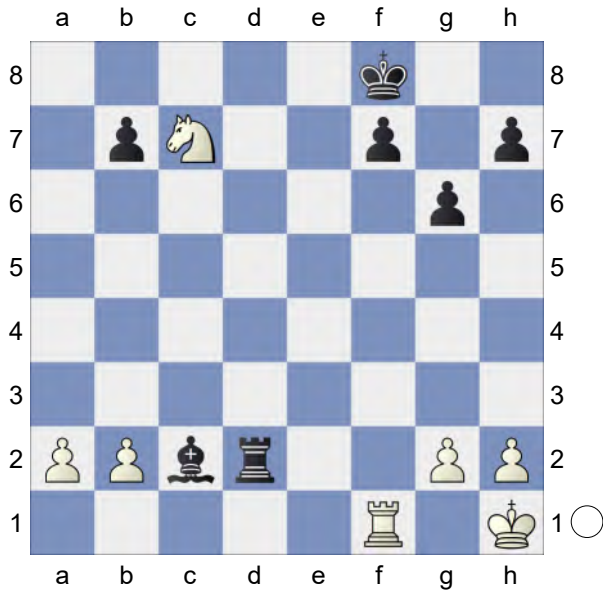
[26.Qf2 Is the only move to stay in the game. Still a pawn down but White can hope to create a blockage on d4. Bf5 27.Rd4 Qc6 28.Qd2]

26...Qxd4 27.Rxd4 Kg7

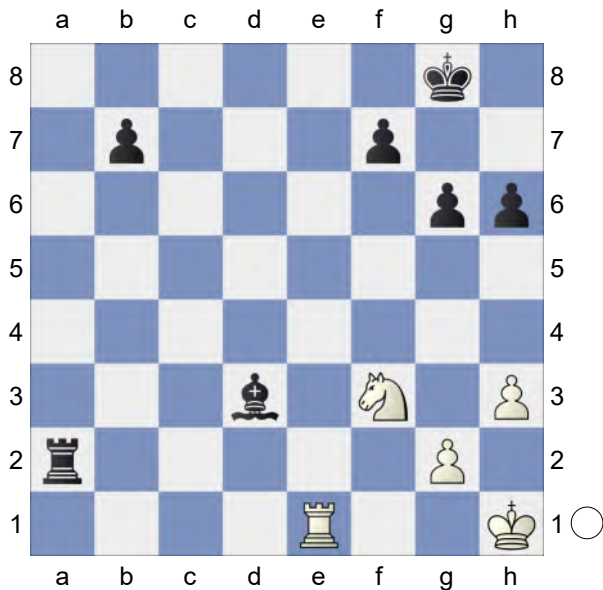
[27...Kf8![⚡] is even stronger avoiding ideas such as ...Nf6 later.]

28.Nc7 Rxd4 29.Nxe8+ Kf8 30.Nc7 Rd2[⚡]

(Diagram)

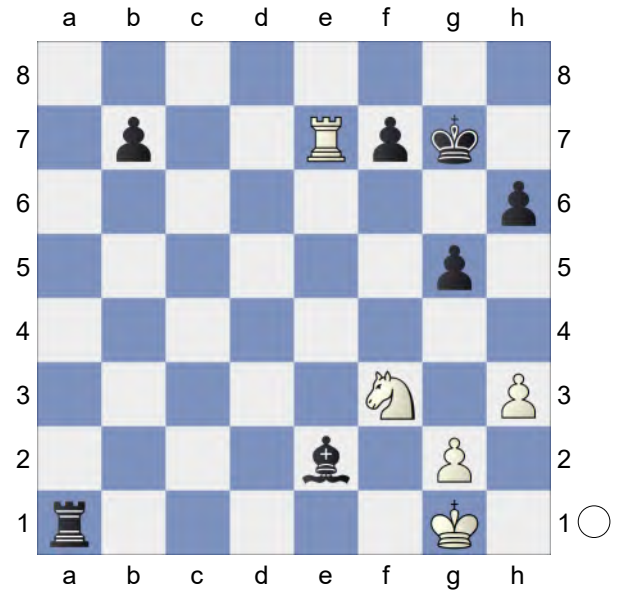


White will soon lose material and with the active Black pieces there is little hope to comeback. We see the rest of the game is a matter of converting which Rapport does comfortably.
31.Ne6+ Kg8 32.Ng5 Bd3 33.Re1 h6 34.Nf3 Rxb2 35.h3 Rxa2

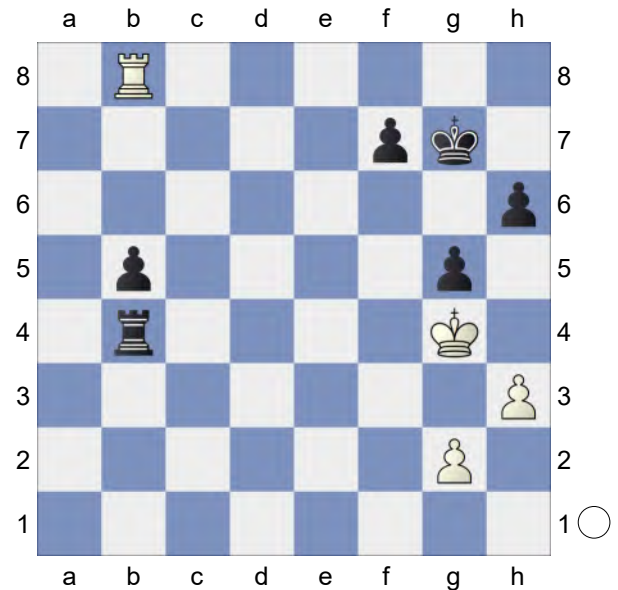


36.Re8+ Kg7 37.Re7 Bf1 38.Nh4 g5 39.Kg1 Ra1 40.Nf3 Be2+

(Diagram)

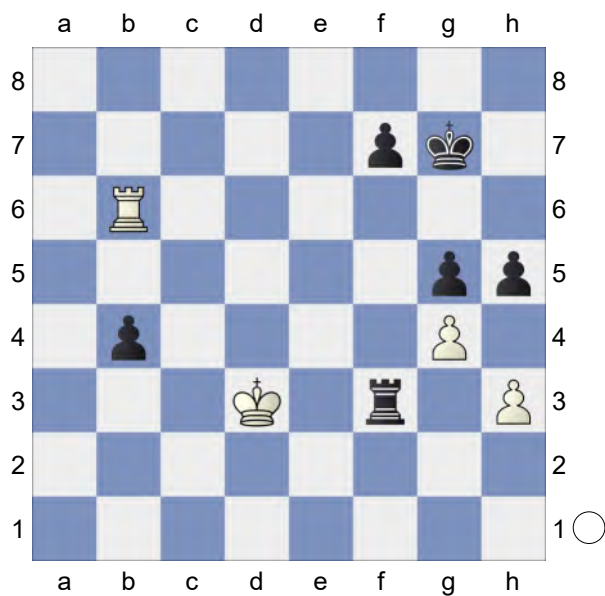


41.Kf2 Bxf3 42.Kxf3 Rb1 43.Re8 b5 44.Rb8 Rb3+ 45.Kg4 Rb4+

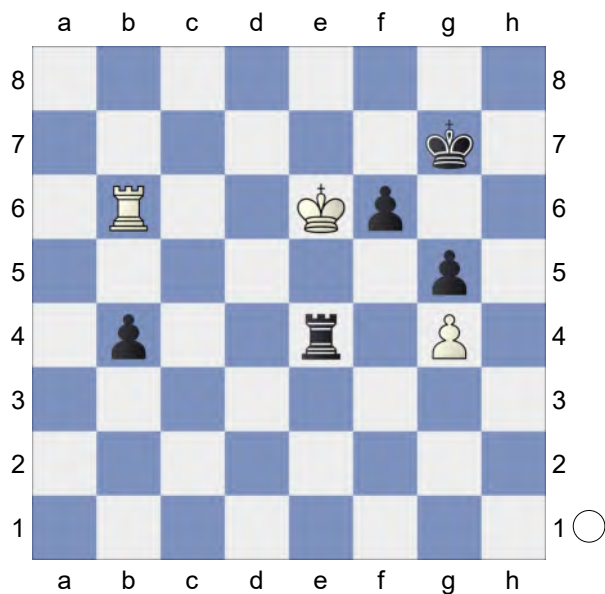


46.Kf3 Rf4+ 47.Ke3 b4 48.Rb6 h5 49.Kd3 Rf2 50.g4 Rf3+

(Diagram)



**51.Ke4 hxg4 52.hxg4 Rf4+ 53.Ke5
f6+ 54.Ke6 Re4+**



The king is cut off from the pawn and that will end the game. All in all, 6...Nc6 I don't believe to be completely sound yet proves to again be an excellent surprise weapon. Since to gain a safe edge, White needs to know some concrete lines. Otherwise he may find Black's counterplay to be rather uncomfortable to deal with.

0-1

276 **B06**
 □ Wei, Yi **2707**
 ■ Rapport, Richard **2717**
 Wei Yi - Rapport Match TB (3) 23.12.16
 [Moulthun Ly]

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 a6!?
 I really like this move since Black does not commit to anything yet but as we have seen before ...a6 will always fit into our setup. Here we hold off on playing ...d6 to try and get ...d5 in with one move instead if available. **4.f4**

[4.Be3 has been examined already by Gawain Jones and Neil McDonald in the archives.]

[4.h4 d5!? Hitting right away at the centre seems the logical response if it works. (4...h6 was played a number of times also but I prefer the text move.)

A) 5.e5 c5! 6.dxc5 d4 7.Ne4 (7.Na4 Qa5+ 8.c3 Bd7 9.Nb6 dxc3) 7...Qd5 8.Bd3 Nd7∞;

B) 5.exd5 Nf6 6.Bc4 0-0∞;

C) 5.Nxd5 c6

C1) 6.Nc3 Qxd4 7.Qxd4 Bxd4 8.Nf3 Ba7 9.h5 (9.Bf4 Nf6 10.Be2 Bg4=; 9.Bc4 Nf6 10.Ne5 Be6!? 11.Bxe6 fxe6 12.f3 Nbd7= Soon the pawn will go to ...e5 and despite the doubled pawns Black should be okay. Holding all the key central square for now.) 9...gxh5 10.Rxh5 Nf6 11.Rh4 Ng4 12.Nd1 h5∞;

C2) 6.Ne3 Qxd4

C2a) 7.Qxd4 Bxd4

C2a1) 8.Nf3 Bg7 9.h5 Nd7 10.Nc4 gxh5 11.Rxh5 Ngf6 12.Rh4 h5 13.a4 (13.e5!? Nd5 14.e6!? fxe6

15.Be2 e5∞) 13...Ng4∞;

C2a2) 8.h5 Nd7 9.Nf3 Bg7 10.a4 Ne5 (10...Nc5 11.e5 Be6!? 12.b4 Nd7 13.Bb2 Nh6 14.Be2±) 11.Nxe5 Bxe5 12.Nc4 Bc7 13.Be3 Be6 14.hxg6 fxe6 15.0-0-0 Nf6 16.Nb6 Rd8=;

C2b) 7.Bd3 Nd7 8.Nf3 Qd6∞]

[4.Bc4 b5 5.Bd5 c6 (5...Ra7?! it's a big problem if the rook doesn't manage to find its way into the game later.) 6.Bb3

A) 6...d5!? 7.exd5 (7.Nf3 Nf6 8.e5 Nfd7 9.h4!?∞; 7.Qf3 e6 8.Nge2 Bb7 Followed by ...Nd7 and ...Ne7 should help Black consolidate since the White bishop will be locked out for a long while yet.) 7...Nf6! 8.dxc6 Nxc6 9.Nge2 0-0=;

B) 6...d6 7.Bg5 Nf6 Would have been fine for Black in the game: Royset, P (2234)-Tiller, B (2374) Tromsø 2008]

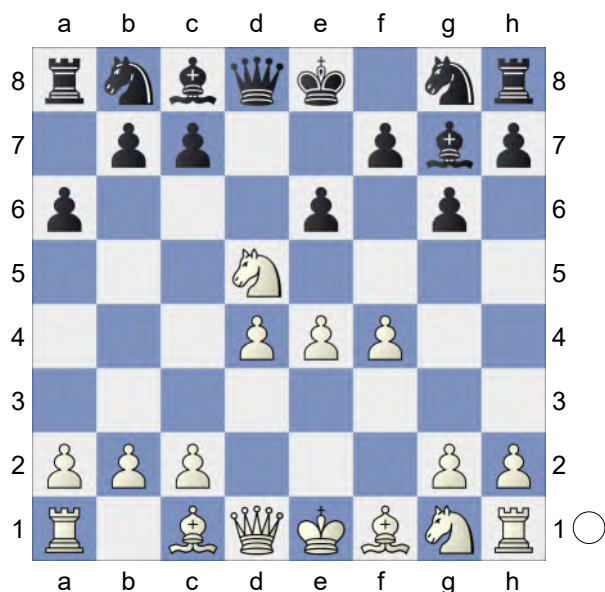
4...d5!? The key idea. **5.Nxd5**

[5.exd5 Nf6=]

[5.e5 This particular closed structure is fine for Black and he can continue in typical fashion h5 or (5...Nh6 would be normal ways to continue.)]

5...e6

(Diagram)



6.Nc3

[6.Ne3 Qxd4 7.Qxd4 Bxd4 8.Nf3 Ba7 I don't see any advantage to having the knight on e3 instead of c3.]

6...Qxd4 7.Qxd4

[7.Qf3!? Nc6

A) 8.Be3 Qb4±;

B) 8.Bd2! is best aiming to castle long. Qb6 (8...Bd7 9.0-0-0 0-0-0 10.Kb1 Qb4 11.a3 Qf8±; 8...Qb4 9.0-0-0 Bd7 10.e5 0-0-0 11.Ne4± White is preferred since the Black queen is somewhat misplaced.) 9.0-0-0 Nge7 (9...Nd4 10.Qd3 Nh6 11.h3 Bd7 12.Be3±) 10.Kb1 0-0∞;

C) 8.Nge2 Qb6 9.Bd2 Qxb2± Was a free pawn in the game Sveshnikov,V (2407) -Fedorchuk,S (2618) Presolana 2011]

7...Bxd4 8.Nf3

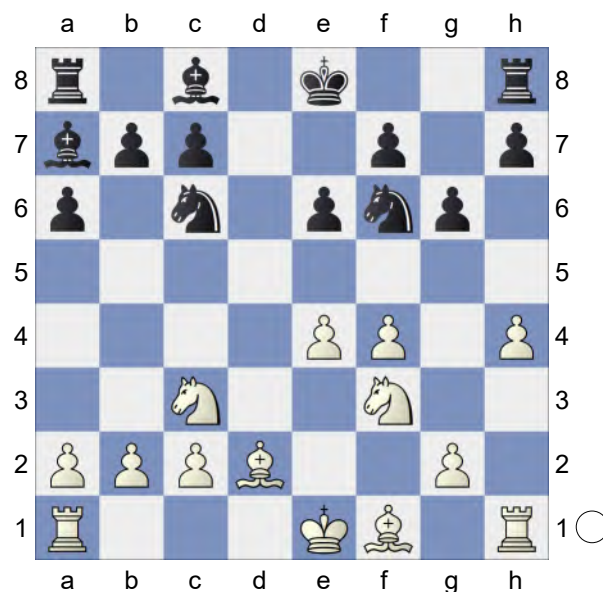
[8.Bd2 is another option. Ne7 9.Nf3 Bg7 (9...Ba7 10.0-0-0 Nd7 Black is a little cramped but has no obvious weaknesses.) 10.0-0-0 b6 11.Bd3 Bb7 12.f5→ Gave White some initiative in Powierski,E (2317)-

Gharamian,T (2621) London ENG 2016]

8...Ba7 9.Bd2 Nc6 10.h4?! h5 is not a real threat since Black can easily cover it. The extra weaknesses on the kingside ensure Black is already fine here.

[10.Bd3 Nf6 11.h3 0-0 12.0-0-0 Nd7 Should be okay for Black whom will fight back for space.]

10...Nf6



11.e5 Ng4 12.Ne4 h5 Covering all the important light squares.

[12...Bd7 13.0-0-0 0-0-0 14.h5 Ne7=]

13.c3 Trying to stop ...Nd4 options.

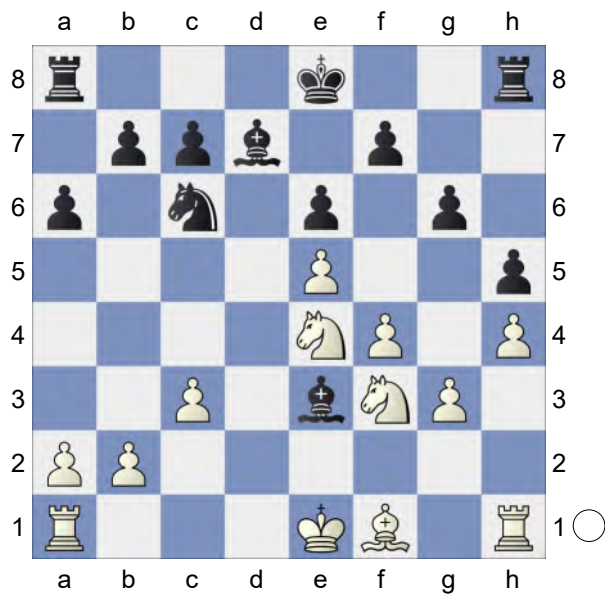
[13.Nfg5 Kf8 14.0-0-0 Kg7∞]

13...Ne3 Going for the bishop pair but this is perhaps not best in this situation.

[13...Ne7 14.Nh2 Nf5=]

14.Bxe3 Bxe3 15.g3 Bd7

(Diagram)



16.Nf6+ Ke7 17.Ng5± In this position we can see the dark-squared bishop is not very effective and unable to stop the White knights from dominating key squares on the kingside. **17...Rhd8 18.Ke2**

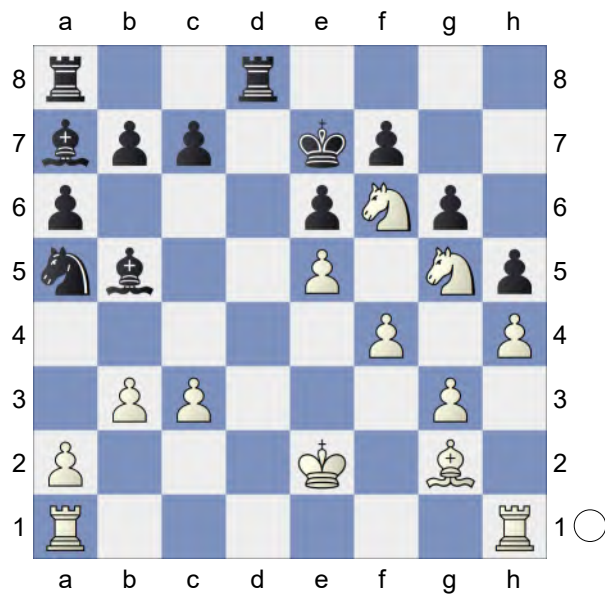
[18.Rd1 Be8 19.Bd3 It is better to have the bishop positioned here as we shall see in the game. Bb6 20.Ke2± When Black finds it difficult to come up with a useful plan.]

18...Ba7 19.Bg2 Na5 20.b3?!

[20.Nxd7 Rxd7 21.b3± With the Black knight stuck out of the game.]

20...Bb5+

(Diagram)



21.c4 Nxc4! Forced therefore good. Anything else renders the pass few moves pointless. **22.bxc4 Bxc4+ 23.Ke1**

[23.Kf3?? Walks into a mating net. Rd3+ 24.Ke2 Rad8!! The quiet but deadly method works well here, with imminent mate to follow soon.]

23...Bb6

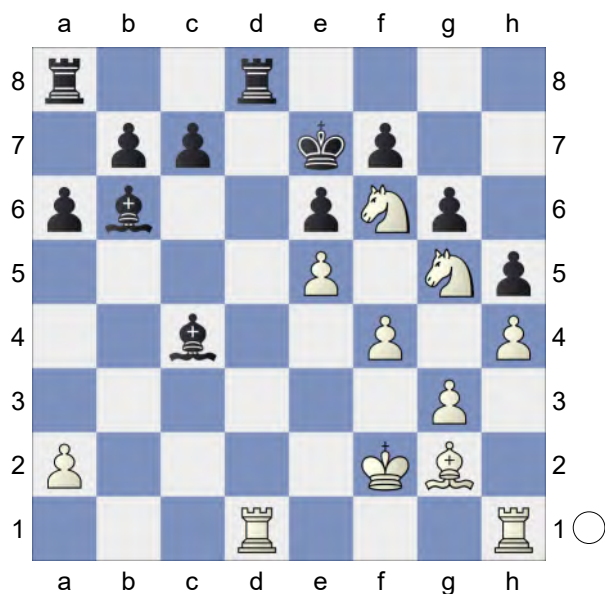
[23...Rd3! 24.Rd1 Re3+ 25.Kd2 Rd8+ 26.Kc1 Bd4 27.Nf3 Rc3+ 28.Kb2 Rb3+ 29.Kc1 Rc3+= Ending in a perpetual but Richard is perhaps looking to get more from the position.]

24.Rd1

[24.Bf1! Ba5+ 25.Kf2 Rd2+ 26.Kf3 Bxa2 27.Be2± The attack stops and White should be good to consolidate.]

24...Ba5+ 25.Kf2 Bb6+

(Diagram)

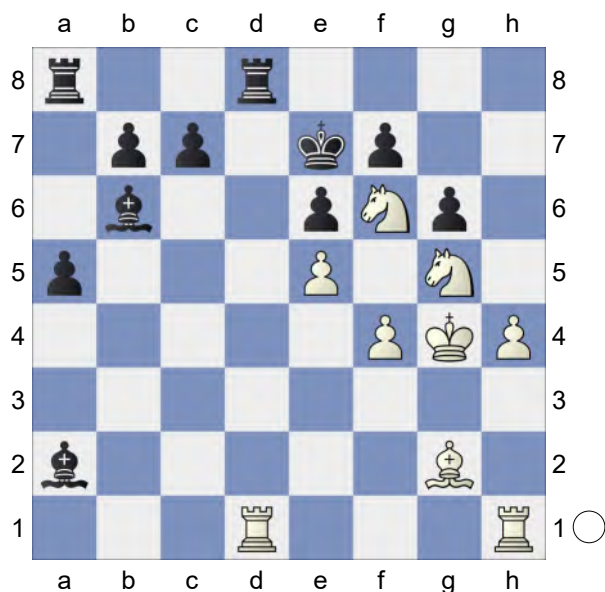


26.Ke1 Ba5+ 27.Kf2 Bb6+ 28.Kf3!?
Avoiding the draw and trying to play for more.

28...Bxa2 An interesting endgame arises with chances for both sides.

29.g4! hxg4+
[29...Bb3! 30.Rxd8 Rxd8∞]

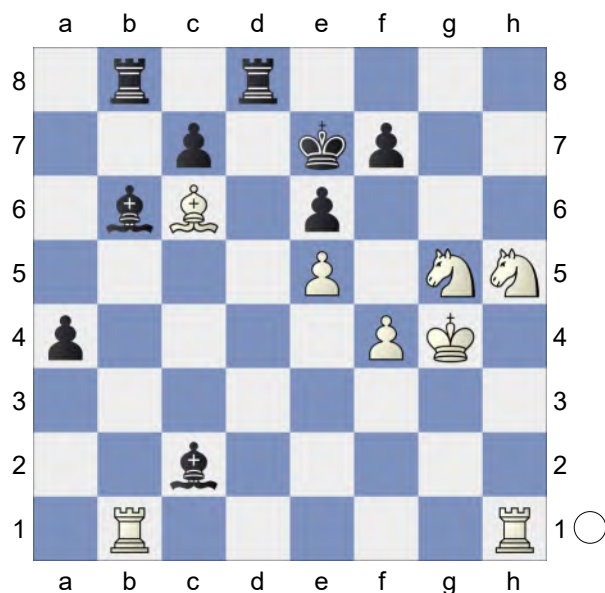
30.Kxg4 a5



31.Bxb7 Rab8 32.Bc6 Now White is once again on top but doesn't manage to convert his advantage. **32...Bb3 33.Rb1 a4 34.h5**

[34.Be4 Stops the ...Bc2 as in the game proved a valuable defensive

resource. **Bd4 35.Rbc1 c5 36.h5 gxh5+ 37.Rxh5±]**
34...gxh5+ 35.Nxh5 Bc2!=



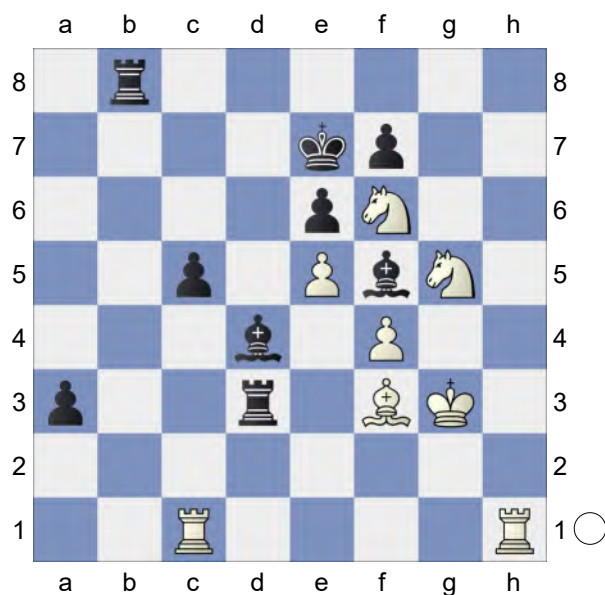
36.Ra1

[36.Rbc1 Bf5+ 37.Kg3 Rd3+ 38.Bf3∞ is still fine for both sides.]

36...Bf5+ 37.Kg3 Rd3+ 38.Bf3 a3 39.Nf6 Bd4! 40.Rac1 The key mistake after which Black gains the advantage for the first and last time in the game.

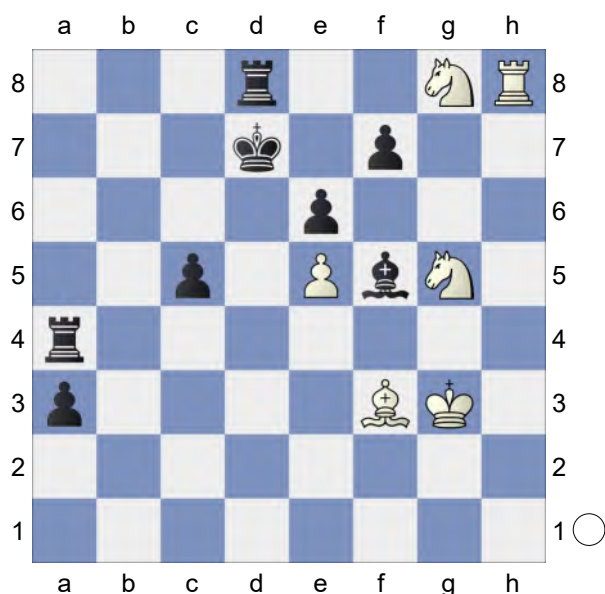
[40.Ra2 was needed.]

40...c5†

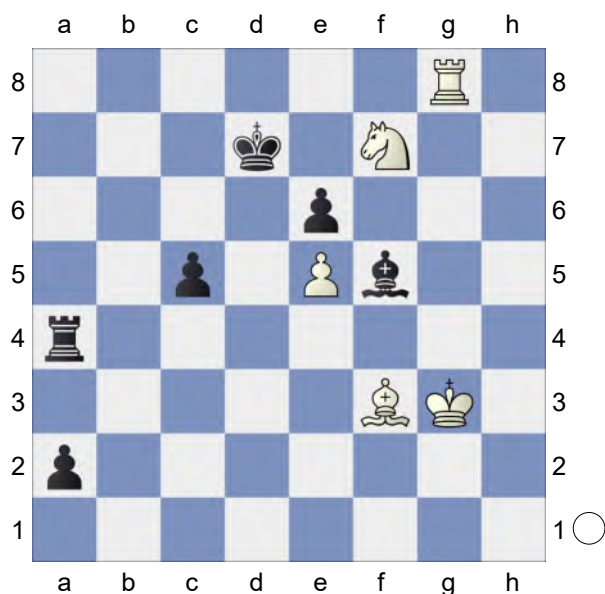


41.Rc4 Ra8 42.Ra4? Rxa4 43.Rh8

Bxe5! 44.fxe5 Rd8 45.Ng8+ Kd7



46.Nxf7 Rxd8 47.Rxd8 a2



In general 3...a6 is a good move order for Black players to have if they play the Modern Tiger systems regardless. It can also prove effective as a surprise weapon against players who employ the Austrian Attack. In terms of its soundness, if White chooses to keep queens on it will lead to some very unbalanced and unclear positions which I suppose is what players of the Black side who looking for. As the game

showed, even when one side has an advantage, he can easily lose it again if he does not play accurately.

0-1

317

B06

□ Wei, Yi

2696

■ Carlsen, Magnus

2855

9th Masters Final 2016 (2.2) 14.07.2016

[Moulthun Ly]

1.d4 ChessBase: 'Kapnisis, Spyridon'

1...g6 ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala:

'When a world champion takes up the mantle of our opening, we take it as an article of faith in its inherent soundness. "

" 2.e4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Be3 a6

ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'So far we are transported back to Chapter One of the book, but this alters with White's next move, which transposes to the realm of the Austrian Attack. "

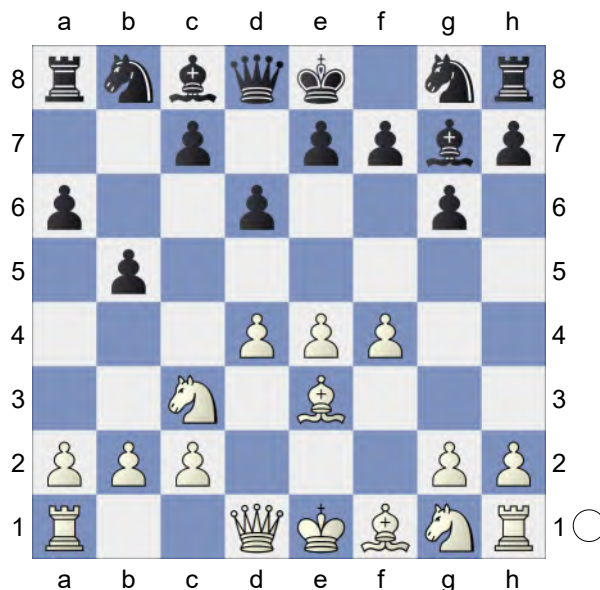
ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'So far we are transported back to Chapter One of the book, but this alters with White's next move, which transposes to the realm of the Austrian Attack. "

ChessBase: 'The Swedish GM Tiger Hillarp-Persson wrote a voluminous book on this opening which recently appeared in a new, revised edition.' ChessBase: 'The Swedish GM Tiger Hillarp-Persson wrote a voluminous book on this opening which recently appeared in a new, revised edition.'

5.f4 b5

[5...Nd7 allows the move 6.a4! b6 7.Nf3 Bb7 8.Bd3 when White enjoys more space and a comfortable game.]

(Diagram)



is the most accurate move order. Magnus goes for a system popularised by GM Tiger Hillarp Persson in his book, "The Modern Tiger" to stir up some complications. **6.Nf3 Nd7**

[6...b4 is another option that was examined in 1-0 Slobodjan, R - Azmaiparashvili, Z]

[6...Bb7 7.Bd3 Nf6 8.e5 Ng4 9.Bd2 c5 10.dxc5 dxe5 11.h3 Nf6 12.fxe5 Nfd7 13.e6 fxe6 14.Ng5 Nxc5 15.Qe2 Nc6 16.Nxe6 Nxe6 17.Qxe6 Ne5 18.0-0 Qd7= ChessBase: '0-1 (50) Zelbel, P (2450)-Hillarp Persson, T (2541) Gothenburg 2015' 0-1 (50) Zelbel, P (2450)-Hillarp Persson, T (2541) Gothenburg 2015]

7.e5

[7.Qe2 Bb7 8.a3 is fine for Black.]

7...Bb7 8.Bd3 c5 ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'The dismantling of White's centre is top priority. We reach a crucial tabiya position of the Austrian Attack. "

[Cyrus Lakdawala: 'In 'The Modern Defence: Move by Move', I focused on' 8...Nh6 Cyrus Lakdawala: 'where Black played for a light-square strategy without opening the centre

early.' 9.Qe2 Nb6 10.0-0-0 Qd7
11.h3 Nf5 12.Bf2 e6 13.Kb1 Ne7
14.Be3 Ned5 15.Nxd5 Bxd5 16.Rhf1
b4 17.g4 0-0 18.f5 Na4 ChessBase:
'0-1 (36) Byklum, B (2275)-Hillarp
Persson,T (2557) Stockholm 2006' 0-1
(36) Byklum, B (2275)-Hillarp Persson,
T (2557) Stockholm 2006 19.f6!?±]

9.Be4 ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala:
'White plays the familiar manoeuvre,
depriving us of our best piece.'

[9.0-0 ChessBase: 'is known to give
Black no trouble at all after 'cxd4
10.Bxd4

A) 10...Nh6 ChessBase: ', reaching
dynamic equality. Don't fear '
11.Be4 (11.Qe2 0-0 12.Rad1
Qc7; 11.e6 which can be met with
Bxf3! 12.exd7+ Qxd7 13.Bxb5
axb5 14.Rxf3 0-0 and Black's
extra central pawns should give him
at least equality, if not a shade
more.) 11...Bxe4 12.Nxe4 dxe5
13.fxe5 Nf5 14.c3 0-0=;

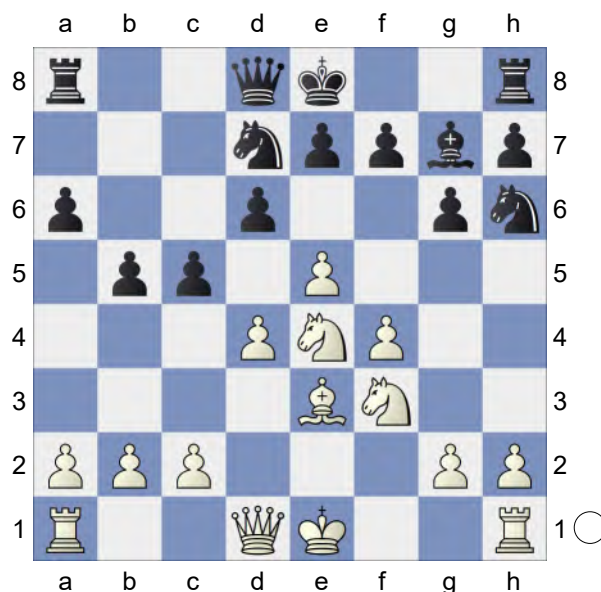
B) 10...dxe5 11.fxe5 Nxe5
12.Bxe5 Bxe5 13.Bxb5+ axb5
14.Nxe5±]

9...Bxe4

[9...Qc8 10.Bxb7 Qxb7 11.dxc5
dxe5 12.Qd5 Qxd5 13.Nxd5 Rc8
14.Nb6 Nxb6 15.cxb6 Nf6 16.0-0-0
Ng4 ChessBase: 'Kapnisis,Spyridon:
'∞" 17.Rhe1 Nxe3 18.Rxe3 Bh6=
0-1 (53) Mortensen,E (2450)-Hillarp
Persson,T (2461) Denmark 2003]

10.Nxe4 Nh6

[TIP: When defending the black side
of Austrian Attack, it's crucial to avoid
falling too far behind in development.
Avoid non-developing/game opening
moves like 10...cxd4?! 11.Bxd4 dxe5
12.fxe5 Nh6 13.e6! Nf6 14.Neg5
with a big advantage for White.]



11.dxc5 We are still following
recommendation by Tiger.

[ChessBase: 'After ' 11.Qe2 cxd4
12.Bxd4 Nf5 (12...dxe5 13.fxe5 Nf5
14.e6 Nxd4 15.Nxd4 Bxd4 16.0-0-0!
Ne5! 17.exf7+ Nxf7 18.c3 0-0
19.Rxd4 Qb6 Black's activity makes
up for the slight weakness of his e-
pawn isolani.) 13.0-0-0 Nxd4
14.Rxd4 0-0 15.Rhd1 Qa5 16.Kb1
Nb6 17.exd6 exd6]

11...dxe5 is a new move for this site.

[11...Ng4 is what was played in the
Smeets,J - Siebrecht,S game and well
looked at by Gawain Jones.
ChessBase: 'Kapnisis,Spyridon: '!'?
Kapnisis,Spyridon: '- 104/174"]

12.c6 is the most commonly played
move and there follows a relatively
forced sequence of moves. ChessBase:
'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'White chases away
a defender of e5.'

[12.Qe2 seems like a plausible
alternative.

A) 12...Nf5 13.0-0-0 Qc7
14.fxe5±;

B) 12...Qa5+ 13.c3 Nf5 14.c6

Nf6 15.Nxf6+ exf6 16.Bc5 0-0-0 (16...Qc7 17.0-0-0 Qxc6 18.b4!? Simply trying to anchor the bishop whilst preventing Black from castling. It is difficult for Black to find an adequate reply. For example: Bh6 19.Kb1 Bxf4 20.Rhe1↑ followed by g3 and Nxe5 is strong.) 17.b4↑;

C) 12...Qc7 13.fxe5 Nxe5 14.0-0-0 Nf5 (14...0-0 15.Bf4 Nd3+ 16.Qxd3 Qxf4+ 17.Kb1 Nf5=) 15.Bf2 (15.Bf4 Nd3+ 16.Rxd3 Qxf4+ 17.Kb1 0-0 18.Rhd1± was stronger.) 15...0-0 Erdogdu,M (2419)-Yilmazyerli,M (2450) Kocaeli 2015 (1/2-1/2 in 24)]

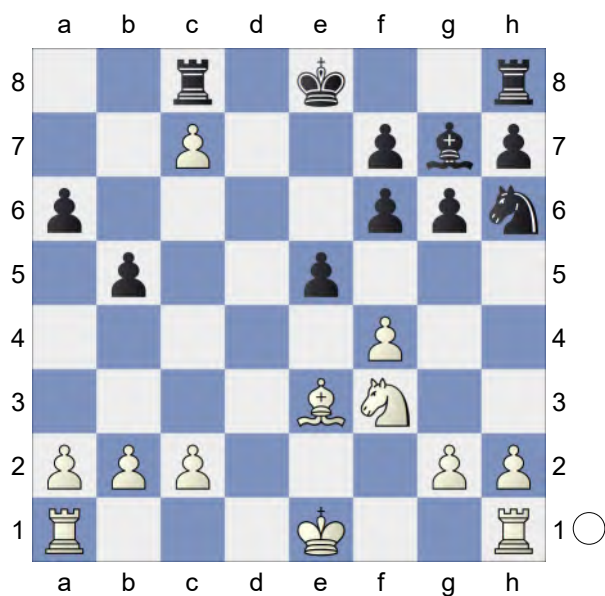
12...Nf6

[Nobody has ever tried the contortionist theoretical novelty 12...Nf8!? 13.Qxd8+ Rxd8 14.fxe5 Rc8 . Black's game looks just fine to me.]

13.Qxd8+ Rxd8 14.Nxf6+ exf6 15.c7

[15.fxe5 fxe5 16.Bxh6 Bxh6 17.Nxe5 0-0 18.0-0 Rd2]

15...Rc8



16.Bb6 ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'This is scary stuff, since now White plans to transfer a rook to d8. " **16...Kd7** ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'When we face an obstacle we have two choices: a) Issue a direct challenge and attempt to go through it. b) Save energy and go around it. Carlsen's last move is an example of number two on the list. He utilizes the endgame principle which guides us to move our king out of the safety zone and put it to work in an ending. In fact in this game Carlsen's hardworking king moved a whopping total of 11 times, like a temporary labourer who is hired when demand for goods is high, and then laid off and discarded in the off season. " ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' '!' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'When we face an obstacle we have two choices: a) Issue a direct challenge and attempt to go through it. b) Save energy and go around it. Carlsen's last move is an example of number two on the list. He utilizes the endgame principle which guides us to move our king out of the safety zone and put it to work in an ending. In fact in this game Carlsen's hardworking king moved a whopping total of 11 times, like a temporary labourer who is hired when demand for goods is high, and then laid off and discarded in the off season. " ChessBase: 'This kind of position should suit Carlsen. After an early exchange of queens White's far advanced pawn on c7 is vulnerable.' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'When we face an obstacle we have two choices: a) Issue a direct challenge and attempt to go through it. --- b) Save energy and go around it. --- Carlsen's last move is an example of number two on the list. He

utilizes the endgame principle which guides us to move our king out of the safety zone and put it to work in an ending. In fact in this game Carlsen's hardworking king moved a whopping total of 11 times, like a temporary labourer who is hired when demand for goods is high, and then laid off and discarded in the off season.'

ChessBase: 'This kind of position should suit Carlsen. After an early exchange of queens White's far advanced pawn on c7 is vulnerable.'

17.Ba5

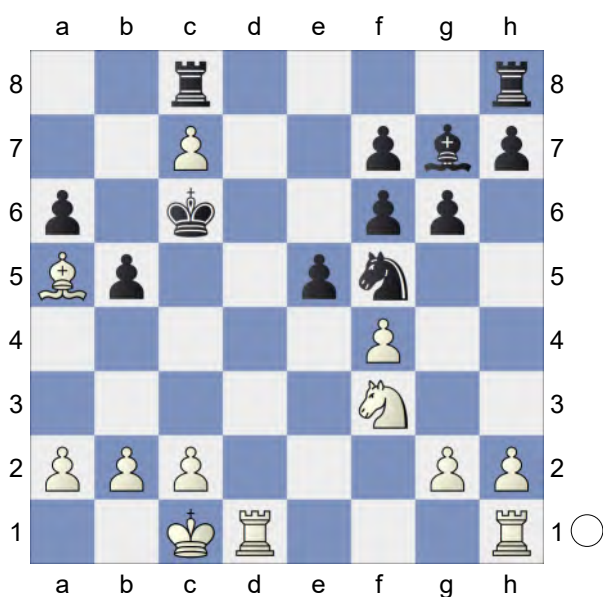
[17.0-0-0+ Kc6 18.Ba5]

17...Nf5

[This isn't the time to get greedy with 17...exf4?! 18.0-0-0+ Kc6 19.Rd8 . Black must hand over the exchange. If he doesn't with Nf5? then follows 20.Rhd1 Kb7 21.R1d7 with a winning bind for White.]

18.0-0-0+ Kc6

ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'transposes to the game.' ChessBase: 'Kapnisis, Spyridon: 'Diagram



" ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'transposes to the game.' ChessBase:

'Kapnisis, Spyridon: 'Diagram  " ChessBase: 'Kapnisis, Spyridon: 'Diagram [#]' All this has been played before.' ChessBase: 'All this has been played before.' **19.Rd8** At first it looks like the only move to maintain pressure. However, it turns out to be inaccurate and it seems Black is already doing more than fine. ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'EXERCISE (planning): White threatens to increase his choke hold with Rhd1. Carlsen found an efficient way to dismantle White's bind. What would you play here? ANSWER: Transfer the knight to either c4 or b7, which dislodges White's bishop, and therefore White's bind. " ChessBase: 'Kapnisis, Spyridon: 'N' At first it looks like the only move to maintain pressure. However, it turns out to be inaccurate and it seems Black is already doing more than fine. ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'EXERCISE (planning): White threatens to increase his choke hold with Rhd1. Carlsen found an efficient way to dismantle White's bind. What would you play here? ANSWER: Transfer the knight to either c4 or b7, which dislodges White's bishop, and therefore White's bind. " ChessBase: 'Kapnisis, Spyridon: 'N' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'EXERCISE (planning): White threatens to increase his choke hold with Rhd1. Carlsen found an efficient way to dismantle White's bind. What would you play here? --- ANSWER: Transfer the knight to either c4 or b7, which dislodges White's bishop, and therefore White's bind.'

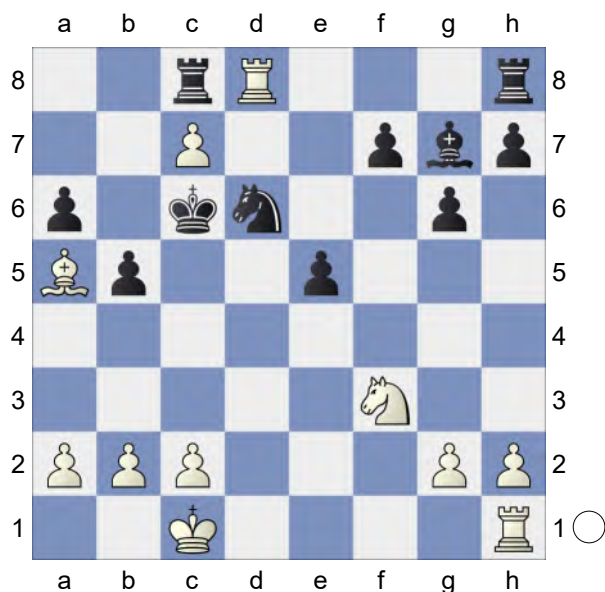
[19.fxe5 was from a game played between two young Australians when it shows that White's passed c-pawn is going nowhere. Whilst the black

centre majority is a real threat.
 ChessBase: 'Kapnisis,Spyridon' fxe5
 20.Rhe1 f6 ChessBase: 'ω'
 ChessBase: ' ω' 'ω' 21.g4 Nd6 22.g5
 Rhe8 23.gxf6 Bxf6 24.b3 e4
 when Black had a already winning
 advantage in Li,Z (2349)-Cheng,B
 (2440) Melbourne 2013 (0-1 in 41)]

[19.Rd3 Nd6 ChessBase: 'Kapnisis,
 Spyridon: '=' ChessBase: 'Kapnisis,
 Spyridon: '=' ChessBase: 'Kapnisis,
 Spyridon: '=' and now 1/2-1/2 (19) in
 Tan, J (2322)-Buchal, S (2296)
 Haarlem 2013 - a bit premature.' and
 now 1/2-1/2 (19) in Tan, J (2322)-
 Buchal, S (2296) Haarlem 2013 - a
 bit premature.]

19...Nd6! Stopping White's attack and
 threatening Nc4 or Nb7 ideas.
 ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!'

20.fxe5 fxe5



21.Rd1

[21.b3? keeps the knight out of c4,
 but not b7: Nb7 22.Rxh8 Bxh8
 23.Bc3 f6 and the c7-pawn falls.]

21...Nc4 Now Black is in full control, The
 pawn on c7 can no longer be protected
 so White tries to win the e5 pawn

instead. **22.Bc3 Rxc7** ChessBase:
 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'With this move Black
 completely equalizes.'

[Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Even stronger was
 ' 22...b4 Cyrus Lakdawala: '! Cyrus
 Lakdawala: '! '!' 23.Bxb4 (23.Rxh8
 Bxh8 24.Bxb4 e4 (simultaneously
 attacking f3 and b2) 25.Nd4+ Kb7
 26.Bc3 Rxc7 when Black's majority
 and piece activity are more potent
 than their white counterparts.) 23...e4
 24.Nd4+ Kxc7 25.Rxh8 Bxh8 26.Bc3
 Be5=]

23.b3 Ne3

[23...Rxd8 24.Rxd8 Ne3 25.Bxe5
 Bxe5 26.Nxe5+ Kb7 27.Rd2
 was another possibility. f5 led to even
 chances in the ending, S.Vokhidov-A.
 Bodnaruk, Baku 2016.]

24.Bxe5

[24.R1d6+ Kb7 25.R8d7 Kc8
 26.Rxc7+ Kxc7 27.Rxa6 (27.Rd3
 Ng4 holds everything together, since
 28.h3?! is met with Nf2 29.Ba5+ Kc6
 30.Rc3+ Kd6 when it is Black who
 stands better due to his functional
 kingside pawn majority.) 27...Rc8
 28.Ba5+ Kb7 29.Rb6+ Ka7 30.Rd6
 Nxc2=]

24...Nxd1

ChessBase: 'Cyrus
 Lakdawala: '!?' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Any
 world champion's great weakness is that
 they know nothing but victory and
 success, the logical extension of which
 is that there is no place to go but down if
 they continue to play. When great
 players plunge into unfathomable
 complications, it falsely presupposes
 that they have a duty to entertain us
 with dazzling and risky ideas. The truth
 is their main objective is simply to win.'
 ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!?' '!?'
 Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Any world champion's

great weakness is that they know nothing but victory and success, the logical extension of which is that there is no place to go but down if they continue to play. When great players plunge into unfathomable complications, it falsely presupposes that they have a duty to entertain us with dazzling and risky ideas. The truth is their main objective is simply to win."

[In our electronic and wireless chess world, news of a new idea travels fast. A couple of months later 24...Rxd8]

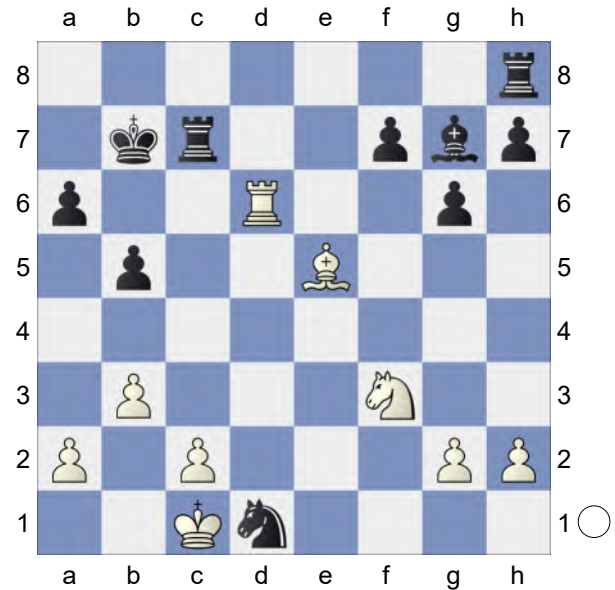
25.Rd6+ ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'The ending is still even. Wei's main obstacle is that he faces the greatest natural endgame genius since Capablanca and Fischer.'

[25.Bxc7 Nc3 26.Rxh8 Nxa2+ 27.Kd2 Bc3+ 28.Kd3 Bxh8 29.Ba5 ChessBase: 'and Black is a pawn up.' and Black is a pawn up.]

25...Kb7

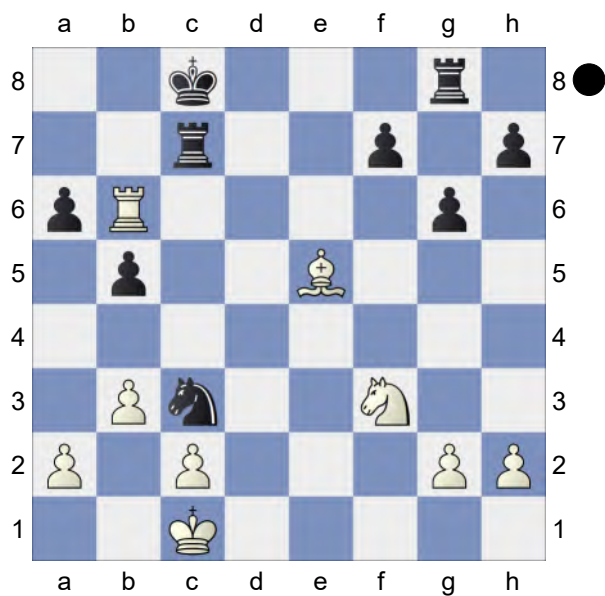
[25...Kc5 26.b4+! Kxb4 27.Bxg7 Rhc8 28.a3+ Kxa3 29.Rxa6+ Kb4 30.Kxd1 Rxc2 31.Bf8+ Kc3 32.Bg7+= Ends in a nice perpetual check.]

(Diagram)



26.Bxg7 Rg8 27.Bd4 White is the exchange down but has active pieces and puts pressure on Black to defend accurately. However, Magnus proves he is up to the task. **27...Nc3** ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Black won the exchange, but as Wei demonstrates, White wins it back. ' ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Black won the exchange, but as Wei demonstrates, White wins it back. ' ChessBase: 'At the moment Black is an exchange up - however, he has to part with some material.' ChessBase: 'At the moment Black is an exchange up - however, he has to part with some material.' **28.Rb6+** ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' '!' **28...Kc8 29.Be5** ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' ChessBase: 'Kapnisis, Spyridon: 'Diagram [29.Rxa6 Re8≠]

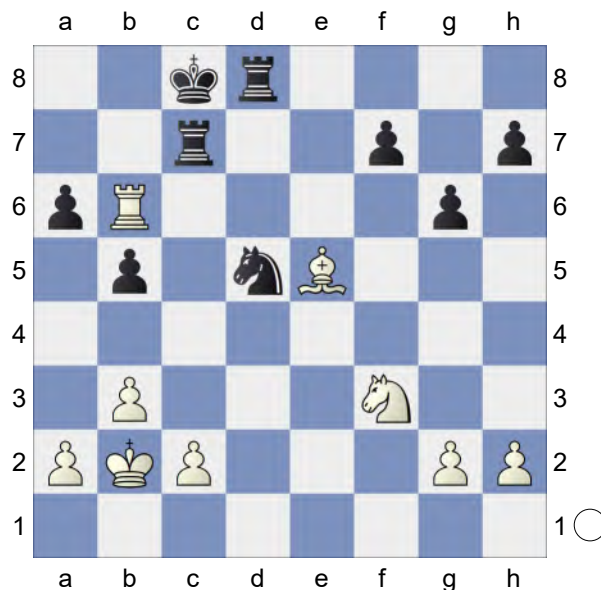
(Diagram)



a mating net.' and White is caught in a mating net.]

[After 30.Rxa6?? Rd1+ 31.Kb2 b4! (threatening mate on b1) 32.Bxc3 bxc3+ 33.Ka3 Rd2! White's c-pawn falls and Black's resulting passed c-pawn will win the game.]

30...Nd5



" ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' '!' ChessBase: 'Kapnisis, Spyridon: 'Diagram [!]" ChessBase: 'Kapnisis, Spyridon: 'Diagram [#]' Now White regains the exchange.' ChessBase: 'Now White regains the exchange.' **29...Rd8!** Goes for a long variation when forces White's rook to a passive square. ChessBase: 'Kapnisis, Spyridon: '!"

[Black must hand back the exchange since 29...Rc5?? hangs material to 30.Rb8+ ;]

[and 29...Rb7?? gives up two pieces for a rook after 30.Rc6+ Kd7 31.Rxc3 .]

[Instead, 29...Nxa2+ ChessBase: 'Kapnisis, Spyridon' 30.Kb2 Nb4 31.Bxc7 Kxc7 32.Rf6 sees White maintain the balance. Rf8 33.Ng5=]

[29...b4 Kapnisis, Spyridon 30.Kb2 Nd1+ 31.Kc1 Nc3=]

30.Kb2

[ChessBase: 'But not' But not 30.Bxc7? Kxc7 31.Rxa6 Rd1+ 32.Kb2 b4 ChessBase: 'Kapnisis, Spyridon: '-+' ChessBase: 'Kapnisis, Spyridon: '-+' ChessBase: 'Kapnisis, Spyridon: '-+' and White is caught in

ChessBase: 'Kapnisis, Spyridon: '!"

31.Bxc7

[31.Rxa6?? is met by Rxc2+! 32.Kxc2 Nb4+ 33.Kc3 Nxa6 and this time Black is going to stay the exchange up.]

31...Kxc7

ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Brilliant judgement. Carlsen sees that White's future awkward rook's position on a6 more than makes up for Black being down a pawn. " ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' '!' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Brilliant judgement. Carlsen sees that White's future awkward rook's position on a6 more than makes up for Black being down a pawn. "

[31...Nxc7?! 32.Rf6 places Black on the defensive.]

32.Rxa6

ChessBase: 'Now White is a

pawn up but his rook is awkwardly placed and White has to return the pawn.

' ChessBase: 'Now White is a pawn up but his rook is awkwardly placed and White has to return the pawn.' **32...Kb7!**

33.Ra3 ChessBase: 'White wants to keep his extra-pawn.' ChessBase: 'White wants to keep his extra-pawn.'

[33.Ra5 Kb6 34.b4 Nxb4 35.Ra3= ChessBase: 'leads to an equal position.' leads to an equal position.]

33...Ne3 ChessBase: 'Typical Carlsen. Only a few pieces remain on the board but he manages to exert enormous pressure.' ChessBase: 'Typical Carlsen. Only a few pieces remain on the board but he manages to exert enormous pressure.'

34.c4 The engine still thinks this is equal but holding this is practise can be very tricky. ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Principle: activate and push your pawn majority with vigour. " The engine still thinks this is equal but holding this is practise can be very tricky. ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' '!' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Principle: activate and push your pawn majority with vigour. "

[ChessBase: 'After' After 34.g3 Cyrus Lakdawala: '?' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'is too slow. Black seizes a decisive initiative after ' ChessBase: 'Kapnisis, Spyridon: '?' Cyrus Lakdawala: '?' '?' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'is too slow. Black seizes a decisive initiative after ' ChessBase: 'Kapnisis, Spyridon: '?' ChessBase: 'Kapnisis, Spyridon: '?' follows' follows Nd1+ 35.Kc1 Nc3 Cyrus Lakdawala: '. White is curiously helpless, while Black threatens ...b4, followed by a rook check on d1 and mate on b1. ' ChessBase: 'Kapnisis, Spyridon: '-+'

Cyrus Lakdawala: '. White is curiously helpless, while Black threatens ...b4, followed by a rook check on d1 and mate on b1. ' ChessBase: 'Kapnisis, Spyridon: '-+' ChessBase: 'Kapnisis, Spyridon: '-+' and Black again threatens' and Black again threatens 36.-- Rd1+ 37.Kb2 b4 38.Ra5 Rb1#]

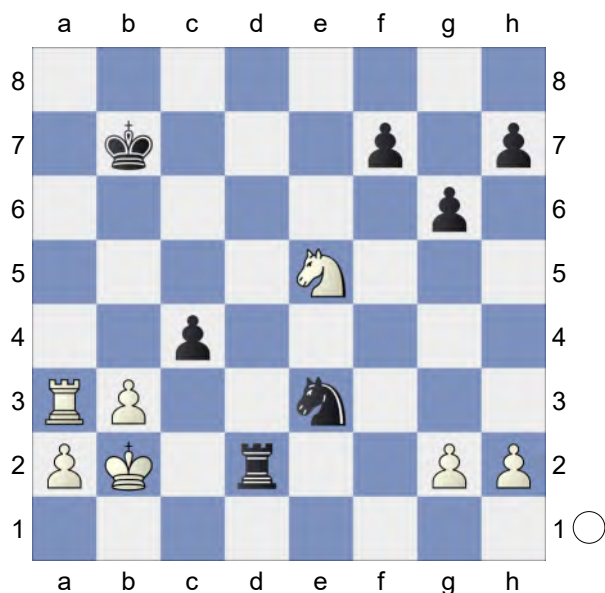
34...bxc4 ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'The ending is still even here, but after White's next move mistake, little by little, his capacity for self-determination decreases.'" **35.Ne5?!** Now Black is winning. ChessBase: '?' '?' '?' '?' Now Black is winning. ChessBase: '?' '?' '?' '?' ChessBase: 'Not the best. The World Champion will now advance his c-pawn to reach the first rank for a touchdown.' Cyrus Lakdawala: '?' ChessBase: 'Not the best. The World Champion will now advance his c-pawn to reach the first rank for a touchdown.'

[ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Correct was " 35.b4! was the only move to hold. ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' ChessBase: 'Kapnisis, Spyridon: '!' Nd5 36.Ra5 Another only move. ChessBase: 'Kapnisis, Spyridon: ' ∞ !' Ne3 Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Correct was' 37.Ra3 Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' (37.a4 Nxc2 38.Ne5 Ne3 39.Rc5=) 37...Nxc2 ChessBase: 'Kapnisis, Spyridon' 38.Rc3 ChessBase: '∞ ChessBase: ' ∞ ' ' ∞ ' (38.Ne5 when the position remains tense and approximately balanced.) 38...f5 39.Rxc4 with a tricky endgame giving chances for both sides.]

[35.bxc4?? Nxc4+]

[35.Ra4 cxb3 36.Rb4+ Kc6 37.Rxb3 Nc4+ (37...Nxc2 38.Ne5+) 38.Kc2

Ra8 39.Rc3 Kb5 40.Rb3+ Kc5
41.Rc3=]
35...Rd2+



36.Kc3

[36.Kc1 c3 37.-- ChessBase: 'und'
und Rd1#]

36...Rc2+ ChessBase: 'Cyrus
Lakdawala: '!' ChessBase: 'Cyrus
Lakdawala: '!' '!' **37.Kd4**

[If 37.Kb4 ChessBase: 'Kapnisis,
Spyridon' Nd5+ 38.Kc5 (38.Kb5
c3-+) 38...c3! and White can't stop
the c-pawn's surge without loss of
heavy material. 39.Nc6 Rd2!-+]

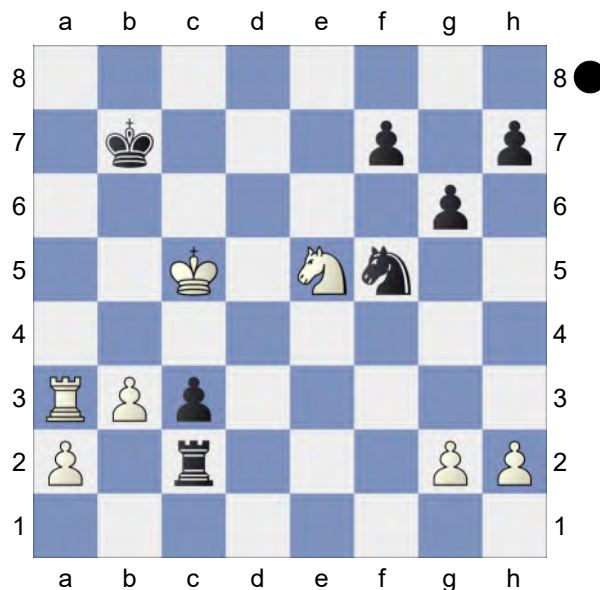
37...Nf5+ 38.Kd5

[The immediate 38.Kc5?? walks into
the discovered check cxb3+ .]

[38.Ke4 Kapnisis, Spyridon Re2+
39.Kf4 c3 40.b4 c2 41.Rc3 Nd4
42.Nd3 g5+! 43.Kxg5 Re3-+]

38...c3! ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala:
'!' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'White's pieces are
oddly out of synch, when it comes to
halting the surging c-pawn. ' **39.Kc5**
ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala:
'EXERCISE (combination alert): An
annotator's job is to explain a position
with clarity, but I confess that at this

point I'm having trouble forming ideas
into even a single rational sentence.
Carlsen found a study-like way to win.
Take a shot at trying to solve it. Should
Black play 39...Rxc2, or does the
solution lie elsewhere? ANSWER:"
ChessBase: 'Kapnisis, Spyridon:
'Diagram



" ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala:
'EXERCISE (combination alert): An
annotator's job is to explain a position
with clarity, but I confess that at this
point I'm having trouble forming ideas
into even a single rational sentence.
Carlsen found a study-like way to win.
Take a shot at trying to solve it. Should
Black play 39...Rxc2, or does the
solution lie elsewhere? ANSWER:"
ChessBase: 'Kapnisis, Spyridon:
'Diagram [♘]" ChessBase: 'Kapnisis,
Spyridon: 'Diagram [#]' Cyrus
Lakdawala: 'EXERCISE (combination
alert): An annotator's job is to explain a
position with clarity, but I confess that at
this point I'm having trouble forming
ideas into even a single rational
sentence. Carlsen found a study-like way
to win. Take a shot at trying to solve it.

Should Black play 39...Rxc2, or does the solution lie elsewhere? --- ANSWER: **39...Nd6!** ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!!' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'We witness a unique alignment of geometric stars. How inadequate our own chess feels when measured against a player of monumental natural talent. It isn't as if Carlsen has large reserves of capital to invest, but here he offers a knight, which can't be touched. ' ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!!' '!!' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'We witness a unique alignment of geometric stars. How inadequate our own chess feels when measured against a player of monumental natural talent. It isn't as if Carlsen has large reserves of capital to invest, but here he offers a knight, which can't be touched. '

[Carlsen avoids Wei's insidious trap 39...Rxc2? 40.Nc6! c2?? (40...Ng7! is forced) 41.Ra7+ Kc8 42.Kb6! c1Q (this extra queen isn't of much help for Black) 43.Rc7# .]

[39...Rd2? Kapnisis, Spyridon 40.Nc6 Kc8 41.Ra7! Ng7 42.Re7! Ne6+ 43.Kc4 Nd8 44.Na7+ Kb8 45.Kxc3=]

40.Nc6 ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'When heavily stressed, our mind can either suffer panic/depression, or turn courageous/inventive, as we see here. On the one hand we are paralyzed, and on the other, we experience a kind of hyperconscious state, where we turn our resistance into a genetically enhanced super-soldier.' ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' '!' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'When heavily stressed, our mind can either suffer panic/depression, or turn courageous/inventive, as we see here. On the one hand we are paralyzed, and on the other,

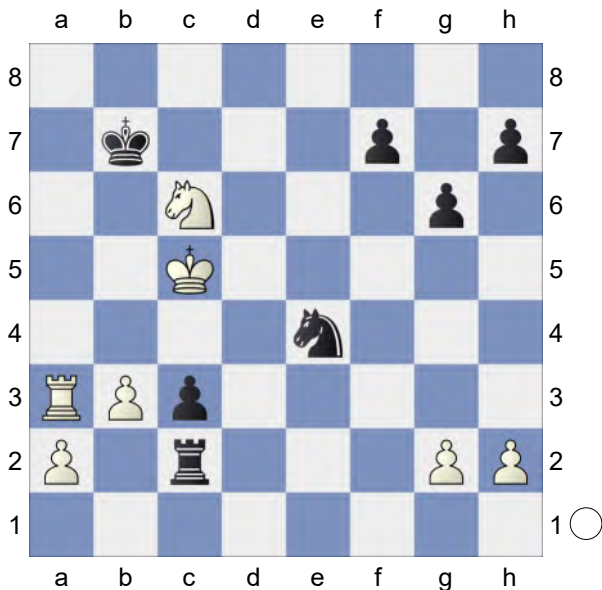
we experience a kind of hyperconscious state, where we turn our resistance into a genetically enhanced super-soldier.' ChessBase: 'White is still in the game. He threatens to win a piece with Ra7+.' ChessBase: 'White is still in the game. He threatens to win a piece with Ra7+.'

[ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'In inferior positions it's crucial to remain alert yet calm, in a state of preparedness to seize upon any future chance to disturb the opponent's equilibrium, as Wei tries here, while avoiding' 40.Kxd6 ChessBase: '?' '?' '?' '?' ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '??' ChessBase: '?' '?' '?' '?' ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '??' '??' ChessBase: '?' '?' '?' ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '??' Rd2+ 41.Ke7 c2+ ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'and nothing can stop promotion.' ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'and nothing can stop promotion.' ChessBase: 'and the pawn queens.' ChessBase: 'and the pawn queens.']

40...Ne4+

[Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Stronger is ' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Stronger is ' ChessBase: 'After' After 40...Kc7 Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'when a rook check on a7 is met with a knight block.' ChessBase: 'Kapnisis, Spyridon: '-+!' Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' '!' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'when a rook check on a7 is met with a knight block.' ChessBase: 'Kapnisis, Spyridon: '-+!' 41.Nb4 (41.Ra7+ Nb7+-+) 41...Rd2 (41...Rc1 42.Ra7+ Nb7+ 43.Kc4 c2 44.Kb5=) 42.Ra6 c2 43.Rc6+ ChessBase: 'the position is objectively (engine) won for Black but subjectively (human) rather double-edged.' the position is objectively

(engine) won for Black but subjectively (human) rather double-edged. Kb7 (43...Kd7? 44.Kb6 ChessBase: 'and White stopped the pawn.' and White stopped the pawn.) 44.Rb6+ Ka8 (44...Ka7?? 45.Nc6+ Ka8 46.Rb8#) 45.Nc6 c1Q+ ChessBase: 'and Black queens with check.' and Black queens with check.]
 [40...Rd2?? Kapnisis,Spyridon
 41.Ra7+ Kc8 42.Kb6]



ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!'
 ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '! '!'
41.Kb5 ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'White hopes for a mating pattern, but when we crunch the numbers, we see that there is no way to implement his intent. ' **41...Kc7** ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!'
 ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '! '!'

[41...Rxc2?? walks into the same mating pattern as the above note, after 42.Ra7+ Kc8 43.Kb6 c2 44.Rc7# .]

42.Ra7+ Kd6 ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Carlsen's king is safe from

attempted mating nets and his pawn is ready to surge forward. ' **43.Ra4** ChessBase: '? ' '? ' '? ' '? '

[Cyrus Lakdawala: 'White's best chance to put up resistance lay in ' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'White's best chance to put up resistance lay in ' ChessBase: 'Besser' Besser 43.Nb4 Rxc2 (43...Rf2 Kapnisis,Spyridon 44.Ra6+ Kd7 45.Ra7+ Ke6 46.Rc7 Rxc2 47.a4 Rxc2 48.a5 Rh5+ 49.Kb6 Nd6) 44.Rxf7

A) 44...c2 Kapnisis,Spyridon 45.Rf1 (45.Nxc2 Rxc2 46.Rxc7 Rxa2-+) 45...Nc3+ 46.Kc4 Nb1! 47.Rc1 (47.Re1 Rg4+-+) 47...Rg4+ 48.Kb5 Nc3+ 49.Ka5 Rxb4-+;

B) 44...Rxc2 ChessBase: 'and White can still fight for the draw.' and White can still fight for the draw. 45.Rf1 .]

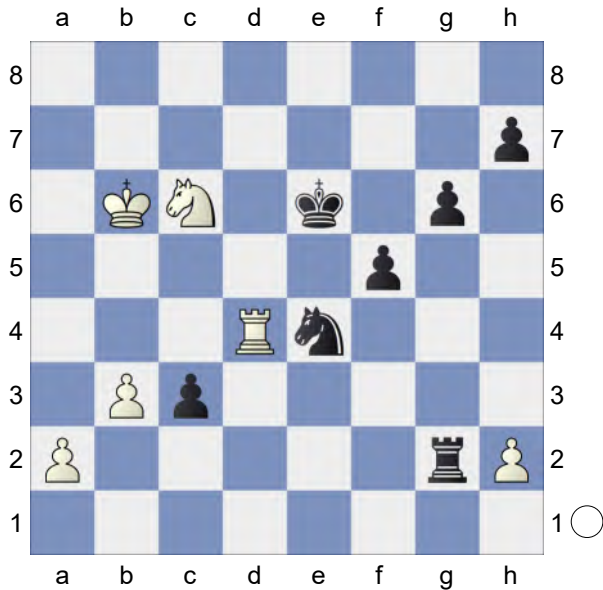
43...f5 ChessBase: '-+ ' '-+ ' '-+ ' '-+ ' ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!'
 ChessBase: '-+ ' '-+ ' '-+ ' '-+ ' ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '! '!'
 ChessBase: '-+ ' '-+ ' '-+ ' '-+ ' ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!'

44.Kb6 Rxc2

[ChessBase: 'White threatened' White threatened 44...-- 45.Rd4+ Ke6 46.Rxe4+ fxe4 47.Nd4+]

45.Rd4+ Ke6

(Diagram)



46.a4 ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'It looks like a close race between White's a-pawn and Black's c-pawn, but analysis proves this just isn't the case.'

46...Ra2 ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '?!' ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '?!' '?!'

[ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Stronger was ' ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Stronger was ' ChessBase: 'Maybe it was better to play' ChessBase: 'Maybe it was better to play' 46...Rb2 is one go is better. ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' is one go is better. ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' '!' Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' ChessBase: 'immediately.' ChessBase: 'immediately.'

A) 47.Kc7 Kapnisis, Spyridon Kf6+ (47...Rxb3? 48.Rxe4+ fxe4 49.Nd4+ Kd5 50.Nxb3 e3 51.Nc1 Ke4 52.a5 Kf3=);

B) 47.b4 Kapnisis, Spyridon 47...Rd2! 48.a5 (48.Rc4 Kd5!) 48...Nd6+]

47.a5 Rb2 ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '?!' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'This

represents the loss of a tempo, since he could have played to b2 in one move, rather than two. " ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '?!' '?!' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'This represents the loss of a tempo, since he could have played to b2 in one move, rather than two. " **48.Kc7** ChessBase: '!' '!' '!' '!' ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '?!' ChessBase: '!' '!' '!' '!' ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '?!' '?!' ChessBase: '!' '!' '!' '!' ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '?!'

[48.a6 c2 49.Rc4 Rxb3+ 50.Ka7 Nc3+]

[48.b4 Nd6+ (48...c2? 49.Rc4 Kd5 Kapnisis, Spyridon 50.Rd4+=; 48...Rd2! Kapnisis, Spyridon 49.a6 Nd6 50.a7 Nc8+ 51.Kb7 Nxa7 52.Kxa7 Rxd4 53.Nxd4+ Kd5 54.Ne2 Kc4 55.Nxc3 Kxb4 56.Nd1 Kc4+) 49.Rd3! Kapnisis, Spyridon c2 50.Rc3 Kf6 51.a6 f4+]

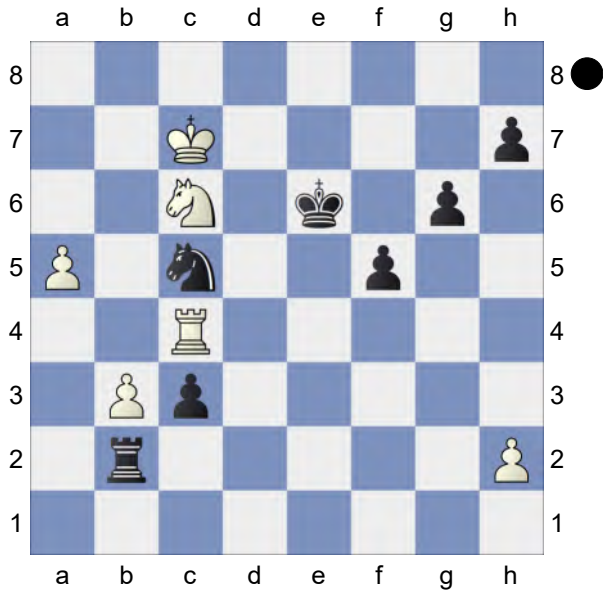
48...Nc5 ChessBase: '!' '!' '!' '!' ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Carlsen slows the advance of White's passed a-pawn. " ChessBase: '!' '!' '!' '!' ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' 'Carlsen slows the advance of White's passed a-pawn. " ChessBase: '!' '!' '!' ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Carlsen slows the advance of White's passed a-pawn. "

[48...c2? 49.Rc4=]

[48...Rxb3?? 49.Rxe4+ fxe4 50.Nd4+±]

49.Rc4 ChessBase: '!

(Diagram)

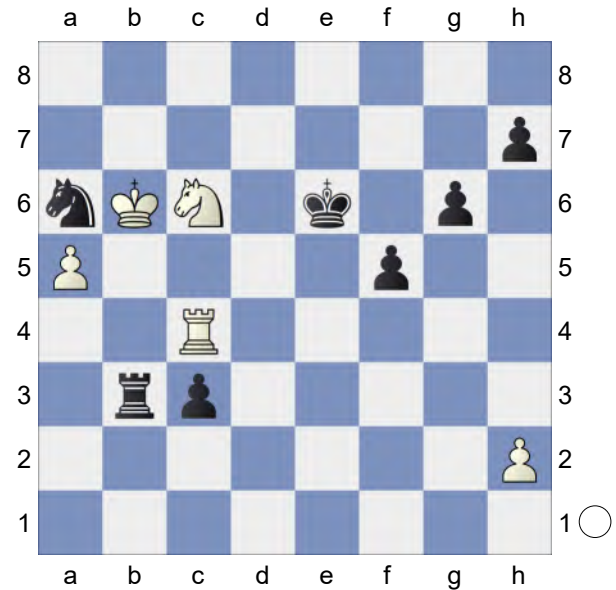


' ChessBase: '[#] Kapnisis,Spyridon:
'Diagram  " ChessBase: '[#]
ChessBase: '[#] Kapnisis,Spyridon:
'Diagram  " ChessBase: '[#] Kapnisis,
Spyridon: 'Diagram [#]' **49...Na6+**
ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!'
ChessBase: 'Kapnisis,Spyridon: '!'
ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '! '!'
ChessBase: 'Kapnisis,Spyridon: '!'

[49...Nxb3?? **Kapnisis,Spyridon**
50.a6±]

50.Kb6 ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala:
'EXERCISE (combination alert): Find
Carlsen's winning idea. ANSWER: Step
1: Force White's king in front of his
passed pawn by giving up a piece. "
ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala:
'EXERCISE (combination alert): Find
Carlsen's winning idea. ANSWER: Step
1: Force White's king in front of his
passed pawn by giving up a piece. "
Cyrus Lakdawala: 'EXERCISE
(combination alert): Find Carlsen's
winning idea. --- ANSWER: Step 1:
Force White's king in front of his passed
pawn by giving up a piece.' **50...Rxb3+!**

(Diagram)

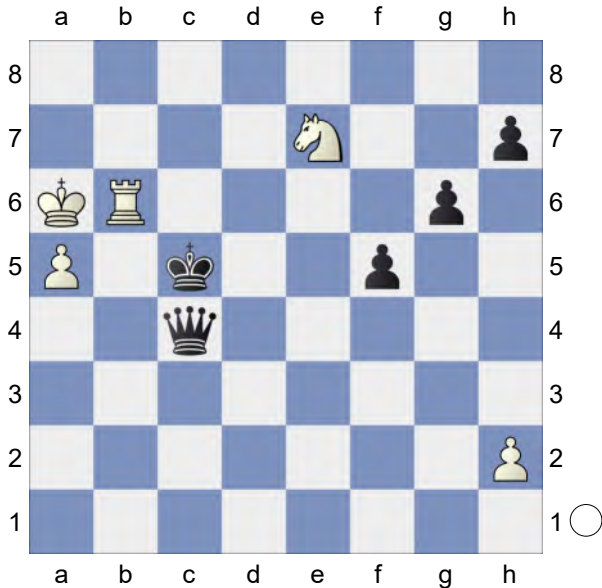


Correctly seeing that the knight can be
indirectly guarded with tactics.
ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '! Cyrus
Lakdawala: 'This is his second knight
offer in the ending. " ChessBase:
'Kapnisis,Spyridon: '!' **51.Kxa6 Kd5**
ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '! Cyrus
Lakdawala: 'Step 2: Double attack."
ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '! '!'
Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Step 2: Double attack.
" ChessBase: 'The point. The white rook
is once again in trouble.' ChessBase:
'The point. The white rook is once again
in trouble.' **52.Rb4** ChessBase: 'Cyrus
Lakdawala: '!'?' Cyrus Lakdawala:
'Clever tactics, but not good enough. "
ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' '!'?
Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Clever tactics, but
not good enough. "

[After 52.Ne5 Kxe5 **Black wins easily,**
since his pawn can promote, while
White's can't.]

52...c2 ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!
Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Step 3: Promote and
win the queen versus rook and knight
ending. " ChessBase: 'Kapnisis,
Spyridon: '-+' ChessBase: 'Cyrus
Lakdawala: '!' '!' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Step

3: Promote and win the queen versus rook and knight ending. " ChessBase: 'Kapnisis,Spyridon: '-+' 53.Ne7+ Kc5 54.Rxb3 c1Q 55.Rb6 Qc4+



56.Kb7

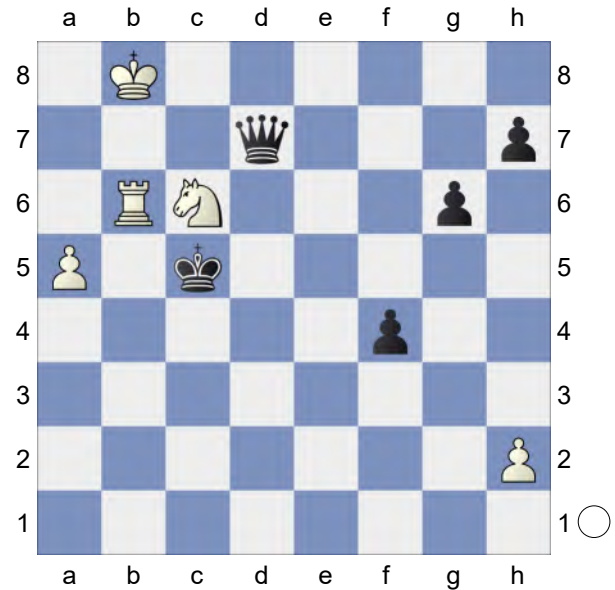
[If 56.Ka7 Qe4 57.Nc8 Qa4 58.a6 Qd7+ 59.Kb8 Qxc8+! (simplification) 60.Kxc8 Kxb6 and White's precious a-pawn falls as well.]

58...Qe4+ 57.Nc6 Qd5 ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' ChessBase: 'Kapnisis,Spyridon: '!' ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' '!' ChessBase: 'Kapnisis,Spyridon: '!' **58.Kc7**

[58.a6?? Qd7+ 59.Kb8 Kxb6 and mate in two moves.]

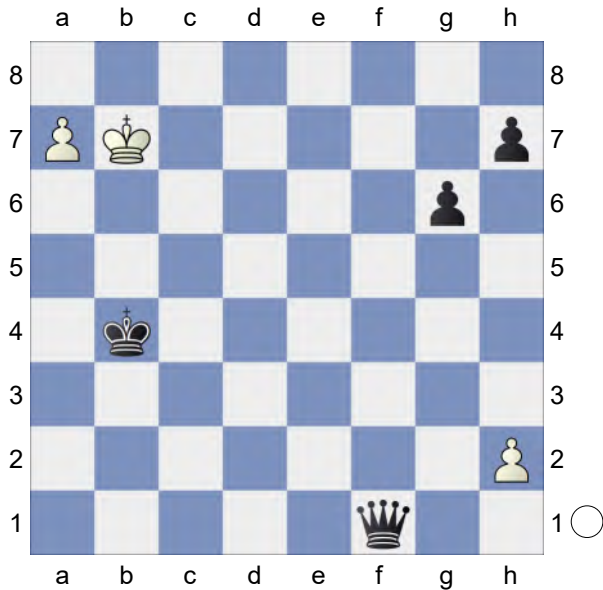
58...Qd6+ 59.Kb7 ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'This is the part of the movie where the contrite, cheating husband tells his aggrieved wife: "I realize I don't deserve your forgiveness, but I'm asking anyway.'" " **59...Qd7+ 60.Kb8 f4**

(Diagram)

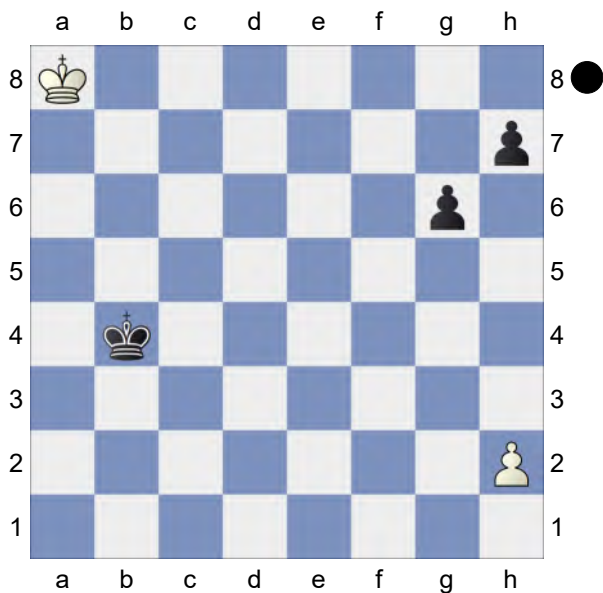


This long variation after 12. c6 seems to give no problems thus far for Black. It is now up to White to show there is something there. ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' '!' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'White's a-pawn is weirdly frozen on its square and so he resigned. " This long variation after 12. c6 seems to give no problems thus far for Black. It is now up to White to show there is something there. ChessBase: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' '!' '!' '!' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'White's a-pawn is weirdly frozen on its square and so he resigned. " **61.Nb4 f3 62.Rb7 Qxb7+! 63.Kxb7 Kxb4 64.a6 f2 65.a7 f1Q**

(Diagram)



66.a8Q Qf3+ 67.Kb8 Qxa8+ 68.Kxa8



Cyrus Lakdawala: 'would be totally hopeless. --- SUMMARY: The position after 8...c5 is probably the most critical for us in the entire Austrian Attack, so let's learn it thoroughly.'

0-1

would be totally hopeless. SUMMARY:
The position after 8...c5 is probably the
most critical for us in the entire Austrian
Attack, so let's learn it thoroughly. 0-1
(68) Wei,Y (2696)-Carlsen,M (2855)
Bilbao 2016 CBM 174 [ChessBase]
would be totally hopeless. SUMMARY:
The position after 8...c5 is probably the
most critical for us in the entire Austrian
Attack, so let's learn it thoroughly. 0-1
(68) Wei,Y (2696)-Carlsen,M (2855)
Bilbao 2016 CBM 174 [ChessBase]

291

□ Wei, Yi

■ Nepomniachtchi, Ian

(Tata Steel A)

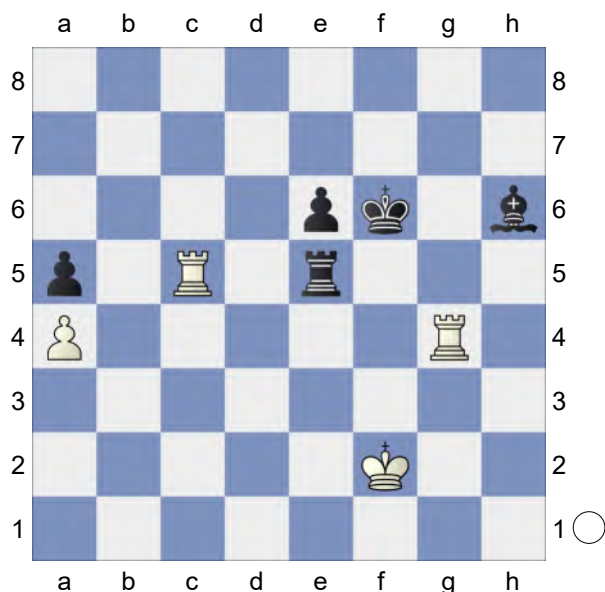
[Mueller, Karsten]

2706

2767

2017

The next position is much deeper, and here the choice is not completely clear. With the rooks on the board White has more winning potential and without his rook Black is weak on the light squares, but objectively both options should lead to a draw: Diagram

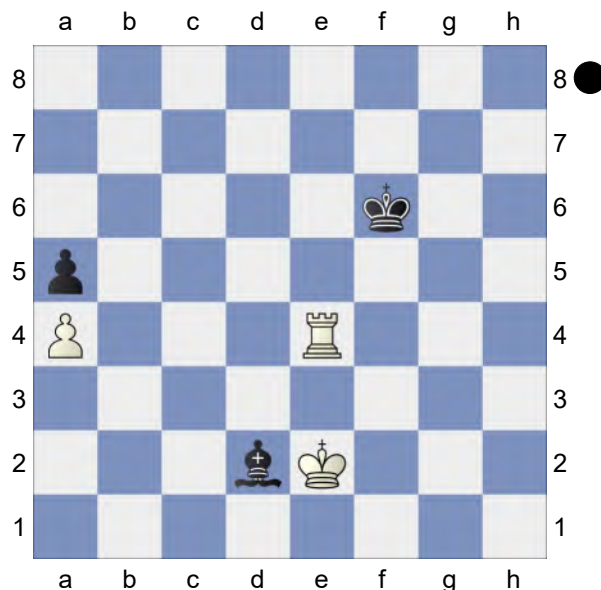


62.Rg6+!? a good winning try despite the reduced winning potential.

[62.Rb5 is met by Bd2 and Black's rook is a good piece. (However, not simplification into a pawn endgame via 62...Rxb5? 63.axb5 Bf8 64.Rf4+ Kg7 65.Rxf8 Kxf8 66.b6+-)]

62...Kxg6 63.Rxe5 Bd2 64.Rxe6+ Kf7 65.Re4 Kf6 66.Ke2 Diagram

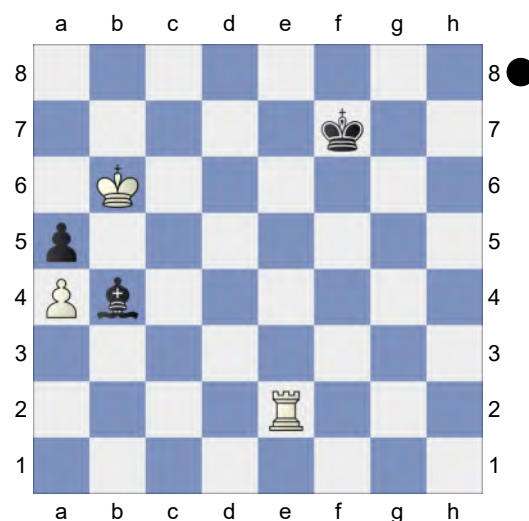
(Diagram)



I had a deep look at this material constellation in Chess Informant 125. Here Black can draw by not allowing his king to be driven further away. The cut off along the e-file is not sufficient to win as White can not simplify to a winning pawn ending with Black's king so close. **66...Bc3?**

[66...Bc1! 67.Kd3 (67.Rc4 Ba3 68.Rh4 Ke6 69.Rh5 Bb4=) 67...Ba3 68.Kc4 Bb4 69.Kd5 Kf7 70.Re2 Bc3

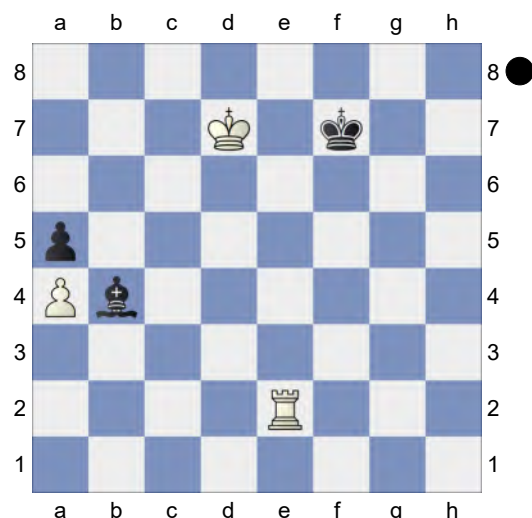
A) The try to go into a pawn ending with 71.Kc6 Bb4 72.Kb6 Diagram



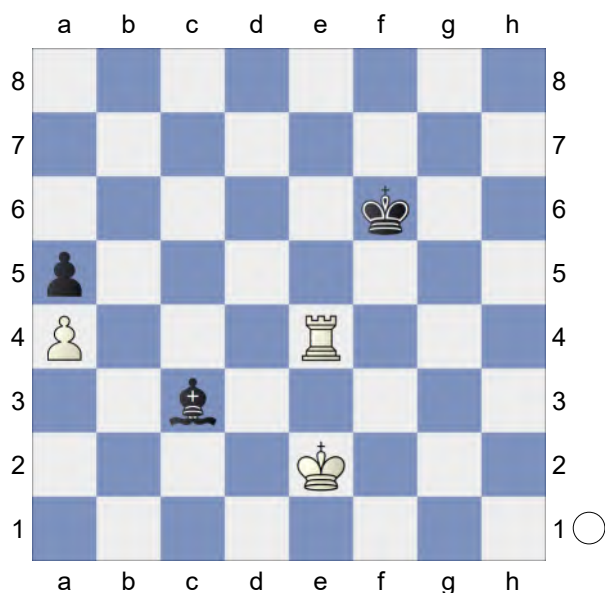
is met by Kf6! 73.Re8 Kf5 (73...Kf7? 74.Re5+-) 74.Ra8 Ke6!

75.Rxa5 Bxa5+ 76.Kxa5 Kd7
77.Kb6 Kc8!=;

B) 71.Kd6 Bb4+ 72.Kd7 **Diagram**



and now Black must play Kf6
73.Re6+ Kf5= as found by B.
Baranov in 1954.]

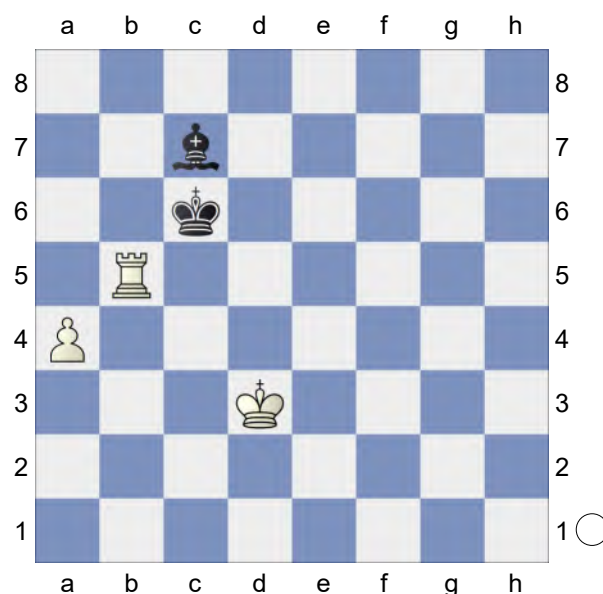


Black had only a narrow path to draw:
67.Rc4! Now the bishop surprisingly is
completely dominated. **67...Be5**

[After 67...Bb4 White has 68.Rxb4!
axb4 69.a5 b3 70.Kd2 when his king
is inside the square of the enemy
pawn and Black's king is not.]

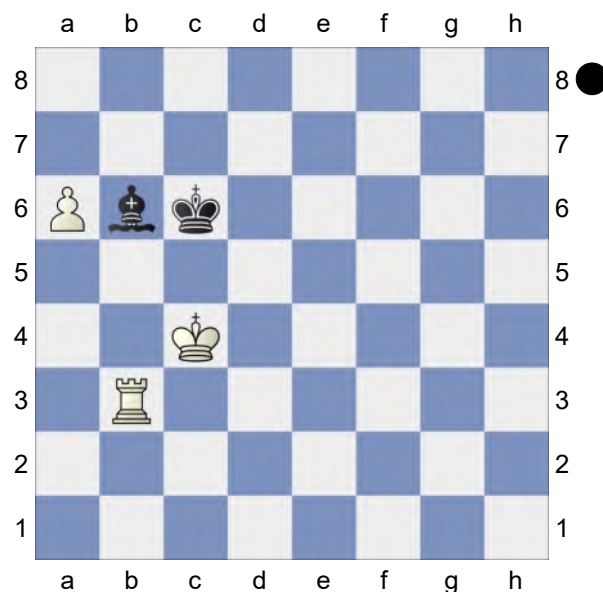
68.Rc5 Ke6 69.Rxa5 Bc7 70.Rb5

Kd6 71.Kd3 Kc6



72.Kc4 Bb6 73.a5 Ba7 74.a6 Bb6
75.Rb3

[75.Rb3 and White wins easily Kc7
(75...Bg1 76.Rb7 Bf2 77.Rf7 Bg1
78.a7+-) 76.Kd5 Bf2 77.Rb7+ Kc8
78.Kc6+-]



1-0

134

□ Wei, Yi

■ Ding, Liren

(r4-m/2) Baku

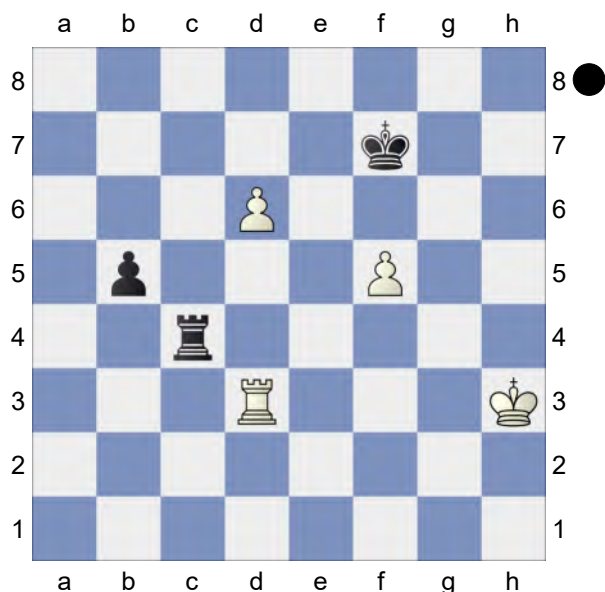
[Mueller, Karsten]

2734

2782

2015

D) Rook endgames These occur very frequently and you should make yourself familiar with them. D1) The Chinese Endgame Rook endings have great drawing tendencies, but pawn races often introduce winning chances: Diagram



61...Rc8? Black's rook is already active. His king should deal with the d-pawn:

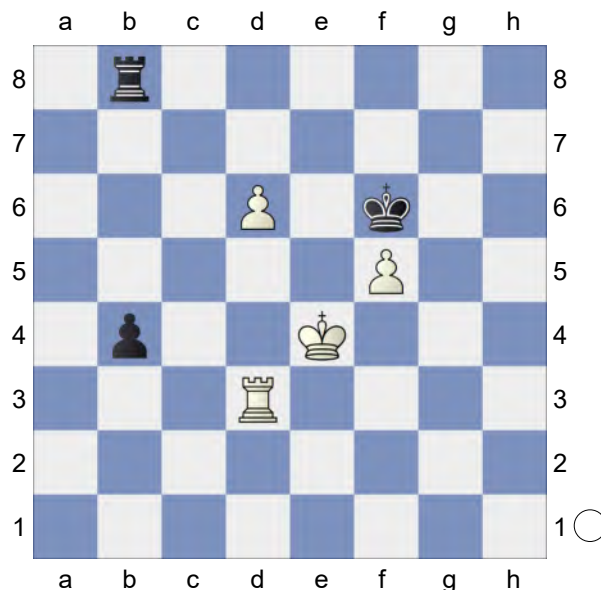
[61...Ke8! 62.Kg3 (62.d7+ Kd8 63.Kg3 Rc7 64.f6 Rxd7=) 62...Kd7 63.f6 b4 64.f7 Rc8 65.Rf3 Rf8 66.Kg4 Kxd6 67.Kg5 Kd5 68.Kf6 Kc4 69.Ke7 Rxf7+ 70.Rxf7 b3=]

62.Kg4 Kf6 63.Kf4 b4

[63...Re8 64.Re3 Rd8 65.Re6+ Kf7 66.Ke5 b4 67.Re7+ Kf8 68.Rb7+-]

64.Ke4 Rb8 Diagram

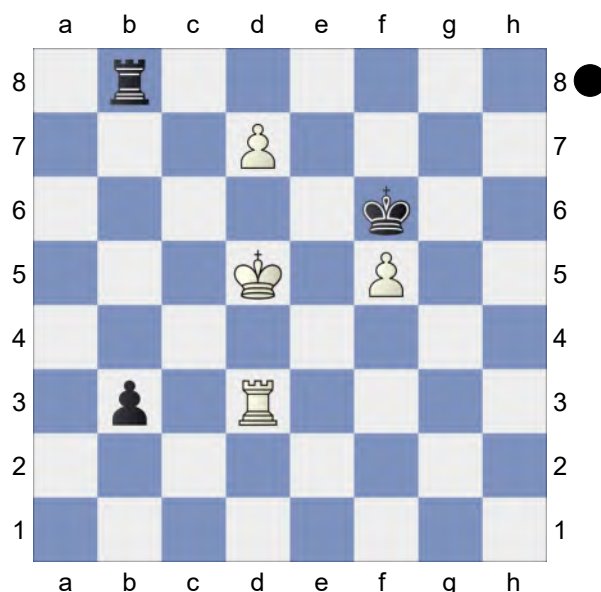
(Diagram)



65.Kd5? The immediate race surprisingly does not win.

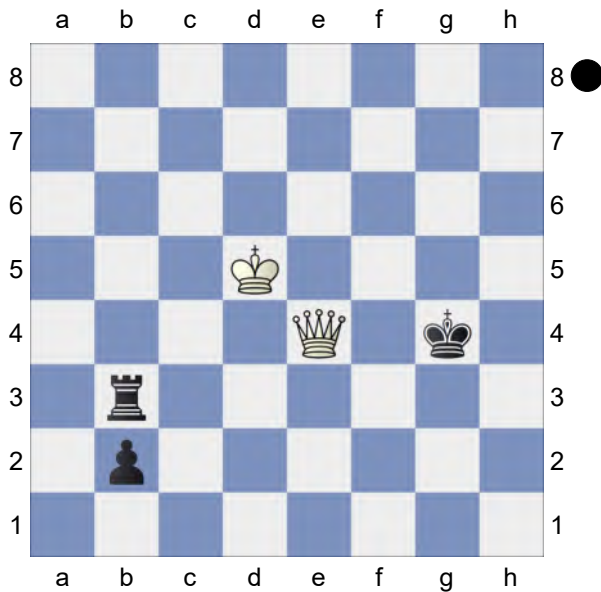
[First, any counterplay must be stopped: 65.Rb3! Re8+ (65...Rd8 66.Kd5 Kxf5 67.Rxb4+-) 66.Kd5 Re1 67.Rxb4 Ra1 68.Kc6 Rc1+ 69.Kd7 Kxf5 70.Ke7 Re1+ 71.Kd8 Ke6 72.d7 Rd1 73.Rb6+ Kf7 74.Rb7 Rc1 75.Rc7+- Kalmes]
[65.d7? Rd8 66.Rd6+ Ke7 67.Ke5 Rxd7=]

65...b3 66.d7

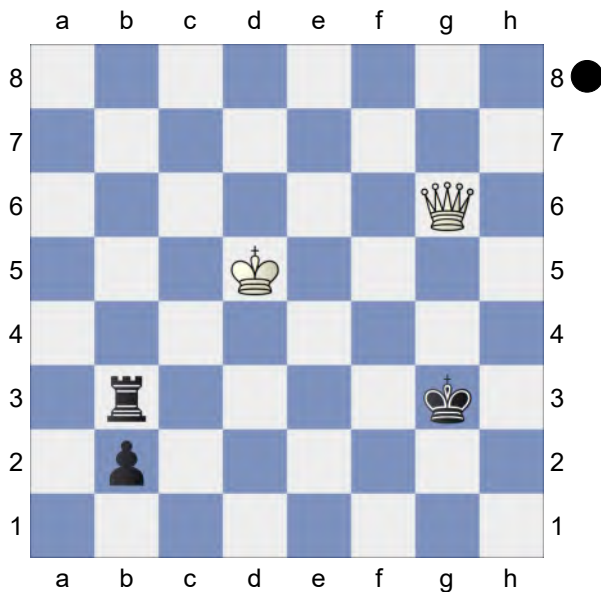


b2 67.Rb3 Rxb3 68.d8Q+ Kxf5

69.Qd7+ Kg5 70.Qe7+ Kg4 71.Qe4+



Kg3 72.Qg6+ Diagram



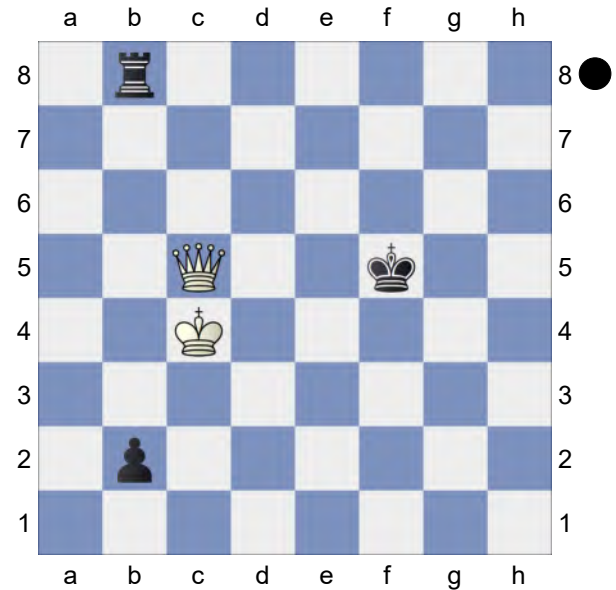
**Now Black must be very careful.
72...Kh4?**

[72...Kf3 73.Qf5+ Kg3 74.Qb1 Kf4!
75.Kc4 Rb8 76.Kc3 Rc8+= **Kalmes**]
[72...Kf4= **draws as well.**]

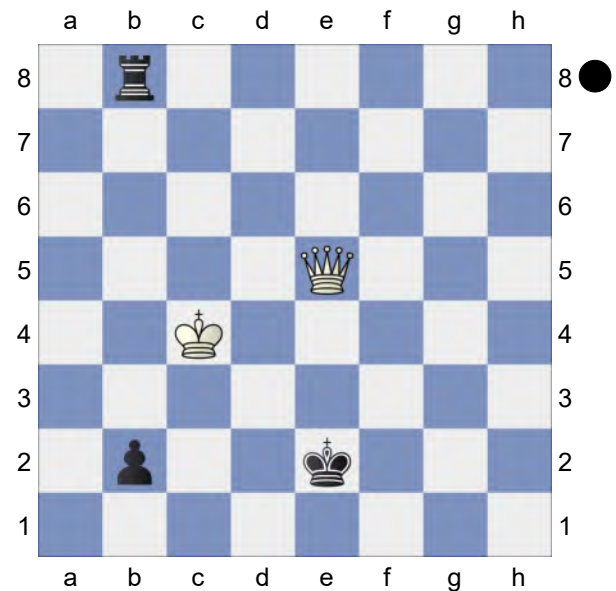
**73.Qb1! Kg5 74.Kc4 Rb8 75.Qg1+
Kf5 76.Qc5+!**

[76.Qf2+? Ke6 77.Qe3+ Kd7
78.Qa7+ Kc8=]

(Diagram)

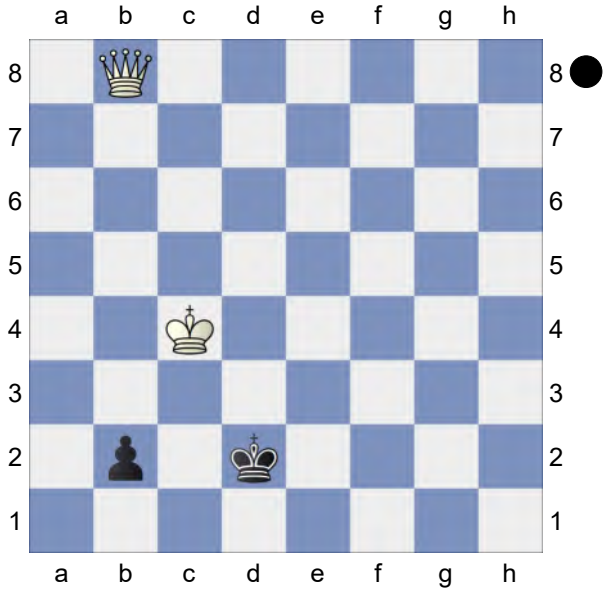


**76...Kg4 77.Qd4+ Kf3 78.Qf6+ Ke4
79.Qe6+ Kf3 80.Qf5+ and Black
resigned as his rook is lost after 80...Ke2
81.Qe5+**



Kd2 82.Qxb8+-

(Diagram)



1-0

114

□ Andreikin, Dmitry

■ Wei, Yi

(Tata Steel A)

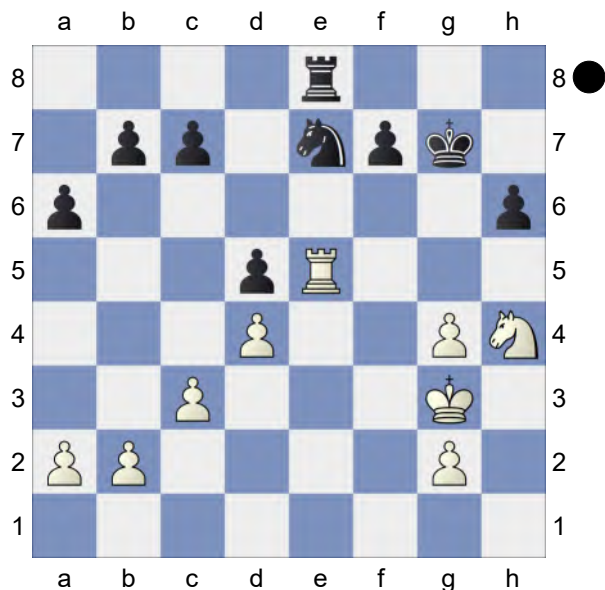
[Mueller, Karsten]

2736

2706

2017

Diagram



Simplification into a pawn endings always must be considered very carefully: **40...f6!?** A good choice as either the pin can be defended by a king move to f7, or a drawn pawn endings results: **41.Rxe7+**

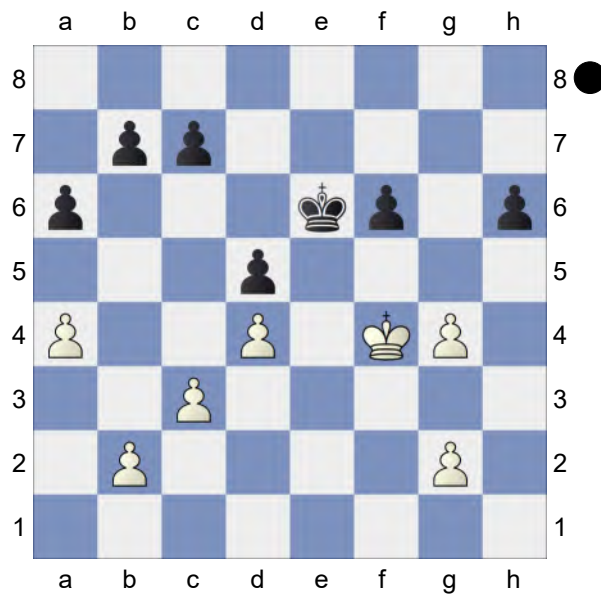
[41.Re1 Kf7=]

41...Rxe7 42.Nf5+ Kf8 43.Nxe7 Kxe7 44.Kf4

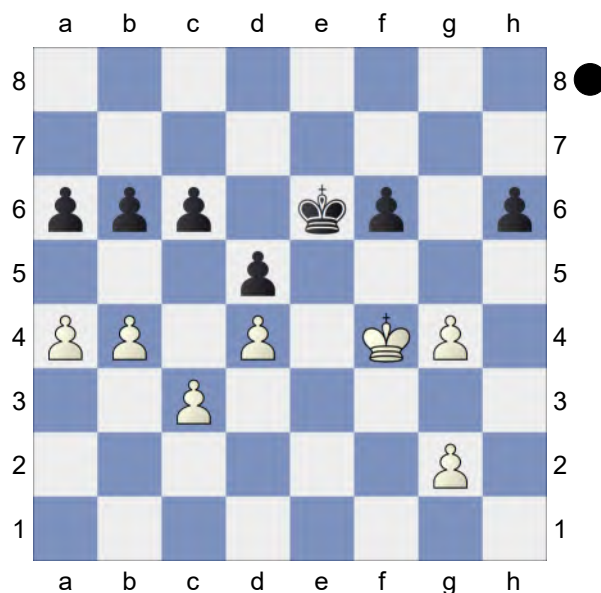
[44.Kh4 Kf7 45.Kh5 Kg7=]

44...Ke6! 45.a4

(Diagram)



b6 46.b3 c6 47.b4 Diagram



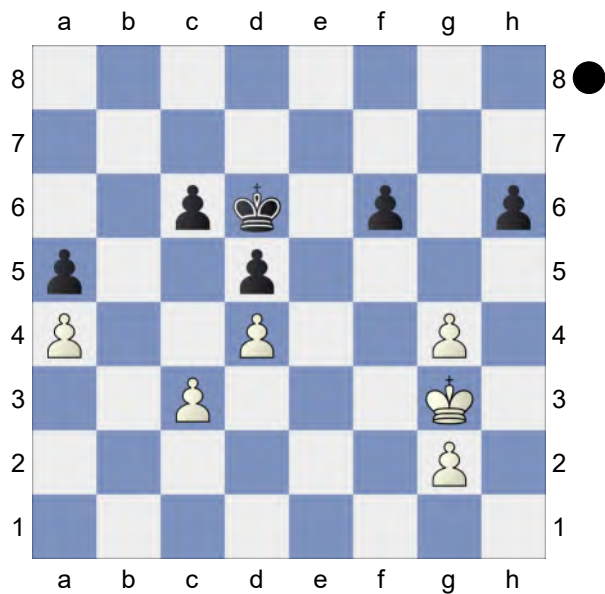
Now Black must win the fight for spare tempi on the queenside: **47...a5!**

[47...b5? 48.a5 Ke7 49.Kf5 Kf7 50.g3+-]

48.Kf3 Kd6 49.bxa5 bxa5 50.Kg3

Diagram

(Diagram)

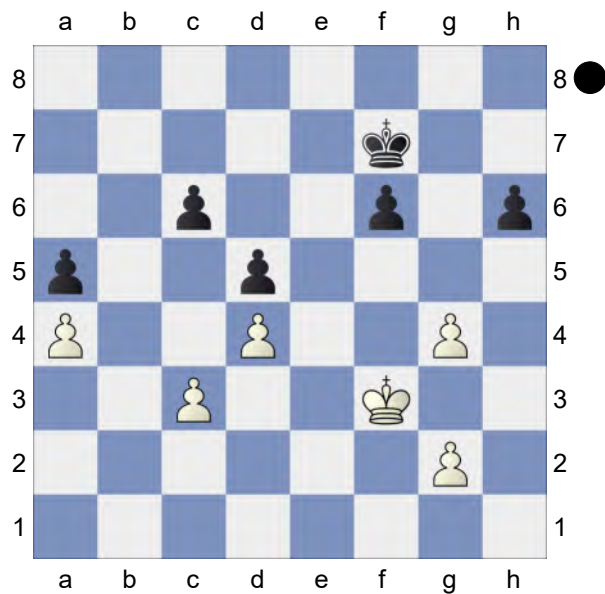


Again Black must act precisely to prevent the invasion of White's king: **50...Ke7!** Black avoids the mined square e6 and prepares to meet Kf4 with Ke6 and Kh4 with Kf7 to keep all inroads closed.

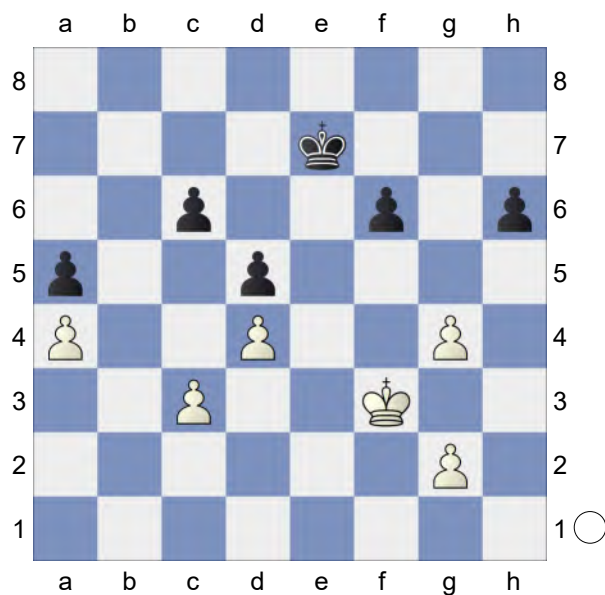
[After 50...Ke6? 51.Kf4 White wins in the long run due to Ke7 52.Kf5 Kf7 53.g3 Kg7 54.Ke6 Kg6 55.Kd6 Kg5 56.Kxc6 Kxg4 57.Kxd5 Kxg3 58.Ke6 h5 59.d5 h4 60.d6 h3 61.d7 h2 62.d8Q h1Q 63.Qd6+ Kg4 64.Qd4+ Kg3 65.Qe3+ Kg4 66.Kxf6 Qh8+ 67.Ke7+-]

51.Kf4 Ke6 52.Kf3 Ke7 53.Kf4 Ke6 54.Ke3 Kf7 55.Kf3

(Diagram)



Ke7



1/2-1/2

110

□ Andreikin, Dmitry

■ Wei, Yi

(Tata Steel A)

[Mueller, Karsten]

B23

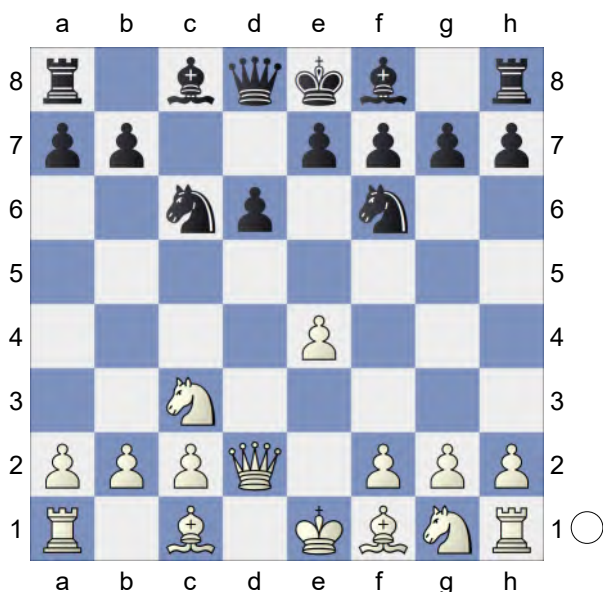
2736

2706

2017

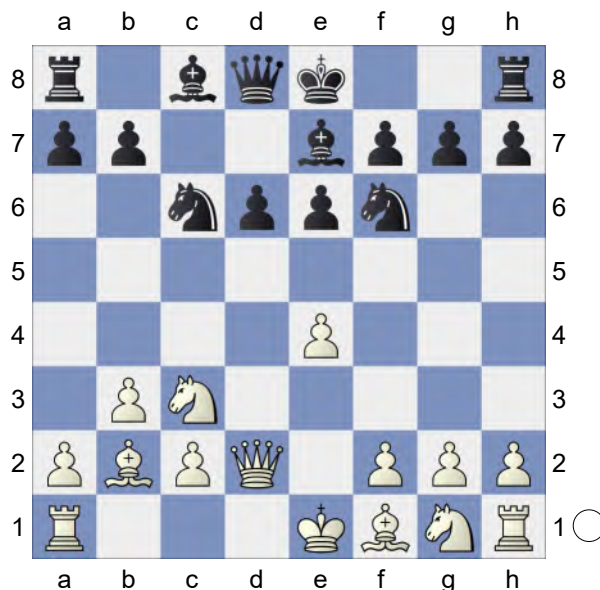
Diagram

Simplification into a pawn endings always must be considered very carefully: **1.e4!?** A good choice as either the pin can be defended by a king move to f7, or a drawn pawn endings results: **1...c5 2.Nc3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 Nc6 5.Qd2! Nf6**



6.b3 e6 7.Bb2 Be7 Diagram

(Diagram)



Now Black must win the fight for spare tempi on the queenside: **8.0-0-0! a6 9.Kb1**

[9.f3]

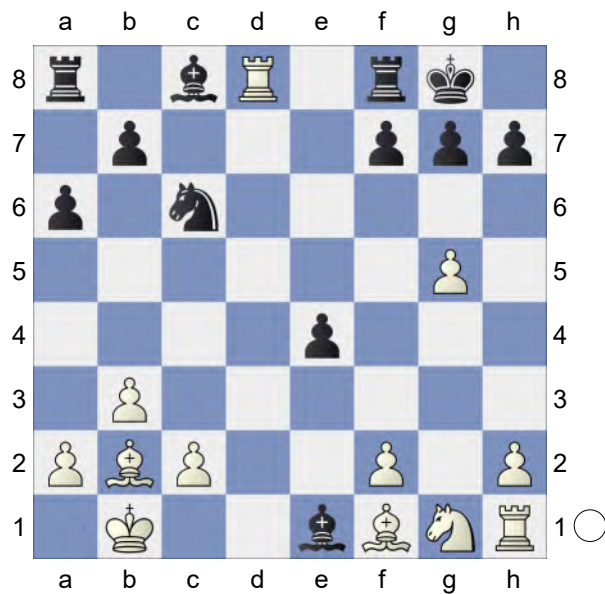
[9.f4 0-0 10.g4 Nxg4 11.Nf3 Nf6 12.Rg1 b5 (12...g6) 13.e5 Ne8 14.exd6 (14.Qg2) 14...Qxd6 15.Bd3 Bf6 (15...Nb4) 16.Ng5 Bxg5 17.Rxg5 Qe7 18.Qg2 f6 19.Rh5 Qc7 20.Bxh7+ Kf7 21.Bg6+ Ke7 22.Qe4 Qb7 23.Nd5+ Kd8 24.Nxf6+]

9...0-0 10.g4 d5 Diagram

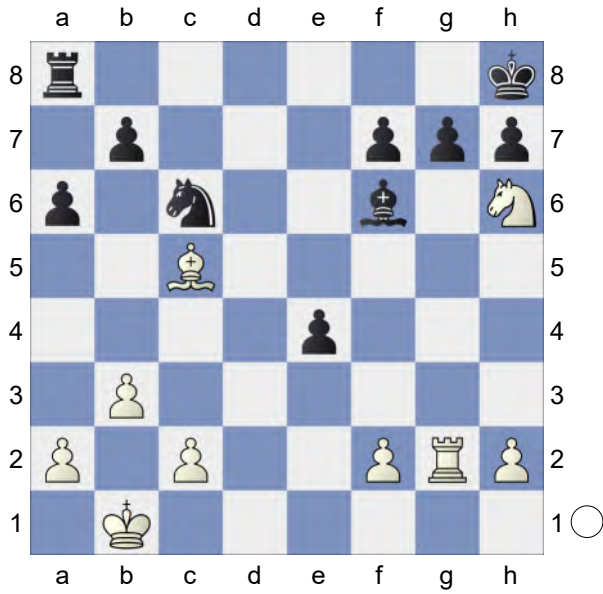
[10...Nxg4 11.f4 Nf6 12.Nf3]

(Diagram)

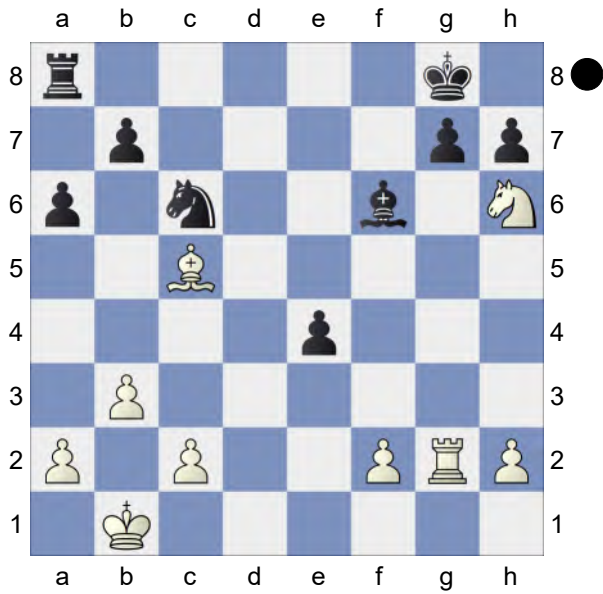
(Diagram)



(Diagram)



26.Nxf7+ Kg8 27.Nh6+ Kh8 28.Nf7+ Kg8 29.Nh6+



1/2-1/2

111

□ Andreikin, Dmitry

■ Wei, Yi

(Tata Steel A)

[Mueller, Karsten]

B77

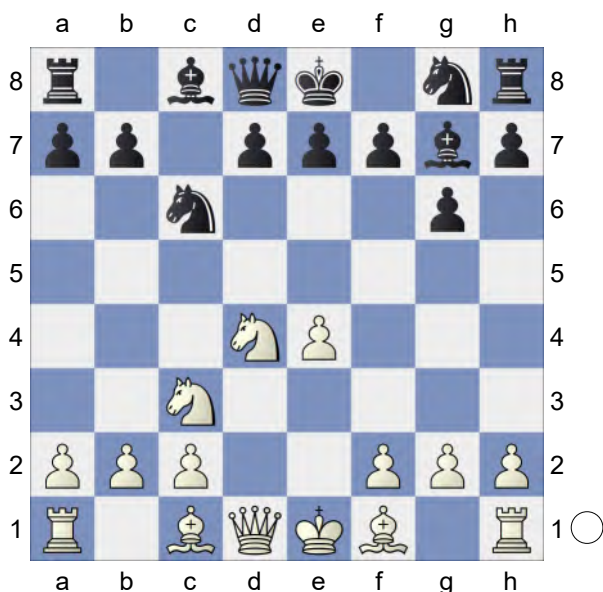
2736

2706

2017

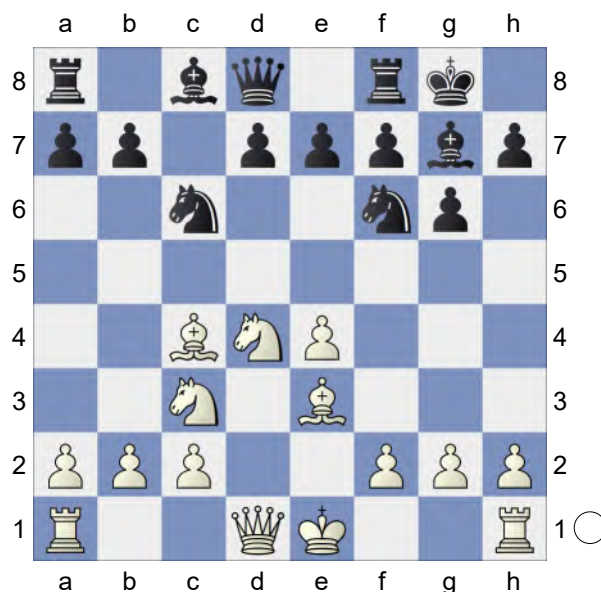
Diagram

Simplification into a pawn endings always must be considered very carefully: **1.e4!?** A good choice as either the pin can be defended by a king move to f7, or a drawn pawn endings results: **1...c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nf3 g6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4! Bg7**

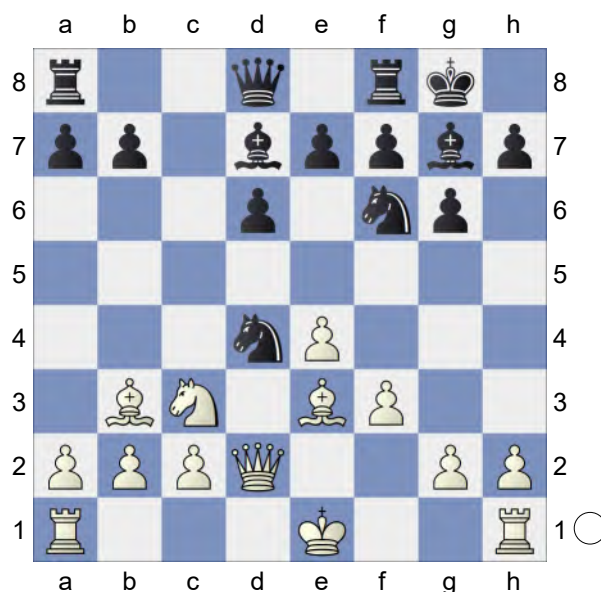


6.Be3 Nf6 7.Bc4 0-0 Diagram

(Diagram)



Now Black must win the fight for spare tempi on the queenside: **8.Bb3! d6 9.f3 Bd7 10.Qd2 Nxd4** Diagram



Again Black must act precisely to prevent the invasion of White's king: **11.Bxd4!** Black avoids the mined square e6 and prepares to meet Kf4 with Ke6 and Kh4 with Kf7 to keep all inroads closed. **11...b5 12.h4**

[12.a4 b4 (12...bxa4) 13.Nd5 Nxd5
A) 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.exd5 Qa5
 16.Qd4+ Kg8 17.h4 Rac8
 (17...e5) 18.h5 Bf5 (18...Qc5

19.0-0-0 Bf5) 19.Qd2 gxh5
20.Rxh5 Bg6 21.Rh4 Qb6 22.Kf1
a5 23.Re1 Rc7 24.Re2 (24.Bc4);
B) 14.exd5 Bxd4 15.Qxd4 Qa5
16.h4 e5 (16...Rac8) 17.dxe6

B1) 17...Rfe8 18.0-0-0 Bxe6
19.Kb1 (19.Qxd6 Rad8 20.Qf4
Bxb3 21.cxb3 Re2) 19...Bxb3
20.cxb3;

B2) 17...Bxe6 18.0-0-0 Bxb3
19.cxb3 Rfe8 (19...Qf5) 20.Kb1
(20.Qxd6 Rad8 21.Qf4 Re2)
20...Re2 21.Qxd6 Qf5+ 22.Ka2

B2a) 22...Qc2 23.Rb1
(23.Qf6 Qc3) 23...Rxc2;

B2b) 22...Rxc2 23.h5 gxh5
(23...Qc2 24.Qf6 Qc3
25.Rd8+) 24.Rd5 (24.Qxb4)
24...Qe6 25.Qxe6 fxe6
26.Rb5 Rf8 27.Rh5 Rxf3
28.Rxb4]

12...a5 13.h5 a4 14.Bxf6

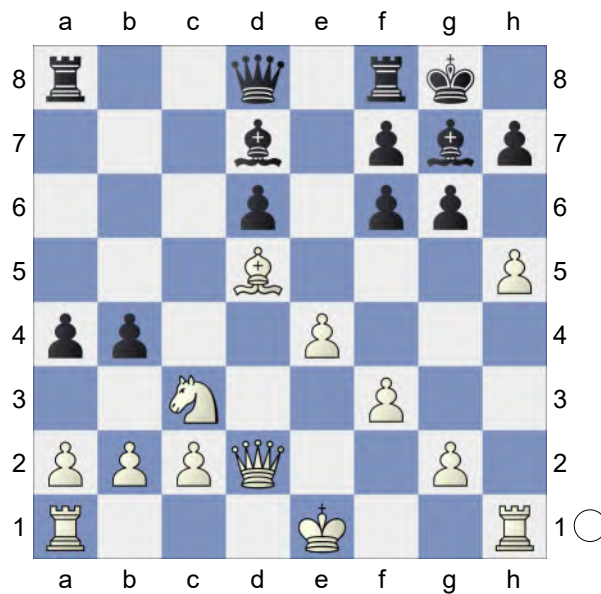
[14.Bd5

A) 14...b4 15.Bxf6 (15.Ne2 e5)
15...exf6 16.Ne2 f5 17.hxg6 hxg6
18.Bxa8 Qxa8 19.Qxd6;

B) 14...e5 15.h6 (15.Be3 b4
16.Ne2 Nxd5) 15...Bxh6 (15...Bh8
16.Bxa8 exd4 17.Nd5 Re8
18.Nxf6+ Qxf6 19.Bd5 d3 20.Rb1
dxc2 21.Qxc2 Qg5 22.Qd2 Qg3+
23.Kf1 Rc8 24.Rc1 Rxc1+
25.Qxc1 Bd4 26.Qd2 Bc5 27.Qe1
Qf4 28.Rh4) 16.Qxh6 exd4 17.e5
Re8 18.0-0-0 Rxe5 19.Rxd4]

14...exf6 15.Bd5 b4

(Diagram)



16.Ne2 After 16...f5?

[16...a3 17.hxg6 (17.h6) 17...hxg6
18.b3 Rc8 19.0-0-0 f5 20.Qxb4 Qf6
21.Nd4 Rc5 22.Qe1 Rfc8 23.c4]
[16...Rc8]

17.hxg6 White wins in the long run due
to **17...hxg6 18.Bxa8**

[18.Qxb4 a3 19.c3 axb2 20.Qxb2
Rc8 21.Qd2 fxe4 22.fxe4 Bc6
23.Rd1 Bxd5 24.Qxd5 Be5 25.Qd2
Re8 26.Qh6 Qb6 27.Qh7+ Kf8
28.Qh6+ Kg8 29.Qh7+ Kf8
30.Qh6+]
[18.exf5]

18...Qxa8 19.Qxd6

[19.Qxb4 fxe4 20.0-0 Qa7+ 21.Rf2
exf3 22.gxf3 Rb8 23.Qxd6 a3
24.Rb1 axb2 25.Kg2 Be6]
[19.0-0

A) 19...a3 20.b3 fxe4 21.Nf4
(21.Qxd6 exf3 22.gxf3 Bc6)
21...Bc6;

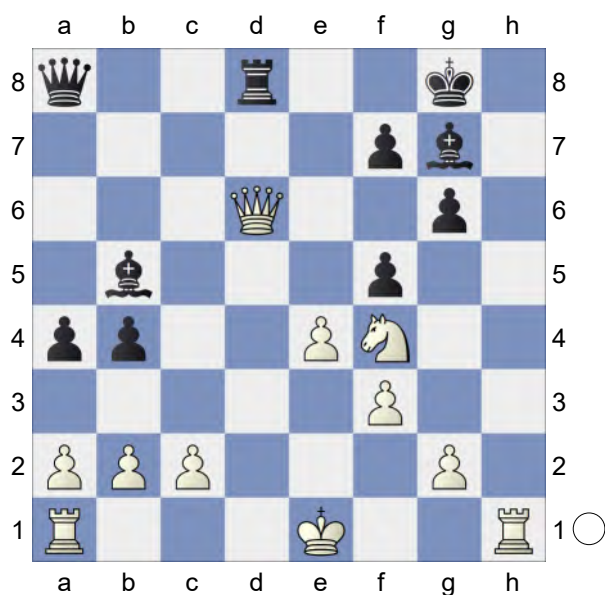
B) 19...b3 20.Qxd6 bxa2 21.Qa3
Rb8 (21...Qa7) 22.Rxd7 (22.Nd4
Be6 23.Nxe6 Bxb2+ 24.Qxb2
Rxb2 25.Kxb2 fxe6 26.exf5 gxf5
27.Kxa2 Qc6) 22...Rxb2
(22...Bxb2+ 23.Qxb2 Rxb2

24.Kxb2) 23.Kd2 (23.Qxb2 a1Q+) 23...Qa5+ (23...Rb1 24.Qxa2) 24.Ke3 (24.Nc3 Qxc3+ 25.Qxc3 Bxc3+ 26.Kxc3 Rb1; 24.Kd3 Qb5+) 24...Qb6+]

19...Bb5 20.Nf4

[20.Nd4 Rd8 (20...a3 21.Nxb5 axb2 22.Rd1 Qa5) 21.Qxb4 Rxd4 22.Qxb5 fxe4 23.0-0 Rd5 24.Qe2 Bd4+ 25.Kh2 Rh5+ 26.Kg3 Qd8]

20...Rd8



21.Qb6

[21.Qe7 fxe4 22.Kf2 Qc8 (22...Qb8) 23.Qg5 Ba6 24.Kg3 Re8 25.Rad1 e3 26.Rhe1 Qc7 27.Kh3 e2 28.Rd2 Bxb2 29.Nd5 Qc8+ 30.g4 Kg7 31.Nf4 Rh8+ 32.Kg2 Bf6 33.Qd5 Rd8 34.g5 Rxd5 35.gxf6+ Kxf6 36.Nxd5+ Kg7 37.Kf2 Qh3 38.Rd4 Qh2+] [21.Qxb4 Qb8 22.Ne2 fxe4 (22...Bf8 23.Qc3 Bg7 24.Qa5 fxe4 25.Rd1 Rxd1+ 26.Kxd1 exf3 27.gxf3 Bc6) 23.c4 (23.fxe4 Bf8 24.Qc3 Bg7 25.Qa5 a3 26.Qxa3 Bxe2 27.Kxe2 Bxb2 28.Qb3 Qe5) 23...Ba6 24.Qxb8 Rxb8 25.Rb1 Bxc4 26.b3 axb3 27.axb3 exf3

(27...e3) 28.gxf3 Rxb3 29.Rxb3 Bxb3]

21...fxe4 22.Qxb5

[22.Nxg6 exf3 (22...a3) 23.Ne7+ Kf8 24.gxf3

A) 24...a3 25.Qxb5 axb2 26.Rb1 Qxf3 27.Ng6+ fxg6 (27...Kg8 28.Ne7+) 28.Qxb4+ Ke8 29.Qb5+;

B) 24...Bxb2 25.Nf5 Bc3+ 26.Kf2 Rd2+ 27.Kg3 (27.Kg1 Qc6) 27...Be5+ 28.Kg4 Rg2+ 29.Kh4 Bf4 30.Qc5+ (30.Qxb5 Bg5+ 31.Kh5 Qxf3#) 30...Kg8 31.Ne7+ Kg7 32.Qd4+ f6 33.Nf5+ (33.Qxf4 Qh8+) 33...Kg6 34.Qxf4 (34.Ne7+ Kg7) 34...Rg5 35.Ne7+ Kg7 (35...Kf7 36.Ng6) 36.Nf5+]

22...exf3 23.0-0

[23.Rd1 Qe4+ 24.Ne2 Rxd1+ 25.Kxd1 fxe2+ 26.Qxe2 Qd4+ 27.Qd2 Qxb2 28.Qd8+ Bf8 29.Qh4 Bg7]

23...Bd4+ 24.Kh2

[24.Kh1 fxg2+ 25.Nxg2 Rd5] [24.Rf2 Qe4 (24...a3) 25.Nh3 (25.Qg5 Bxf2+ 26.Kxf2 Rd2+ 27.Kg3 fxg2) 25...a3 26.Qd3 axb2 27.Rb1 Qa8]

24...fxg2 25.Nxg2

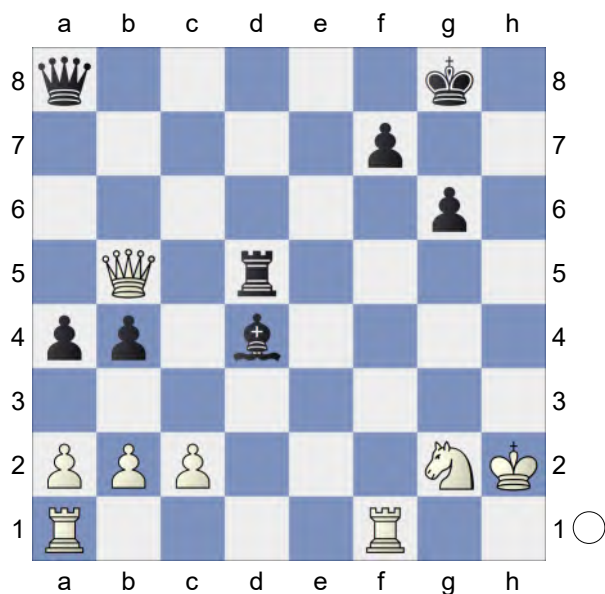
[25.Rfe1 Qf3 (25...a3)

A) 26.Qg5 Kg7 27.Nh3 (27.Qxd8 Qxf4+ 28.Kxg2 Qf2+) 27...Rh8

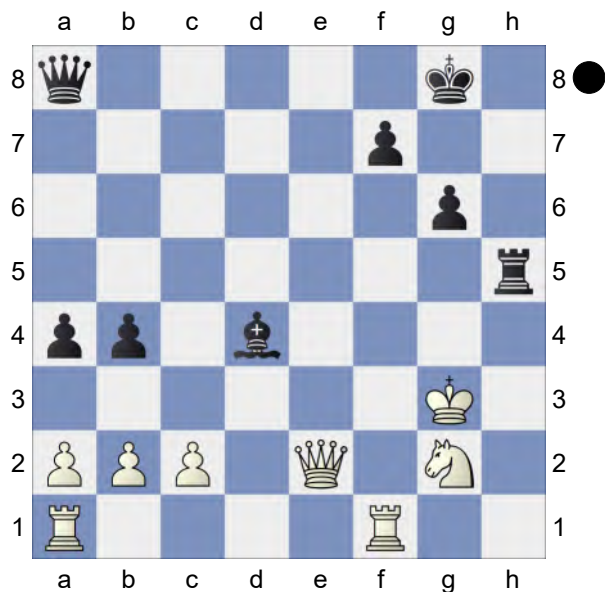
A1) 28.Qg3 Qf5 29.Kxg2 (29.Qxg2 Be5+ 30.Kg1 Bxb2) 29...Qxc2+ 30.Kh1 Rh5;

A2) 28.Qxg2 Qf4+ 29.Qg3 (29.Kh1 Qf5) 29...Qd2+ 30.Kh1 Qxc2;

B) 26.Re8+ Kh7 (26...Kg7 27.Nh5+; 26...Rxe8 27.Qxe8+ Kg7 28.Ne6+ fxe6 29.Qd7+) 27.Rxd8 Qxf4+ 28.Kxg2 Qf2+]

25...Rd5**26.Qe2 Rh5+ 27.Kg3 Rg5+**

[27...Be5+

A) 28.Nf4 Rg5+= 29.Kh2 (29.Kf2 Bxf4) 29...Kg7=;**B) 28.Kf2** Qa7+ 29.Ke1 (29.Kf3 Rh3+) 29...Bxb2 30.Rb1 Re5;**C) 28.Rf4** a3 29.bxa3 (29.Rd1 axb2) 29...Rg5+ (29...Bxa1+- 30.Qe7? Qxa3+ 31.Ne3 Qxa2 32.Nc4 f5+-) 30.Kh2 Bxa1]**28.Kh2 Rh5+ 29.Kg3**

1/2-1/2

92

□ Wei,Yi

■ Warmerdam,Max

86th Tata Steel Masters (11) 26.01.2024

[Naruemon]

C27

2740

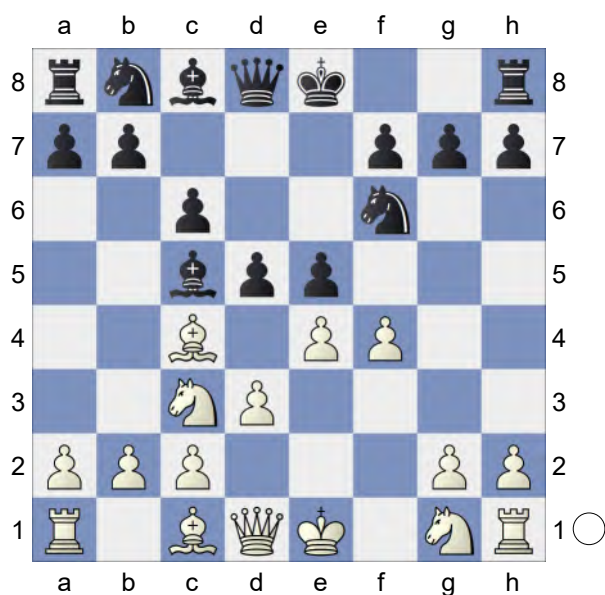
2625

C27: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nxe4

1.e4 6 e5 4 2.Bc4 12 Nf6 8 3.d3 9

Bc5 26 4.Nc3 2:41 c6 42 5.f4 1:24 d5

14:07



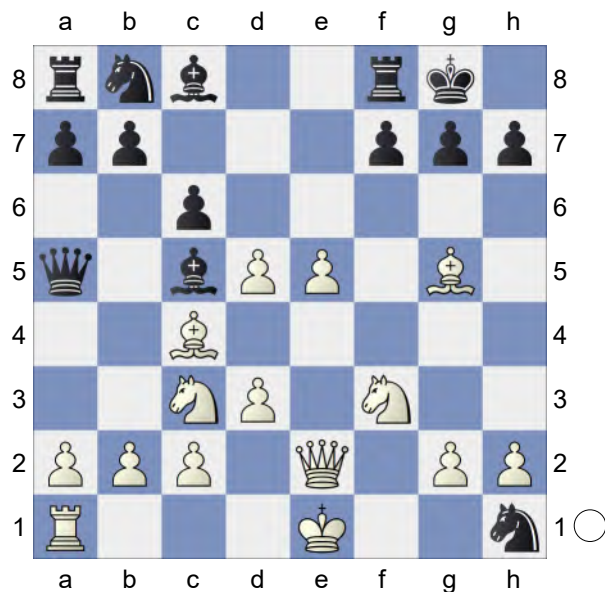
6.exd5 4:07 Ng4 3:23

[6...0-0!? 7.fxe5 cxd5±]

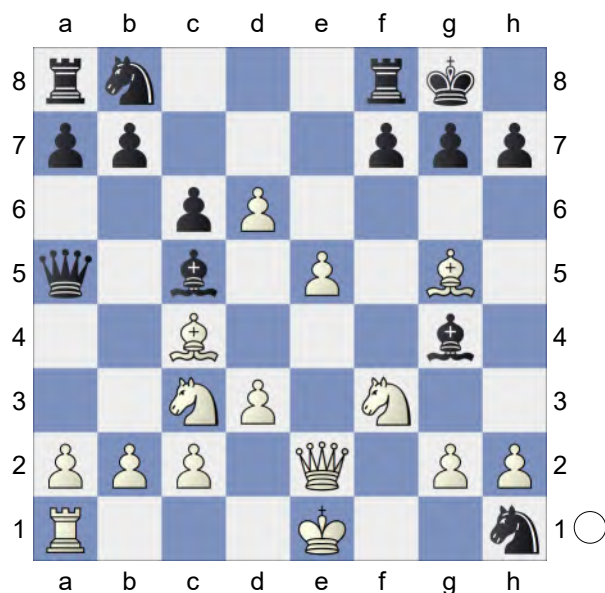
7.Nf3 49:36 0-0 26:01 Threatens to win with ...Ng4-f2. 8.fxe5 6:08 Hoping for d3-d4. Black has an edge. The position is equal. 8...Nf2 3:57 9.Qe2 3 Nxh1 1:40

10.Bg5 7:41 Qa5 2:57

(Diagram)



11.d6 2:01 Bg4 9:52



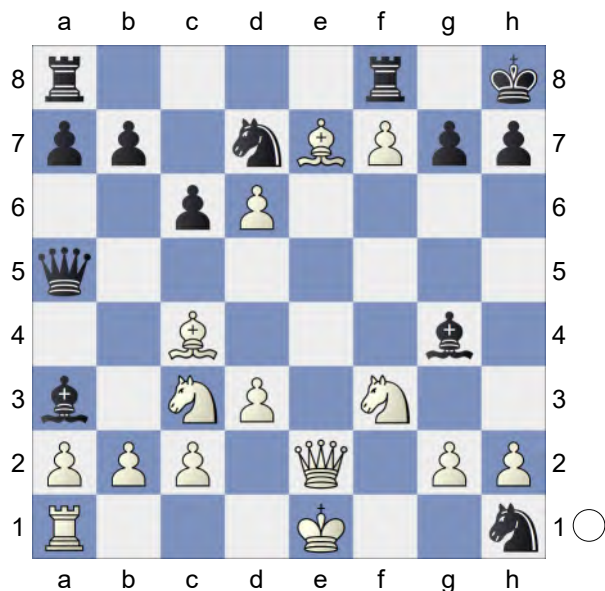
Strongly threatening ...Bd4. 12.Be7 7:11 Nd7N 10:33 ...Bg4xf3 is the strong threat. ...Bxf3 is the strong threat.

[12...Ba3 13.Bxf8 Bxb2 14.e6 Bxc3+ 15.Kf1 Bxe6 16.Bxe6 Bxa1 17.Bxf7+ Kxf7 18.Qe7+ Kg8 19.Bxg7 Bxg7 20.Qe6+ Kf8 21.Qe7+ ½-½ (21) Jensen,C (2398)-Panitevsky,I (2361) ICCF 2015]

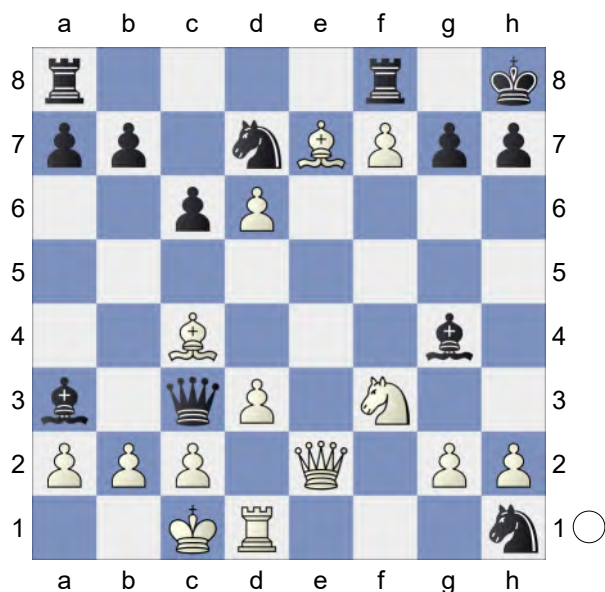
13.e6 1:27 Ba3 14:30 '!' 14.exf7+ 9:15 Kh8! 1:11

[Much less strong is 14...Rxf7

15.Bxf7+ Kxf7 16.Ng5+ '+-' Qxg5
17.Bxg5±]

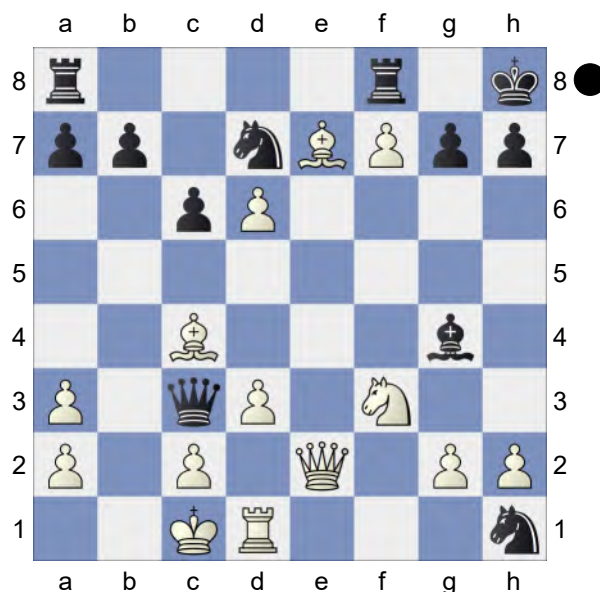


15.0-0-0 5:41 Black must now prevent Nc3-e4. '↑' White has good play. Dancing on a razor blade. **15...Qxc3** 1:26



16.bxa3 4

[16.Rxh1? Qxb2+ 17.Kd2 Bb4+ 18.Ke3 Bxd6 19.Bxf8 (19.Bxd6? Rfe8+ 20.fxe8Q+ Rxe8+ 21.Kf2 Rxe2+ 22.Kxe2 Qxc2+ 23.Kf1 b5-+) 19...Rxf8-+]



Active counter play! Black must now prevent Kb1. Active counter play!

16...Bxf3 0.34/25 1:17

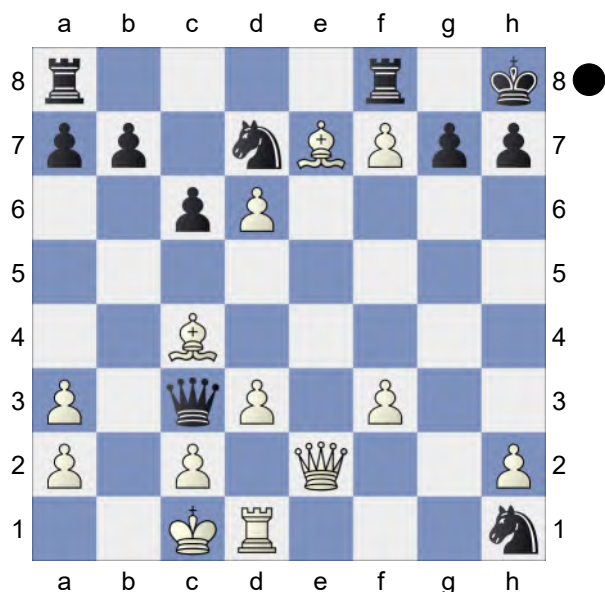
[16...b5!= -0.06/23 17.Bb3 a5]

[16...a5=]

17.gxf3± 1:10 And now Kc1-b1 would win. Really sharp! '±'

[17.Qxf3?! Ne5 18.Qf5 Nxc4 (18...Qa1+ 19.Kd2±) 19.dxc4 (19.Rxh1? Qa1#) 19...Qe3+ 20.Rd2 Qe1+ (20...Qxa3+? 21.Kd1+-) 21.Rd1 Qe3+ 22.Rd2 Qe1+ 23.Rd1 Qe3+=]

(Diagram)

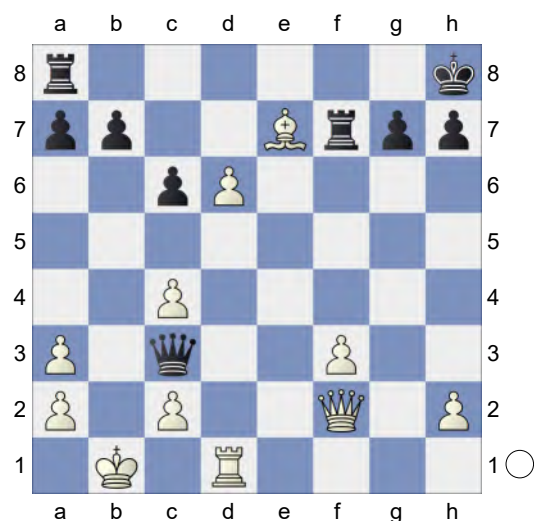


And now Kb1 would win. 17...Ne5?
3.22/24 9:51 A mistake that costs the
game. This move loses the game for
Black. 18.Kb1+- 14

[Worse is 18.Rxh1 Nxc4
(18...Qxa3+ 19.Kb1=) 19.dxc4 Qa1+
(19...Qxa3+ 20.Kb1=; 19...Rxf7
20.Re1=) 20.Kd2 Qxh1=]
[18.Bxf8 Rxf8 (18...Qxa3+?
19.Kb1+-) 19.Kb1]

18...Qd4 6:03

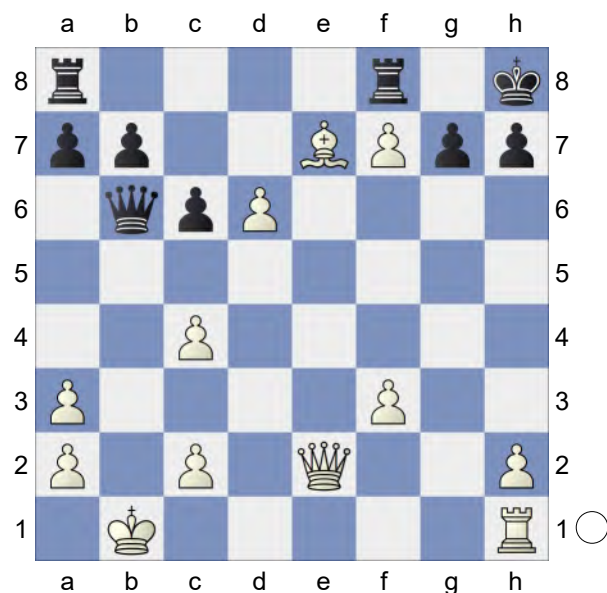
[Don't play 18...Nxc4? 19.dxc4 '+-'
Nf2 20.Qxf2 Rxf7]



21.d7!+-]

19.Rxh1 3:49 White is clearly winning.

[19.Bxf8 Rxf8 20.f4 (20.Rxh1 Qxd6
21.Bb3 Nxf7±) 20...Qxf4+-]
19...Nxc4 39 20.dxc4 3 Qb6+ 10



21.Kc1 5 Rxf7 5.25/24 3

[21...Qd4 3.23/25 might work better.
22.Bxf8 Rxf8]

22.Rd1 31 White is clearly winning.
Threatens to win with d7. 22...Rff8 1:58
23.d7 1:08 Rg8 6 24.Qe5 7
Against Qb6-c7 Wards off Qa5. Black is
weak on the dark squares

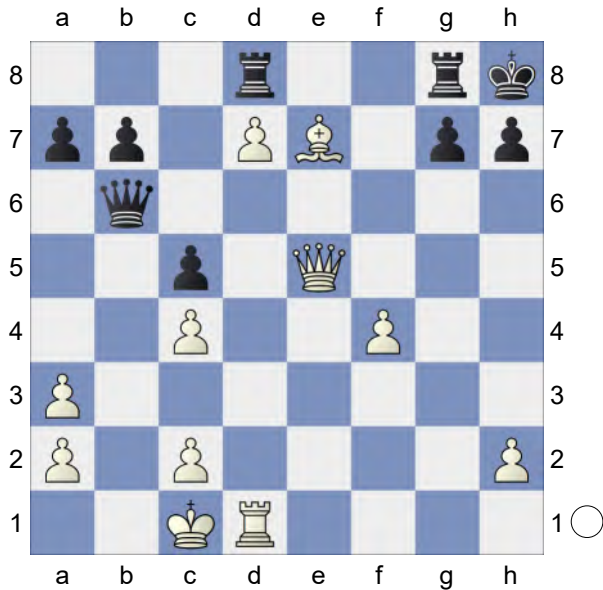
[Weaker is 24.d8R Rgxd8 25.Rxd8+
Rxd8 26.Bxd8 Qxd8±]

24...Rad8 7.78/25 22

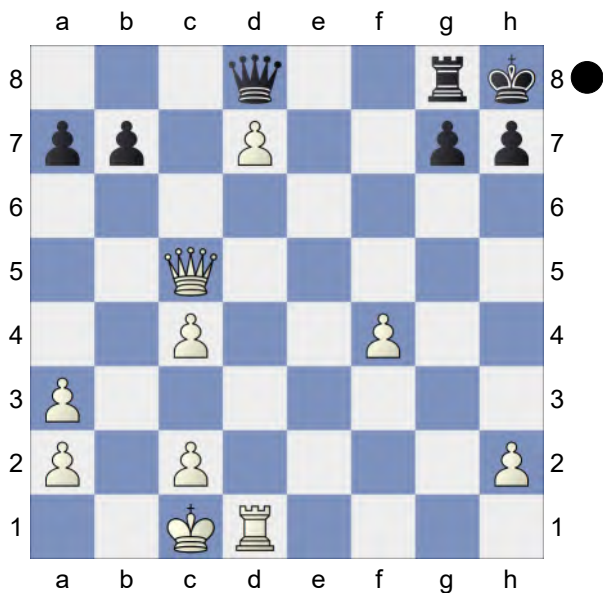
[Δ24...Qf2 4.63/24 25.d8Q Raxd8]

25.f4 1:34 f5! would now be deadly.
25...c5 25

(Diagram)



26.Bxd8 5 Qxd8 4 27.Qxc5 5



Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.49
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.21 (precise) /Black=0.54.
 Loses game: --- Black=1 Mistake: ---
 Black=1 Inaccurate: --- Black=2
 OK: White=9 Black=7 Best:
 White=5 --- Strong: --- Black=2

1-0

88

□ Wei,Yi

■ Ding,Liren

86th Tata Steel Masters 2024 (7.2)

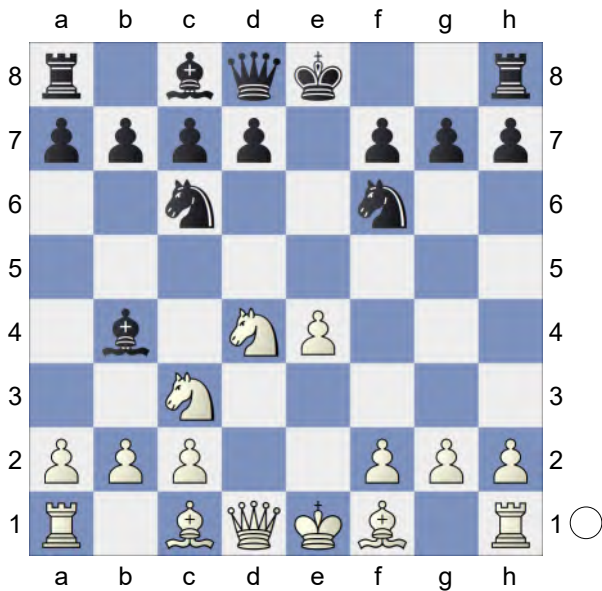
[Naruemon]

C47

2740

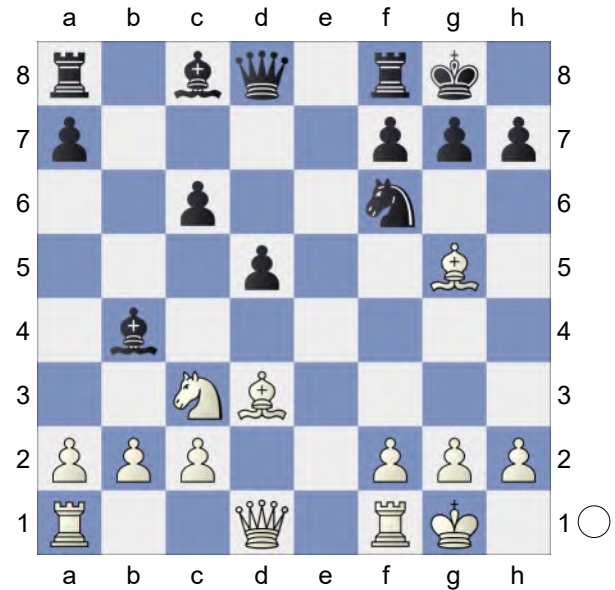
2780

C47: Scotch Four Knights and Four Knights with 4 g3 1.e4 6 e5 6 2.Nf3 13 Nc6 5 3.Nc3 19 Nf6 6 4.d4 8 exd4 5 5.Nxd4 4 Bb4 5

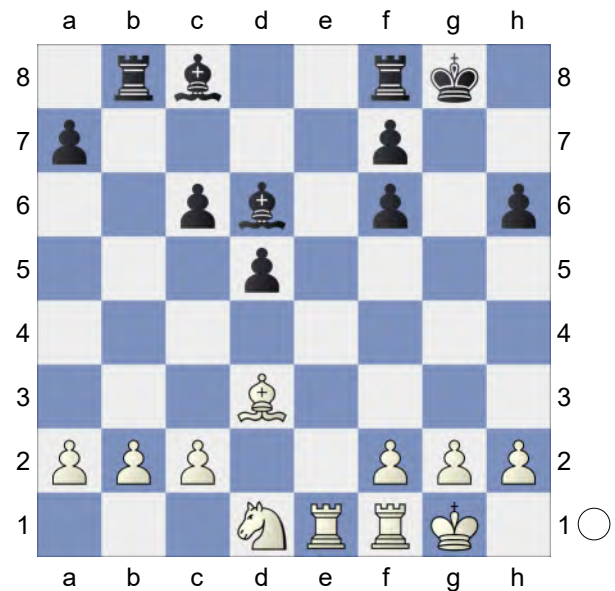


6.Nxc6 9 bxc6 4 7.Bd3 9 d5 12 8.exd5 29 0-0 5 9.0-0 4 cxd5 5 10.Bg5 42 c6 10

(Diagram)

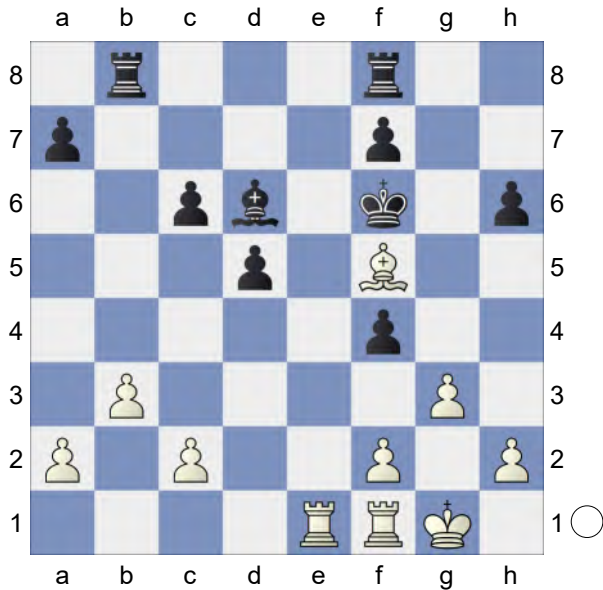


11.Qf3 53 Bd6 33 11...h6 is setting a new trend. 12.Rae1 2:04 Rb8 32 13.Nd1 38 h6 7 C47: Scotch Four Knights and Four Knights with 4 g3. 14.Bxf6 10 Qxf6 3 15.Qxf6 7 gxf6 2



The position is equal. 16.b3 9 f5N 11 [16...Be6 17.Ne3 Rfe8 18.Nf5 Bf8 Chess Informant ECO Survey 2006] 17.Ne3 28 f4 5 18.Nf5 4 Bxf5 4 19.Bxf5 5 Kg7 10 20.g3 31 Kf6 12

(Diagram)

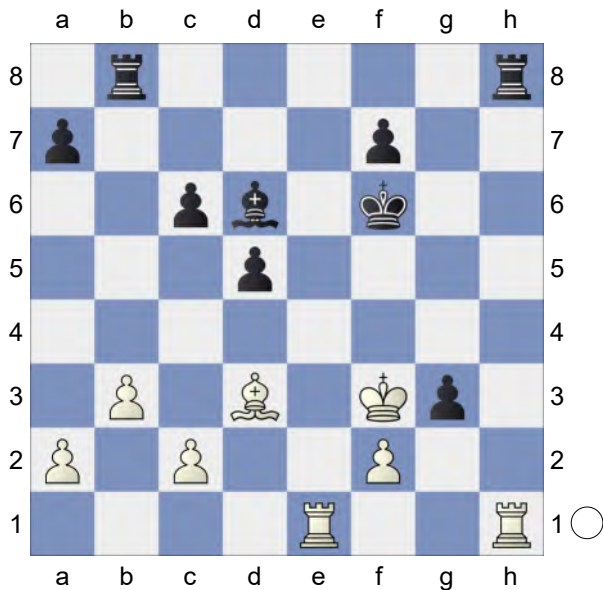


21.Bd3 11 h5 13 22.Kg2 18 Rh8! 3
23.Kf3 33 fxc3 14 24.hxc3 -0.01/21
1:12

[24.fxc3!? Rbe8 25.Rxe8 Rxe8
 26.Kg2+ Kg7 27.Ba6=]

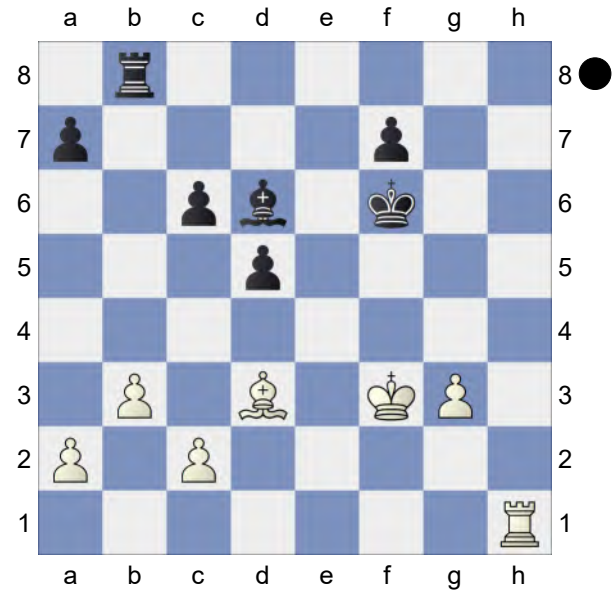
[♠24.fxc3 0.30/25 Kg7 25.Kg2]

24...h4= 8 The position is equal. 25.Rh1
6 hxc3! 10



26.fxc3 13 Rxh1 1:00 27.Rxh1 4

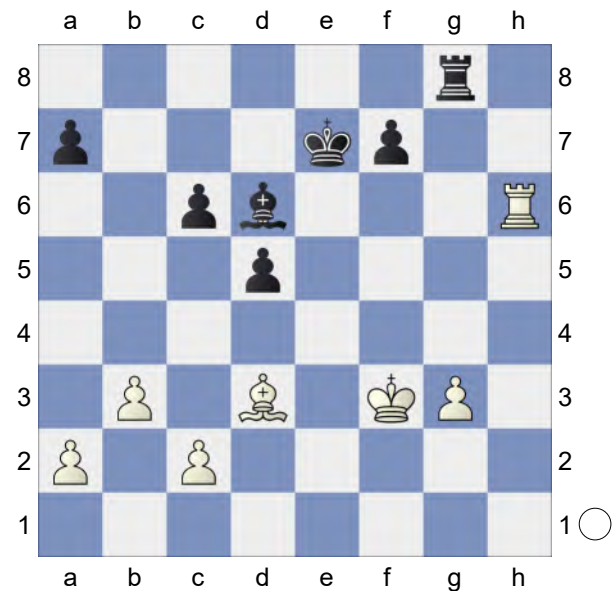
(Diagram)



KRB-KRB 27...Rg8N 4

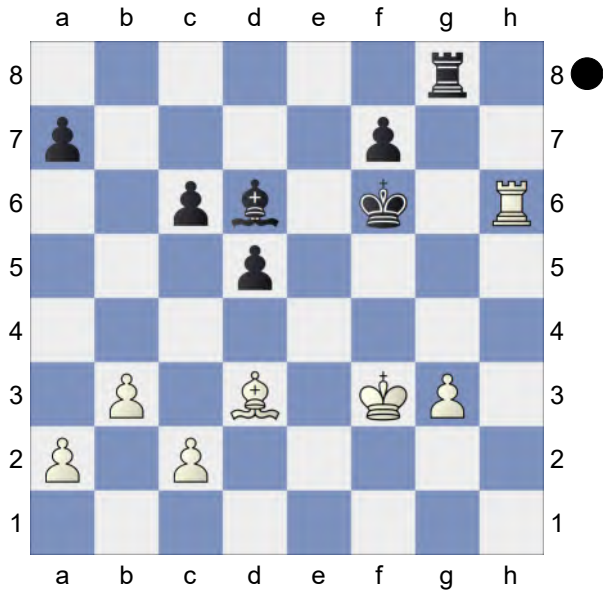
[Predecessor: 27...Re8 28.Rh6+ Ke7
 29.Bf5 a5 30.a4 Rb8]

28.Rh6+ 12 Ke7 3 29.Rh3 7 Kf6 6
30.Rh6+ 5 Ke7 3



31.Rh3 6 Kf6 5 32.Rh6+ 5

(Diagram)



An interesting draw. Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.07 (flawless). Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.05 (flawless)

$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

343 **D00**
 □ **Van Foreest,Jorden** **2682**
 ■ **Wei,Yi** **2740**
 86th Tata Steel Masters (10) 24.01.2024
 [Naruemon]

D00: 1 d4 d5: Unusual lines 1.d4 8 Nf6
18 2.Bg5 5 d5 1:09 3.e3 44 c5 1:30
4.Bxf6 1:19 gxf6 47 5.dxc5 16 Nc6N
3:49

[5...e6

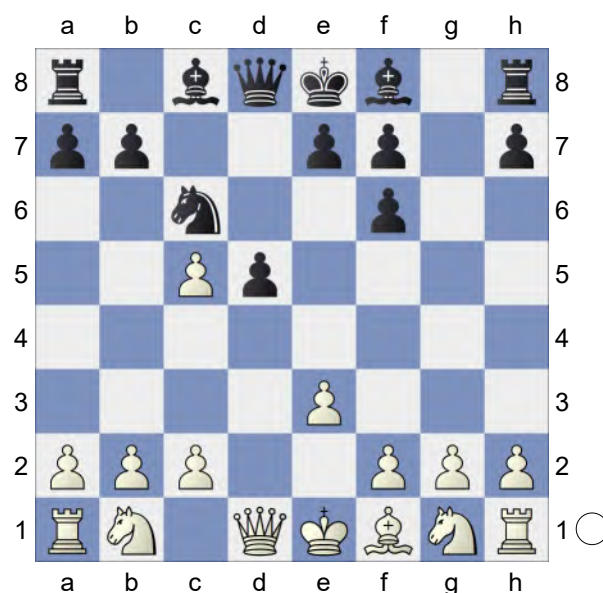
A) 6.Nc3 Bxc5 7.Qg4 Nc6
 8.0-0-0 Bd7 9.Qg7 Ke7 10.Nge2
 Qg8 11.Qh6 Qg5 12.Qh3 h5
 13.Nf4 Qg4 14.Qg3 Ne5 15.Be2
 Qf5 16.Qh4 Ng6 17.Nxg6+ fxc6
 18.Bd3 Qg4 19.Qxg4 hxc4
 20.Bxg6 f5 ½-½ Lputian,S (2585)-
 Petrosian,A (2460) Shenzhen 1992
 (9);

B) 6.c4 dxc4 7.Qxd8+ Kxd8
 8.Bxc4 Bxc5 9.Nc3 Ke7 10.Rc1
 Bd7 11.Bb5 Rc8 (11...Bb4
 12.Bxd7 Nxd7 13.a3 Bxc3+
 14.Rxc3 Rac8 15.Ne2 Nc5 16.0-0
 Na4 17.Rb3 b6 18.Rb4 Nc5
 19.Rd1 Rhd8 20.Rxd8 Rxd8
 21.Rd4 Rxd4 22.Nxd4 a5 23.Kf1
 Kd6 24.Ke2 Kd5 25.Nf3 e5
 26.Nd2 0-1 Segal,A-Ivkov,B (2515)
 Sao Paulo International 1978 (11))
 12.Bxd7 Nxd7 13.Nge2 Ne5
 14.0-0 a6 15.Na4 Bd6 16.Rxc8
 Rxc8 17.Rc1 Rd8 18.Nd4 Nd3
 19.Rc3 Nb4 20.a3 Nd5
 0-1 Lombardy,W-Ivkov,B IBM
 Amsterdam 1974 (11);

C) 6.c3 Bxc5 7.Nd2 Nc6 8.Ngf3
 f5 9.Nb3 Bb6 10.Qd2 Qe7 11.a4
 a6 12.g3 Bd7 13.Nfd4 Ne5
 14.Be2 Nc4 15.Qc2 Rc8 16.Nd2
 Nxd2 17.Qxd2 0-0 18.0-0 Kh8

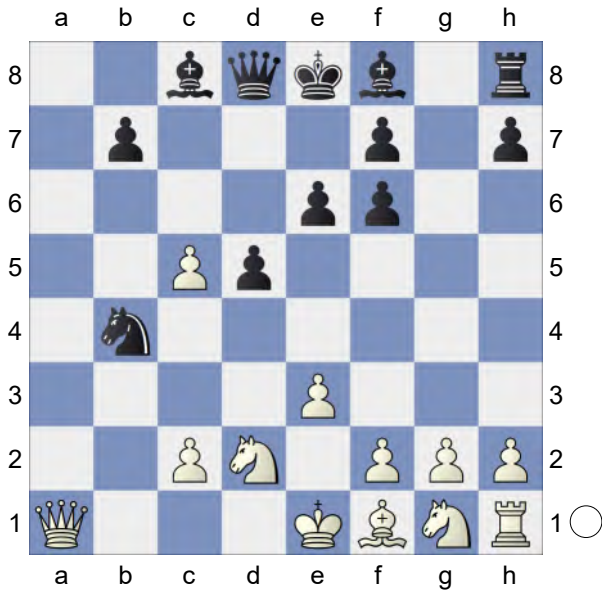
19.Rfd1 Rcd8 20.Qc2
 ½-½ Spacek,P-MacPhail,J World
 U20-ch12 Final B Teeside 1973
 (6)]

[5...Qa5+ 6.Nc3 e6 7.Bd3 Nc6
 8.Nge2 Bd7 9.0-0 Qxc5 10.e4 dxe4
 11.Nxe4 Qe7 12.f4 f5 13.Ng5 0-0-0
 14.c3 e5 15.Qb3 exf4 16.Nxf7 Be6
 17.Bc4 Qc5+ 0-1 Mortazavi,A (2350)-
 Martin,B (2400) London3 1994 (8)]

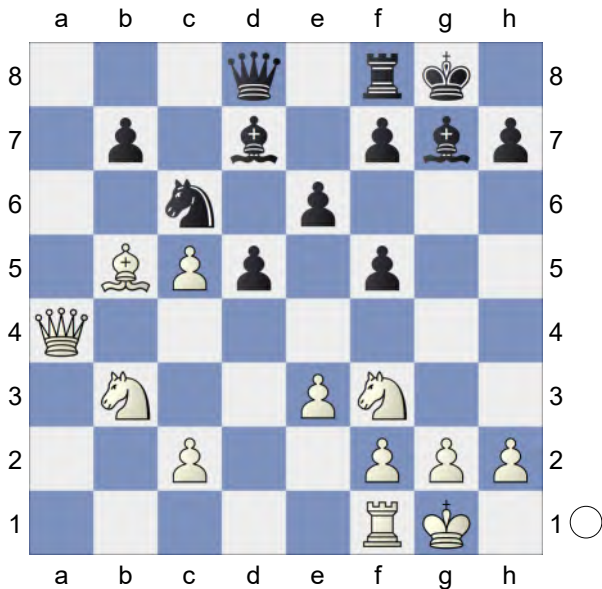


Die Stellung ist ausgeglichen. **6.a3 1:47**
e6 2:58 7.b4 22 a5 6 8.Nd2 21
 Black has an edge. **8...axb4 12:21**
9.axb4 11 Rxa1 5 10.Qxa1 8 Nxb4 21

(Diagram)

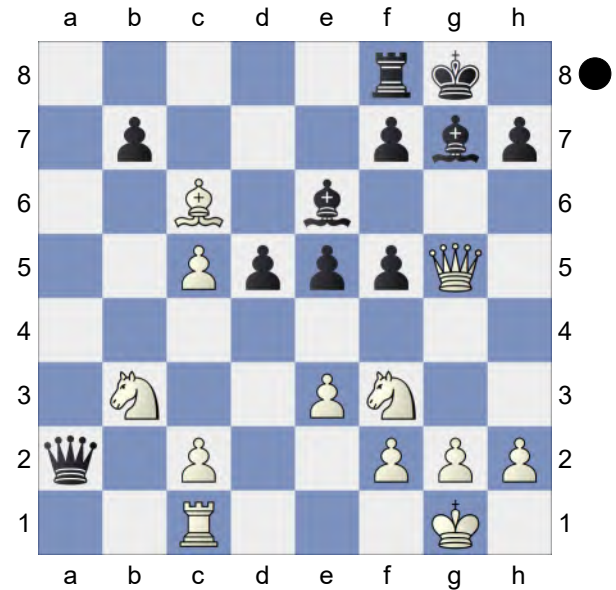


11.Qa4+ 38 Nc6 6 12.Bb5 22 Bd7 1:53
13.Nb3 10 Gegen Qa5+ gerichtet.
13...Bg7 1:14 14.Nf3 13 0-0 14 15.0-0
9 f5 10:34

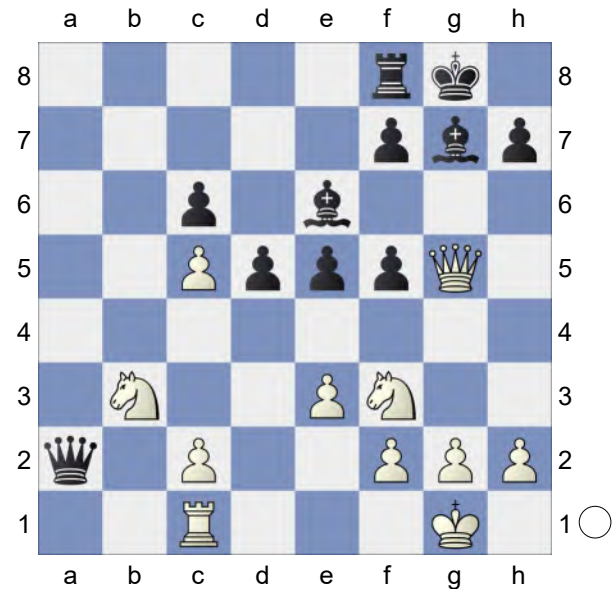


16.Rb1 7 Qa8 9:20 17.Qf4 12:09 Qa2
3:53 18.Rc1 1:57 e5 21 19.Qg5 3:35
Be6 22:18 20.Bxc6 5:04

(Diagram)

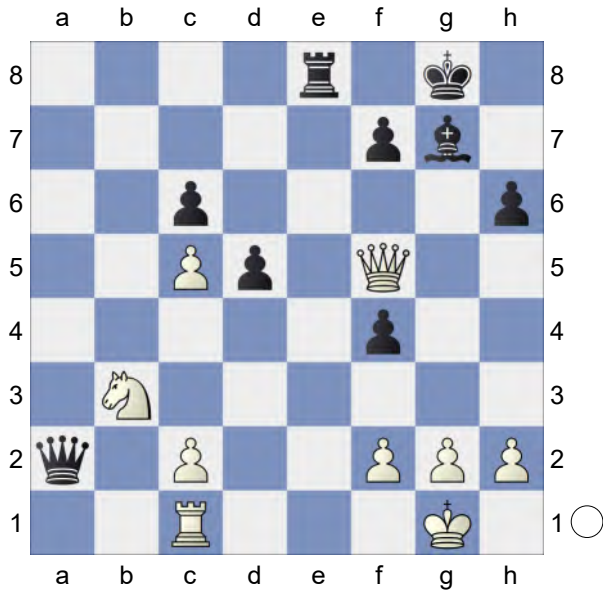


Remove Defender 20...bxc6 5
[Much worse is Bitte nicht 20...f6
21.Qh5 bxc6 22.Nh4= '±']



21.Nh4! 1:01
[21.Nxe5? loses. verliert. f6 '-+'
22.Qh5 fxe5-+]
21...h6 19 22.Qh5 1:05 f4 1:33 23.exf4
27 exf4 1:25 24.Nf5 8:17 Die Stellung
ist ausgeglichen. 24...Bxf5 24 25.Qxf5
5 Re8 10

(Diagram)



26.g3 1:36

[Don't play 26.Qxf4 Qxc2 27.Qb4 Qb2+ (27...Bc3 28.Qg4+ Kf8-+)]

26...fxg3 8:14 27.hxg3 11 Qa4 35

28.Kg2 4:55 Qc4 -0.01/24 5:58
[28...Bc3+ -0.38/23 might be stronger.]

29.Rh1= 9:45 Re5 2:52

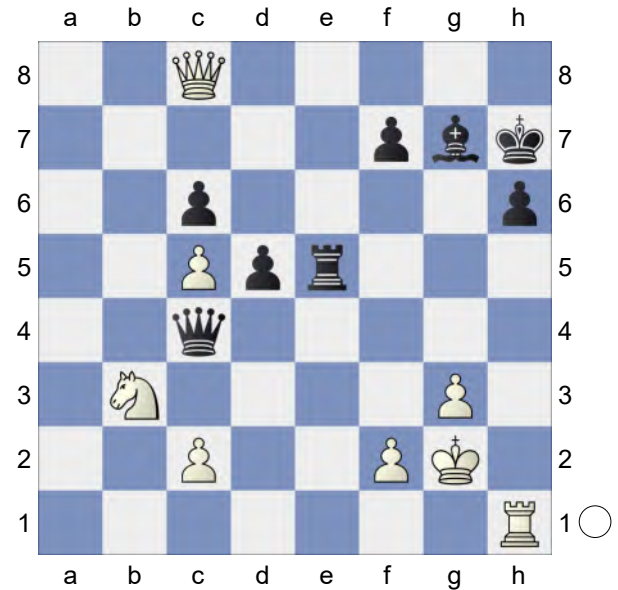
[29...Qe4+ simplifies vereinfacht
30.Qxe4 dxe4 31.Rd1 (31.Rh4 Re5) 31...Ra8]

30.Qc8+ 12:41

[30.Qd3 vereinfacht Re4 (30...Re2 31.Qxc4 dxc4 32.Na5) 31.Nd2 Qxd3 32.cxd3 Rd4 33.Nb3]

30...Kh7 4

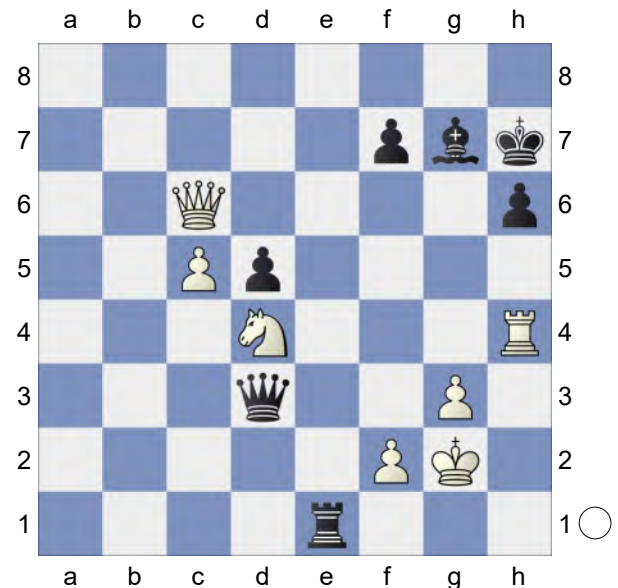
(Diagram)



31.Rh4 4 Against Qe4+ Verhindert Qe4+ Lässt Qe4+ nicht zu 31...Qxc2 6

[31...d4 vereinfacht 32.Qxc6 Qxc2 33.Nxd4 Qxc5 34.Qf3 Qd5]

32.Nd4 2 Qd3 7:32 33.Qxc6 3:17 Re1 12

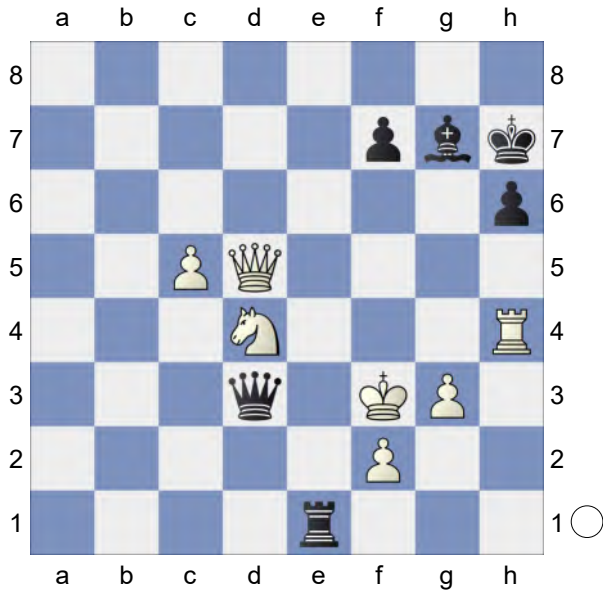


...Rd1 is the strong threat. The position is equal. [#] ...Rd1 wäre nun fies. [#]

Weiss muss nun ...Rd1 beachten.

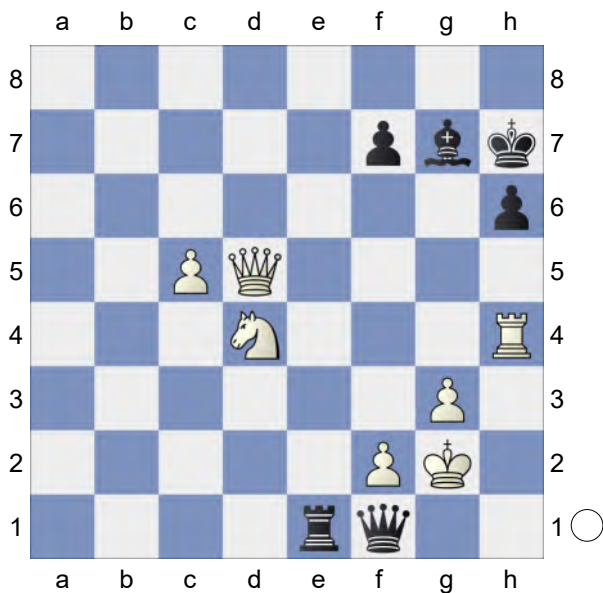
34.Qxd5 4:37 Qf1+ 5 35.Kf3 8 Qd3+ 4

(Diagram)



Fehlerwert: Weiß=0.02 (makellos) /
 Schwarz=0.02 (makellos) . OK:
 Weiß=16 Schwarz=16 Bester: Weiß=4
 Schwarz=4
 $\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$

36.Kg2 4 Qf1+ 4



Weighted Error Value: White=0.04
 (flawless) /Black=0.05 (flawless) .
 Mistake: --- Black=1 Inaccurate:
 White=1 --- OK: White=13
 Black=16 Best: White=2 Black=4
 Strong: White=1 --- Ein interessantes
 Remis. Gewichteter Fehlerwert: Weiß=0.
 03 (makellos) /Schwarz=0.02 (makellos) .
 Ungenau: Weiß=1 Schwarz=1 OK:
 Weiß=17 Schwarz=19 Bester: Weiß=3
 Schwarz=4 Eine ausgeglichene aber
 spannende Partie. Gewichteter

451

□ Ju, Wenjun

■ Wei, Yi

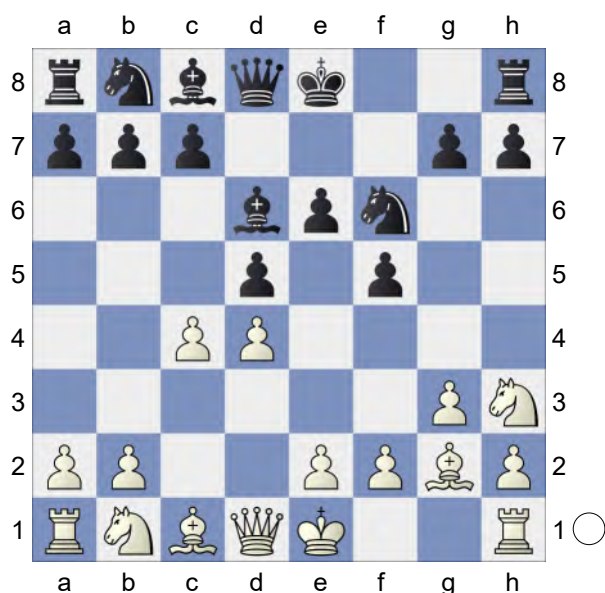
86th Tata Steel Masters (12) 27.01.2024
[Naruemon]

A90

2549

2740

A90: Dutch Defence: Miscellaneous and Modern Stonewall (with ...Bd6) 1.d4 6 e6 21 2.c4 3:37 f5 35 3.g3 5 Nf6 22 4.Bg2 4 d5 20 5.Nh3 2:30 Bd6 34



6.0-0 1:13 A90: Dutch Defence: Miscellaneous and Modern Stonewall (with ...Bd6). 6...0-0 10 7.b3 5:13

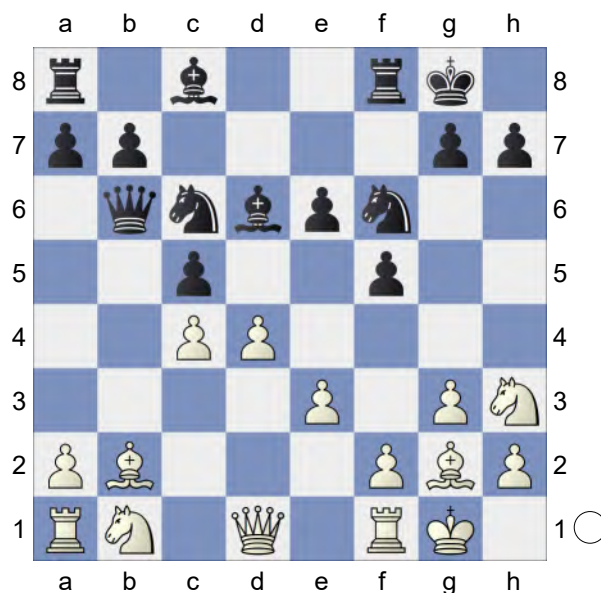
[7.Qc2 c6 8.Bf4 Bxf4 9.Nxf4 g5 10.Nd3 Ne4 11.e3 Nd7 12.f3 Nd6 13.Nd2 Qf6 14.f4 g4 15.b4 Qe7 16.a4 a6 17.Ne5 Nf6 18.c5 Nde8 19.h3 gxh3 20.Bxh3 Kh8 21.Kf2 Rg8 Semi-Slav 5.cxd5 (2609)-8.e5 b5 9.Qb3_63585 (2512) corr 2008 CBM 058 [FS 12/1979 p311] 1-0 (35)]
[7.Bf4 Be7 8.Nd2 c6 9.Qb3 Nbd7 10.Ng5 Nb6 11.a4 h6 12.Ngf3 Ne4 13.a5 Nd7 14.a6 bxa6 15.cxd5 cxd5 16.Rfc1 Bd6 17.Bxd6 Nxd6 18.Rc6 Rb8 19.Qc2 Rb6 20.Rc1 Bb7 21.Rxb6 axb6 8.h3 Ba7 9.

Nf1_63819 (2540)-Zegarar,N (2434) Torino 2022 The Week in Chess 354 [John Watson] 0-1 (54)]

7...dxc4 2:02 8.bxc4 15 White is slightly better. 8...c5! 6 9.e3N 2:27

[9.Ba3 Nc6 10.Bxc5 Bxc5 11.dxc5 Qa5 12.Nf4 Rd8 13.Qc1 Qxc5 14.Nd2 Bd7 15.Rb1 b6 16.Nb3 Qe7 17.c5 b5 18.Rd1 Rac8 19.Qa3 e5 20.Nd5 Nxd5 21.Bxd5+ Be6 22.Bxe6+ Qxe6 23.Qa6 Nd4 9.de5 Ne5 10.Bf4_67989 (2397)-Mesut,T (2515) AJEC 2014 CBM 91-C47 [Olsson; Korrschack 3/2001] 1-0 (37)]

9...Nc6 1:03 10.Bb2 2:24 Qb6 14



11.Qb3 -0.01/20 53

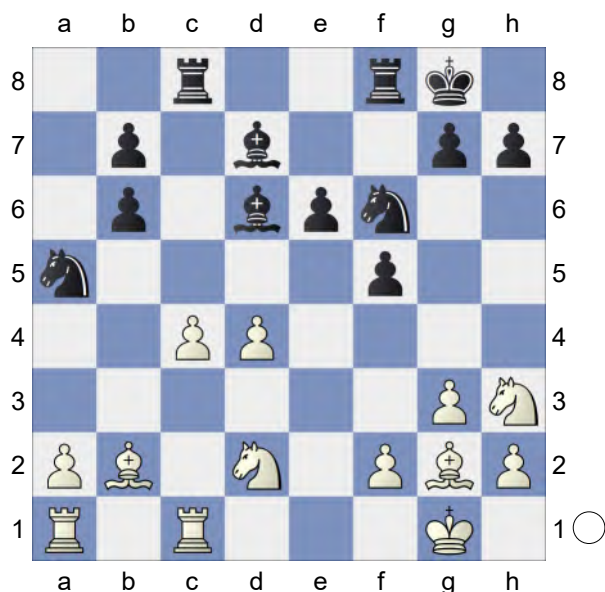
[11.Bc3± 0.48/19 '±!']

11...cxd4= 15:34 12.exd4 5:48 Na5! 9

[12...Nxd4? is the wrong capture. 13.Qxb6 Ne2+ 14.Kh1 axb6 15.Re1+-]

13.Qxb6 1:21 '!' 13...axb6 7 14.Rc1 5 '!' 14...Bd7 37 15.Nd2 4:28 Rac8 13:48

(Diagram)



16.Bf1 42 Rc7 0.63/20 6:12

[Black should try 16...Bb4= 0.07/18
deserves consideration. 17.Nf3 Rfd8]

17.Nb3 0.23/21 27

[17.Bc3!± 0.63/20
is more appropriate.]

17...Ra8 22 18.f3 -0.67/18 11:00

Prevents Nf6-e4.

[18.Ng5= 0.24/20]

18...Nc6 -0.01/20 12:30

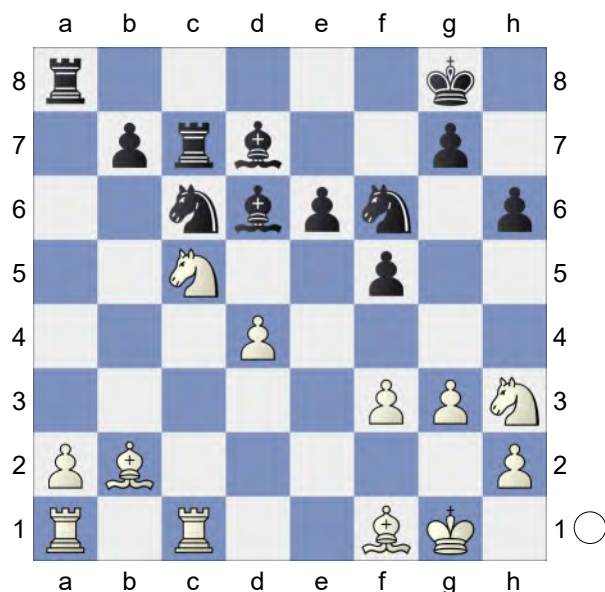
[18...g6± -0.67/18]

19.c5 -0.42/20 18:16

[19.Nf2= -0.01/20 was preferable.]

19...bxc5± 6 20.Nxc5 2 h6 4:10

(Diagram)



21.Nxd7 2:21 Rxd7 21 22.Nf2 -1.33/22

26 Black keeps a firm grip on the game.

[22.Bb5= -0.22/21 remains equal.]

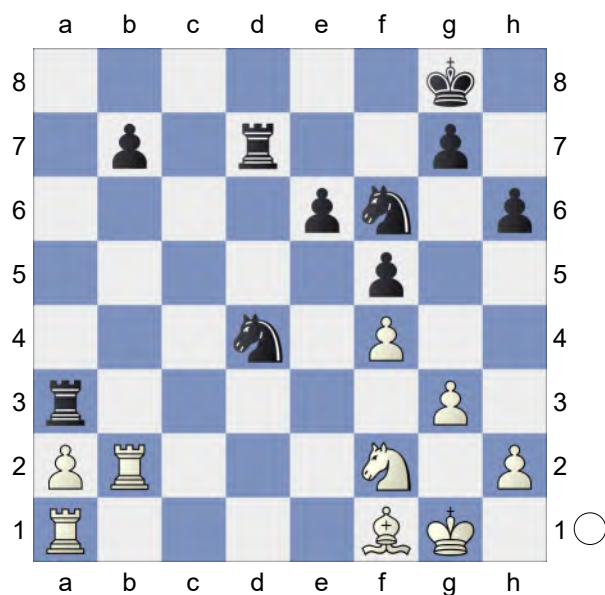
22...Ba3± 19:23 23.Rcb1 -1.57/22 10:21

[Δ23.Bxa3 -0.97/22 Rxa3 24.Bb5]

23...Bxb2 11:50 & Nero is much more active.

[Worse is 23...Nxd4 24.Bxd4 Rxd4
25.Rxb7±]

24.Rxb2 3 Nxd4 5 25.f4 3 Ra3 5:04



26.Rab1 -1.84/23 13:00

[26.Kh1± -1.43/20]

26...Nd5 1:41 27.Nd3 1:54 Nc3 1:33

28.Ra1 -2.11/21 1:26

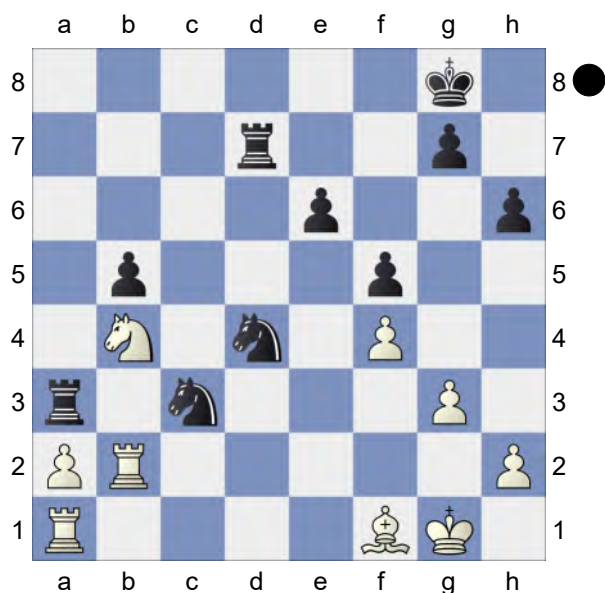
[Δ 28.Rc1 -1.74/23]

28...b5+ 1:47 29.Nb4 -2.62/23 9:11

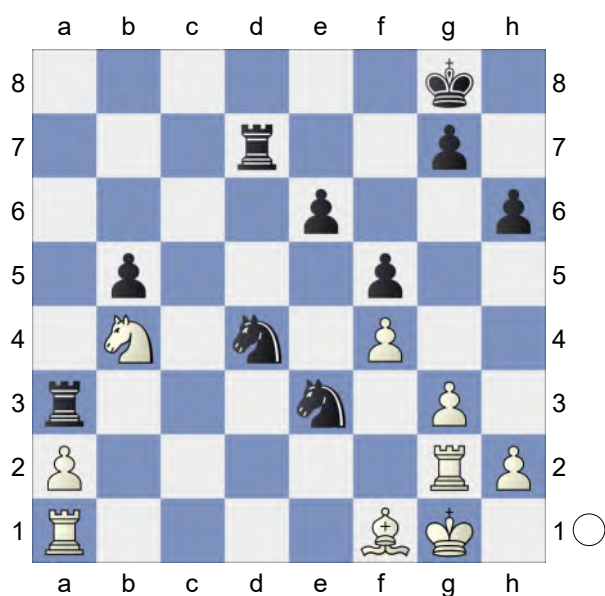
[29.Rc1 -1.96/21 was called for.]

[29.Ne5+ might work better. Rd8

30.Rc1]



29...Nd1! 7 Pair of Knights! 30.Rg2 1:33
Ne3 1:24

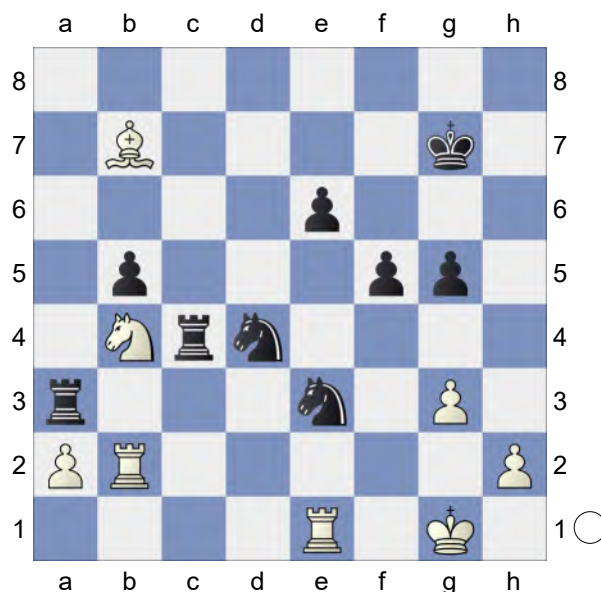


31.Rb2 36 g5 2:46 32.fxg5? -4.02/22
3:36

[32.Kh1 -2.28/21 is a better defense.]

32...hxg5 4 33.Bg2 2:07 Rc7 1:11

Prevents Nb4-c6. 34.Re1 32 Rc4 10
35.Bb7 3:38 Kg7 1:10



Black is clearly winning. 36.Kf2 44 f4
2:00 '-+'

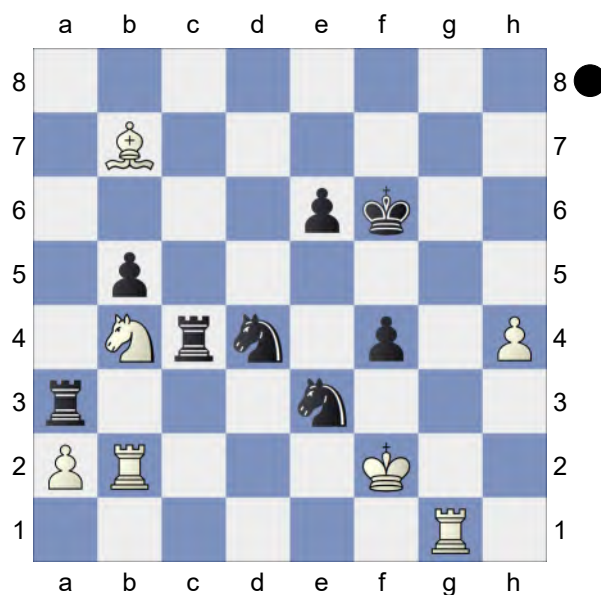
[36...Ng4+? 37.Kg2-+]

37.gxf4 14 gxf4 4 38.Rg1+ 6 Kf6 4

White must now prevent ...Rc4xb4!

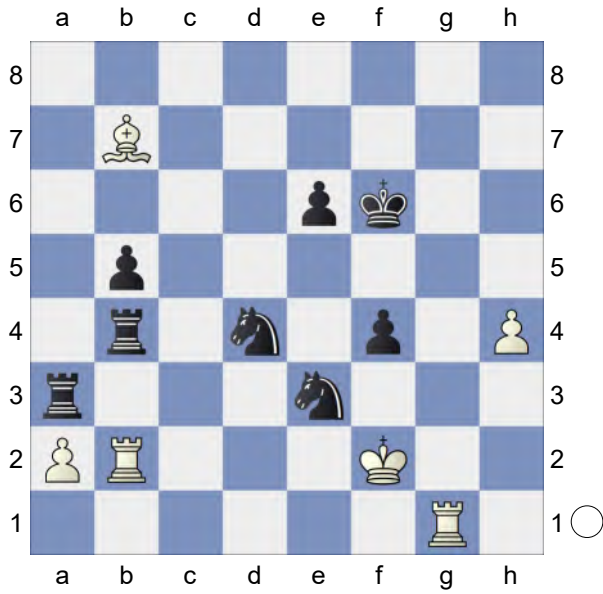
39.h4 -11.14/25 41

[Δ 39.Rgb1 -5.16/20]



39...Rxb4! 5

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.49/
Black=0.13 (very precise)

0-1

62

□ Giri, Anish

■ Wei, Yi

86th Tata Steel Masters 2024 (8.5)

[Naruemon]

D78

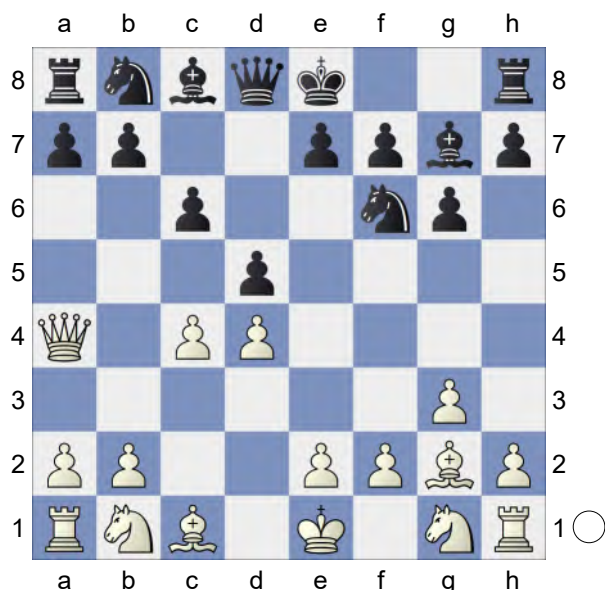
2749

2740

D78: Fianchetto Grünfeld: 6 0-0 c6 1.d4

2 Nf6 8 2.c4 3 g6 8 3.g3 5 c6 15

4.Bg2 6 d5 7 5.Qa4 7 Bg7 36



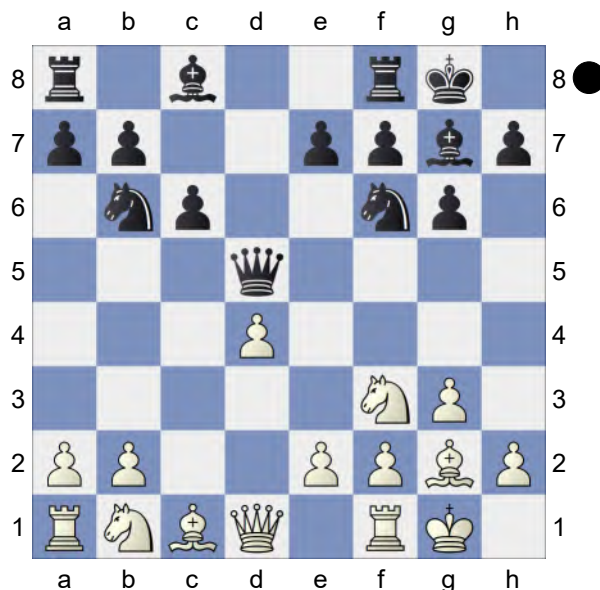
6.Nf3 1:09 0-0 18 7.0-0 3 Nbd7 34
 8.cxd5 35 D78: Fianchetto Grünfeld: 6
 0-0 c6. 8...Nb6 5 9.Qb3 5 Black should
 prevent dxc6.

[9.Qd1!?

9...Qxd5 8 10.Qd1 5

[10.Qb4 Qd6 11.Qe1 Bg4 12.Nbd2
 Nfd7 13.a4 Bxf3 14.Nxf3 e5 15.a5
 Nd5 16.dxe5 Nxe5 17.Nxe5 Qxe5
 18.e4 Rfe8 19.Ra4 Rad8 20.f4 Qe7
 21.Kh1 Qc5 22.Qe2 Bd4 23.Qc4
 Ne3 24.Bxe3 Bxe3 Oparin,G (2657)-
 Xiong,J (2712) Saint Louis 2019 ½-½
 (38)]

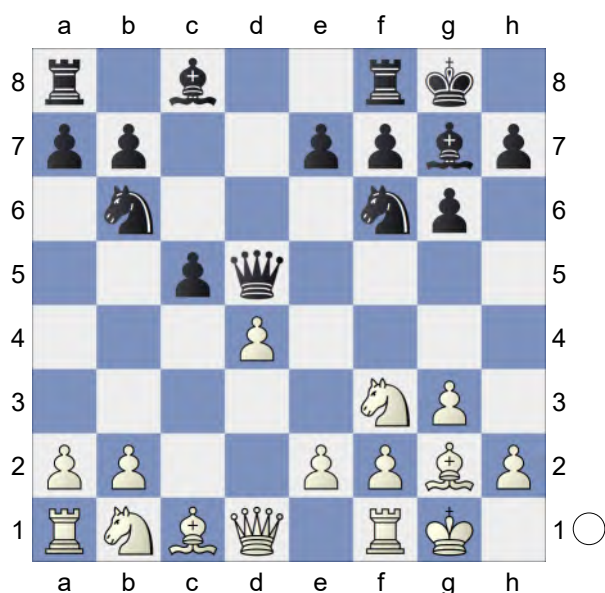
(Diagram)



10...c5N 35

[Predecessor: 10...Qh5 11.Nc3
 (11.a4 a5 12.Nc3 Nbd5 13.Bd2
 Bg4 14.Qc1 Nb4 15.Ne5 Bxe2
 16.Nxe2 Qxe2 17.Bxb4 axb4
 18.Qc5 Qxb2 19.Rfb1 Qc3 20.Qxb4
 Qxb4 21.Rxb4 Rfb8 22.Rab1
 ½-½ (22) Lavis,J (2121)-Podvoysky,E
 (2305) LSS 2022) 11...Bh3
 (11...Rd8!?!; 11...h6 12.a4 a5
 13.Re1 Be6 14.Ra3 Rad8 15.e4
 Nc4 16.Ra1 c5 17.d5 Bg4 18.Qd3
 e6 19.h3 Bxf3 20.Qxf3 Qxf3
 21.Bxf3 exd5 22.exd5 Rfe8 23.Rd1
 Nd7 24.h4 Nd6 25.Bf4 Ne5 26.Kg2
 Germanes,R (2393)-Obana,S (2094)
 ICCF 2022 ½-½ (38)) 12.Bxh3
 (12.Bg5 Rfd8 13.Qb3 h6 14.Bxf6
 Bxf6 15.Rfd1 Bxg2 16.Kxg2 c5
 17.dxc5 Qxc5 18.Ne4 Qf5 19.Nxf6+
 Qxf6 20.a4 Rxd1 21.Rxd1 a5
 22.Qb5 Qc6 23.Qxc6 bxc6 24.b3 c5
 25.Rc1 c4 26.bxc4 Nxa4 Donchenko,
 A (2634)-Blohberger,F (2534) chess.
 com INT 2023 1-0 (141)) 12...Qxh3
 13.Ng5 Qd7 14.Qd3 -0.42/21
 (14.Nf3= 0.01/19) 14...h6 15.Nf3
 Qh3 16.Bf4 -0.77/20 (16.e4 7

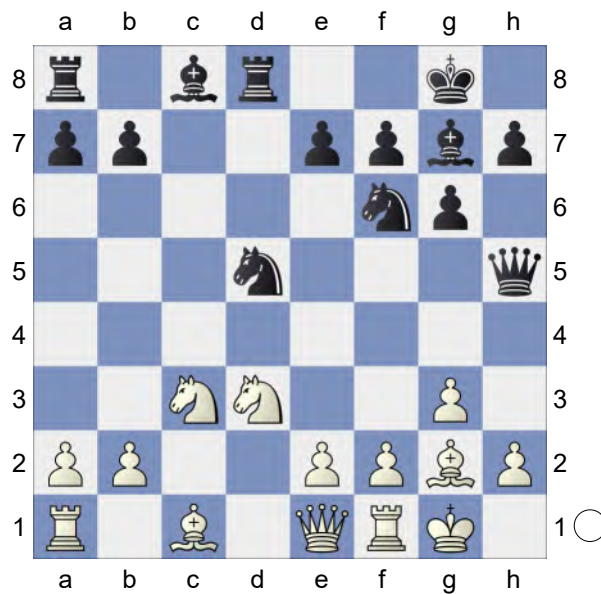
-0.35/19) 16...Rad8 -0.30/21
 (16...Ng4 $\mp$ -0.77/20 17.Bc7 Nd7)]
 [10...a5 11.h3 Rd8 12.Nc3 Qc4
 13.e3 a4 14.Bd2 Nfd5 15.e4 Nc7
 16.Rc1 Qa6 17.b3 axb3 18.axb3 e5
 19.dxe5 Be6 20.Rb1 Nd7 21.Bg5
 Rdc8 22.Bf4 Nc5 23.Qc2 Nb5
 24.Nxb5 cxb5 25.b4 Mesquita Jr.,F
 (2370)-Arnold,G (2310) ICCF 2022
 1/2-1/2 (51)]



11.Nc3 1:52 Qh5 6 12.dxc5 6 Qxc5 5
 13.Ne1 3:32 Qh5 29 14.Nd3 3:57 Rd8
 7

[Don't play 14...Ng4 15.h3 $\pm$]
 15.Qe1 21:55 Nbd5 20:35

(Diagram)



16.Nxd5 4:25 Nxd5 13 17.e4 1:55 Nb6
 3:48 18.Nf4 16 Qe5 1:44 19.Nd5
 -0.52/23 10:06

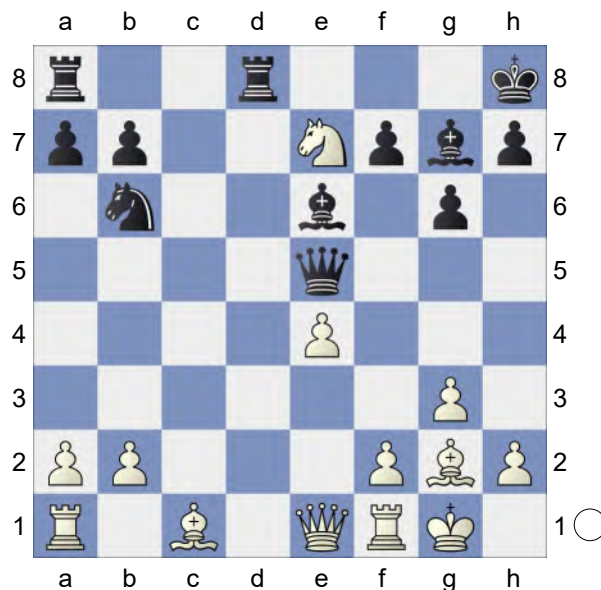
[19.a4= -0.08/20]

19...Be6 0.11/24 21:10

[19...Nxd5 $\mp$ -0.52/23 20.exd5 Bf5]

20.Nxe7+= 1:02 The position is equal.

20...Kh8 7

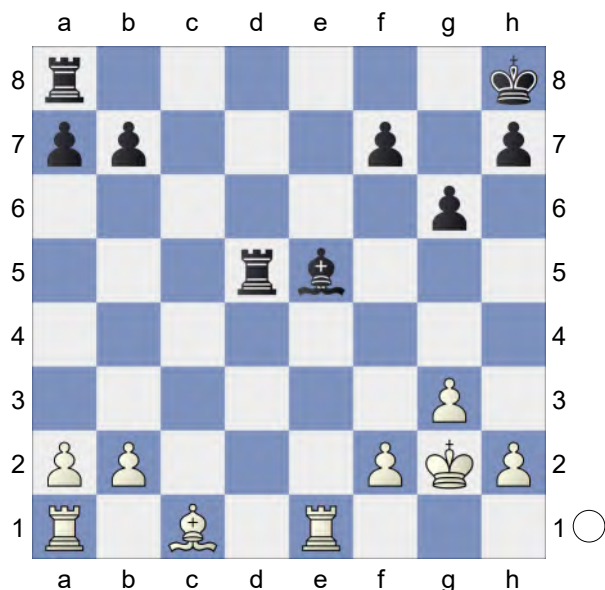


...Re8 would be deadly. Strongly
 threatening ...Rd8-e8. 21.Nd5! 41 Nxd5
 10

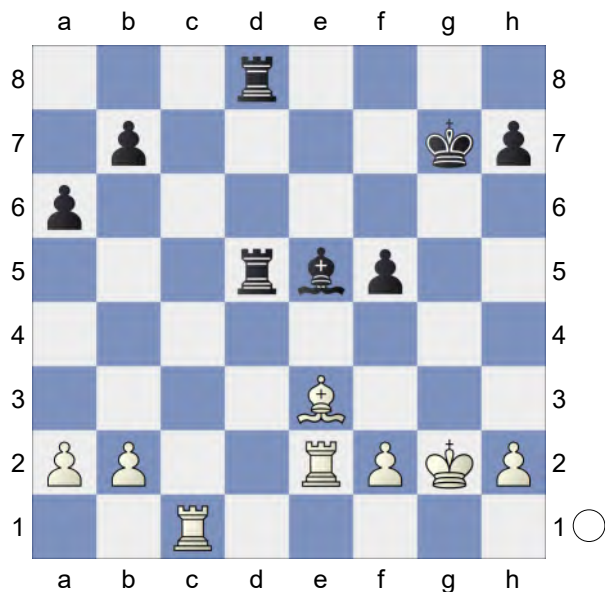
[21...Rd7 is interesting. 22.Nxb6
 axb6 23.f4 Qc5+]

[21...Kg8 is more complex. 22.f4 Qd4+ 23.Be3 Qxb2 24.Rb1 Qxa2 25.Rf2 Qa3]

22.exd5 2 Bxd5 17 23.Qxe5 1:04 Bxe5 5 24.Re1 3:57 Bxg2 1:24 25.Kxg2 5 Rd5 5:47

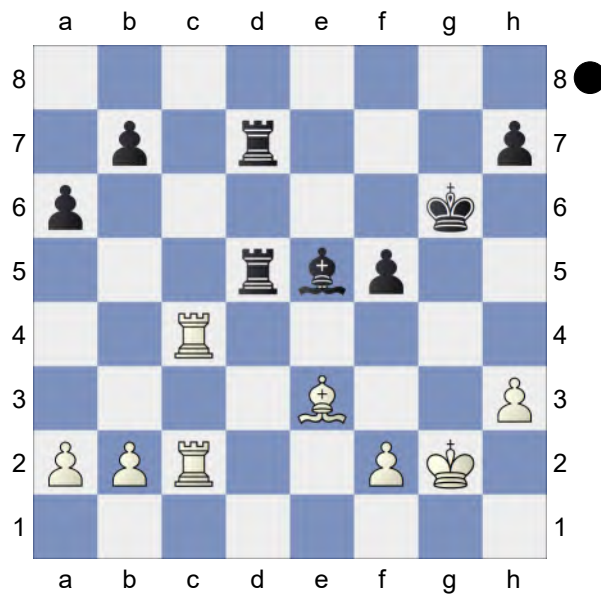


26.Re2 3:18 Kg7 1:23 27.Be3 18 a6 4 28.Rc1 10 Rad8 23 29.g4 2:46 f5 6:11 30.gxf5 1:23 The position is equal. 30...gxf5 4



31.Rc4 21 Kg6 2:47 32.h3 37 R8d7 1:10 33.Rec2 3:52

(Diagram)



An uneventful encounter. Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) / Black=0.03 (flawless). Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) / Black=0.08 (flawless)

1/2-1/2

376

□ Donchenko,Alexander

■ Wei,Yi

86th Tata Steel Masters 2024 (1.1)

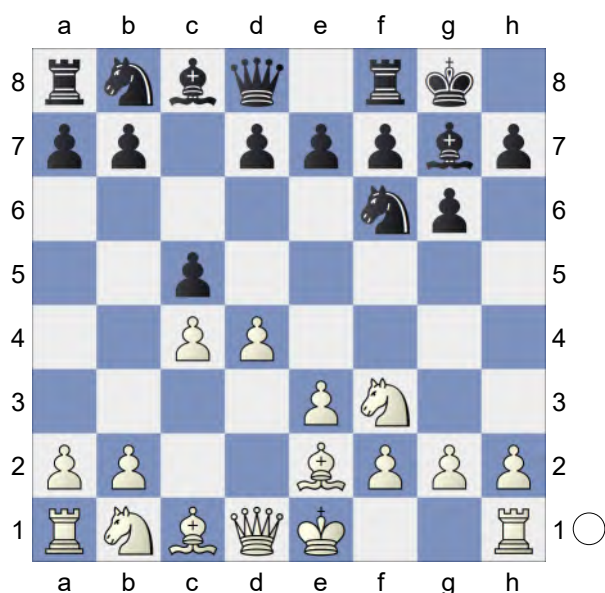
[Naruemon]

E61

2643

2740

E61: King's Indian: Early deviations for White, including Smyslov System 1.d4 4 Nf6 10 2.c4 15 g6 12 3.Nf3 35 Bg7 15 4.e3 26 0-0 39 5.Be2 14 c5 49



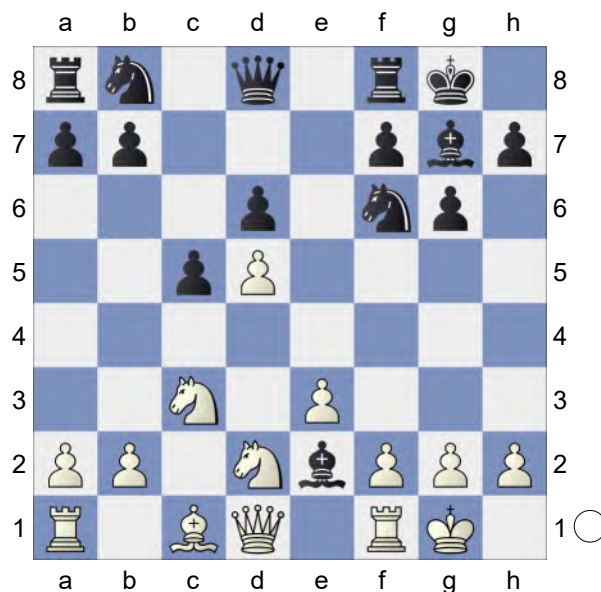
6.d5 25 e6 1:09 7.Nc3 21 d6 9 8.0-0 1:02 exd5 31 9.cxd5 18 Bg4 1:07 10.Nd2 -0.32/22 7:08 E61: King's Indian: Early deviations for White, including Smyslov System.

[10.h3= Bxf3 11.Bxf3 Nbd7 12.Qc2 (12.Be2 a6 13.a4 Qe7 14.Re1 Ne4 15.Bd2 Nxd2 16.Qxd2 f5 17.Bf1 Qf7 18.Ne2 g5 19.Ng3 Kh8 20.Bd3 f4 21.exf4 gxf4 22.Nf5 Be5 23.Bc2 Qh5 24.Rxe5 dxe5 25.Nd6 f3 26.Ne4 fxe2 Kozak,A (2236)-Krishnater,K (2305) Krakow 2019 0-1) 12...a6 13.a4 c4 14.Be2 Rc8 15.a5 Rc5 16.Qa4 Re8 17.Rd1 Ne4 18.Nxe4 Rxe4 19.Bd2 f5 20.Qa3 Rb5 21.Rab1 Rb3 22.Qa2 Nc5

23.f3 c3 24.fxe4 cxd2 Inarkiev,E (2690)-Dubov, D (2691) Satka 2018 0-1]

[10.e4± 0.37/20]

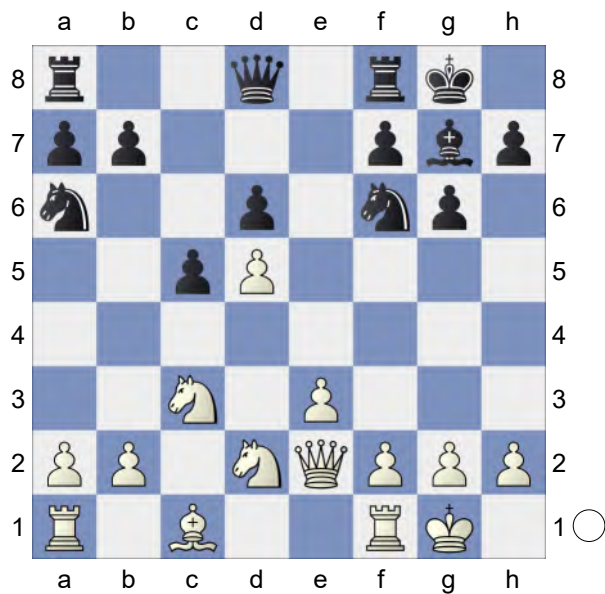
10...Bxe2 0



11.Qxe2 7 Na6N 18:10

[11...Re8 12.a4 Na6 13.Nc4 Nb4 14.Rd1 Ne4 15.Nxe4 Rxe4 16.Bd2 Qd7 17.Bc3 Rae8 18.Bxb4 cxb4 19.Qd3 Rg4 20.f3 Rxc4 21.Qxc4 Bxb2 22.Ra2 Bc3 23.e4 Rc8 24.Qd3 Qc7 25.Rb1 Qb6+ 26.Kf1 Inarkiev,E (2668) -Melkumyan,H (2654) Minsk 2015 0-1 (67)]

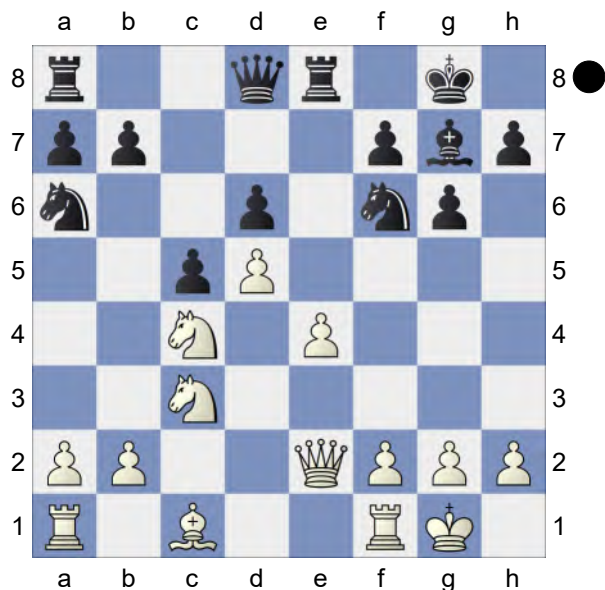
(Diagram)



12.e4 1:02 Black has an edge. Black is slightly better. Black has an edge.

[Predecessor: 12.Nc4 Nc7 13.e4 b5 14.Nxd6 Qxd6 15.e5 Qd7 16.exf6 Bxf6 17.Ne4 Bg7 18.Nxc5 Qxd5]

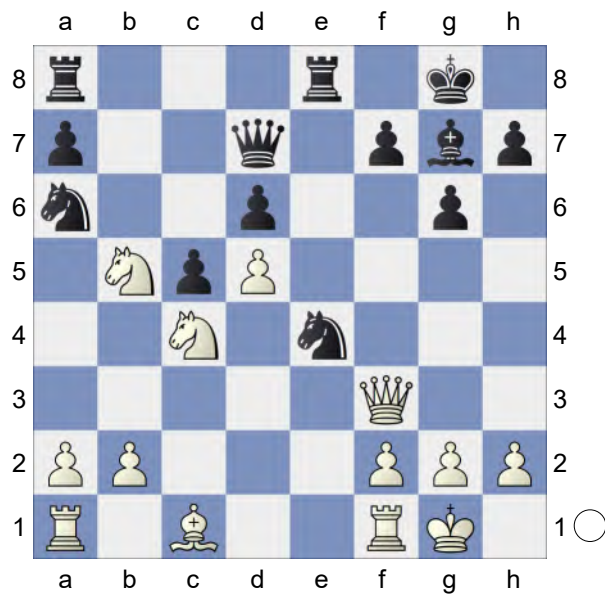
12...Re8 12:44 **13.Nc4** -0.53/24 25:54 [13.Nf3= -0.30/20 is superior.]



13...b5! 44 Deflection **14.Nxb5** 4:46 **Nxe4** 7:25 Strongly threatening ...Nc3!

[14...Rxe4 15.Be3±]

15.Qf3 7:16 Wards off Nc3 Wards off Nc3. Prevents Ne4-c3. **15...Qd7!** 2:33



16.a4 40

[16.Nc3!? f5 17.Bf4=]

16...Nb4 7:21 **17.Bf4** 10:25 **Nc2** 2:02 Repels Rae1. aiming for ...a6. Prevents Ra1-e1. aiming for ...a7-a6.

[17...Nxd5 18.Ncxd6 Nxd6 (18...Nxf4 19.Nxe8 Rxe8 20.Qxf4±) 19.Qxd5±]

18.Rad1 2:00 **Nd4** 10:23 **19.Rxd4** -1.03/24 6:05 **cx d4** 0

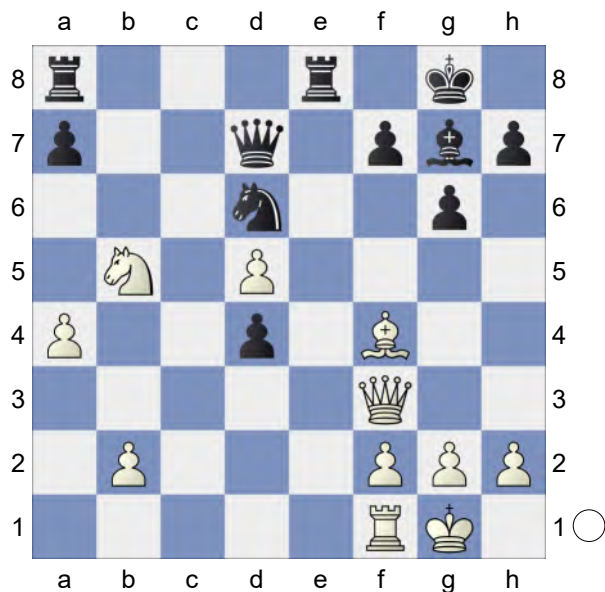
[Much worse is 19...Bxd4?! 20.b3]

20.Ncxd6 -0.91/20 42

[Better is 20.h4 -1.37/22 20.Nc4xd6 -1.06]

20...Nxd6 10

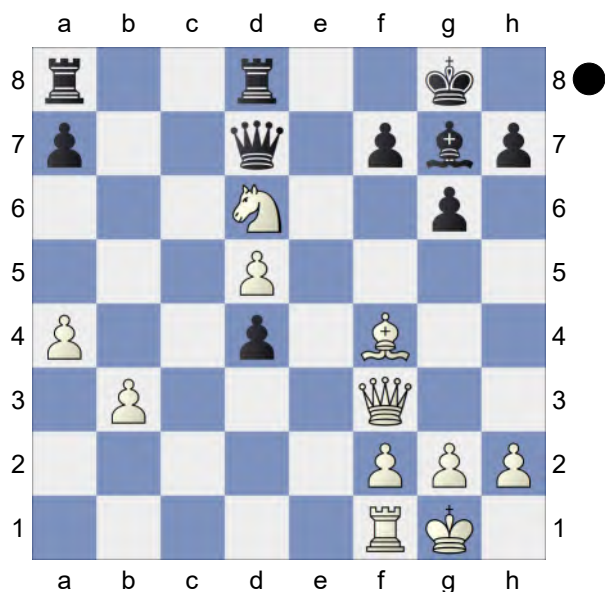
(Diagram)



21.Nxd6 19:29 Red8 -0.67/21 1:47

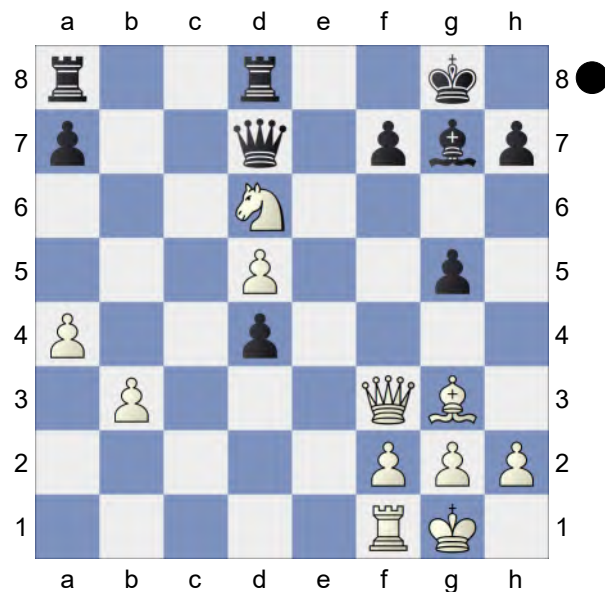
[Better is Black should play 21...Rf8+ -1.22/20 White must now prevent ...g5. White must now prevent ...g5. Hoping for ...g6-g5! 22.Nb5 (22.h4 Qxa4) 22...a6]

22.b3 0



g5! 7:01 **23.Bg3** 0

(Diagram)



f5! 15

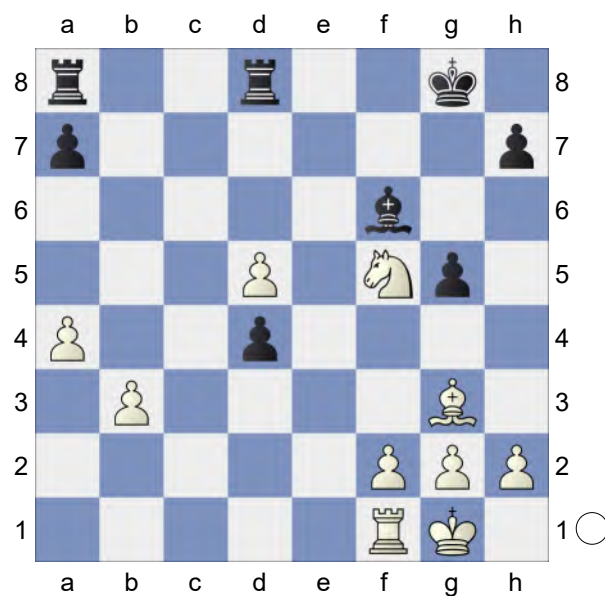
[23...Bf8? 24.Ne4 Bg7 25.Nf6+ Bxf6 26.Qxf6+-]

24.Qxf5 0

[Don't go for 24.Nxf5? -4.83/25 loses. 24.Qf3xf5 -0.58 Rf8+ (24...Qxd5? 14.87/24 24...Rd8-f8 -4.51 25.Ne7+ Kh8 26.Nxd5+-) 25.Ne7+ Qxe7+-]

24...Qxf5 5 **25.Nxf5** 0 **Bf6** 8

[25...Rxd5? 4.14/21 25...Bg7-f6 -0.48 26.Ne7+ Kf7 27.Nxd5+-]



26.Nd6 9:32 **h5** 3:20 Black has compensation. **27.h3** 0 **h4↑** 2:22 Black fights for an advantage. Black has strong initiative. **28.Bh2** 0

[28.Ne4? -1.11/22 28.Bg3-h2 -0.63
hxg3 29.Nxf6+ Kg7 30.Nh5+ Kg6
31.Nxg3 Rac8-+ (31...Rxd5?
32.Ne4?)]

28...Be7! 27 **29.Nb5** -1.15/25 8:23

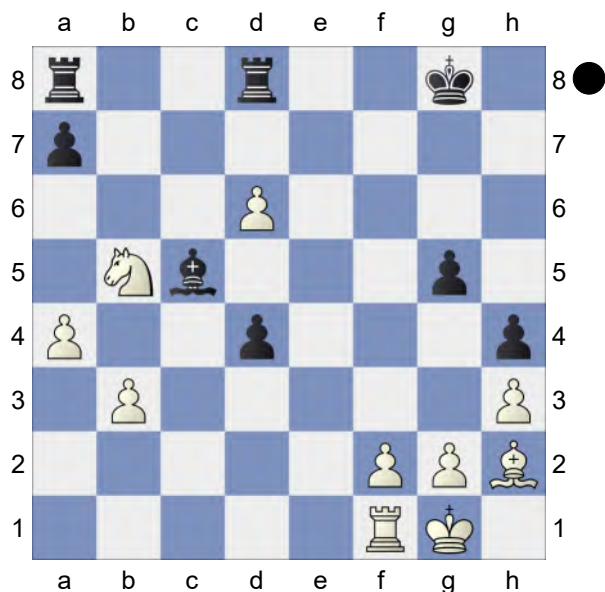
[White should play Better is 29.Nf5
-0.61/24 Kf7 30.d6 (30.Nxd4)]

29...Bc5! 7:11

[But not Reject Don't play 29...Rxd5?!
-0.01/23 29... Be7-c5 -1.02 30.Nc7
Rad8 And now ...Rd5-f5 would win.

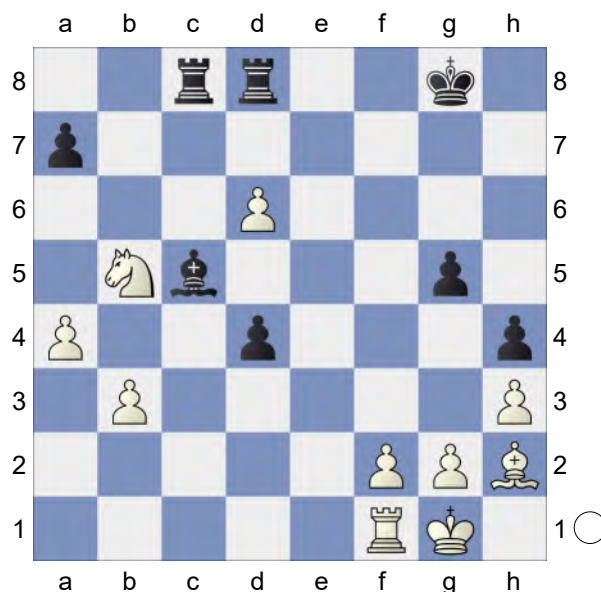
31.Nxd5 Rxd5 32.f4= (32.g3=)]

30.d6 0

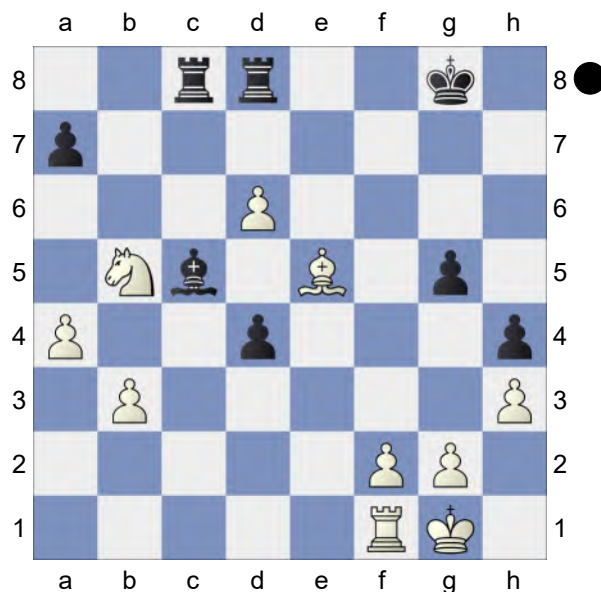


Rac8↑ 14 ...d3 is the strong threat.

(Diagram)



Black is more active. White must now prevent ... a7-a6. **31.Be5!** 1:27



d3! 23 Strongly threatening ...a6. Threatens to win with ... a7-a6.

[31...a6 32.Nxd4 Bxd4 (32...Bxd6
-0.01/22 32...Bc5xd4 -0.57 33.Bf6=)
33.Bxd4=]

[31...Kf7!? simplifies 32.Nxd4 Bxd6
33.Nf3 Kg6]

32.Bf6 -1.54/27 5:00 Wards off a6

[32.Rd1! -0.39/24]

32...Rd7 9 **33.Bxg5** 28 **a6** 14:01

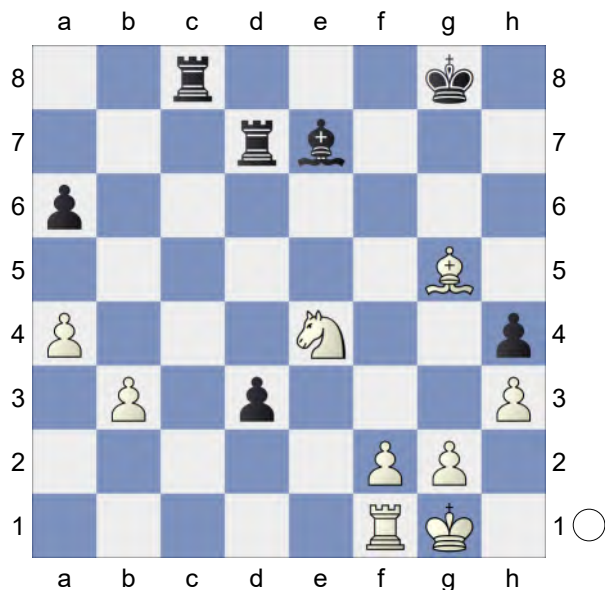
[And not 33...Bxd6 34.Nxd6 Rxd6

35.Rd1 ♖]

34.Nc3 12 Bxd6 -1.13/25 19

[Black should play 34...Rxd6 -1.50/24
... d2 would now be deadly. Strongly
threatening ...d3-d2. 35.Ne4 Re6
36.Nxc5 Rxc5]

35.Ne4 2:03 And now Nf6+ would win.
Nf6+ is the strong threat. 35...Be7 1:13

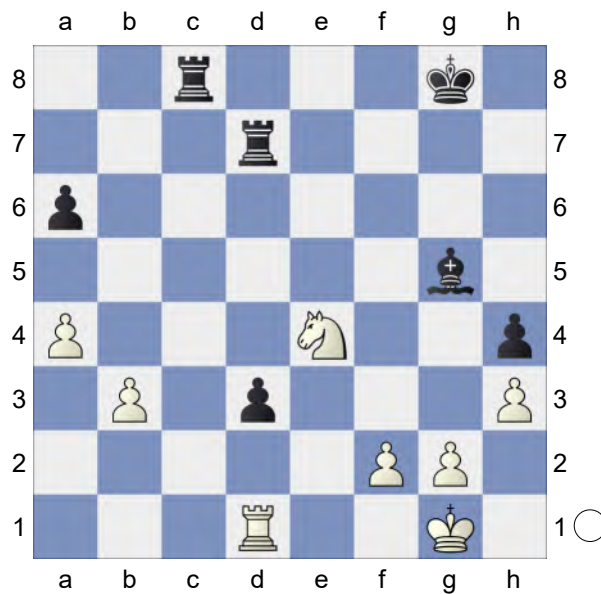


aiming for ...Bxg5. Hoping for ...Bxg5.
& Nero is more active. 36.Rd1? -6.05/23
1:37

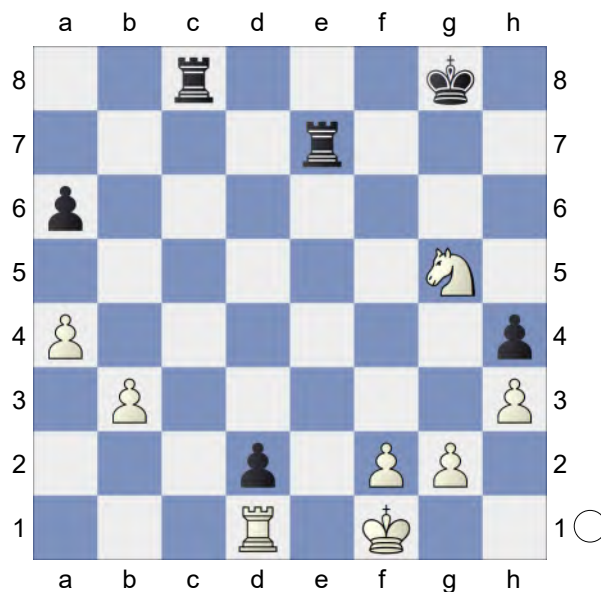
[36.Be3 ♗ -1.20/23]

36...Bxg5-+ 0 Remove Defender,
Deflection. Black is clearly winning.

(Diagram)



Deflection. Black is clearly winning.
Black is clearly winning. 37.Nxg5 2 d2 0
(→ ...Rc1) 38.Kf1 33 Re7 0



Weighted Error Value: White=0.44/
Black=0.03 (flawless) Weighted Error
Value: White=0.39/Black=0.09 (flawless)
. Loses game: White=1 --- Mistake:
White=4 Black=2 Inaccurate: White=1
Black=1 OK: White=12 Black=15 Best:
White=2 Black=2. Weighted Error
Value: White=0.45/Black=0.04 (flawless)

0-1

393

C55

□ Wei, Yi

2634

■ Negi, Parimarjan

2643

Asia-chT 18th (5.2)

25.05.2014

[Negi, Parimarjan]

1.e4 Negi, P Negi, P **1...e5** **2.Bc4**

Popularly used to avoid the Petroff, but Wei Yi seems to like switching between various non Spanish variations in order to avoid theoretical lines... **2...Nf6** **3.d3**
Nc6

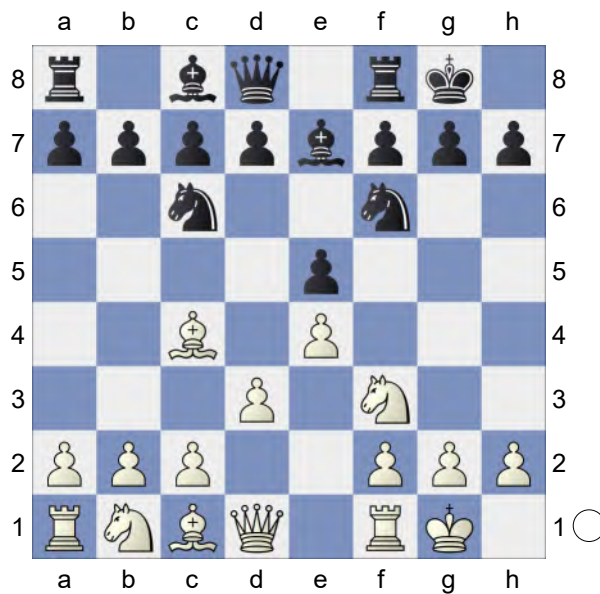
[3...c6 is the obvious extra option allowed by this move order, and while there is nothing objectively wrong with it, I felt more like developing my pieces:)]

4.Nf3 This was rather surprising - if he wanted to play the closed Italian then why not simply play from the 2. ♘f3 move order?

[4.Nc3 is what I was expecting since he has played it before as well. Now after Na5 Black manages to get the bishop pair, and we get a special type of structure after dxc4, and a long strategic fight.]

4...Be7 5.0-0 0-0

(Diagram)

**6.Re1 d6 7.a4 Kh8!?**

[7...Na5 8.Ba2 c5 is a more stable alternative, but I was in the mood of something more enterprising. Besides, I wanted to test him in more forcing variations...]

8.Nc3

[The inclusion of 8.a5 a6 shouldn't make much difference. 9.Nc3 can still be met by Bg4 10.h3 Bh5 11.Nd5 (11.g4? Nxg4! 12.hxg4 Bxg4 13.Be3 Qd7 14.Nb1 f5 15.Bd5 fxe4 16.Bxe4 d5 17.Nbd2 dxe4 18.dxe4 Bxf3 19.Nxf3 Qg4+ 20.Kf1 Rxf3 0-1 (20) Rendle, T (2400)-Tissir, M (2474) England 2011; 11.Be3 Nd4! remains similar to my game) 11...Nxd5 12.Bxd5 Nxa5! 13.g4 Bg6 14.d4 f6 an interesting position. At first Black's position looks fine but perhaps White's play could be improved upon in the following game: 15.Nh4 Be8 16.Nf5 Nc6 17.c3 Qd7 18.Be3 Nd8 19.Qd2 Bf7 20.c4 c6 21.Bxf7 Nxf7 ½-½ (36) Womacka, M (2427)-Nemcova, K (2261) Teplice 2012]

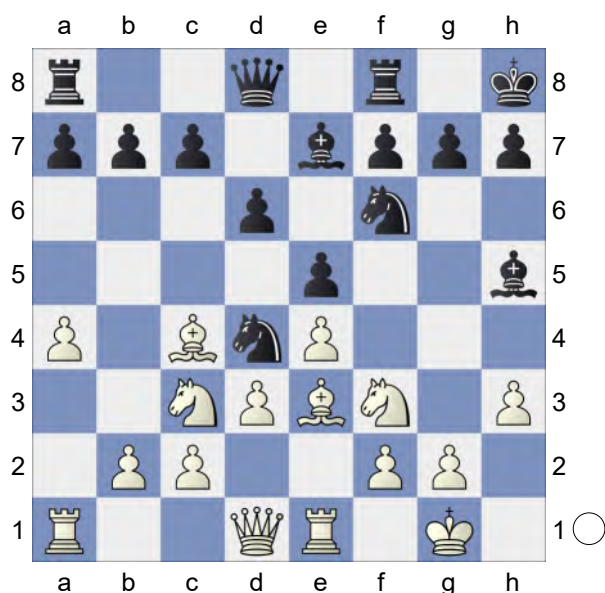
[8.c3 Ng8 9.d4 f5! 10.dxe5 fxe4 11.Rxe4 Rxf3! is a rather famous line

by now. 12.gxf3 (12.Qxf3 d5!?)
 12...Nxe5 13.Rxe5 dxe5 14.Qxd8
 Bxd8 15.Nd2 Nf6 16.Ne4 Nxe4
 17.fxe4 Bg4= ½-½ (21) Fedorchuk,S
 (2635)-Giri,A (2722) Germany 2012]

8...Bg4!? 9.h3 Bh5 10.Be3

[During the game, I thought 10.Bg5!? might be an interesting idea. h6 (10...Nd7 11.Be3!±) 11.Bxf6 Bxf6 12.g4 Bg6 13.Nd5 Nb8 but maybe Black is doing quite alright.]

10...Nd4!?N



A very obvious novelty... my opponent responded rather quickly with **11.g4?** I can't imagine what he expected me to play - since this just forces me to sacrifice on g4.... after which he lapsed into nearly an hour's long period of thought.

[11.Bxd4 exd4 12.Nd5 (12.Nb1 Bxf3 13.Qxf3 c6!?= Δ d5...♗b4.)

A) 12...Bxf3 13.Qxf3 Nd7 seemed somewhat better during the game. 14.Nxe7 (14.Qe2 Bg5=) 14...Qxe7 15.Qg3 (15.Ba2 a5=) 15...a5 (15...Rae8 16.f4 a5 17.Qf2 Qf6 18.g4±) 16.f4 seems more pleasant for White.;

B) 12...Nxd5 13.Bxd5 was interesting... somehow during the preparation I had underestimated this, but I wasn't too sure about which setup to play here in the game: c6 14.Bb3 Bxf3 (14...Bf6 15.g4 seems scary for Black) 15.Qxf3 Bf6 and Black has a solid position, but it's easy to realise during the game that White's position is more pleasant.]

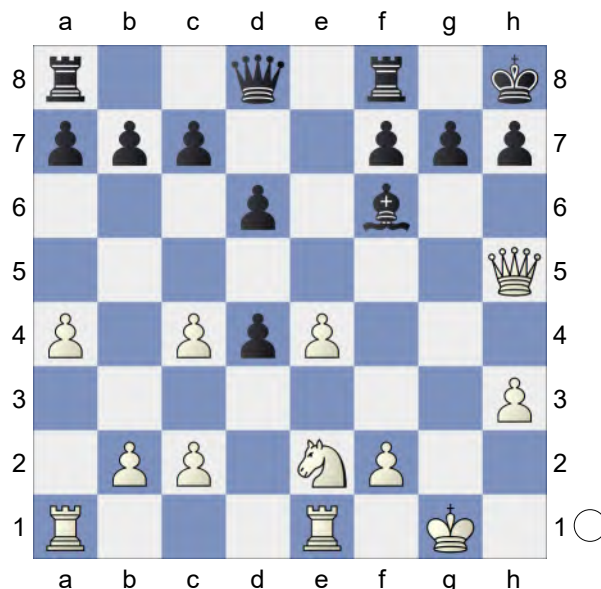
11...Nxg4! 12.Nxd4!? Of course it's not a great move... but it's easier to play than the scary looking positions after hxg4, especially against a prepared opponent.

[12.hxg4 Bxg4 13.Bxd4 exd4 is of course the critical line, but it only begins to look dangerous for White. 14.Nb5 basically, every move gives Black excellent compensation. (14.Nd5 Bg5!?) 14...d5!? (14...c5±) 15.exd5 Bc5↑]

12...Nxe3 13.Qxh5 Nxc4

[13...g6 was a possible intermediate move, but I didn't see the point.]

14.dxc4 exd4 15.Ne2 Bf6



16.Rad1 Qe8!?

[16...c5 I became worried that after 17.Nf4 and Qd5, White might suddenly get excellent compensation.]

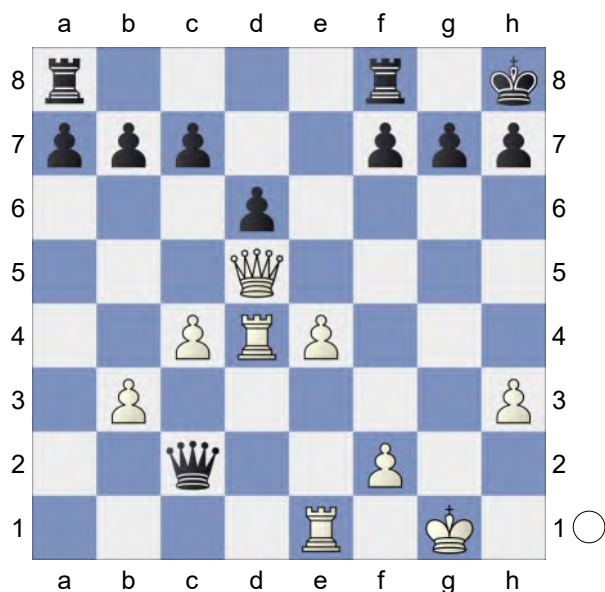
17.Nxd4 Bxd4 I thought getting rid of the knight removes any chance of counterplay from his position... at the same time it gives him better drawing chances with a passive setup as well. Objectively perhaps ... ♖xa4 was better, but it wasn't an easy decision in my opinion:

[17...Qxa4 18.b3 Qd7 (18...Qa2!?) 19.Nf3 g6 20.Qh6+]

18.Rxd4 Qxa4 19.b3 Qa2 20.Qd5! White manages to get excellent counterplay with this and create a mess.

[I had expected 20.Rd2 Rae8 21.Qd5 b6 when I have an excellent position.]

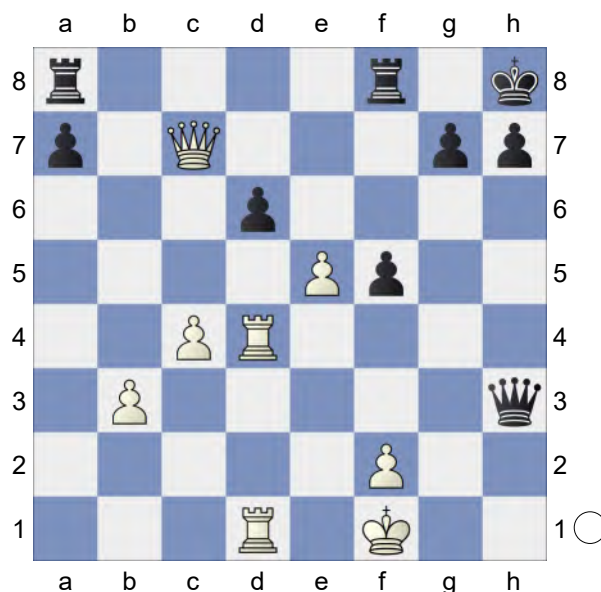
20...Qxc2



21.Qxb7 Qc3! The computer isn't very impressed, but practically, of course I had to go for the h3-pawn... **22.Red1 Qxh3 23.Qxc7 Qg4+** An annoying move in time pressure. Otherwise White would have defended with ♖1d3- ♖g3... **24.Kf1**

[Amazingly enough, White could actually defend with 24.Kh1! since f5 there are better moves according to the computer, but it doesn't seem as easy as I thought at all. 25.Qxd6 doesn't promise Black all that much since it's impossible to lift the rook to the kingside on time.]

24...f5! Now this is strong. I felt White's position was absolutely collapsing... but it seems I under-estimated his chances after the sacrifice of another pawn: **25.e5 Qh3+**



26.Ke2 dxe5 27.Rd8

[27.Rg1! Amazingly, I didn't realise that the position is still insanely complicated - rather than me being on the verge of winning: Qh5+ 28.Ke1 Rg8 29.Rd7 Qh6 (29...Rac8 30.Rdxc7!±) 30.Kd1 and even though Black is of course better... it's a strangely complicated position.]

27...Qg4+

[27...Qxb3 somehow I forgot about this move, but I am not sure if Black can win after 28.Rxf8+ Rxf8 29.Rd8 Qc2+ 30.Kf1 Qc1+ 31.Ke2 Kg8 32.Rxf8+ Kxf8 33.c5

and the perpetual checks are always hanging in the air...]

28.Kf1

[28.Ke1!? would have been a tougher defence. I wasn't yet sure of what to do since ...h5 doesn't work as well here due to the e1-king defending the d1-rook - thus allowing ♖xa8.

A) 28...h5 29.Rxa8 Qe4+ 30.Kf1 Rxa8 31.Rd7 (31.Rd8+ Rxd8 32.Qxd8+ Kh7 33.Qg5 not so easy to convert) 31...Rg8 32.Rd5 with excellent chances to draw.;

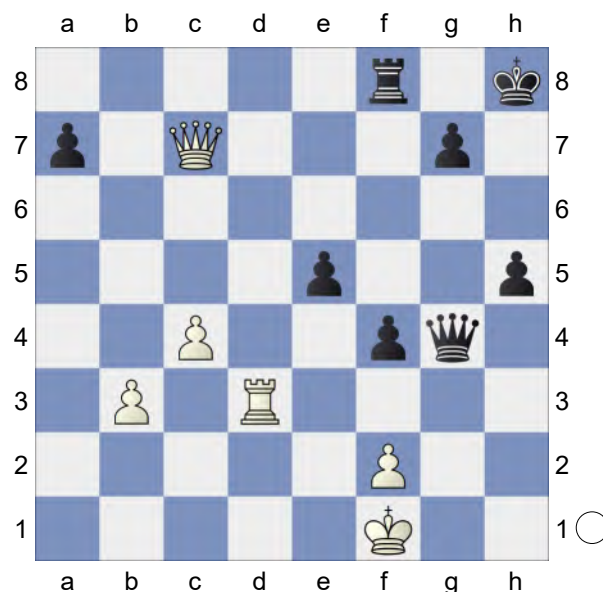
B) 28...Qe4+ 29.Kf1 h6!? was my plan eventually, and maybe it is even an excellent practical try since it's not easy to decide for Black. 30.Rxa8 Rxa8 31.Rd5 (31.Rd8+ Rxd8 32.Qxd8+ Kh7) 31...Re8?]

28...h5! Since ♖xa8 isn't possible.
29.Rxf8+ Rxf8 30.Rd3! Amazingly he found this resource with almost no time on the clock.

[30.Rd8 Rxd8 31.Qxd8+ Kh7 32.c5 will just run into a mating net after h4 33.c6 h3 34.c7 h2 35.Qd5 e4 36.c8Q h1Q#]

30...f4

(Diagram)



The only way. 31.Qxe5 f3 32.Rd6!
Another amazing resource... at one point I had nearly an hour more, but my time was fast approaching the last minutes as well.

[32.Qe3 Rf4! would finish the game.]

32...Kh7 Again, the only way forward.

[32...Qg2+ 33.Ke1 Qg1+ 34.Kd2 Qxf2+ 35.Kc3 Amazingly, there are no checks now, and it's impossible to avoid a perpetual check.]

33.Rd4! These only moves were beginning to infuriate me... but after seeing my next moves I thought I had finally found a win to finish things off:

33...Qg2+

[33...Qg6 34.Qe4 is very drawish.]

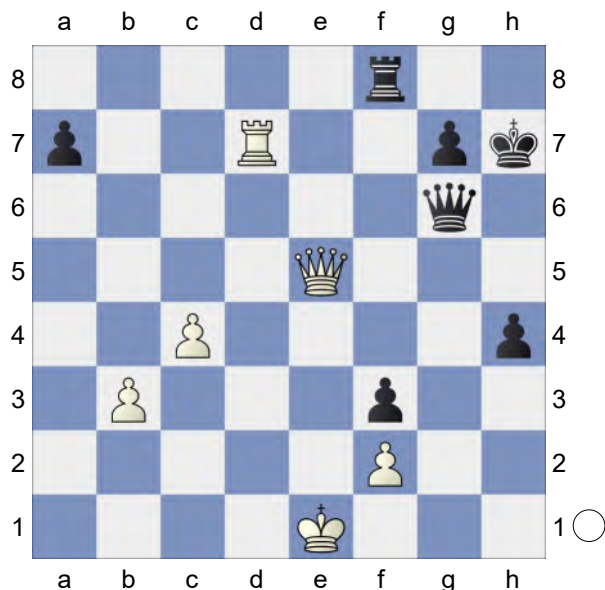
34.Ke1 Qg6! Since ♖e4 isn't possible here.

[34...Qg1+ 35.Kd2 Qxf2+ 36.Kc3 is messy.]

35.Rd7 Another, seemingly, only move!

[35.Kd2 Re8 36.Qd5 Re2+ 37.Kc3 Rxf2 38.Rf4! is some insane computer defence, but I wouldn't imagine any human considering this playable for White.]

35...h4



36.Kd2 h3 Things began to look smooth for me now, I really couldn't see any counter for him... **37.Rd6 Rf6 38.c5!?**

[Unfortunately, I spent all my time calculating 38.Rxf6 Qxf6 39.Qh2 Qe6!? and Black should be able to win eventually.]

38...Qh6+ 39.Kc2 Now, with my clock running out, I panicked and did not play the natural h2. **39...Qg6+**

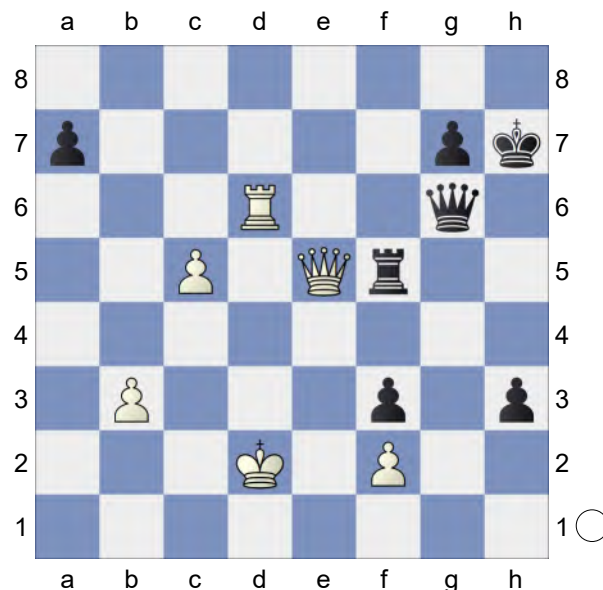
[39...h2! Alas, just one more accurate move was required...the point is that after 40.Rxf6 gxf6 41.Qc7+ Kg6 42.Qg3+ Kf5 43.Qxf3+ White seems to get a lot of checks, but Black will find a safe haven on the queenside: Qf4 44.Qh5+ Ke6 45.Qe8+ Kd5 46.Qd7+ Kxc5 47.Qc8+ Kb6 48.Qe6+ Kc7 49.Qf7+ Kd6 50.Qf8+ Kc6! 51.Qe8+ Kb7-+]

40.Kd2 He returns the favour.

[40.Kb2! I just couldn't find a way to continue.]

40...Rf5

(Diagram)



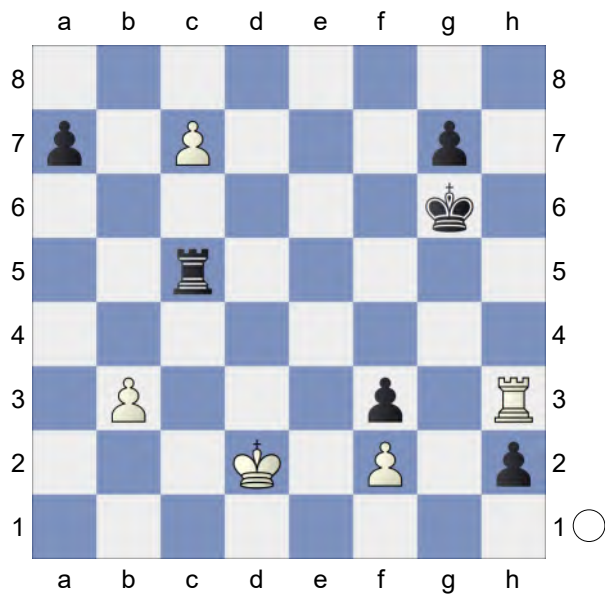
I suddenly decided that I had excellent winning chances in the endgame... but that is of course very hard to figure out with no time left: **41.Rxg6 Rxe5**

42.Rg3! Rh5 43.c6 h2 44.c7 Rc5

[44...h1Q! would have led to a very exciting line, but I was too tired to calculate it till the end: 45.c8Q Rd5+ 46.Ke3 Qe1+ 47.Kxf3 Qh1+! the move which I obviously missed. 48.Ke3 (48.Rg2 Qd1+! 49.Kf4 g5+! 50.Rxg5 Qd2+-+) 48...Re5+! 49.Kd4! Qe4+ 50.Kc3 Qe1+ 51.Kd4 Qxf2+ 52.Kxe5 Qxg3+ 53.Ke4 Qxb3 this should be practically winning...]

45.Rh3+ Kg6

(Diagram)



46.Rxh2 Rxc7 47.Rh3 Rf7 48.Kd3!

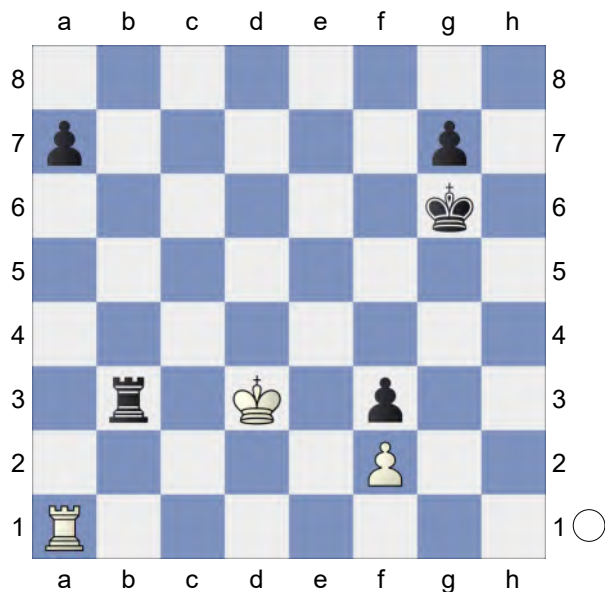
[48.Ke3 Rb7! would be suffering.]

48...Rf4 49.Rh1 Rb4 50.Ra1!

The simplest. It's impossible to win this position since my pieces are too passive. The rest of the game was quite uneventful:

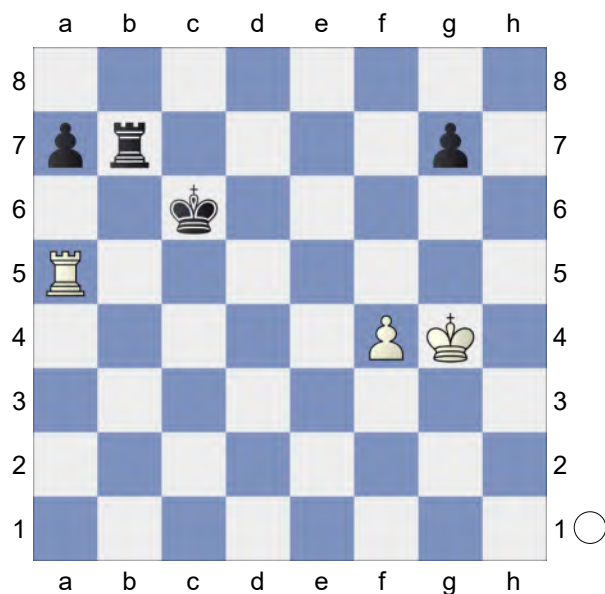
[50.Kc3 Re4 51.Rh3 Rf4 and I was hoping to gain a move like this, although the computer isn't impressed at all.]

50...Rxb3+

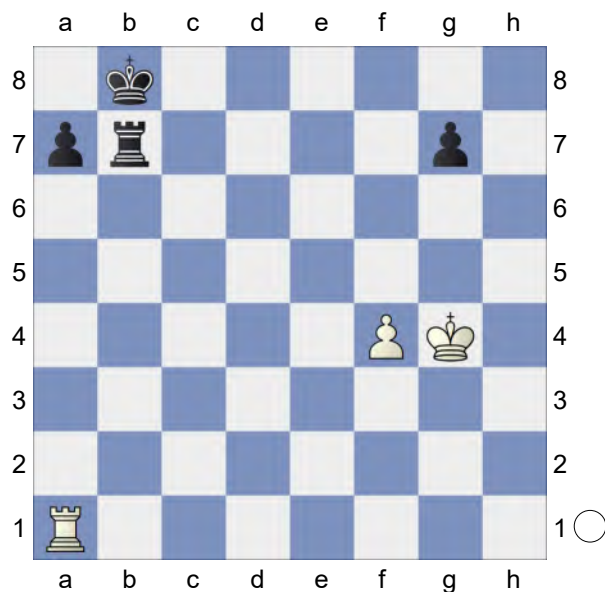


51.Ke4 Rb7 52.Kxf3 Kf5 53.Ra5+

Ke6 54.Kg4 Kd6 55.f4 Kc6

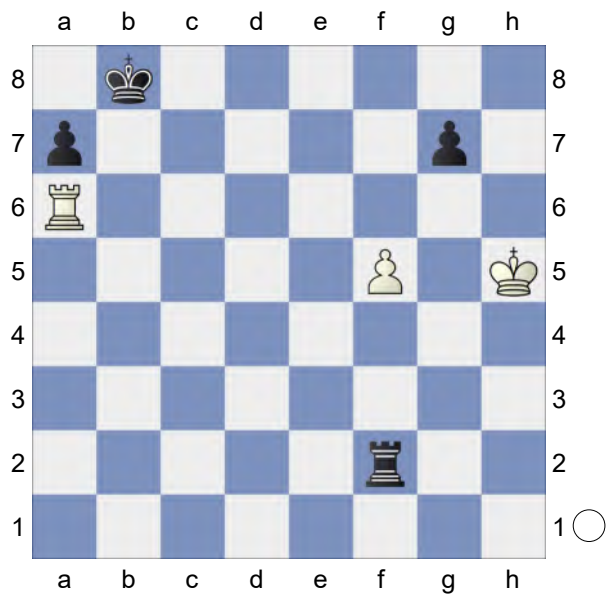


56.Ra1 Kb5 57.Rb1+ Kc6 58.Ra1 Kb6 59.Rb1+ Kc7 60.Ra1 Kb8

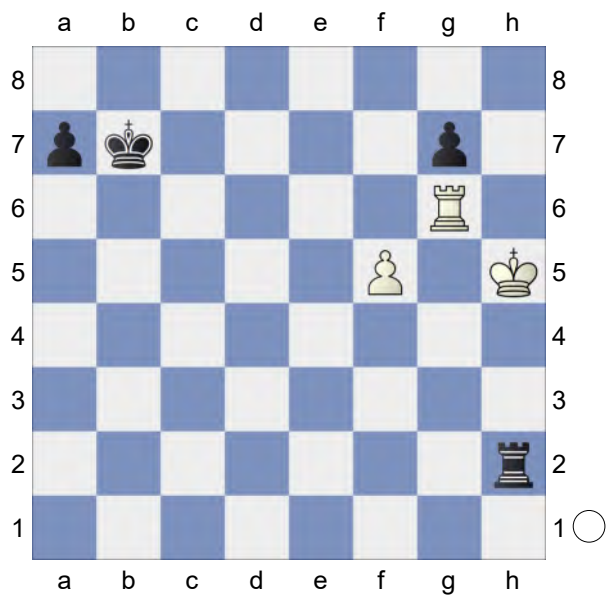


61.Kh5 Rb2 62.f5 Rg2 63.Ra6 Rh2+ 64.Kg5 Rg2+ 65.Kh5 Rf2

(Diagram)



**66.Kg5 Kb7 67.Rg6 Rg2+ 68.Kh5
Rh2+ 69.Kg5 Rg2+ 70.Kh5 Rh2+**



1/2-1/2

176

□ Wei,Yi

■ Zeng,C.

B01

2727

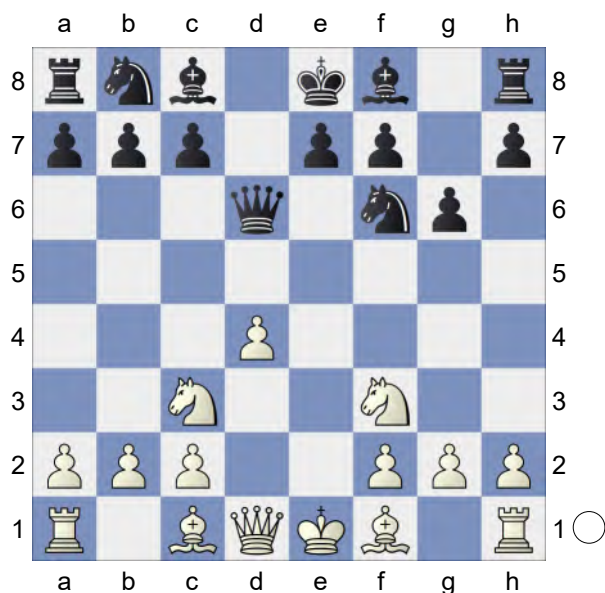
2536

ch-CHN 2017 Xinghua CHN (4.3) 26.4.17
 [Neil McDonald]

A wonderful game by Wei Yi. Nonetheless Black has only himself to blame for his troubles after his instructive strategical mistake at move 13. 1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 g6

[5...c6 and]

[5...a6]



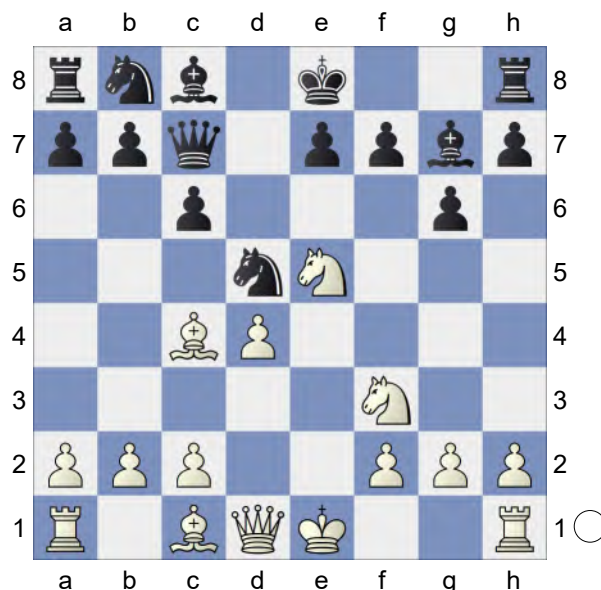
In principle it's attractive to combine Qd6 with a kingside fianchetto. The question is whether Black can afford to leave the b5 square undefended. Alternatives examined on ChessPub are 6.Nb5 The most challenging reply. 6...Qb6 7.Na3 c6 8.Nc4 Qc7 The solid alternative

[8...Qd8 was endorsed by Caruana in his game with Leko on ChessPub.]

9.Nce5 Modern players know when to break Classical rules. Spurning the

development of his other pieces, Wei Yi invests four straight moves in getting his knight from c3 to a fine post on e5.

9...Bg7 10.Bc4 Nd5



11.0-0 0-0 12.Bb3 Nd7 13.Nd3 a5? The cause of a lot of misfortune for Black. Instead he should solidify his knight on d5 with

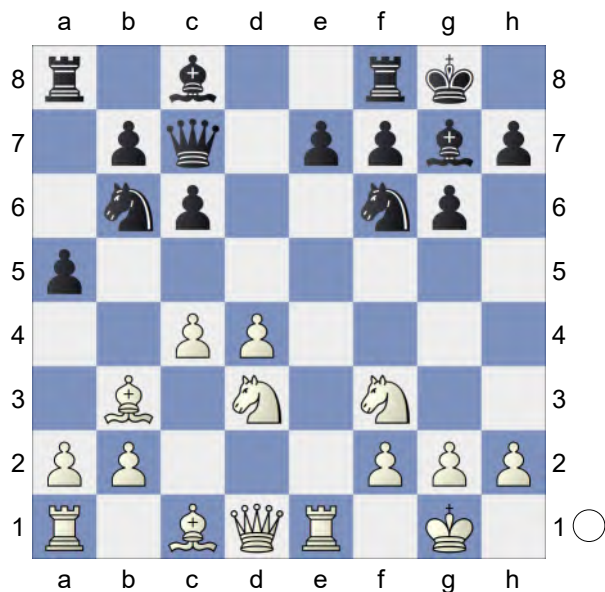
[13...b5! Then 14.Re1 N7b6 15.c3 a5 16.a3 Bf5 proved OK for Black in D. Solak- D.Milanovic, Vrnjacka Banja 2010.]

14.Re1 N7f6 Black would lose a pawn after

[14...a4 15.Bxd5 cxd5 16.Rxe7]

15.c4! Punishing Black's omission of 13...b5. 15...Nb6

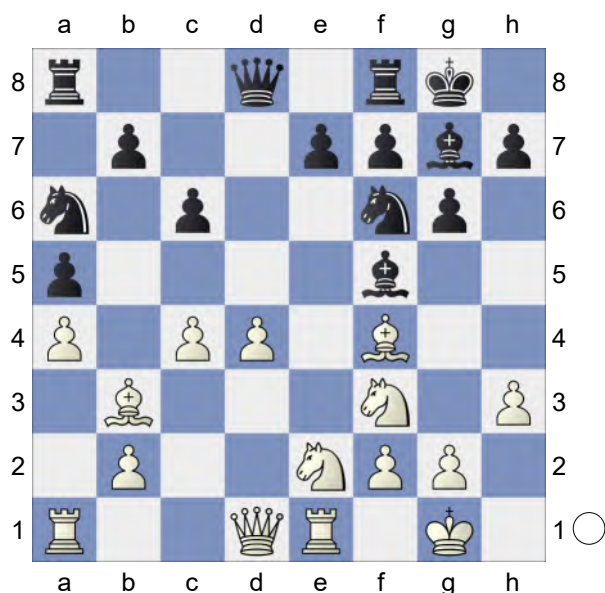
(Diagram)



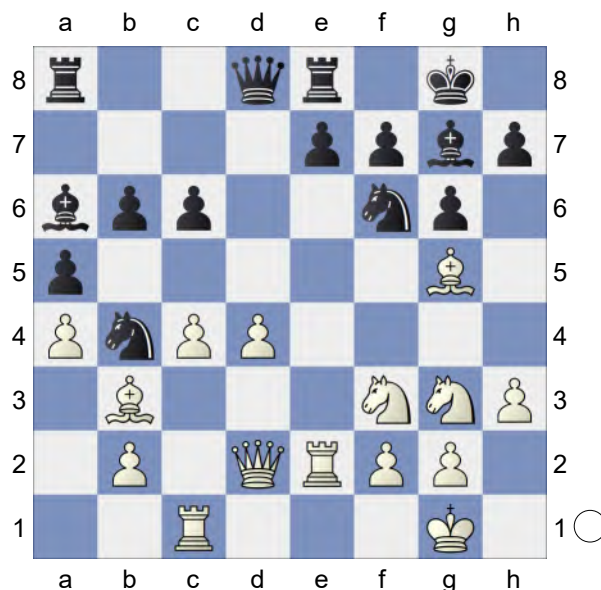
16.a4 Having chased the knight away from its wonderful base on d5 Wei Yi rules out any counterplay with 16... a4.

16...Bf5 17.Bf4 Qd8 18.h3 Nbd7 19.Nc1!

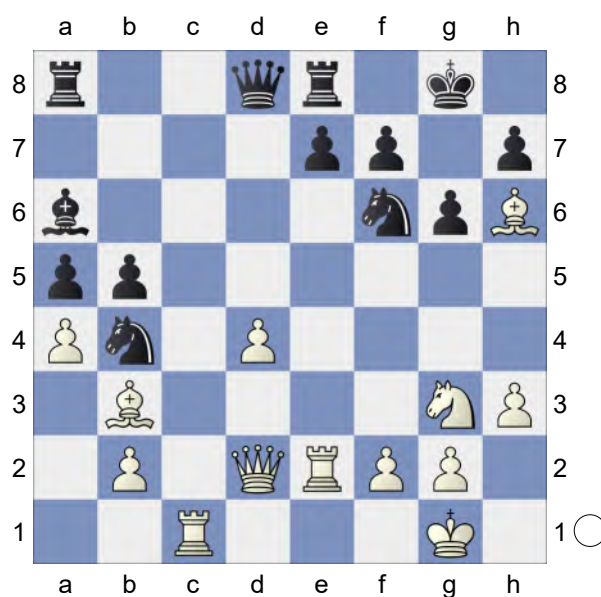
The beginning of another extended manoeuvre with the knight. It heads for g3 in order to embarrass the bishop on f5. By retreating to c1 it takes away the option of Bxd3, this introducing the threat of 20.g4. **19...Nb8** Having been deprived of the d5 post the knight wanders pathetically around the queenside. **20.Ne2 Na6**



21.Ng3 Bc8 22.Qd2 Nb4 23.Rac1 Re8 24.Re2 b6 25.Bg5 Here the bishop deters the move e7-e6 as it would leave the knight on f6 in a pin. This becomes an important factor after White's next move. **25...Ba6**



26.Ne5 Nd7 27.Ng4 Nf6 28.Nh6+ The weakness of f7 allows Wei to force Black into the horrible exchange of his vital bishop for the knight. **28...Bxh6 29.Bxh6 b5 30.cxb5 cxb5**

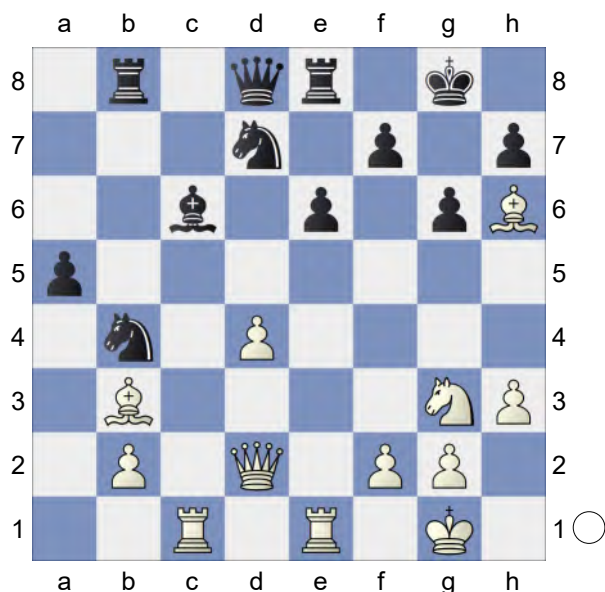


31.axb5 Bxb5 32.Re5 Bc6 33.Nf5 Provoking a loosening of Black's

kingside. In fact there was already a strong tactical solution with

[33.d5! Bd7 (The less evil is to give up the exchange with 33...Bxd5 34.Ba4 If; 33...Nfxd5 34.Rxc6 Nxc6 35.Rxd5 leaves White with two pieces for a rook plus a big attack.) 34.Qd4! putting the queen on a line where she intersects with the mating square g7. The knight on f6 proves too flimsy a barrier. Ra6 35.Ne4 with the threat of 36.d6! undermining the knight on f6. Black has no good defence.]

33...e6 34.Ng3 Nd7 35.Ree1 Rb8

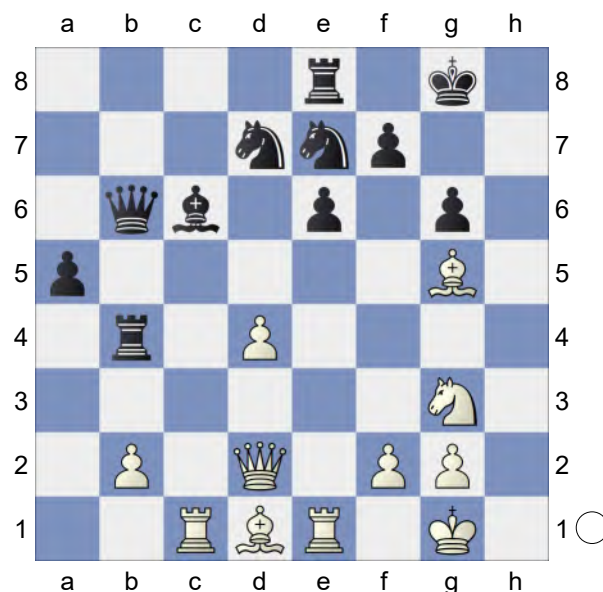


36.h4! Utilising all his resources to attack the black king. The h-pawn will ram g6 in due course. **36...Nd5** The queen is trapped after

[36...Qxh4 37.Bg5 Qg4 38.Bd1]

37.Bd1 Ne7 38.h5 Rb4 39.hxg6 hxg6 40.Bg5 Qb6

(Diagram)



41.Bxe7 Rxe7 42.Qh6 Nf6 After

[42...Rxd4 43.Rc3 threats include 44. Nh5 gxh5 45.Rg3+.]

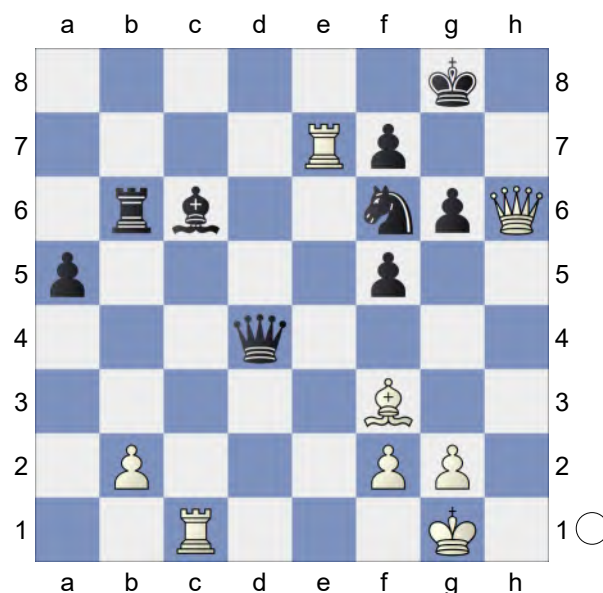
[Or 42...Bb7 43.Nf5 gxf5 44.Re3 leaves the black king fatally exposed.]

43.Nf5! Wei Yi's last piece of wizardry with his knights. The threat of mate on g7 wins the exchange. **43...exf5** Too awful for Black is

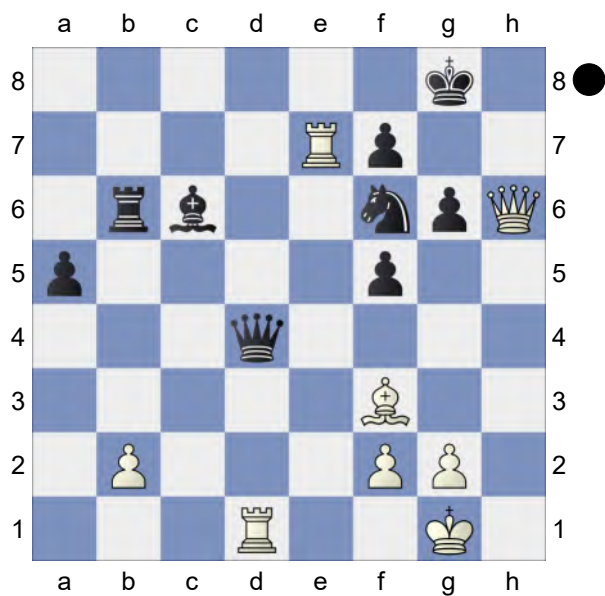
[43...gxf5 44.Qxf6]

44.Rxe7 Qxd4 45.Bf3 Rb6

[45...Bxf3 46.Rc8+]



Black is mated after **46.Rd1**



A decisive check on d8 follows if the queen saves herself.

1-0

539

□ Wei, Yi

■ Yuffa, D.

27 Moscow

[Neil McDonald]

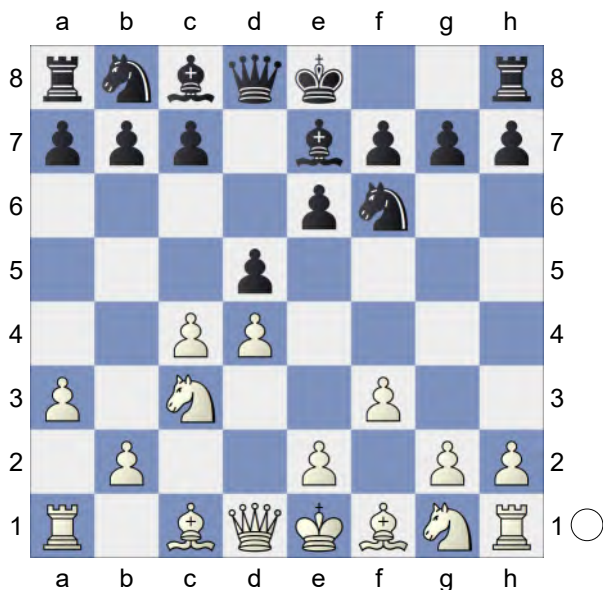
E20

2019

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3

A direct challenge to Black's Nimzo-Indian strategy which revolves around controlling the e4-square. **4...d5** Style and temperament as well as knowledge of opening theory play a role in the choice of a pawn structure.

[Here Yuffa opts for a space-gaining thrust in the centre. Instead he could pursue adventure by imbalancing things with 4...c5 5.d5 0-0 6.e4 . This would be more strategically risky as White has a big centre but it can be undermined, even immediately with the Benko Gambit-like b5!? .]

5.a3 Be7

6.e4 dxe4 7.fxe4 e5! The strong point on d5 having been dissolved it is necessary to exert himself a second time in the centre or else he'll be overrun by 8 e5. **8.d5** So Wei Yi establishes a

space advantage after all. On the other hand setting up a wedge of pawns on light squares has left some of his dark squares feeling a little exposed. As we shall see if Black responds precisely then White can be persuaded into castling queenside, when the pawn advances which the structure requires of him – namely b2-b4 and c4-c5 –become problematical. **8...0-0 9.Nf3 Nbd7?** The cramped black position has too many minor pieces vying to use its narrow outlets.

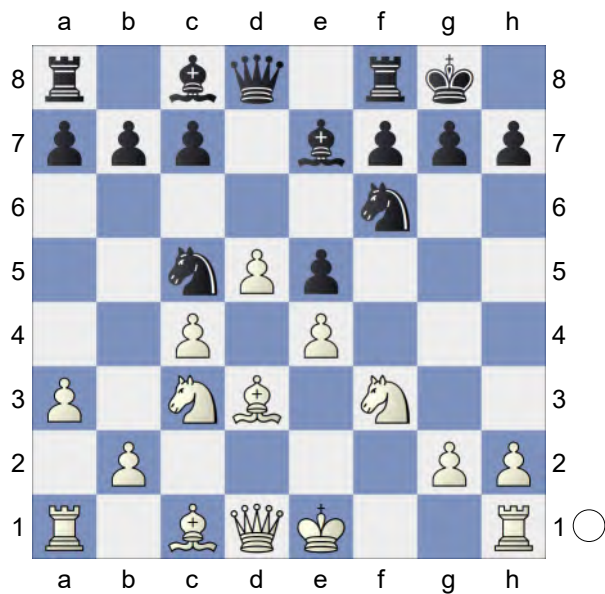
[He should ease the clutter with 9...Bg4! . Then the exchange on f3 would allow his other bishop to get to a strong diagonal. For example, 10.h3 Bxf3 11.Qxf3 Nbd7 12.Bd3 Bc5 (now White can only castle kingside if he agrees to the rather unappealing exchange of his 'good' bishop with 13 Be3) 13.Bd2 a5 14.0-0-0 (as observed above with the king on the queenside rather than tucked away on h1 it is difficult to see how White can safely arrange b2-b4 which the pawn structure indicates is his natural plan) Ne8 15.Kb1 Nd6 and Black is well entrenched.]

10.Bd3 Nc5

[After 10...a5 11.0-0 White's king is secure on the kingside and he can try to exploit his queenside space advantage by engineering b2-b4. However the game move doesn't solve Black's problems as his knight can eventually be kicked back by b2-b4.]

[Perhaps he should speculate with the disruptive 10...Bc5!? 11.b4 Bd4 .]

(Diagram)



11.Bc2 a5 12.0-0 Bg4 Too late as the white king is already on g1 and Black has the wrong piece on c5. **13.Be3 Bh5 14.h3 Ra6 15.b3!?** A sensible consolidating/ waiting move.

[Perhaps upon 15.g4 (objectively the best move) In any case, Black could also answer

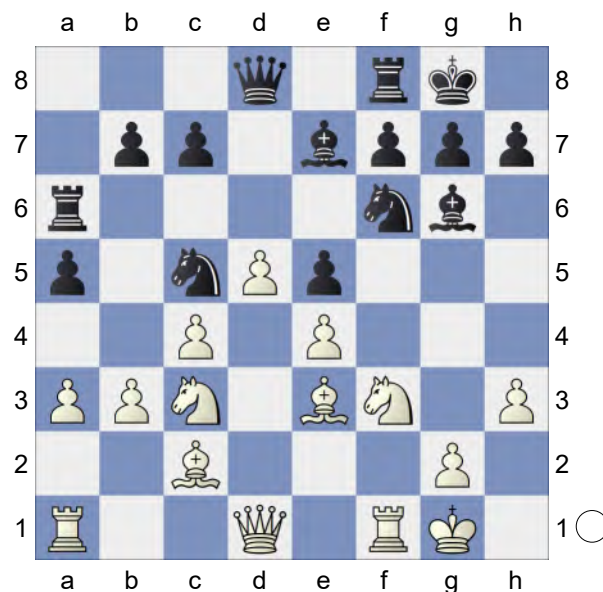
A) Yuffa was intending the sacrifice **15...Nxc4** **16.hxc4 Bxc4**. It's not very convincing, but after **17.Qd2 Nd7** (not **17...Rg6?** **18.Nxe5**) he has certain attacking chances.);

B) **15...Bg6** when **16.Nxe5** gives White strong pressure as in the game but with White's kingside more airy as he has put a pawn on g4 rather than b3. Wei Yi decides to take no risks.]

15...Bg6?

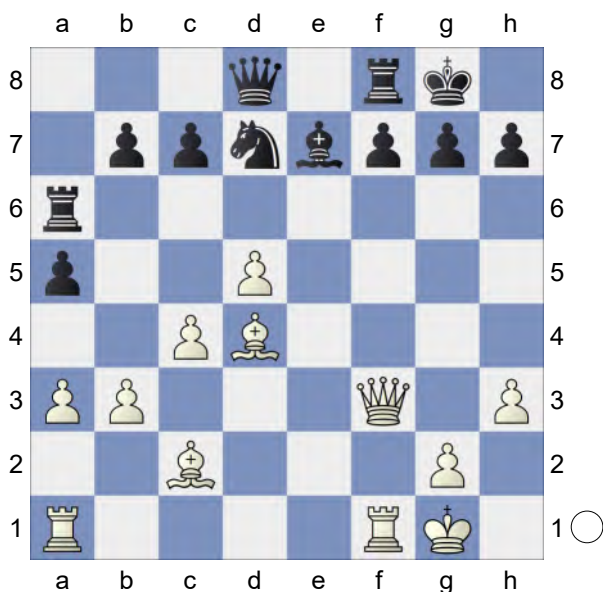
[Black could have guarded e5 with **15...Ncd7** when White would have had to squeeze him slowly on the queenside as he has missed the chance for **15 g4 Bg6 16 Nxe5**. But I suspect one reason why Wei Yi spurned 15 g4 was because he had

anticipated that Yuffa would carrying on playing actively even when the position required careful defence.]



16.Nxe5 Bxe4 17.Nxe4 Ncxe4 when White would have had to squeeze him slowly on the queenside as he has missed the chance for **15 g4 Bg6 16 Nxe5**. But I suspect one reason why Wei Yi spurned 15 g4 was because he had anticipated that Yuffa would carrying on playing actively even when the position required careful defence. QUESTION: Can you list White's positional advantages going into the middlegame? In a general way how should he try to exploit them? And what should be his first move? ANSWER: White has the bishop pair: a sure advantage when there are open diagonals in and around the centre. He has a well-placed knight on e5 which can be supported by the other pieces. He has the open f-file for his rook. And he has a significant space advantage in the centre due to the powerful pawn on d5. While allowing for the defensive solidity of Black's kingside, his 3-2-pawn majority there is of no

dynamic value. In contrast, we can imagine White's 4-3 queenside majority becoming mobile. This evaluation gives us an outline of White's overall strategy: combine threats to the black king with edging the pawns forwards on the queenside. Then Black will be under pressure across the whole board. For the moment, Wei Yi is concerned with improving the layout of his own pieces and worsening the coordination of his opponent's pieces. Thus he brings his queen to an active square and forces the black knight to retreat from its centre post. **18.Qf3! Nc5 19.Bd4** And now the white bishops are aligned for action against the black king on neighbouring diagonals. In this formation they are known as raking bishops. **19...Ncd7** Driven from its own centre post the black knight won't let the white horse remain undisturbed. **20.Nxd7 Nxd7**



QUESTION: How can we start using the 'sleeping giant' – that is, White's queenside pawns? ANSWER: **21.b4!** Have some sympathy for Black's bishop. If we compare him to a fireman, he was all geared up for 21...Bf6 to exchange

off one of White's imposing bishops and stop any possible conflagration on the kingside. And now suddenly a blaze has erupted on a square on the queenside which is in his remit to extinguish.

21...axb4

[White would have an imposing positional advantage after 21...Bf6 22.Bxf6 Rxf6 23.Qe4 (gaining vital time to seize control of the e-file by attacking h7) g6 24.Rfe1 . There would no longer be an assault on Black's king, but the pawn majority would be ready to advance with 25 c5 etc.]

22.axb4 Bf6

[After 22...Rxa1 23.Bxa1 Therefore the bishop elects to perform its role as defender of the king, rather than restrainer of the white queenside. If instead

A) 23...Bxb4 the 'fireman' has been distracted and flames soon engulf the kingside: 24.Qh5! g6 25.Qh6 f6 (forced as there's no ...Bf6 move to stop mate on g7) 26.Bxg6! and the Black kingside falls apart as hxg6 27.Qxg6+ Kh8 28.Rf5 leads to mate on the h-file. (28.--);

B) 23...Bf6 then 24.Qf5! forces g6 , when 25.Bxf6 gxf5 26.Bxd8 Rxd8 27.Bxf5 wins a clean pawn for White.]

[Similar is 22...Bxb4 23.Rxa6 bxa6 24.Qh5 g6 25.Qh6]

QUESTION: White's bishop is about to drop with check on d4, but can you see Wei Yi's imaginative reply? ANSWER: **23.Rxa6!** Very nicely played.

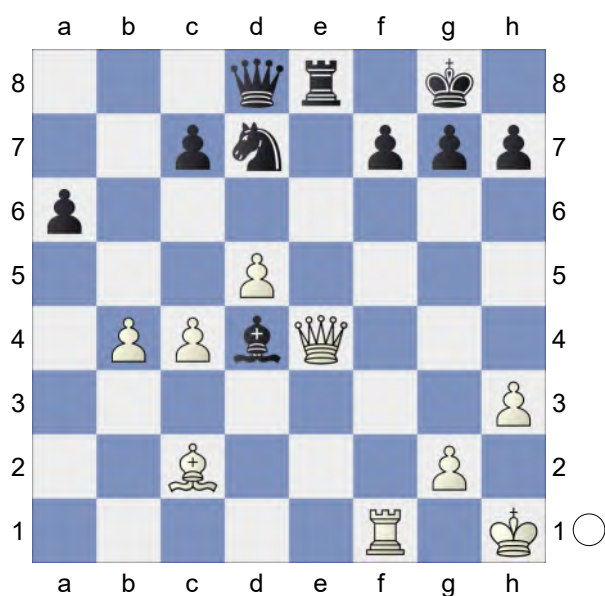
[Black would avoid the worst after 23.Bxf6 Rxf6 .]

23...Bxd4+ 24.Kh1 bxa6 25.Qe4 The point: the double attack on d4 and

h7 means that White regains the piece. Technically speaking this isn't a very hard tactic, but leaving the bishop hanging with check is so against our instincts that it takes some pluck even to consider it. **25...Re8**

[On the other hand, 25...g6 26.Qxd4 leaves him in dire straits: his pawn on a6 is sickly and easy to attack while White can readily create a passed pawn with 27 c5 and 28 d6. Note that White could continue to plan on a wide scale: the bishop, a superior piece to the knight, could either attack a6 (with Bd3 after c4-c5) or aim at f7 (with Bb3 after c4-c5 and d5-d6). It is very doubtful that Yuffa would have been able to hold this endgame against his higher rated opponent. So the game move might be worth the gamble. Perhaps Wei Yi won't rise to the occasion...]

[If 25...Nf6 26.Rxf6 wins at once.]



Objectively, Black's move is a blunder. QUESTION: Before reading on, try to decide White's best option: should he take on d4 or on h7? ANSWER:

26.Qxh7+! No such luck.

[If White had settled for 26.Qxd4 Nf6 Black remains in deep trouble but he is much healthier than after 26...g6 27 Qxd4 as given in the last note. He has kept his pawn on g7 so his knight has a firm centre base where it shields the f7-pawn. He would be able to put up more of a fight. Instead a king hunt begins.]

26...Kf8 27.Qh8+ Ke7 QUESTION: White has to decide whether to play 28 Re1+ or 28 Qh4+ here. Can you find a reason why one of these is much stronger? **ANSWER: 28.Qh4+!** A precise move which attacks the bishop and forces it to f6, after which it can't block the e-file.

[If instead 28.Re1+ Be5! uses the bishop as a bodyguard, when 29.Qxg7 (while 29.Qh4+? g5! (getting the bishop involved in the defence of g7 and h8) 30.Qxg5+ Kf8 is even good for him) 29...Rg8! defends adequately for Black after 30.Rxe5+ Nxe5 31.Qxe5+ Kf8.]

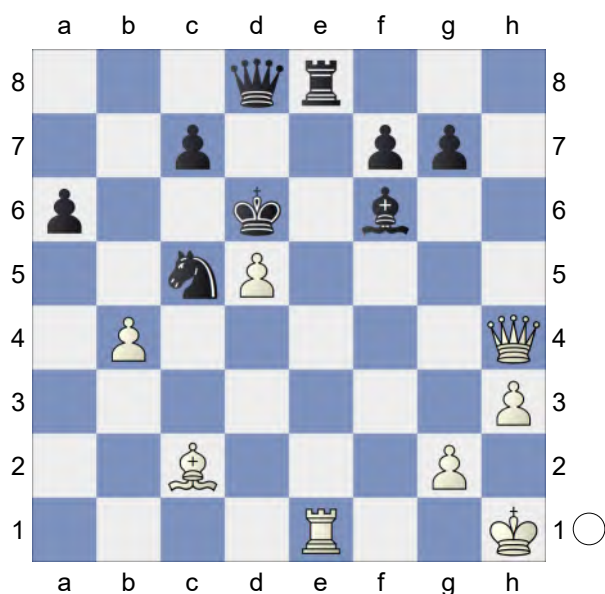
28...Bf6 29.Re1+ Kd6

[Instead 29...Kf8 allows mate in one.]
[A pretty finish would be 29...Ne5 30.Rxe5+! Kd6 31.c5+! (the winning move and curiously the only way for White to be better) Kxe5 32.Qe4# .]

30.c5+ In variations above this pawn advance aimed to create a queen; here it is to catch a king. **30...Nxc5**

[White gradually hunts down his quarry after 30...Kxd5 , e.g. 31.Rd1+ Kc6 32.Be4+ Kb5 33.Bd3+ Kc6 34.Qc4 (removing the black king's access to the b5 and d5-squares and preparing to push him back to his doom on b8; threats include 35 Qxa6+ and 35 Be4+) Kb7 35.Qxa6+ Kb8

36.Qb5+ Ka7 (or 36...Kc8 37.c6 Nb6 38.Qa6+ and mates next move) 37.Bf5! (the elimination of the black knight opens the way to mate) Re7 38.Bxd7 and Black has no good defence against 39 Qa5+ Kb8 40 c6 followed by a quick mate with the queen on b7.]



QUESTION: Wei Yi still needs to be accurate. Decide if he should recapture with 31 bxc5+ or throw in a check with 31 Qf4+. ANSWER: **31.Qf4+** Another precise move. Unless you have a massive material advantage it is never a good idea to relax and think the game will win itself.

[Here for example White would suddenly be worse after 31.bxc5+ Kxc5 .]

31...Kd7

[If 31...Kxd5 32.Rd1+ Kc6 it would be cruel to give Black some false hope with 33.Rxd8 (but the zwischenzug 33.Qf3+! Kb5 34.Rxd8 allows him to resign with no qualms) 33...Re1+? 34.Kh2 Be5 when he regains the queen and can

linger on.]

[Alternatively upon 31...Be5 32.bxc5+ Kxd5 (if 32...Kxc5 33.Rxe5 is a piece up for White) , there is a neat win of the queen: 33.Rxe5+! Rxe5 34.Qd2+ .]

32.Bf5+ It seems the calculation of variations had taken its toll and White was in time pressure. With this check he allows the black king to slip back to the relative sanctuary of f8.

[Instead it was possible to keep the fugitive in the centre or else drive him to destruction on the queenside with 32.Qf5+! Kd6 (or 32...Ne6 33.dxe6+ fxe6 34.Rd1+ Ke7 35.Qc5+ Kf7 36.Rxd8 pockets the queen) 33.bxc5+ Kxc5 34.d6+! opening all lines of attack Kb6 (or 34...Kxd6 35.Rd1+ again winning the queen) 35.Rb1+ Kc6 (if 35...Ka7 36.Qc5+ leads to mate) 36.dxc7 Kxc7 37.Qc5+ Kd7 38.Ba4+ Ke6 39.Re1+ and mate next move.]

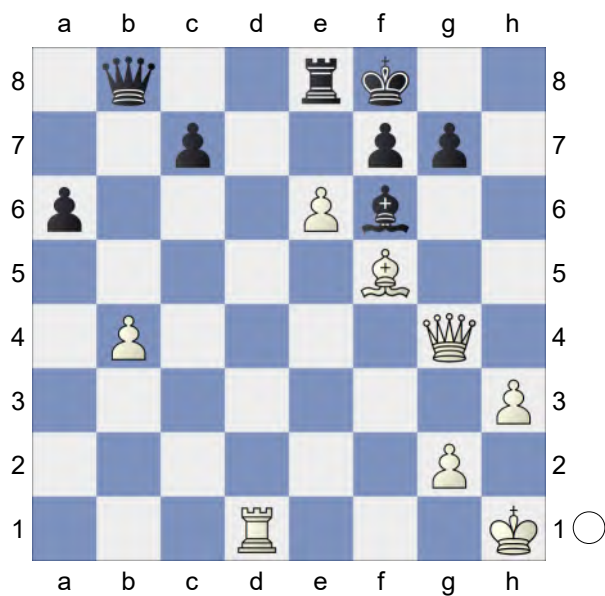
32...Ne6 33.dxe6+ Ke7 34.Qg4 Kf8

[There was a fighting chance with 34...Qd2! 35.Rd1 Qe3 36.exf7 Rd8! . The point is that 37.Rxd8 allows Qe1+ 38.Kh2 Be5+ 39.g3 Qf2+ 40.Kh1 Qf1+ with a draw by perpetual. White could keep an edge with the superior 37 Rg1! If Black was in time pressure as well it is no surprise he failed to seize his chance. It is also likely he had been made punch drunk by the endless threats and felt relieved to tuck the king back on f8. The idea of a counterattack never occurred to him.]

35.Rd1 Gaining time for his next move by breaking the pin on the e-file.

35...Qb8

(Diagram)



36.exf7 Re5

[If 36...Kxf7 37.Bg6+ Kg8 38.Qh5 Rd8 39.Re1 and there's no good way to stop 40 Qh7+ Kg8 41 Qh8 mate. Naturally grabbing the exchange with 38 Bxe8 in this sequence was also entirely winning.]

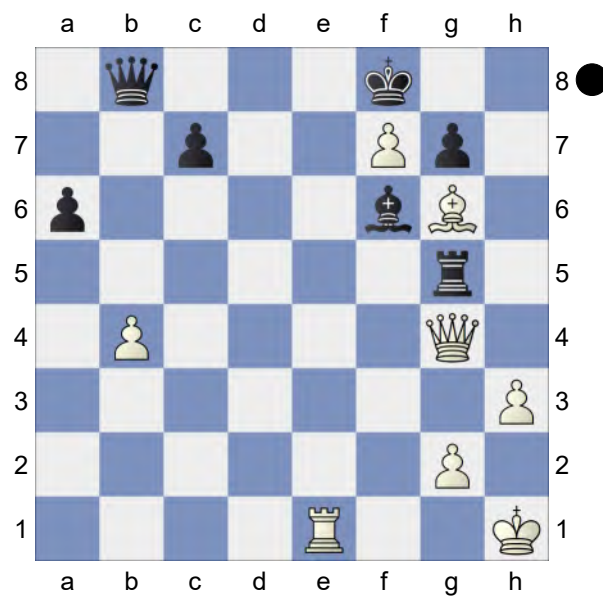
37.Bg6 Rg5

[Losing at once, but if he waits then amongst other winning methods White has the plan of queening his advanced pawn, for example 37...Qa8 38.Qd7 Qb8 39.Qe8+ Rxe8 40.fxe8Q+ Qxe8 41.Bxe8 Kxe8 42.g3 when the endgame is a technical win.]

QUESTION: Can you see the quickest win for White? **ANSWER: 38.Re1!**

[Also decisive but more laborious is 38.Qh4 Ke7 (or 38...Rxf6 39.Qh8+ Kxf7 40.Qxb8 winning the queen) 39.Re1+ Kd7 40.Qe4 etc. when having been ousted from f8 the black king will soon be mated.]

(Diagram)



A neat finish. After 38...Rxf6 39 Re8+ mates next move.

1-0

388

B01

□ Wei, Yi

2638

■ Miroshnichenko, E.

2602

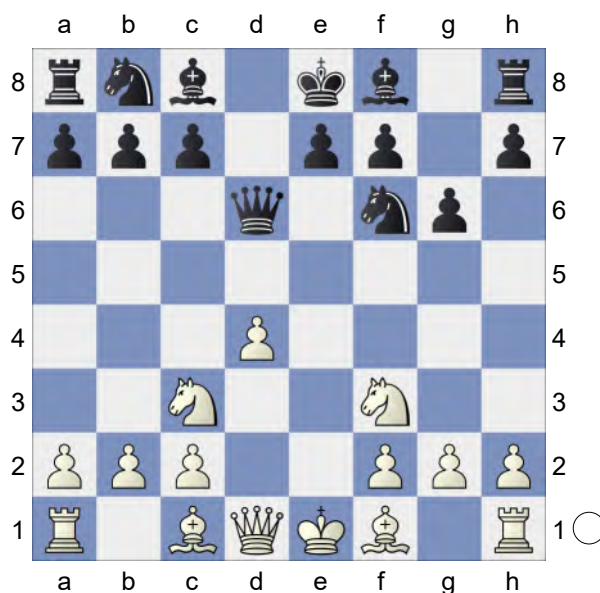
TCh-Super League 2014 (5.6) 22.08.2014

[Neil McDonald]

alternatives is' 5...a6 where White's strongest reply is Balogh Csaba: 'where White's strongest reply is where White's strongest reply is' 6.g3 Probably Wei Yi mixed up these lines...]

China's biggest hope is the 15 years old Wei Yi, who indeed has all the chances to become a top GM, but this time he runs into a very nice defeat... Balogh Csaba: 'China's biggest hope is the 15 years old Wei Yi, who indeed has all the chances to become a top GM, but this time he runs into a very nice defeat... China's biggest hope is the 15 years old Wei Yi, who indeed has all the chances to become a top GM, but this time he runs into a very nice defeat...' **1.e4** Balogh Csaba **1...d5** The Scandinavian defence. Wei Yi is very strong in the main lines, therefore it was a clever choice by Miroshnichenko to play something less explored. Balogh Csaba: 'The Scandinavian defence. Wei Yi is very strong in the main lines, therefore it was a clever choice by Miroshnichenko to play something less explored. The Scandinavian defence. Wei Yi is very strong in the main lines, therefore it was a clever choice by Miroshnichenko to play something less explored.' **2.exd5** **Qxd5** **3.Nc3** **Qd6** The queen stays resolutely in the middle of the action. The question is whether White can gain anything worthwhile by harassing her with Nb5 or Bf4 in the future. The queen stays resolutely in the middle of the action. The question is whether White can gain anything worthwhile by harassing her with Nb5 or Bf4 in the future. **4.d4** **Nf6** **5.Nf3** **g6**

[Balogh Csaba: 'One of the



A kind of Scandinavian-Pirc hybrid. You might like to examine Tiviakov-Fedorchuk in the archives for more details. A kind of Scandinavian-Pirc hybrid. You might like to examine Tiviakov-Fedorchuk in the archives for more details. **6.g3** A natural response as White's light squared bishop will exert pressure on the queenside on g2 and the black queen can be hunted by his other bishop with Bf4. However as we shall see Black can throw a spanner in the works when it comes to White castling kingside. A natural response as White's light squared bishop will exert pressure on the queenside on g2 and the black queen can be hunted by his other bishop with Bf4. However as we shall see Black can throw a spanner in the works when it comes to White castling kingside. It looks natural to

fianchetto the bishop and also to prepare for the other bishop to develop with tempo to f4, but it turns out to be an inaccuracy... Balogh Csaba: 'It looks natural to fianchetto the bishop and also to prepare for the other bishop to develop with tempo to f4, but it turns out to be an inaccuracy... It looks natural to fianchetto the bishop and also to prepare for the other bishop to develop with tempo to f4, but it turns out to be an inaccuracy...'

[Instead Instead Balogh Csaba: 'The best is' 6.Nb5 gains time for White to play the strategically desirable c2-c4 advance. For example gains time for White to play the strategically desirable c2-c4 advance. For example ! followed by c4, building a very strong center. Practice already shows that Black is unable to put enough pressure on it, therefore White claims an edge in the end. Balogh Csaba: '! '!' Balogh Csaba: '! followed by c4, building a very strong center. Practice already shows that Black is unable to put enough pressure on it, therefore White claims an edge in the end. followed by c4, building a very strong center. Practice already shows that Black is unable to put enough pressure on it, therefore White claims an edge in the end.' Qd8

A) 7.Bf4 Na6 Slightly awkward for Black is (7...Nd5 8.Be5) 8.c4 Slightly awkward for Black is Bg7 9.Be5 0-0 10.Be2 Bh6 11.0-0 c6 12.Nc3 Nc7 13.Qb3 Ne6 14.d5 Nf4 15.Rad1 this sharp position was reached in Dastan, B (2432)-Mamedov, R (2659)/Kocaeli TUR 2014, and now I like this sharp position was reached in Dastan, B

(2432)-Mamedov, R (2659)/Kocaeli TUR 2014, and now I like Nd7!?

B) 7.c4 c6 8.Nc3 Bg7 9.Be2 0-0 10.0-0 Bg4 11.Be3 Nbd7 12.Qb3 White would have a small plus due to the bishop pair and his extra space after (12.h3 Bxf3 13.Bxf3) 12...Qc7 13.Rfd1 Rfe8 14.d5?! Evidently Wei Yi doesn't enjoy playing against Black's opening system. It's not too late to get a tiny edge with Evidently Wei Yi doesn't enjoy playing against Black's opening system. It's not too late to get a tiny edge with (14.h3 Bxf3 15.Bxf3) 14...Bxf3 15.gxf3 Not an aesthetic recapture. Perhaps White had missed that after Not an aesthetic recapture. Perhaps White had missed that after (15.Bxf3 Ne5 16.Be2 Neg4 the double attack on e3 and h2 is very pleasant for him.) 15...b6 So far this is Wei Yi (2638)-Benidze, D (2458)/Kocaeli TUR 2014 and here So far this is Wei Yi (2638)-Benidze, D (2458)/Kocaeli TUR 2014 and here (15...Nh5 16.Rd2 Be5 looks good for Black due to White's fractured kingside.)]

6...Bg7 7.Bg2 Diagram 7...Qa6!? The black queen slips away from attack by Bf4 and prevents White castling kingside. Instead The black queen slips away from attack by Bf4 and prevents White castling kingside. Instead ! This is the drawback of the g3-Bg2 plan and the point of avoiding playing a6 or c6 in the 5th move. White cannot castle kingside. Balogh Csaba: '! '!' Balogh Csaba: '! This is the drawback of the g3-Bg2 plan and the point of avoiding playing a6 or c6 in the 5th move. White

cannot castle kingside. This is the drawback of the g3-Bg2 plan and the point of avoiding playing a6 or c6 in the 5th move. White cannot castle kingside.'

[7...c6 was preferred in the aforementioned Fedorchuk game. was preferred in the aforementioned Fedorchuk game.]

8.Bf4 Black looks comfortable after a queen exchange for example Black looks comfortable after a queen exchange for example

[8.Qe2 0-0 9.0-0 Qxe2 10.Nxe2 Bf5 11.c3 Be4 as in Malakhov, I (2441)-Kovalenko, I (2650)/St Petersburg RUS 2014. as in Malakhov, I (2441)-Kovalenko, I (2650)/St Petersburg RUS 2014.]

8...c6 9.Qd2 This is the ambitious continuation, keeping the queens on the board and castling queenside, but objectively I believe that it is a wrong idea because Black's attack comes too fast. Balogh Csaba: 'This is the ambitious continuation, keeping the queens on the board and castling queenside, but objectively I believe that it is a wrong idea because Black's attack comes too fast. This is the ambitious continuation, keeping the queens on the board and castling queenside, but objectively I believe that it is a wrong idea because Black's attack comes too fast.'

[Balogh Csaba: 'It is more solid to play' 9.Qe2 Qxe2+ 10.Nxe2 but of course the probability for a draw has increased a lot. Balogh Csaba: 'but of course the probability for a draw has increased a lot. but of course the probability for a draw has increased a lot.']

9...0-0 10.0-0-0? Leads to trouble. Black

is comfortable but no more after

[10.Bh6 but Black appears to be able to hold his own or more after Bxh6 11.Qxh6 Bf5 12.0-0-0 b5 for example Sit back and enjoy the attack the attack after for example Sit back and enjoy the attack the attack after

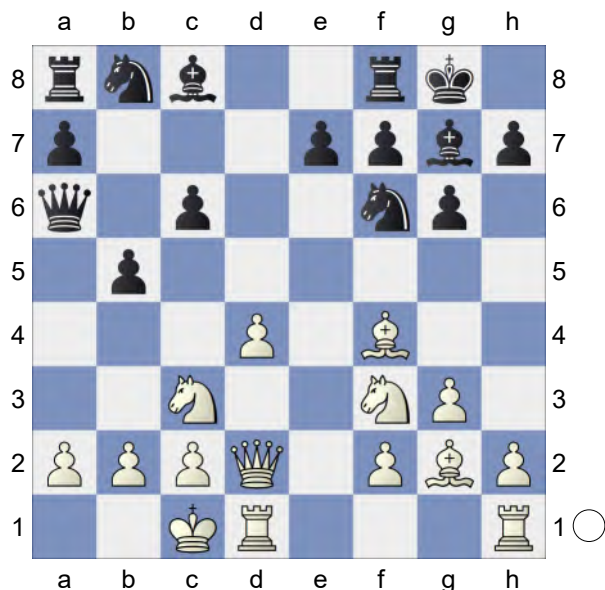
A) Instead 13.Nh4 might lead to a sharp draw: Be6 14.Rhe1 b4 15.Rxe6 bxc3! (Steering clear of 15...fxe6 16.Bh3 bxc3 17.Bxe6+ Rf7 18.Nxg6 when mate on f8 is threatened.) 16.Nf5 cxb2+ 17.Kb1 gxf5 18.Qg5+ Kh8 19.Rxf6 exf6 20.Qxf6+ Kg8 21.Qg5+ Kh8 draw!;

B) 13.a3 b4! 14.axb4 Qa1+ 15.Nb1 Na6 16.Nh4 Bxc2! 17.Kxc2 Nxb4+ 18.Kd2 Rad8 19.Ke2 Qa6+ 20.Kf3 c5 21.g4 Rxd4 22.Rxd4 cxd4 23.Rd1 Nd3 24.Qd2 e5 25.Kg3 e4 26.f4 Rb8 27.Bf1 Qe6 28.h3 Rb3 0-1 Berbatov, K (2481) - Chatalbashev, B (2555)/Albena 2010.]

[Meanwhile 10.Ne5 Be6 11.Nd3 Nbd7 looked OK for Black in Akash, G (2404) -Sethuraman, S (2520)/ Kolkata 2012. looked OK for Black in Akash, G (2404) -Sethuraman, S (2520)/ Kolkata 2012.]

10...b5

(Diagram)



Balogh Csaba: 'followed by Nbd7 and Nd5 or Ne4 seems to be completely fine for Black. followed by Nbd7 and Nd5 or Ne4 seems to be completely fine for Black.']

11...b4! A move familiar from the Berbatov game in the notes above. Black gambits a pawn for a big initiative. A move familiar from the Berbatov game in the notes above. Black gambits a pawn for a big initiative. ! A perfect sacrifice, which was underestimated by the young Chinese. At first sight it does not look that dangerous indeed, but after some extremely strong energetic moves, all black pieces come into the attack. A perfect sacrifice, which was underestimated by the young Chinese. At first sight it does not look that dangerous indeed, but after some extremely strong energetic moves, all black pieces come into the attack.

12.axb4 Qa1+ 13.Nb1 a5!? ! The most natural attacking move again! Black would like to open the a- and b-files in order to quickly attack the weakest point in White's camp, the b2 pawn! However, Black had to count with the next move beforehand: Balogh Csaba: '!' '!' Balogh Csaba: '!' The most natural attacking move again! Black would like to open the a- and b-files in order to quickly attack the weakest point in White's camp, the b2 pawn! However, Black had to count with the next move beforehand: The most natural attacking move again! Black would like to open the

! Black does not need to waste more time and he immediately launches his attack on the queenside. Even the queen is well placed now on a6. Balogh Csaba: '!' '!' Balogh Csaba: '!' Black does not need to waste more time and he immediately launches his attack on the queenside. Even the queen is well placed now on a6. Black does not need to waste more time and he immediately launches his attack on the queenside. Even the queen is well placed now on a6.

11.a3? Leads to trouble. Black is comfortable but no more after Leads to trouble. Black is comfortable but no more after ? Another wrong decision to slow down the attack. It works with the opposite effect. Diagram Balogh Csaba: '? Another wrong decision to slow down the attack. It works with the opposite effect. Diagram Another wrong decision to slow down the attack. It works with the opposite effect. Diagram'

[Balogh Csaba: 'White should have played' 11.Kb1 b4 12.Ne2 although after Nd5 (12...Bf5 followed by Nbd7 and Nd5 or Ne4 seems to be completely fine for Black.

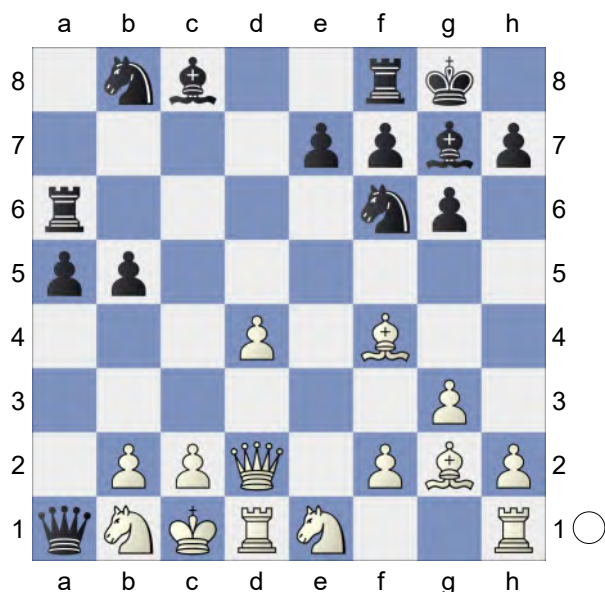
a- and b-files in order to quickly attack the weakest point in White's camp, the b2 pawn! However, Black had to count with the next move beforehand:

[Black also had an attack after Black also had an attack after 13...Nd5 14.Qd3 a5 15.b5 cxb5 16.Ne5 Be6 17.Qa3 Qxa3 18.Nxa3 b4 in Juggernaut, R (2613) -Wikiman, R (2478)/ playchess.com INT 2007, but White can at least be pleased to have got the queens off! in Juggernaut, R (2613) -Wikiman, R (2478)/ playchess.com INT 2007, but White can at least be pleased to have got the queens off!]

14.b5 Wei Yi is relying on this move to keep the queenside blocked, but he meets with an unpleasant surprise. Wei Yi is relying on this move to keep the queenside blocked, but he meets with an unpleasant surprise. The critical test of the previous move. This pawn advance seems to paralyze the black pieces and White is threatening with Ne5. Accepting the pawn with cxb5 seems to drop a piece after Ne1 or g1, because White attacks the a8 rook and the b8 knight is also hanging. However, Black had something in mind... Balogh Csaba: 'The critical test of the previous move. This pawn advance seems to paralyze the black pieces and White is threatening with Ne5. Accepting the pawn with cxb5 seems to drop a piece after Ne1 or g1, because White attacks the a8 rook and the b8 knight is also hanging. However, Black had something in mind... The critical test of the previous move. This pawn advance seems to paralyze the black pieces and White is threatening with Ne5. Accepting the pawn with cxb5 seems to drop a piece

after Ne1 or g1, because White attacks the a8 rook and the b8 knight is also hanging. However, Black had something in mind...' **14...cxb5!!** ! Balogh Csaba: '!' **15.Ne1** White decides to take the piece on offer. If he declines he is left in a horrible position as the black queenside pawns will run at his king. White decides to take the piece on offer. If he declines he is left in a horrible position as the black queenside pawns will run at his king. The most natural move again with the knight to open the diagonal. Of course on e5 it would have been more active, but it closes the f4 bishop and the knight is not under attack anymore on b8. On e1, it could become an important defender of the king. Diagram Balogh Csaba: 'The most natural move again with the knight to open the diagonal. Of course on e5 it would have been more active, but it closes the f4 bishop and the knight is not under attack anymore on b8. On e1, it could become an important defender of the king. Diagram The most natural move again with the knight to open the diagonal. Of course on e5 it would have been more active, but it closes the f4 bishop and the knight is not under attack anymore on b8. On e1, it could become an important defender of the king. Diagram' **15...Ra6**

(Diagram)



! Balogh Csaba: '!' '!' 16.Bxb8 Be6

The bishop on b8 is now hanging and White has no good way to prevent Black's next move. The bishop on b8 is now hanging and White has no good way to prevent Black's next move. ! This was the point which Black had to foresee before playing 13...a5, or maybe even before 11...b4. Black creates the double threat of Rxb8 and Ba2 and White has no adequate defence against both of them, therefore Black wins back the piece and his attack continues to roll. Balogh Csaba: '!' '!' Balogh Csaba: '!' This was the point which Black had to foresee before playing 13...a5, or maybe even before 11...b4. Black creates the double threat of Rxb8 and Ba2 and White has no adequate defence against both of them, therefore Black wins back the piece and his attack continues to roll. This was the point which Black had to foresee before playing 13...a5, or maybe even before 11...b4. Black creates the double threat of Rxb8 and Ba2 and White has no adequate defence against both of them, therefore Black wins back the piece and

his attack continues to roll.' **17.Be5**

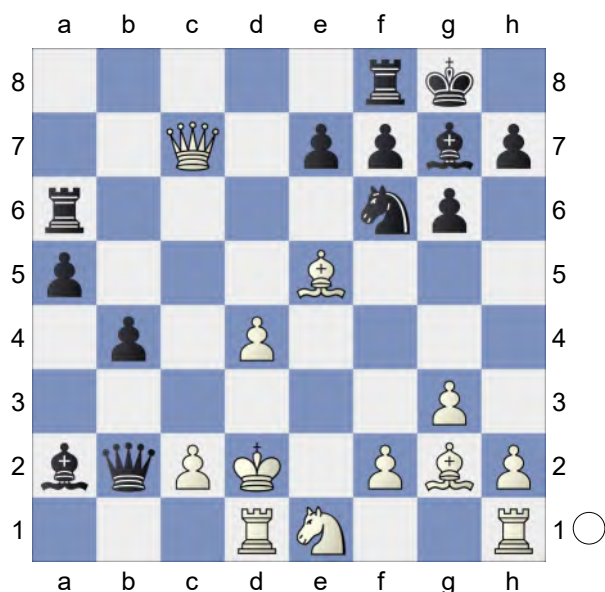
[After 17.d5 Ne4 Black threatens both the white queen and mate on b2.]

17...Ba2 18.Qc3 Of course it is not over yet. In case of Qxb1 Kd2, the queen is trapped. Black finds a strong intermediate move before capturing the knight to send away the queen from the protection of the b2 pawn. Balogh Csaba: 'Of course it is not over yet. In case of Qxb1 Kd2, the queen is trapped. Black finds a strong intermediate move before capturing the knight to send away the queen from the protection of the b2 pawn. Of course it is not over yet. In case of Qxb1 Kd2, the queen is trapped. Black finds a strong intermediate move before capturing the knight to send away the queen from the protection of the b2 pawn.' **18...b4 ! Balogh Csaba: '!' '!' 19.Qc7**

[Attacking the black rook doesn't help much as it slides to a better attacking square on the third rank. Attacking the black rook doesn't help much as it slides to a better attacking square on the third rank. 19.Qd3 also loses after Re6! 20.Kd2 (20.c3 bxc3 [%t Shrt] â^â + Rc8 next, White cannot hold such an enormous attack. Balogh Csaba: '-+' '-+' Balogh Csaba: '[%t Shrt] â^â + Rc8 next, White cannot hold such an enormous attack. Rc8 next, White cannot hold such an enormous attack.') 20...Qxb2! The knight on b1 can wait. Black keeps up the attack rather than falling into a pin after The knight on b1 can wait. Black keeps up the attack rather than falling into a pin after ! (Balogh Csaba: 'But not' 20...Bxb1? ? 21.Nf3 when suddenly White is

winning as 22.Rxb1 follows. when suddenly White is winning as 22.Rxb1 follows. and White wins.) 21.f4 (after 21.Nf3 Rc8 the threats include 22... Bh6+ 23.Ke1 Bc4, trapping the white queen. the threats include 22...Bh6+ 23.Ke1 Bc4, trapping the white queen. [%t Shrt] â^â + with a crushing attack. Balogh Csaba: '-+' '-+' 22.Ke1 Bxb1) 21...Rd8 22.Nf3 Ng4! 23.Bxg7 Nf2 24.Qb5 (Or 24.Qf1 Rc8 and White's defences collapse on c2. and White's defences collapse on c2.) 24...Ne4+ 25.Kd3 Bxb1 26.Rxb1 Qc3+ 27.Ke2 Qxc2+ and White is soon mated. and White is soon mated.]

19...Qxb1+ 20.Kd2 Qxb2



21.Nd3 Qa3 22.Ra1 It appears that Wei Yi has fought back well as the black queen is in an awkward pin. But now comes a decisive strengthening of Black's attack. It appears that Wei Yi has fought back well as the black queen is in an awkward pin. But now comes a decisive strengthening of Black's attack. Diagram White still had realistic hopes to survive, as the black pieces are

temporarily discoordinated. He intends to hide his king on the kingside with Ke2, Rhe1 and Kf1. However the next move destroys all the hopes. Balogh Csaba: 'Diagram White still had realistic hopes to survive, as the black pieces are temporarily discoordinated. He intends to hide his king on the kingside with Ke2, Rhe1 and Kf1. However the next move destroys all the hopes. Diagram White still had realistic hopes to survive, as the black pieces are temporarily discoordinated. He intends to hide his king on the kingside with Ke2, Rhe1 and Kf1. However the next move destroys all the hopes.' **22...Ne8!** !! A brilliant retreat! The point is to send away the queen from the c-file in order to continue the attack with Qc3 and Bc4! The queen has no good square to leave. Balogh Csaba: '!!!' '!!!' Balogh Csaba: '!!! A brilliant retreat! The point is to send away the queen from the c-file in order to continue the attack with Qc3 and Bc4! The queen has no good square to leave. A brilliant retreat! The point is to send away the queen from the c-file in order to continue the attack with Qc3 and Bc4! The queen has no good square to leave.'

23.Qc5 Other moves are also losing:

[23.Qb7 Qc3+ 24.Ke3 Bc4 [%t Shrt] â^â + Balogh Csaba: '-+' '-+']

[23.Qxe7 Qc3+ 24.Ke3 Black has several wins, one of them is Balogh Csaba: 'Black has several wins, one of them is Black has several wins, one of them is' Nd6 25.Bxd6 Qxd4+ 26.Ke2 Rxd6 27.Rxa2 Re6+ [%t Shrt] â^â + Balogh Csaba: '-+' '-+']

[23.Qc8 Re6 [%t Shrt] â^â + followed by Nd6 next with tempo and Rc8. Balogh Csaba: '-+' '-+' Balogh

Csaba: '[%t Shrt] â^â + followed by Nd6 next with tempo and Rc8. followed by Nd6 next with tempo and Rc8.']

23...Nd6 A powerful rerouting of the black knight. It wins the c8 square for the rook after which White's defences finally crumble. A powerful rerouting of the black knight. It wins the c8 square for the rook after which White's defences finally crumble. ! This great regrouping of the knight allows Black to occupy the c-file with the rook, which decides the outcome of the game. Balogh Csaba: '!' '!' Balogh Csaba: '!' This great regrouping of the knight allows Black to occupy the c-file with the rook, which decides the outcome of the game. This great regrouping of the knight allows Black to occupy the c-file with the rook, which decides the outcome of the game.' **24.Bxg7**

[Or 24.Bd5 Qc3+ 25.Qxc3 bxc3+ 26.Kxc3 Bxd5 and Black has won a piece.]

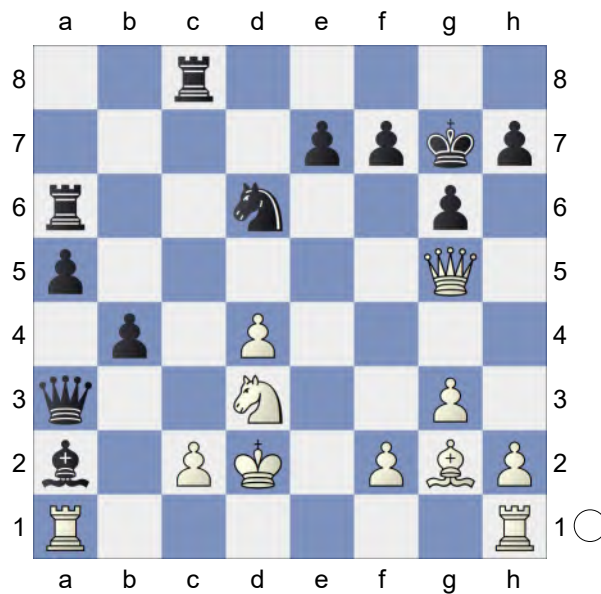
24...Rc8 ! Tempo! Balogh Csaba: '!' '!' **25.Qg5**

[25.Qe5 Nc4+ [%t Shrt] â^â + Balogh Csaba: '-+' '-+']

25...Kxg7

[Balogh Csaba: 'However the machine shows that' 25...Rxc2+ 26.Kxc2 Nc4 [%t Shrt] â^â + was even stronger, but there was no need for such a sacrifice. Balogh Csaba: '-+' '-+']

(Diagram)

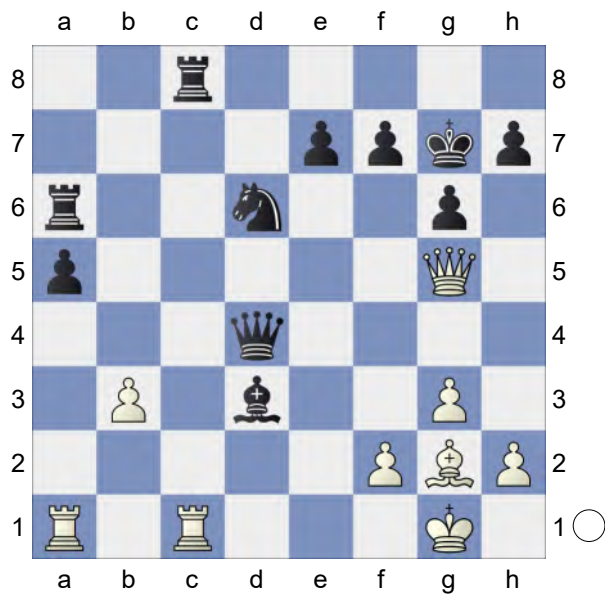


The easiest and most human. Black has an extra pawn and leads a crushing attack. It is over now... Balogh Csaba: 'The easiest and most human. Black has an extra pawn and leads a crushing attack. It is over now... The easiest and most human. Black has an extra pawn and leads a crushing attack. It is over now... The easiest and most human. Black has an extra pawn and leads a crushing attack. It is over now... **26.Rhc1 Qc3+ 27.Ke2 Bc4 28.Kf1 b3!** The queenside pawns have the last word as White's knight is fatally undermined. The queenside pawns have the last word as White's knight is fatally undermined. ! Black wins further material. **29.Kg1 Bxd3 30.cxb3** Equal to resignation, as White is a piece down for nothing.

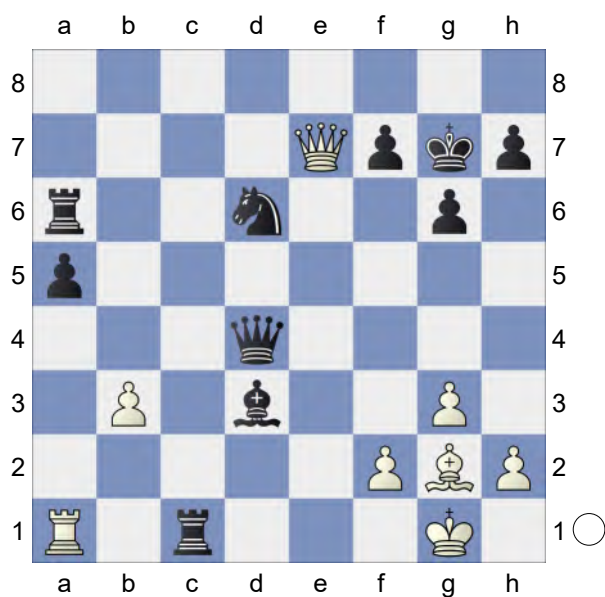
[Unbearable for white is 30.cxd3 does not change anything: b2 ! Balogh Csaba: '!' '!' 31.Rxc3 bxa1Q+ [%t Shrt] â^â + Balogh Csaba: '-+' '-+']

30...Qxd4

(Diagram)



31.Qxe7 Rxc1+



White remains a piece down. White remains a piece down. A very nice win by Miroshnichenko. The game does not show the real strength of Wei Yi... Balogh Csaba: 'A very nice win by Miroshnichenko. The game does not show the real strength of Wei Yi... A very nice win by Miroshnichenko. The game does not show the real strength of Wei Yi...'

0-1

385

□ Wei, Yi

■ Miroshnichenko, E.

TCh-TUR Super League 2014 (5.6)

[Neil McDonald]

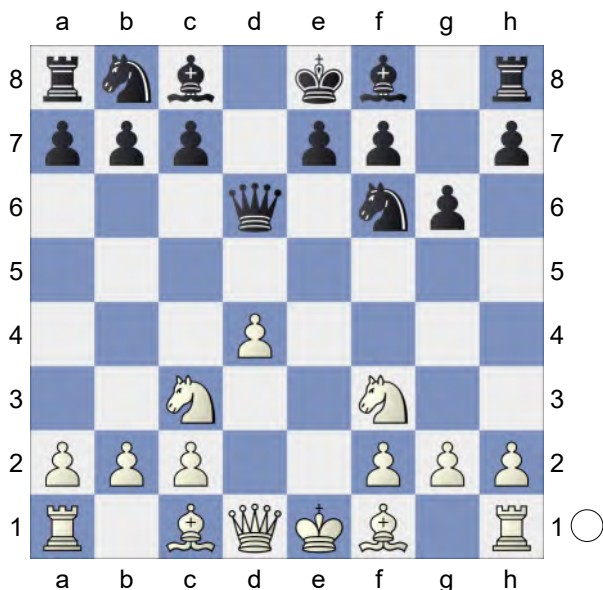
B01

2638

2602

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6

The queen stays resolutely in the middle of the action. The question is whether White can gain anything worthwhile by harassing her with Nb5 or Bf4 in the future. 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 g6



A kind of Scandinavian-Pirc hybrid. You might like to examine Tiviakov-Fedorchuk in the archives for more details. 6.g3 A natural response as White's light squared bishop will exert pressure on the queenside on g2 and the black queen can be hunted by his other bishop with Bf4. However as we shall see Black can throw a spanner in the works when it comes to White castling kingside.

[Instead 6.Nb5 gains time for White to play the strategically desirable c2-c4 advance. For example Qd8

A) 7.Bf4 Na6 Slightly awkward for

Black is (7...Nd5 8.Be5) 8.c4 Slightly awkward for Black is Bg7 9.Be5 0-0 10.Be2 Bh6 11.0-0 c6 12.Nc3 Nc7 13.Qb3 Ne6 14.d5 Nf4 15.Rad1 this sharp position was reached in Dastan, B (2432)-Mamedov, R (2659)/Kocaeli TUR 2014, and now I like Nd7!?

B) 7.c4 c6 8.Nc3 Bg7 9.Be2 0-0 10.0-0 Bg4 11.Be3 Nbd7 12.Qb3 White would have a small plus due to the bishop pair and his extra space after (12.h3 Bxf3 13.Bxf3) 12...Qc7 13.Rfd1 Rfe8 14.d5?! Evidently Wei Yi doesn't enjoy playing against Black's opening system. It's not too late to get a tiny edge with (14.h3 Bxf3 15.Bxf3) 14...Bxf3 15.gxf3 Not an aesthetic recapture. Perhaps White had missed that after (15.Bxf3 Ne5 16.Be2 Neg4 the double attack on e3 and h2 is very pleasant for him.) 15...b6 So far this is Wei Yi (2638)-Benidze, D (2458)/Kocaeli TUR 2014 and here (15...Nh5 16.Rd2 Be5 looks good for Black due to White's fractured kingside.)]

6...Bg7 7.Bg2 Qa6!? The black queen slips away from attack by Bf4 and prevents White castling kingside. Instead [7...c6 was preferred in the aforementioned Fedorchuk game.]

8.Bf4 Black looks comfortable after a queen exchange for example

[8.Qe2 0-0 9.0-0 Qxe2 10.Nxe2 Bf5 11.c3 Be4 as in Malakhov, I (2441)-Kovalenko, I (2650)/St Petersburg RUS 2014.]

8...c6 9.Qd2 0-0 10.0-0-0? Leads to trouble. Black is comfortable but no more after

[10.Bh6 but Black appears to be able

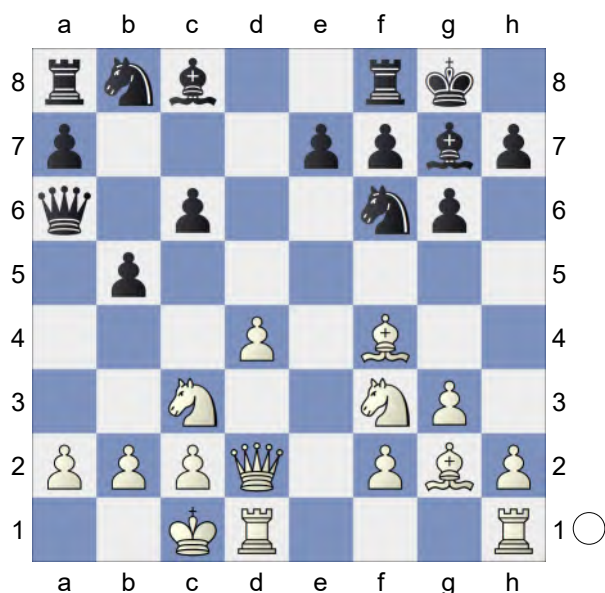
to hold his own or more after Bxh6
11.Qxh6 Bf5 12.0-0-0 b5
for example Sit back and enjoy the
attack the attack after

A) Instead 13.Nh4 might lead to a
sharp draw: Be6 14.Rhe1 b4
15.Rxe6 bxc3! (Steering clear of
15...fxe6 16.Bh3 bxc3 17.Bxe6+
Rf7 18.Nxg6 when mate on f8 is
threatened.) 16.Nf5 cxb2+ 17.Kb1
gxf5 18.Qg5+ Kh8 19.Rxf6 exf6
20.Qxf6+ Kg8 21.Qg5+ Kh8
draw!;

B) 13.a3 b4! 14.axb4 Qa1+
15.Nb1 Na6 16.Nh4 Bxc2!
17.Kxc2 Nxb4+ 18.Kd2 Rad8
19.Ke2 Qa6+ 20.Kf3 c5 21.g4
Rxd4 22.Rxd4 cxd4 23.Rd1 Nd3
24.Qd2 e5 25.Kg3 e4 26.f4 Rb8
27.Bf1 Qe6 28.h3 Rb3
0-1 Berbatov, K (2481) -
Chatalbashev, B (2555)/Albena
2010.]

[Meanwhile 10.Ne5 Be6 11.Nd3
Nbd7 looked OK for Black in Akash, G
(2404) -Sethuraman, S (2520)/
Kolkata 2012.]

10...b5



11.a3? Leads to trouble. Black is
comfortable but no more after
[11.Kb1 b4 12.Ne2 Nd5]

11...b4! A move familiar from the
Berbatov game in the notes above.
Black gambits a pawn for a big initiative.

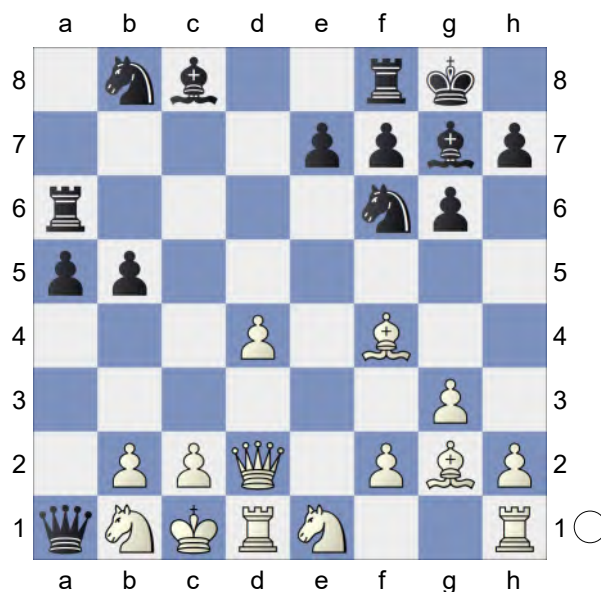
12.axb4 Qa1+ 13.Nb1 a5!?

[Black also had an attack after
13...Nd5 14.Qd3 a5 15.b5 cxb5
16.Ne5 Be6 17.Qa3 Qxa3 18.Nxa3
b4 in Juggernaut, R (2613) -Wikiman,
R (2478)/ playchess.com INT 2007,
but White can at least be pleased to
have got the queens off!]

14.b5 Wei Yi is relying on this move to
keep the queenside blocked, but he
meets with an unpleasant surprise.

14...cxb5!! 15.Ne1 White decides to
take the piece on offer. If he declines he
is left in a horrible position as the black
queenside pawns will run at his king.

15...Ra6



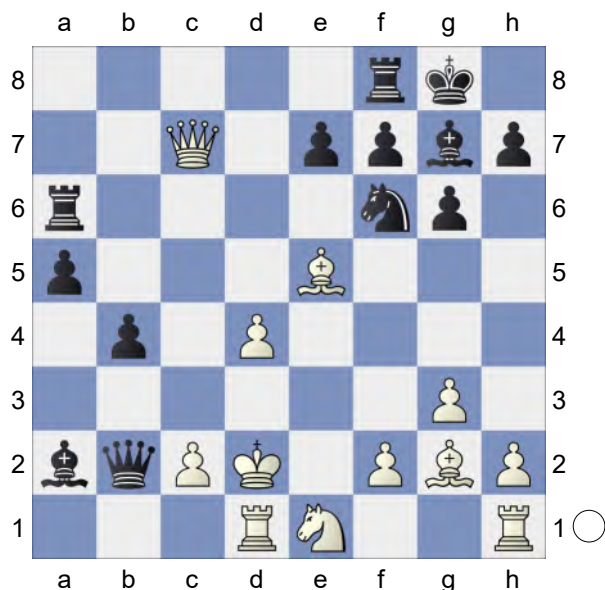
16.Bxb8 Be6 The bishop on b8 is now
hanging and White has no good way to
prevent Black's next move. **17.Be5**

[After 17.d5 Ne4 Black threatens
both the white queen and mate on
b2.]

17...Ba2 18.Qc3 b4 19.Qc7

[Attacking the black rook doesn't help much as it slides to a better attacking square on the third rank. 19.Qd3 Re6! 20.Kd2 Qxb2! The knight on b1 can wait. Black keeps up the attack rather than falling into a pin after (20...Bxb1? 21.Nf3 when suddenly White is winning as 22.Rxb1 follows.) 21.f4 (after 21.Nf3 Rc8 the threats include 22...Bh6+ 23.Ke1 Bc4, trapping the white queen. 22.Ke1 Bxb1) 21...Rd8 22.Nf3 Ng4! 23.Bxg7 Nf2 24.Qb5 (Or 24.Qf1 Rc8 and White's defences collapse on c2.) 24...Ne4+ 25.Kd3 Bxb1 26.Rxb1 Qc3+ 27.Ke2 Qxc2+ and White is soon mated.]

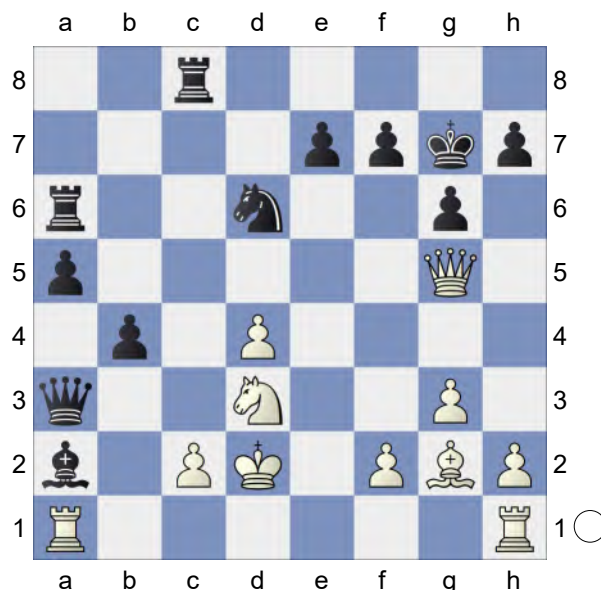
19...Qxb1+ 20.Kd2 Qxb2



21.Nd3 Qa3 22.Ra1 It appears that Wei Yi has fought back well as the black queen is in an awkward pin. But now comes a decisive strengthening of Black's attack. **22...Ne8! 23.Qc5 Nd6** A powerful rerouting of the black knight. It wins the c8 square for the rook after which White's defences finally crumble. **24.Bxg7**

[Or 24.Bd5 Qc3+ 25.Qxc3 bxc3+ 26.Kxc3 Bxd5 and Black has won a piece.]

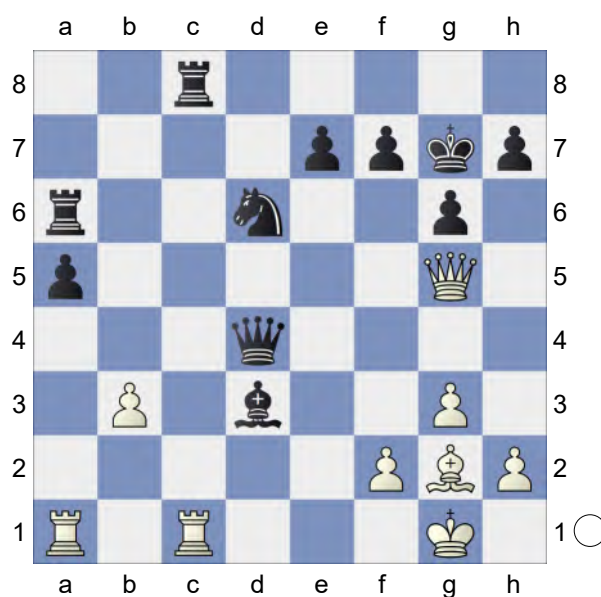
24...Rc8 25.Qg5 Kxg7



26.Rhc1 Qc3+ 27.Ke2 Bc4 28.Kf1 b3! The queenside pawns have the last word as White's knight is fatally undermined. **29.Kg1 Bxd3 30.cxb3**

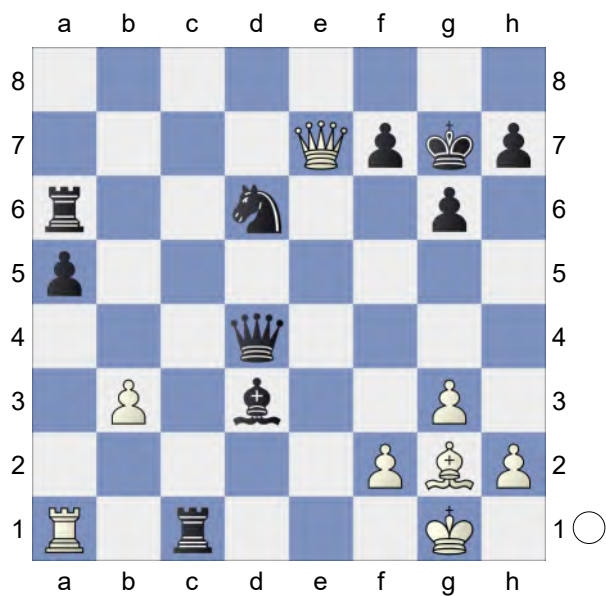
[Unbearable for white is 30.cxd3 b2 31.Rxc3 bxa1Q+]

30...Qxd4



31.Qxe7 Rxc1+

(Diagram)



White remains a piece down.

0-1

64

□ Wei, Yi

■ Maghsoodloo, Parham

5th Asian U23 Men Rapid (3.1) 25.09.17

[Neil McDonald]

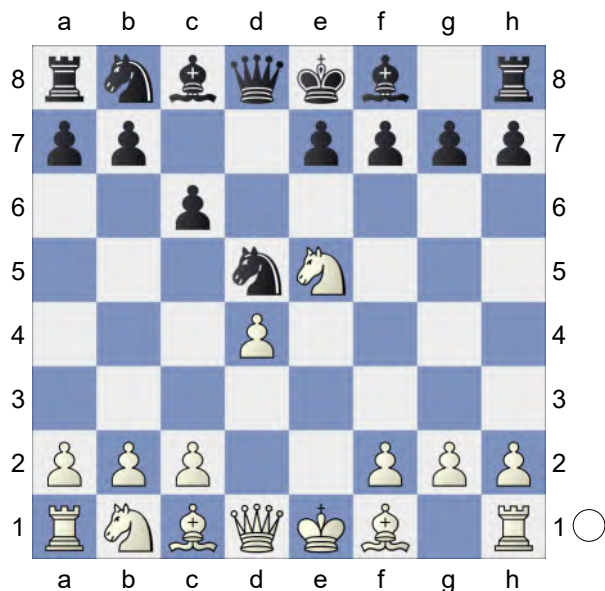
B04

2748

2569

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.Nf3 dxe5 This has become a popular move, at least at top level. Black concedes a space advantage but his position is without weaknesses, his queenside pieces are easily developed, and there is no White e-pawn to cramp his kingside.

5.Nxe5 c6!



You can find many examples of Magnus Carlsen defending this position as Black in the archives. The games are mostly Blitz. But then again you can't be rated 2948 at any time control if your openings aren't at least OK! **6.Be2 Bf5 7.0-0 Nd7 8.c4!?** A new move for ChessPub. It's what White would like to play, but can he prove an edge after 8...Nb4, when his queenside looks vulnerable? You can find various other moves discussed in the archives. Compare the present game with

[8.Nf3 e6 9.c4 N5f6! The best retreat square for the knight in this variation is f6 as it won't be bothered by a white pawn on e5.]

[8.f4 Nxe5 9.fxe5 e6 10.a3 to rule out Nb4 after the next move. Be7 11.c4 Nb6 here the knight falls back to the queenside away from attack by the pawn on e5.]

8...N5f6 It is a definite achievement for White if Black goes back with the knight. The critical test is

[8...Nb4 after which White must not only deal with the threat of 9...Nc2, but also prevent Black from equalising or more with Nxe5 and answering d4xe5 with Qxd1. Another fly in the ointment is Bxb1 and, after Rxb1, the capture Nxa2. So play usually continues 9.Ng4 e6 (White gets the initiative upon 9...Nc2 10.Ne3! Nxe3 11.Bxe3 e6 12.d5 etc.) 10.Ne3 Bxb1 More or less forced as if the bishop goes back to g6 White has 11.a3 chasing the black knight to a6 then 12. Nc3 etc. with a great build up. 11.Rxb1 Nxa2 12.Bd2 Nb4 Necessary before the knight is shut in. Now the untried Instead of 13. Bg4,

A) 13.Bg4!? looks interesting. Black faces a lot of dangers e.g.

A1) If 13...Nf6 14.d5!

A1a) Black loses a piece after 14...cxd5? 15.Bxb4 Bxb4 16.Qa4+;

A1b) Or 14...exd5 15.Qe2! and suddenly White is winning as Black has no good way to meet a discovered check on the e-file. Nxe5 (If 15...Be7 16.Bxb4 Bxb4 17.Nxd5+ Be7 18.Nxf6+ gxf6 19.Rbd1 Qc7 20.Rd7 and White wins.)

16.Nxd5+ Be7 17.Bxb4 cxd5
18.Rfe1 0-0 19.Bxe7
and Black loses the
exchange.;

A1c) 14...Nxc4 note that
Black loses a piece upon
15.Qxc4;

A2) 13...Be7 14.d5 cxd5
15.cxd5 Nxd5? 16.Nxd5 exd5
17.Qa4! and again White is
unexpectedly winning because
the pin on d7 means Black can't
evacuate his king from the
centre.;

A3) 13...Nb6 the most solid reply,
fighting for the d5 square and
ruling out any Qa4+ in the future.
But here also White can build up
strong pressure: 14.Bc3 Be7
15.d5 cxd5 16.Bxg7 Rg8
17.Bc3 dxc4 18.Qf3 and Black
king is in peril as if N4d5?
19.Bh5 leaves him no good way
to defend f7 as if Rf8 20.Bg7
wins.;

B) 13.d5? has been played at once
in four games, but this seems less
incisive as it concedes the c5
square to Black's bishop and
(unlike Bg4) doesn't clear the e-file
for future action by the white queen
or rooks, or put pressure on d7.
Play has continued 13...Bc5!
14.dxe6 fxe6 15.Bh5+ (Or 15.Bc3
0-0 16.Ng4 Qe7 completing
development with an extra pawn in
Alekseenko,K (2317)-Bortnyk,O
(2327) Moscow 2011.) 15...g6
16.Bg4 Qe7 and Black was ready
to castle queenside with the better
chances in Korchmar,V (2214)-
Bortnyk, O (2302) Batumi 2010.]

[After 8...N5b6 White could choose

between 9.Nf3 leaving the black
knight worse on b6 than on f6, which
is its usual square in the move order 8.
Nf3 e6 9.c4 N5f6. (Or 9.f4
so that after Nxe5 10.fxe5 e6
compared to the 8.f4 line the black
knight has already been pushed back
to b6 so that White doesn't have to
spend a move on a2-a3, as is the
case after 8.f4 Nxe5 9.fxe5 e6 10.a3
(to stop Nb4 after his next move) 10...
Be7 11.c4 Nb6.)]

9.f4! White plays 9. f4 with the black
knight having been tricked to f6!
Whereas the knight is on its best square
if White continues

[9.Nf3?! when e6 transposes to other
games in the archives.]

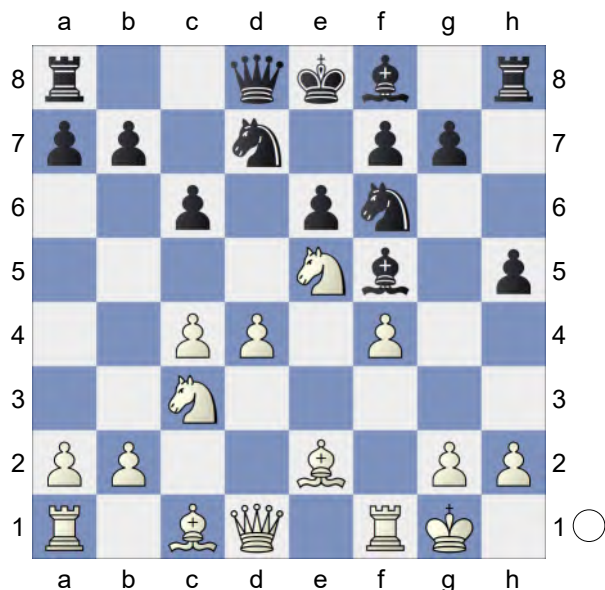
9...h5 Black restrains the advance of the
g-pawn and so stabilises both his bishop
on f5 and his knight on f6 (the horse
was liable to attack by g4-g5.)As his
knight is on f6 rather than b6 he can't
play

[9...Nxe5? as 10.fxe5 Bxb1 11.Rxb1
gives White overwhelming pressure
along the f-file.]

[If 9...e6 10.g4! looks strong as after
Bxb1 (Or 10...Be4 11.Nc3) 11.Rxb1
the mobile pawns and bishop pair give
White a big initiative.]

10.Nc3 e6

(Diagram)



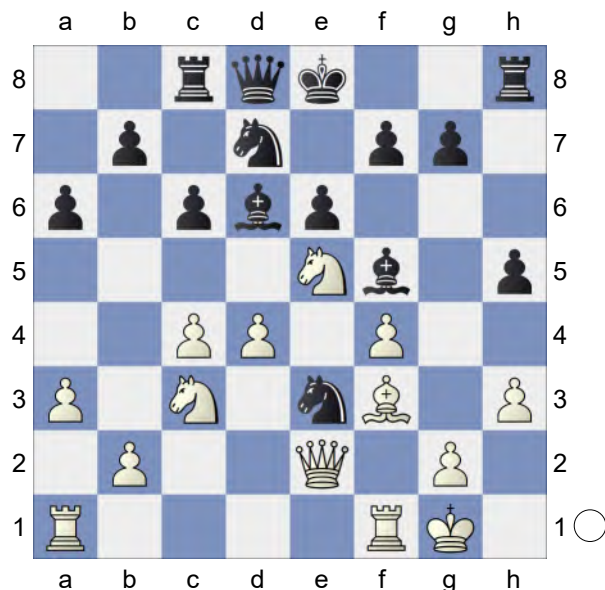
11.Be3 White builds up his game step by step. He has kept his space advantage as well as the strong knight on e5. A problem for Black is that for now at least he can't castle kingside without dropping the pawn on h5. **11...Bd6 12.Bf3 Rc8 13.Qe2 a6 14.a3** There's no need to hurry. The pawn move prevents any possible counterplay for Black based on [14.h3 Bb4]

14...Ng4! Black is virtually in zugzwang. He has run out of constructive moves: every piece is on its optimum square and there are no pawns to push. If he castles he drops the h5 pawn. And so the young Iranian Grandmaster seeks to free his game by offering a pawn. **15.h3!?** Maintaining his grip on the centre, though the exchange of pieces next move helps Black's cramped game. Instead after

[15.Nxg4!? hxg4 16.Bxg4 Qh4 17.h3 Bxg4 18.Qxg4 Qxg4 19.hxg4 Nf6 20.g5 Ng4 21.Bd2 Rd8 it would be hard for White to exploit his extra pawn.]

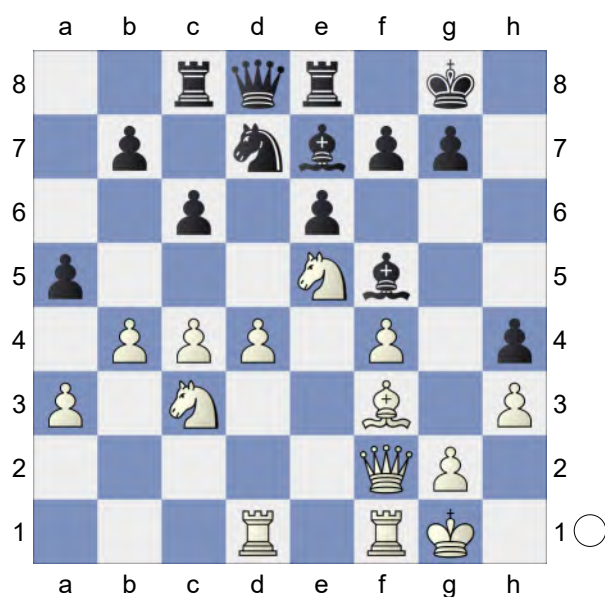
15...Nxe3

(Diagram)



16.Qxe3 h4 Fixing the kingside as a prelude to castling. **17.b4 0-0 18.Rae1 Re8 19.Qf2 Be7 20.Rd1 a5**

[After 20...Nxe5 21.dxe5 (Or 21.fxex5!?) 21...Qc7 22.c5 Red8 White has the strong exchange offer 23.Rd6! dominating the d-file when Bxd6? 24.cxd6 Qb8 25.Na4 intending Qb6 and Nc5 looks crushing.]



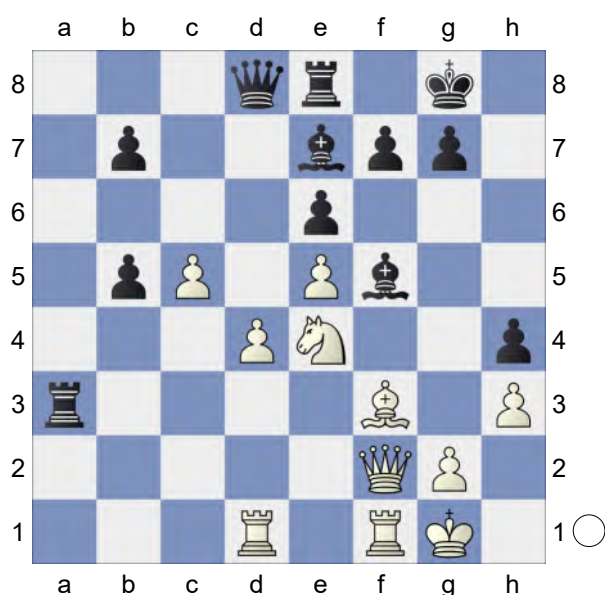
21.c5 axb4 22.axb4 Ra8 23.b5 With Black's bishop on f5 shut off from

the queenside the attack on c6 by White's own light squared bishop is potent. **23...Nxe5 24.fxe5 Ra3**

[After 24...Qd7 25.Ne4 Bxe4 26.Bxe4 Bg5 27.Qf3 Black remains in deep trouble due to the weakness of his light squares: c6, f7 and h7.]

25.Ne4 he can't stop the white knight getting to d6 as **25...cxb5**

[25...Bxe4 26.Bxe4 Rf8 27.bxc6 bxc6 28.Bxc6 is hopeless.]

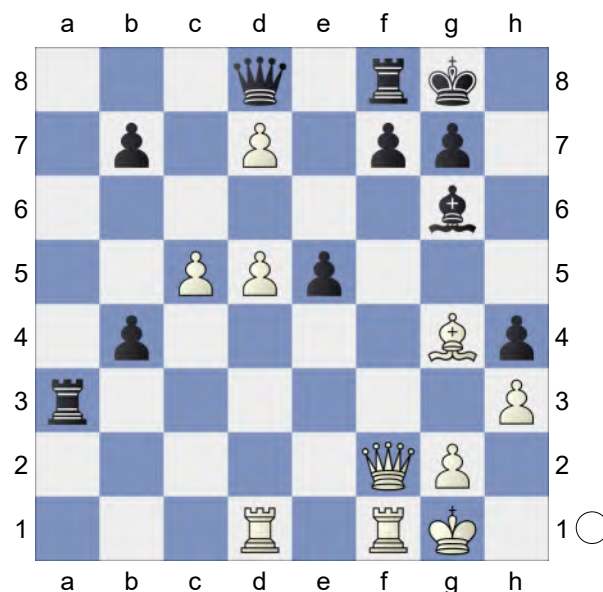


26.Nd6 Bxd6 27.exd6 The game is positionally won for White due to the monster on d6. Black's last chance is tricks with his passed b-pawn. **27...b4 28.d5 e5 29.Bg4** A faster way to win was

[29.Bh5 g6 30.Bg4 when Black's bishop is denied the g6 square. For example Qd7 31.Bxf5 gxf5 32.c6 bxc6 33.dxc6 Qxc6 34.Qxf5 threatening to push the passed pawn or capture on f7.]

29...Bg6 30.d7 Rf8

(Diagram)



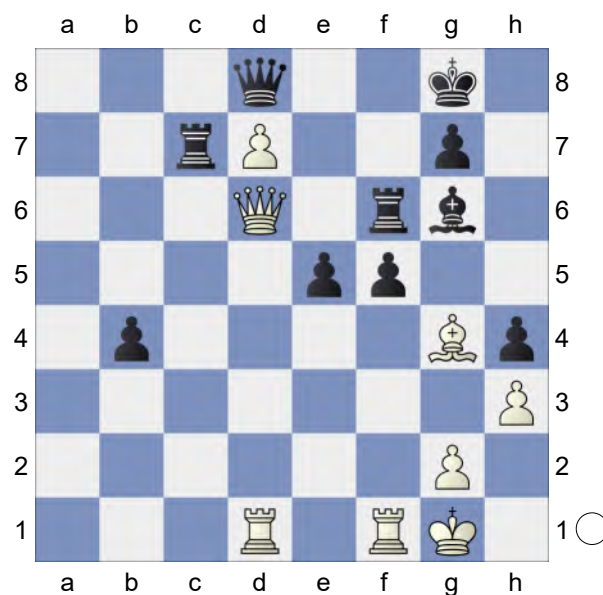
31.c6 f5 32.Qc5! bxc6 Or

[32...fxg4 33.Rxf8+ and the d-pawn queens.]

33.dxc6 Rc3 34.Qd6 attacking the bishop. **34...Rf6**

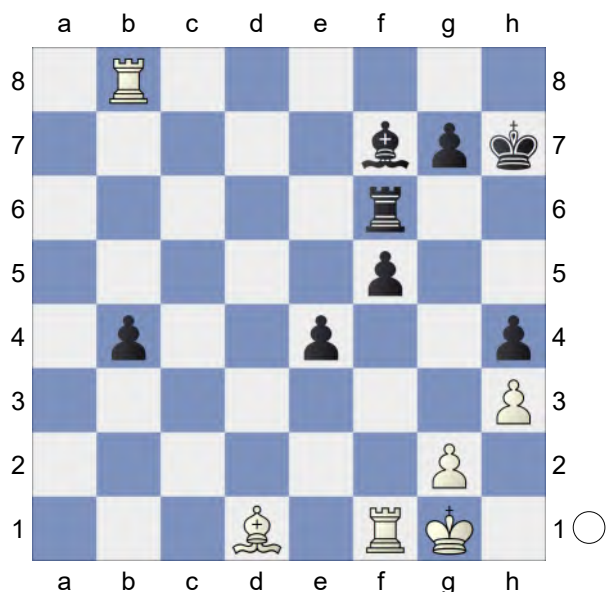
[Or 34...Bh7 35.Qxe5 when fxg4 (If 35...Rxc6 loses the rook to 36.Qd5+) 36.Qe6+ Kh8 37.Rxf8+ forces through the d-pawn.]

35.c7 Rxc7

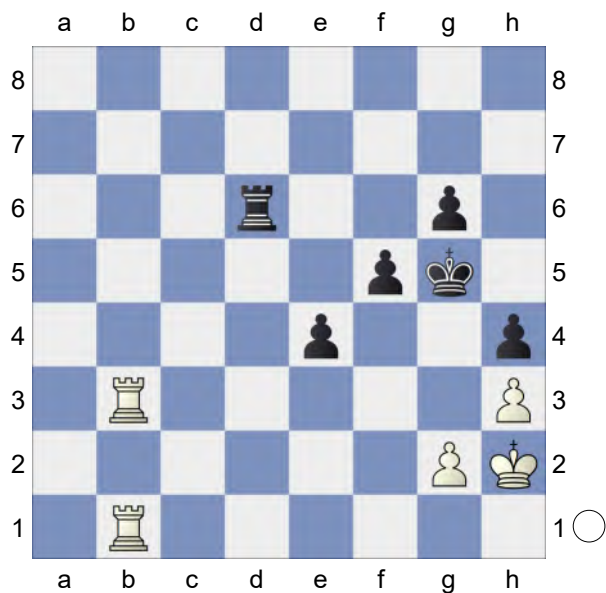


36.Qxc7! Winning a rook. The game might have ended here, but we get to see some efficient technique. **36...Qxc7**

37.d8Q+ Qxd8 38.Rxd8+ Kh7 39.Bd1 Bf7 40.Rb8 e4

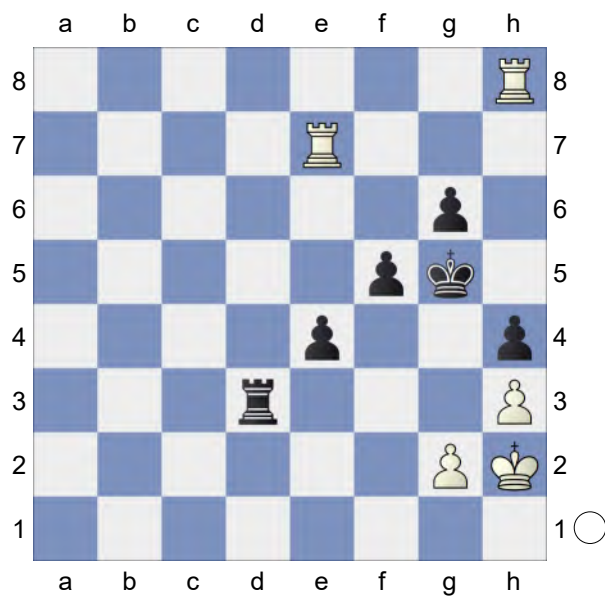


41.Rxb4 Kh6 42.Bb3 Bxb3 43.Rxb3 Kg5 44.Rfb1 Rd6 45.Kh2 g6

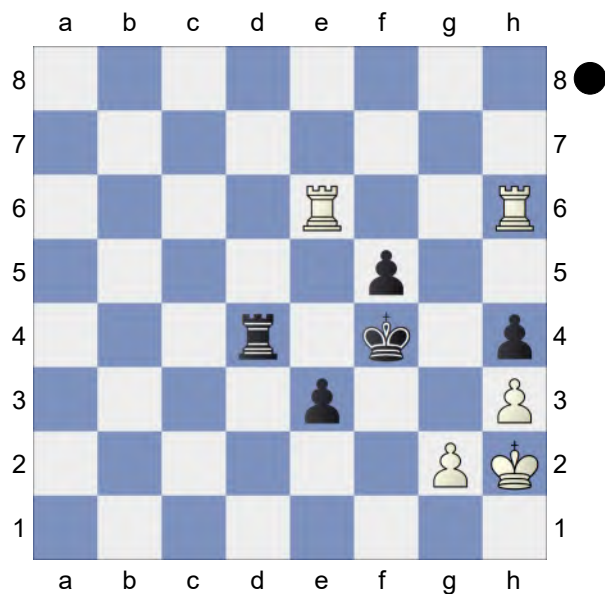


46.Rb6 White aims at the g6 pawn, the underbelly of Black's structure. **46...Rd3 47.Re6 Kh6 48.Rb8 Rg3 49.Re7 Rd3 50.Rh8+ Kg5**

(Diagram)



51.Re6 e3 52.Rg8 Kf4 53.Rgxf6 Rd4 54.Rh6



1-0

410

□ Zhou,Jianchao

■ Wei,Yi

(ch) 128/174

[Paunovic,Tomislav]

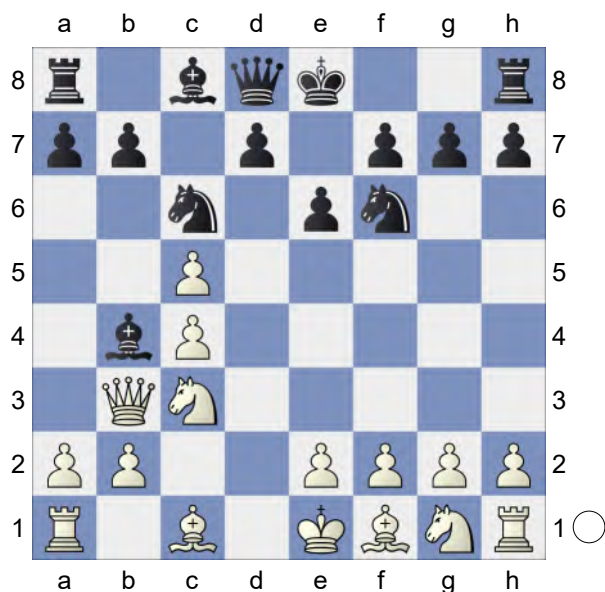
E23

2612

2700

2016

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qb3
c5 5.dxc5 Nc6



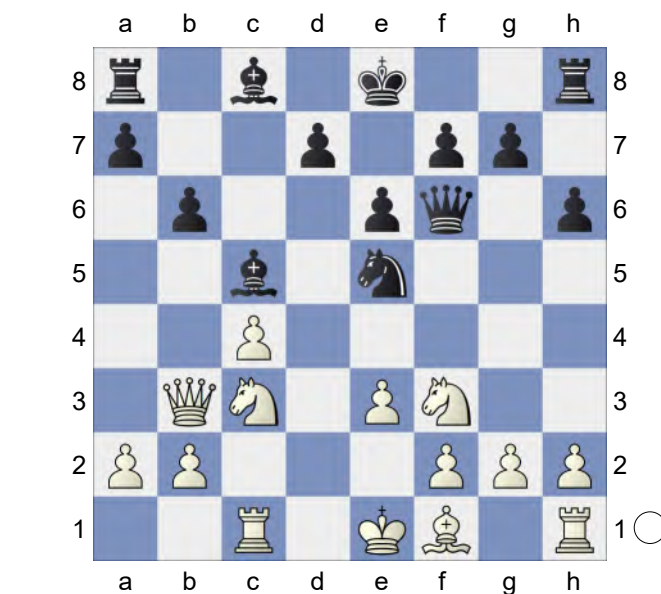
6.Bg5 h6 7.Bxf6 Qxf6 8.Rc1

[8.Nf3 - 54/(528)]

8...Bxc5 9.e3 b6 10.Nf3 Ne5!N

[10...Qg6]

(Diagram)



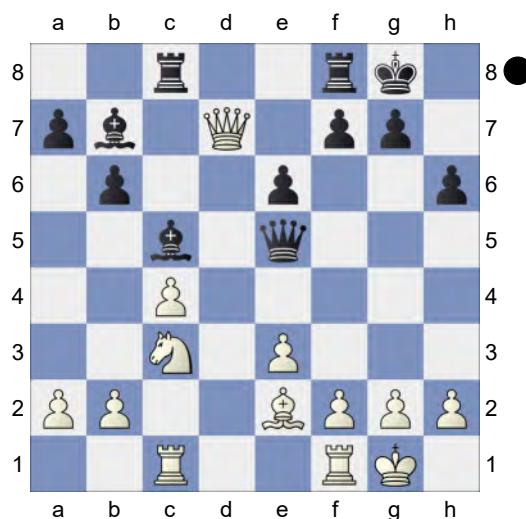
11.Be2

[11.Nxe5 Qxe5 12.Be2 Bb7↑]

11...Bb7 12.Qd1 Nxf3+

[12...0-0!? 13.0-0 Rac8 14.Nxe5

Qxe5 Δ15.Qxd7? Diagram



Bd6! 16.f4 Qxe3+ 17.Kh1 Bc7⚡]

13.Bxf3 Bxf3 14.Qxf3 Qxf3 15.gxf3
Bb4=

[15...Rc8!?]

(Diagram)

$1/2-1/2$

136

□ Wei,Yi

■ Zhou,Jianchao

140/148 Moscow

[Paunovic,Tomislav]

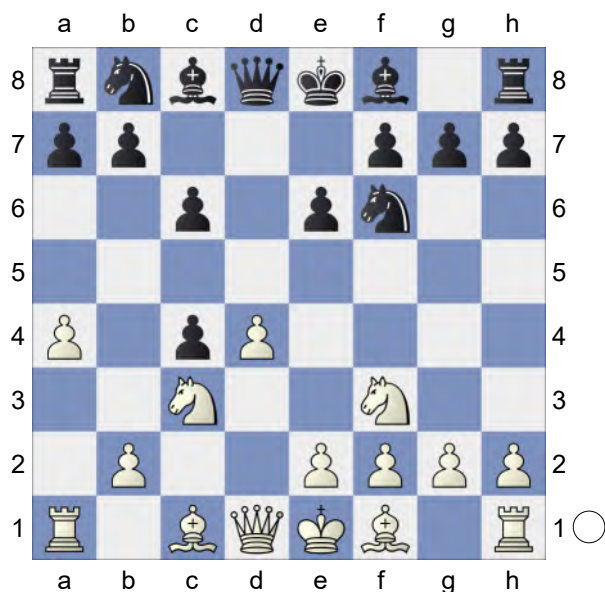
D16

2733

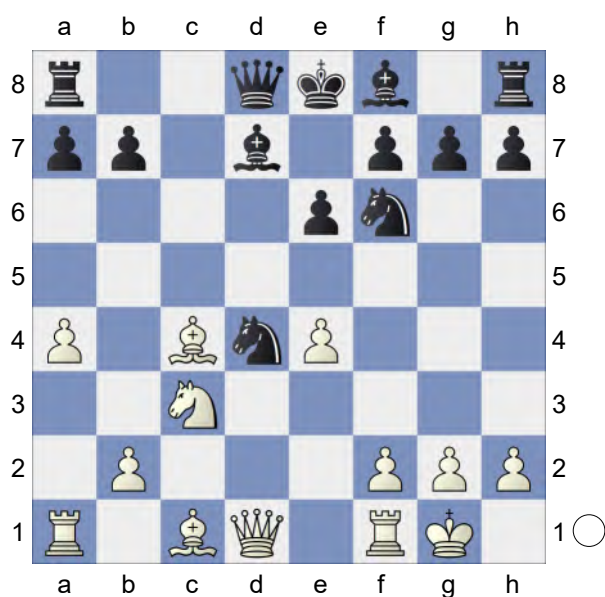
2615

2019

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3
dxc4 5.a4 e6

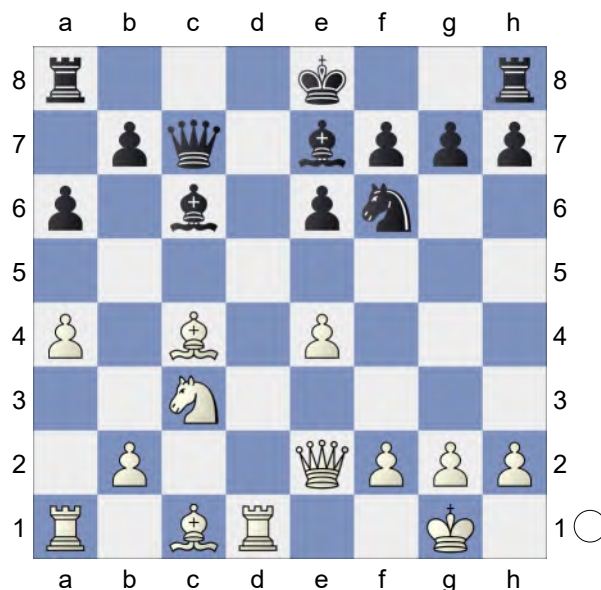


6.e3 c5 7.Bxc4 Nc6 8.0-0 cxd4
9.Nxd4 Bd7 10.e4 Nxd4



11.Qxd4 Bc6 12.Qe3 a6
[12...Qb6 - 133/(137)]

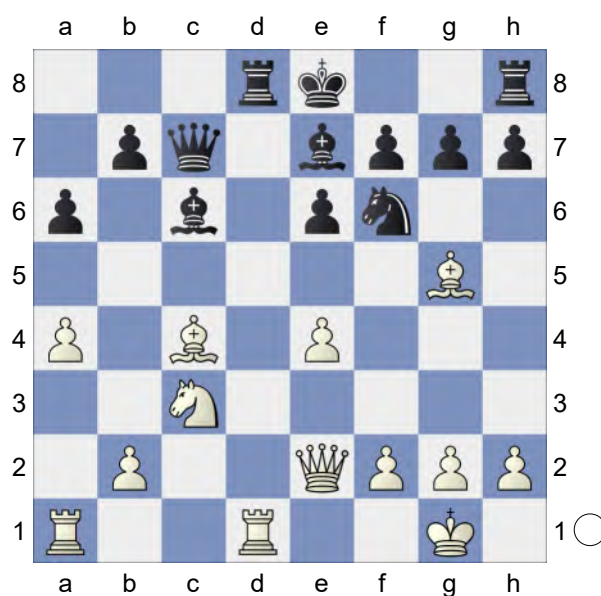
[12...Be7 - 133/137]
13.Rd1 Qc7 14.Qe2 Be7 Diagram
[14...Qe5 15.f3 (15.f4 Bc5+ 16.Kf1
Qh5 17.Qxh5 Nxh5 18.Ke2 Bb4=)
15...Bc5+ 16.Be3=]



15.Bg5N

[15.e5 Nd7 16.Bf4 0-0∞]

15...Rd8



16.Rxd8+

[16.e5

A) 16...h6 17.Rxd8+! Bxd8
18.Bd2 Nd5 (18...Nd7 19.b4!±)

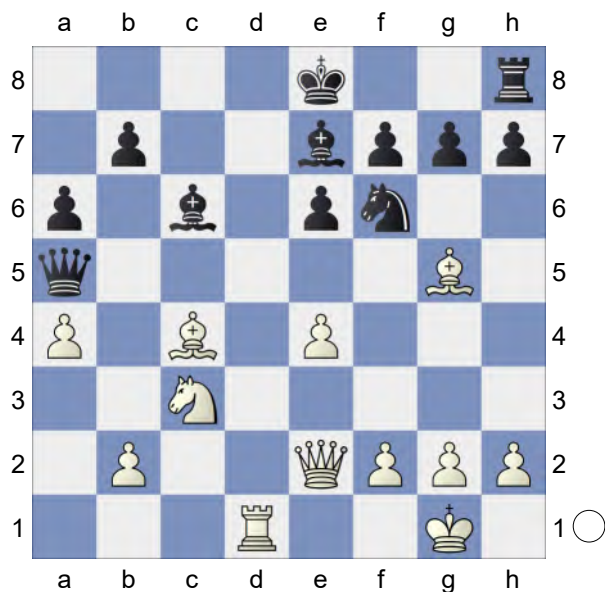
19.Nxd5 exd5 20.Bb3±;

B) 16...Rxd1+ 17.Rxd1 Nd7

18.Bxe7 Kxe7=]

16...Qxd8 17.Rd1 Qa5 Diagram

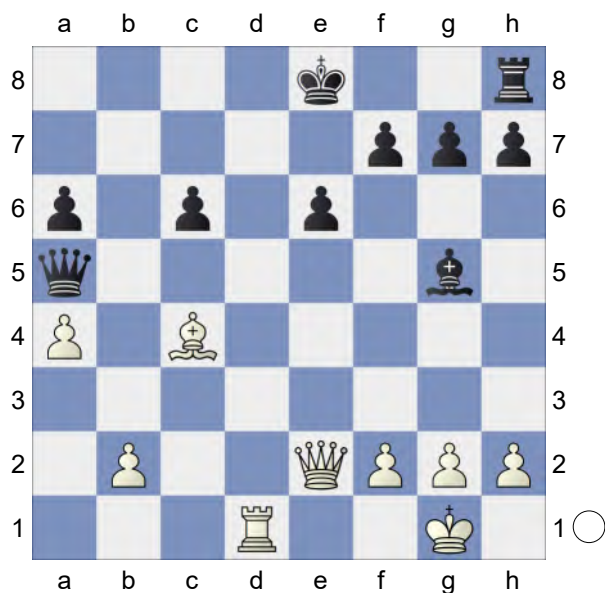
[17...Qc7=]



18.Nd5!± Nxd5 19.exd5 Bxg5

[19...Bxa4?! 20.b3±]

20.dxc6 bxc6

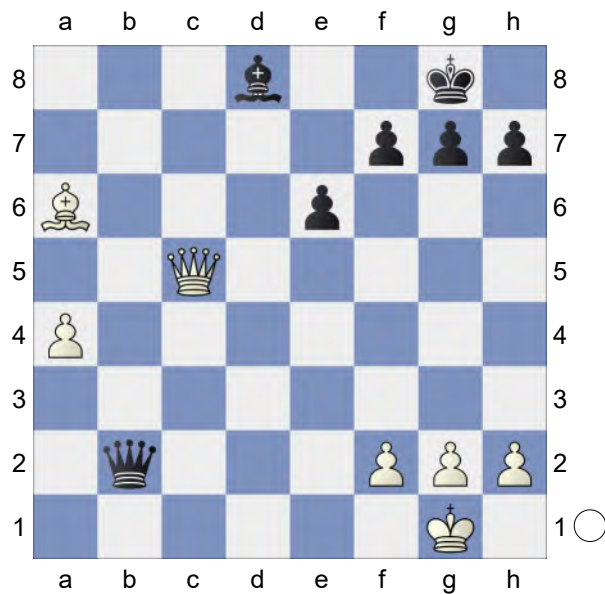


21.Qe4?!

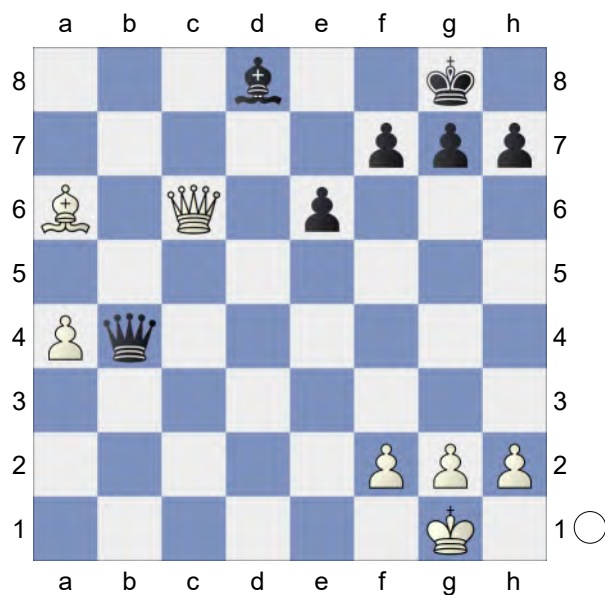
[21.Bxe6! 0-0□ 22.Bb3±]

21...0-0= 22.Qxc6 Qb4 23.Bxa6 Qxb2

24.Qc5 Rd8 25.Rxd8+ Bxd8



26.Qc6 Qb4



1/2-1/2

156

□ Wei,Yi

■ Topalov,Veselin

chess.com (Int.-rapid) 147/61

[Paunovic,Tomislav]

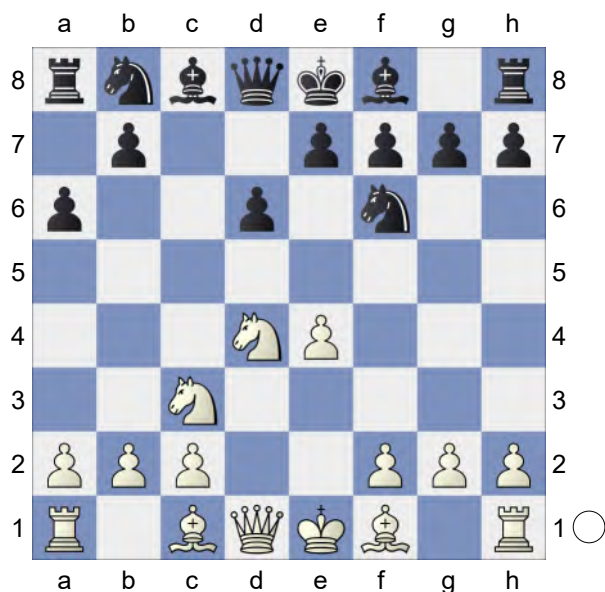
B84

2732

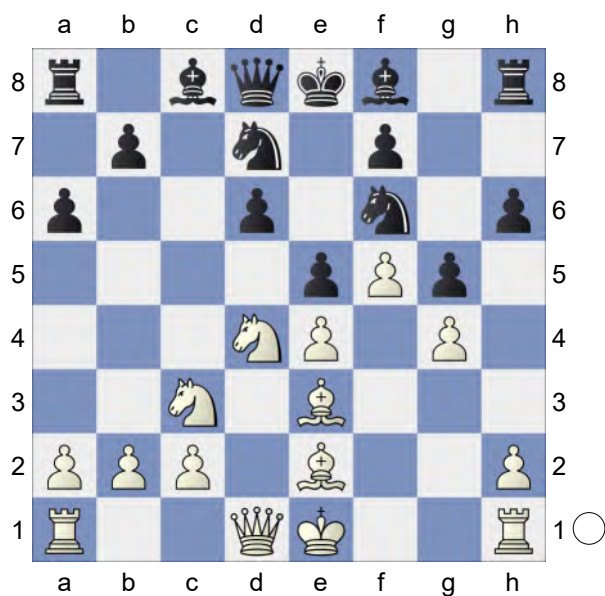
2735

2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6



6.Be3 e6 7.Be2 Nbd7 8.g4 h6 9.f4
g5 10.f5 e5
[10...Ne5 - 119/64]



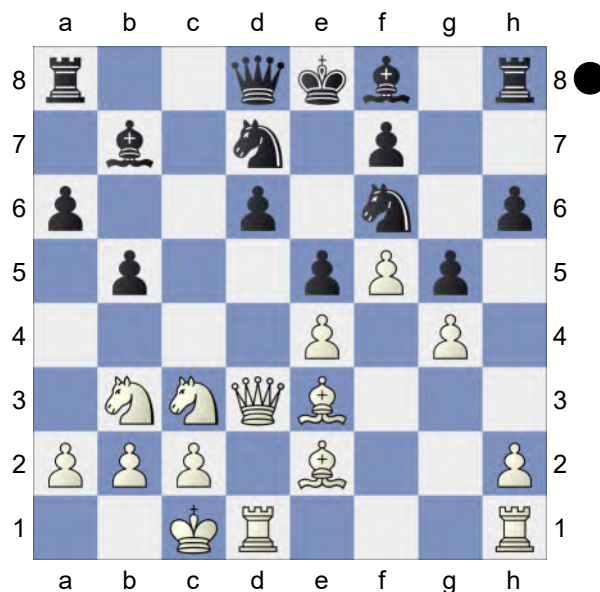
11.Nb3 b5 12.Qd3

[12.Bf3]

[12.a4]

[12.a3]

12...Bb7 13.0-0-0 Diagram



13...Rc8N

[Δ13...b4 14.Nd5 Nxd5 15.exd5
a5=]

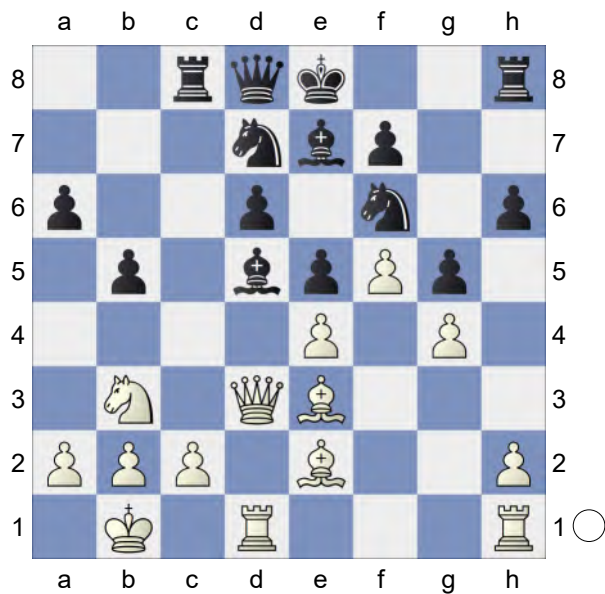
14.Kb1 Be7

[14...Rxc3 15.Qxc3 Bxe4 (15...Nxe4
16.Qe1 Be7 17.Rf1±) 16.Rhe1 Nd5
17.Qd2 N7f6 18.Ka1±]

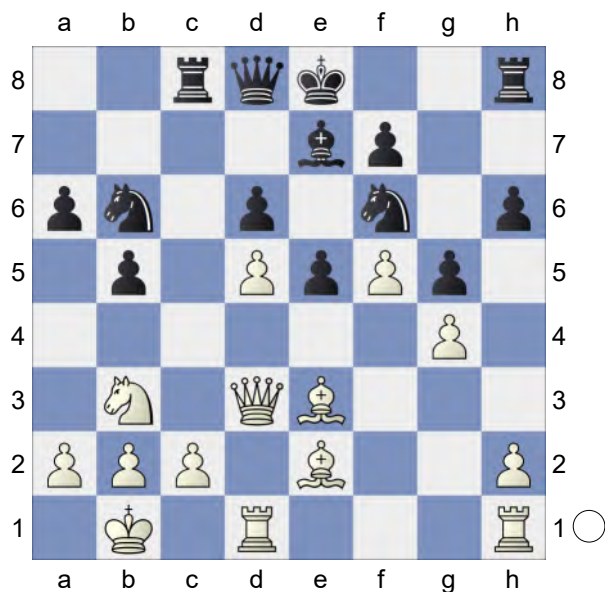
[14...h5 15.h4! Rxc3 16.Qxc3 Nxe4
17.Qd3 hxg4 18.hxg5 Rxh1 19.Rxh1
Nf2 20.Bxf2 Bxh1 21.f6±]

15.Nd5 Bxd5

(Diagram)



16.exd5 Nb6?! Diagram
[16...Rc4!?]



17.Bf3

[17.h4!±]

17...Nc4 18.Nd2?!

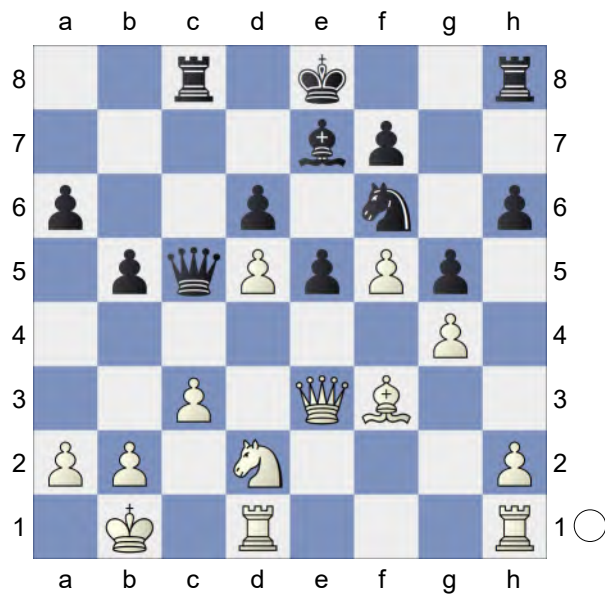
[18.Bc1±]

18...Nxe3

[18...e4!? 19.Nxe4 Nxe3 20.Qxe3
Nxe4 21.Bxe4 Bf6]

19.Qxe3 Qc7 20.c3 Qc5

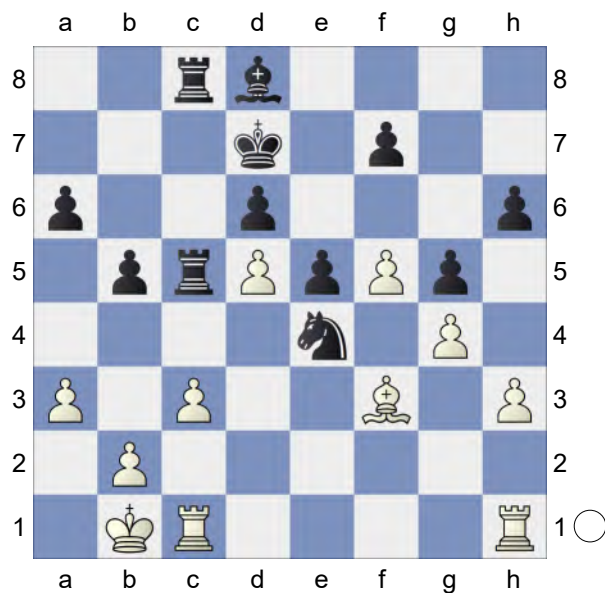
(Diagram)



**21.Qxc5 Rxc5= 22.h3 Kd7 23.Rc1
Rhc8 24.a3 Bd8**

[24...Nxd5?! 25.Nb3 Nf4 26.Nxc5+
Rxc5 27.Rhd1±]

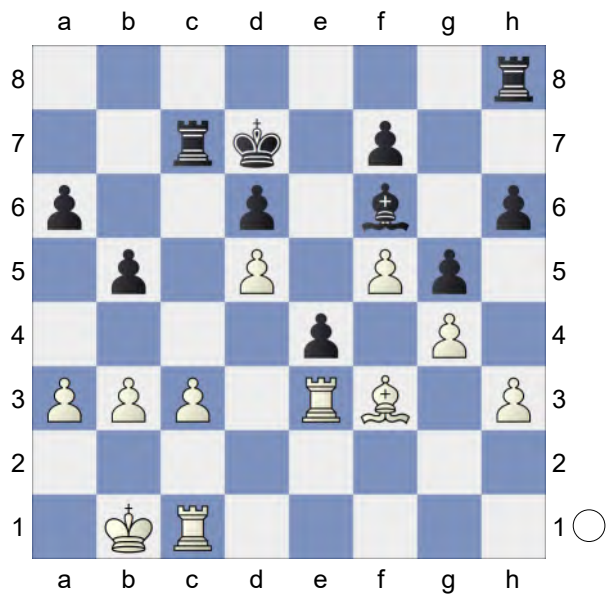
25.Ne4 Nxe4



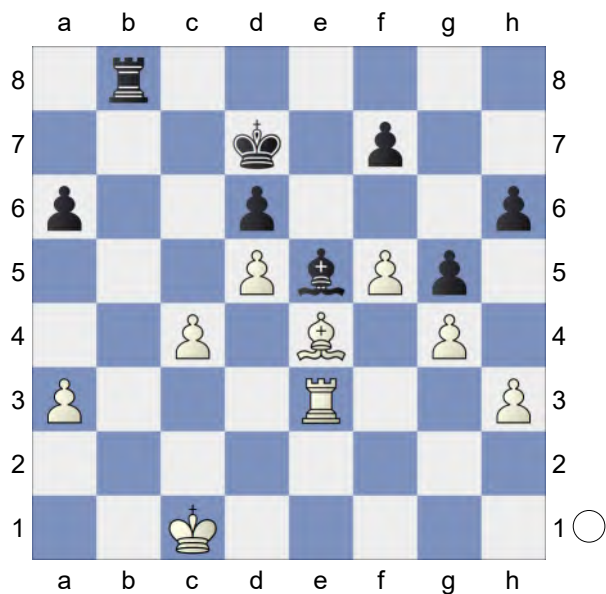
**26.Bxe4 Bf6 27.Rhe1 Rc4 28.Re3
Rh8 29.b3 Rc7 30.Bf3 e4!?**

[30...h5 31.gxh5 g4 32.hxg4 Bg5
33.Rce1 Bxe3 34.Rxe3 f6=]

(Diagram)

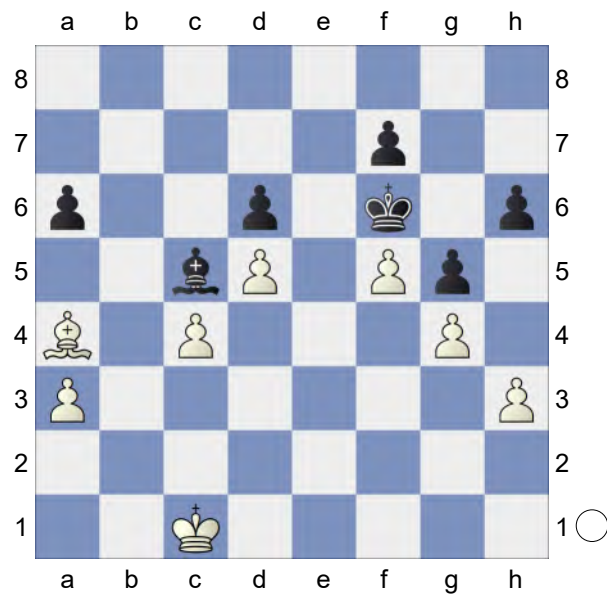


31.Bxe4 Re8 32.c4 bxc4 33.Rxc4 Rxc4 34.bxc4 Rb8+ 35.Kc1 Be5

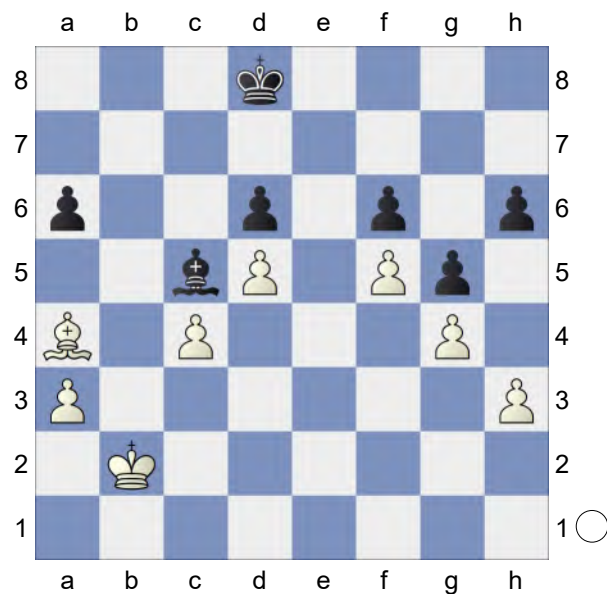


36.Rf3 Ke7 37.Bc2 Kf6 38.Rb3 Rxb3 39.Bxb3 Bd4 40.Ba4 Bc5

(Diagram)

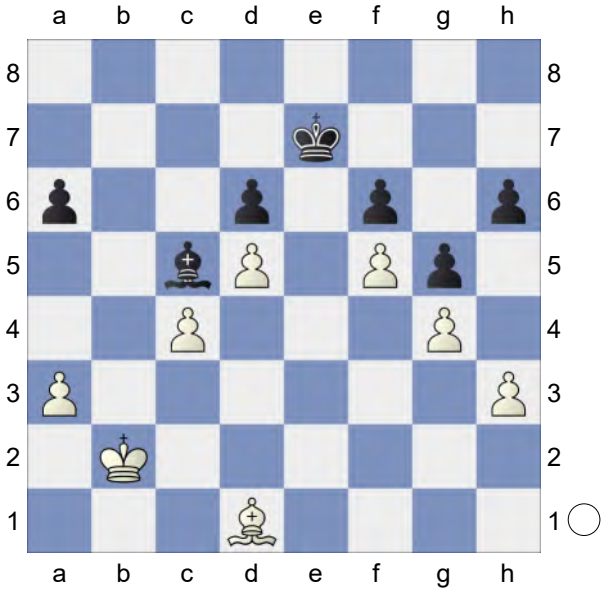


41.Kb2 Ke7 42.Bd1 f6 43.Ba4 Kd8 44.Bd1 Ke7 45.Ba4 Kd8



46.Bd1 Ke7

(Diagram)



1/2-1/2

377

□ Wei, Yi

■ Lu, Shanglei

122/64 Pune

[Paunovic, Tomislav]

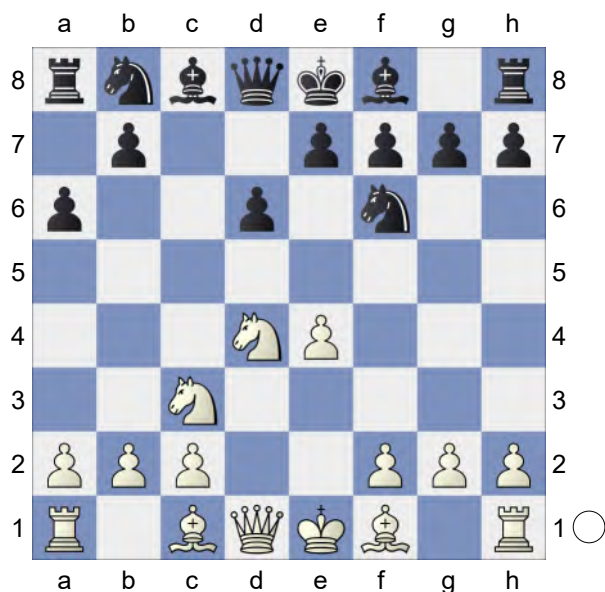
B80

2641

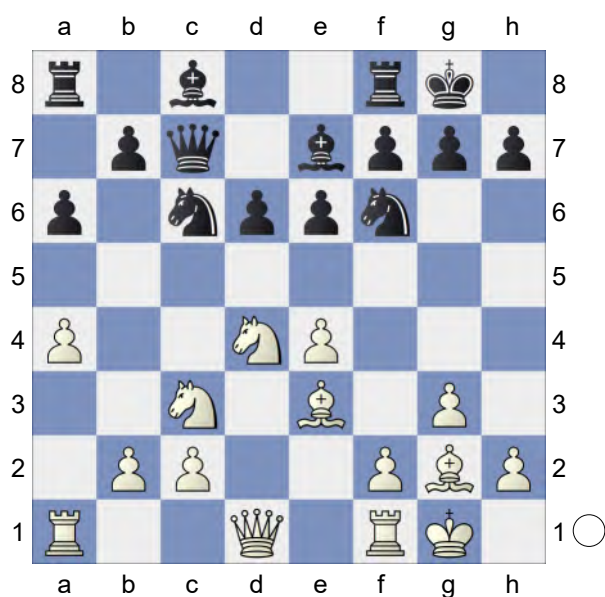
2533

2014

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6



6.g3 e6 7.Bg2 Be7 8.0-0 Qc7 9.Be3
Nc6 10.a4 0-0



11.f4

[11.Qe2 - 109/136]

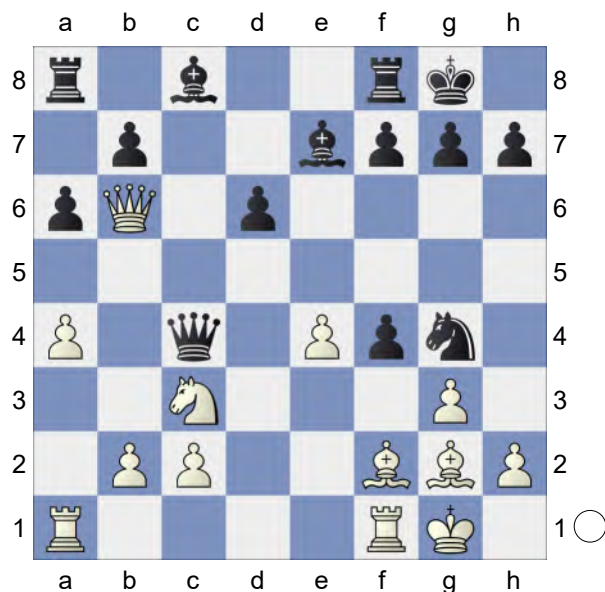
11...Nxd4 12.Qxd4?! Ng4!N

[12...e5 13.Qd2±]

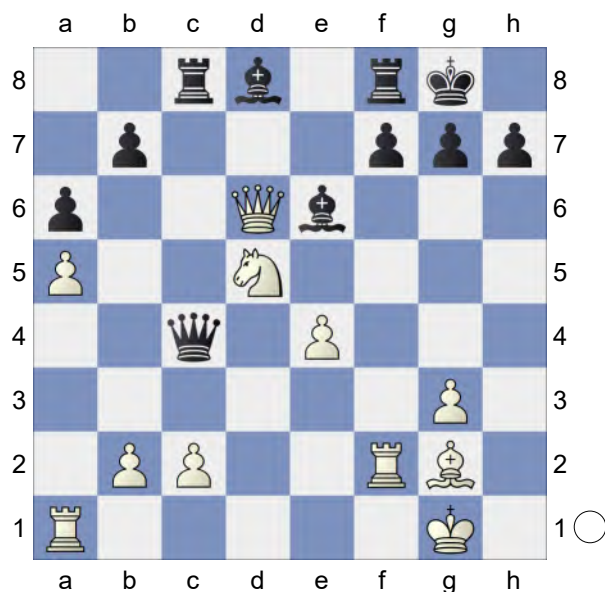
13.Qb6 Qc4 14.Bd4

[14.Kh1 Nxe3 15.Qxe3 Bd7±]

14...e5 15.Bf2 exf4



16.Nd5 Bd8 17.Qxd6 Nxf2 18.Rxf2
fxg3 19.hxg3 Be6± 20.a5 Rc8

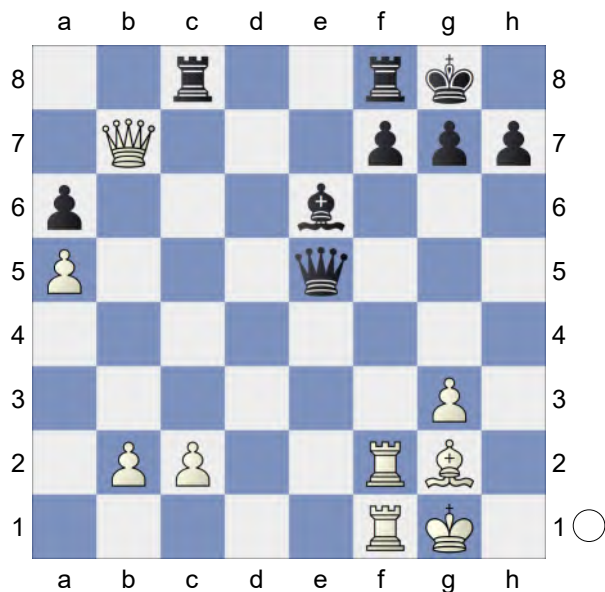


21.e5

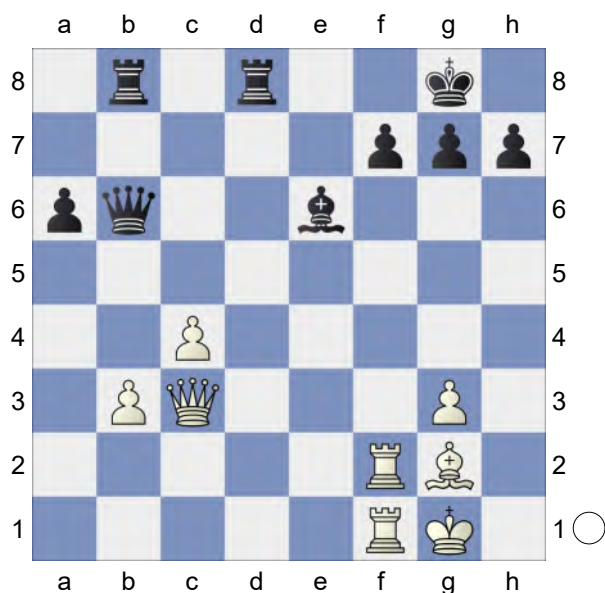
[21.Nb6 Bxb6 22.Qxb6 Rfd8±]

[21.c3!?]

21...Qb5!± 22.Raf1 Rc6 23.Ne7+
Bxe7 24.Qxe7 Rcc8 25.Qxb7 Qxe5
(Diagram)

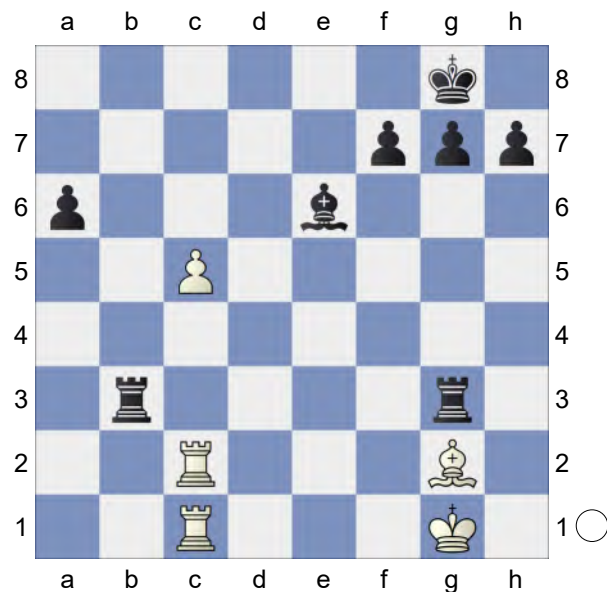


26.b3 Qxa5 27.c4 Rb8 28.Qe4 Qc5
 [28...Qa3]
29.Qd3 Rfd8 30.Qc3 Qb6
 [30...Rb4!?]

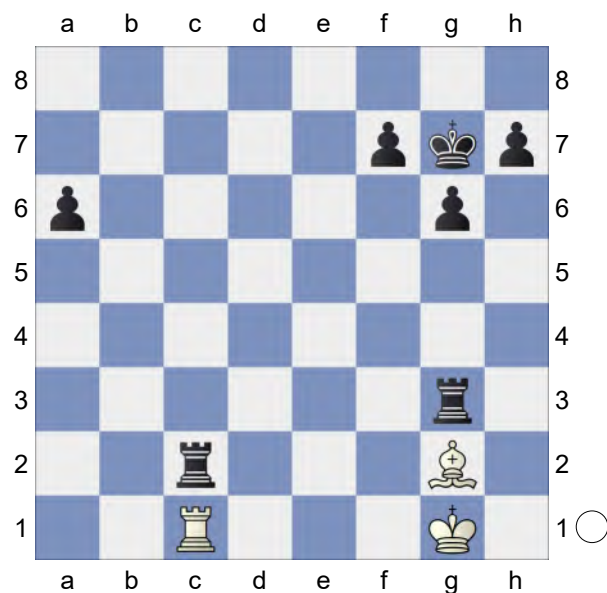


31.Rb1 Qb4 32.Qxb4 Rxb4 33.c5
Rd3 34.Rc2 Rbxb3 35.Rbc1
 [35.Rxb3 Bxb3 36.Rc1 Rd1+
 37.Rxd1 Bxd1-+]
35...Rxc3-+

(Diagram)

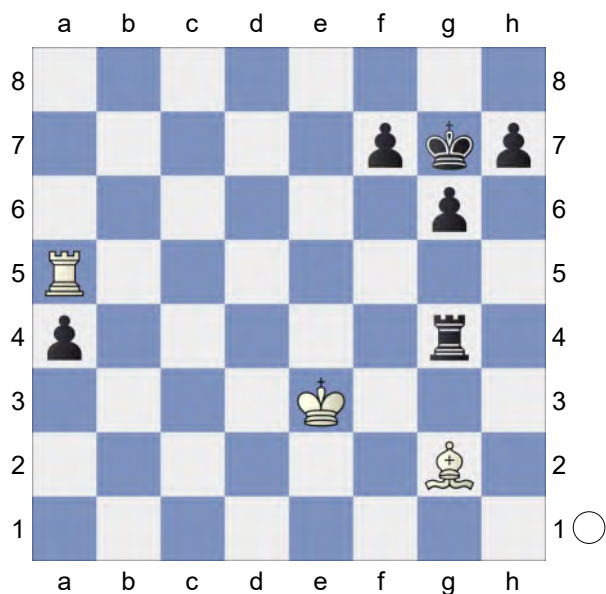


36.c6 g6 37.c7 Kg7?
 [37...Bc8 38.Rd1 Rbd3! 39.Rcd2
 Rxd2 40.Rxd2 Kg7 41.Rd8 Bb7
 42.Rd2 (42.c8Q Rxc8+ 43.Kf1 Bxc8
 44.Kxg2 Be6) 42...Bxc8! 43.c8Q
 Bb7+ 44.Kh2 Bxc8 45.Kxg3 Be6]
38.c8Q Bxc8 39.Rxc8 Rb2
 [39...a5]
40.R8c2 Rxc2

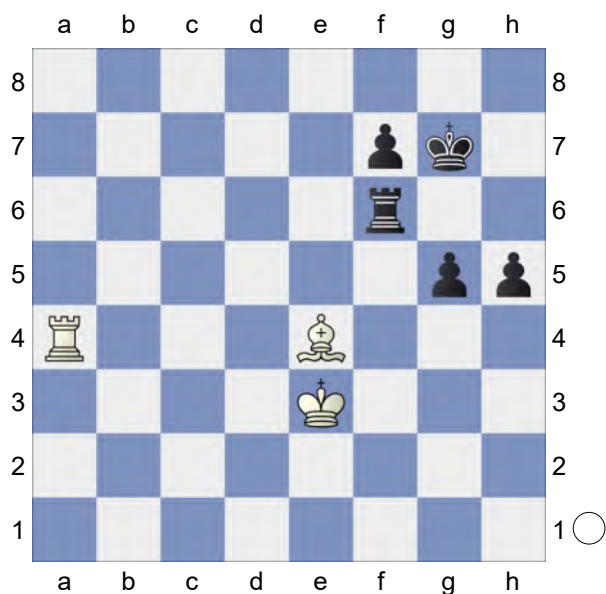


41.Rxc2 a5?!
 [41...Rg5]
42.Rc5!= a4
 [42...Ra3 43.Rc7=]

43.Kf2 Rg4 44.Ra5 Rf4+ 45.Ke3 Rg4

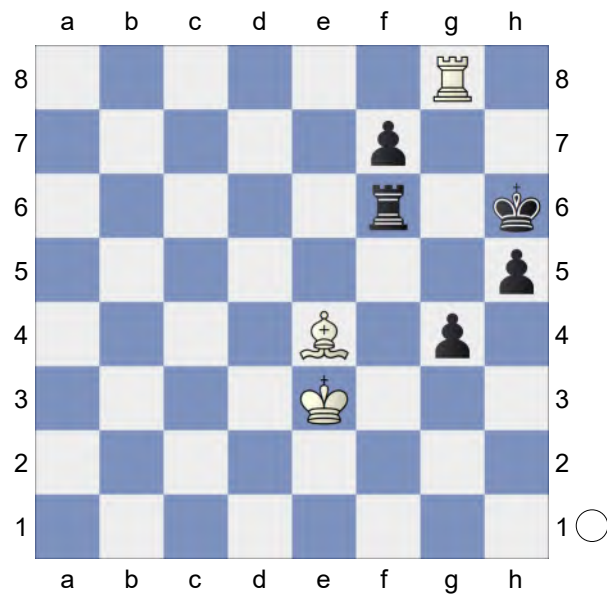


**46.Bf3 Rh4 47.Ra7 g5 48.Bd5 Rf4
49.Be4 h5 50.Rxa4 Rf6**

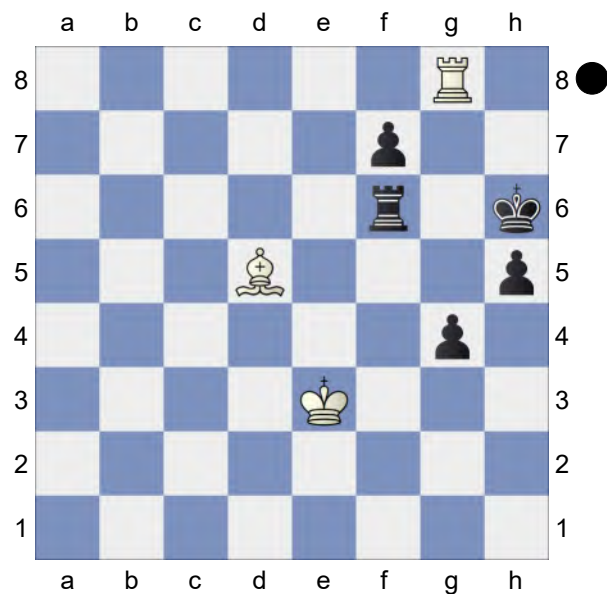


**51.Ra5 Kh6 52.Ra8 g4 53.Rg8 Rf1
54.Ke2 Rf4 55.Ke3 Rf6**

(Diagram)



**56.Bd5 Kh7 57.Rg5 Kh6 58.Rg8 Kh7
59.Rg5 Kh6 60.Rg8**



1/2-1/2

87

□ Wei, Yi

■ Ivanchuk, Vassily

(m/2) 134/66

[Paunovic, Tomislav]

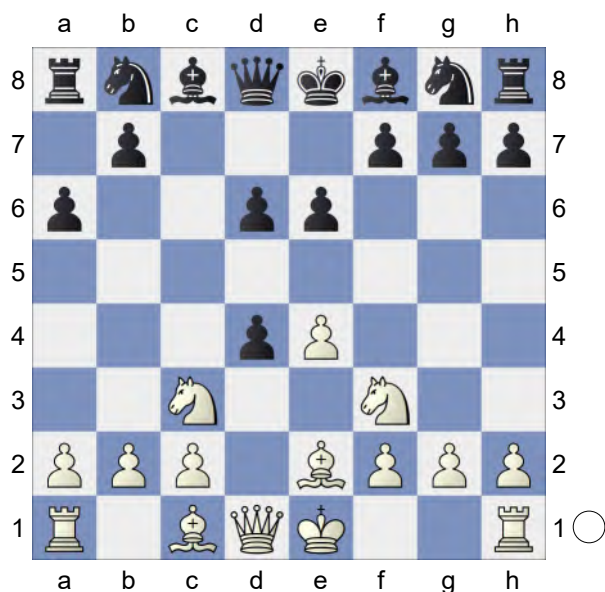
B84

2740

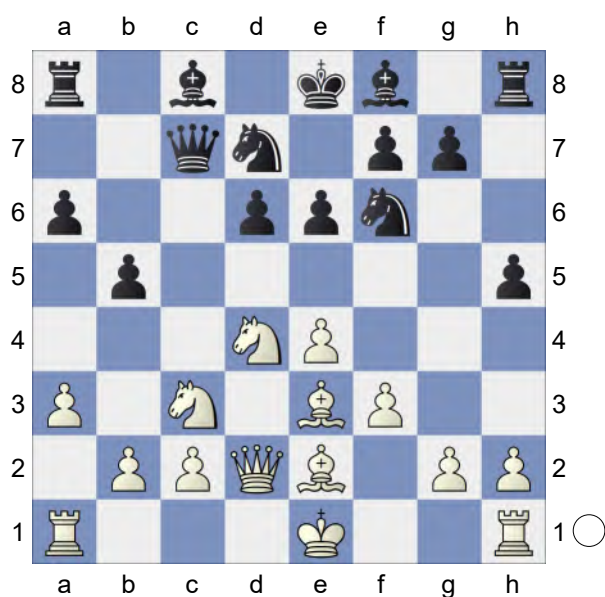
2732

2017

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.Nc3 a6 4.Be2 d6
5.d4 cxd4



6.Nxd4 Nf6 7.Be3 Qc7 8.Qd2 b5 9.f3
Nbd7 10.a3 h5



11.0-0

[11.0-0-0 - 94/169]

11...Bb7 12.Rfd1N

[12.Rad1]

12...d5!? 13.exd5 Nxd5

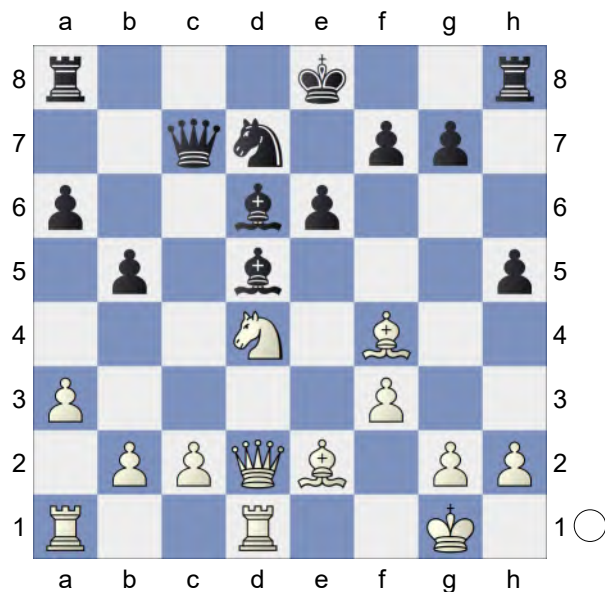
[13...Bxd5 14.Bf4 (14.Nxd5 Nxd5
15.Bf2 Bd6=) 14...Bd6 15.Bxd6
Qxd6 16.Nf5 Qb6+ 17.Kh1 g6
18.Ne3 Bc6∞]

14.Nxd5 Bxd5 15.Bf4

[15.a4!? b4 16.Rac1 Nf6 17.c4
bxc3 18.Qxc3 Qxc3 19.bxc3 Bc5∞]

15...Bd6

[15...Qb7!?]



16.Bxd6 Qxd6 17.Nf5 Qe5

[17...Qc5+ 18.Ne3 (18.Kh1 Nb6=)
18...Nb6=]

18.Bd3

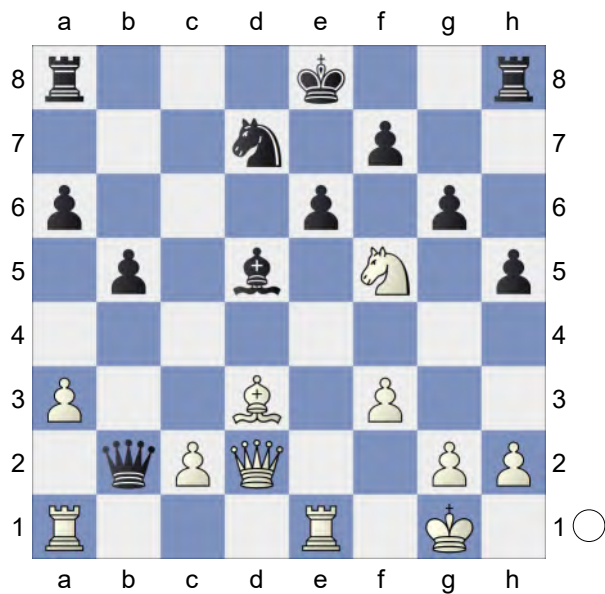
[18.Ne3 Nb6=]

18...g6 19.Re1!?

[19.Ne3=]

19...Qxb2 Diagram

(Diagram)

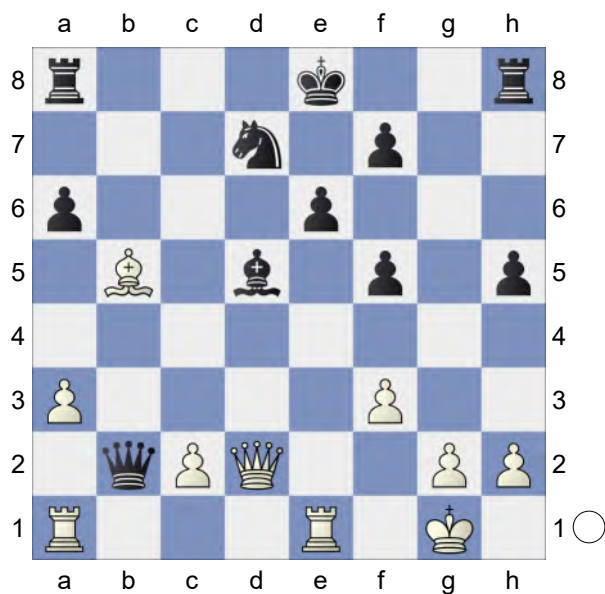


20.Bxb5!

[20.Nd6+ Ke7]

20...gxf5!

[20...axb5 21.Qxd5 Rc8 22.Nd6+ Kf8 23.Rab1 Qxc2 24.Qxb5]



21.Bxd7+

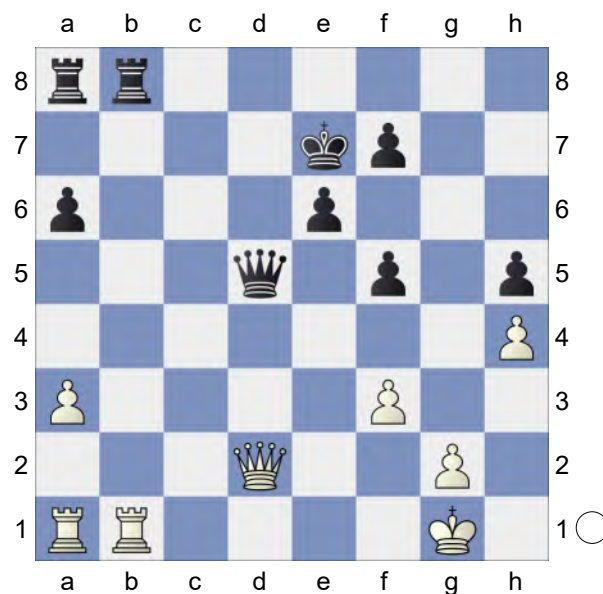
[21.Qxd5 0-0 22.Qxd7 axb5 23.Reb1 Qxc2 24.Qxb5 Rfd8]

21...Kxd7 22.Reb1

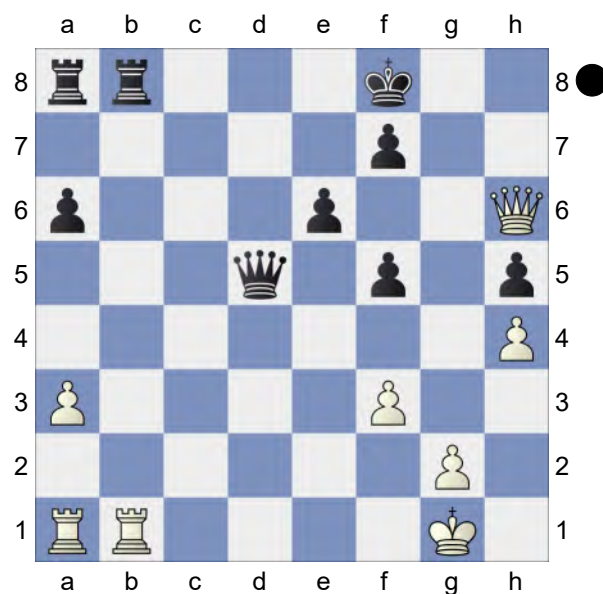
[22.Rab1 Qxa3 23.Rb7+ Kc8 24.Rxf7 Qc5+ 25.Kh1 Rd8]

22...Qe5 23.c4 Rhb8 24.h4 Ke7

25.cxd5 Qxd5=



26.Qg5+ Kf8 27.Qh6+ Ke7 28.Qg5+ Kf8 29.Qh6+



$\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$

84

□ Wei,Yi

■ Inarkiev,Ernesto

Danzhou 141/174

[Paunovic,Tomislav]

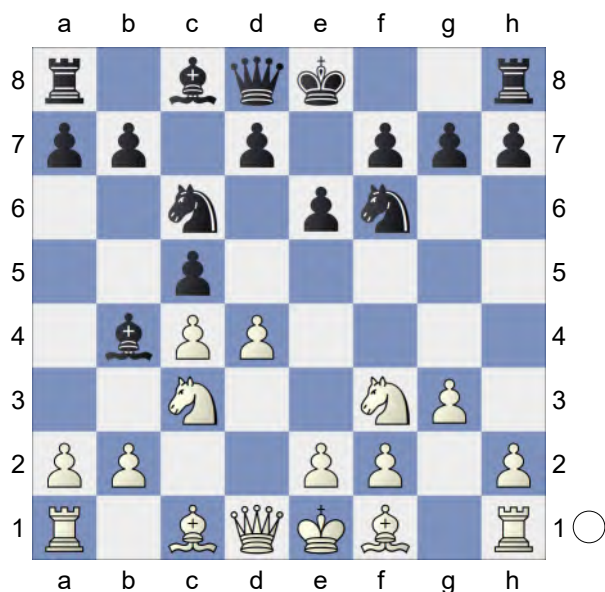
E20

2741

2693

2019

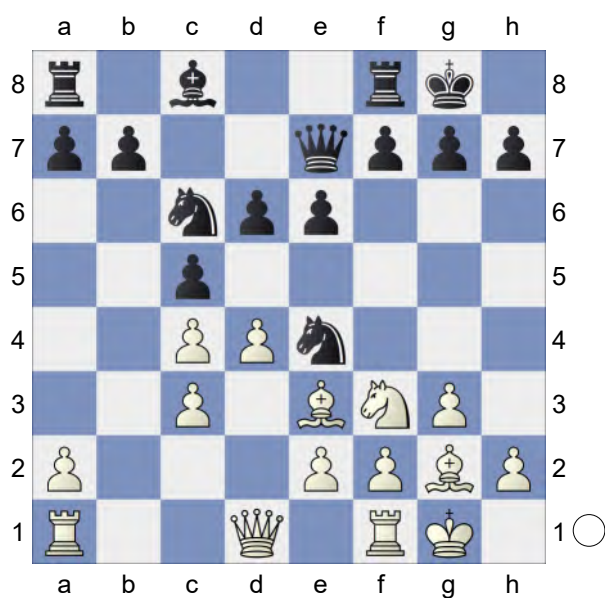
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nf3
c5 5.g3 Nc6



6.Bg2 Ne4 7.Bd2 Bxc3 8.bxc3 0-0
9.0-0 d6 10.Be3

[10.Qc2 - 22/654]

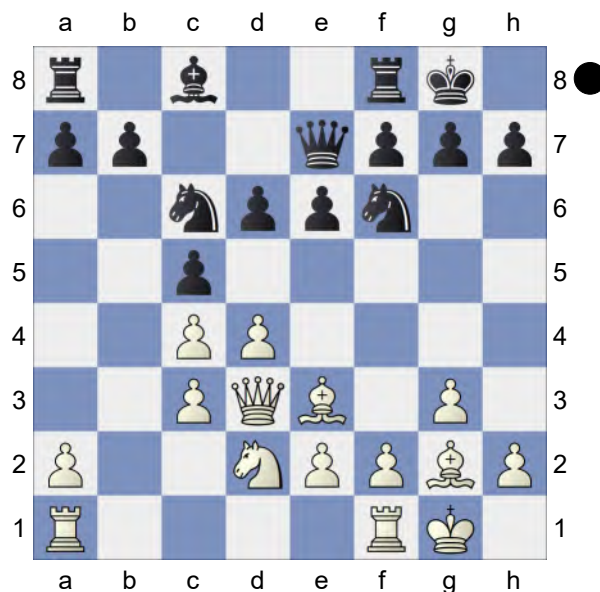
10...Qe7



11.Qd3 Nf6

[11...f5?! 12.Rfd1 e5 13.dxe5 dxe5
14.Nh4±]

12.Nd2 Diagram



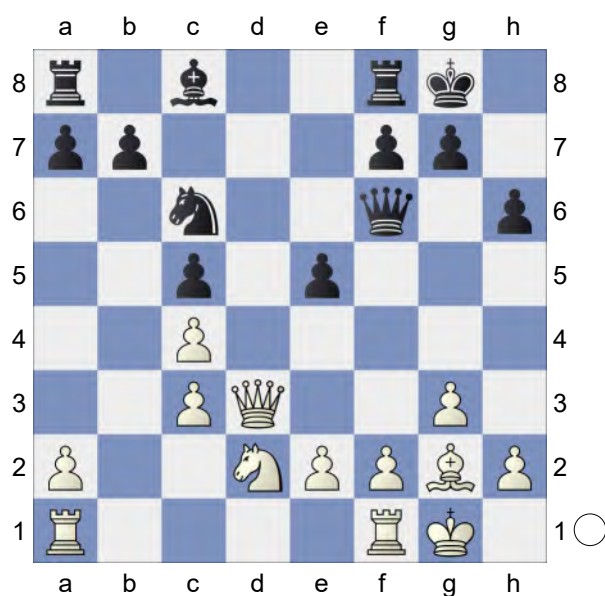
12...e5N

[12...Bd7]

13.dxc5

[13.Nb3!/?]

13...dxc5 14.Bg5 h6 15.Bxf6 Qxf6



16.Qe3

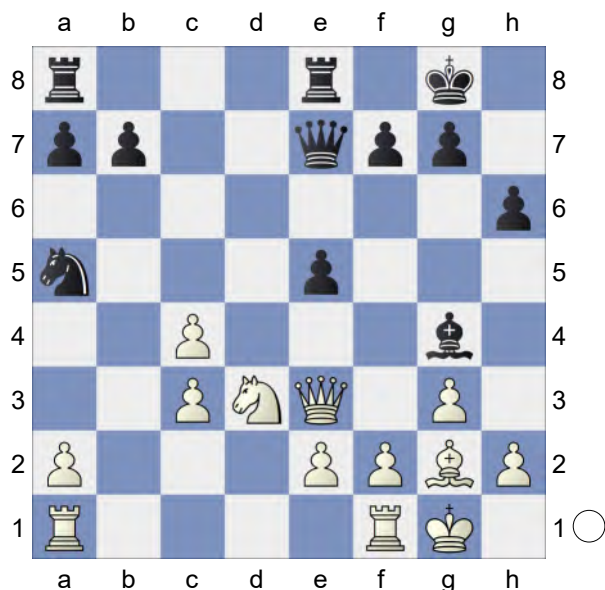
[16.Ne4!? Qe7 17.Qd6 Qxd6
18.Nxd6 Na5 19.Rfd1↑]

16...Qe7 17.Nb3 Bg4 18.Nxc5

[18.h3!?]

18...Na5 19.Nd3 Rfe8 Diagram

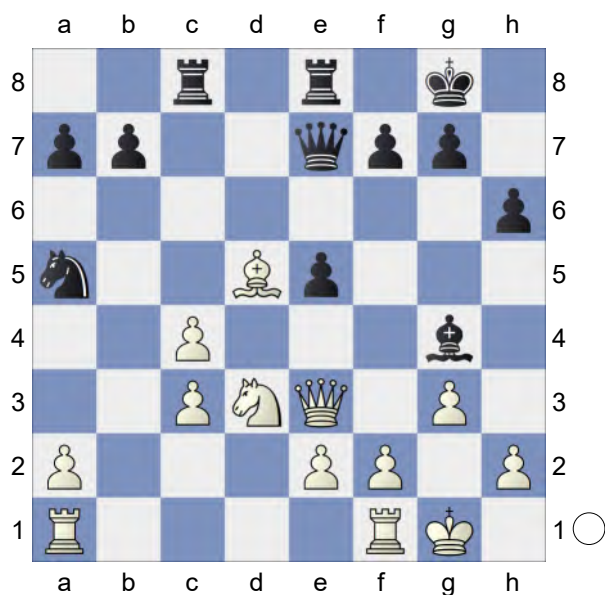
[19...e4 20.Qxe4 Qxe4 21.Bxe4
Bxe2 22.Rfe1 Bxd3 23.Bxd3 Rac8
24.Rab1 Rfd8 25.Bf1±]



20.Bd5

[20.Qe4! Bh5 (20...Be6 21.Qxe5
Nxc4 22.Qc5±) 21.c5±]

20...Rac8



21.Qe4 Be6= 22.Rab1

[22.Qxe5?! Nxc4 23.Bxc4 Bxc4
24.Qxe7 Rxe7±]

22...b6 23.Rb4

[23.Bxe6 Qxe6 24.c5 Nc4
25.Rfd1=]
[23.Nb2=]

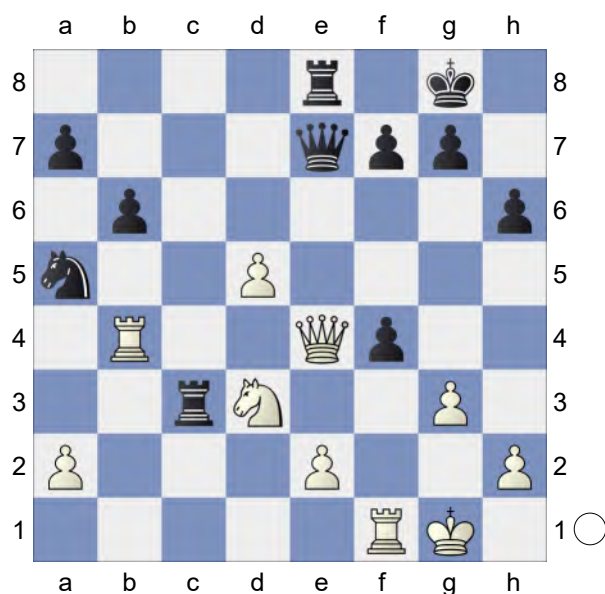
23...Bxd5 24.cxd5

[24.Qxd5?! e4! 25.Nf4 Rc5±]

24...Rxc3 25.f4

[25.Rd1]

25...exf4



26.Rxf4 Nb7?!

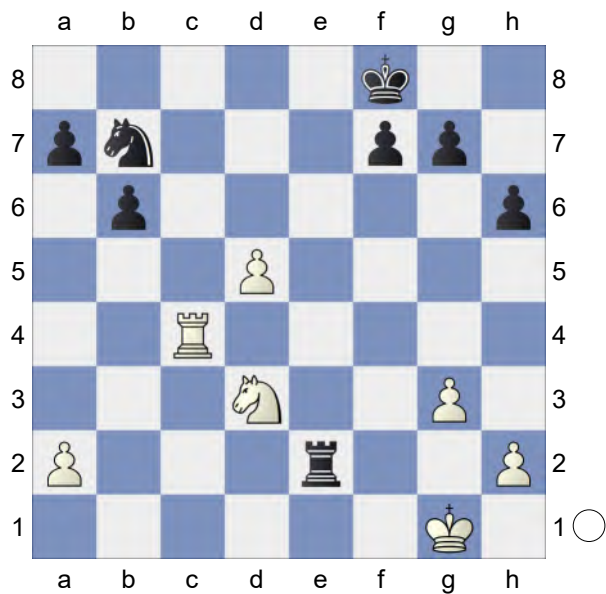
[26...Rc2±]

27.Qxe7 Rxe7 28.Rfe4 Kf8

[28...Rxe4 29.Rxe4 Kf8]

29.Rec4! Rxc4 30.Rxc4 Rxe2

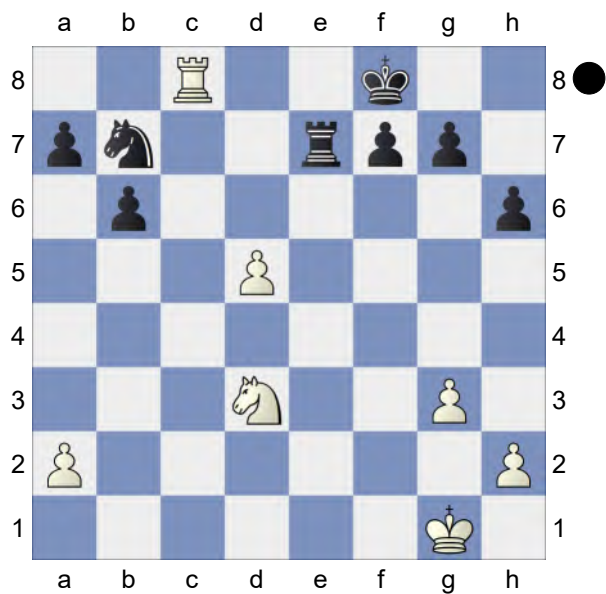
(Diagram)



31.Rc8+ Re8 32.Rc7 Re7

[32...Nd6 33.Rxa7=]

33.Rc8+ Re8 34.Rc7 Re7 35.Rc8+



1/2-1/2

170

□ Wei,Yi

■ Firouzja,Alireza

Makati 139/72

[Paunovic,Tomislav]

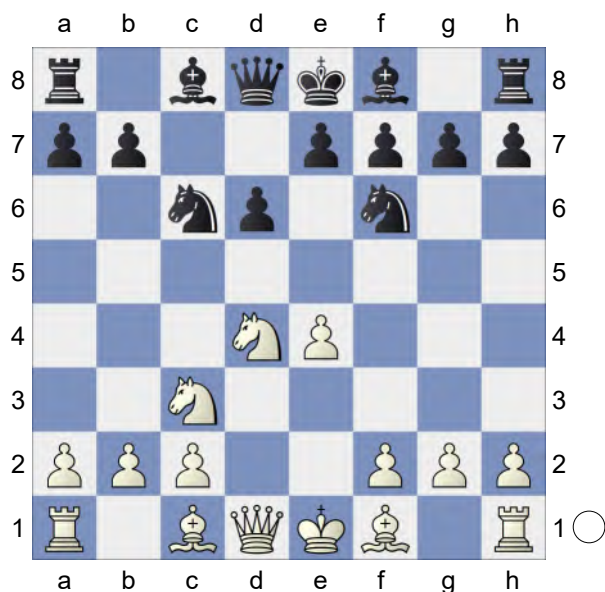
B70

2728

2607

2018

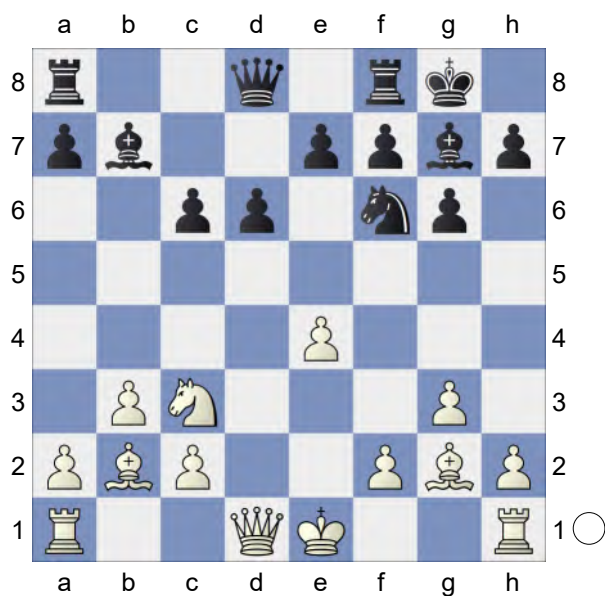
1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 d6 3.Nge2 Nc6 4.d4
cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6



6.g3 g6 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.Bg2 Bb7
9.b3N

[9.0-0]

9...Bg7 10.Bb2 0-0



11.0-0 Qc8

[11...Nd7!?]

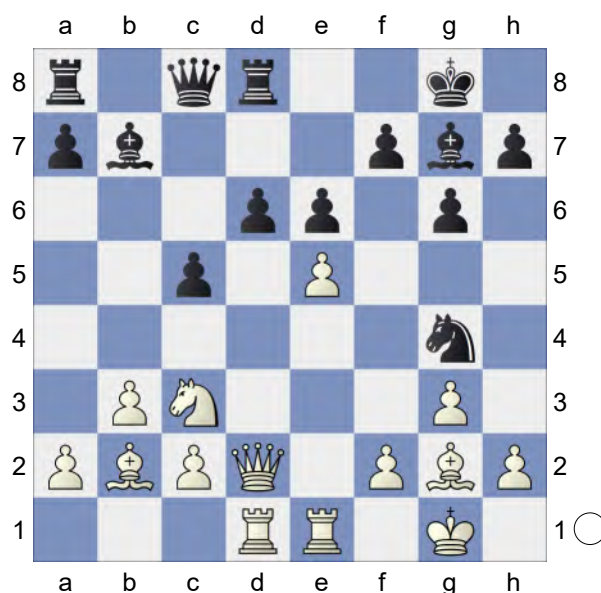
12.Qd2 Rd8 13.Rad1 c5 14.Rfe1 e6

15.e5

[15.Nb5!? d5 16.Bxf6 (16.exd5
Bxd5 17.Qe2 Qb7 18.Bxd5 exd5=)
16...Bxf6 17.Qf4 Kg7 18.Nd6 e5
19.Qxf6+ Kxf6 20.Nxc8 d4 21.Nxa7
Rxa7 22.a4±]

15...Ng4?!

[15...Ne8 16.Bxb7 Qxb7 17.Na4↑]



16.exd6± Bd4

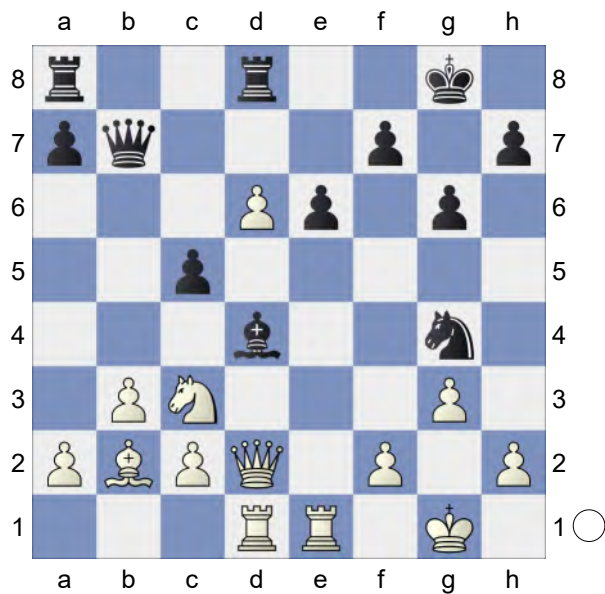
[Δ16...Bxg2 17.Kxg2 Bd4]

17.Bxb7

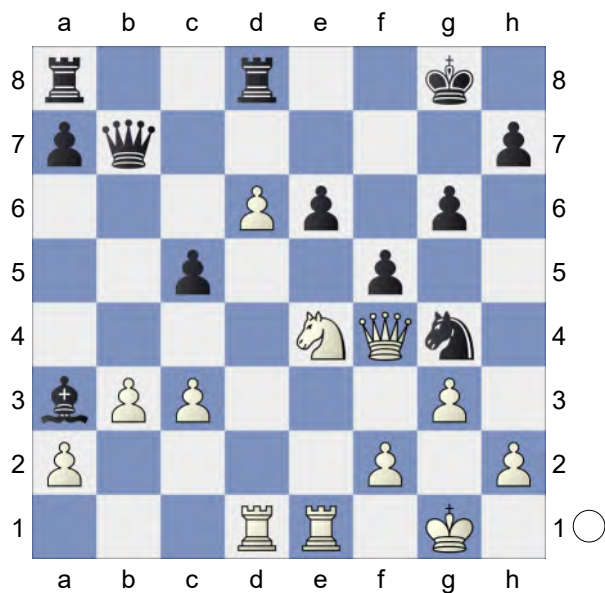
[17.Ne4! Bxb2 18.c3 Rb8 (18...f5
19.Ng5 Bxg2 20.Kxg2 Qc6+
21.Kg1+-; 18...Ba3 19.h3+-) 19.Qxb2
Bxe4 20.Rxe4 Nf6 21.Ra4±]

17...Qxb7 Diagram

(Diagram)



18.Ne4! Bxb2 19.c3 Ba3 20.Qf4 f5
 [20...Kg7 21.Qxg4 f5 22.Nxc5
 Bxc5 23.Qf4±]

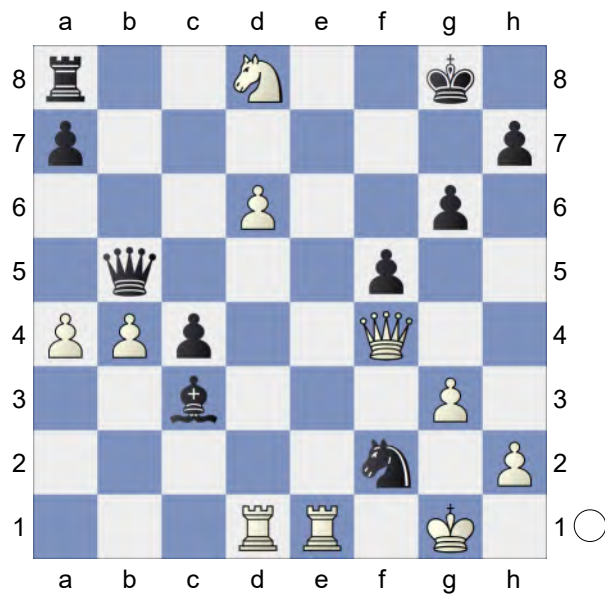


21.Ng5+- c4 22.b4 Bb2?
 [22...Qb6 23.Rxe6 Qxf2+ (23...a5
 24.Rd2!) 24.Qxf2 Nxf2 25.Kxf2 a5
 26.d7 axb4 27.Re2]

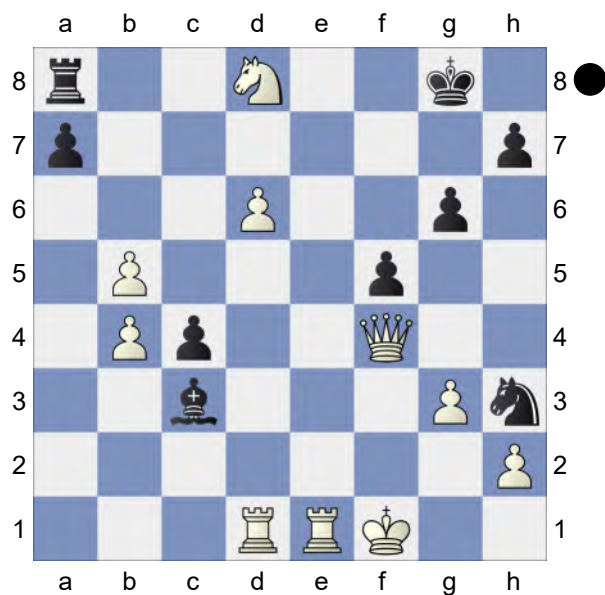
23.Nxe6

[23.Rxe6]

23...Bxc3 24.Nxd8 Qb5 25.a4! Nxf2
 [25...Qxa4 26.Qxc4+]



26.axb5 Nh3+ 27.Kf1



1-0

357

□ Wei,Yi

■ Felgaer,Ruben

123/68 Gibraltar

[Paunovic,Tomislav]

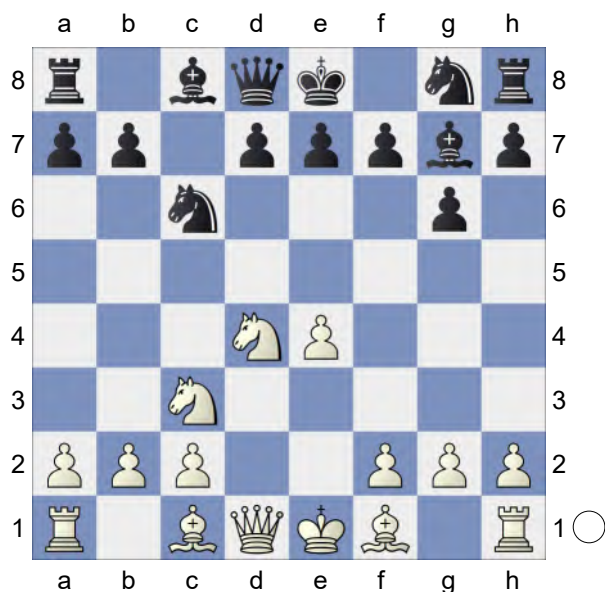
B77

2675

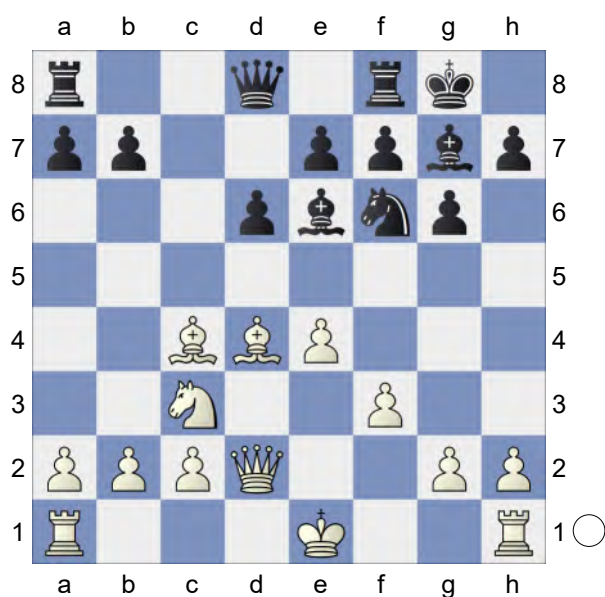
2575

2015

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 g6 4.d4
cxd4 5.Nxd4 Bg7



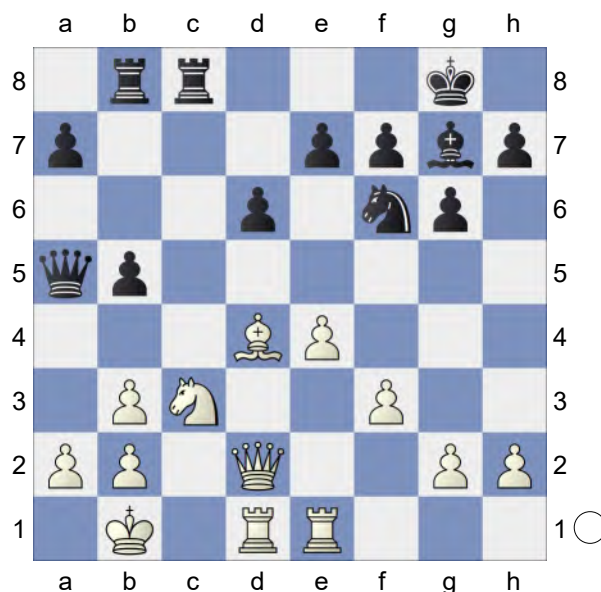
6.Be3 Nf6 7.Bc4 d6 8.f3 0-0 9.Qd2
Nxd4 10.Bxd4 Be6



11.Bb3 Qa5 12.0-0-0 b5 13.Kb1 Rfc8
14.Rhe1

[14.g4 - 100/146]

14...Bxb3 15.cxb3 Rab8



16.h4N

[16.Bxf6]

[16.a3]

[16.Rc1]

[16.e5]

16...b4 17.Nd5 Nxd5 18.exd5 Bxd4
19.Qxd4 Rb7 20.Qd2

[20.h5 Qc5 21.Qd2 Rbc7 22.hxg6
hxg6 23.Re2 (23.Re4 Qc2+
24.Qxc2 Rxc2=) 23...Qb5! 24.Re4
Rc2

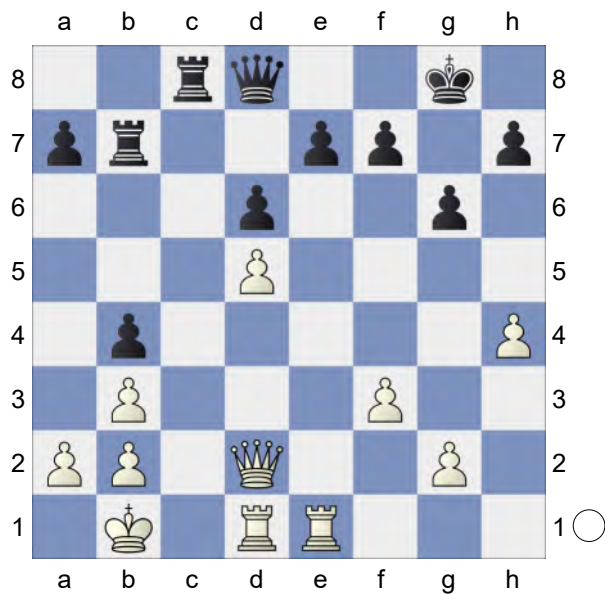
A) 25.Qh6 Rf2! (25...Rxc2??
26.Rh1+-) 26.a4 Rcc2 27.axb5
Rxb2+=;

B) 25.Qxc2 Rxc2 26.Kxc2±]

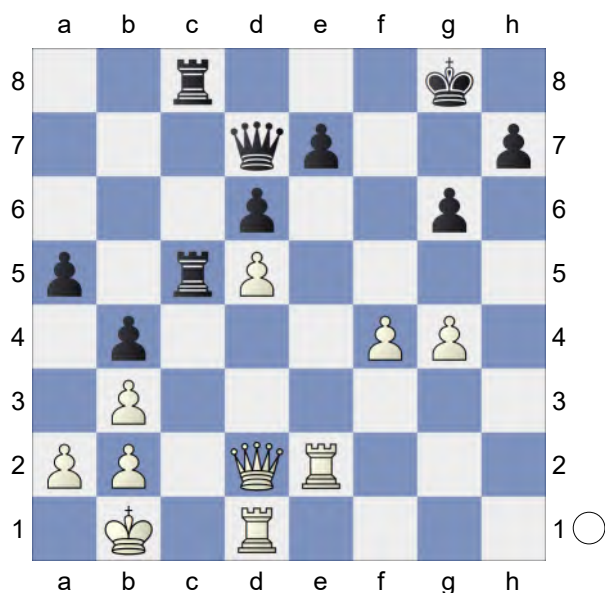
20...Qd8

[20...Rbc7!?]

(Diagram)

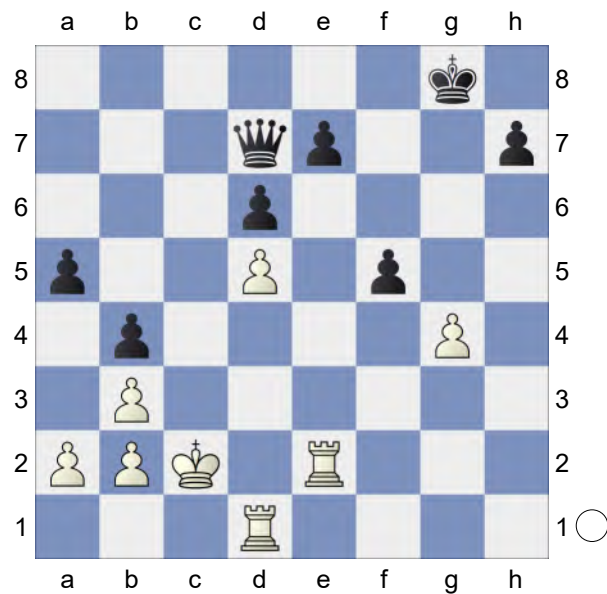


21.h5 a5 22.g4 Rbc7 23.Re2 Rc5
 [23...Qf8!?]
24.f4 Qd7 25.hxg6 fxc6
 [25...hxg6? 26.f5!+-]

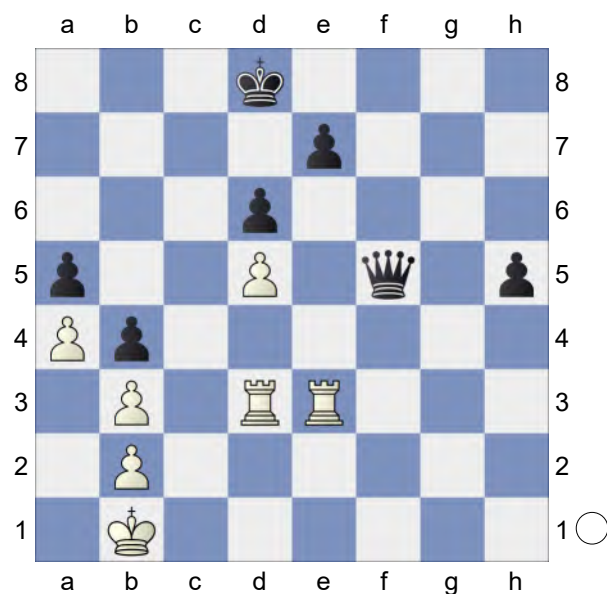


26.Re6± Qc7 27.Re2 Qd7 28.f5!?
Rc2 29.Qxc2 Rxc2 30.Kxc2 gxf5

(Diagram)

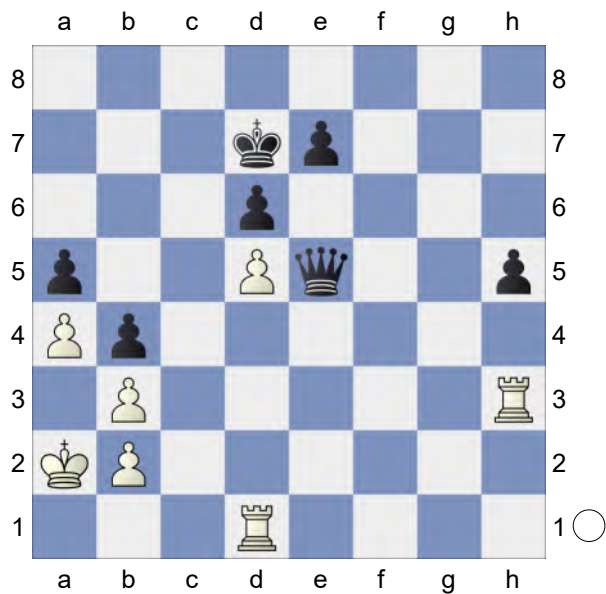


31.gxf5 Qxf5+ [6/b] 32.Rd3 Kf8
33.a4 [xc2] 33...Ke8 34.Ree3 h5
35.Kb1! Kd8

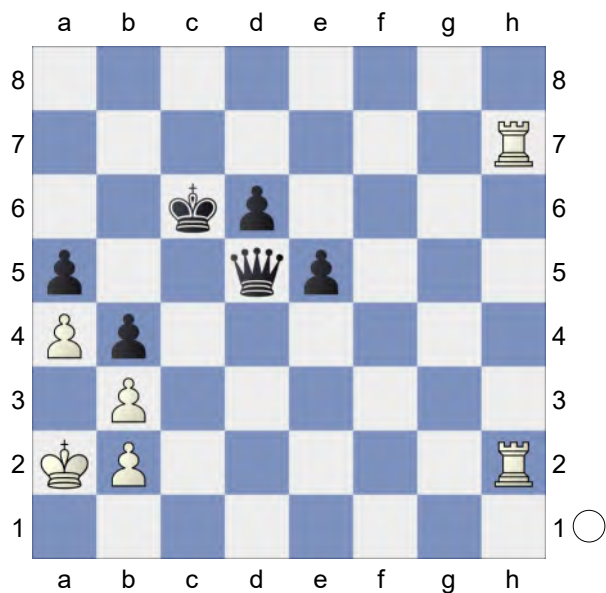


36.Ka2± Kd7 37.Rd4 Qg5 38.Rh3
Qe5 39.Rd2 Qg5 40.Rd1 Qe5

(Diagram)

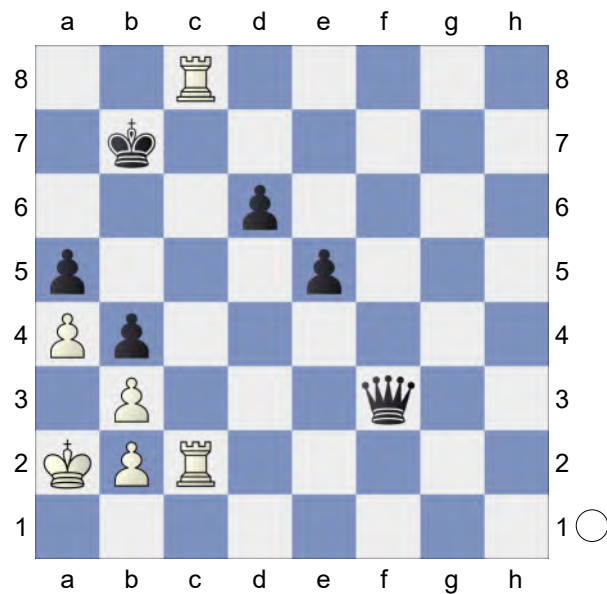


**41.Rh4 Qf5 42.Rd2 Qg5 43.Rdh2
Qxd5 44.Rxh5 e5
[44...Qa8 45.Rh8±]
45.Rh7+ Kc6**

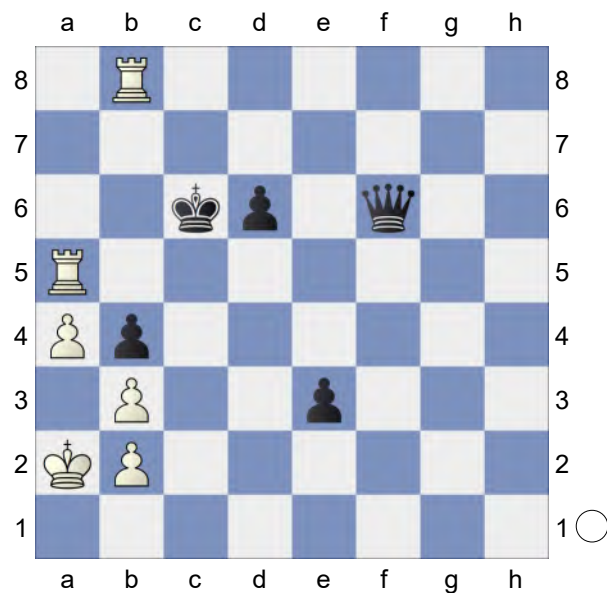


**46.Rc2+ Kb6 47.Re7 Qa8 48.Rd7
Qf8 49.Rdc7! Qf3 50.Rc8 Kb7**

(Diagram)

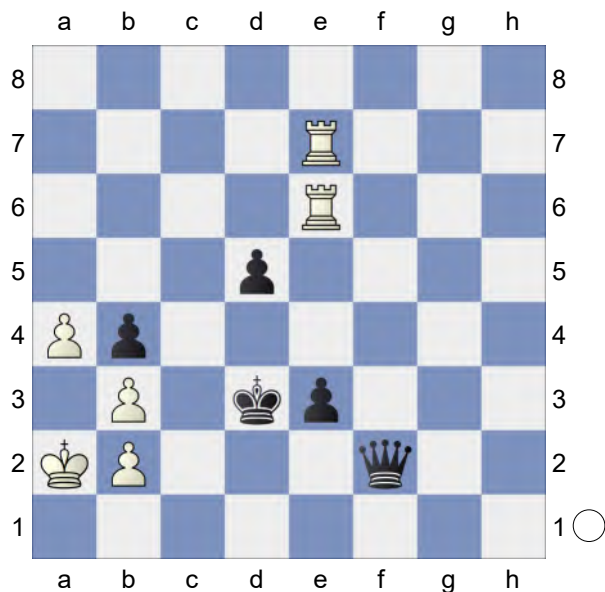


**51.R2c7+ Kb6 52.Rd7 Qf6 53.Rb8+!
Kc6 54.Ra7 e4 55.Rxa5+- e3?!
[55...Qe6]**



**56.Re8 Qf2 57.Ra7 d5 58.Re6+ Kc5
59.Rc7+
[♖59.Rae7]
59...Kd4 60.Rce7 Kd3**

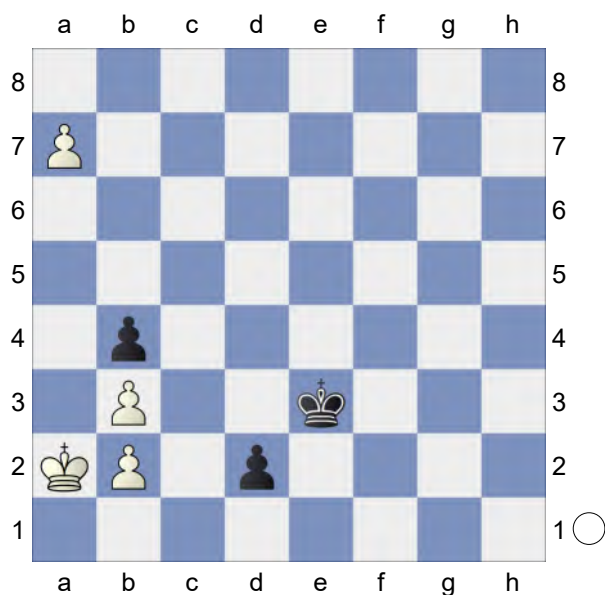
(Diagram)



61.Rxe3+

[61.a5 d4 62.a6 Qg2 63.a7 Qa8
64.Rd6 e2 65.Rde6 Qd5 66.Re5
Qc6 67.Re4 Qd5 68.R4e6 Qd8
69.Kb1 (69.Rxe2?? Qa5+ 70.Kb1
Qa1+ 71.Kxa1=) 69...Qa5 70.Re4
Qxa7 71.Rxa7 Kxe4 72.Kc2!
(72.Re7+?? Kd3=) 72...e1N+
73.Kd2 Nf3+ 74.Ke2 d3+ 75.Kd1]

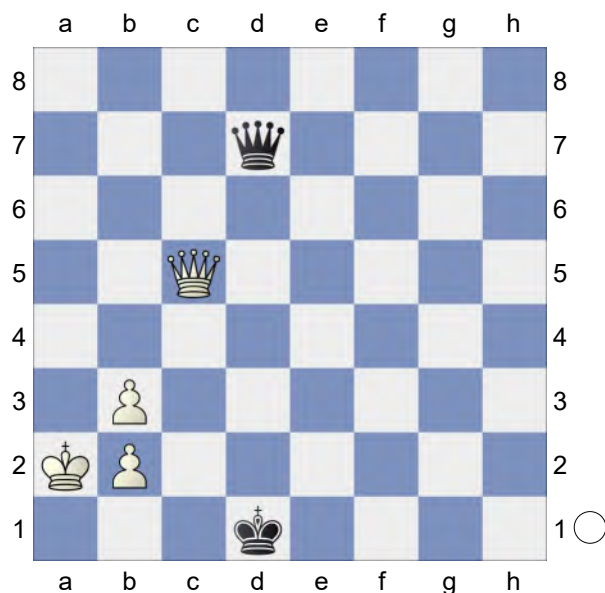
**61...Qxe3 62.Rxe3+ Kxe3 63.a5 d4
64.a6 d3 65.a7 d2**



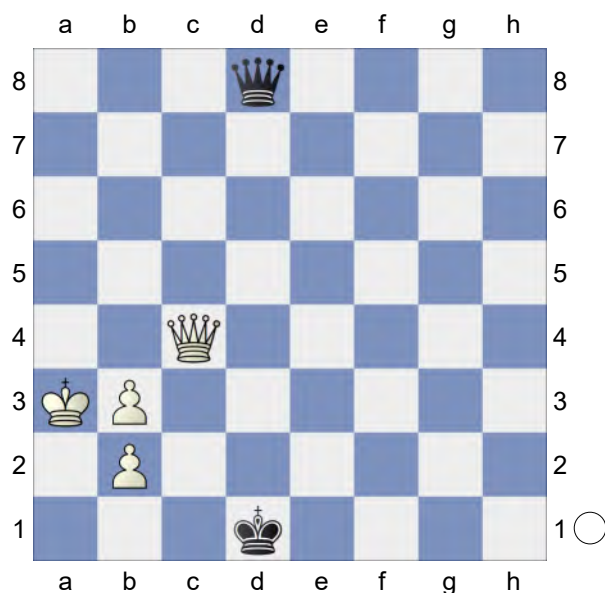
66.a8Q d1Q 67.Qe8+ Kd2

[67...Kf4 68.Qf8+ Ke5 69.Qxb4

**Ke6]
68.Qe4 Kc1 69.Qxb4+- Qd7 70.Qc5+
Kd1**

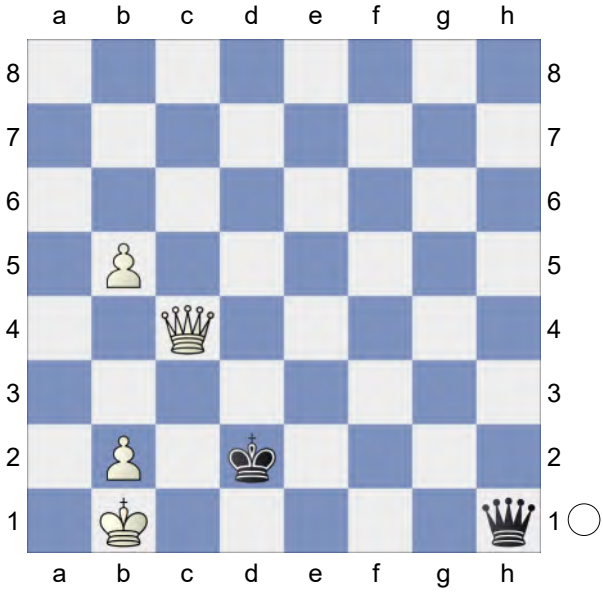


**71.Ka3 Qd8 72.Qg1+ Kc2 73.Qf2+
Kd1 74.Qf1+ Kd2 75.Qc4 Kd1**

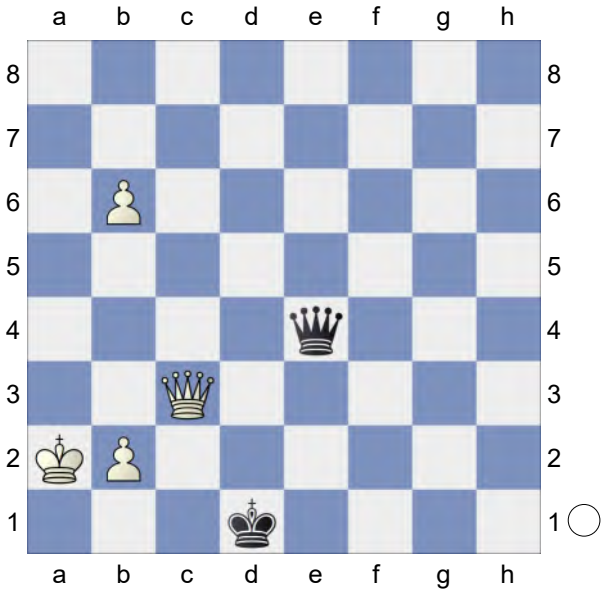
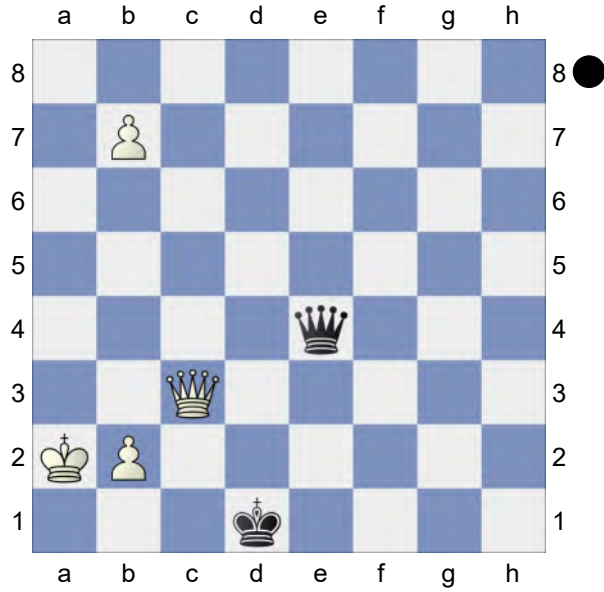


**76.b4 Qa8+ 77.Kb3 Qf3+ 78.Ka2
Qa8+ 79.Kb1 Kd2 80.b5 Qh1+**

(Diagram)



81.Ka2 Qa8+ 82.Kb3 Qe8 83.b6 Qe3+ 84.Qc3+ Kd1 85.Ka2 Qe4 1-0



86.b7

(Diagram)

339

□ Wang, Yue

■ Wei, Yi

140/190 China

[Paunovic, Tomislav]

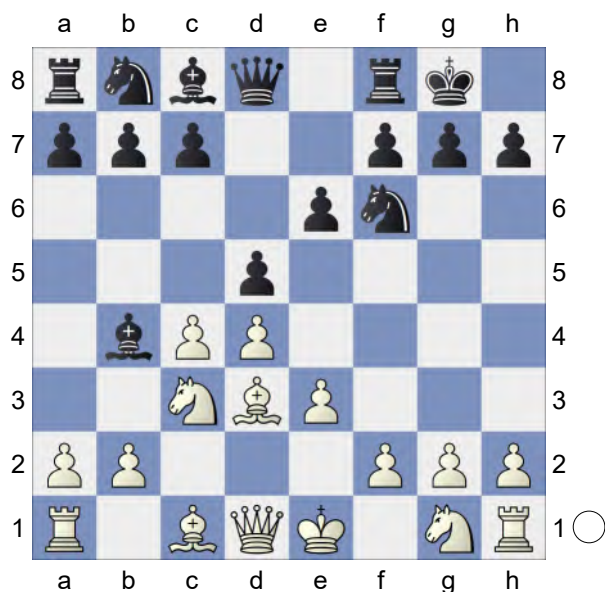
E54

2684

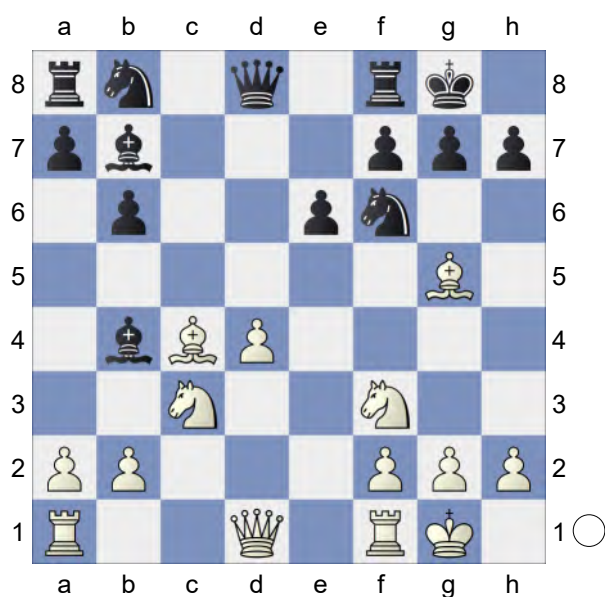
2728

2019

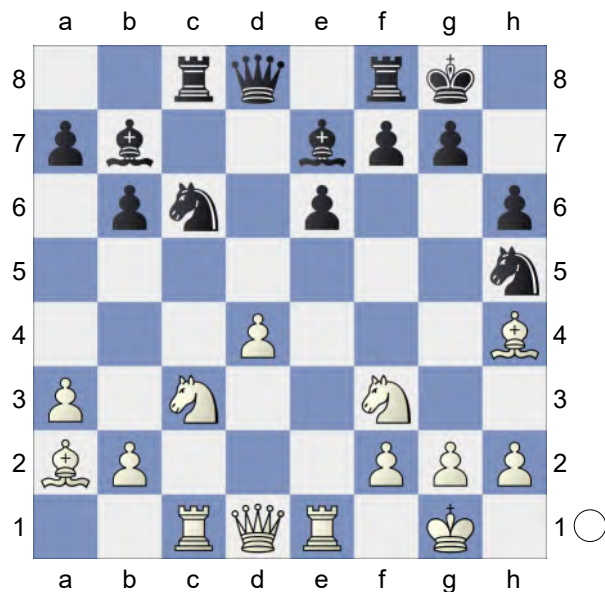
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3
0-0 5.Bd3 d5



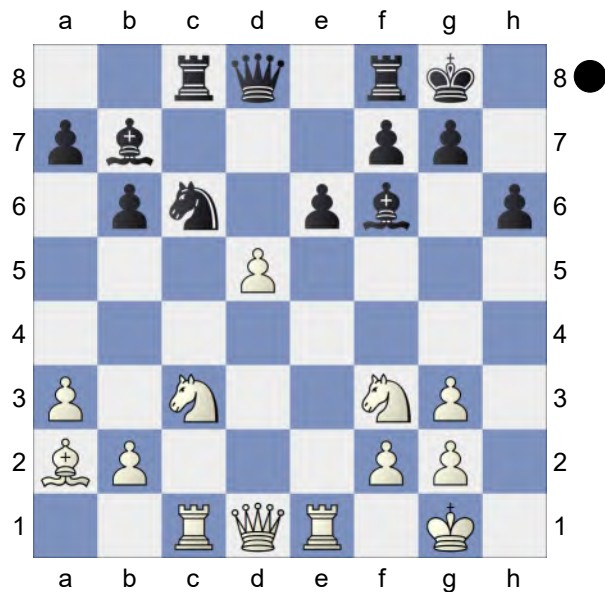
6.Nf3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 c5 8.0-0 cxd4
9.exd4 b6 10.Bg5 Bb7



11.Rc1 Nc6 12.a3 Be7 13.Ba2 Rc8
14.Re1 h6 15.Bh4 Nh5



16.Bg3 Nxg3 17.hxg3 Bf6 18.d5
Diagram

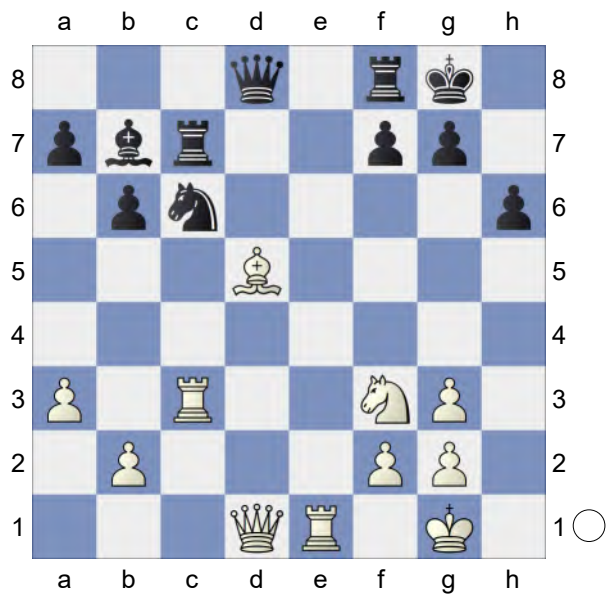


18...Bxc3!N

[18...exd5 - 137/190]

19.Rxc3 exd5 20.Bxd5 Rc7!

(Diagram)



21.Ree3

[21.Rd3 Rd7 22.Ree3 Qf6∞]

21...Re7

[21...Rd7 22.Red3 Qf6 23.Qa4±]

[21...Ba6!?]

22.Red3 Qe8 23.b4 Ne5 24.Bxb7 Rxb7

[24...Nxd3 25.Bc6 Nxf2 26.Kxf2±]

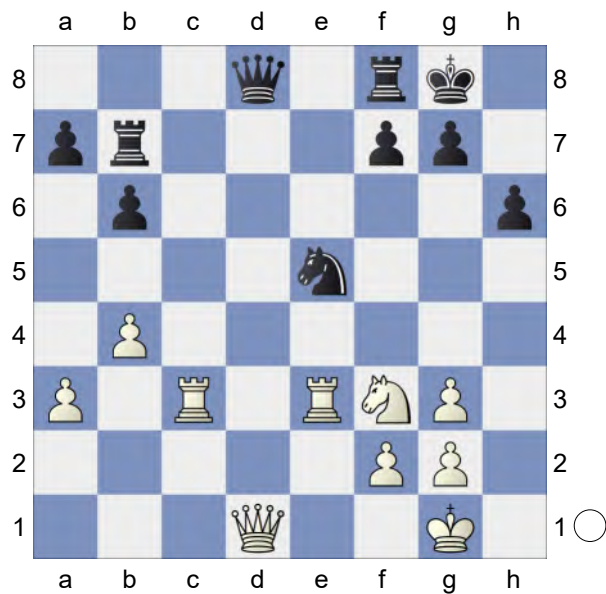
25.Re3

[25.Rd5 Re7=]

25...Qd8 [Diagram](#)

[25...Nxf3+ 26.gxf3 Re7 27.Kg2 Rxe3 28.Rxe3↑]

(Diagram)

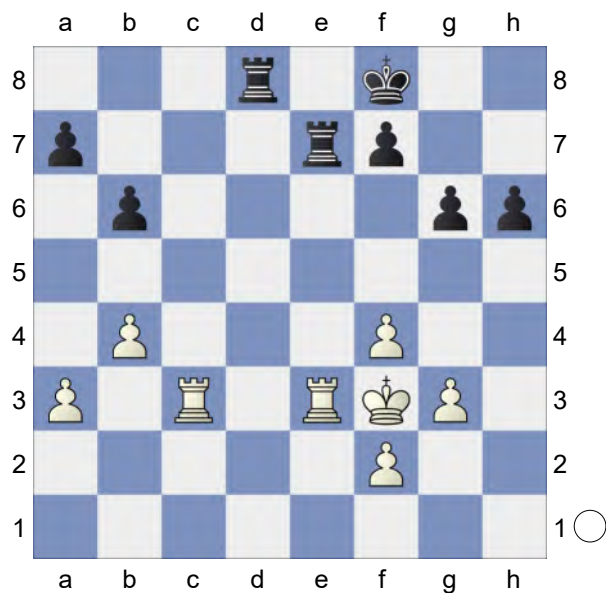


26.Qxd8

[26.Qc2!?]

26...Nxf3+ 27.gxf3 Rxd8= 28.f4 Kf8

29.Kg2 Re7 30.Kf3 g6



1/2-1/2

47

□ Wang,Hao

■ Wei,Yi

chess.com (Int.-rapid) 147/(178)

[Paunovic,Tomislav]

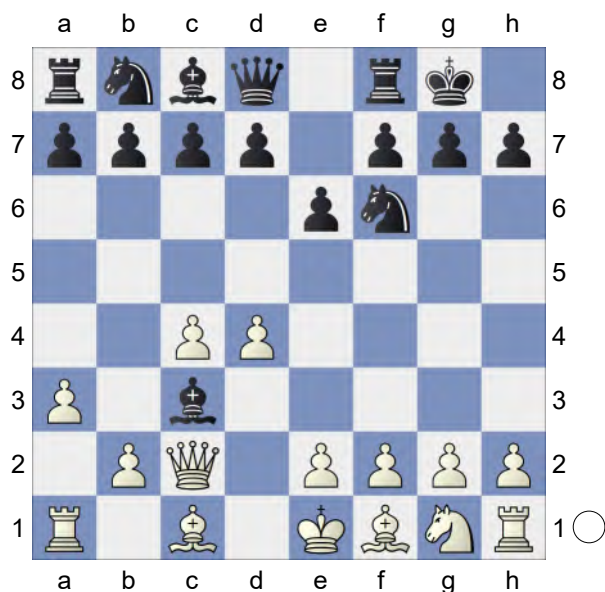
E36

2763

2732

2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2
0-0 5.a3 Bxc3+



6.Qxc3 d5 7.Bg5 dxc4

[7...c5 is the main alternative - see Wang, H-Grischuk,A/Chess.com 2020.]

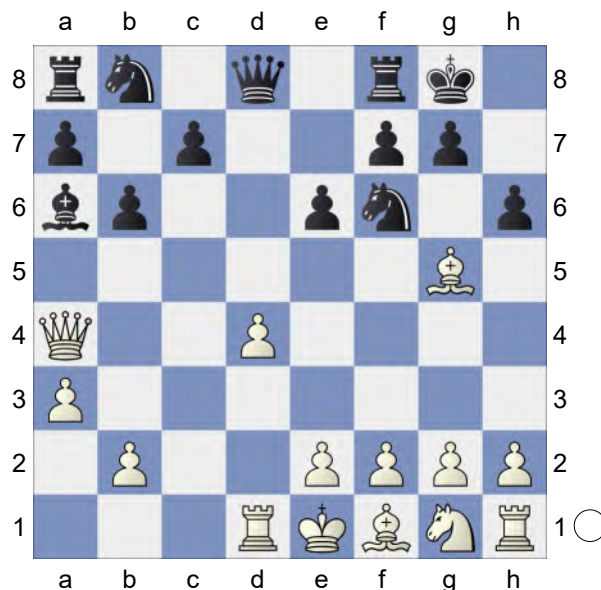
8.Qxc4 b6 9.Rd1

[9.Nf3 transposes to 7 Nf3.]

[For 9.Rc1 see the notes to Eljanov,P-Lenderman,A/ Tbilisi 2017.]

9...Ba6 10.Qa4 h6

(Diagram)



11.Bh4 Qe7

[Caruana went for the queen exchange with 11...Qd7 12.Qc2 Qc6 but after 13.Qxc6 Nxc6 14.Bxf6 gxf6 15.e3 Bxf1 16.Kxf1 Carlsen gained an edge and eventually won - see the notes to Carlsen,M-Caruana,F/ Stavanger 2020.]

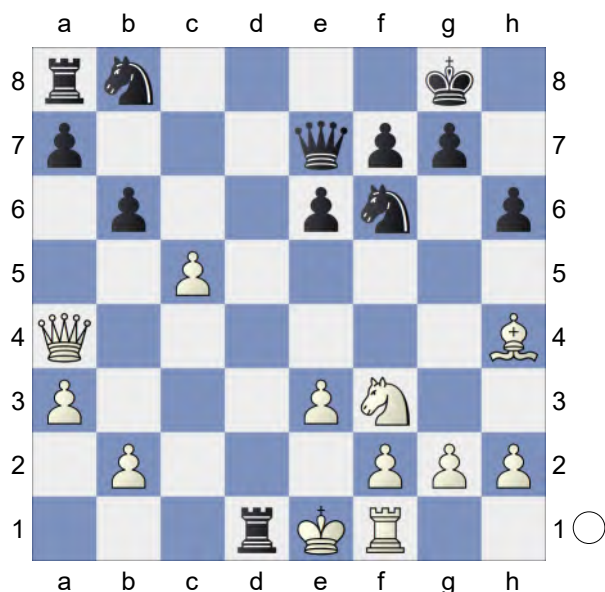
12.Nf3 Rd8 * 13.e3

[Previously we considered 13.g4!? in Mamedyarov,S-Sargsyan,S/chess.com 2020, and it hasn't yet been repeated.]

[On the same day, but two rounds later, Wang Hao tried 13.Ne5 - see the notes to Wang,H-Ding,L/ Chess.com 2020.]

13...Bxf1 14.Rxf1 c5 15.dxc5 Rxd1+

(Diagram)

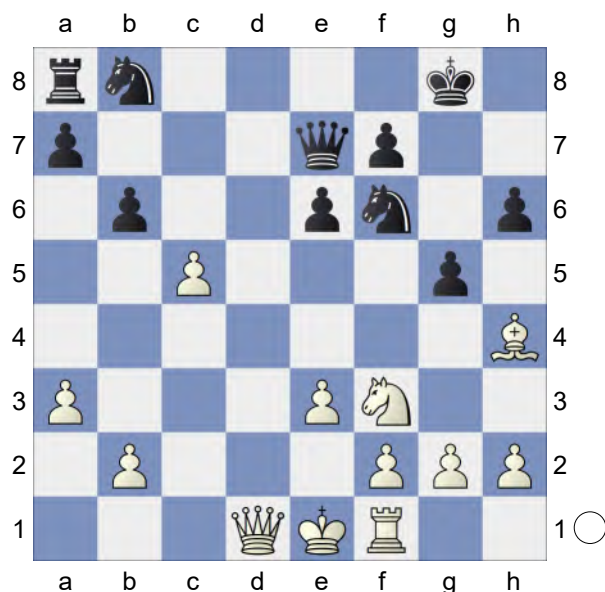


16.Qxd1 g5 Diagram

[Previously it was noted that 16...bxc5 17.Ne5!? (17.Qc2 Nbd7 18.Ke2 Rc8 was level in Mamedyarov,S-Caruana,F/Saint Louis 2018, although White eventually won) 17...Qc7 18.Bxf6 gxf6 19.Qg4+ Kf8 20.Qe4 (20.Qf3) 20...Qa5+ 21.Kd1 Qd8+ 22.Kc1 Qd5 23.Qxd5 exd5 24.Nd3± was much better for White in Nechaeva, M-Kashlinskaya,A/ Sochi 2016, and I'd wondered if this was the reason Caruana avoided repeating 11...Qe7 against Carlsen.]

[16...Qxc5?! 17.Qd8+! is good for White: Kh7 18.Bxf6 gxf6 (or 18...Qc1+ 19.Ke2 Qc4+ 20.Qd3+ Qxd3+ 21.Kxd3 gxf6 22.Rc1 with a favourable endgame for White, Volovich, J-Wilks,S/Chess.com 2020) 19.Qxf6 Qc1+ 20.Ke2 Qc4+ 21.Kd2! Qxf1 22.Qxf7+ Kh8 23.Nh4 and White wins.]

(Diagram)



17.Nxg5N

[17.Bg3 - 137/182 John Emms: 'is met by Paunovic,Tomislav: '- 137/182" Qxc5! This is possible after the insertion of ...g5 and Bg3, as Black doesn't need to fear the queen check. 18.Qd8+ Kg7 19.Be5 (White is in danger of being worse after 19.Bxb8 Qc1+ 20.Ke2 Qxb2+ 21.Nd2 Ne4 for example, 22.Be5+? Qxe5 23.Qxa8 Qb5+! 24.Ke1 Nc3!) 19...Qc1+ 20.Ke2 Qc4+ 21.Ke1 (White could play on with 21.Qd3 Qxd3+ 22.Kxd3 Nbd7 but it looks equal) 21...Qc1+ 22.Ke2 Qc4+ 23.Ke1 Qc1+ 24.Ke2 1/2-1/2 Mamedyarov,S-Nakamura,H/ Stavanger 2018.]

17...hxg5 18.Bxg5 [Δ Qf3+-]

18...Nbd7□ 19.Qf3

[After 19.c6?! Nf8! Black can relieve the problem with the pin by ...N8h7.]

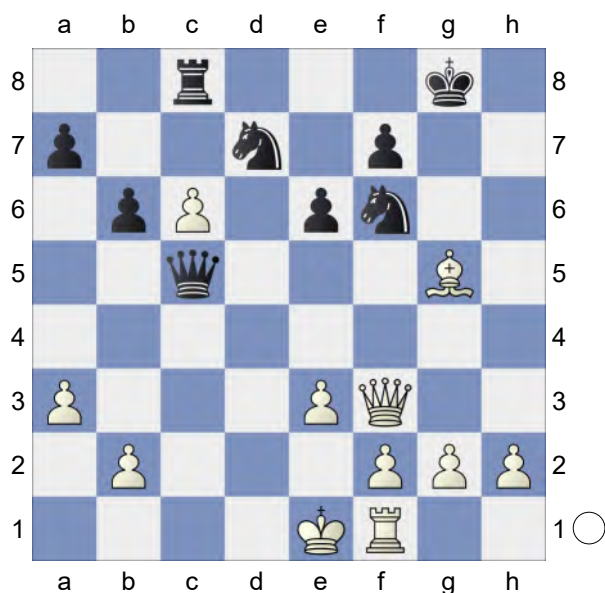
19...Rc8

[19...Rd8 is also possible, and indeed White must play accurately here: 20.Qg3! (20.c6? Qc5! 21.Bxf6 Nxf6 22.Qxf6 Qc1+ 23.Ke2 Rd2+ wins for Black) 20...Kf8 21.c6 Qc5!

22.cxd7 Qc1+ 23.Ke2 Qc4+
 John Emms: '=' '=' '=' '=' '='="Paunovic,
 Tomislav: '=' Paunovic, Tomislav: 'John
 Emms: '='' (23...Qc2+ 24.Kf3=)
 24.Kf3 (24.Ke1 Ne4!) 24...Qc6+
 25.Ke2 Ne4!? (25...Qc4+=) 26.Bh6+
 Ke7 27.Bg5+ f6 28.Bxf6+! Kxf6
 29.Qh4+ Kg6 30.Qxd8 Qc2+ 31.Kf3
 Nd2+ 32.Kg3 Nxf1+ 33.Kf3!
 (33.Kh3 Qf5+ mates) 33...Nxh2+
 34.Kg3 Nf1+ 35.Kf3! and Black has
 to give perpetual check.]

20.c6 Qc5

[20...Ne5! is another option, and
 again White has to be careful: 21.Qxf6
 Qc5! 22.e4! (preventing ...Qc1+) Qd4!
 23.f3 Rxc6 24.Qd8+! Qxd8 25.Bxd8
 Rc2 26.Kd1 Rxc2 27.Bf6 Nd3
 with a likely draw.]



21.Bxf6

[21.cxd7 Nxd7 is risky, although
 22.Bf4! Qc1+ 23.Qd1 e5 24.Bg3
 Qxb2 25.Qg4+! saves White, as Kf8
 can be answered by 26.Qb4+]

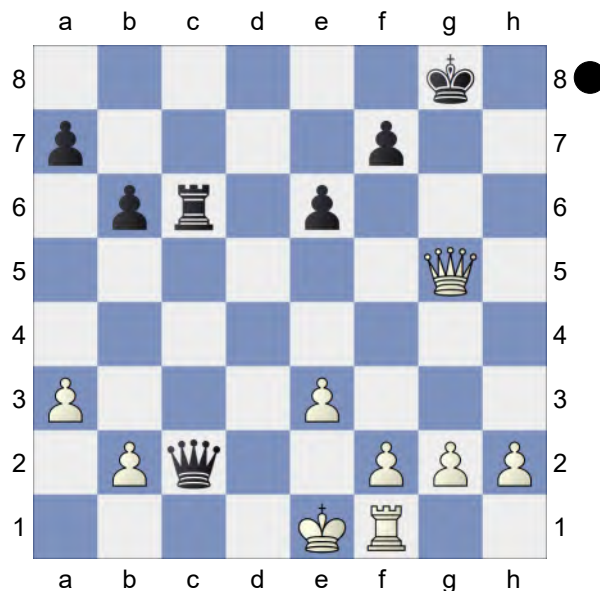
21...Qc1+ John Emms: 'Wei Yi takes the
 perpetual check. There are other ways
 to reach a draw but nothing better.' John

Emms: 'Wei Yi's 16...g5 looks stronger
 than Black's other choices and seems to
 equalise against 17 Bg3. Wang Hao's
 novelty 17 Nxg5 is an interesting attempt
 to imbalance the position, but it doesn't
 alter the assessment in White's favour.
 Many lines lead to perpetual checks and
 in some it feels like White is the one
 who is having to be more careful.'

22.Ke2 Qc2+= 23.Ke1 Nxf6

[23...Rxc6 24.Qg3+ Kf8 25.Qg7+
 Ke8 26.Qh8+ Nf8 27.Bg7 Kd7
 28.Qxf8 Qc1+ 29.Ke2 Qc2+ 30.Kf3
 Qf5+=]

24.Qxf6 Rxc6 25.Qg5+=



178

□ Shankland, Samuel L

■ Wei, Yi

Danzhou 137/183

[Paunovic, Tomislav]

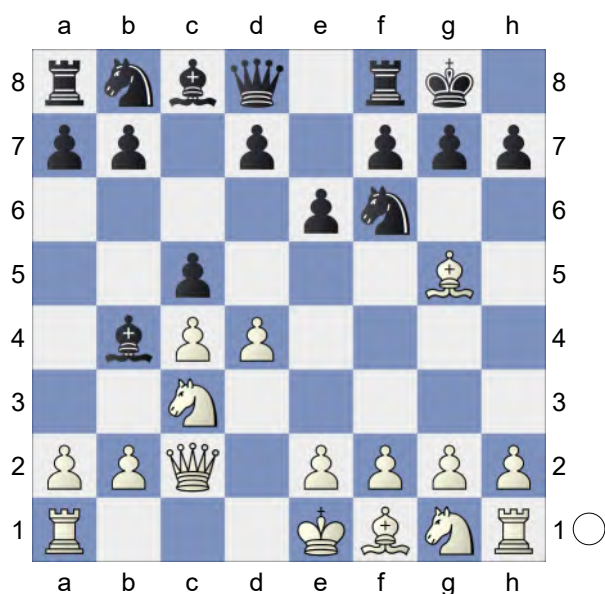
E39

2727

2729

2018

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 0-0 5.Bg5 John Emms: '!' 5...c5



John Emms: '!' John Emms: 'The recommended solution for Black.' 6.dxc5 John Emms: 'This line isn't meant to give White anything at all, and Black scores incredibly well. However, nothing gets into Shankland's opening repertoire by chance, and it's often interesting to see what happens when an elite player enters a supposedly discredited line.'

[6.e3 is covered in Sokolov, I-Ibrahimov, R/Baku 2008.]

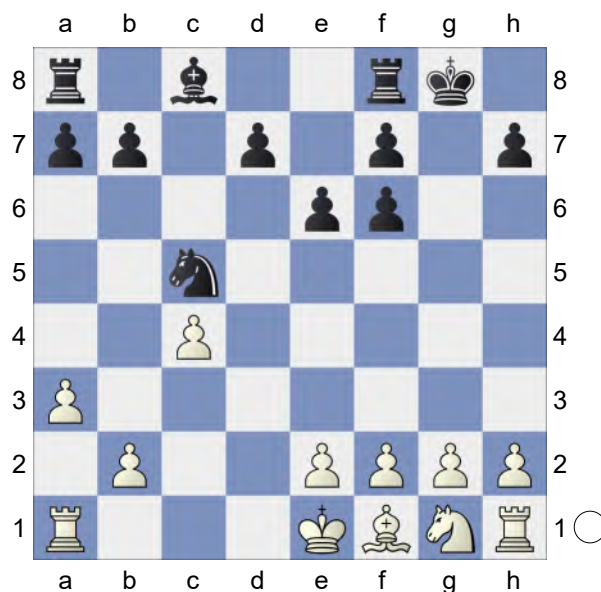
6...Na6 7.a3 Bxc3+ 8.Qxc3 Nxc5 9.Bxf6 John Emms: '!' John Emms: 'This looks best. The problem for White is that there's no good way to keep the bishop pair, so he may as well exchange the bishop straightaway and at least inflict doubled pawns on Black.'

[A key point is that 9.f3?! , typically a

desirable way to combat the knight on c5, runs into the tactic Nfe4! 10.Bxd8 Nxc3 11.Be7 Nb3! 12.Bxf8 Kxf8! regaining the exchange with a good position.]

[9.Nf3 Nfe4! is also at least equal for Black, and maybe more.]

9...Qxf6 10.Qxf6 gxf6



11.Rd1 John Emms: 'This is rare.'

[11.b4 - 100/431 Na4 12.e3 b6 13.Nf3 Ba6 14.0-0-0!? (novelty) (14.Nd2 Rfc8 15.Ne4 Kf8 16.Be2 Ke7 17.Nd2 Rc7 18.e4 Rac8+ Mchedlishvili, M-Gelashvili, T/Tbilisi 2007) 14...d5 15.cxd5 Rac8+ 16.Kd2 Bxf1 17.Rhxf1 Rfd8 18.Rc1 Rxd5+ 19.Nd4 Rxc1 20.Kxc1=]

11...a5 12.e3 John Emms: 'transposes to the game.' 12...Na4

[White's idea is N(g1) -e2-c3, and it's not unreasonable to think that something like 12...b6 13.Ne2! Bb7 14.Nc3 Rfd8 15.f3 Kf8 16.Kf2 Ke7 17.Be2 could be a little more comfortable for White. Wei Yi's move interferes with the Ne2-c3 plan.]

[Another option for Black is 12...a4

to fix the queenside. 13.Ne2 Ra6
 14.Nc3 Rb6 15.Rd2 d6 16.Be2 Bd7
 17.Rc2 Rc8 18.f3 f5 19.Kf2 f6
 20.Rd1 Kf7 21.h3 Be8 22.g4 fxg4
 23.hxg4 Rd8 24.Rh1 Kg8 25.Kg3
 Bg6 26.e4 Bf7 27.Bd1 Bg6 28.Re2
 Rc8 29.Reh2 (29.f4) 29...Ra8
 30.Rd2 Kg7 31.Rh4 Kf7 32.Rhh2
 Kf8 33.Rh1 Kg7 34.Rh4 Kf7 35.Nb5
 Rd8 36.Nc3 Ra8 37.Nb5 Rd8
 38.Nc3 Ra8 1/2-1/2 Keijzer, R-Grau
 Ribas, J/ICCF email 2016. White
 was definitely a touch better
 throughout, and perhaps it's not such
 a trivial task for Black to defend in
 an over-the-board game.]

13.b3N

[13.Rb1 Rd8 14.Ne2 d5 15.cxd5
 Rxd5 16.b3 Nc5 17.Nc3 Rd8
 18.Bc4 Bd7 19.Ke2 Kg7 20.Rhc1
 f5= was Hildebrand, G-Gunkel, W/
 email 2009.]

[Black's idea is to meet 13.Rd2 with
 Ra6]

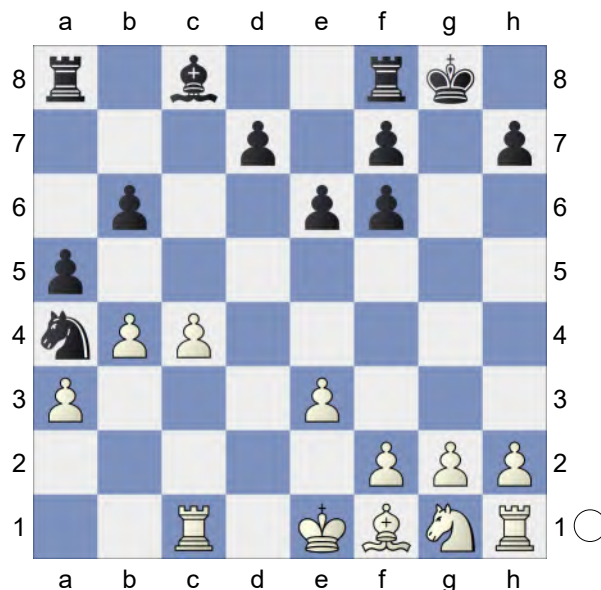
13...Nc5 14.b4 Na4 15.Rc1

John Emms: '!'

[White is still aiming for Ne2, and then
 Nf4. However, the immediate 15.Ne2?
 Nb2! is annoying, so Shankland takes
 prophylactic measures.]

15...b6

(Diagram)



16.Ne2 Bb7

[16...axb4 17.axb4 Ba6!? 18.Rc2
 Rfc8 19.Nd4 d5 20.cxd5 Bxf1
 21.Rxf1 Diagram

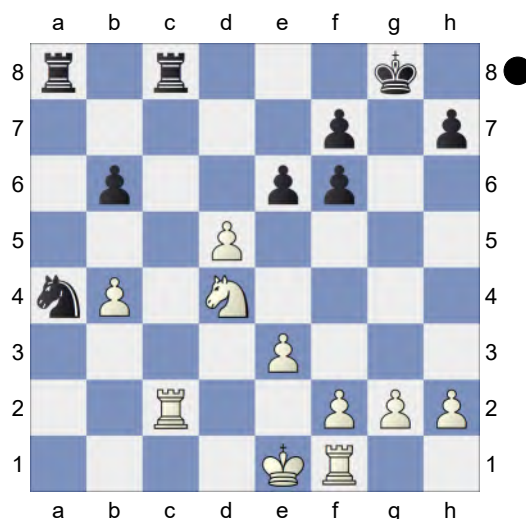


Diagram [#] Diagram [#] Diagram [#]
 Nc3! 22.Kd2 Nxd5=]

17.Nf4

[17.Nd4 Rfc8 18.Be2 Kf8=]

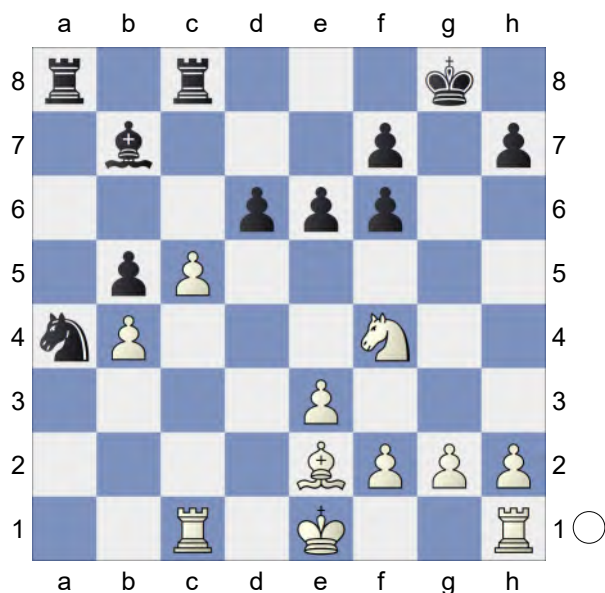
17...Rfc8 John Emms: '!' 18.Be2 b5
 John Emms: '!' John Emms: 'This turns
 out to be a clean equaliser.'

[18...Kf8!?]

[Slower play such as 18...Rc7 19.Kd2
 Rac8 20.Rc2 Kf8 21.Rhc1
 leaves White with a small edge. In

some cases the knight on a4 may turn out to be a liability for Black.]

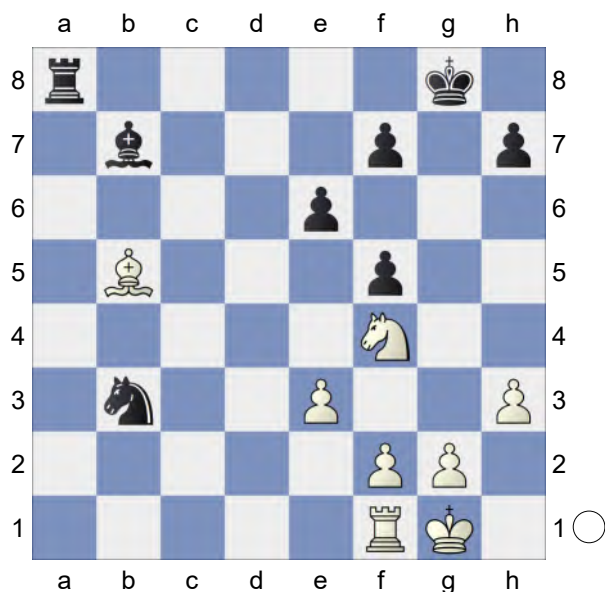
19.c5 axb4 20.axb4 d6



John Emms: '!' 21.Bxb5 dxc5 22.bxc5

[22.Bxa4 Rxa4 23.bxc5 Ba6!?=]

22...Rxc5 23.Rxc5 Nxc5 24.0-0 f5= 25.h3 Nb3

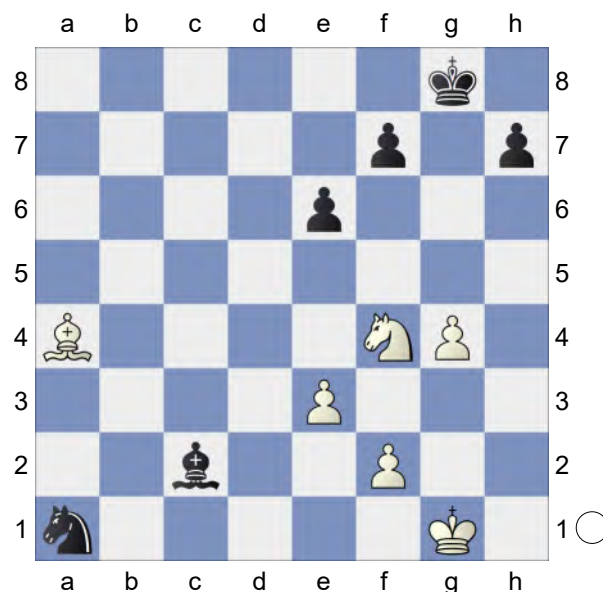


26.Rd1 Ra1 27.Rxa1 Nxa1 28.Ba4

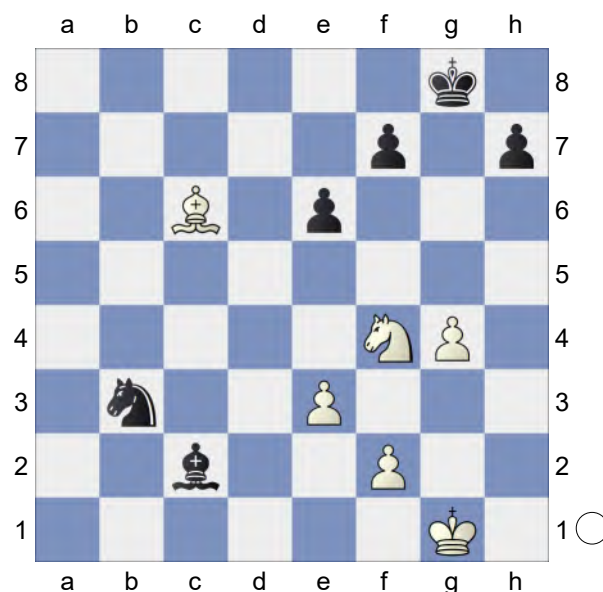
John Emms: 'The knight is temporarily corralled by the bishop, but it's easily saved.' **28...Be4 John Emms: '!' 29.g4**

[29.Kf1 Nc2 Δ30.f3 Nxe3+ 31.Kf2 Bc2+]

29...fxg4 30.hxg4 Bc2



31.Bc6 Nb3 32.Ba4 Na1 John Emms: '!' 33.Bc6 Nb3



John Emms: 'Black certainly isn't in trouble in this line. Despite the poor results for White, however, 5 Bg5 / 6 dxc5 isn't quite as toothless as it looks.'

1/2-1/2

253

□ Rapport, Richard

■ Wei, Yi

Yancheng (m/2) 131/131

[Paunovic, Tomislav]

D00

2717

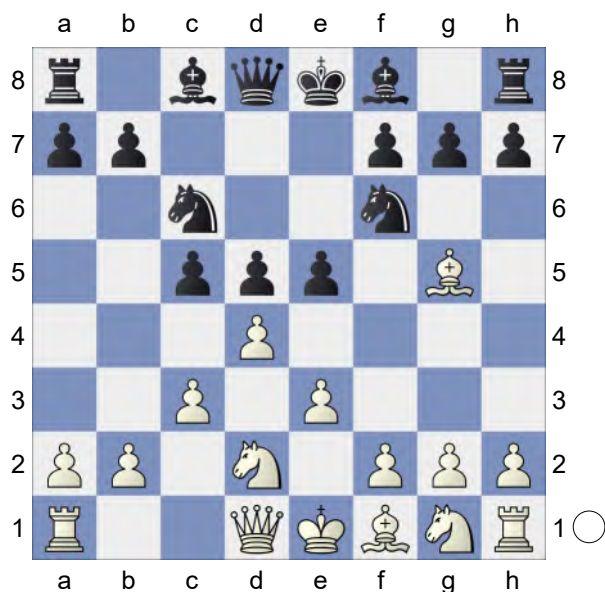
2707

2016

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 d5 3.e3 c5 4.c3 Nc6

[4...Ne4 - 130/139]

5.Nd2 e5

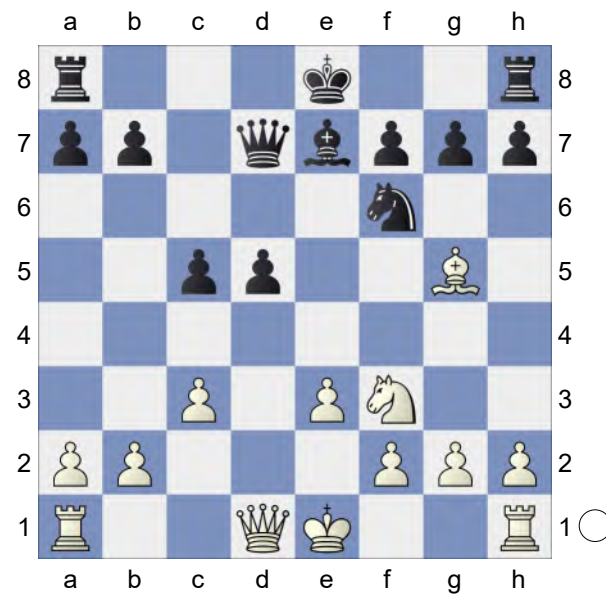


6.dxe5 Nxe5 7.Ngf3 Nxf3+?!

[7...Nc6]

8.Nxf3 Be7N 9.Bb5+! Bd7 10.Bxd7+ Qxd7

(Diagram)



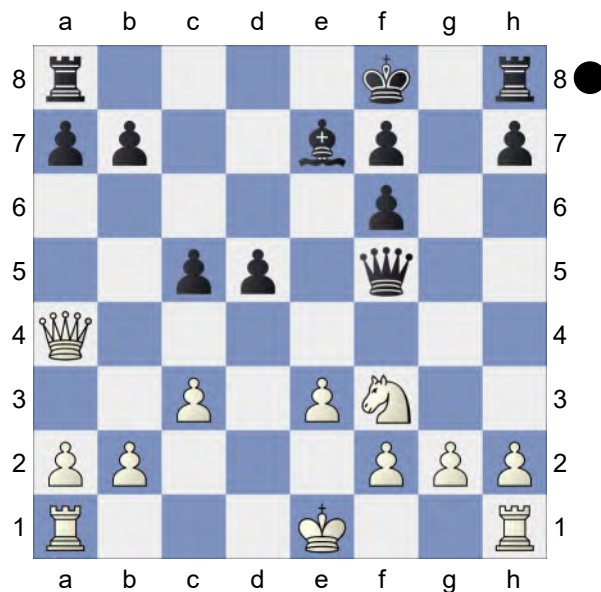
11.Ne5 Qf5 12.Qa4+ Kf8

[12...Nd7 13.Bxe7 Kxe7 14.Nxd7 Qxd7 15.Qh4+ f6 16.0-0-0±]

13.Bxf6 gxf6

[13...Bxf6? 14.Nd7+ Ke7 15.Nxc5 b6 16.e4 (16.Nb3 Rhd8 17.Qa3+ Ke8 18.0-0±) 16...Qe5 17.Qd7+ Kf8 18.Qb7 Rd8 19.Nd7+ Rxd7 20.Qxd7 Qxe4+ 21.Kf1±]

14.Nf3 Diagram

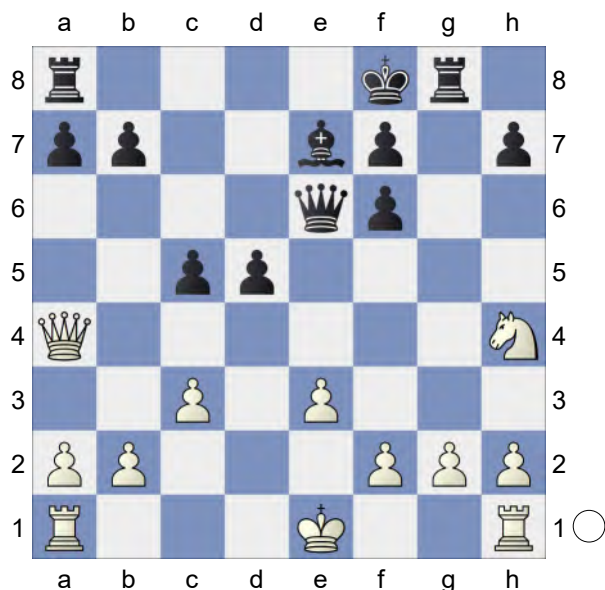


14...Rg8

[14...d4!? (⇔ a4-h4) 15.cxd4 Rg8 16.Kf1 (16.Qb5 Rxb7 17.Qxb7 Rd8

18.Rf1 Rg4 19.Rd1 cxd4 20.Nxd4
Qe5) 16...Qd3+ 17.Kg1 Qe4
18.Qd1 Rd8 19.g3 (19.Rc1 h5
20.Kf1 cxd4 21.exd4 h4 22.h3 f5)]
19...h5]

15.Nh4 Qe6



16.Qc2

[16.g3!? d4 17.Ng2±]

16...d4! 17.g3

[17.0-0? Qg4 18.Qxh7 (18.g3? Qxh4-+) 18...f5 19.g3 Bxh4 20.Qh6+ Ke7 21.exd4 cxd4]

17...Qd5?

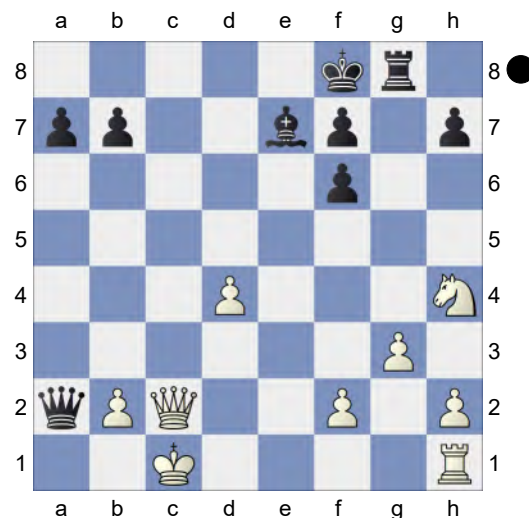
[17...dxe3 18.0-0!±]

[17...Rd8

A) 18.0-0?! d3 19.Qd1 Qe4;

B) 18.0-0-0 Qxa2 19.exd4 cxd4
20.Rxd4 Rxd4 21.cxd4 **Diagram**

(Diagram)



Rg5!! 22.Qc8+ Bd8 23.Qxd8+
Kg7 24.Qc8 (24.Rd1? Rb5-+)
24...Qa1+ 25.Kc2 Qxh1 26.Nf5+
Rxf5 27.Qxf5 Qf1=;
C) 18.Rd1 dxe3 19.Rxd8+ Bxd8
20.0-0]

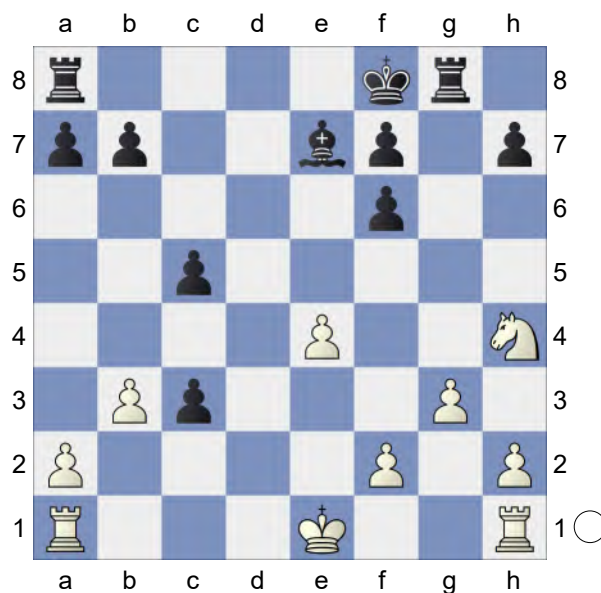
18.e4

[18.0-0-0!?]

18...Qc4 19.b3 Qxc3+?!

[19...Qa6 20.0-0-0±]

20.Qxc3 dxc3



21.0-0-0 [Δ Nf5] 21...f5 22.Nxf5 Rg6 23.Rd7 Re6 24.Rxe7?!

[24.f3 b5 25.Rhd1 Bg5+ 26.Kc2 b4
27.R1d5 Ra6 28.Kb1 c4!? 29.bxc4

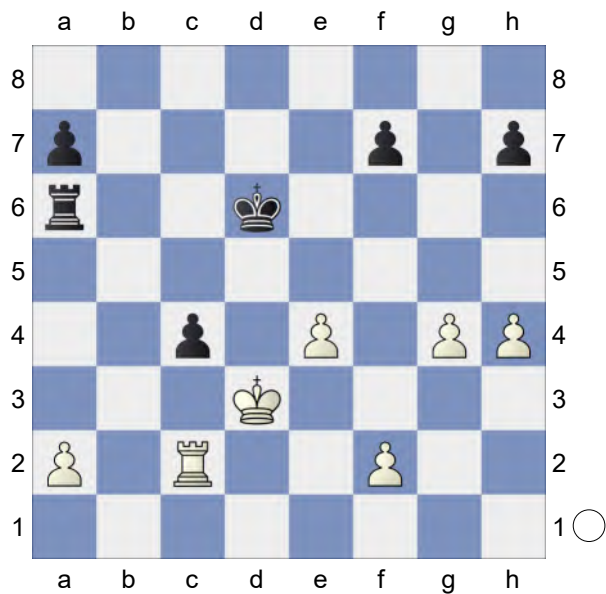
Diagram 1: Chessboard position after a pawn promotion. The board has columns labeled a-h and rows labeled 1-8. Black pieces are at a7, f7, and h7. White pieces are at a2, c4, d4, e4, f3, g3, and h4. A black king is at d4 and a white king is at d2. A black circle is next to the h1 label.

[34...Ra3!?

B) 35.g5 c4+ 36.Kc3 cxb3
(36...Kc5 37.Kb2! Ra6 38.Rd2+-)
37.axb3 Ra1 38.Rd2+ Ke5
39.Rd7 Ke6 40.Rb7 Rf1 41.Rxa7
Rxf2 42.Ra6+ Ke5 43.Rh6 Kxe4
44.Rxh7+-;

C) 35.Kc3! Ke5 (35...Ra6
36.f4+-) 36.Kb2 Ra6 37.Rxc5+
Kxe4 38.Rxb5 Kf3 39.g5 Kxf2
40.Rf5+ Kg3 41.Rxf7 Kxh4
42.Rxh7+ Kxg5 43.a4+-]

(Diagram)

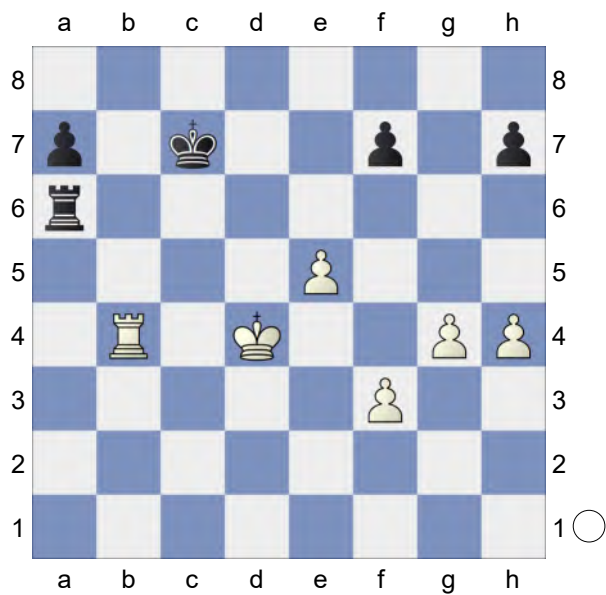


36.Kd4

[36.Kxc4? Ke5≠]

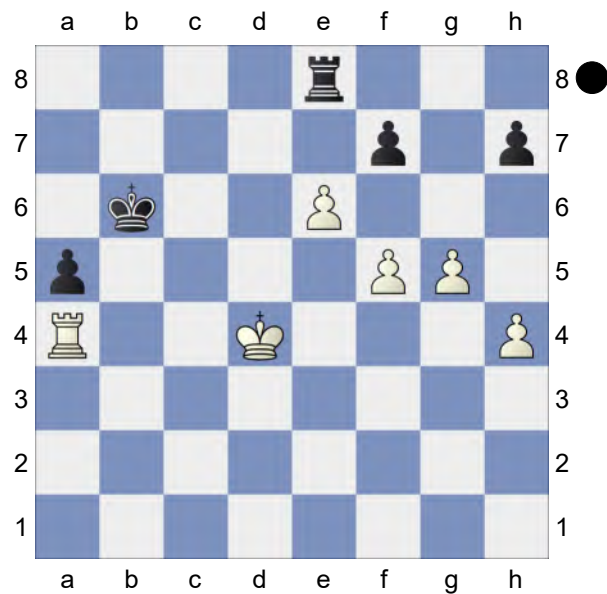
36...Ra4 37.Rxc4 Rxa2 38.e5+ Kd7

39.f3 Ra6 40.Rb4 Kc7



41.g5 Re6 42.Ra4 Kb6 43.f4 a5
44.f5 Re8 45.e6

(Diagram)



1-0

254

□ Rapport, Richard

■ Wei, Yi

Yancheng (m/4) 131/132

[Paunovic, Tomislav]

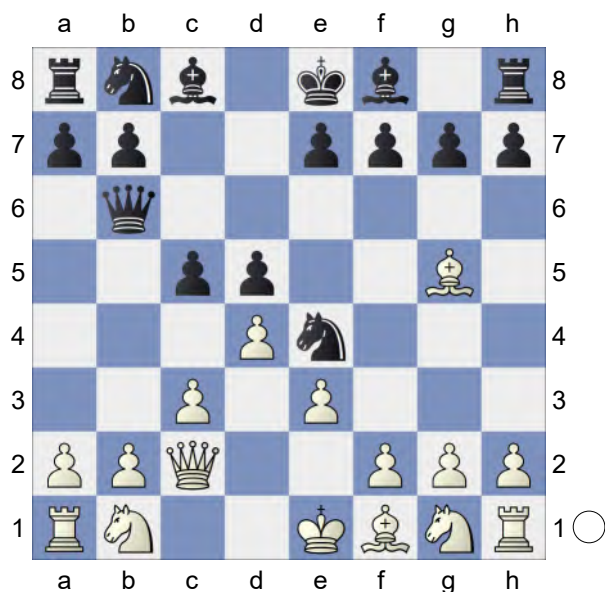
D00

2717

2707

2016

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 d5 3.e3 c5 4.c3 Qb6
5.Qc2 Ne4



6.Bf4 Nc6 7.Nd2 Bf5N

[7...Nxd2]

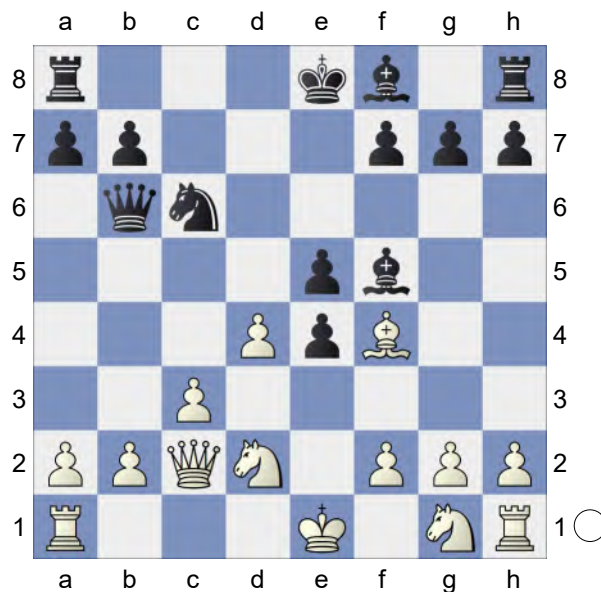
8.Bd3 cxd4

[8...e6 9.Bxe4 dxe4 10.Ne2 cxd4
11.Nxd4 Nxd4 12.exd4 Qc6∞]

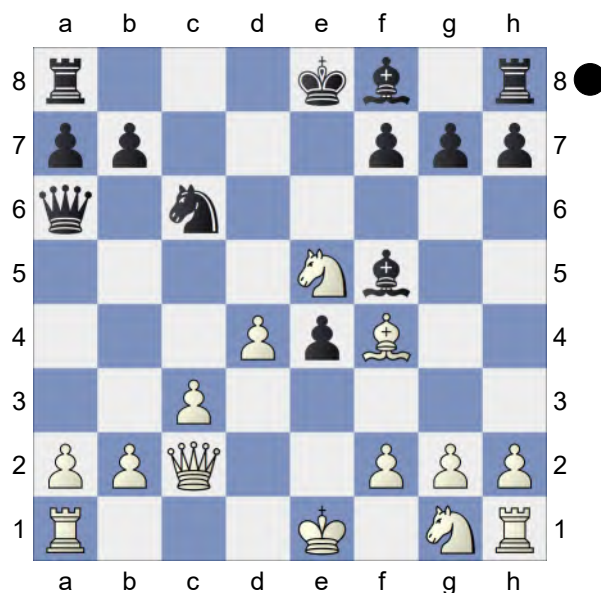
9.exd4 e5!? 10.Bxe4 dxe4

[10...Bxe4 11.Nxe4 exf4 12.Nd2
Bd6 13.Ngf3±]

(Diagram)



11.Nc4 Qa6 12.Nxe5 Diagram



12...Nxd4!

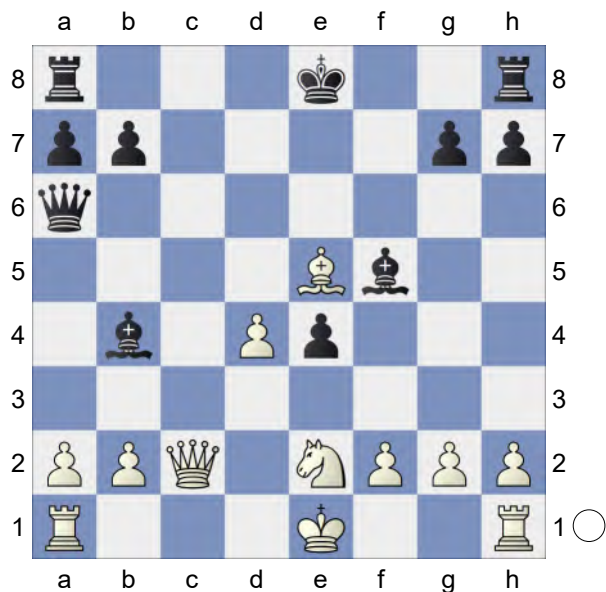
[12...Nxe5 13.Bxe5 Qg6 14.Bg3
Be7 15.Ne2 e3 16.Qb3 exf2+
17.Kxf2±]

13.cxd4 f6

[13...Bb4+? 14.Bd2 Bxd2+
(14...Rc8 15.Qxc8+ Bxc8
16.Bxb4+-) 15.Qxd2 f6 16.Qf4!
Qa5+ 17.Kf1 Be6 18.Ng4+-]

14.Ne2 fxe5 15.Bxe5 Bb4+

(Diagram)



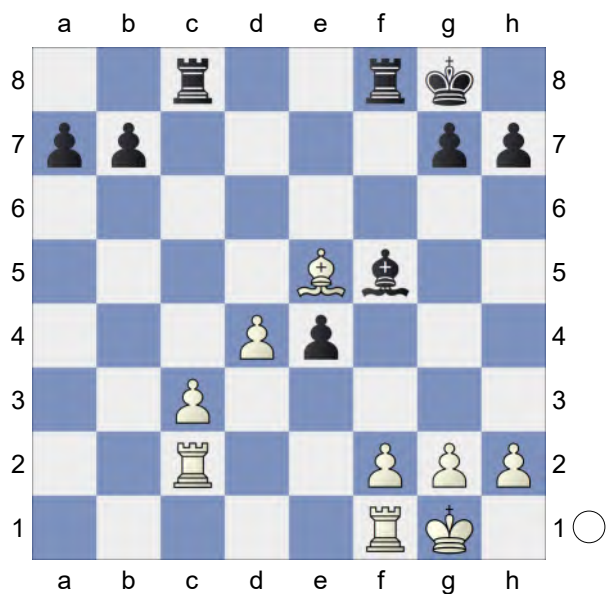
16.Nc3 Rc8 17.Rc1 Qxa2

[17...0-0? 18.Qb3+ Qc4 19.Qxc4+ Rxc4 20.a3±]

[17...Rc6?! 18.a4±]

[17...Bxc3+?! 18.bxc3 0-0 19.Qe2±]

18.0-0 Bxc3 19.bxc3 Qxc2 20.Rxc2 0-0

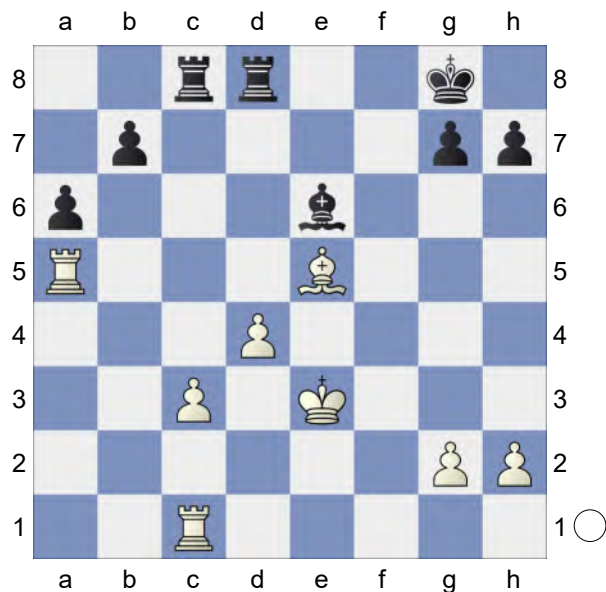


21.Ra1

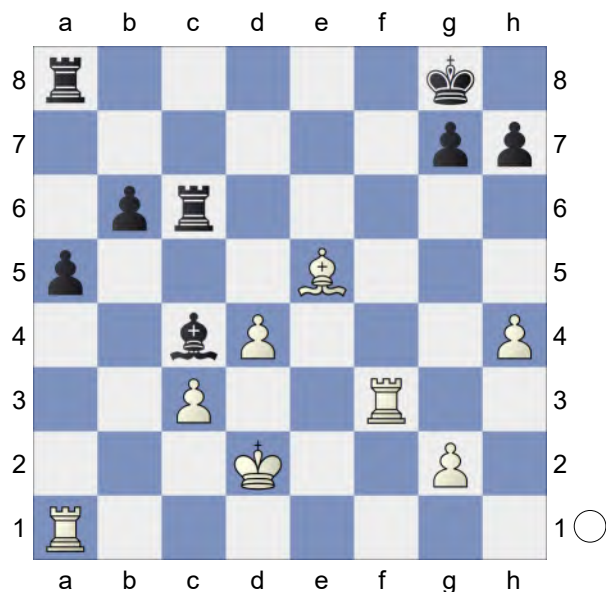
[21.c4 e3 22.Rc3 b5 (22...a5!?) 23.c5 exf2+ 24.Rxf2 b4∞]

21...e3 22.Rcc1 exf2+ 23.Kxf2 a6 24.Ke3 Be6= 25.Ra5 Rfd8

(Diagram)

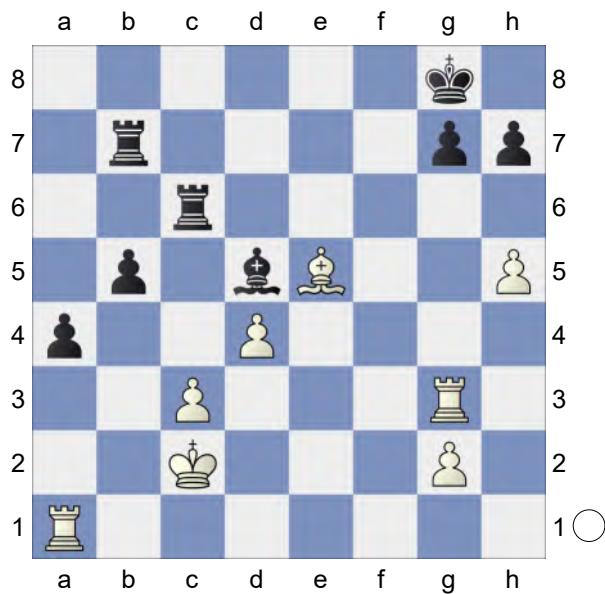


26.Kd2 Rc6 27.Rf1 Bc4 28.Rf3 b6 29.Ra1 a5 30.h4 Ra8

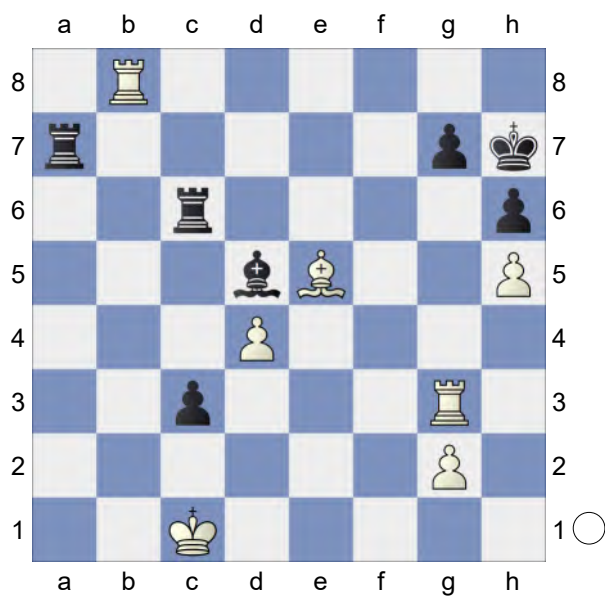


31.h5 a4 32.Rg3 Ra7 33.Bb8 Rb7 34.Be5 b5 35.Kc2 Bd5

(Diagram)

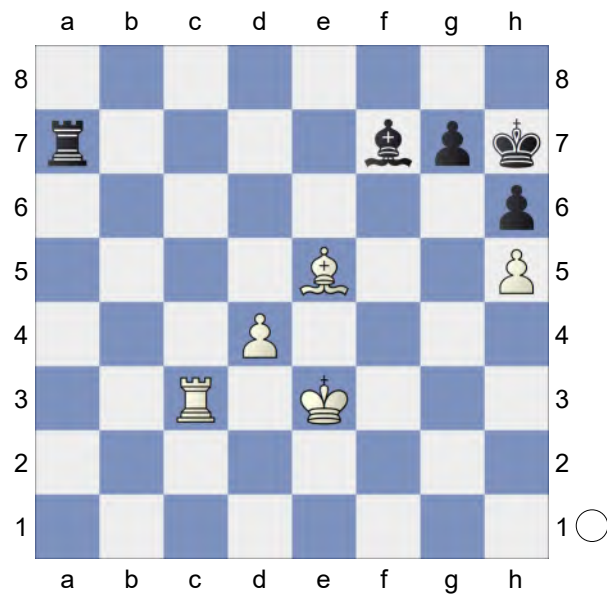


36.Kb2 b4 37.Rxa4 bxc3+ 38.Kc1 h6
[38...Rc8 39.Ra3 c2 40.Rgc3=]
39.Ra8+ Kh7 40.Rb8! Ra7

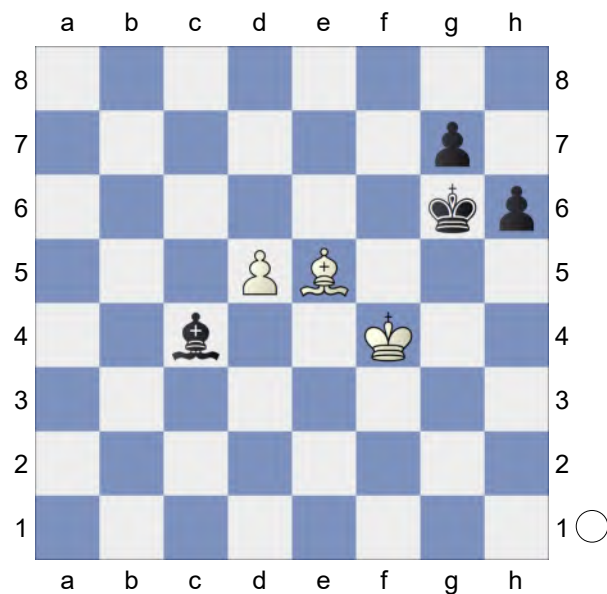


41.Ra8! Rcc7 42.Rxa7 Rxa7 43.Rxc3
Bxg2 44.Kd2 Bd5 45.Ke3 Bf7

(Diagram)

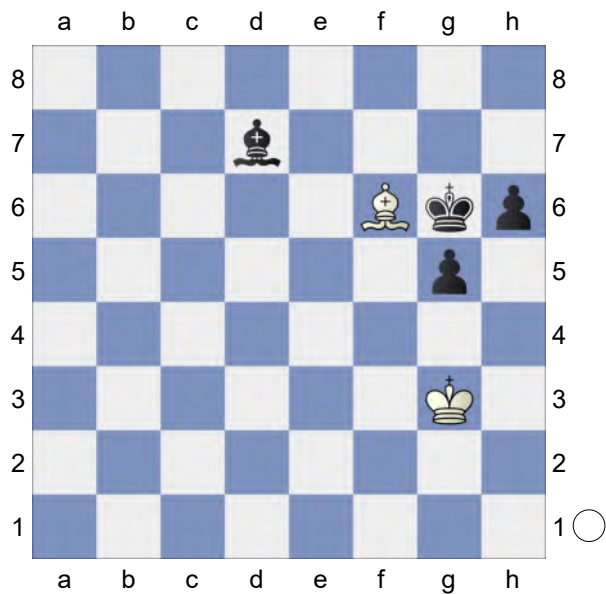


46.Rc7 Rxc7 47.Bxc7 Bxh5 48.Kf4
Kg6 49.d5 Be2 50.Be5 Bc4

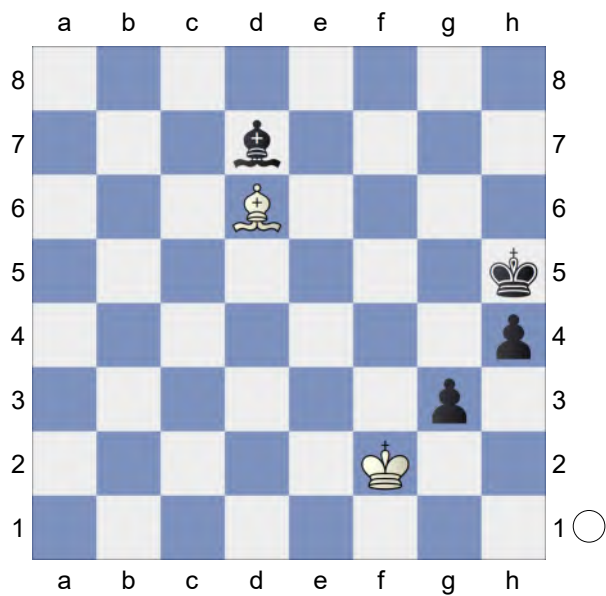


51.d6 Be6 52.Kg3 Kh7 53.d7 Bxd7
54.Bd4 g5 55.Bf6 Kg6

(Diagram)

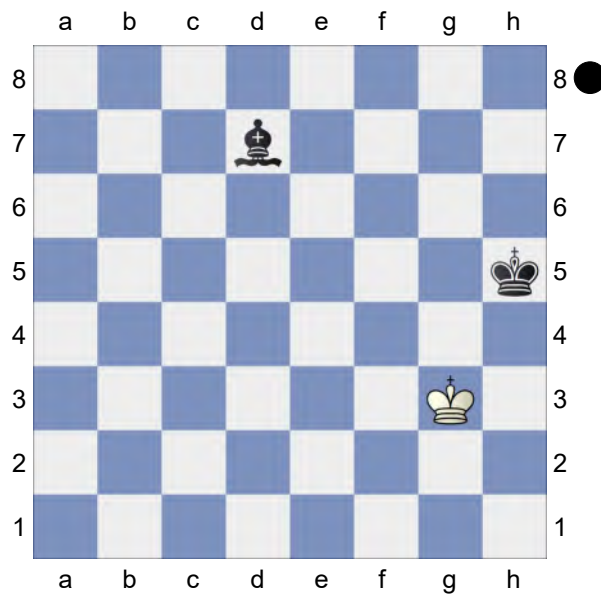


56.Be7 h5 57.Bd8 h4+ 58.Kf2 Kh5 59.Be7 g4 60.Bd6 g3+ $\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$



61.Bxg3 hxg3+ 62.Kxg3

(Diagram)



356

□ Rapport, Richard

■ Wei, Yi

Tbilisi (m/3-rapid) 134/132

[Paunovic, Tomislav]

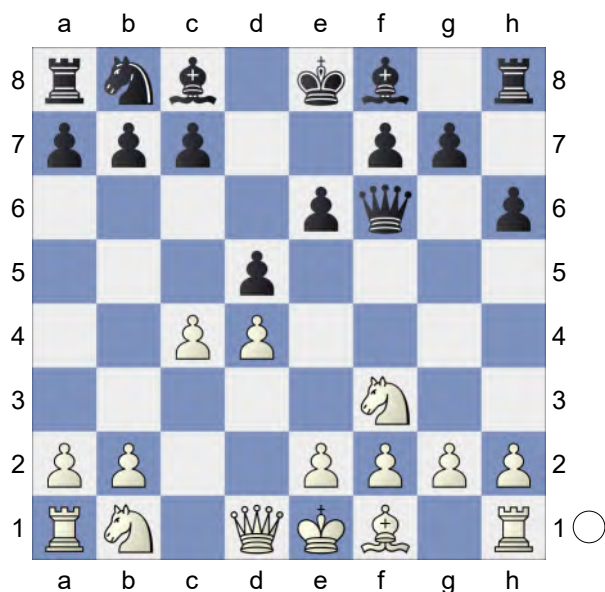
D30

2675

2753

2017

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.d4 d5 4.Bg5 h6
5.Bxf6 Qxf6



6.e3 c6 7.Bd3 g6 8.0-0 Bg7 9.Nbd2

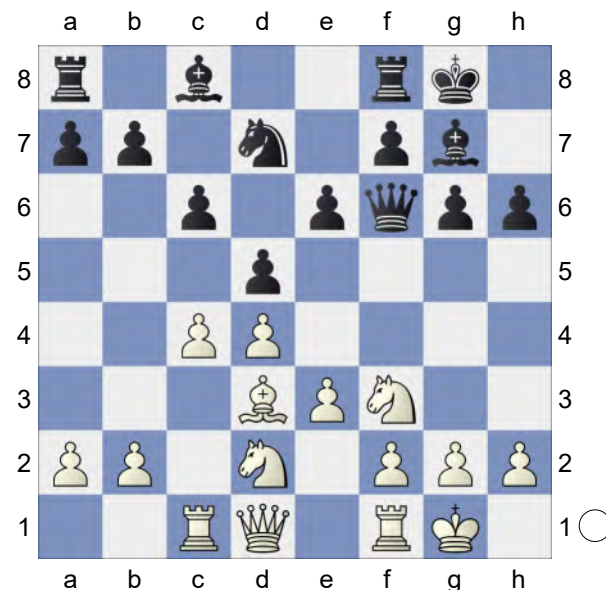
[9.Nc3 43 - 120/152, D]

9...0-0N

[9...Nd7]

10.Rc1 Nd7

(Diagram)



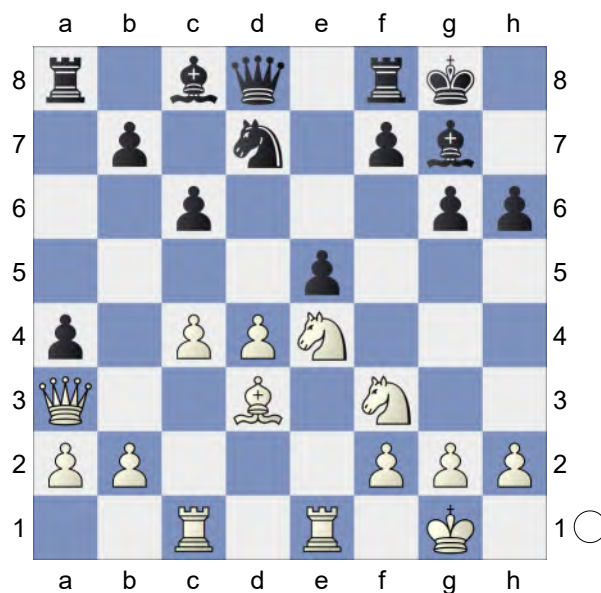
11.Re1 Qd8

[11...e5!? 12.cxd5 cxd5 13.Bb5 e4
14.Rxc8 Raxc8 15.Bxd7 Rc7 16.Ne5
Qb6 17.Ba4 Qxb2 18.Bb3 Rfc8∞]

12.Qb3 a5 13.e4 a4

[Δ13...dxe4 14.Nxe4 e5 15.dxe5
(15.Nd6?! exd4̄ Δ16.Qa3 b6̄
Xc5) 15...Nxe5 16.Nxe5 Bxe5∞]

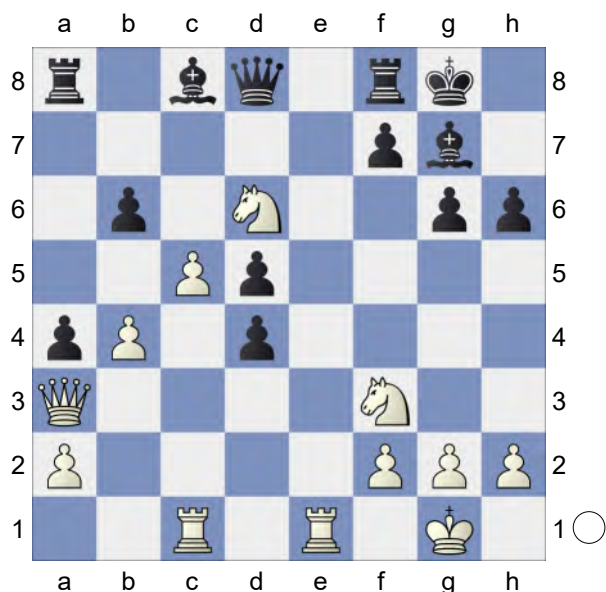
14.Qa3 dxe4 15.Nxe4 e5 Diagram



16.Nd6! exd4 17.c5± Nf6

[17...b6 18.cxb6 Nxb6 19.Rxc6 Nd5
20.Qc5 (20.Rxc8 Rxc8 21.Nxc8
Qxc8 22.Qxa4 Nf4̄) 20...Nf4

21.Bc4±]
 18.Bc4 Nd5 19.Bxd5 cxd5 20.b4 b6



21.Red1

[21.Ne5!?]

21...Bg4 22.h3 Bxf3 23.Qxf3 bxc5

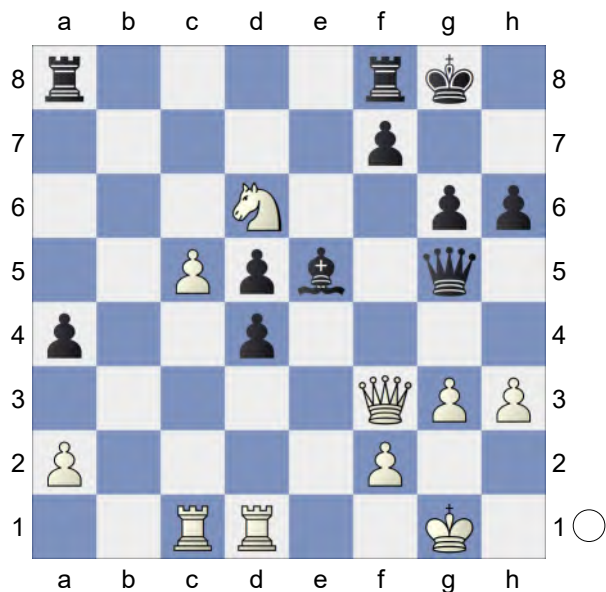
24.bxc5 Qg5

[24...Be5!?]

25.g3

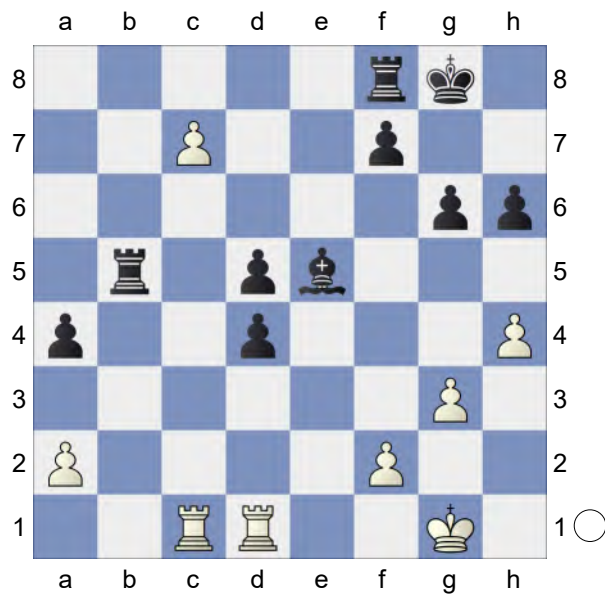
[25.c6!?]

25...Be5

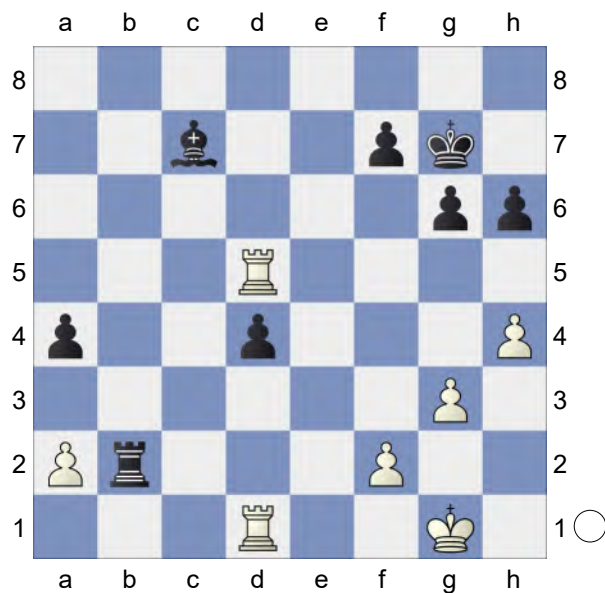


26.h4! Qf6 27.Qxf6 Bxf6 28.c6± Be5
 29.Nb5 Ra5 30.c7 Rxb5

(Diagram)

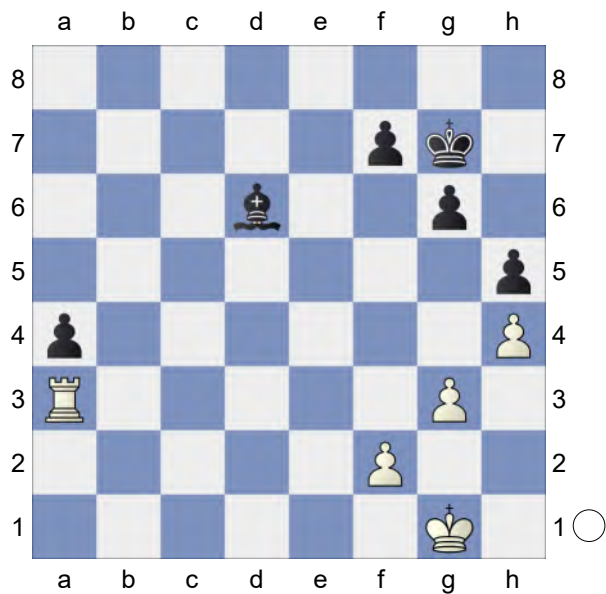


31.c8Q Rxc8 32.Rxc8+ Kg7 33.Ra8
 Rb4 34.Ra5 Bc7 35.Rxd5 Rb2
 [35...Bb6!?]

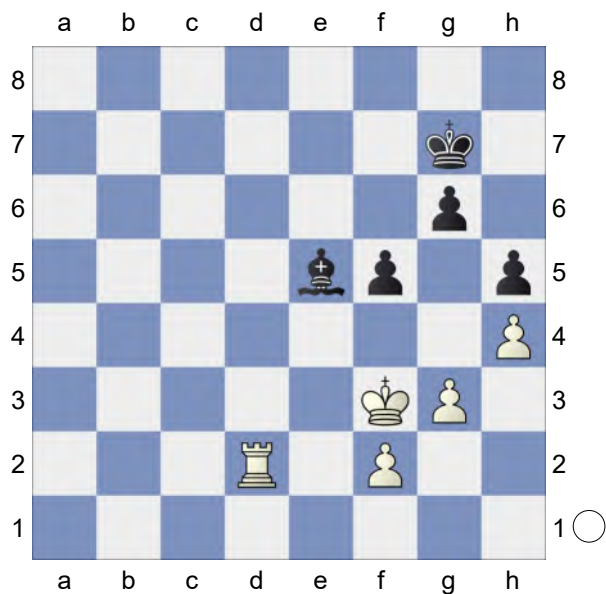


36.R5xd4 Rxa2 37.R4d2 Ra3
 38.Rd3+- Rxd3
 [38...Ra2 39.Rf3]
 39.Rxd3 h5 40.Ra3 Bd6

(Diagram)

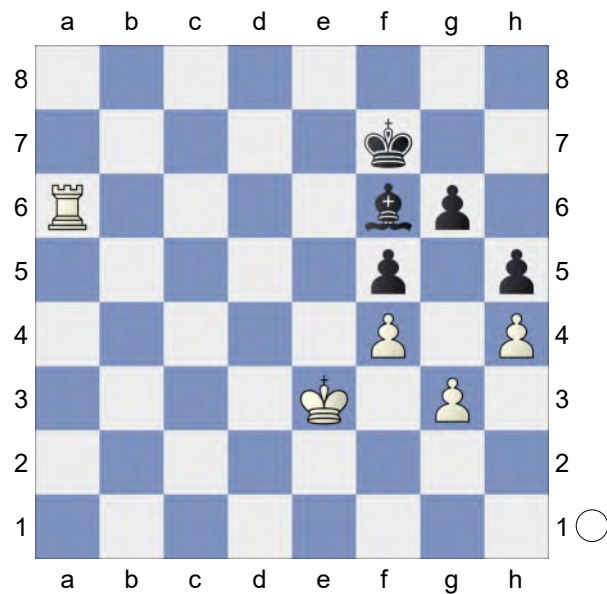


41.Rxa4 Bc5 42.Kg2 Bb6 43.Ra2 Bd4 44.Kf3 f5 45.Rd2 Be5

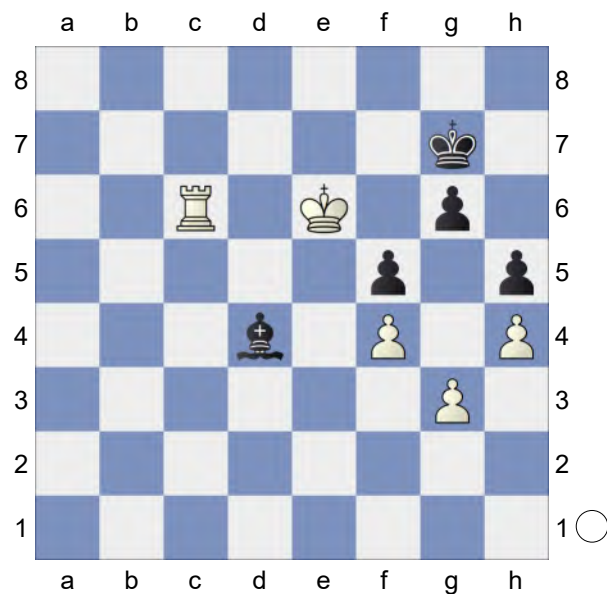


46.Rd5 Kf6 47.Ra5 Ke6 48.Ra6+ Kf7 49.Ke3 Bc3 50.f4 Bf6
 [50...Be1 51.Ra1! ΔBxg3 52.Rh1]

(Diagram)

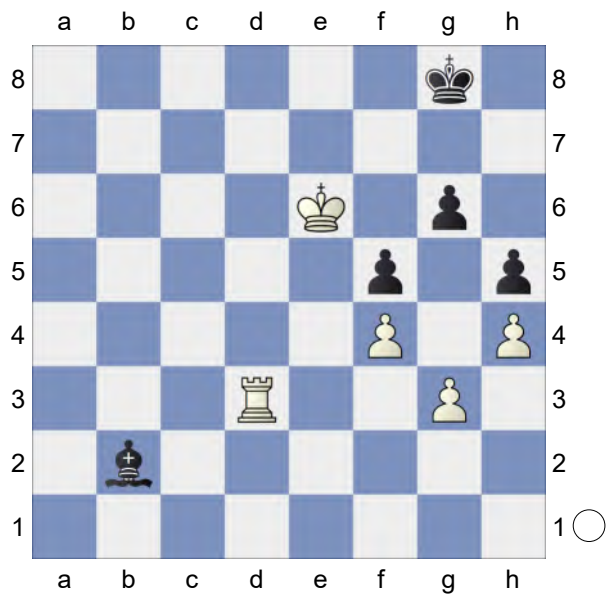


51.Kd3 Bb2 52.Kc4 Bf6 53.Rc6 Bb2 54.Kd5 Kg7 55.Ke6 Bd4



56.Rc7+ Kg8 57.Rd7 Bc3 58.Rd3 Bb2 [Diagram](#)

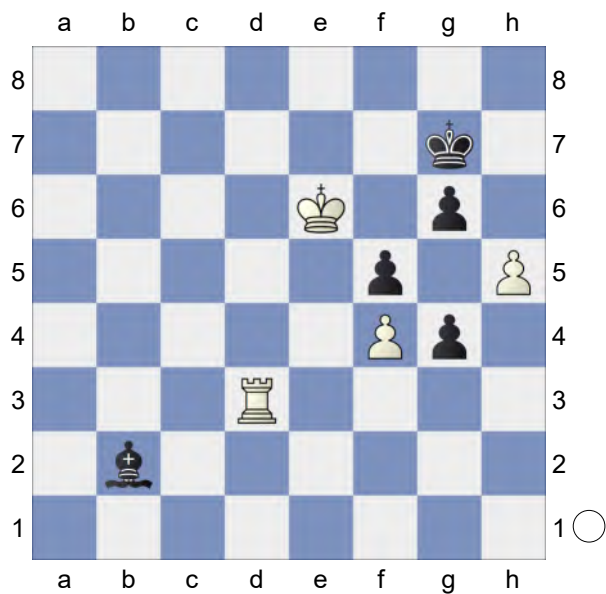
(Diagram)



59.g4! hxd4

[59...fxg4 60.f5! gxf5 61.Kxf5]

60.h5 Kg7



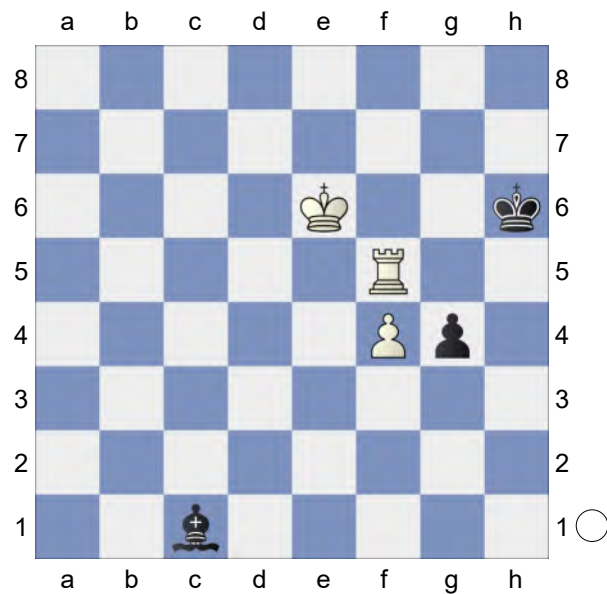
61.Rd7+ Kh6 62.hxd4 Kxd4 63.Rf7

Bc1 64.Rxf5 Kh6

[64...Kh6 65.Rf8 g3 66.Rh8+ Kg7

67.Rh4 g2 68.Rg4+ Kh6 69.f5]

(Diagram)



1-0

348

□ Li,Chao

■ Wei,Yi

154/154 Chiva

[Paunovic,Tomislav]

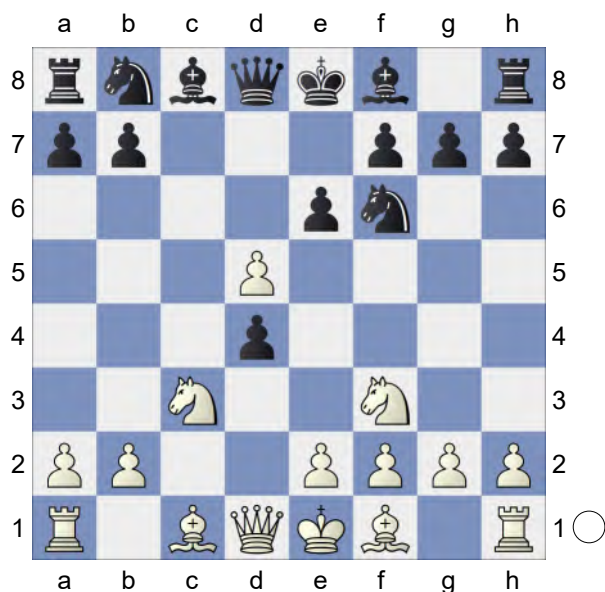
D41

2679

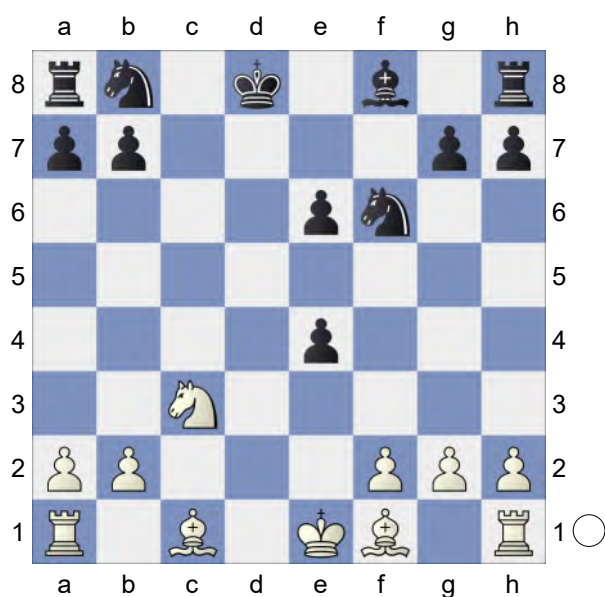
2727

2022

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 c5
5.cxd5 cxd4



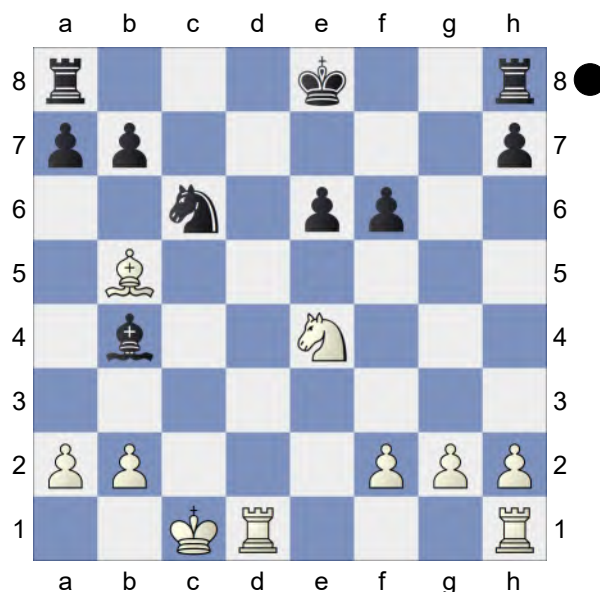
6.Qxd4 exd5 7.e4 dxe4 8.Qxd8+
Kxd8 9.Ng5 Be6 10.Nxe6+ fxe6



11.Bg5 Nc6 12.0-0-0+ Ke8 13.Bb5
Bb4

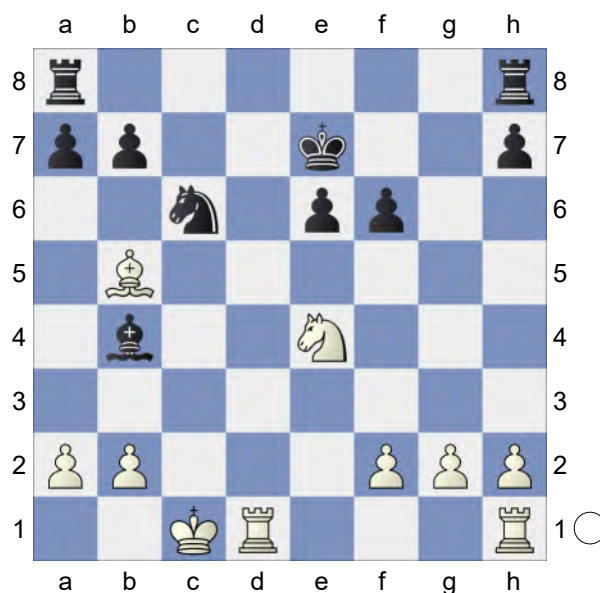
[13...Rc8 - 147/142]

14.Bxf6 gxf6 15.Nxe4 Diagram



15...Ke7!?N

[15...Rc8]



16.a3 f5

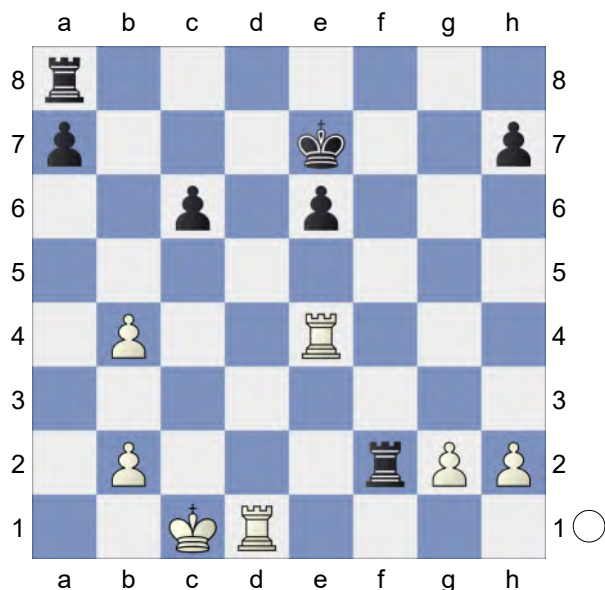
[16...Rac8!? 17.axb4 Nd4+ 18.Nc5
Rhd8 19.Kb1 Nxb5 20.Nxb7 Rd4
21.Rxd4 Nxd4]

17.axb4 fxe4 18.Bxc6 bxc6 19.Rhe1
Rh8 20.Rxe4

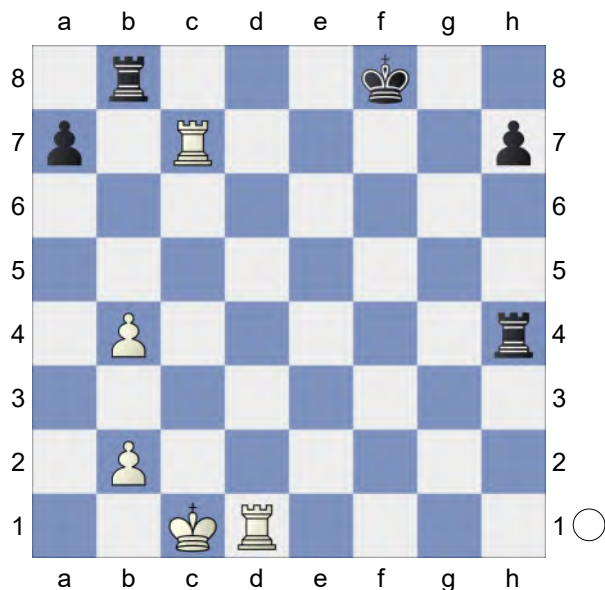
[20.Re2 Rf5 21.Rd4 Raf8 22.Rdxe4
Rxf2 23.Rxe6+ Kd7 24.Re7+ Kd6

25.Rxf2 Rxf2 26.Rxa7 Rxg2
 27.Rxh7 Rg4=]
 [20.Rd2 Rad8! 21.Rxd8 Kxd8
 22.Re2 Ke7 23.Kd2 Kd6 24.Ke3
 Ke5 25.Rc2 Rg8 26.g3 Rf8=]

20...Rxf2=

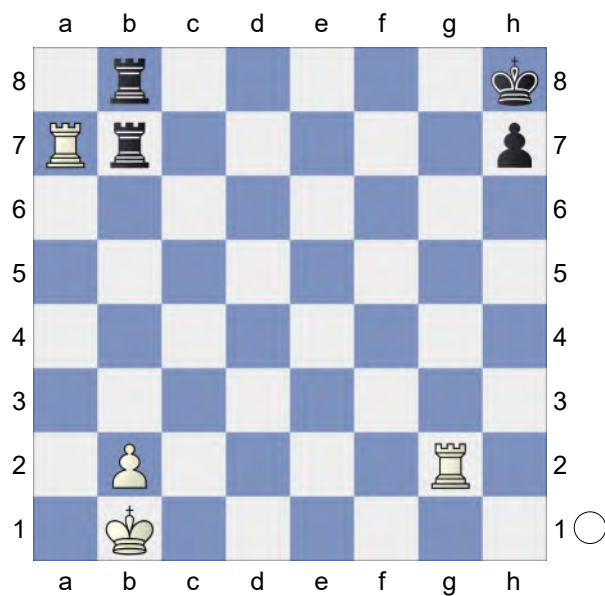


**21.Rde1 Rxg2 22.Rxe6+ Kf8 23.Rxc6
 Rxh2 24.Rc7 Rb8 25.Rd1 Rh4**

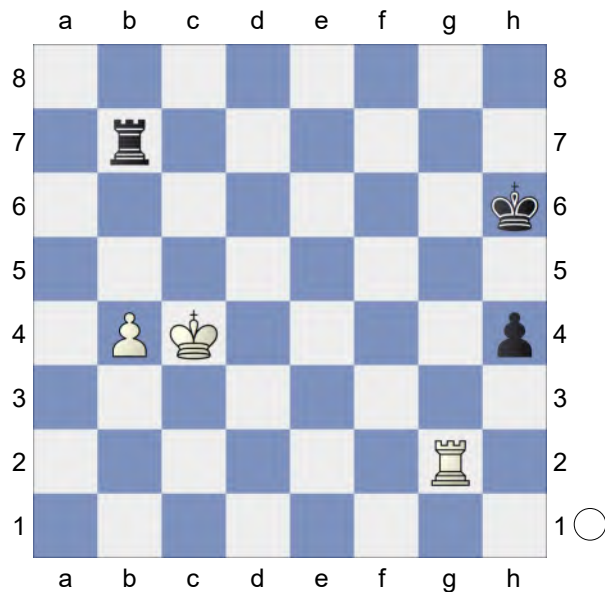


**26.Rxa7 Rc4+ 27.Kb1 Rcxb4 28.Rf1+
 Kg8 29.Rg1+ Kh8 30.Rg2 R4b7**

(Diagram)

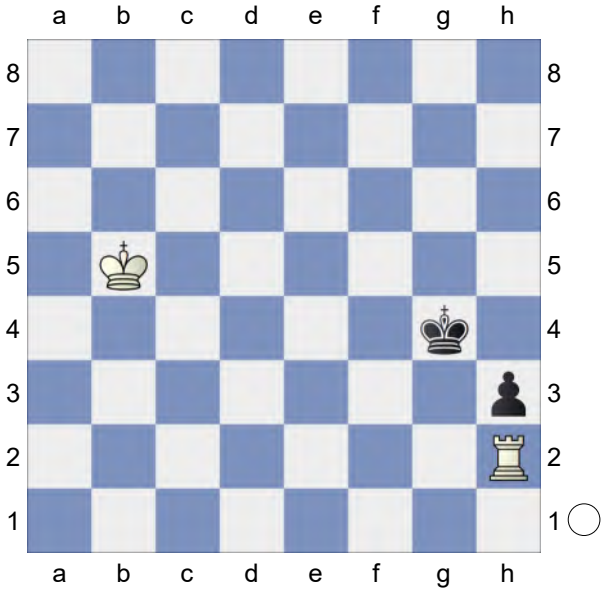


**31.Rxb7 Rxb7 32.Kc2 h5 33.Kc3
 Kh7 34.b4 Kh6 35.Kc4 h4**

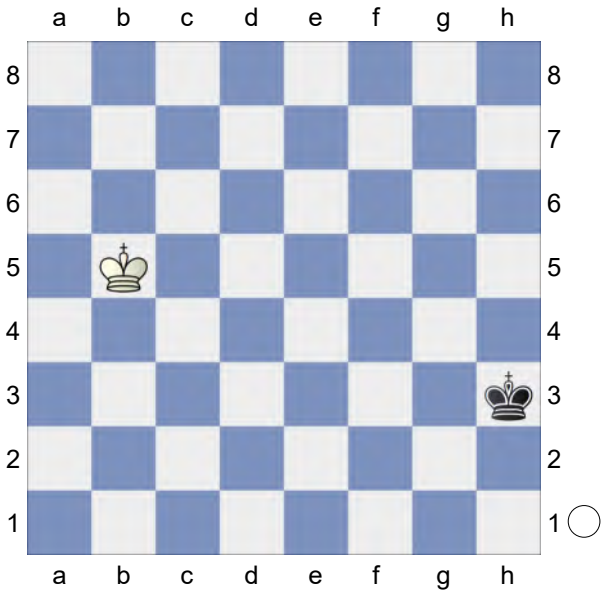


**36.b5 Kh5 37.Kc5 h3 38.Rb2 Rxb5+
 39.Kxb5 Kh4 40.Rh2 Kg4**

(Diagram)



41.Rxh3 Kxh3



1/2-1/2

197

□ Li,Chao

■ Wei,Yi

Ningbo (rapid) 137/149

[Paunovic,Tomislav]

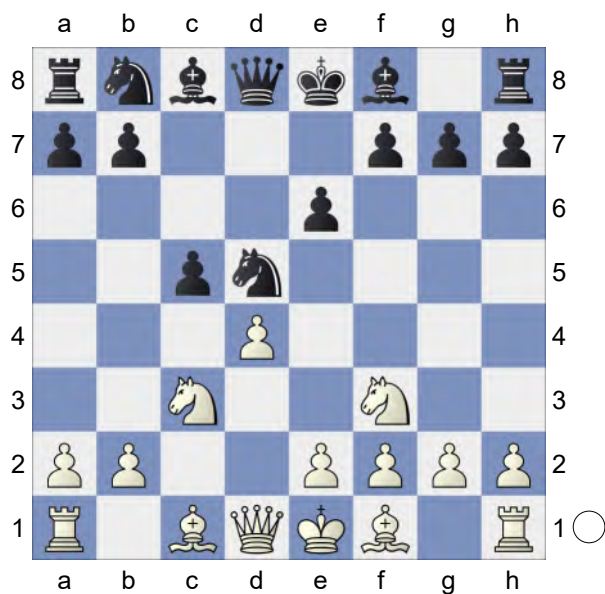
D41

2725

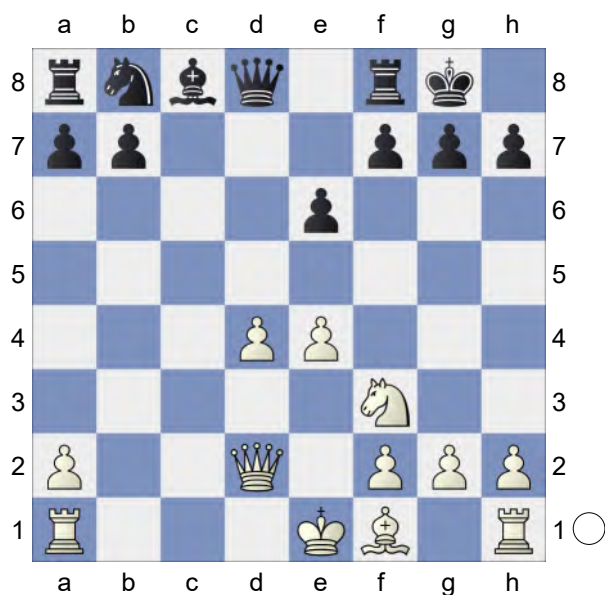
2734

2018

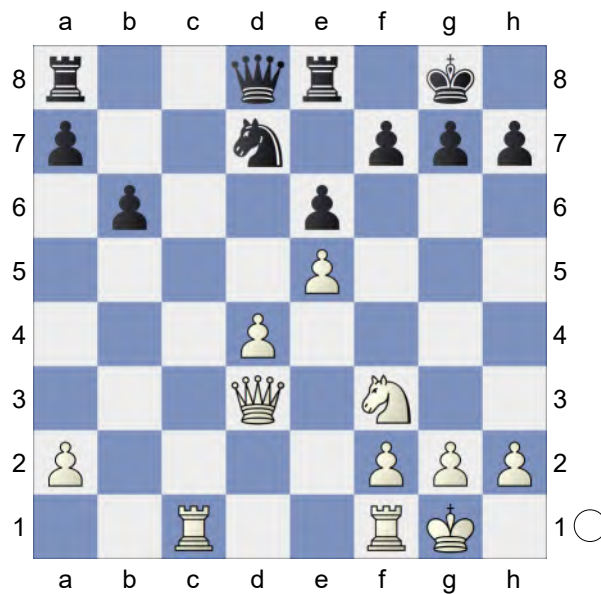
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 c5
5.cxd5 Nxd5



6.e4 Nxc3 7.bxc3 cxd4 8.cxd4 Bb4+
9.Bd2 Bxd2+ 10.Qxd2 0-0



11.Rc1 b6 12.Bd3 Ba6 13.0-0 Bxd3
14.Qxd3 Nd7 15.e5 Re8



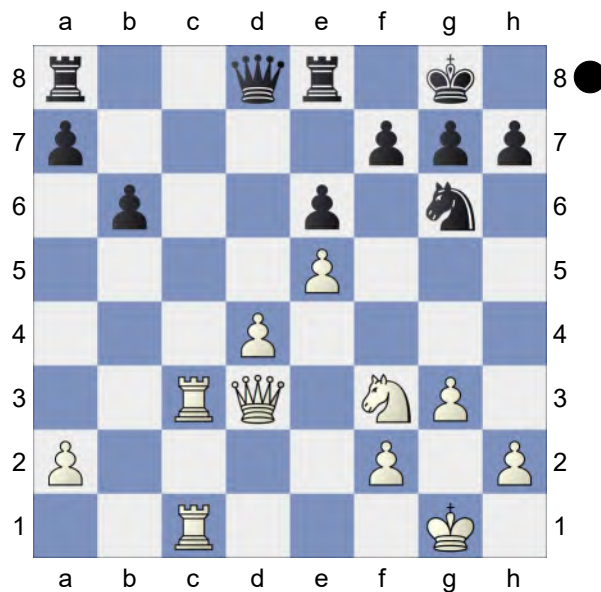
16.Rc3N

[16.h4 - 137/(149)]

16...Nf8 17.Rfc1

[17.Nd2 Ng6 18.g3 Qd5 19.Nc4
Rac8 20.Nd6 Rxc3 21.Qxc3 Rf8=]

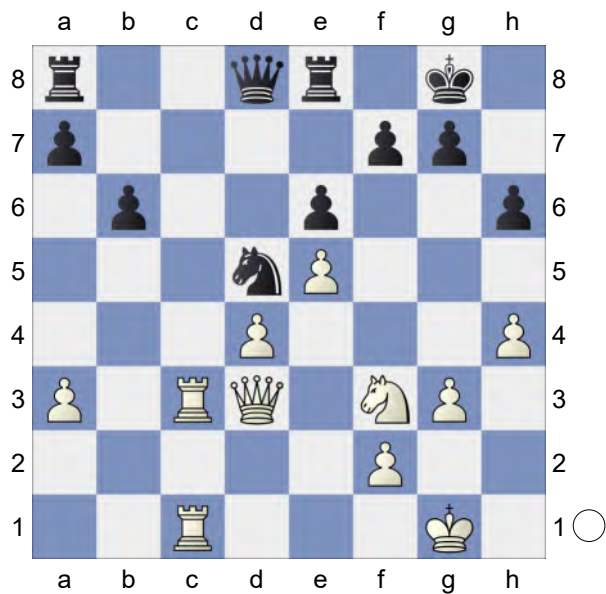
17...Ng6 18.g3 Diagram



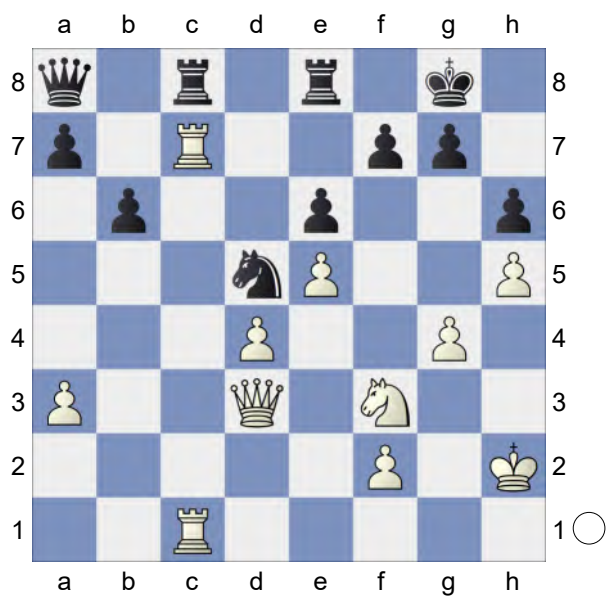
18...Ne7= 19.a3 h6 20.h4 Nd5

[20...Qd5!]

(Diagram)

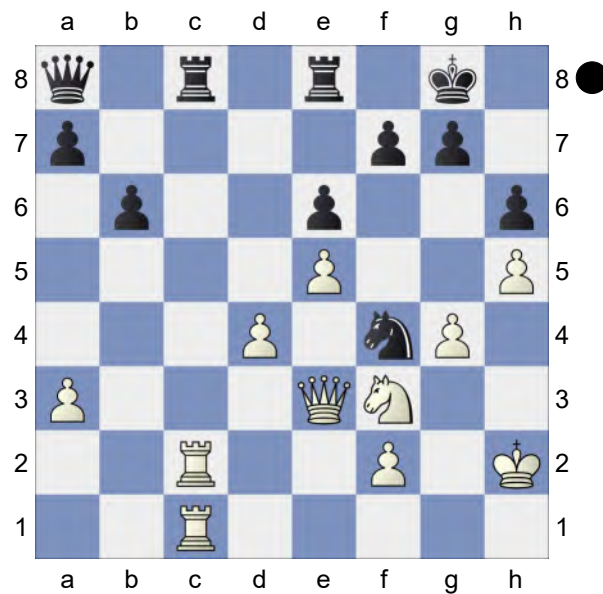


21.R3c2 Ne7 22.h5 Qd5 23.g4
 [23.Rc7 a6=]
23...Rac8 24.Rc7 Qa8 25.Kh2 Nd5



26.R7c2 Nf4
 [26...Rxc2 27.Rxc2 Qd8!? 28.Kg3 Rf8]
27.Qe3 Nd5 28.Qd3 Nf4 29.Qe3

(Diagram)



1/2-1/2

149

□ Ivanchuk, Vassily

■ Wei, Yi

(m/5) 134/183

[Paunovic, Tomislav]

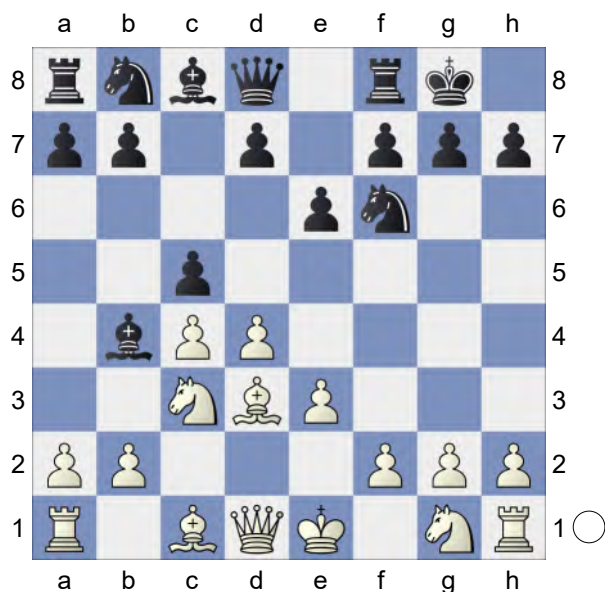
E53

2732

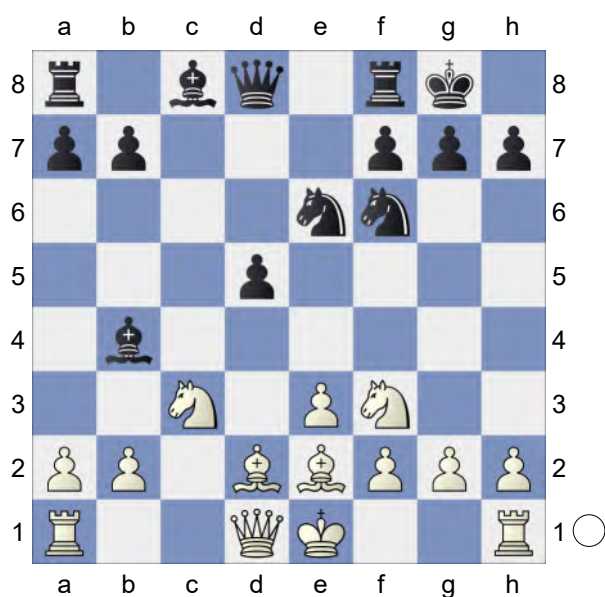
2740

2017

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3
0-0 5.Bd3 c5



6.Nf3 d5 7.cxd5 exd5 8.dxc5 Nbd7
9.Bd2 Nxc5 10.Be2 Ne6



11.0-0 a6

[11...d4 - 132/188]

12.Qb3 Be7 13.Nd4N

[13.Rfd1]

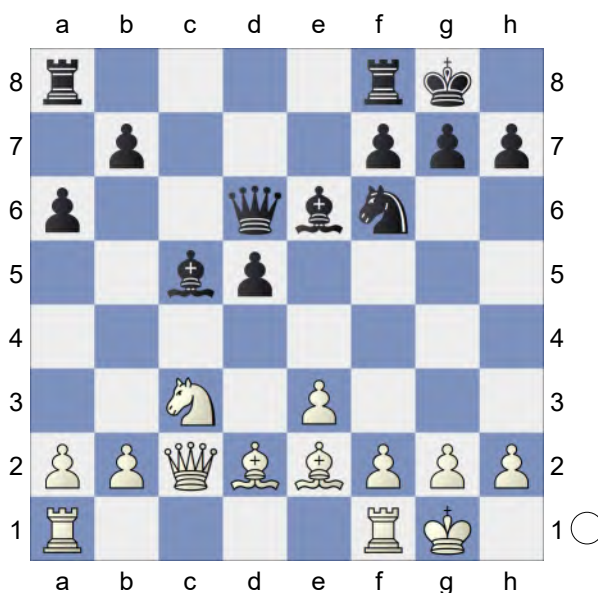
13...Bc5! 14.Nxe6

[14.Nf5 b5 15.Rfd1 Ra7!?∞]

14...Bxe6 15.Qc2

[15.Qxb7? Qd6-+]

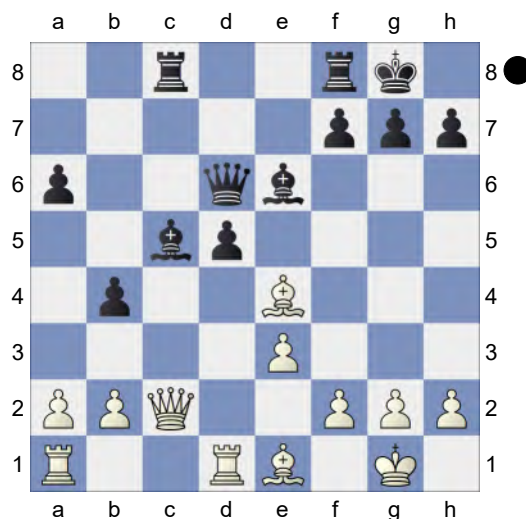
15...Qd6



16.Rfd1 Rac8↑ 17.Be1 b5 18.Bf3 b4
[18...Rfd8!?]

19.Ne4 dxe4

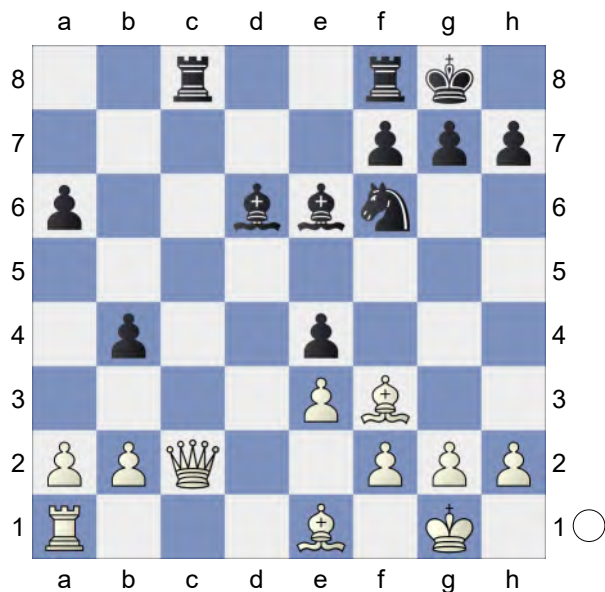
[⊠19...Nxe4 20.Bxe4 Diagram



Qe5! 21.Bxh7+ Kh8 22.Bd3 Bd6
23.f4 Qxe3+ 24.Qf2 Bxf4≡]

20.Rxd6 Bxd6

(Diagram)



21.Qd1 Be5 22.Be2

[22.Bxb4? Rfd8-+]

22...Bxb2 23.Rb1 Bc3 24.Bxa6 Bxa2?!

[24...Ra8 25.Qe2±]

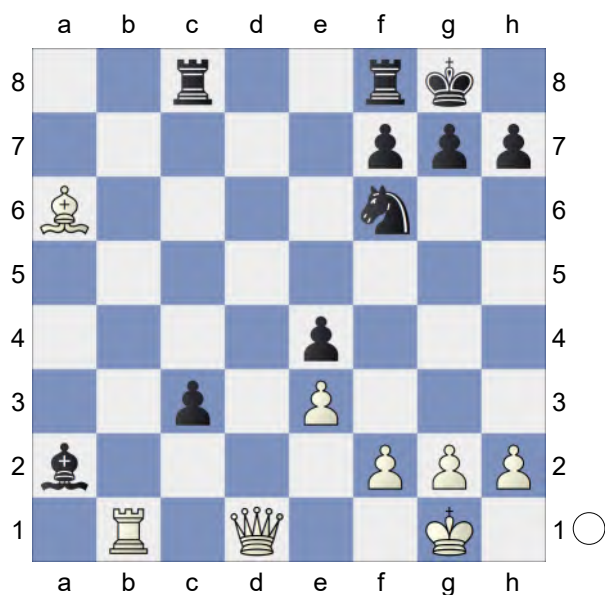
[24...Rc7!?]

25.Bxc3

[25.Bxc8?! Bxb1 26.Bxc3 (26.Qxb1 Rxc8 27.Bxc3 bxc3 - 26.Bc3)

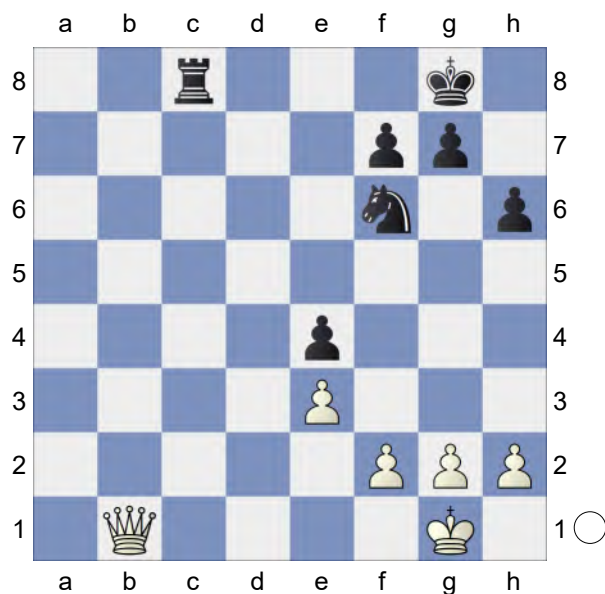
26...bxc3 27.Qxb1 Rxc8 28.Qb7 Rd8=]

25...bxc3 Diagram

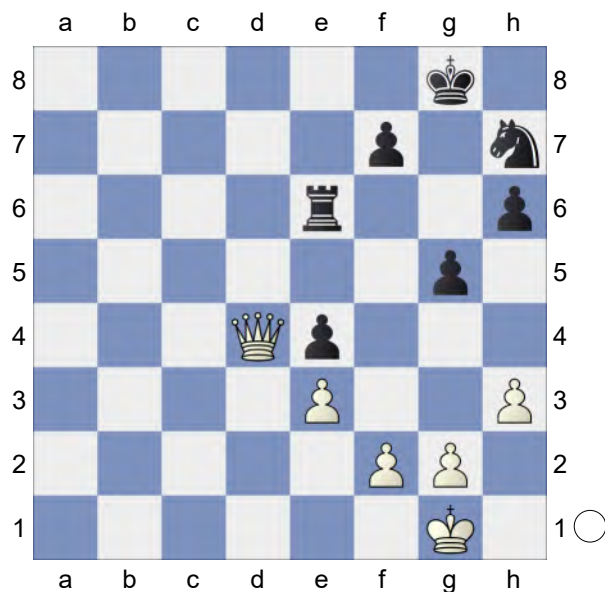


26.Ra1!↑ c2 27.Qc1 Bb1 28.Bxc8

Rxc8 29.Rxb1 cxb1Q 30.Qxb1± h6



31.h3 Rd8 32.Qb2 Re8 33.Qd4 Re6 34.Kh2 g5 35.Kg1 Nh7



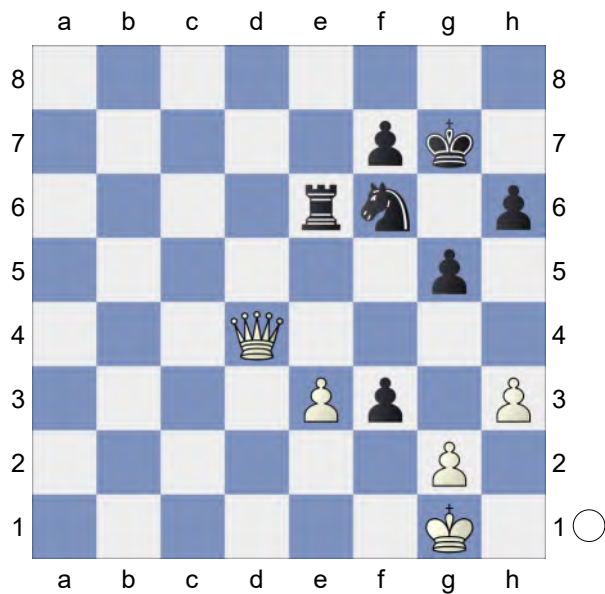
36.Qd1 Nf6 37.Kh2 Kg7 38.Qd4
[38.h4!?]

38...Re7

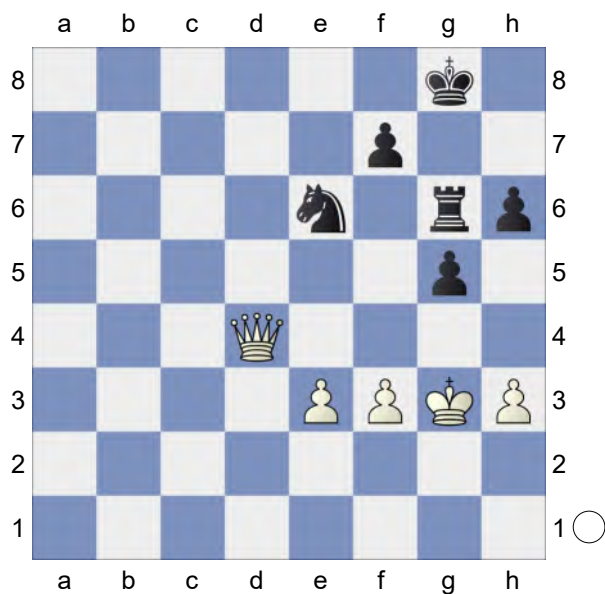
[38...Kg8]

39.f3 Re6 40.Kg1 exf3

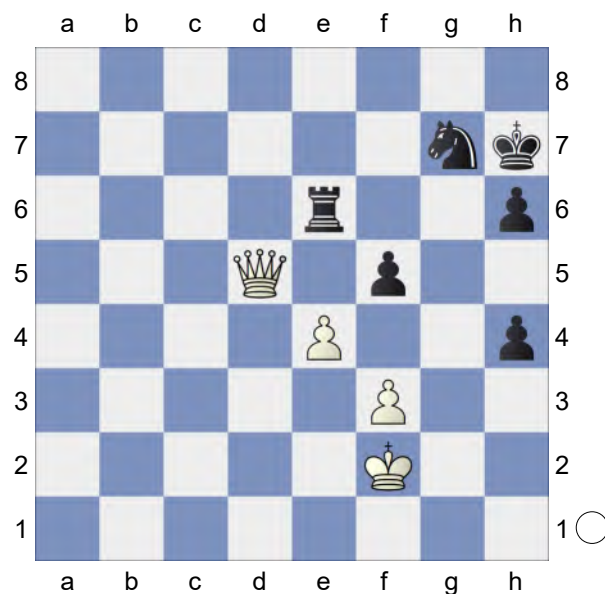
(Diagram)



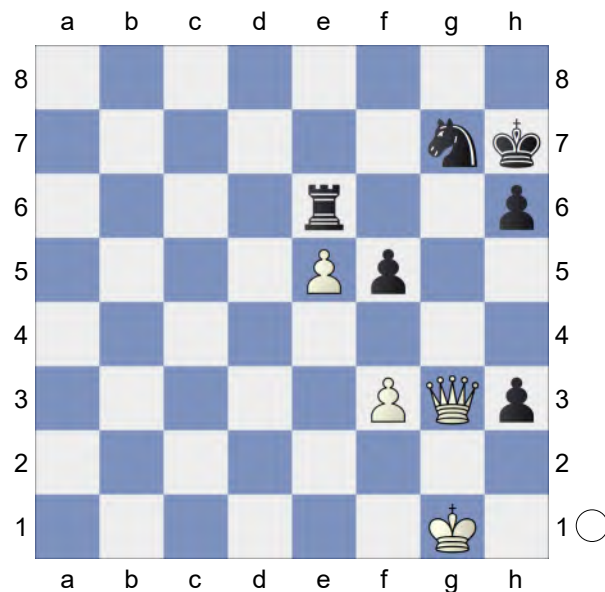
41.gxf3 Kg8 42.Kf2 Nh7 43.Kg3 Nf8
44.Kg4 Rg6 45.Kg3
 [45.h4!?]
45...Ne6
 [45...Re6=]



46.Qe5
 [46.Qd5 Ng7 47.Kf2 Re6 48.h4!?]
46...Ng7 47.Kf2 Re6 48.Qd5 Kh7
49.h4 gxh4 50.e4
 [50.Qd3+!?]
50...f5
 [50...h3!?]

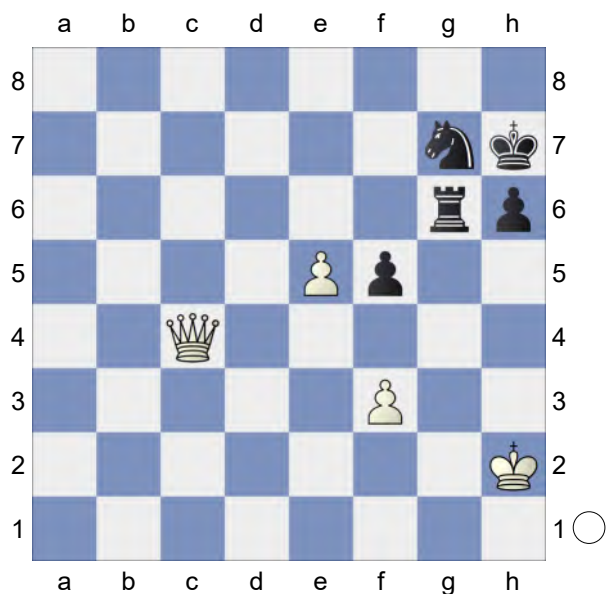


51.e5
 [51.exf5?! Rf6]
51...Rg6! 52.Qd8 h3 53.Qh4 Re6
54.Qg3 Re7
 [54...Rb6 55.Qxh3 Rb2+ ♠ 56.Ke1
 Rb5=]
55.Kg1 Re6
 [55...Rb7!?]

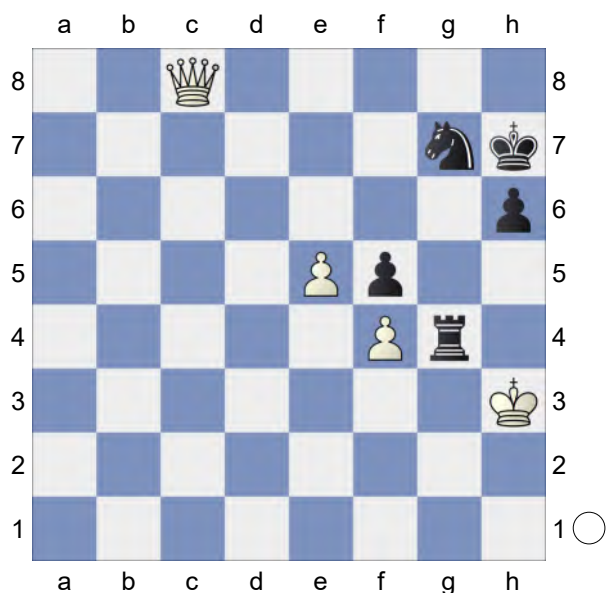


56.Kh2
 [56.Qxh3 Rxe5=]
56...Rg6 57.Qf4 Rg5 58.Kxh3 Rg6

59.Kh2 Rg5 60.Qc4 Rg6

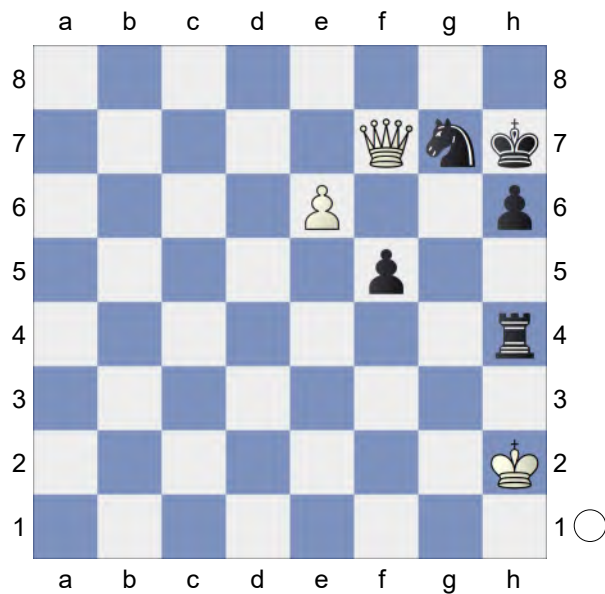


**61.Qf7 Re6 62.Qc7 Rg6 63.Kh3 Kg8
64.Qc8+ Kh7 65.f4?!
[65.Qd7]
65...Rg4**

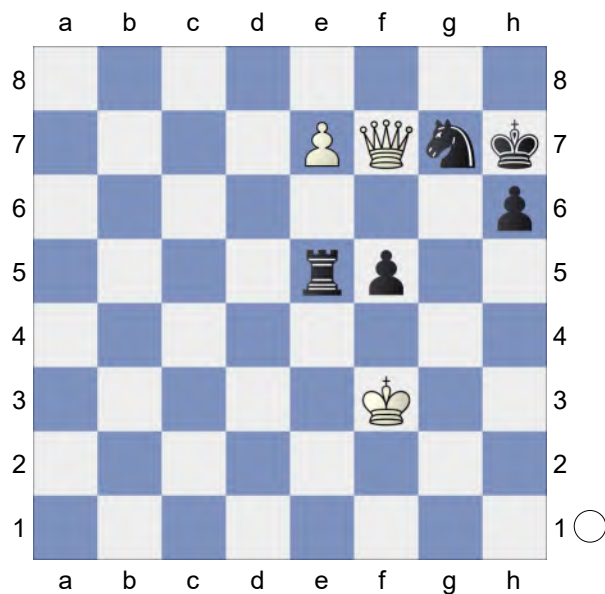


**66.Qc4 Nh5 67.e6 Nxf4+ 68.Kh2 Nh5
69.Qc7+ Ng7 70.Qf7 Rh4+**

(Diagram)

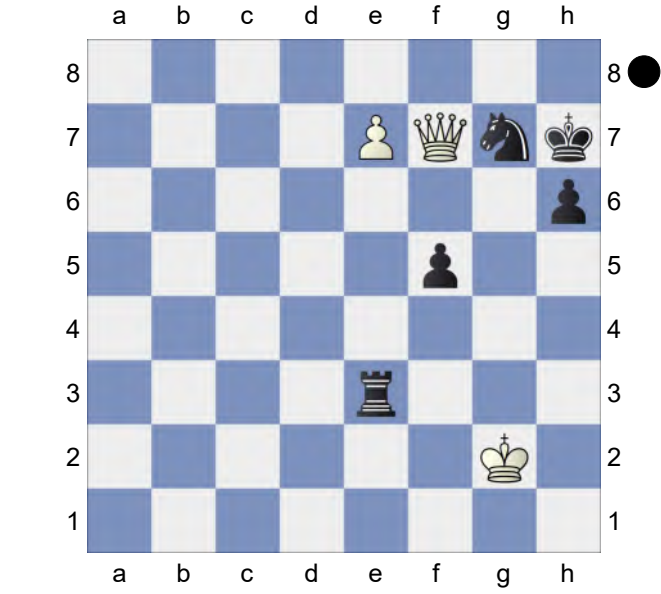


**71.Kg2 Rg4+ 72.Kf3 Re4 73.e7 Re5
74.Qf6 Re4 75.Qf7 Re5**



76.Kg3 Re3+ 77.Kg2

(Diagram)



1/2-1/2

145

□ Ivanchuk, Vassily

■ Wei, Yi

(m/1) 134/178

[Paunovic, Tomislav]

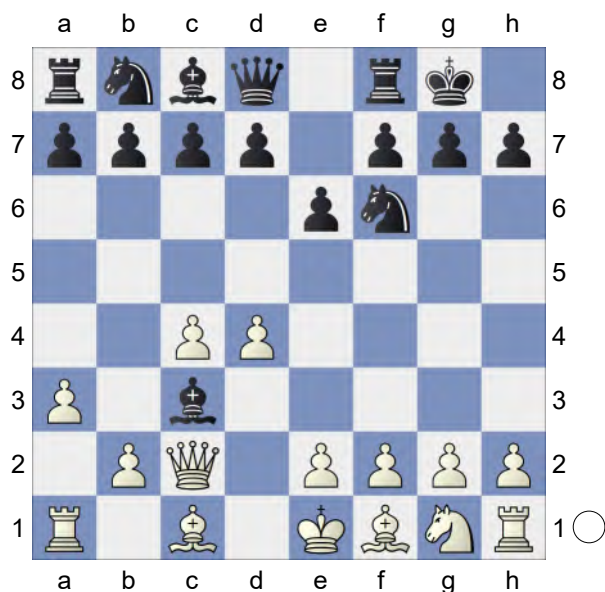
E36

2732

2740

2017

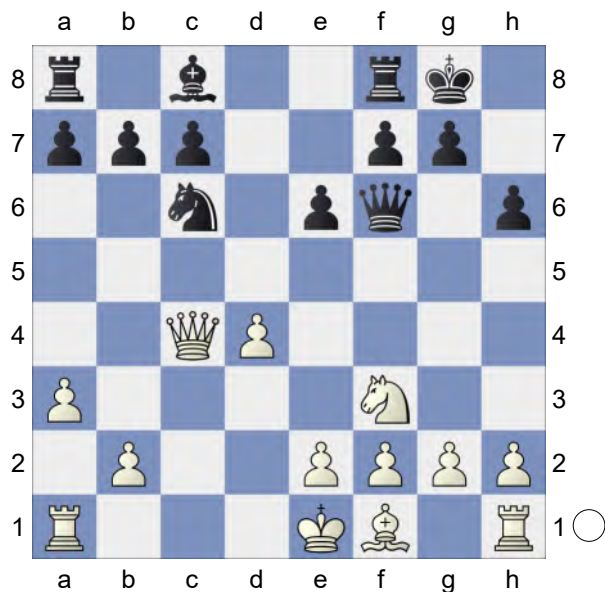
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2
0-0 5.a3 Bxc3+



6.Qxc3 d5 7.Bg5 h6

[7...dxc4 - 112/292]

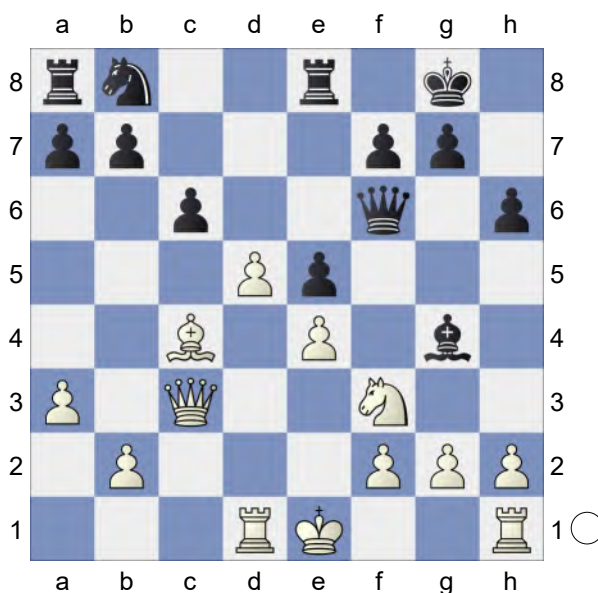
8.Bxf6 Qxf6 9.Nf3 dxc4 10.Qxc4 Nc6



11.Qc3

[11.e4]

[11.e3]

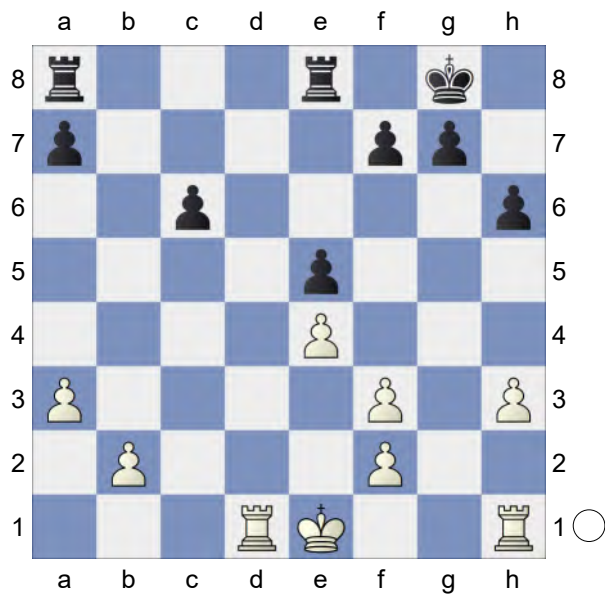
11...Re8 12.Rd1 e5 13.d5 Nb8 14.e4
c6 15.Bc4 Bg4N[15...cxd5 16.Bxd5 Nd7 17.0-0 Nb6
18.Rfe1 (18.h3!?) 18...Bg4=]

16.h3

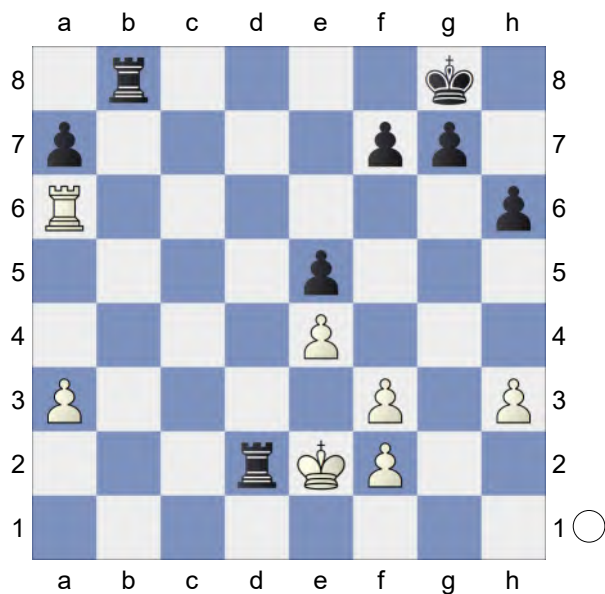
[16.0-0 cxd5 17.Bxd5 Nd7 18.Rc1
(18.Bxb7 Rab8 19.Bd5 Rec8
20.Qe3 Bxf3 21.Qxf3 Qxf3 22.gxf3
Nf6=) 18...Red8 19.Bxb7 Rab8
20.Bd5 Bxf3 21.Qxf3 Qxf3 22.gxf3
Nf6=]

16...Bxf3 17.Qxf3 Qxf3 18.gxf3 cxd5
19.Bxd5 Nc6 20.Bxc6 bxc6=

(Diagram)

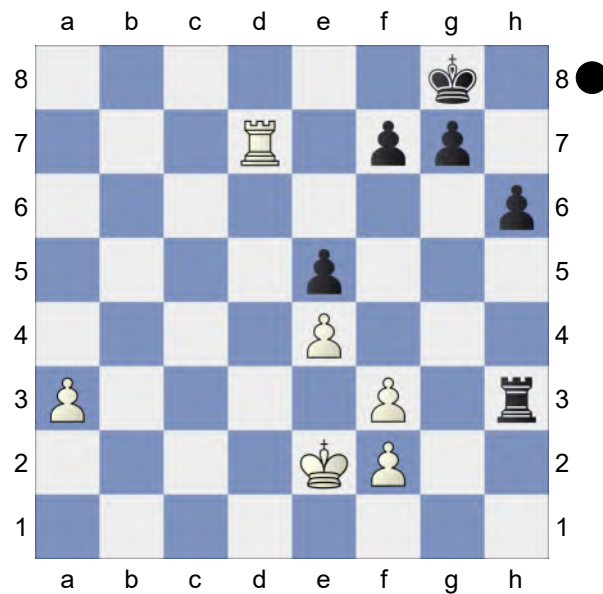


**21.Ke2 Reb8 22.Rd2 Rb3 23.Rc1
Rab8 24.Rxc6 Rxb2 25.Ra6 Rxd2+**

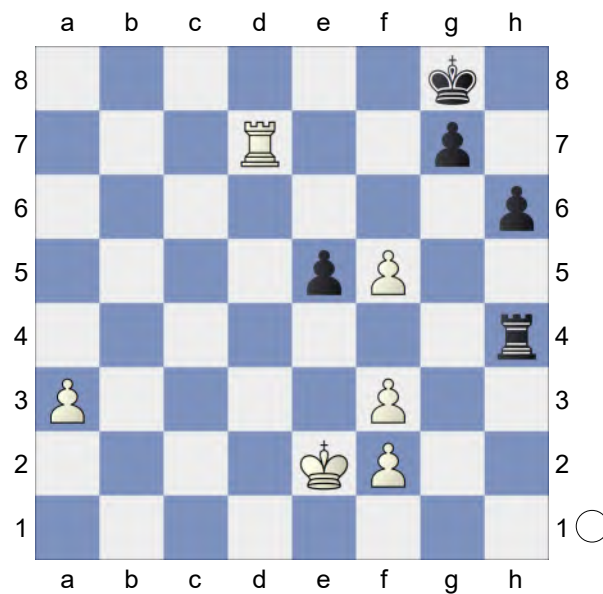


**26.Kxd2 Rb1!? 27.Rxa7 Rh1 28.Ke2
Rxb3 29.Rd7** [Diagram](#)
[29.Re7 f6]

(Diagram)

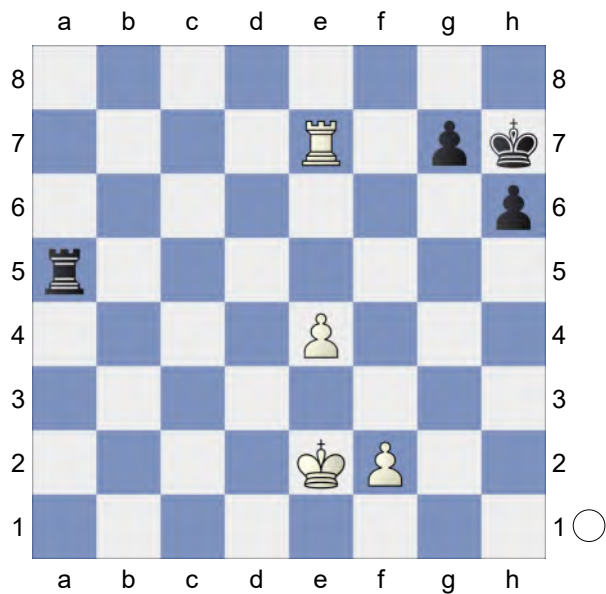


29...f5!
[29...Rh1? 30.Rd8+! Kh7 31.Rd1±]
30.exf5 Rh4

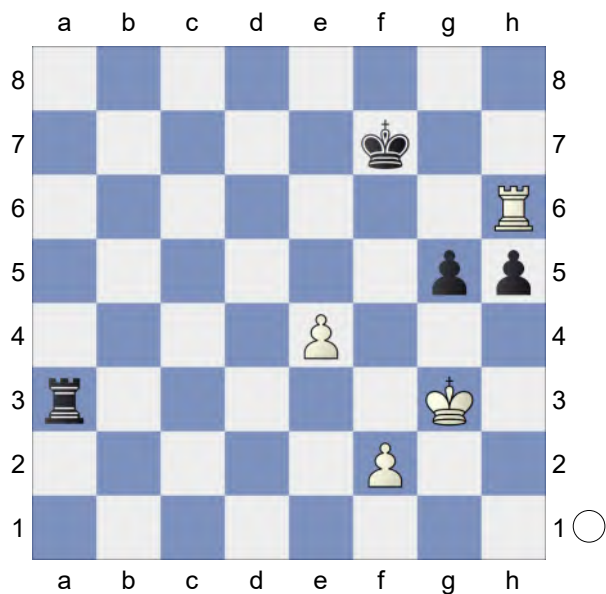


**31.Ra7 Rf4 32.a4 Rxf5 33.a5 Kh7
34.Re7 e4 35.fxe4 Rxa5**

(Diagram)

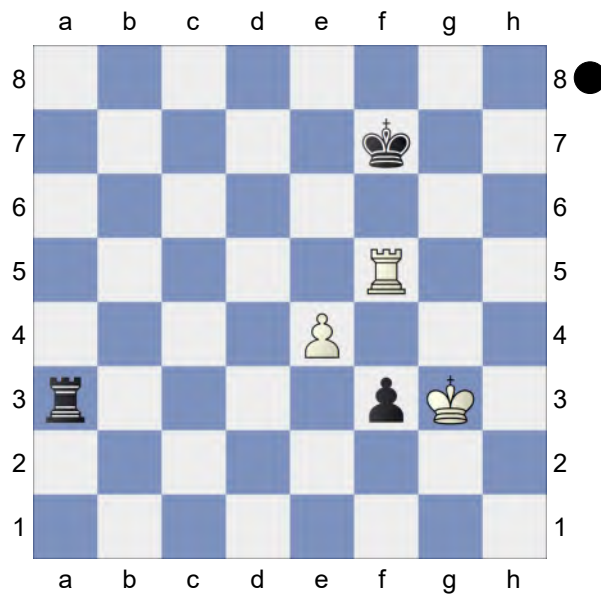


36.Kf3 Kg6 37.Re6+ Kf7 38.Rb6 h5 39.Kg3 g5 40.Rh6 Ra3+ $\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$



41.f3 g4 42.Rxh5 gxf3 43.Rf5+

(Diagram)



333

□ Inarkiev, Ernesto

■ Wei, Yi

Magas (m/1) 137/130

[Paunovic, Tomislav]

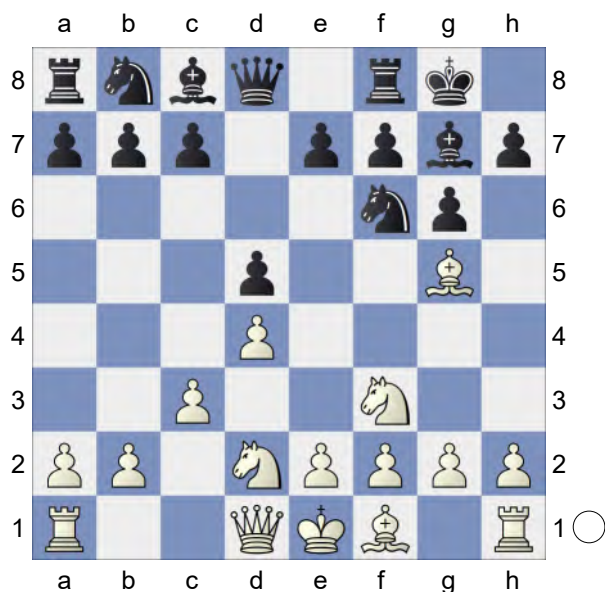
D03

2690

2735

2018

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bg5 Bg7 4.Nbd2
0-0 5.c3 d5



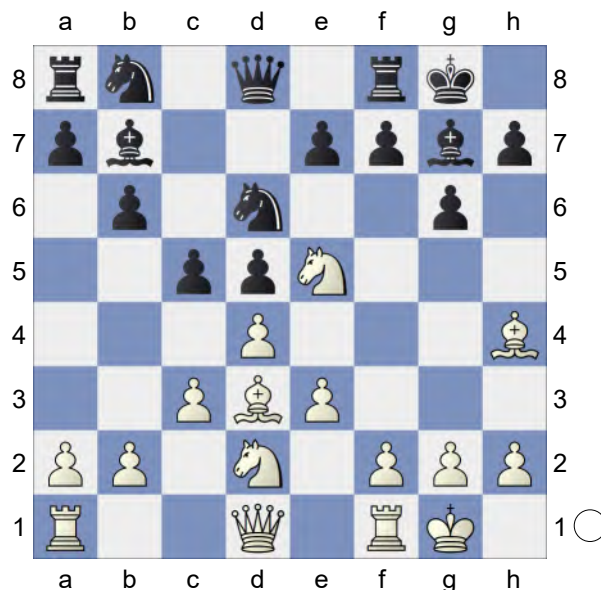
6.e3 b6 7.Bd3 Bb7 8.0-0 c5 9.Ne5

[9.Qb1 - 53/(353)]

9...Ne8 10.Bh4 Nd6N

[10...Nd7]

(Diagram)



11.Qg4 Bc8

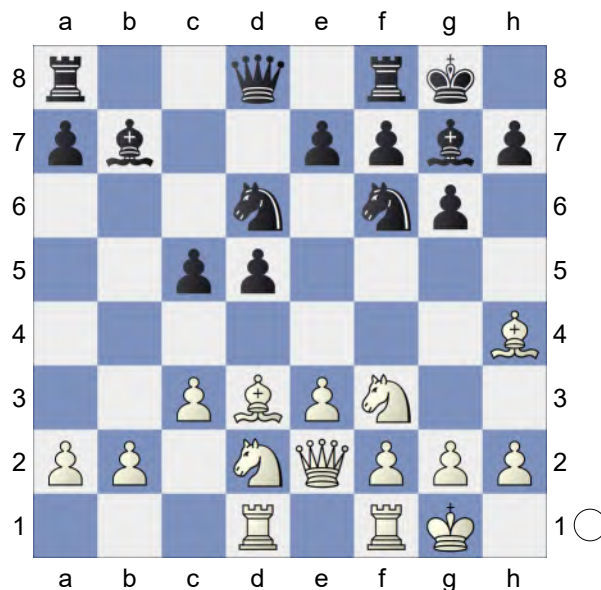
[11...Nc6!?]

12.Qe2 Bb7 13.Rad1 Nd7 14.Nef3

[14.Nxd7 Qxd7 15.dxc5 bxc5

16.e4=]

14...Nf6 15.dxc5 bxc5

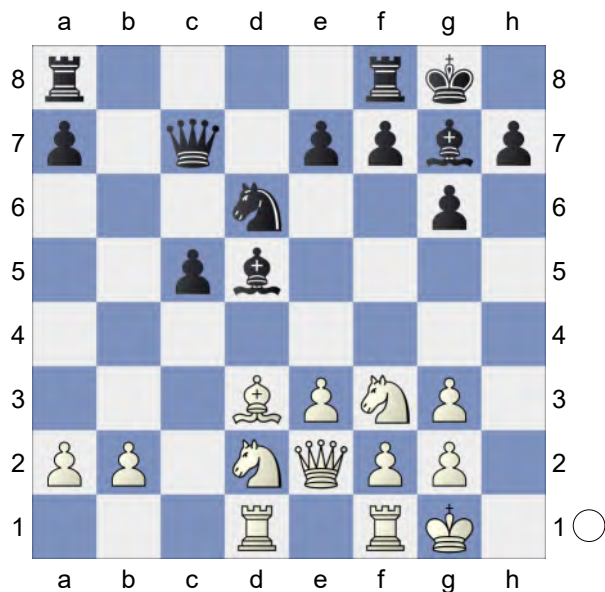


16.c4 Qc7 17.Bg3 Nh5

[17...e6!?]

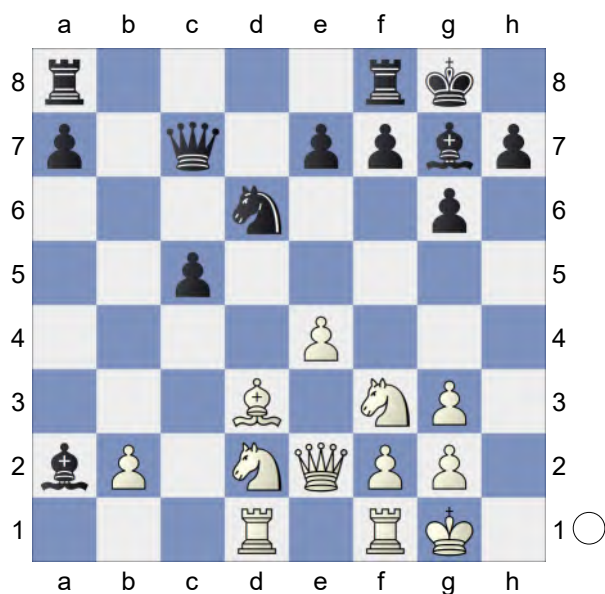
18.cxd5 Nxg3 19.hxg3 Bxd5 Diagram

(Diagram)



20.e4!? Bxa2?

[20...c4 21.Bb1 Be6∞]

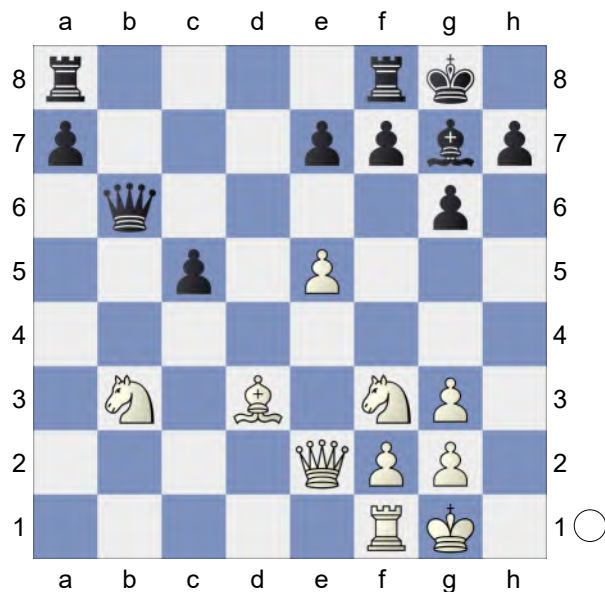


21.e5 Nb7 22.b3! Na5 23.Ra1

[∆23.Be4 Rab8 24.Ra1 Bxb3
25.Qa6!±]

**23...Bxb3 24.Rxa5 Qxa5 25.Nxb3
Qb6**

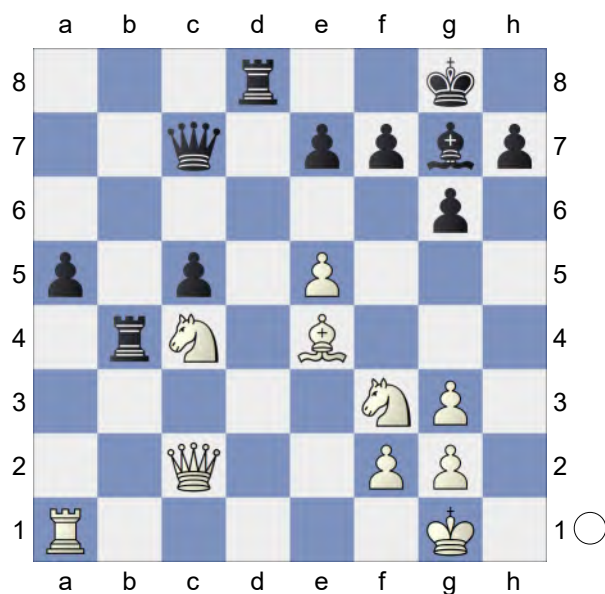
(Diagram)



26.Nbd2± a5 27.Nc4 Qc7 28.Be4

Rab8 29.Ra1 Rb4 30.Qc2 Rd8

Diagram



31.Kh2! h5?

[31...e6]

[31...Rdb8]

32.Rxa5?

[32.Ng5!+- Bh6 33.Bxg6! Bxg5

34.Bxf7+! Kxf7 35.Qf5+ Kg7

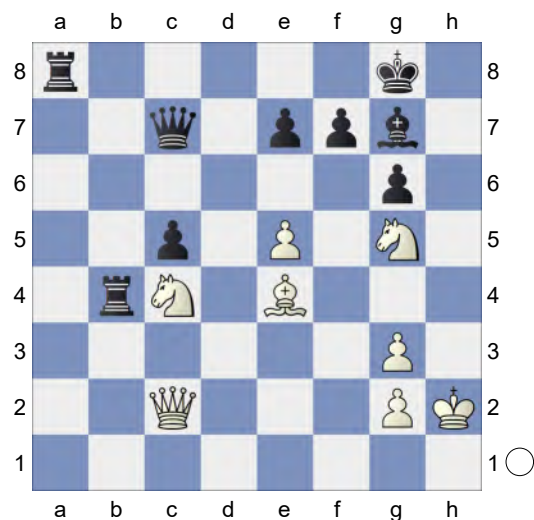
36.Qxg5+ Kh8 37.Qxh5+ (37.e6!?)

37...Kg7 38.Qg5+ Kf7 (38...Kh7

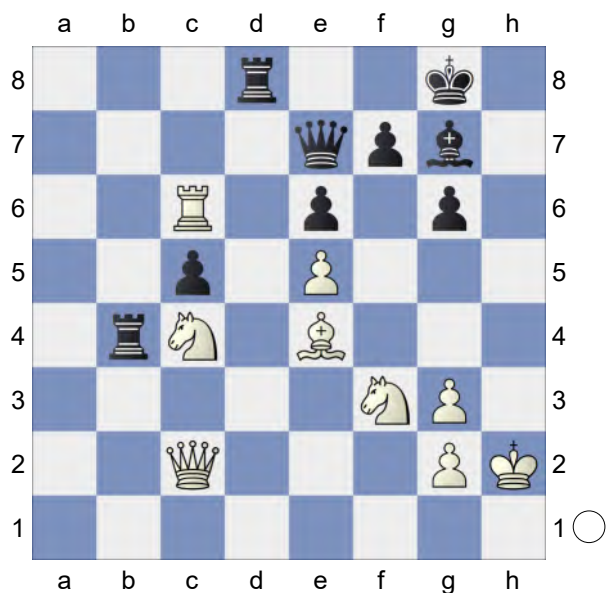
39.Rh1) 39.e6+ Kxe6 40.Re1+]

32...h4 33.Ra6

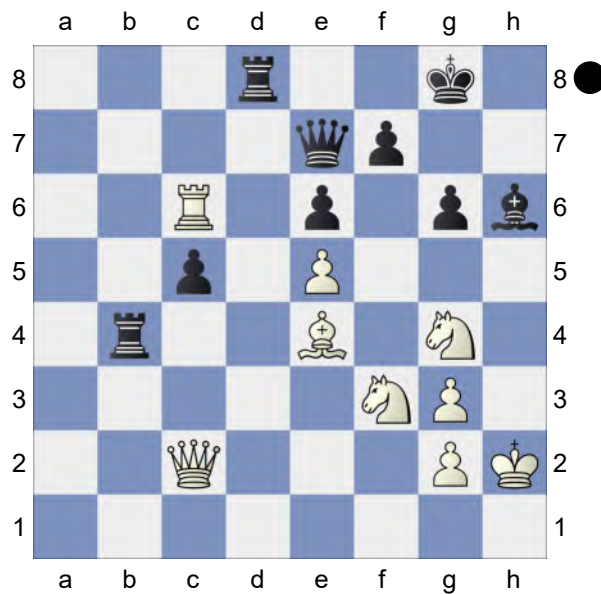
[33.Ng5!?]
33...hxg3+?!
 [33...Qd7]
34.fxg3 e6?!
 [34...Qc8 35.Ra8 Qc7 36.Ng5 Rxa8]
Diagram



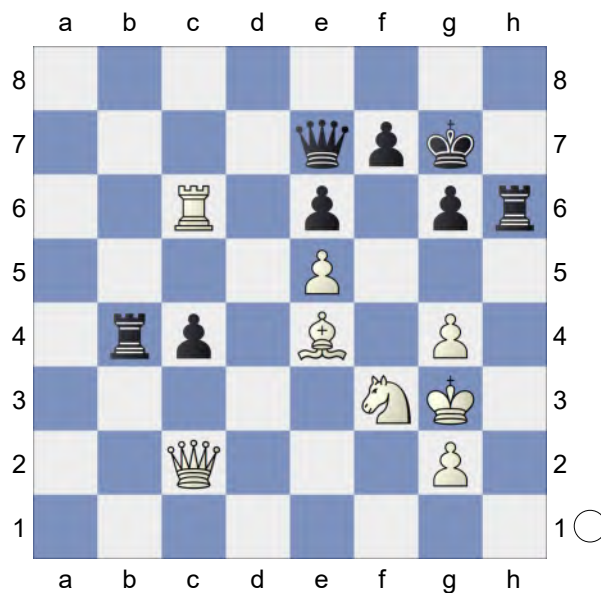
37.Bxg6! fxg6 38.Qxg6+-]
35.Rc6?
 [35.Bxg6! Qb7 (35...fxg6 36.Ng5+-)
 36.Ng5! fxg6 37.Rxe6+-]
35...Qe7±



36.Ne3?!
 [36.Nd6 f5 37.exf6 Bxf6 38.Qxc5±]
36...Bh6 37.Ng4 **Diagram**
 (Diagram)

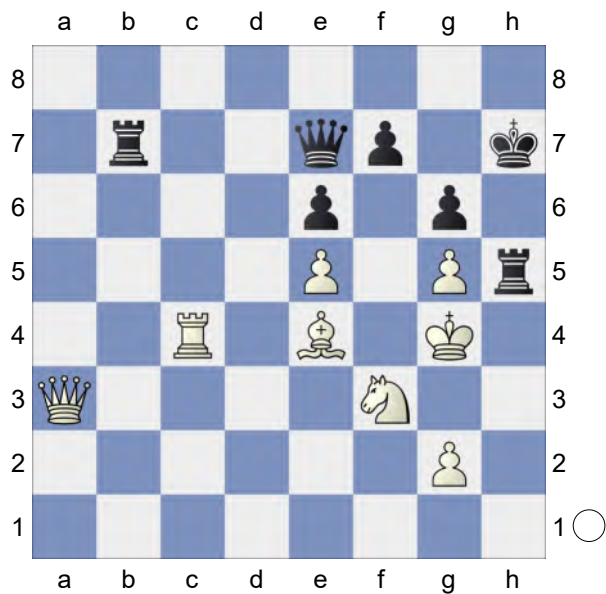


37...Kg7! 38.Nxh6 Rh8 39.g4! Rxh6+
40.Kg3 c4
 [♠40...Rh8]



41.Qc1 Rb3
 [♠41...Rh8]
42.g5! Rh5 43.Kg4!+- Kh7
 [43...Rb7 44.Rxc4]
44.Rxc4 Rb4 45.Qa3 Rb7

(Diagram)



46.Qc3 Ra7 47.Qd2

[47...Qc1]

47...Qd7?!

[47...Rc7 48.Rb4 Kg7]

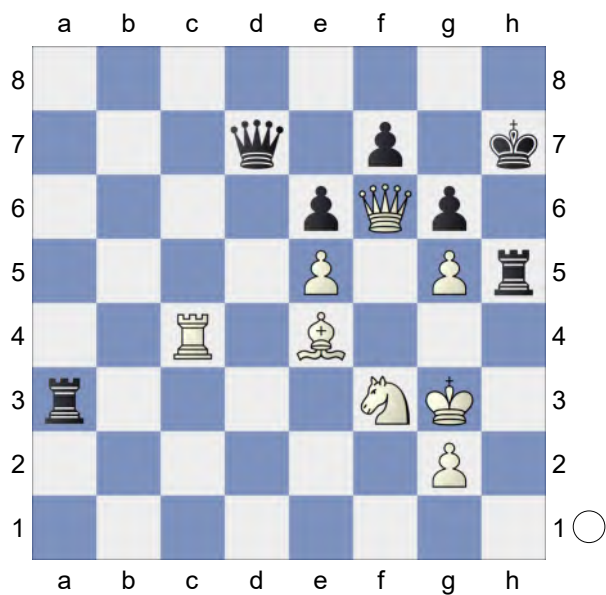
48.Qf4 Qd1

[48...Kg8 49.Rb4]

49.Kg3

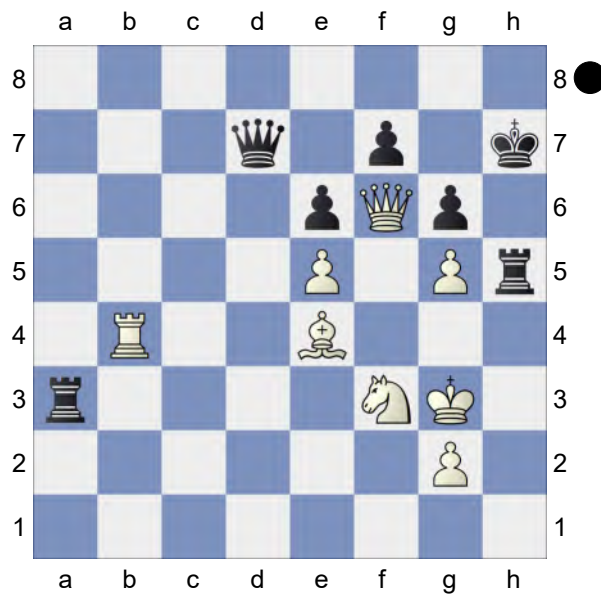
[49.Rd4!? Qf1 50.Kg3]

49...Qd7 50.Qf6 Ra3



51.Rb4

(Diagram)



1-0

250

□ Bu,Xiangzhi

■ Wei,Yi

Ningbo (rapid) 137/(149)

[Paunovic,Tomislav]

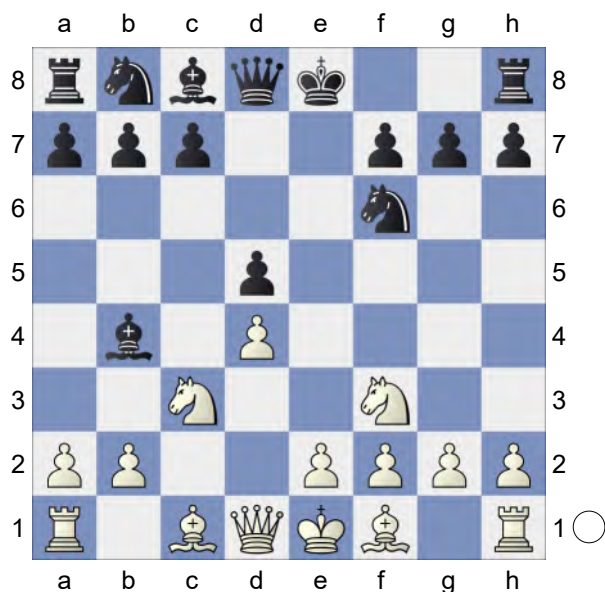
D38

2718

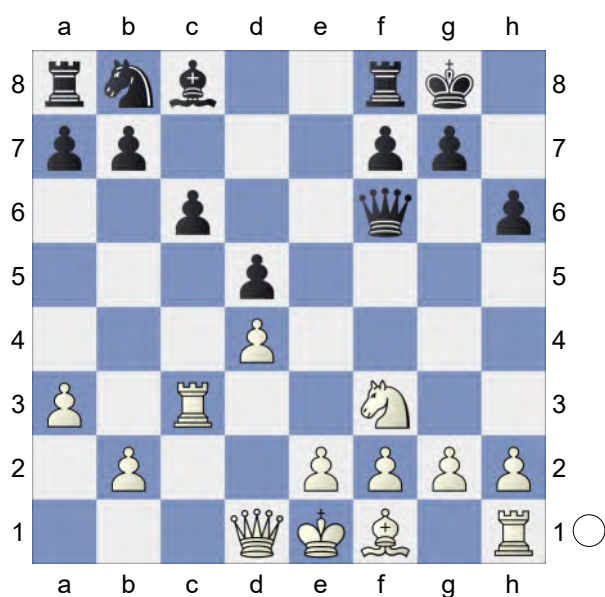
2734

2018

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.d4
Bb4 5.cxd5 exd5

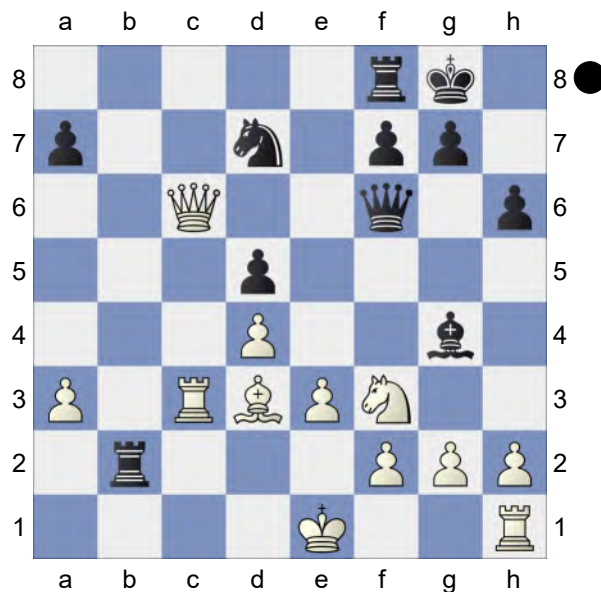


6.Bg5 0-0 7.Rc1 h6 8.Bxf6 Qxf6
9.a3 Bxc3+ 10.Rxc3 c6

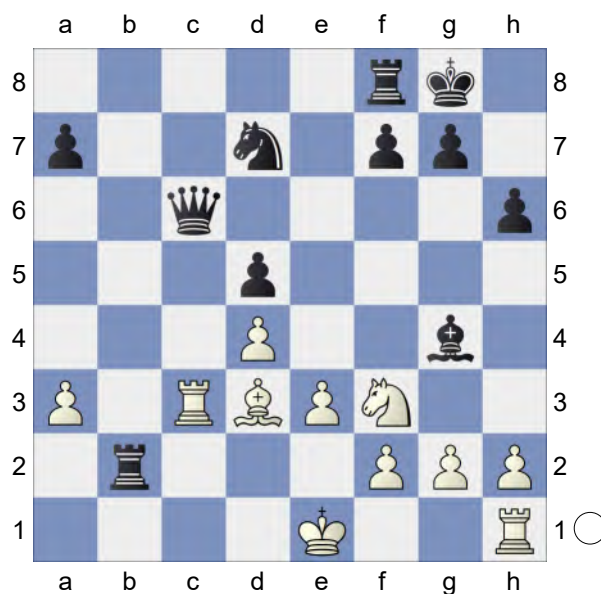


11.e3 Bg4 12.Qb3
[12.Be2]

12...Nd7 13.Qxb7 Rab8 14.Qxc6
Rxb2 15.Bd3 Diagram

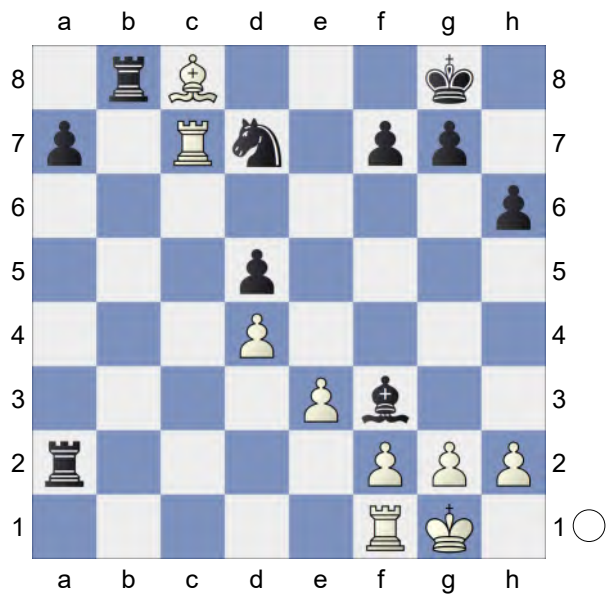


15...Qxc6N

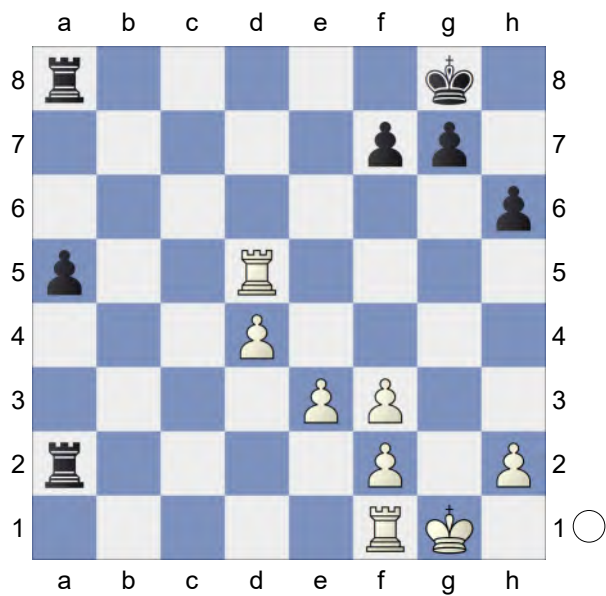


* 16.Rxc6 Rfb8 17.0-0 R2b3 18.Ba6
Rxa3 19.Bc8 Ra2 20.Rc7 Bxf3

(Diagram)



21.Rxd7 Rxc8= 22.gxf3!? a5 23.Rxd5 Ra8



249

□ Bu,Xiangzhi

■ Wei,Yi

Ningbo (rapid) 137/(149)

[Paunovic,Tomislav]

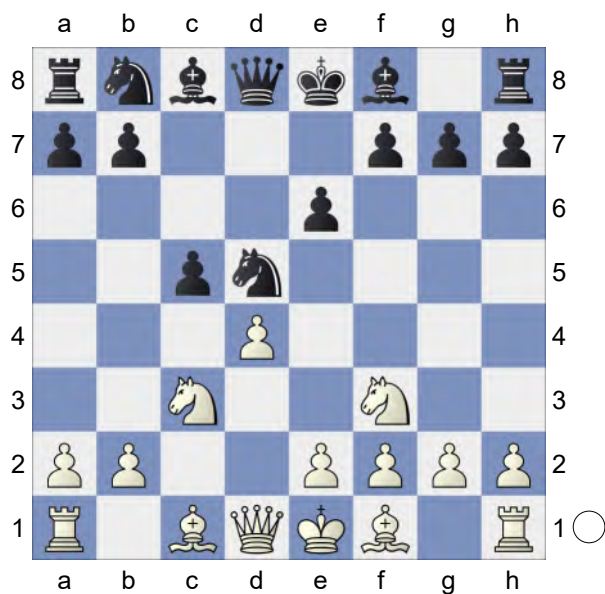
D41

2718

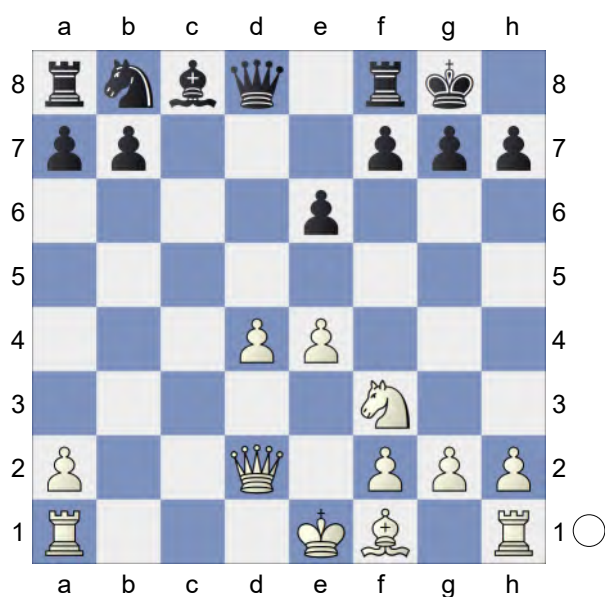
2734

2018

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 c5
5.cxd5 Nxd5

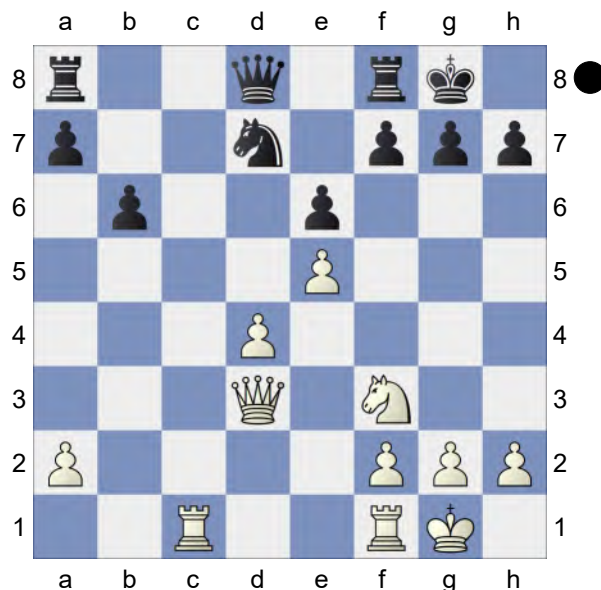


6.e4 Nxc3 7.bxc3 cxd4 8.cxd4 Bb4+
9.Bd2 Bxd2+ 10.Qxd2 0-0



11.Rc1 b6 12.Bd3 Ba6
[12...Bb7 - 132/ 151]

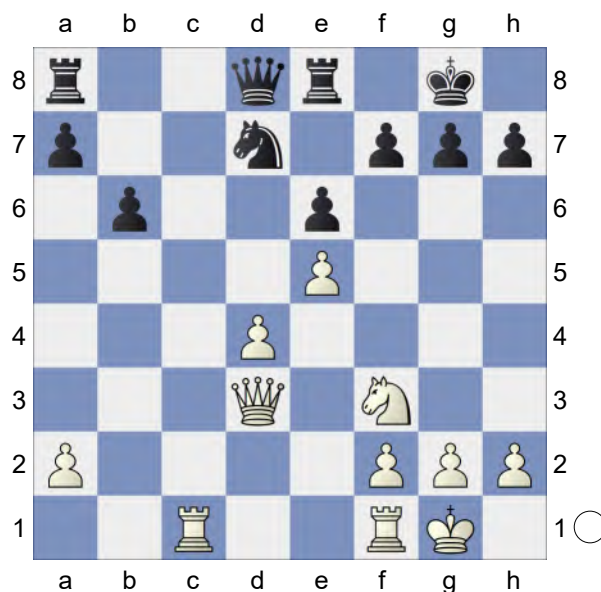
13.0-0 Bxd3 14.Qxd3 Nd7 15.e5
Diagram



15...Re8N

[15...a6]

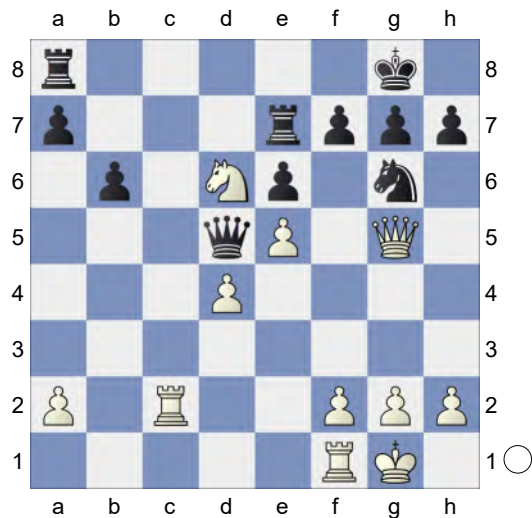
[15...h6]



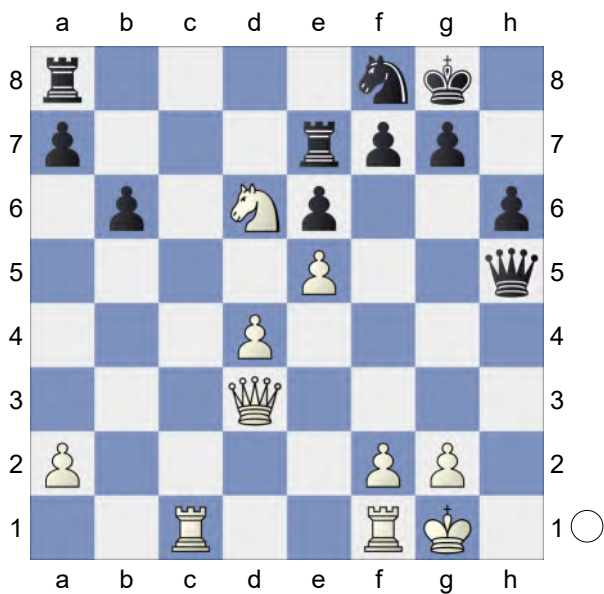
* 16.h4

[16.Qe3!? Nf8 17.Nd2 Ng6 18.Ne4
Qd5 19.Nd6 Re7 20.Rc2 Nh4!?
21.Qg5 Ng6 Diagram

(Diagram)

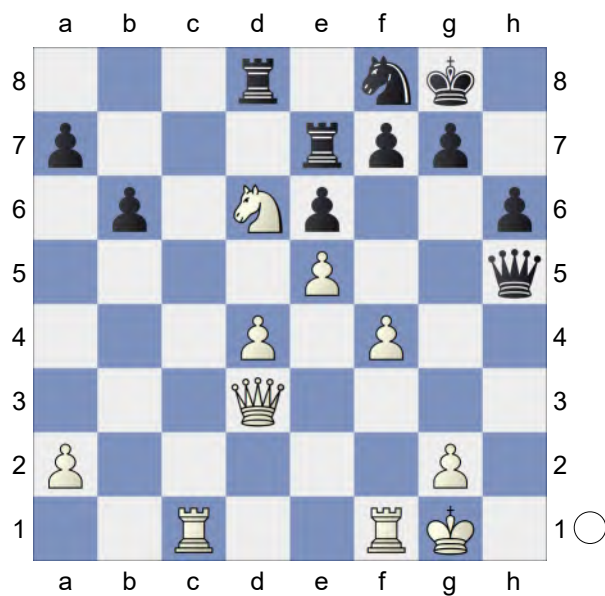


22.Rfc1!? Qxd4 23.Rc8+ Rxc8
 24.Rxc8+ Nf8 25.h3 Qa1+ 26.Rc1
 f6 27.Rxa1 fxe5 28.Rc1
16...h6 17.h5 Nf8 18.Nd2 Qh4
19.Ne4 Qxh5 20.Nd6 Re7



21.f4 Rd8=

(Diagram)



293

□ Wei,Yi

■ Karjakin,Sergey

Tata Steel-A 78th (11)

[Pavlovic,Milos]

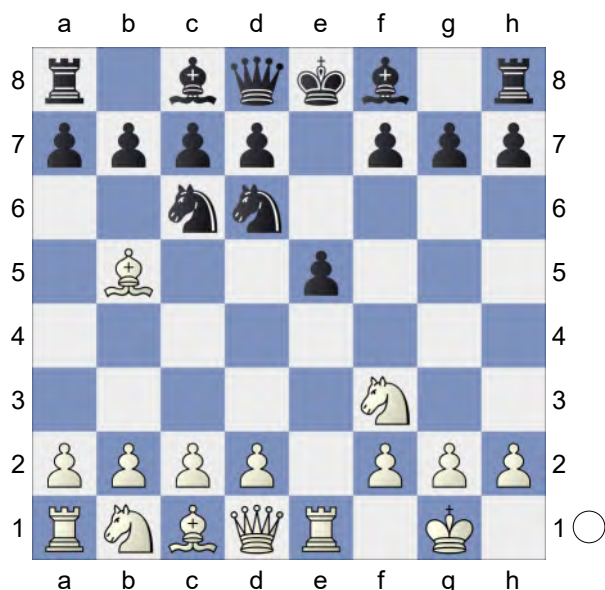
C67

2706

2769

29.01.2016

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0
Nxe4 5.Re1 Nd6



6.Nxe5 Although at first sight it looks harmless, actually such a approach is very popular against Berlin. White enjoys an early lead in development and is trying to profit from that fact. **6...Be7**
7.Bf1 Nxe5 Another way of playing this line is was seen just few days previously:

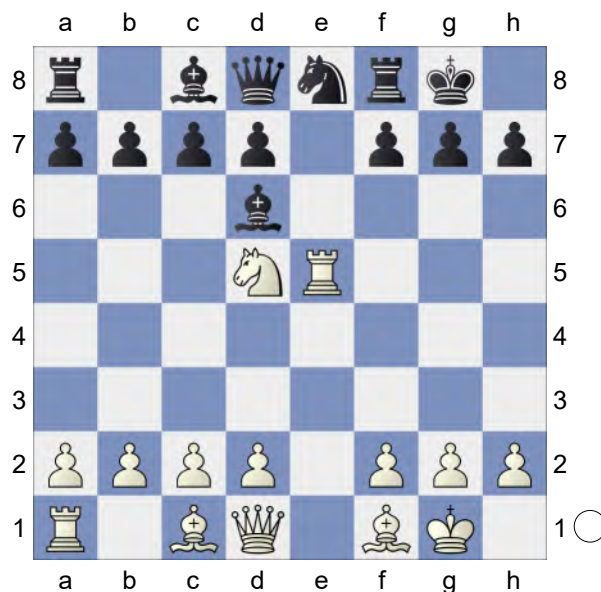
[7...Nf5 8.Nf3 0-0 9.d4 d5 10.c3 Bd6 11.Bd3 Nce7 12.Nbd2 c6 13.Nf1 Ng6 14.Qc2 Nfh4 15.Nxh4 Qxh4 16.g3 Qh3 17.f4

A) 17...Ne7!? 18.Ne3 Re8 19.Qf2 (19.Bd2 Bd7 20.f5 f6∞) 19...Bf5!±;

B) 17...Bg4?! 18.f5 Ne7 19.Ne3 Bf3 20.Qf2 Qh5 21.Rf1+- 1/2-1/2 (36) Anand,V (2784)- Nakamura,H (2787) Zurich (blitz) 2016]

8.Rxe5 0-0 9.Nc3 Ne8 10.Nd5

This is a popular position for both sides. White will get the bishop pair but Black will have harmonius development.
10...Bd6

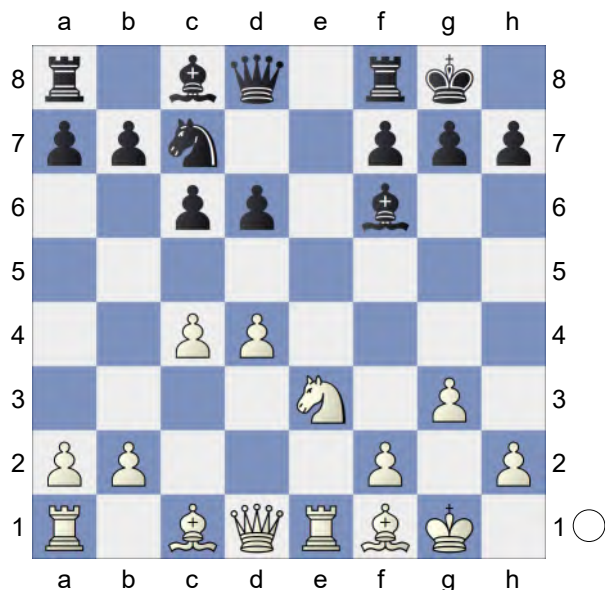


11.Re1 c6 12.Ne3 Be7 This is a less common idea, usually the bishop goes to c7:

[12...Bc7 13.Nf5 d5 14.Ne7+ Kh8 15.Nxc8 Rxc8 16.d3 f5 17.Qf3 Nf6 18.Bf4 Bxf4 19.Qxf4 Qc7 20.Qxc7 Rxc7 21.d4 g6 22.Re6 Kg7 23.Rae1 Kf7 24.f3 Rd8 1/2-1/2 (41) Yu Yangyi (2736)-Kramnik,V (2796) Doha 2015. Black is fine.]

13.c4 Nc7 14.d4 d6 15.g3 Bf6

(Diagram)



16.Bg2 g6 17.Qd3

[17.d5 c5 Black gets a nice version of a Benoni, it is interesting how openings can be transpositional!]

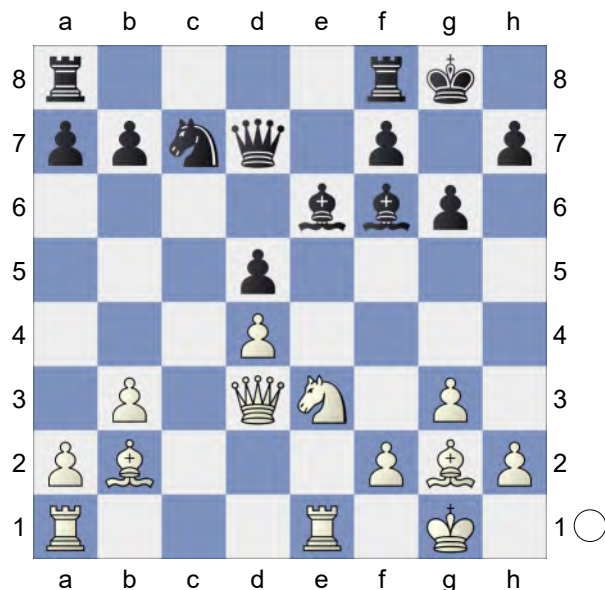
17...d5 Black decides to stabilise the centre. **18.cxd5 cxd5 19.b3 Be6**

20.Bb2 Actually we have seen Karjakin play this from both sides!

[20.a4 Be7 21.Ba3 Bxa3 22.Rxa3 Ne8 23.Rc1 Nf6 24.Ra2 Qd7 25.Rac2 Rfc8 26.h4 h5 27.Qd2 b6 28.Rc3 Qd6= ½-½ (40) Karjakin,S (2762)-Aronian,L (2784) Skopje 2015]

20...Qd7

(Diagram)



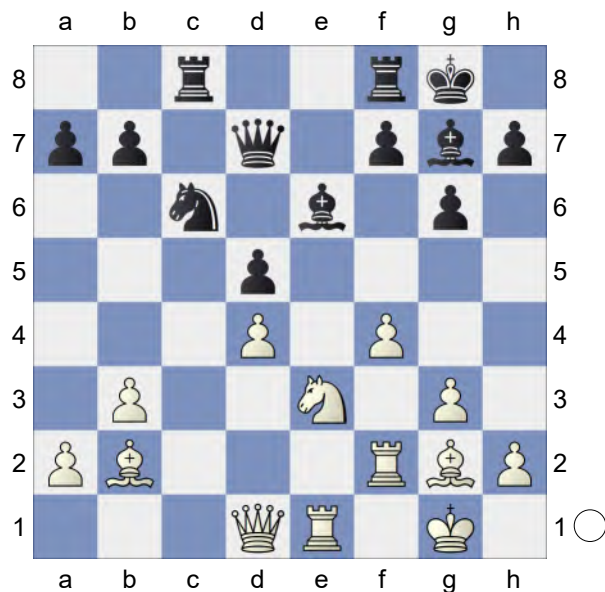
21.Rac1 Rac8 22.f4! Now we have a game, the position gets a different dynamic approach, White is going for the dangerous f5 idea. **22...Bg7**

23.Rc2 Na6 24.Rf2 Nb4 25.Qd1

I think an alternative was more precise:

[25.Qd2 Nc6 26.f5 gxf5 27.Ref1 Kh8 (27...f4 28.Rxf4↑; 27...Bh6 28.Nxd5!±) 28.Nxf5 Rg8 29.Ba3±]

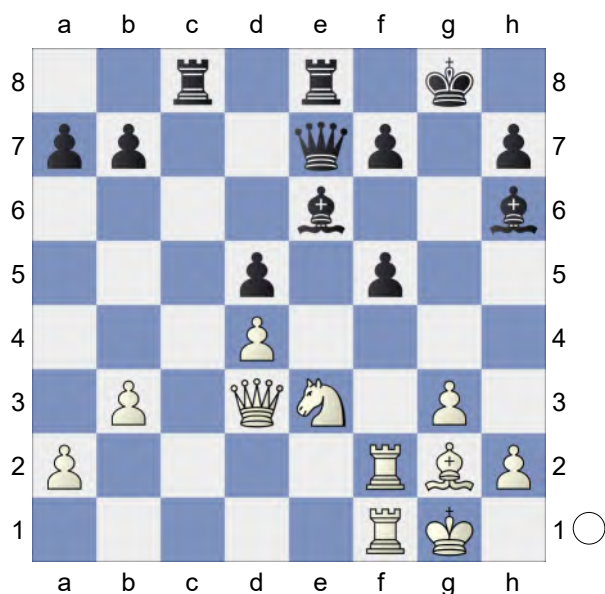
25...Nc6



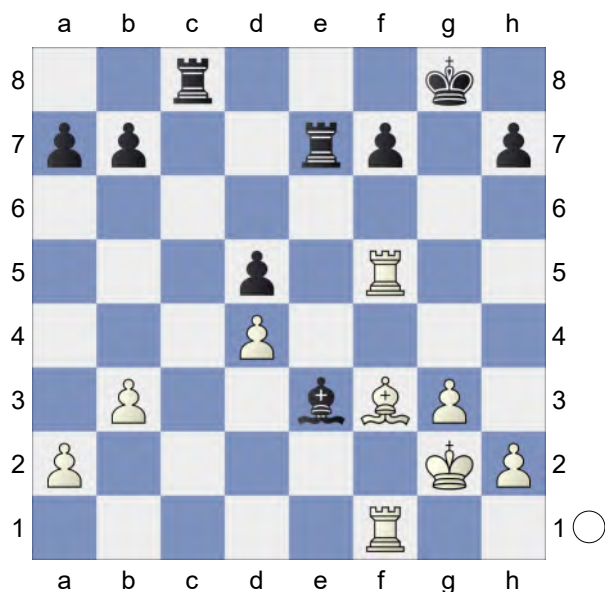
26.f5 gxf5 27.Ref1 Ne7 28.Ba3 Bh6 29.Qd3 Rfe8 30.Bxe7 Qxe7?!

[30...Bxe3 31.Qxe3 Qxe7 32.Qf4

Perhaps it is not so terrible for Black after all just a bit passive, White doesn't have an obvious breakthrough.]

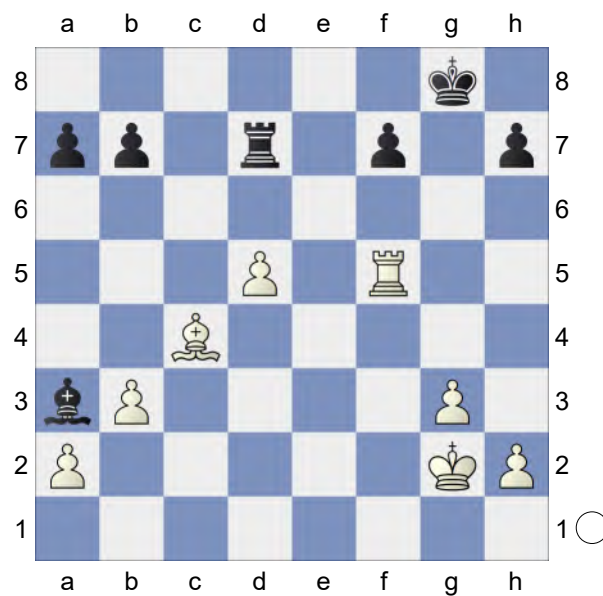


31.Nxf5 Bxf5 32.Rxf5 Qe2 33.Qf3 Qxf3 34.Bxf3 Re7 35.Kg2 Be3

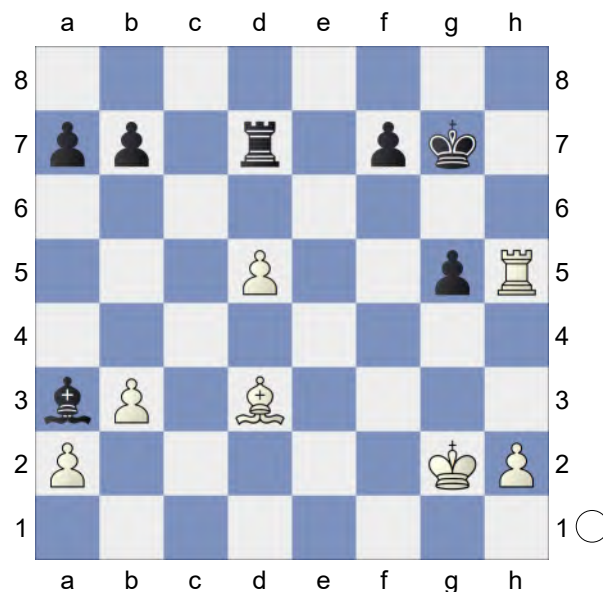


36.Bxd5 Rcc7 White is better and Black will have a difficult task to defend this.
37.Rd1 Rc1 38.Rxc1 Bxc1 39.Bc4 Rd7 40.d5 Ba3

(Diagram)



41.g4 Kg7 42.Rg5+ Kh8 43.Rh5 Kg7 44.Bd3 h6 45.g5! hxg5

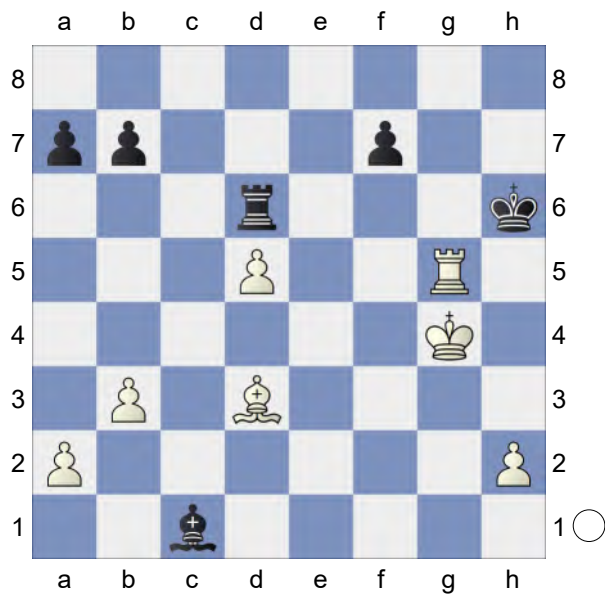


46.Rxg5+ Kh6 47.Rf5 Kg7 48.Kf3
 White somehow for a long time doesn't push his h-pawn which is his best asset to play for a win.

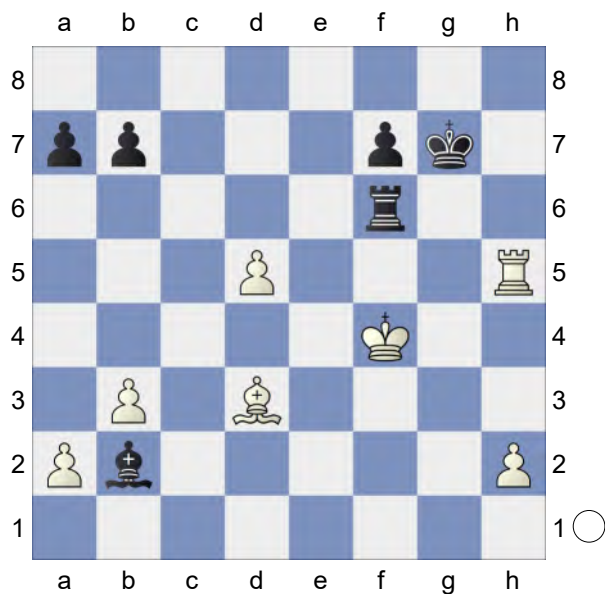
[48.h4 Re7! 49.h5 Re3 50.Bb5 f6 51.Bc4 Bc5 52.a4 a6 Still not that much, but I feel it was better at least to run with the h-pawn.]

48...Rd6 49.Rg5+ Kh6 50.Kg4 Bc1

(Diagram)



51.Re5 Bb2 52.Rh5+ Kg7 53.Rg5+ Kf8 54.Rh5 Kg7 55.Kf4 Rf6+

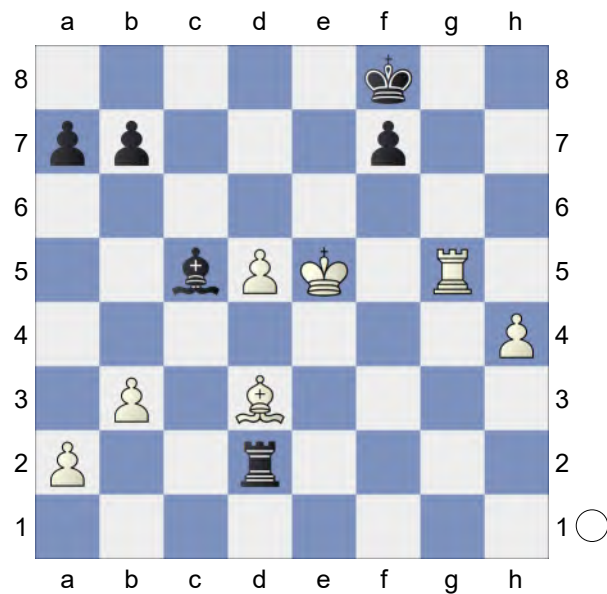


56.Ke3 Ba3 57.h4 Bc5+ 58.Ke4 Rf2 59.Ke5 It looks nice to have the king in the centre, but doesn't really do much.
59...Rd2 60.Rg5+

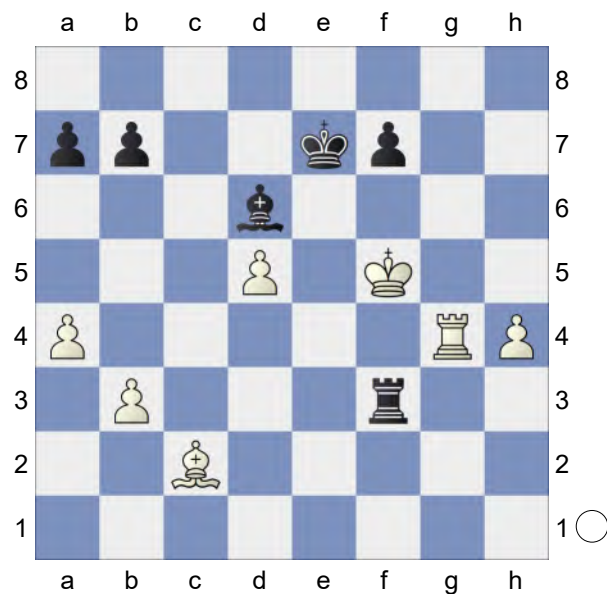
[60.Bc4 Rd1 61.Rg5+ Kf8 62.Rf5 Re1+ 63.Kf4 Bd6+ 64.Kf3 Ra1 65.a4 Rh1 66.h5 Kg7 **Black can defend this position.**]

60...Kf8

(Diagram)

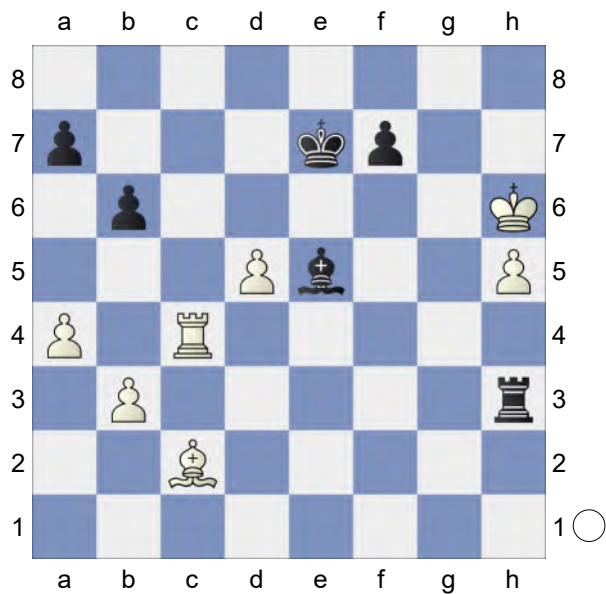


61.Rg3 Rh2 62.Rg4 Ke7 63.a4 Rh3 64.Bc2 Bd6+ 65.Kf5 Rf3+

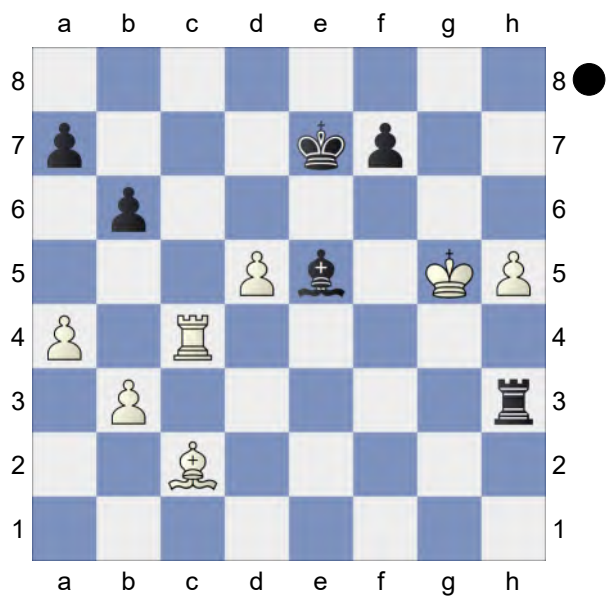


66.Kg5 Be5 67.Rb4 b6 68.h5 Rh3 69.Rc4 Bf6+ 70.Kh6 Be5

(Diagram)



71.Kg5 Bf6+ 72.Kh6 Be5 73.Kg5



1/2-1/2

322

□ Wei, Yi

■ Giri, Anish

Bilbao Masters 9th (6)

[Pavlovic, Milos]

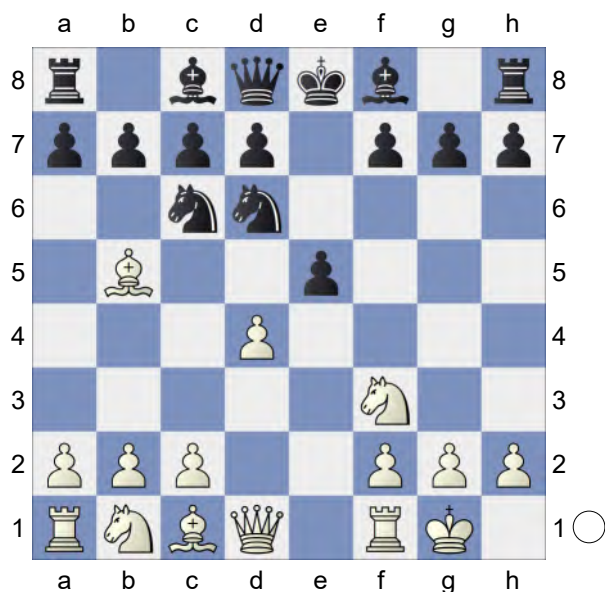
C67

2696

2785

19.07.2016

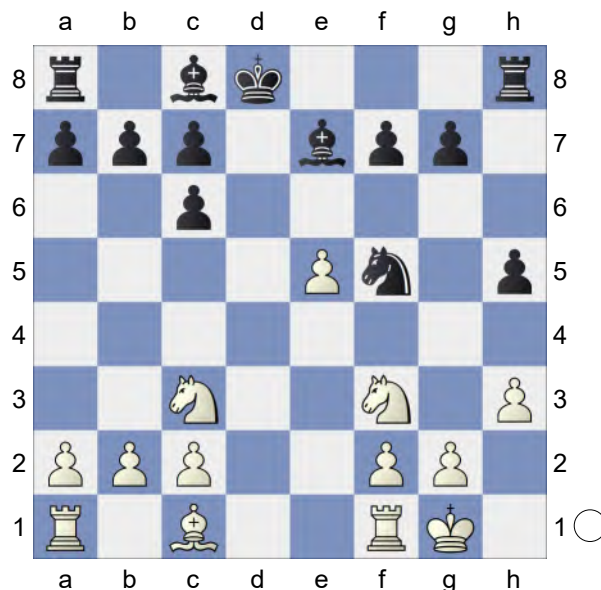
1.e4 Stamenkovic, Zoran 1...e5 2.Nf3
Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6



6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Nf5 8.Qxd8+
Kxd8 The Berlin endgame is so popular
that it is now considered as one of the
best defences for Black against 1.e4.
Together with the Najdorf Sicilian and
the Spanish Marshall Attack they build a
trio that gives a serious challenge for
White how to claim an advantage after
the most dangerous and direct move 1.
e4. 9.h3 h5 10.Nc3 Be7

[10...Ke8 (Stamenkovic, Zoran) - 129/
121]

(Diagram)



11.Bf4 Be6 12.Rad1+ Stamenkovic,
Zoran: 'N'

[12.Ng5 Stamenkovic, Zoran]

12...Kc8 Trying to profit from the fact
that White gave a check on d1 one move
later than usual.

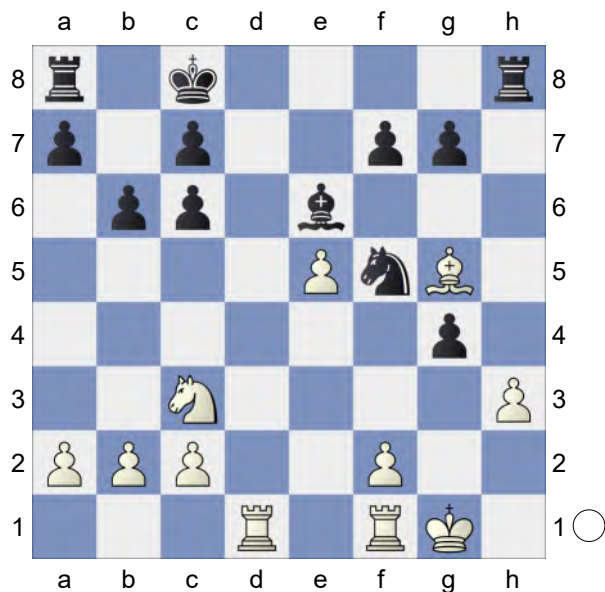
[The alternative is considered best,
played by all including Anand and the
world champion: 12...Ke8 I will give
here one of the latest examples:
13.Ng5 Rh6 14.Rfe1 Bb4 15.g4
hxc4 16.hxc4 Ne7 17.f3 Bxc3
18.bxc3 Bxa2 19.Ne4 Rh8 20.e6
Bxe6 21.Bxc7 Nd5 22.Be5 Kf8
½-½ (65) Vachier Lagrave, M (2788)-
Carlsen, M (2851) Stavanger 2016.
The world champion got a good
position.]

13.Ng5 Bxg5 14.Bxg5 b6
In my opinion the alternative looks more
to the point.

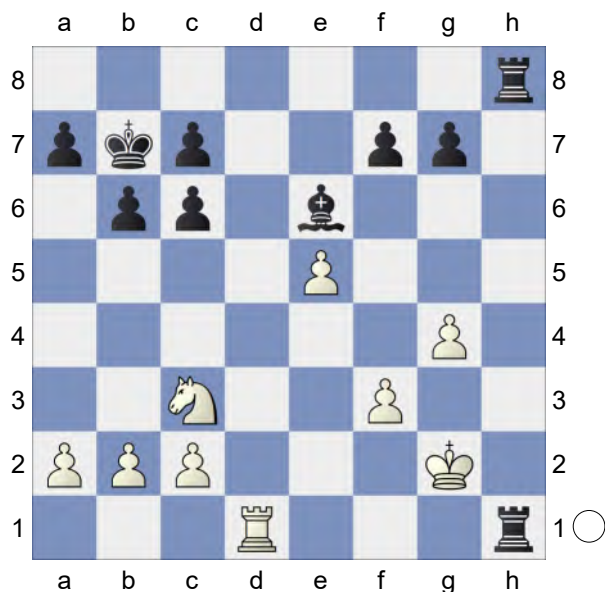
[14...c5! 15.Ne2 b6 16.g4 (16.Rfe1
Kb7 17.a3 Rae8) 16...Bc4 17.Rfe1
hxc4 18.hxc4 Bxe2 19.Rxe2 Nd4
20.Re3 Kb7 This is fine for Black.]

15.g4! hxc4

(Diagram)

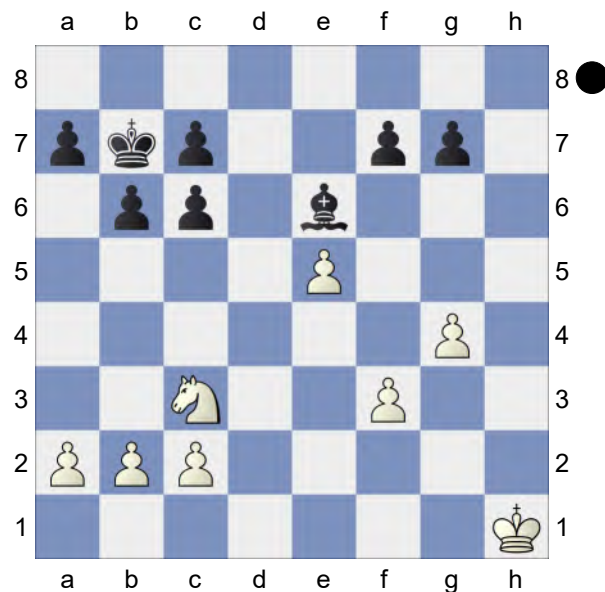


16.hxg4 Nh4 17.Bxh4 Rxh4 18.f3
Kb7 19.Kg2 Ra8 20.Rh1 Rxh1



21.Rxh1 Rxh1 22.Kxh1 Stamenkovic,
Zoran: 'Diagram

(Diagram)



' 22...c5 The alternative is interesting as
Black wants to stop the Ne4 idea, it
seems that it is possible to do just that.

[22...Bd5

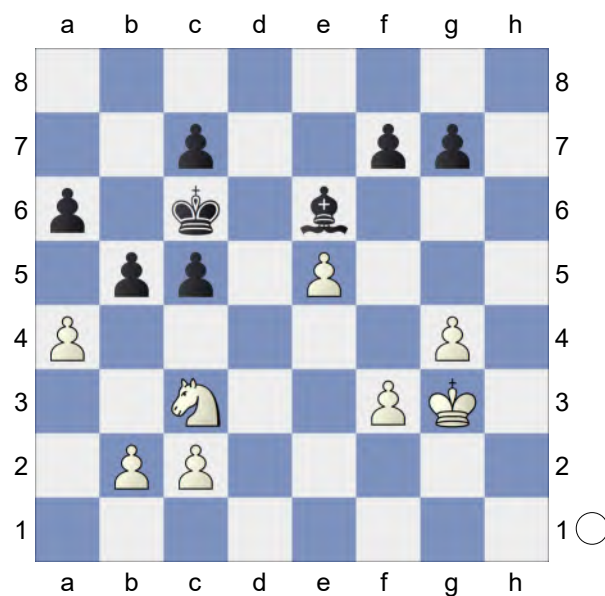
A) 23.Nxd5 cxd5 24.f4 Kc6 25.f5
a5 26.Kg2 (26.g5 Kd7) 26...g5!
27.Kf3 Kd7 would lead to an equal
pawn endgame.;

B) 23.Kg2 Kc8 24.Kg3 g5
again with equal chances.]

23.Kg2 Kc6 24.a4 a6

[24...f6!? Stamenkovic,Zoran]

25.Kg3 b5



26.axb5+ axb5 27.f4 b4 28.Ne4

This endgame is clearly in White's favor.

28...Ba2

[28...Bd5 Stamenkovic,Zoran 29.Kf3 Ba2 30.f5 Bb1 31.c4±]

29.Nd2

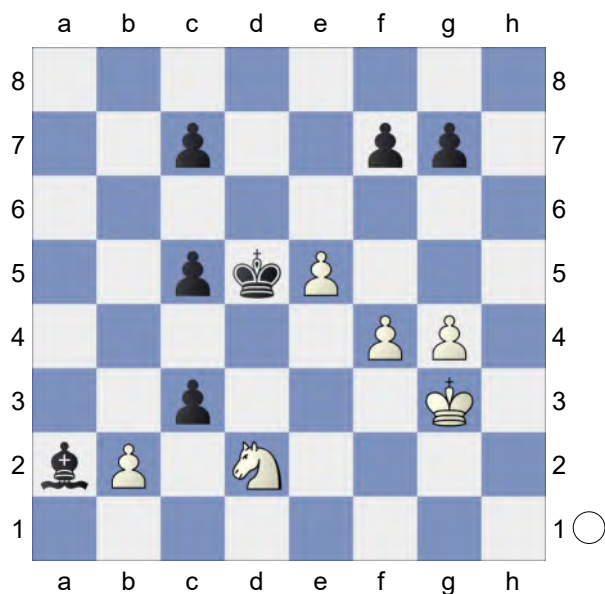
[29.Kf3!? (Stamenkovic,Zoran) Δ Kd5 30.Ke3 Bb1 31.c4+!±]

29...Kd5

[29...Be6 Stamenkovic,Zoran 30.f5±]

30.c3 bxc3

[30...g5 31.c4+ Kd4 32.e6!+-]



31.bxc3 g5 Stamenkovic,Zoran: '?!'

[31...c4 Stamenkovic,Zoran 32.Kf3 Bb3=]

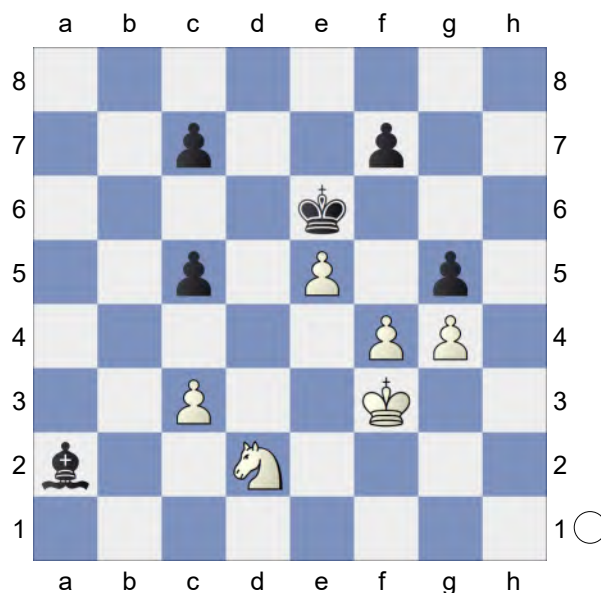
32.Kf3 White could have won with a nice idea...

[32.c4+! Kd4 33.e6!+- Exellent motiv!]

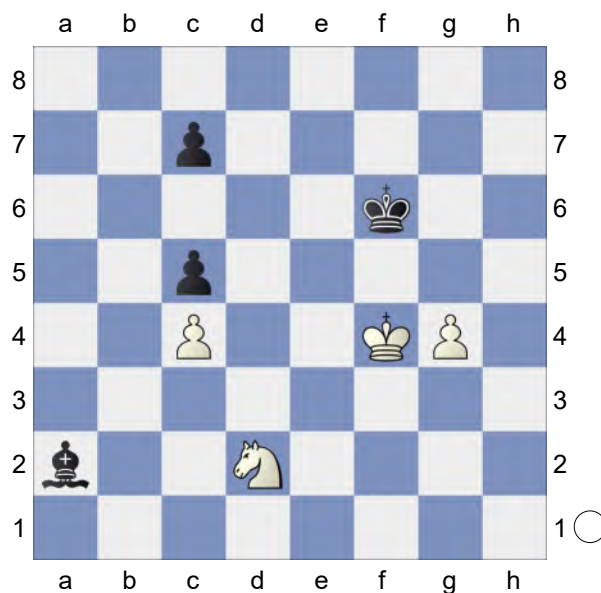
32...Ke6? Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Diagram

[32...c4 33.Ke3 Ke6 (33...Bb3 Stamenkovic,Zoran 34.Ne4 gxf4+ 35.Kxf4 Ba4 36.Ng3±) 34.Ne4 gxf4+ 35.Kxf4 Bb1 36.Nc5+ Ke7 37.Ke3 Bc2 38.Kd4 Bd1 39.g5 Be2 40.Kd5 Bf1 41.Kc6 Be2 42.Kxc7 Bf1 43.Kc6 Coming back with the king and

then having the knight on e3 let's say will win for White.]



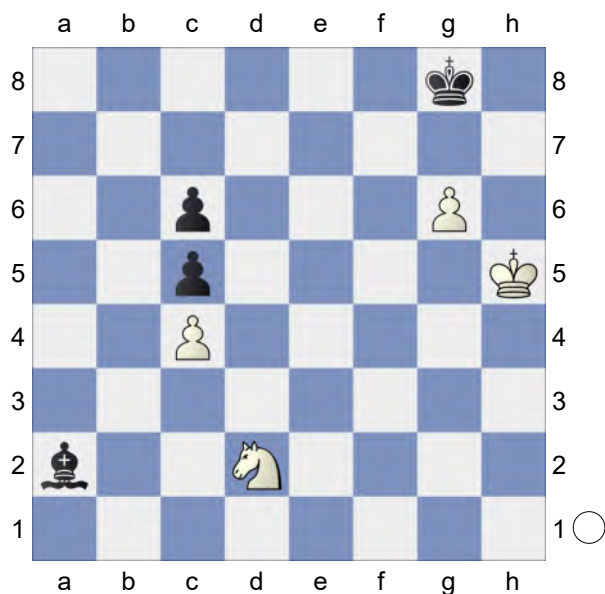
' The alternative would prolonge the game, but the outcome would be the same. **33.c4+-** Stamenkovic,Zoran: '+-!' The bishop is trapped and the game is over. **33...gxf4 34.Kxf4 f6 35.exf6 Kxf6**



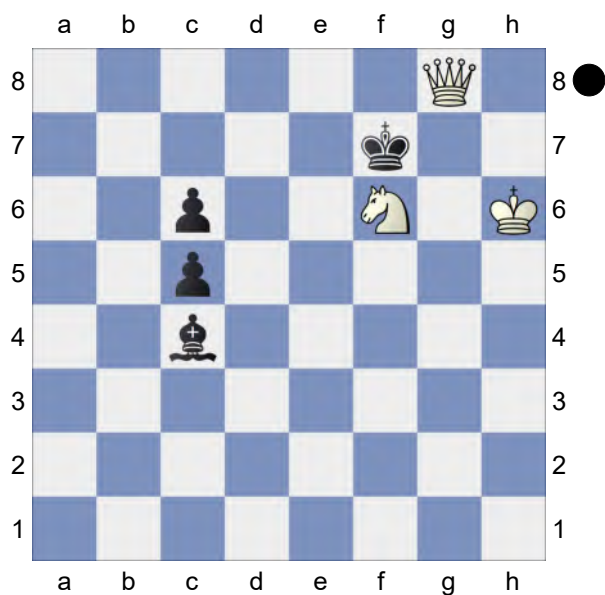
36.g5+ Kg6 37.Kg4 Kh7 38.g6+

[38.Kh5 Stamenkovic,Zoran Kg7 39.g6 c6 40.Kg5 Kg8 1-0 (41) Wei,Y (2696)-Giri,A (2785) Bilbao 129/120

2016 C11-130 [Stamenkovic,Zoran]]
 38...Kg7 39.Kg5 c6 40.Kh5 Kg8



41.Kh6 Kh8 Stamenkovic,Zoran 42.g7+
 Kg8 43.Ne4 Bxc4 44.Nf6+ Kf7
 45.g8Q+



1-0

210

□ Nepomniachtchi, Ian

■ Wei, Yi

FIDE World Cup (1.2)

[Pavlovic, Milos]

B78

2723

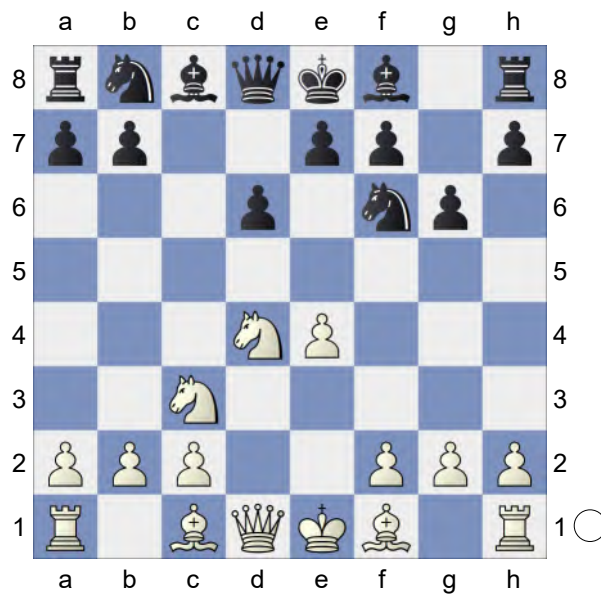
2551

12.08.2013

Jones, Gawain: 'WEI YI HOLDING HIS OWN IN TROMSØ I recently played in my first World Cup in Tromsø. While enjoying the experience, I was disappointed to go out in the first round but only after a long match with the young Russian Aleksandr Shimanov. After five draws I lost the second 10+10s/m game. You need luck to go your way in such short matches in a knockout format. I've chosen to examine the following game for a couple of reasons. Wei Yi might not be a name familiar to many readers yet but I'm sure he'll be a star very soon. I was present in Reykjavik earlier this year when he got his final GM norm at the tender age of 13. In the World Cup he won the first two rounds against elite GMs and only got knocked out by Mamedyarov in rapid tiebreaks. Secondly, the Dragon is my beloved opening and so I had added interest following this game.' 1.e4 c5

2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6

(Diagram)



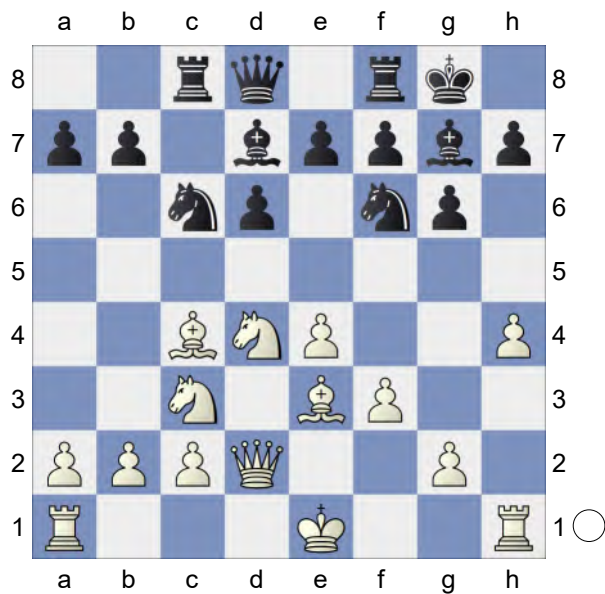
6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Bc4

Jones, Gawain: 'Nepomniachtchi chooses the most aggressive and direct line, the Yugoslav Attack.'

[8.Qd2 0-0 9.0-0-0 d5 is probably the most topical line where the game is likely to be more positional in nature.]

8...0-0 9.Qd2 Bd7 10.h4 Chris Ward: 'White employs the Anti-Chinese variation move order, which of course leaves Black with an option of entering a normal 'Soltis' and that is what he does!' 10...Rc8

(Diagram)



11.Bb3 h5 12.0-0-0 Ne5 Main Line Dragon. I can simply say: an always popular and entertaining opening, despite being extensively analysed for many decades still it has lots of possibilities waiting to be discovered. Main Line Dragon. I can simply say: an always popular and entertaining opening, despite being extensively analysed for many decades still it has lots of possibilities waiting to be discovered.

13.Bh6 Chris Ward: 'This move has the second highest appearances on this site behind 13 Bg5 with' not the main move but one of them; it used to be very popular in eighties not the main move but one of them; it used to be very popular in eighties Jones,Gawain: 'White's second most common move but relatively rare at the top level. However, White's approach is very logical and not without venom; he simply wants to get rid of Black's powerful Dragon bishop.' not the main move but one of them; it used to be very popular in eighties

[13.Bg5 Rc5 this is tabiya. Now White has many moves but one has been most popular: this is tabiya. Now

White has many moves but one has been most popular: Jones,Gawain: 'is the mainline of the Soltis Variation, with tons of theory' this is tabiya. Now White has many moves but one has been most popular: 14.Kb1 this was always considered critical and with couple of possibilities for Black, some of them used by the author of this text. Its evaluation is changing constantly, but the Dragon is like that. this was always considered critical and with couple of possibilities for Black, some of them used by the author of this text. Its evaluation is changing constantly, but the Dragon is like that. Re8 (14...b5; 14...a6; 14...a5)]

[Jones,Gawain: 'while' 13.Kb1 this is yet another idea which has been played many times Chris Ward: 'closely behind in third. Regards that, hot off the press is' this is yet another idea which has been played many times Jones,Gawain: 'has also also tried but not with great success. Kasparov won an important game against Anand with Black in their World Championship match of 1995.' this is yet another idea which has been played many times Nc4 14.Bxc4 Rxc4 with couple of interesting possibilities like: with couple of interesting possibilities like:

A) 15.Nde2 b5 16.Bh6 when Black deviated from the Anand - Kasparov World Championship match continuation of 16...Qa5 with b4 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Nd5 Nxd5 19.exd5 Qa5 20.b3 Rc5 21.g4 Now Rfc8 (Instead 21...Kg8! gets the king off a tricky diagonal and sets the clever trap

22.gxh5? Rxc2! 23.Qxc2 Rc8 with ...Bf5 to follow.) 22.Qd4+ Kg8 23.Rd2 left White with the upper hand but Rc3? simply didn't work i. e. 24.Nxc3 bxc3 25.Rd3 Bb5 26.Re3 Be2 27.Ka1 1-0 (27) Ortiz Suarez, I (2612)-Asis Gargatagli, H (2487) Barbera del Valles ESP 2013;

B) 15.Nb3;

C) 15.g4 all of them leading to unclear possibilities all of them leading to unclear possibilities;

D) 15.b3]

13...Nc4 Chris Ward: 'The most common continuation aiming to facilitate a doubling of the rooks on the c-file and pressurising of the d4-knight.' Black has another typical idea with which to confront White: Black has another typical idea with which to confront White: Jones, Gawain: 'Wei Yi shows he's well prepared.' Black has another typical idea with which to confront White:

[Chris Ward: 'You will find quite a bit in the archives on the tempting' 13...Bxh6 14.Qxh6 Rxc3 15.bxc3 Chris Ward: 'whilst'

A) 15...Qc7 16.Kb1 a5 17.f4 Nfg4 18.Qg5 a4 19.fxe5 axb3 20.cxb3 Nxe5 21.Qd2± 0-1 (53) Mendez Fortes, E (2316)-Cardenas Ballester, M (2114) Havana CUB 2011;

B) 15...Qc8 16.g4!? hxg4 17.f4 Qxc3 18.Kb1 Nc4 19.Bxc4 Qxc4 20.h5 Qb4+?? (20...Be6; or 20...g5 were necessary.) 21.Nb3 Be8 22.e5 1-0, Gonzalez Vidal-Delgado Ramos, Sabadell 2011.;

C) 15...Qa5 16.Kb1 Rc8 17.g4 Qxc3 18.gxh5 Nc4 19.Bxc4 Rxc4 20.Rd3 Qb4+

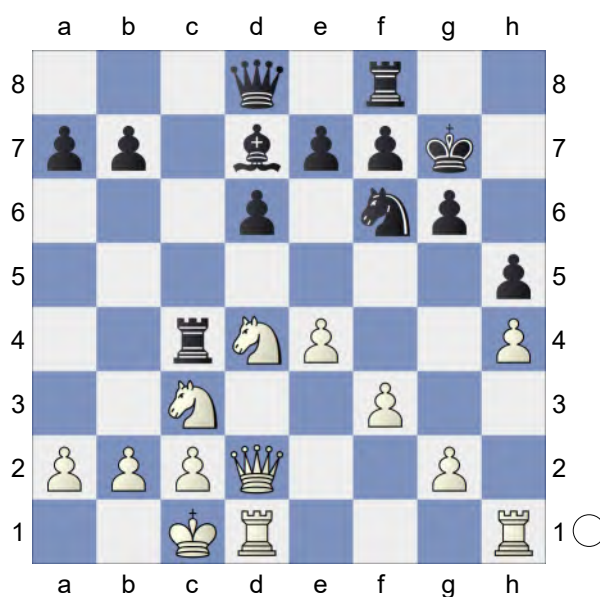
C1) 21.Rb3 Qc5 22.Ne2 Nxh5

23.Rxb7 Rb4+ 24.Rxb4 Qxb4+ 25.Ka1 Bb5 26.Rb1 Qc4 27.Nc1 Qc3+ 28.Rb2 a6 29.Qg5 Qxf3 30.Qxe7 Qd1! (30...Qf4 31.Qg5± 1-0 (60) Kovacevic, A (2548)-Ristic, N (2450) Vrnjacka Banja SCG 2005) 31.Qd8+ Kg7 32.Qg5 Ng3!±;

C2) 21.Nb3 Nxh5 22.Rg1 Qb6 23.Qe3 Qxe3 24.Rxe3 Nf4 ½-½ (45) Koskivirta, O (2410)-Volaks, B (2465) ICCF 2002. ½-½ (45) Koskivirta, O (2410)-Volaks, B (2465) ICCF 2002. There is compensation for Black but White is also not without chances to try to convert to the full point his exchange up. There is compensation for Black but White is also not without chances to try to convert to the full point his exchange up.]

[13...Qa5!? awaits further tests.]

14.Bxc4 Rxc4 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 Jones, Gawain: 'Diagram



16.Kb1 Chris Ward: 'And this calm waiting move has also been seen a lot

in practice although 3 others have also been featured on chesspublishing:' The alternative is very important: The alternative is very important: Jones, Gawain: 'A generic move in Open Sicilians but unlikely to refute the Dragon.' The alternative is very important:

[Jones,Gawain: 'Last year another strong Russian GM played the critical' 16.g4 Chris Ward: 'Not beating about the bush with' Jones,Gawain: '. This pawn sacrifice is always dangerous to deal with. In the words of Bobby Fischer, the way to deal with the Dragon is to 'sac, sac, mate'. However, things aren't so straightforward!' hxg4 17.h5 Rh8 18.hxg6 fxc6 Chris Ward: 'well investigated in Anderson, R (2254)-Khachiyan, M (2473) Los Angeles 2003.' 19.f4 e5 Jones,Gawain: 'when, in Inarkiev-Yakovich, Vladivostok 2012, White kept the tension with'

A) Jones,Gawain: 'White can win the exchange with' 20.fxe5 dxe5 21.Nde2 (21.Ne6+ Bxe6 22.Qxd8 Rxd8 23.Rxd8 but following Nxe4 Black's passed pawns seem to grant him adequate counterplay.) 21...Rh3!;

B) 20.Nde2 Jones,Gawain: 'and a complicated game ensued.' 20...Rxb1 21.Rxb1 Nxe4 22.Nxe4 Rxe4 23.fxe5 Rxe2 24.Qxe2 Qg5+ 25.Kb1 Qxe5 (Another good move is: Another good move is: 25...Bc6 26.Rg1 Bf3 27.Qf2 dxe5 28.Qxa7 g3 29.Qc5 1/2-1/2 (29) Hudák,D (2192)-Piccirilli,F ICCF 2006 1/2-1/2 (29) Hudák,D (2192)-Piccirilli,F ICCF 2006) 26.Qd2 after a long

sequence of moves that has been played before we come to an interesting type of position after a long sequence of moves that has been played before we come to an interesting type of position Bc6 27.Qh6+ Kf6 28.Rg1 Bf3 29.Qf8+ Ke6 30.a4 a6 31.b3 Qe2 32.Kb2 Qe5+ 33.Ka2 Kd7 and Black has enough play and Black has enough play (33...Qe2?? 34.Re1! 1-0 (34) Inarkiev,E (2683)-Yakovich, Y (2525) Vladivostok RUS 2012)]

[16.Rhe1 seemingly abandoning a potential kingside attack in favour of focusing in the centre. See Salman, M (2105)-Pogonina, N (2402) Istanbul 2004.]

[16.Nd5 e5! (16...Nxd5 17.exd5 as in Milos, G (2605)-Hausrath, D (2440) Groningen 1997 leaves Black without a defensive knight and White with potential e-file pressure too.) 17.Nb3 Nxd5 18.Qxd5 Rc6 looks absolutely fine for Black as White's knight is on a bad track.]

16...Qa5 Chris Ward: 'Regular subscribers will know that the position after'

[16...a6!? has also received a bit of air time on our site with arguably 17 g4!? most critical as seen in Solodovnichenko, Y (2615)-Smith, A (2478) Fagernes NOR 2012.]

17.Rhe1 Chris Ward: 'Again opting to focus on the centre with 3 obvious alternatives:' Jones, Gawain: 'Nepomniachtchi decides he's not going to mate Black down the h-file any more, and so centralises his rooks. Now Black has to watch out for e4-e5 breaks.'

[17.g4 Chris Ward: '!' '!' Rxc3 (17...hxg4 18.h5 when the standard

18...Rh8 or perhaps 18...Rxc3 were to be recommended but Nxb5? got flattened by 19.Nf5+! Bxf5 20.Rxb5 Rh8 21.Rxb5 Kxb5 22.Qh6+ Kg8 23.Nd5 1-0 in Kuchatova, N-Vifilemskaia, S Elista RUS-ch (Women) 1996.) 18.bxc3 Bxb4!? 19.Rdg1 Bd7 20.Rg5 Qb6+ 21.Ka1 e6∞]

[Jones, Gawain: 'Hitting White's queen with' 17.Nb3 Chris Ward: 'offers Black a number of queen options with' Jones, Gawain: 'is the alternative. After' Qc7 Chris Ward: 'being most popular. Then' Jones, Gawain: ', ' 18.g4 Chris Ward: 'looks most challenging with' Jones, Gawain: 'is again the most dangerous approach and has been played a couple of times recently by Ukrainian IM and WGM Inna Gaponenko. I believe Black should be OK but again this is a more dynamic approach.'

A) 18...hxc4 19.h5 Rxc3 (19...gxf3 20.hxc4 fxc4 21.Rdg1 saw Black omit the exchange sac with Kf7 when 22.Qg5 Ke8 23.Qxc6+ Kd8 could also have gone either way but after 24.Qg7?! Re8 25.Rf1 Rxc3! 26.bxc3 Qxc3 27.Qg3 Nxe4 28.Qxf3 Bc6 Black was clearly better in Webb, R (2290)-Mah, K (2365) Highgate 1997.) 20.hxc4 fxc4 21.bxc3;

B) 18...Rxc3 19.bxc3 hxc4 20.h5 gxf3 (20...Rc8 21.hxc4 fxc4 22.Qh6+ Kf7 23.Rd3! Qb6 24.fxc4 Bxb4 all in all probably favoured White in Stets, D (2390)-Brunner, N (2435) Chambery 2007.) 21.hxc4 fxc4 Chris Ward: 'offering chances for both sides in Gaponenko, I (2404)-Dolzhikova, K

(2313) Kharkov 2012.'

B1) 22.Qh6+ Kf7 23.Rd3 Bg4 24.Nd4 Rg8!? (24...Qc4 25.Nxf3 Bxf3 26.Rxf3 Qxe4 27.Rff1 Rg8 28.Re1 Qc6 29.Rhf1 Qd7 30.c4 g5∞

½-½ (60) Ivanovic, Z (2241)-Elison, K (2348) ICCF 2005 ½-½ (60) Ivanovic, Z (2241)-Elison, K (2348) ICCF 2005) 25.Nxf3 Ke8 26.Re1 Nd7∞;

B2) 22.Rdg1 Kf7!? (22...Ng4 23.Rxc4 Bxc4 24.Qh6+ Kf7 25.Qf4+ Kg7 26.Qh6+ Kf7 27.Qh7+ Kf6 28.Qh4+ Kg7 29.Qh7+ Kf6 30.Qh4+ Kg7 31.Qxc4 Qxc3 32.Qh4 Kf7 33.Qg5 Ke8± 1-0 (50)

Gaponenko, I (2404)-Dolzhikova, K (2313) Kharkiv UKR 2012) 23.Rg3 Bg4 24.Qg5 Bh5 25.Rxb5 gxb5 26.Qg6+ Ke6 27.Nd4+ (27.Qf5+ Kf7=) 27...Kd7 28.Qf5+ Ke8 29.Ne6 Qb6+ 30.Ka1 Rh8 31.Rg7 Rh6∞]

[17.Nd5 Qxd2 18.Rxd2 Nxd5 19.exd5 Rfc8]

17...Rfc8 18.Qe3 Chris Ward: 'A novelty and frankly a difficult move to explain. Possibly White wants to move his c3-knight without trading queens, possibly he is looking to get in e4-e5 or possibly he is looking to bolster everything with Rd3. Whatever, it doesn't seem to cause Black many problems although then again the alternatives don't look that threatening either.' We came to a position where White doesn't go for an immediate attack, but simply tries to base his play on a more advanced and solid structure where the d5-square plays a key role in his seeking an

advantage. We came to a position where White doesn't go for an immediate attack, but simply tries to base his play on a more advanced and solid structure where the d5-square plays a key role in his seeking an advantage.

[18.Nd5 Qxd2! (18...Qd8 19.Nxf6 exf6 20.c3± 1-0 (36) Zezulkin, J (2494)-Szefer, M (1980) Warsaw POL 2005) 19.Rxd2 Nxd5 20.exd5 Kf8= (20...Kf6 which was about equal but Black went on to win in Kalod, R (2483)-Macieja, B (2536) Presov 2000.)]

[18.Nb3 Qa6 19.e5 dxe5 20.Rxe5 b5 (20...e6 was a solid alternative, but the text looks more interesting.) 21.Rxe7 b4 22.Ne4 Rxc2 23.Qg5 Bf5 24.Nd4 R2c5 25.Nxf5+ Rxf5 26.Qe3 Rd5 and as 27.Rxd5?? wasn't possible in view of 27...Qf1+, Black held a slight edge in Apicella, M (2465)-Alterman, B (2585) Cap d'Agde 1994.]

[18.Re3 a6 (18...Be6 19.Nce2 Qxd2 20.Nxe6+ fxe6 21.Rxd2 Nd7 22.b3 R4c5 23.Kb2 Kf6 was pretty equal in Wegener, D (2344)-Doberitz, P (2220) Germany 2010.) 19.Qe1 Qe5 20.Red3 b5 21.g3 b4 22.Nce2 d5 with initiative Black in Grichkevitch, G (2275)-Komljenovic, D (2485) Las Palmas 1995.]

18...a6 Chris Ward: 'Nothing much going down and so Black is in no hurry.'

[Jones, Gawain: 'As a Dragon player I'd be itching to play' 18...Rxc3 Jones, Gawain: 'but it seems White has some edge after' 19.bxc3 Rxc3 20.Rd3 (20.Nb3 Qc7 21.Qxa7 Rxc2 22.Rc1) 20...Rc4 21.Nb3 Qc7 22.Qd2±]

19.Re2 There was another way to

conduct this position: There was another way to conduct this position: Jones, Gawain: 'A mysterious move but White is struggling for a plan.' There was another way to conduct this position:

[19.Rd3!? Qc5 20.Qd2 b5 21.Nd1 e5 22.Nb3 Qc7 23.Ne3 d5 24.exd5 Rxh4 25.Rc3 Qd6 26.Rxc8 Bxc8 27.Rf1 with interesting play ahead of us possibly in White's favour due to the slight;y clumsy position of the black rook. with interesting play ahead of us possibly in White's favour due to the slight;y clumsy position of the black rook.]

19...Qc5 Jones, Gawain: 'Black is keeping an eye on the e5 square while a g4 advance is hardly going to work with the rook on e2 rather than h1.'

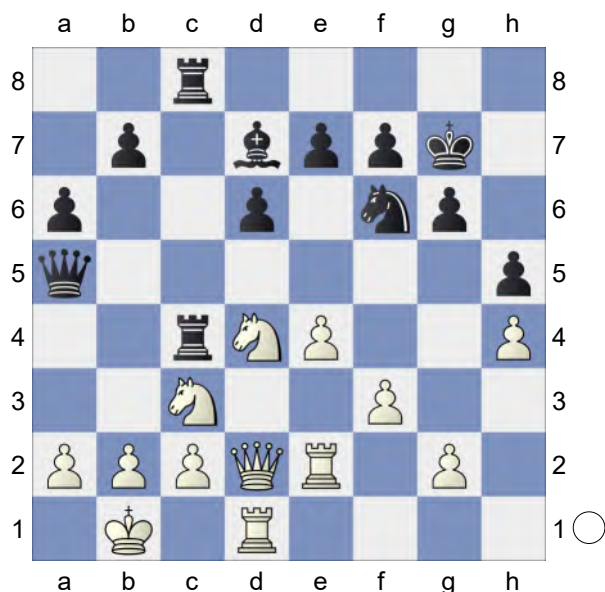
[19...Qe5 was equally a candidate, both queen moves equally getting her majesty more onside before deploying ...b5.]

[19...Rxc3!? should again be considered but Wei Yi prefers to keep the tension and ask White exactly how he's going to continue.]

[I think White's last was aimed against 19...e5 as then White can play 20.Nb3 Qc7 21.Red2 although Black is at least fine after Rc6 as White has no way to increase the pressure on the backward d-pawn. In fact, had Wei Yi been playing a lower-rated opponent, it's likely this is how he would have continued.]

20.Qd2 Qa5

[Or 20...Qb4 and upon 21.a3 then Qa5, both sequences challenging White to try and make progress which in turn is a department that White is being far from convincing in.]



21.Qd3 Qe5 22.Qe3 Qc5 Chris Ward: 'All thrills and spills then-NOT!' **23.Rdd2** Chris Ward: 'So, White has well over-protected c2 and has vacated the d1-square for his knight but it doesn't look impressive.' Jones, Gawain: 'Declining the repetition but hardly riveting.' **23...b5**

[It seems 23...e5! would be the better move order.]

24.Nd1?! Jones, Gawain: 'Diagram

[Chris Ward: 'Surely White had to dabble in' 24.Nd5 Chris Ward: '!? '!? ' Chris Ward: 'but only if after' Jones, Gawain: '!' Jones, Gawain: 'was White's last chance to hold equality:'

A) 24...Nxd5 25.exd5 Re8

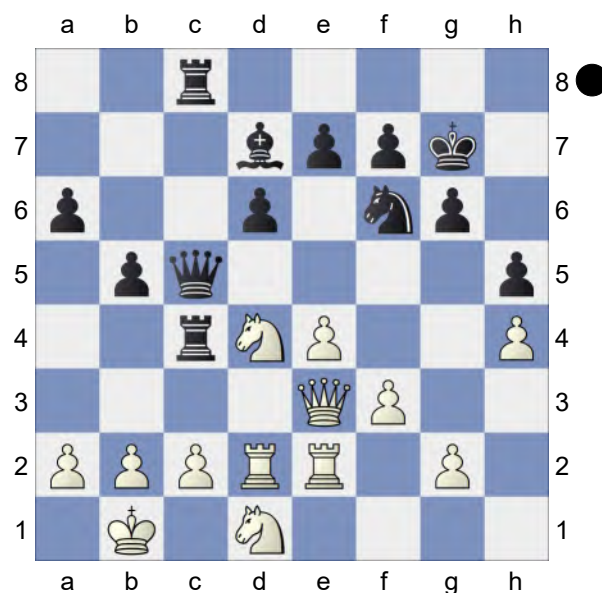
(25...Qxd5 he employs the typical computer style move 26.Qg1!

Yes, he can't take on e7 with the queen due to ...Rxd4 but the retreat would threaten to take that pawn with the rook whilst bringing into play discovered attacks against the black queen.) 26.b3 (26.g4)

26...Rc3 27.Qg5 f6 (27...e5 28.dxe6 fxe6 29.Qxc5 Rxc5 with a roughly level ending.)

28.Qg3↑;

B) 24...e5 25.Nb3 Qxe3 26.Nxe3 R4c6 27.Na5 Rb6 28.c3 Be6 29.Re1 Ne8 30.Nc2 with a still playable position with a still playable position]



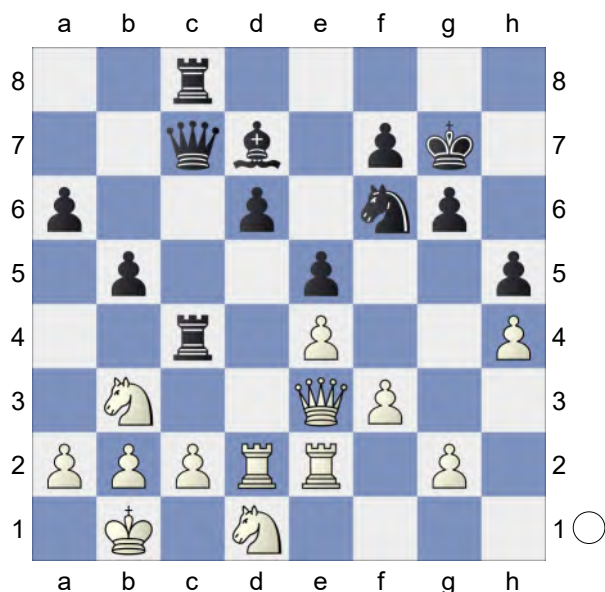
The young Russian is trying to keep the game going but it's a bad practical decision as he has had to go so passive.

24...e5! Jones, Gawain: 'This is often a good move in the Dragon once the g7 bishop has been traded. Now the structure resembles a Najdorf. Some players might worry about the backward d-pawn but Black can defend it adequately. Grabbing central control is more than worth a temporary backward pawn.' **25.Nb3**

[25.Nf5+ is nothing after is always the move you have to watch out for, but here Bxf5! (25...gxf5? 26.Qg5+) 26.exf5 Qxe3 27.Nxe3 Rxh4 but now Black is starting to take over the initiative. 28.Rxd6 e4 gives Black a good endgame advantage.]

25...Qc7

(Diagram)



26.Qg5 Chris Ward: 'An aggressive post for the white queen, but she is the only attacker. Meanwhile Black's pieces are far better coordinated.' **26...Be6 27.Qg3**

[Chris Ward: 'Observe' 27.Ne3 Chris Ward: '?' '?' Rxe4!-+ Chris Ward: '!' '!' Chris Ward: 'as after' 28.fxe4 Nxe4 the white queen is trapped. That tactic explains the white queen withdrawal.]

27...a5 Chris Ward: 'Black though quite rightly continues with his queenside action.' Jones,Gawain: 'Black's position plays itself while White is still struggling for a plan.' **28.Ne3 Rb4** Risky as the black rook is slightly awkwardly placed. Risky as the black rook is slightly awkwardly placed. Jones,Gawain: 'This square for the black rook looks a bit strange to me.' Risky as the black rook is slightly awkwardly placed.

[28...Rc6! 29.Nc1 b4 $\bar{r}$]

[28...a4! was a powerful alternative: 29.Nc1 (29.Nxc4 bxc4 30.Nc1 c3 and Black's attack crashes through.) 29...a3 30.b3 (30.Nxc4 bxc4 again gives Black a powerful initiative.) 30...Rc3 and Black is better

but perhaps White is holding.]

29.Qe1!

[Black's last move carried with it a serious threat as highlighted by the variation 29.Nf5+ Bxf5 30.exf5 a4 31.Nc1 a3 32.b3? Qc3 33.Nd3 e4]

29...Qb6 Jones,Gawain: 'Slight hesitancy.'

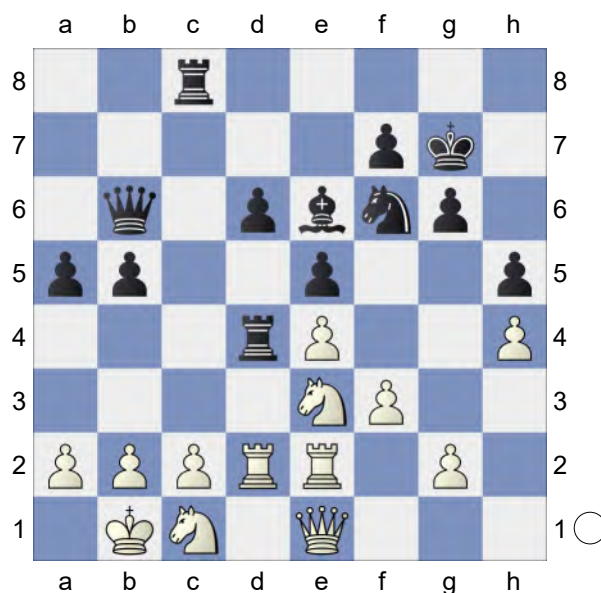
[Again, 29...a4 looks more natural.]

30.Nc1

[30.Qd1! Rc6 31.c3 Ra4 32.Nc1 Nd7 33.b3 b4 34.c4 Ra3 35.Nc2 Bxc4 36.bxc4 Rc3 ∞]

[After 30.c3 Wei Yi wouldn't have hesitated to give up the exchange with Rxb3 31.axb3 Bxb3 when Black dominates on the light squares. However, the game continuation loses control of yet another square.]

30...Rd4!?

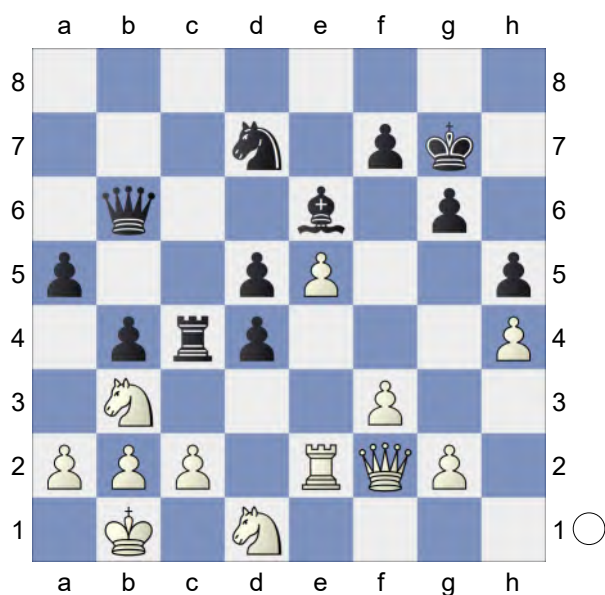


Escaping. Escaping. Jones,Gawain: 'Wei Yi is quick to exploit this.' Escaping. **31.Rxd4 exd4 32.Nd1 b4** Jones,Gawain: 'It's evident here that Black's attack is always going to be faster than White's. However, he does have to be careful the d4 pawn doesn't drop before he can get his attack to land.

' **33.Qf2 d5** Chris Ward: '!' '!' Chris Ward: 'If the black knight gets in on the act then there is big trouble.' Jones, Gawain: '!' Jones, Gawain: 'There's a saying that if Black manages to play ... d5 in the Sicilian then he has at least equalised. Wei Yi must have seen the idea on move 36 while playing this.'

34.e5 Nd7 Chris Ward: 'Now the white e-pawn has advanced, one simple black plan is ...Bf5 followed by ...a4 and ...b3.'

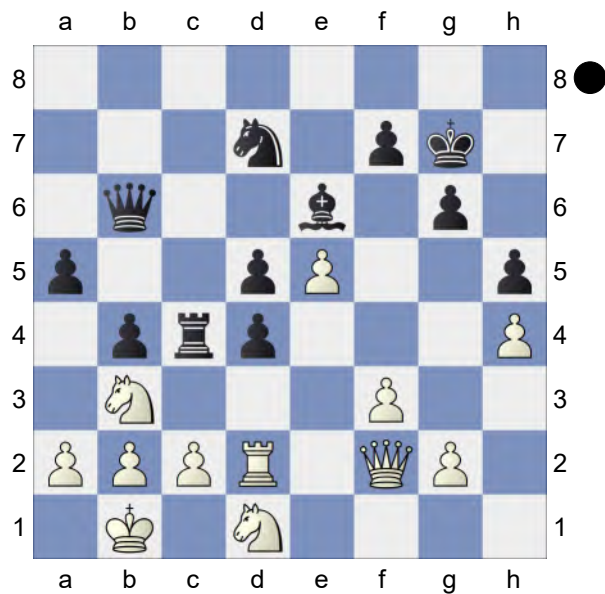
35.Nb3 Rc4



Chris Ward: 'The d4-pawn is protected but this rook has other ambitions besides.'

' **36.Rd2** Jones, Gawain: 'Diagram

(Diagram)



Now if White gets time to play Nxd4 then he'll suddenly have control of the position. However, Wei Yi finds' **36...d3!** **37.cxd3?!**

[37.Qxb6! Jones, Gawain: 'was the alternative but Black has a pleasant endgame advantage after' dxc2+ 38.Rxc2 Nxb6 39.Rxc4 Nxc4 40.Kc1 Bc8 41.f4 Bg4 42.Nf2 Bf5=]

37...Qxf2 38.Rxf2 Jones, Gawain: '?' Jones, Gawain: 'Perhaps the players were in time trouble here but this is a big error.'

[He had to play 38.Nxf2 Rxh4 39.d4 a4 40.Na5 Bf5+ 41.Kc1 when White seems to be just about holding.]

38...Bf5 Jones, Gawain: '!' Jones, Gawain: 'This intermezzo move must have come as an unpleasant surprise.'

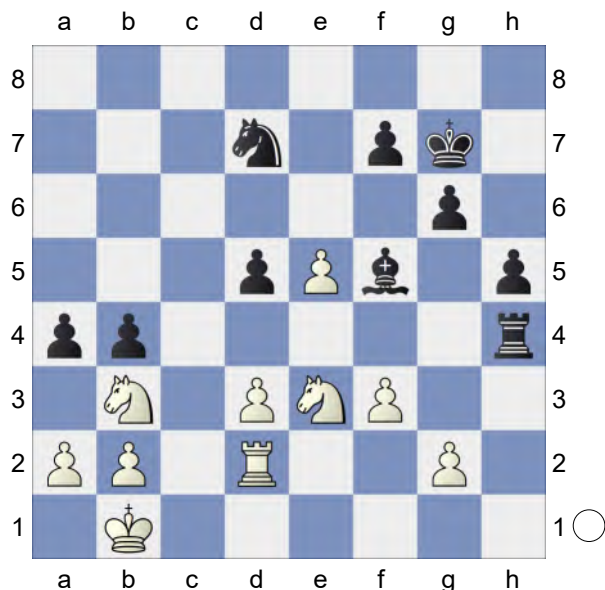
39.Rd2 a4

[39...Rxh4 40.Ne3 (40.Nxa5 Nxe5 would see Black bossing.)]

40.Ne3 Rxh4

[Of course not 40...axb3? 41.Nxf5+ gxf5 42.dxc4]

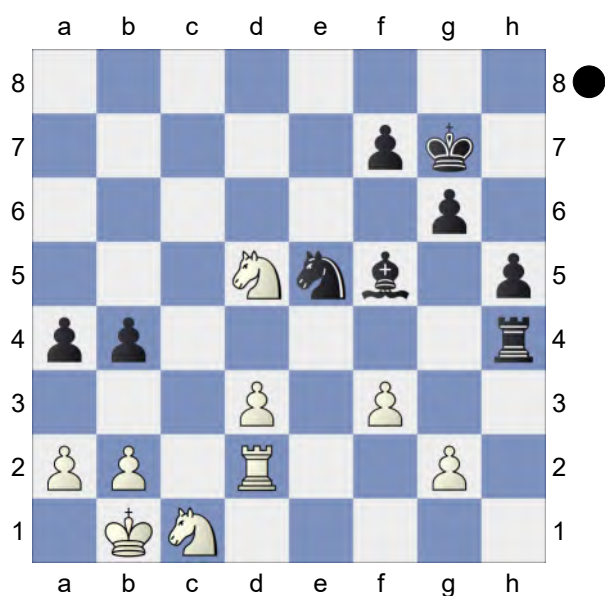
(Diagram)



Chris Ward: 'would transpose.' **41.Nc1**

[41.Nxf5+ gxf5 would see Black's pawn structure compromised but the white knight still has to retreat and 42.Nc1 Nxe5 would still leave Black a pawn up with by far the more active position.]

41...Nxe5 42.Nxd5 Jones,Gawain: 'Diagram



So material is still level but Black's activity coupled with White's weak pawns means that Black's advantage is decisive.' **42...b3** Chris Ward: 'Black is

doing very well and here both'

[42...Rd4 pounding that d3-pawn and]

[42...Rh2 seemingly pressurising g2 but also threatening ...Nxf3, look very convincing. , threatening to take on f3, is the computer's suggestion but Wei Yi prefers to trap White's king.]

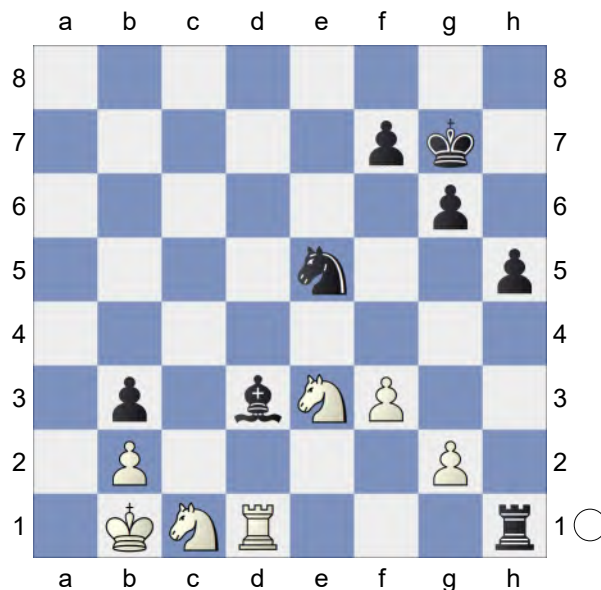
43.axb3 axb3 44.Ne3

[The black b-pawn was out of bounds i. e. 44.Nxb3? Bxd3+ 45.Kc1 (or 45.Ka2 Ra4#) 45...Rh1+ 46.Rd1 Rxd1+ 47.Kxd1 Bc4 forking the white knights.]

44...Rh1+ Chris Ward: 'But now White is in a world of pain!' **45.Rd1** Jones,Gawain: '?'

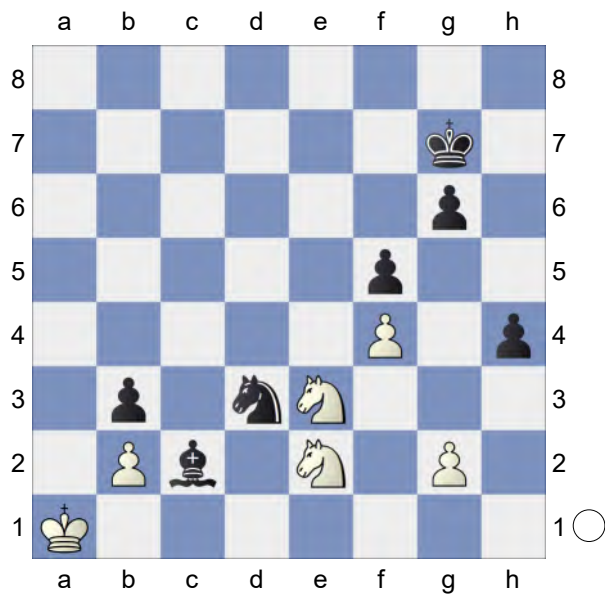
[45.Nxf5+ is also very unpleasant but had to be tried.]

45...Bxd3+



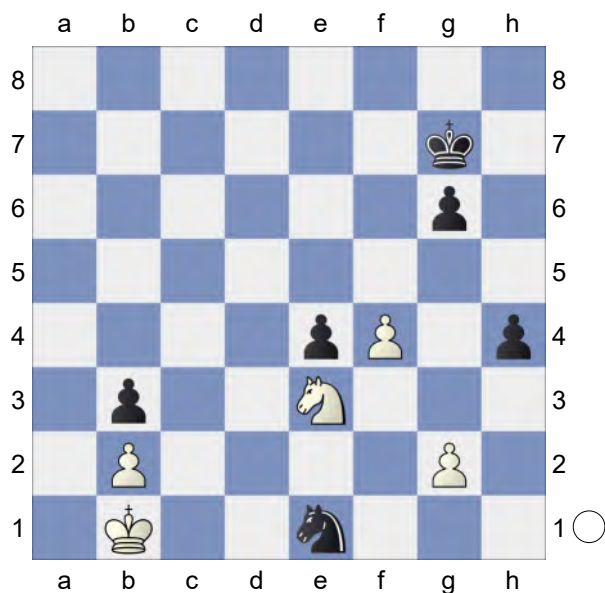
Jones,Gawain: '!' Jones,Gawain: 'Now it's over.' **46.Ka1 Rxd1 47.Nxd1 f5** Chris Ward: 'A pawn up with the white king out of commission and Black is easily winning.' **48.f4 Bc2 49.Ne3 Nd3 50.Ne2 h4**

(Diagram)



**51.Nd4 Ne1 52.Ne6+ Kh6 53.Ng5
Be4 54.Nxe4 fxe4 55.Kb1 Kg7**

[55...Nxg2 56.Nxg2 h3 57.Ne3
would actually have won but not
immediately with h2?? 58.Ng4+
.Instead the black king retreat takes
that check out of the equation so that
...Nxg2 will be instantly decisive.]



Jones, Gawain: 'With ...Nxg2 coming next
move, White resigned. A good win from
Wei Yi and I'm sure we'll hear more

about him very soon.'

0-1

12

□ Carlsen, Magnus

■ Wei, Yi

135/166 Wijk aan Zee

[Pavlovic, Milos M]

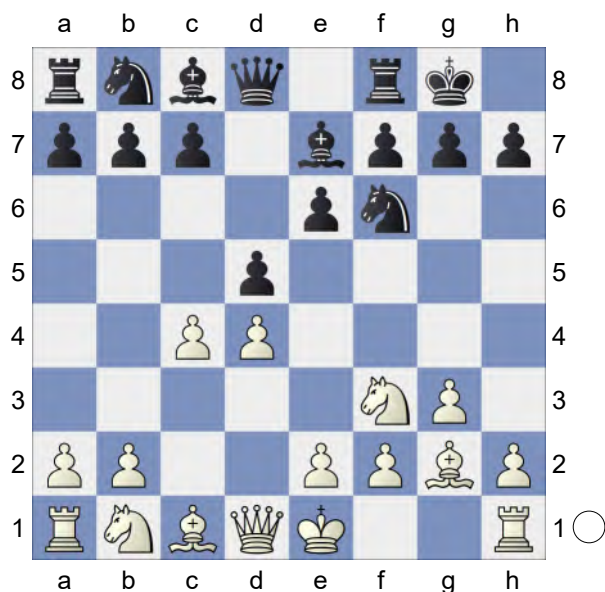
E06

2834

2743

2018

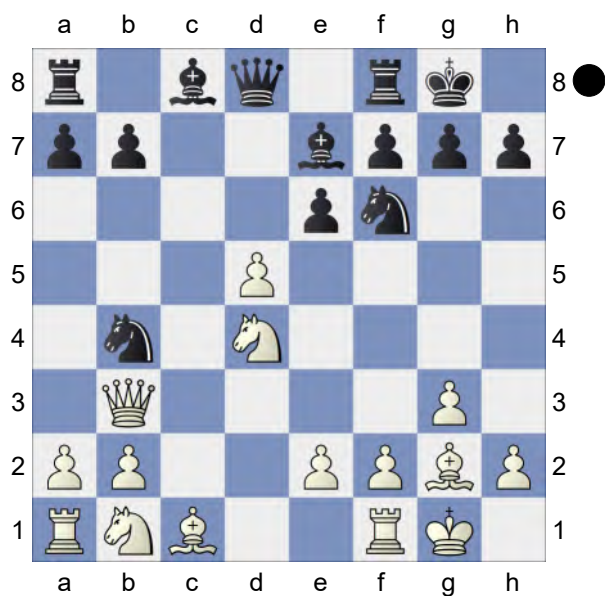
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 Be7
5.Nf3 0-0



6.Qc2 c5 7.0-0 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Na6
9.cxd5 Nb4

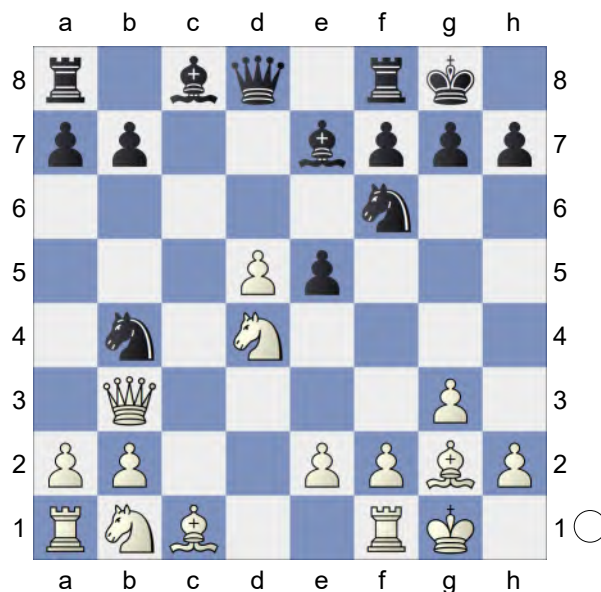
[9...Nxd5 - 38/635]

10.Qb3 Diagram



10...e5!

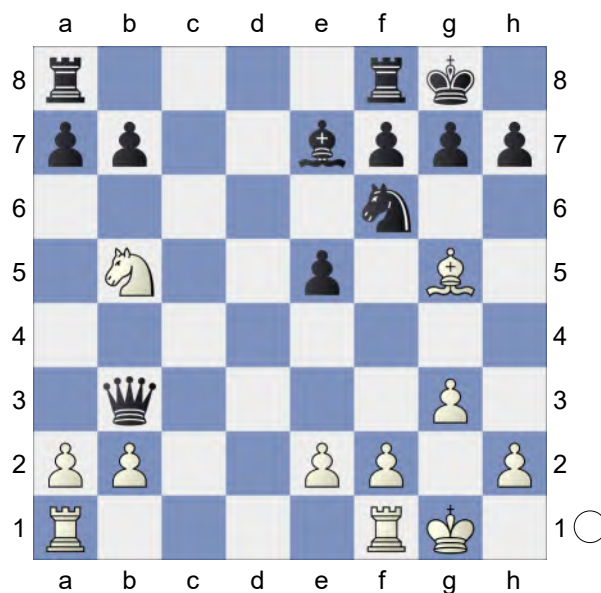
[10...Nbx d5 11.e4 Nb6 12.Rd1 Qc7
13.Nc3±]



11.Nb5

[11.Nc2 Nbx d5 12.Nc3 Nxc3
13.bxc3 (13.Qxc3 e4=) 13...Rb8=]

11...Nbx d5 12.N1c3 Be6 13.Nxd5
Bxd5 14.Bxd5 Qxd5 15.Bg5 Qxb3



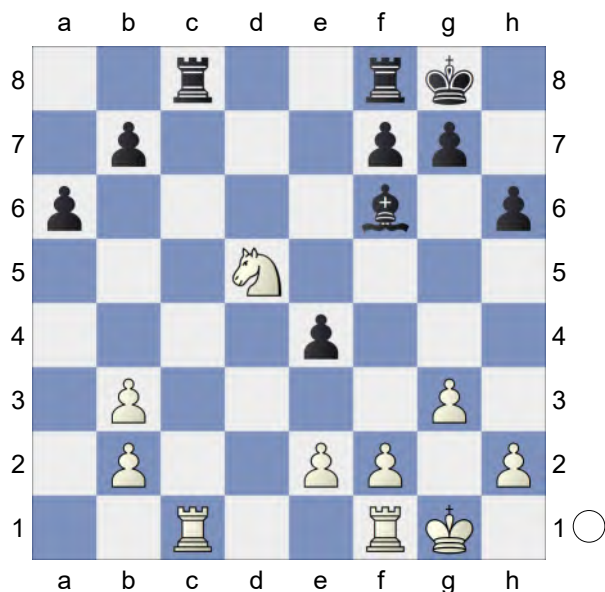
16.axb3 a6 17.Nc3 h6N

[17...Rac8 18.Rfd1 Rfd8 19.Rxd8+
Bxd8 20.Rd1 Kf8 21.Bxf6 Bxf6
22.Rd7 Rb8=]

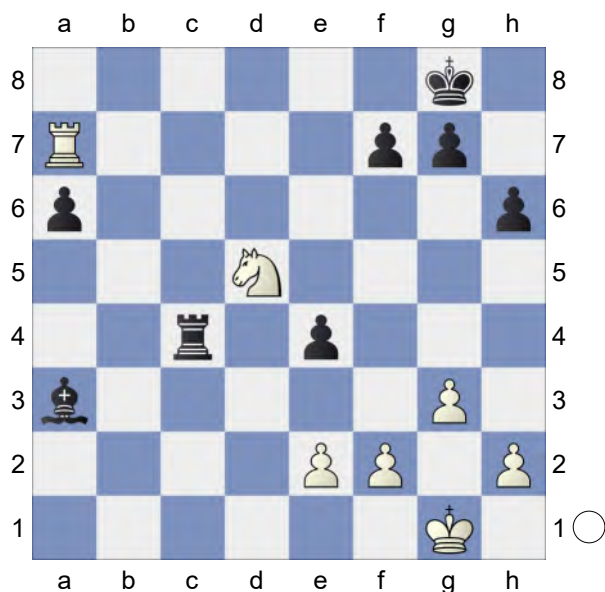
18.Bxf6 Bxf6 19.Nd5

[19.e4 Be7 20.Nd5 Bc5 21.Rac1
Bd4 22.Rc7 b5=]

19...Rac8 20.Rac1 e4



**21.Rc4 Rxc4 22.bxc4 Bxb2 23.Rb1
Ba3 24.Rxb7 Rc8= 25.Ra7 Rxc4**

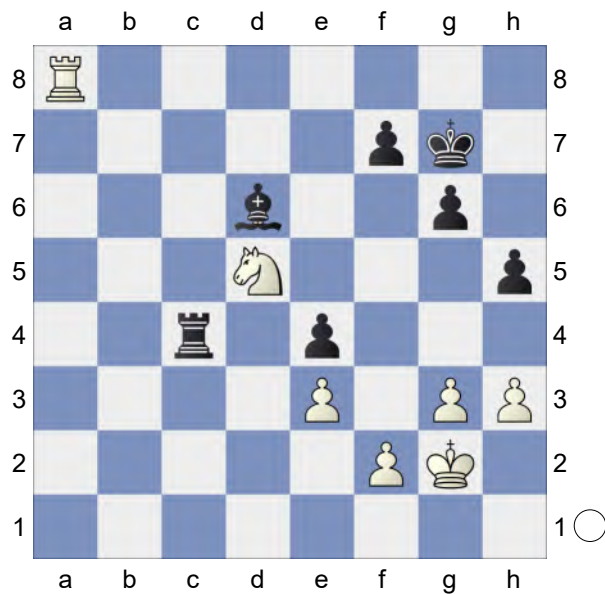


**26.Rxa6 Bf8 27.Ra8 g6 28.e3 Kg7
29.Kg2 h5 30.h3**

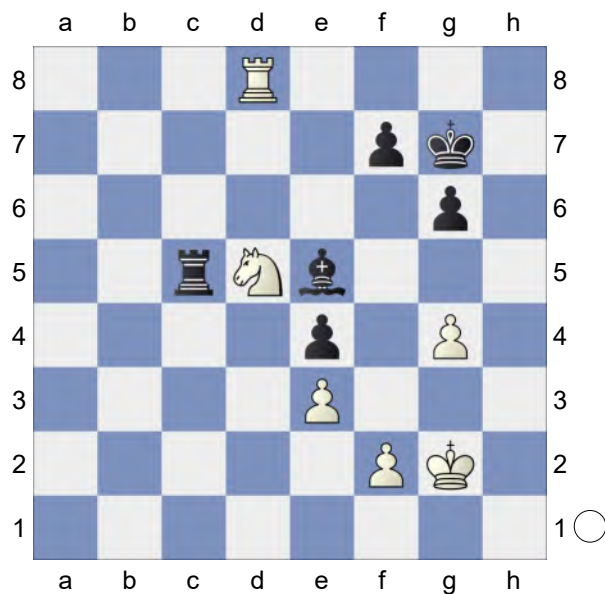
[30.Ra6 Rc5 31.Nf6 Re5 32.Nd7
Rd5=]

30...Bd6

(Diagram)



**31.Rd8 Be5 32.Re8 Bd6 33.Rd8 Be5
34.g4 hxg4 35.hxg4 Rc5**

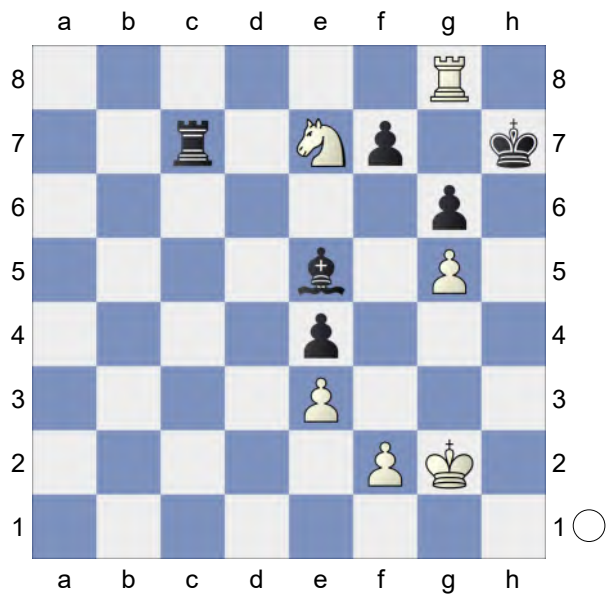


36.g5 Rb5

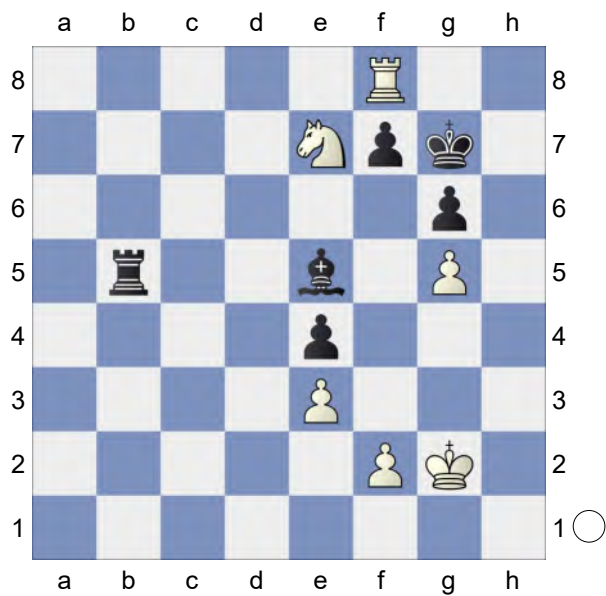
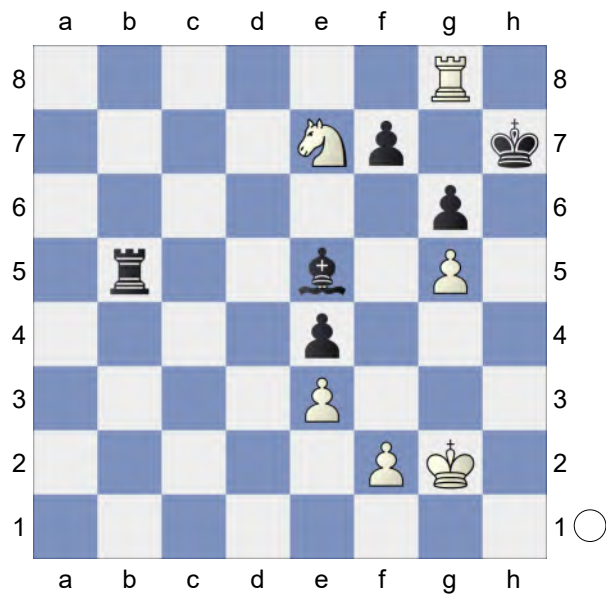
[36...Bb2=]

**37.Kh3 Rc5 38.Ne7 Rc2 39.Kg2 Rc7
40.Rg8+ Kh7**

(Diagram)



41.Re8 Rc5 42.Rc8 Rb5 43.Rf8 Kg7 44.Rg8+ Kh7 45.Rf8 Kg7 $\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$



46.Rg8+ Kh7

(Diagram)

11

Carlsen, Magnus

Wei, Yi

135/166 Wijk aan Zee

[Pavlovic, Milos M]

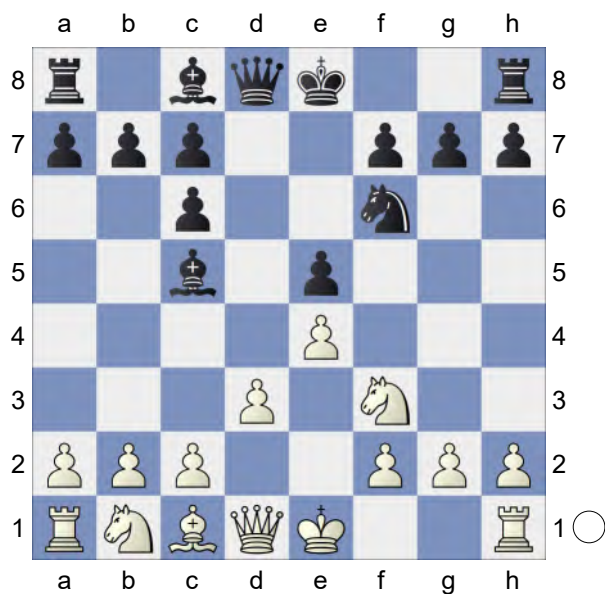
C48

2834

2743

2018

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3
Bc5 5.Bxc6 dxc6



6.Nc3 0-0 7.Be3 Bd6 8.Bg5 Qe7

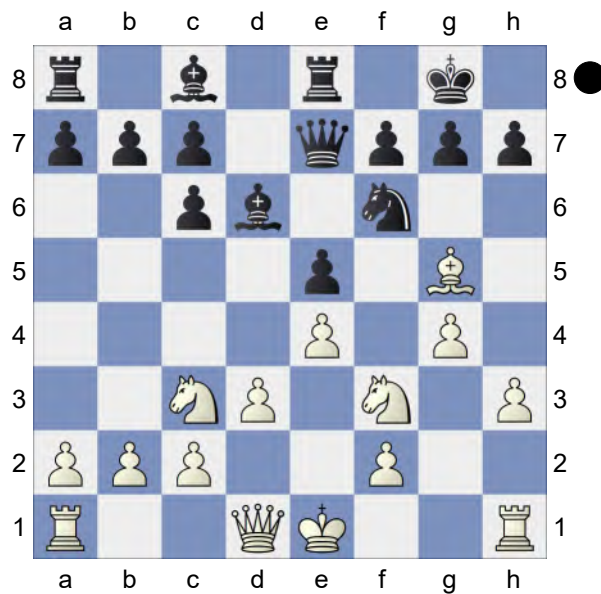
[8...Re8 9.h3 c5 10.Nd5 Be7=

11.Nxe7+ Qxe7 12.0-0 h6 13.Be3

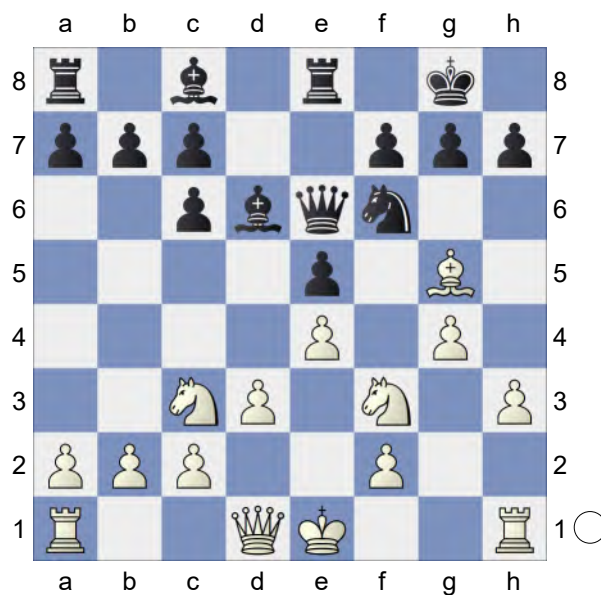
Nd7 14.Nd2 Nb8]

9.h3 Re8 10.g4 [Diagram](#)

(Diagram)

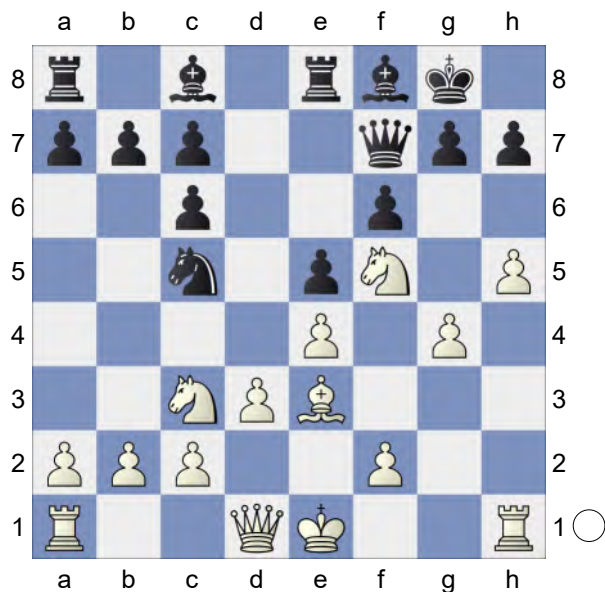


10...Qe6!

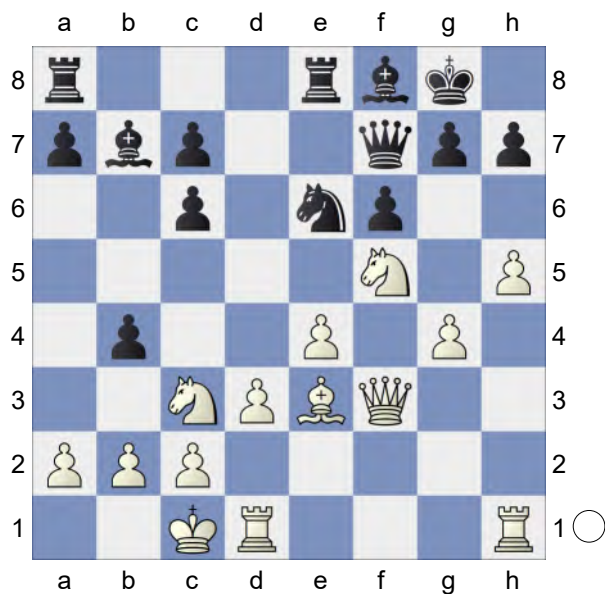


11.Nh4 Nd7 12.Nf5 Nc5 13.h4 Bf8
14.h5 f6 15.Be3 Qf7

(Diagram)

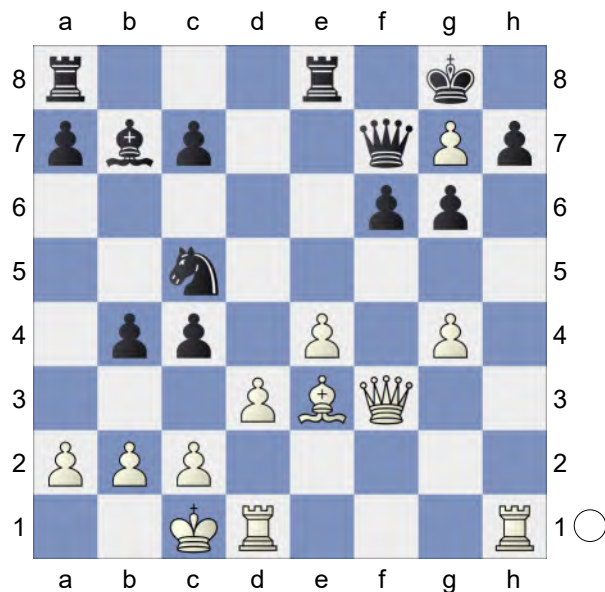


16.f4 exf4 17.Bxf4 b5N 18.Qf3 Ne6
19.Be3 Bb7 20.0-0-0 b4

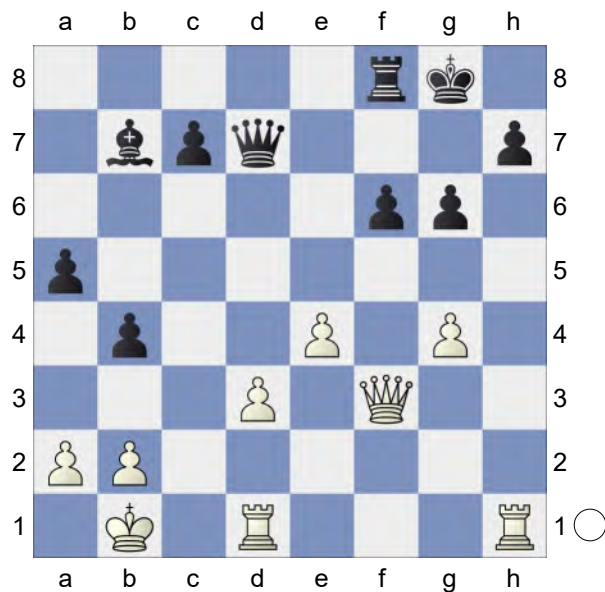


21.Na4 c5 22.h6 g6 23.Ng7 Bxg7
24.hxg7 c4= 25.Nc5 Nxc5

(Diagram)

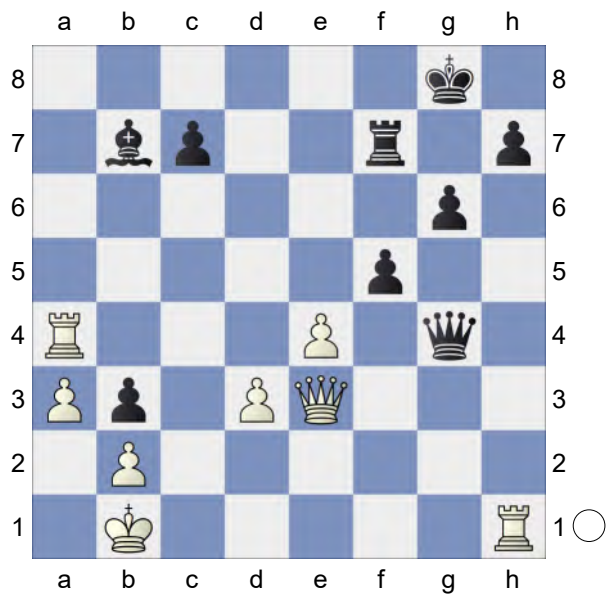


26.Bxc5 cxd3 27.cxd3 a5
 [27...Qxg7 28.Bxb4]
28.Bf8 Rxf8
 [28...Qxa2= 29.Rxh7 Kxh7 30.Qh3+ Kg8 31.Qh8+ Kf7= 32.g8Q#]
29.gxf8Q+ Rxf8 30.Kb1 Qd7

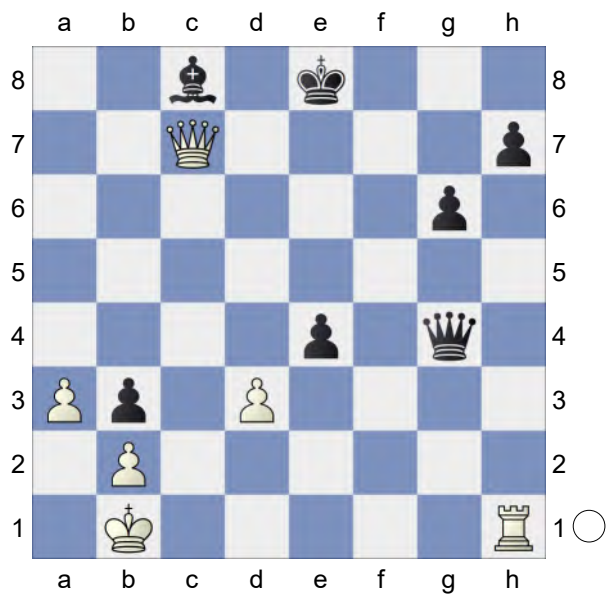


31.Rc1 a4 32.Qe3 Rf7 33.Rc4 b3
34.a3 Qxg4 35.Rxa4 f5

(Diagram)

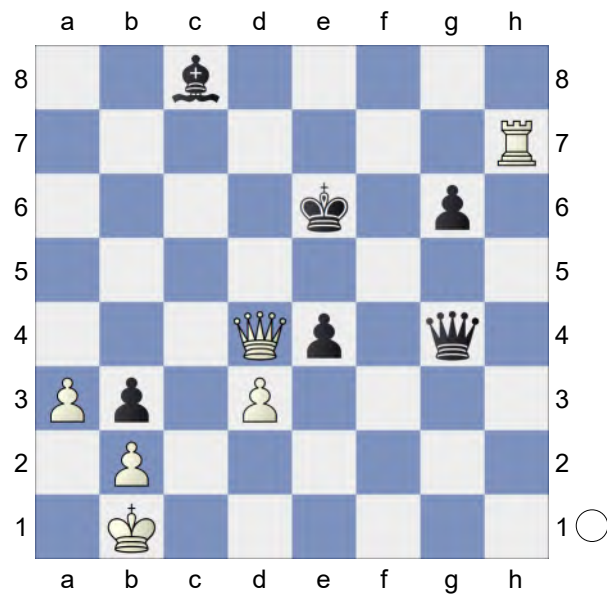


**36.Rd4 fxe4 37.Rd8+ Rf8 38.Rxf8+
Kxf8 39.Qc5+ Ke8 40.Qxc7
[40.Qe5+]
40...Bc8**

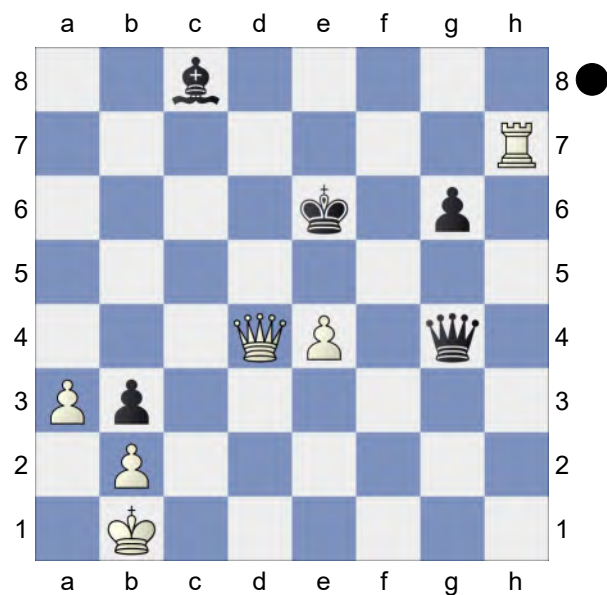


**41.Qe5+ Kd8 42.Qh8+ Kc7 43.Rxh7+
Kc6 44.Qc3+ Kd6 45.Qd4+ Ke6**

(Diagram)



46.dxe4



$\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$

148

□ Wei,Yi

■ Xu,Yinglun

(ch) 148/95 Chiva

[Perunovic,Milos]

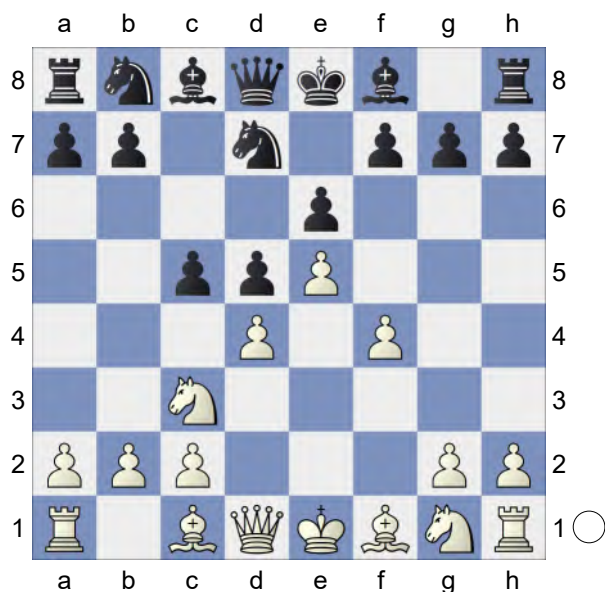
C11

2732

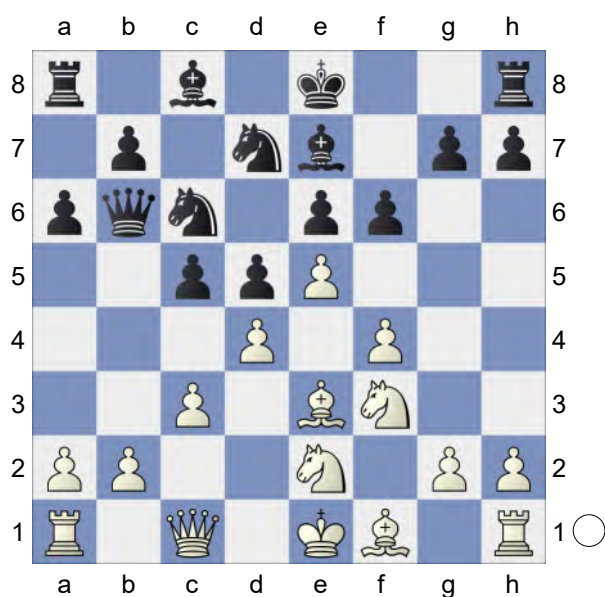
2554

2021

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5
Nfd7 5.f4 c5



6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be3 a6 8.Ne2 Qb6
9.Qc1 f6 10.c3 Be7



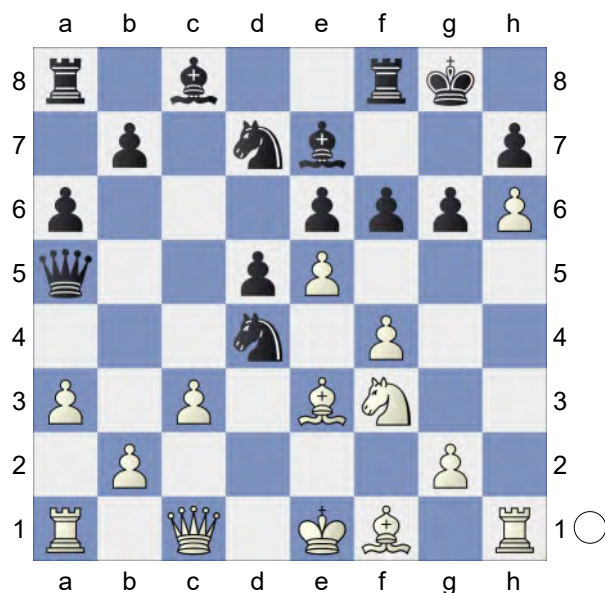
11.h4

[11.exf6 - 134/93]

11...0-0 12.h5 Qa5?!N

[12...h6 - 148/(95)]

13.h6 g6 14.a3 cxd4 15.Nexd4 Nxd4



16.Bxd4 fxe5

[16...Qc7 17.exf6 Bxf6 18.Qe3±]

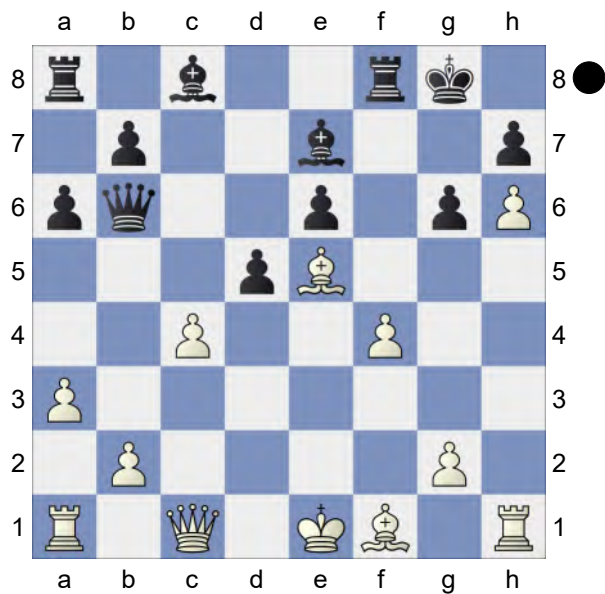
17.Nxe5 Nxe5

[17...Bf6 18.Qe3±]

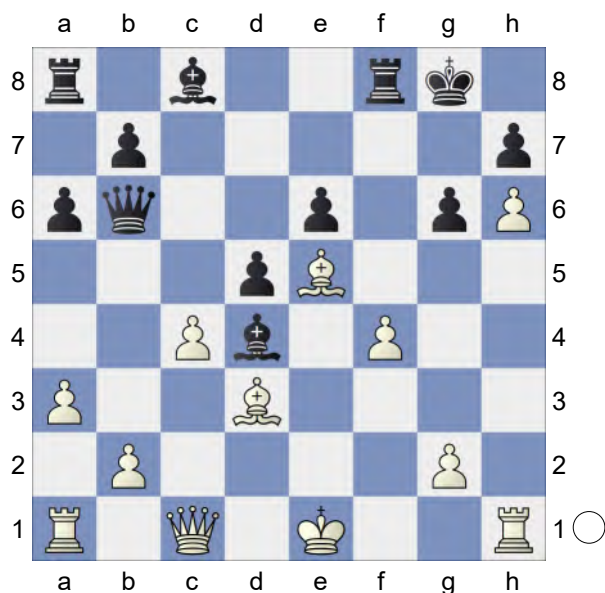
18.Bxe5 Qb6 19.c4?! Diagram

[19.Qd2 Bc5 (19...Bd6 20.Bxd6
Qxd6 21.Qd4 Rf7 22.g3±; 19...Bd7
20.0-0-0 Rac8 21.Bd3±) 20.Rh3
Bd7 (20...Bd6 21.Bxd6 Qxd6
22.Rh4±) 21.0-0-0 Ba4 22.Re1 Bf2
23.Re2 Bc5 24.Rf3±]

(Diagram)



19...Bc5! 20.Bd3 Bd4



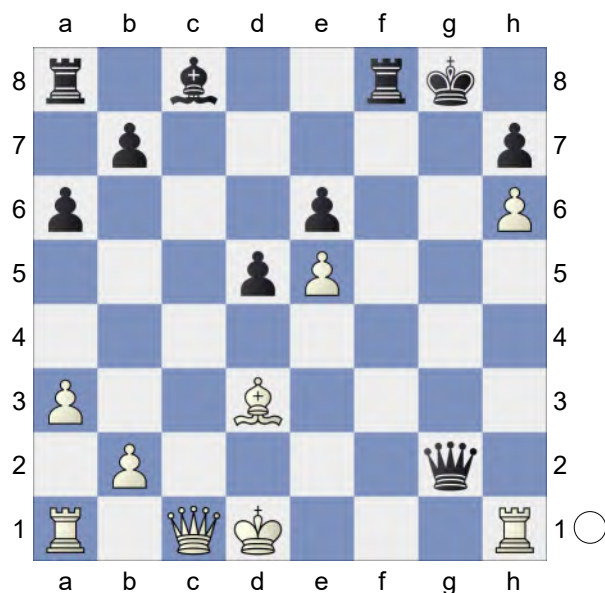
21.c5 Bxc5 22.Bxg6 Bd4! 23.Bd3 Bxe5

[23...Bd7!? 24.Rf1 Bb5 (24...Bxe5 25.fxe5 Rxf1+ 26.Bxf1 Be8 27.Qg5+ Bg6 28.Rc1 Rf8 29.Bd3 Qg1+ 30.Kd2 Qf2+ 31.Kd1 Qxb2 32.Rc7 Qa1+ 33.Kd2 Qb2+=) 25.Bxb5 axb5 26.Ke2 Rac8 27.Qd2∞]

24.fxe5 Qf2+ 25.Kd1 Qxg2

[25...Qg3 26.Rh3! Qxe5 27.Re3 Qh5+ (27...Qg5?! 28.Rf3 Qxc1+ 29.Rxc1 Rxf3 30.gxf3±) 28.Kc2 e5

29.Rg3+ Kh8 30.Qe3 d4 31.Rh1! dxe3 32.Rxh5±]



26.Rh5 Kh8

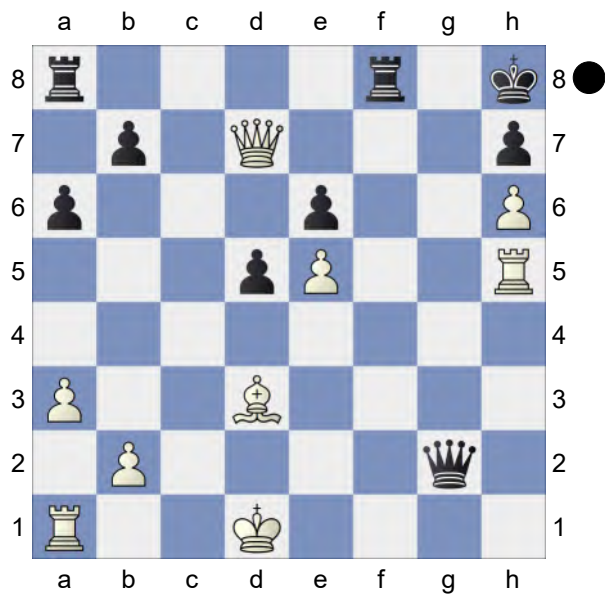
[26...Qg4+ 27.Kc2 (27.Be2?? Rf1+-+) 27...Qxh5 28.Qg1+ Kf7 29.Rf1+ Ke8 30.Rxf8+ Kxf8 31.Qg7+ Ke8 32.Bg6+ hxc6 33.h7 Qe2+=]

27.Qc7?

[27.Qg5 Rf1+ (27...Qxg5?! 28.Rxg5 Rf7 29.Kd2 Bd7 30.Rag1±) 28.Bxf1 Qxf1+ 29.Kd2 Qf2+ 30.Kc3 Qf3+=]

27...Bd7 28.Qxd7 Diagram

(Diagram)



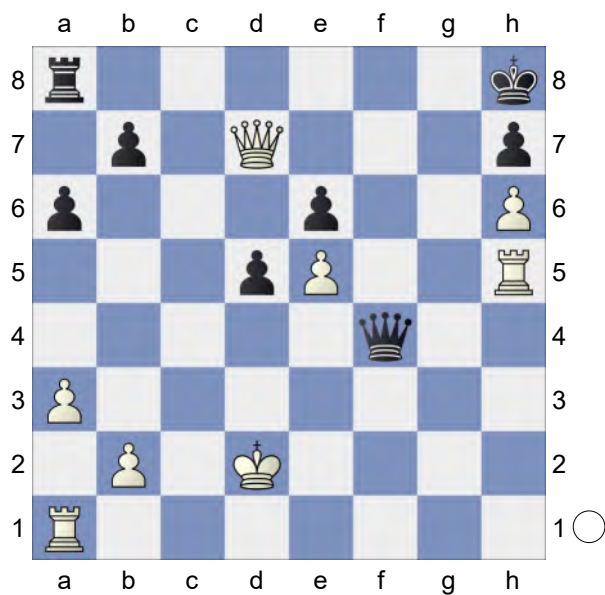
28...Rf1+?

[28...Qf3+!

A) 29.Be2 Qb3+ 30.Kc1 (30.Kd2 Qxb2+ 31.Ke3 Rg8-+) 30...Rg8!
31.Rh1 Rac8+ 32.Kb1 Rc2-+;

B) 29.Kd2 Rf7 30.Qxe6 Qxh5
31.Kc3 d4+ 32.Kb3 Rf3 33.Ka2
Re8-+]

29.Bxf1 Qxf1+ 30.Kd2 Qf4+



$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

86

□ Wei, Yi

■ Xu, Yinglun

142/(94) China

[Perunovic, Milos]

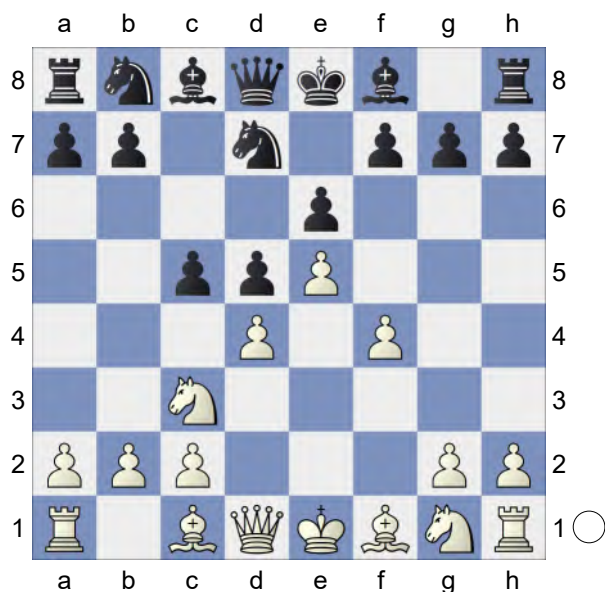
C11

2741

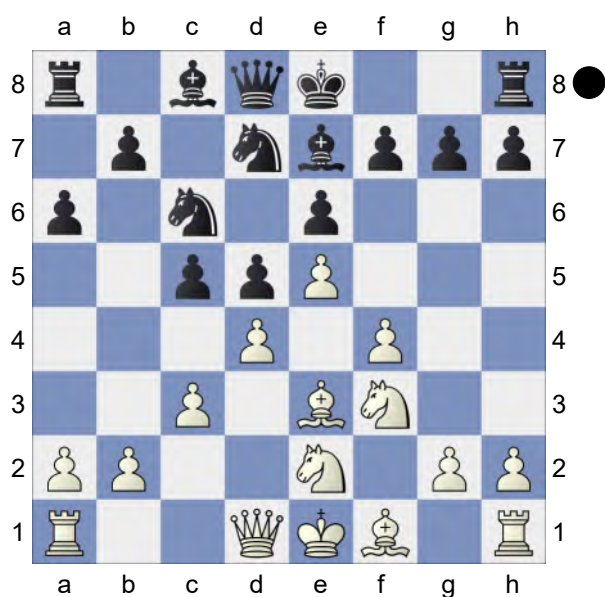
2548

2019

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5
Nfd7 5.f4 c5



6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be3 a6 8.Ne2! Be7 9.c3
Diagram



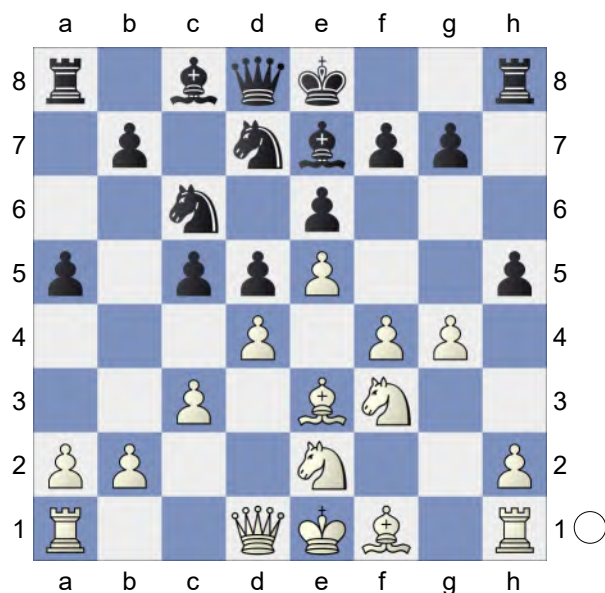
9...a5N

[9...b5 - 138/123]

10.g4!?

[10.Ng3]

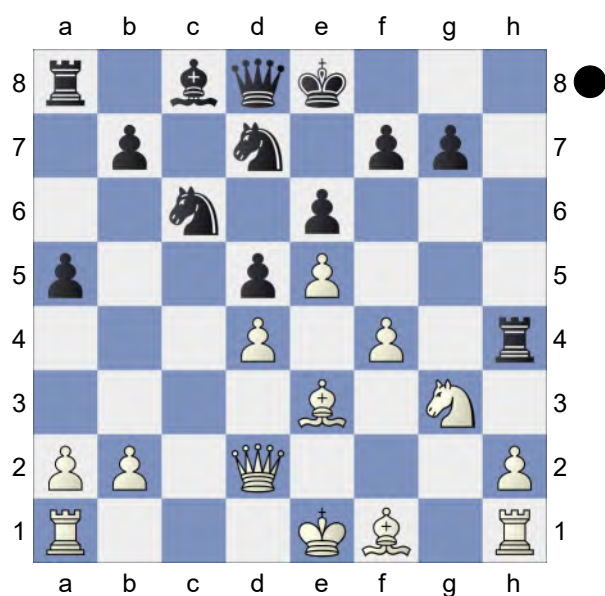
10...h5



11.gxh5 cxd4 12.cxd4 Rxh5 13.Ng3
Bh4

[13...Rh8 14.h4 Nb6 (14...Bxh4?!
15.Bf2 Rh6 16.Rxh4 Rxh4 17.Nxh4
Qxh4 18.Nh5±) 15.b3∞]

14.Nxh4 Rxh4 15.Qd2±



164

□ Wei, Yi

■ So, Wesley

chess.com (m/17-blitz) 138/(151)

[Perunovic, Milos]

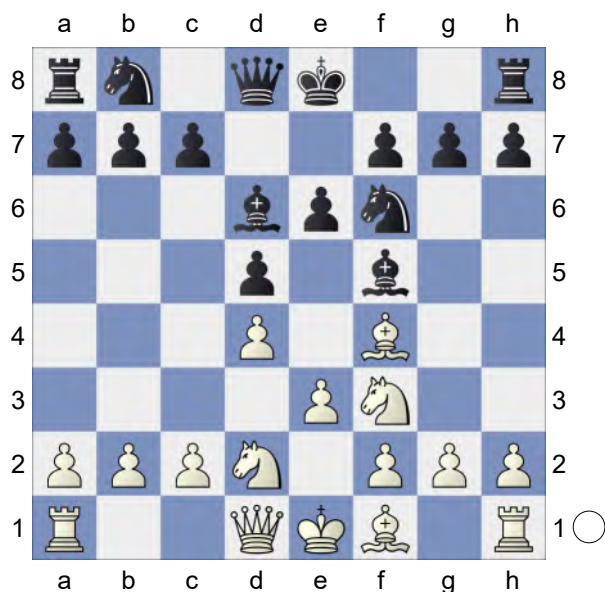
D02

2729

2780

2018

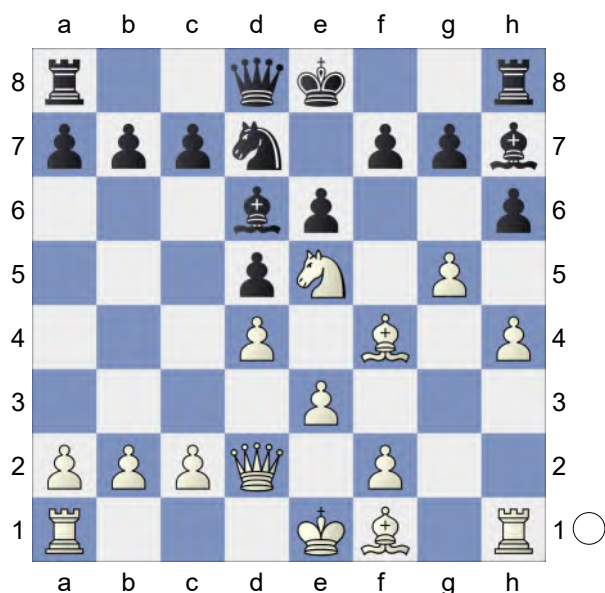
1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 d5 3.e3 Bf5 4.Nf3 e6
5.Nbd2 Bd6



6.Ne5 * 6...h6 7.g4 Bh7 8.h4 Ne4
9.g5N

[9.Nxe4 - 138/151]

9...Nxd2 10.Qxd2 Nd7



11.gxh6 gxh6 12.0-0-0 Qf6

[12...Be4 13.f3 (13.Rh3!?)

13...Bxe5 14.fxe4 Bxf4 15.exf4 dxe4

16.f5 exf5 17.Qf4∞]

13.Qc3 0-0-0

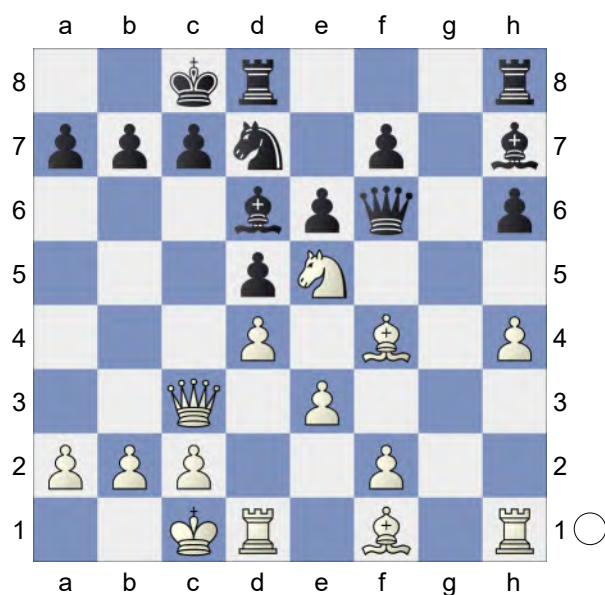
[13...0-0-0 14.f3!? Bxe5 (14...Kb8?

15.Nc6+! bxc6 16.Qxc6+-; 14...Bf5

15.Nxf7! Bxf4 16.Nxd8 Bd6 17.Nc6

bxc6 18.Qxc6↑) 15.dxe5 Qg7

16.h5↑]



104

□ Wei,Yi

■ Rapport,Richard

142/(118) China

[Perunovic,Milos]

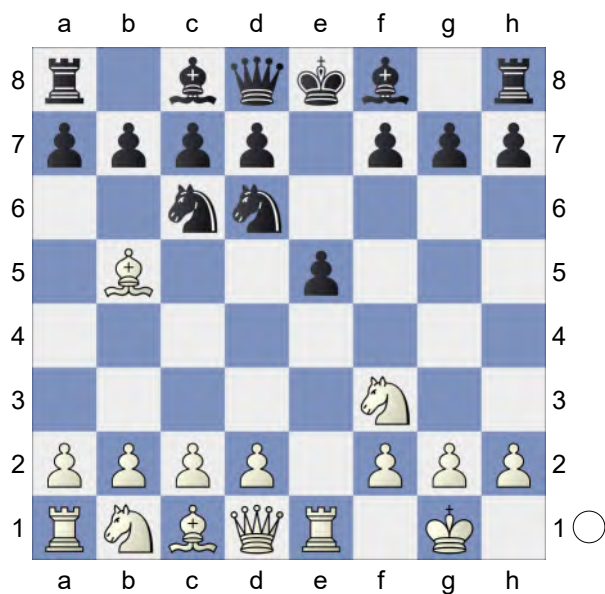
C67

2737

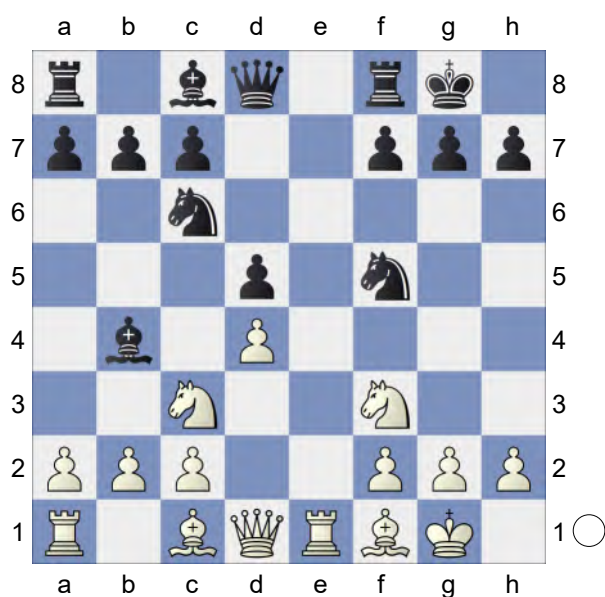
2735

2019

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0
Nxe4 5.Re1 Nd6



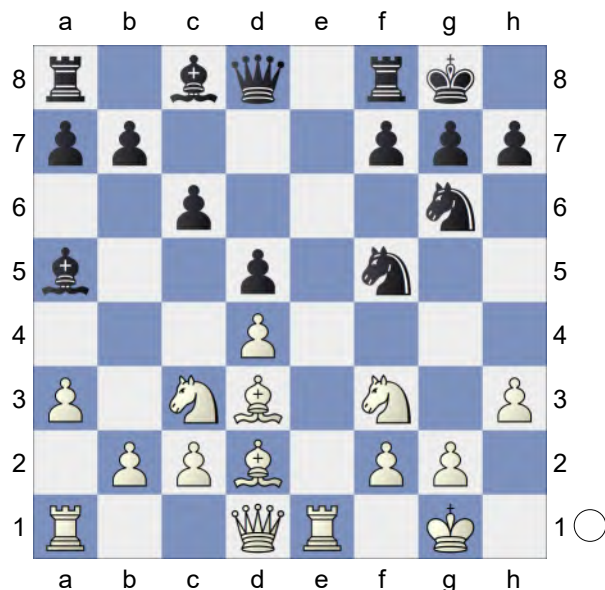
6.Nxe5 Be7 7.Bf1 Nf5 8.Nf3 0-0 9.d4
d5 10.Nc3 * 10...Bb4 Diagram



11.h3N

[11.Bf4 Nce7 12.a3 Bd6=]

11...Nce7 12.Bd3 c6 13.a3 Ba5
14.Bd2 Ng6



137

□ Wei,Yi

■ Fier,Alexandr

139/56 Moscow

[Perunovic,Milos]

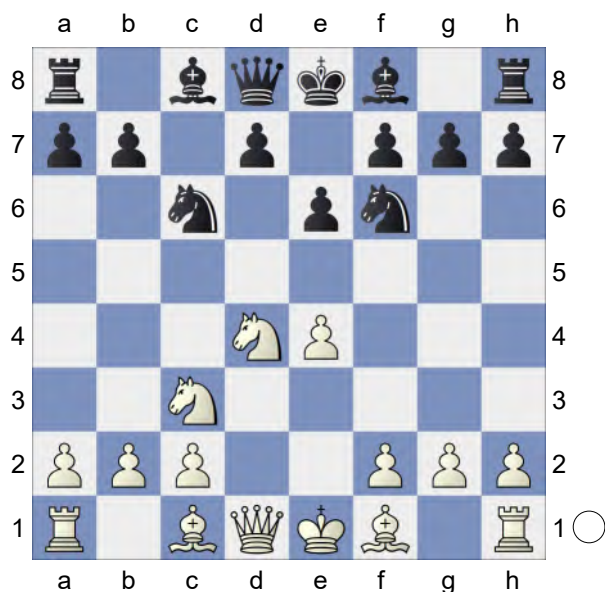
B45

2733

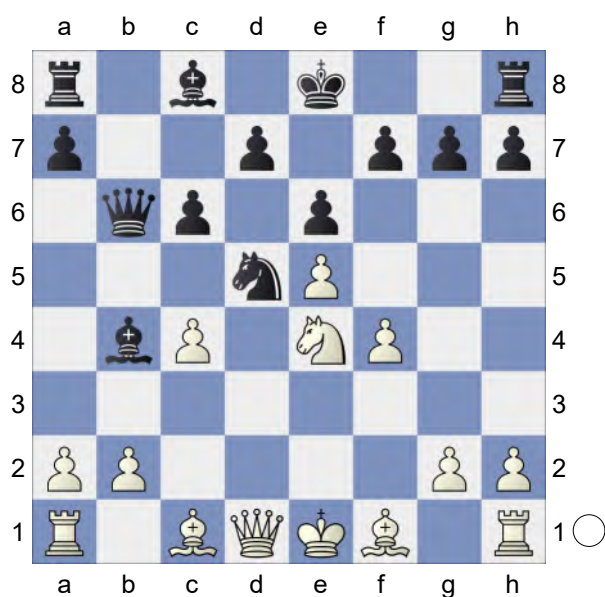
2561

2019

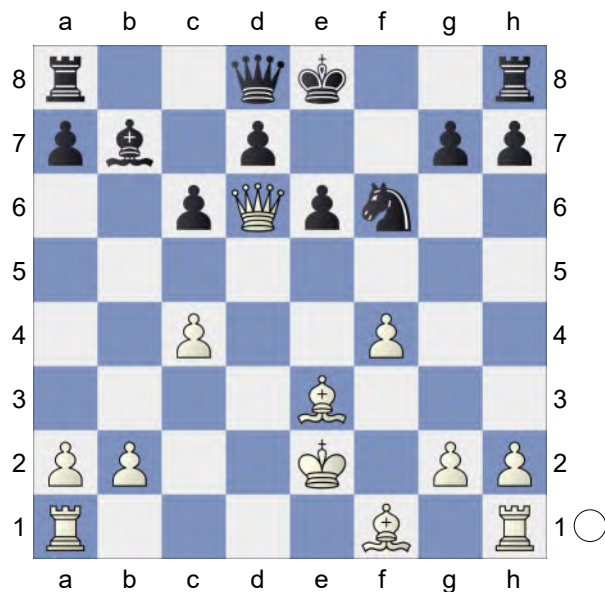
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6



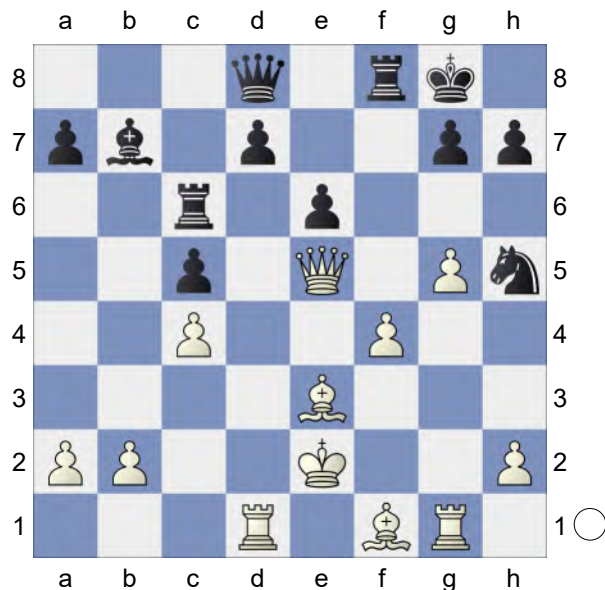
6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.e5 Nd5 8.Ne4 Qc7
9.f4 Qb6 10.c4 Bb4+



11.Ke2 f5 12.exf6 Nxf6 13.Be3 Qd8
14.Nd6+ Bxd6 15.Qxd6 Bb7



16.Rd1 Rc8 17.Rg1 c5 18.g4 Rc6
19.Qe5 0-0 20.g5 Nh5



21.Bh3 d6 22.Qxe6+ Kh8 23.Rgf1
[23.Qg4 Qe8]

23...Rb6

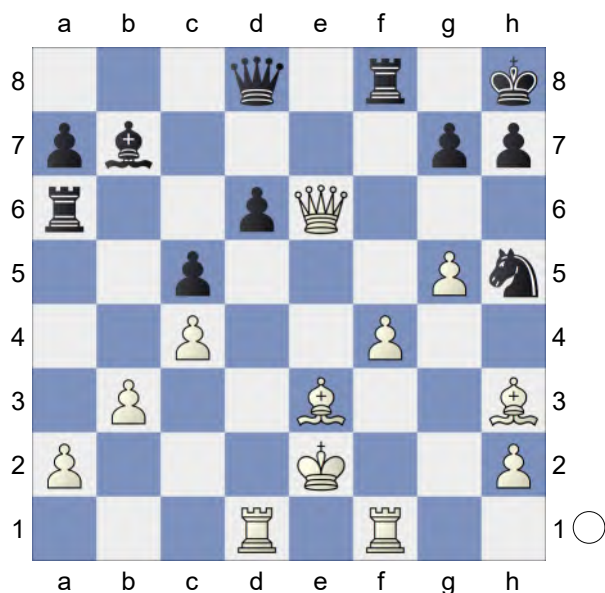
[23...Bc8 24.Qd5

A) 24...Rb6 25.Bxc8 Rxb2+
(25...Qxc8 26.b3 Qg4+ 27.Qf3+-)
26.Rd2 Rxd2+ 27.Bxd2 Qxc8
28.f5 Re8+ 29.Kd3 Re5 30.Qxd6
Rxf5 31.Rxf5 Qxf5+ 32.Kc3+-;

B) 24...Bb7 25.Qd3±]

24.b3 Ra6 **Diagram**

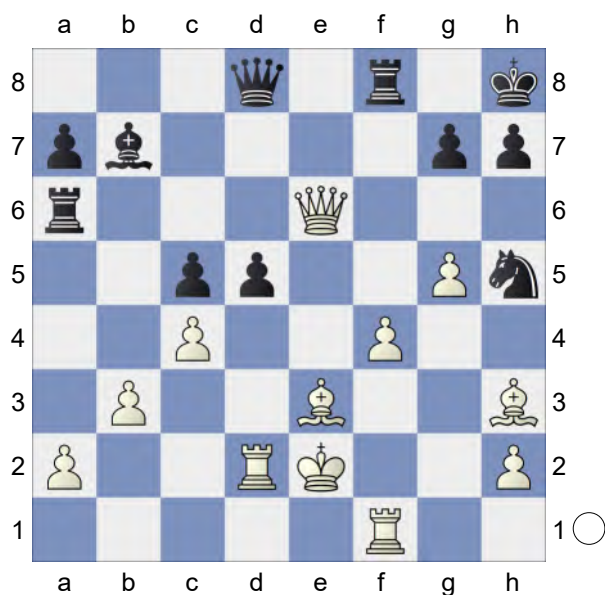
[24...d5?! 25.Qd7 Qxd7 26.Bxd7 d4
27.Bc1±]



25.Rd2N

[25.Qg4 Rxa2+ 26.Rd2 Rxd2+
27.Bxd2 Qe8+ 28.Kd1 Qe4!
29.Qxh5 Qd3 30.f5 Qxb3+ 31.Ke1
g6 32.Qe2 (32.fxg6 Qb1+ 33.Ke2
Qe4+ 34.Be3 Qc2+=) 32...Qxh3
33.Qe7 Qh4+ 34.Rf2 Qe4+ 35.Qxe4
Bxe4 36.f6∞]

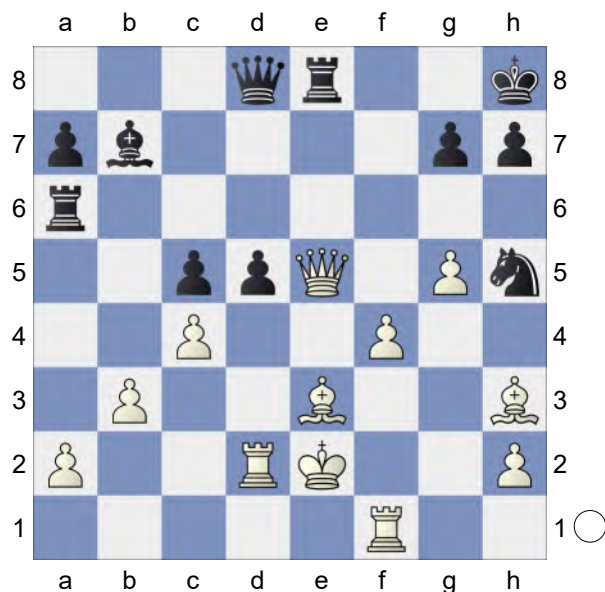
25...d5



26.Qe5

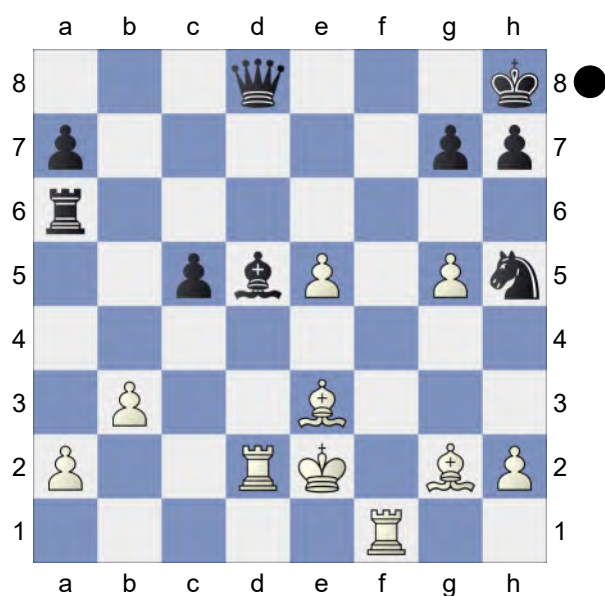
[26.Qd7 Qxd7 (26...Qb8!?) 27.Bxd7
d4 28.Bg1 Rd6 29.Bg4 Nxf4+
30.Kd1 Kg8∞]

26...Re8 Diagram



27.cxd5! Rxe5 28.fxe5 Bxd5 29.Bg2 Diagram

[29.Rxd5 Rxa2+ 30.Rd2 Rxd2+
31.Bxd2 g6∞]

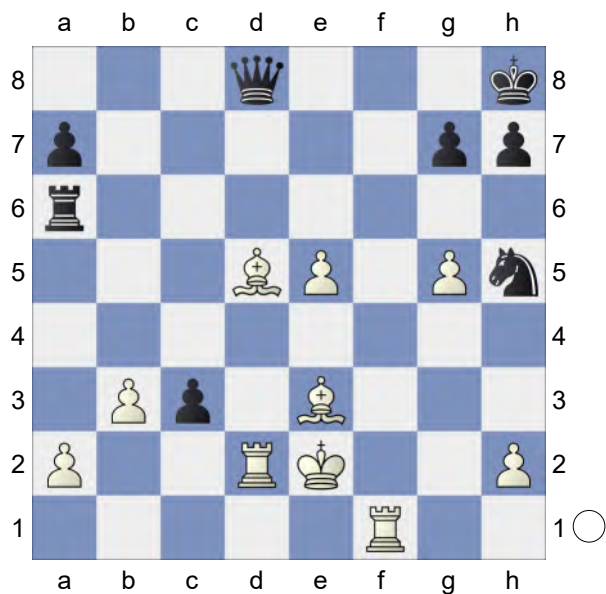


29...c4??

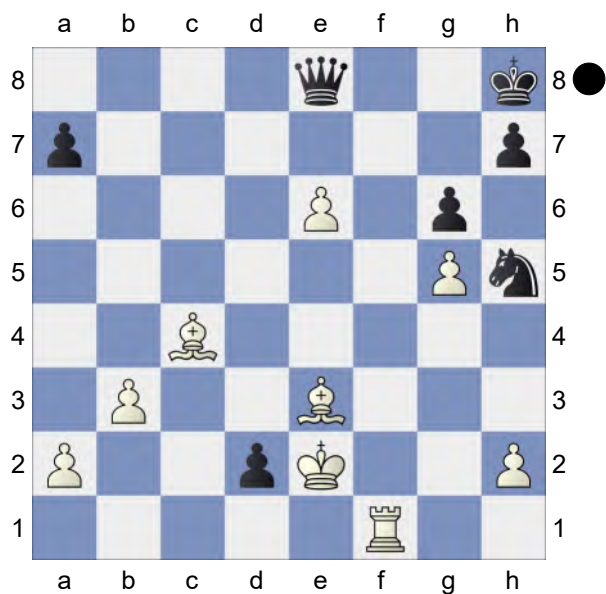
[29...Rxa2! 30.Bxd5 Rxd2+ 31.Bxd2
Nf6 32.exf6 (32.Bc4 Nd7 33.Bc3
Nb6 34.Be6 Qa8 35.Ke3 g6∞;]

32.Bg2?! Nd7 33.e6 Qe8 34.Bh3
Kg8) 32...Qxd5 33.f7 Qe4+ 34.Be3
Qc2+ 35.Ke1 Qb1+ 36.Kf2 Qf5+
37.Kg2 Qg4+=]

30.Bxd5 c3



**31.Bb7 cxd2 32.Bxa6 Qe8 33.Bc4 g6
34.e6**



1-0

138

□ Wei,Yi

■ Adly,Ahmed

140/65 Astana

[Perunovic,Milos]

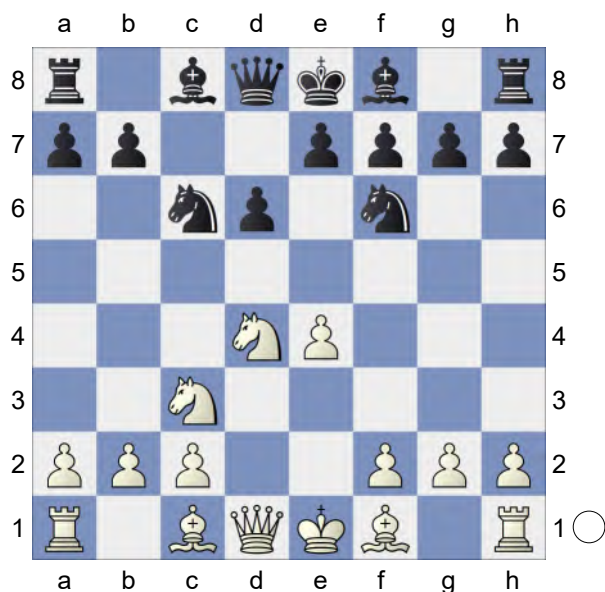
B61

2733

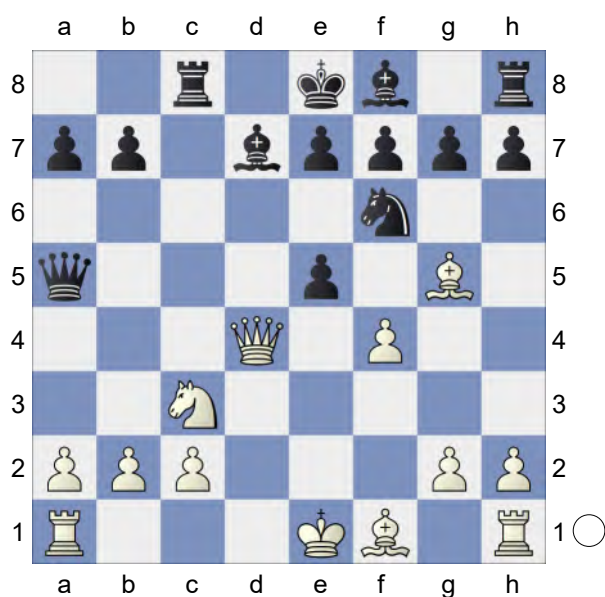
2611

2019

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6

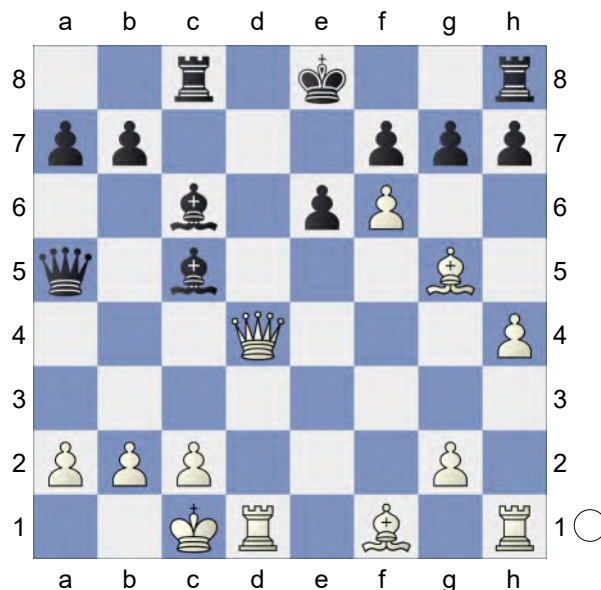


6.Bg5 Bd7 7.Qd2 Rc8 8.f4 Nxd4
9.Qxd4 Qa5 10.e5 dxe5



11.fxe5 e6 12.0-0-0 Bc6 13.Nb5
Bxb5 14.exf6 Bc6 15.h4 Bc5?

[15...g6 - 114/63]



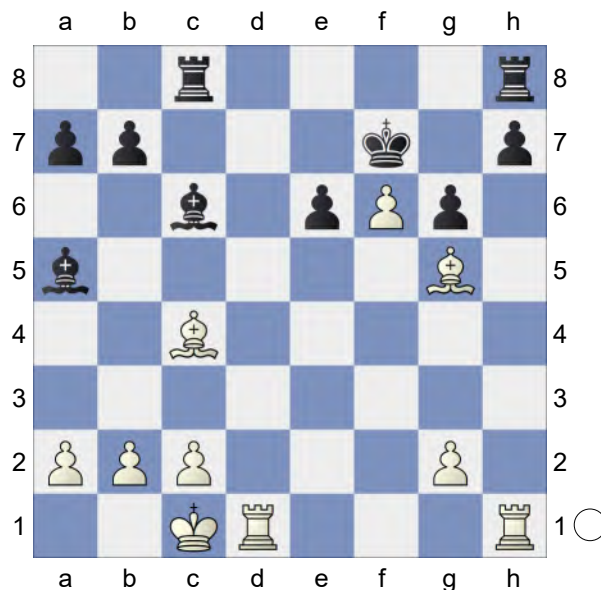
16.Qe5 g6 17.h5! Bb6

[17...gxh5 18.Be2 Rg8 19.Rxh5
Bb6 20.Qxa5 Bxa5 21.g4±]

18.Qxa5 Bxa5 19.hxg6 fxg6 20.Bc4N

[20.Bd3 - 140/(65)]

20...Kf7 Diagram



21.Rh6?!

[21.Rd6! Rce8 22.Rhd1 Rhf8
(22...h6 23.Rd7+ Bxd7 24.Rxd7+
Kf8 25.Bf4 Rd8 26.Rxb7+-) 23.Rd7+
Bxd7 24.Rxd7+ Kg8 25.Rg7+ Kh8

26.Rxb7 Rc8 (26...Bd8 27.Bb5 h6
28.Bxh6 Bxf6 29.Bxe8 Rxe8
30.Rxa7+-) 27.Bh6 Rxf6 (27...Rxc4
28.Bxf8+-) 28.Bg7+ Kg8 29.Bxf6
Rxc4 30.Rxa7+-]

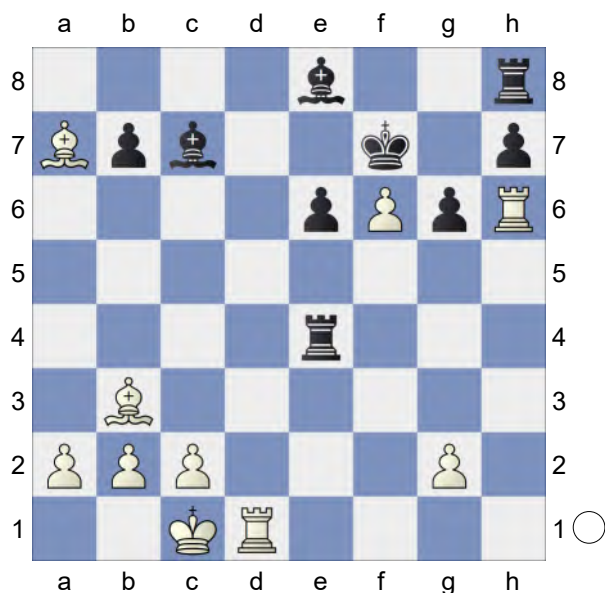
21...Be8 22.Bb3?

[22.Bd3 Rc5 23.Bh4 Kf8 (23...Bc7
24.Bxg6+ Kf8 25.Bf2 Rc6 26.Bxe8
Bf4+ 27.Kb1 Kxe8 28.Rh3+-)
24.Be1! Bxe1 25.Rxe1±]

22...Rc5 23.Be3 Re5 24.Bd4!?

[24.Bxa7 Bc6 (24...Re2!?) 25.c3
(25.Rdh1 Re1+ 26.Rxe1 Bxe1±)
25...Re2 26.Rdh1 Kxf6 27.Rxh7
Rxh7 28.Rxh7 Bxg2±]

24...Re4 25.Bxa7 Bc7



26.Rh3

[26.Kb1 Bc6 27.c3 Bf4 28.Rhh1
h5±]

26...Bc6

[26...h5! 27.Rhd3 Bf4+ 28.Kb1 Bb5
29.Rd4 Rxd4 30.Bxd4 g5±]

27.Bc5

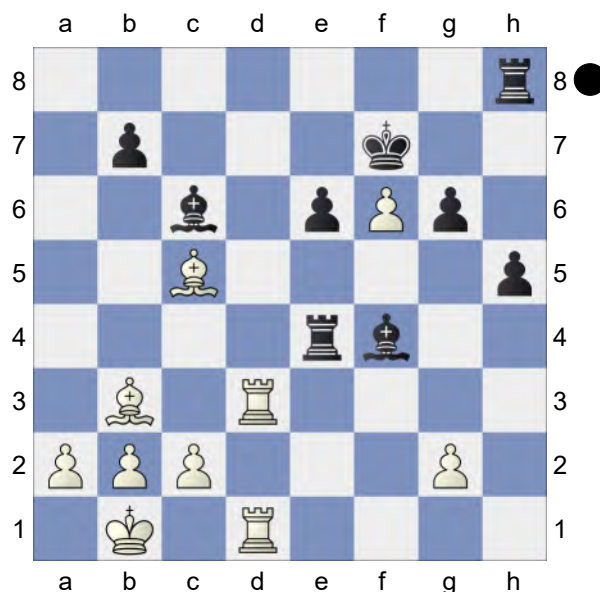
[27.Rhd3 Bf4+ 28.Kb1 h5 29.g3
Be5±]

27...h5 28.Rhd3

[RR28.g3±]
[28.Bd6 Bxd6 29.Rxd6 g5±]

Paunovic,Tomislav]

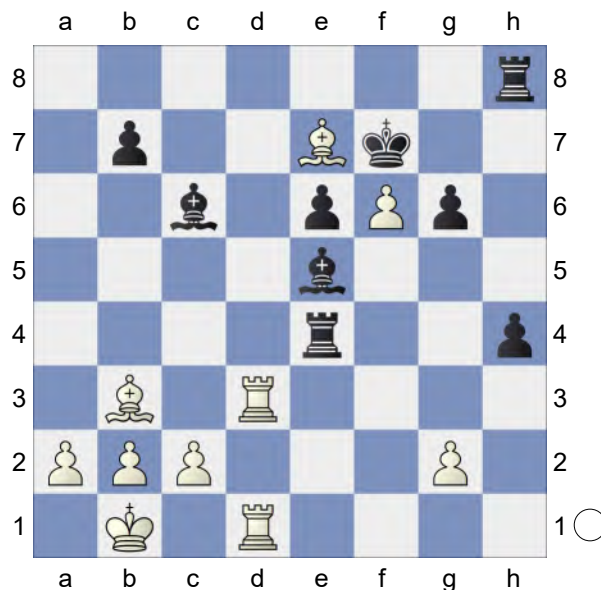
28...Bf4+ 29.Kb1 Diagram



29...h4!

[29...Kxf6?! 30.g3 Bc7 31.Rf1+ Kg7
32.Rdf3∞]

30.Be7 Be5



31.a3

[RR31.R3d2± Paunovic,Tomislav]

31...g5 32.Bb4

[RR32.R3d2!? Paunovic,Tomislav]

32...g4-+ 33.Rf1 Bb8?!

[33...h3 34.gxh3 gxh3 35.Bxe6+
Kxe6 36.f7 Reh4 37.f8Q Rxf8]

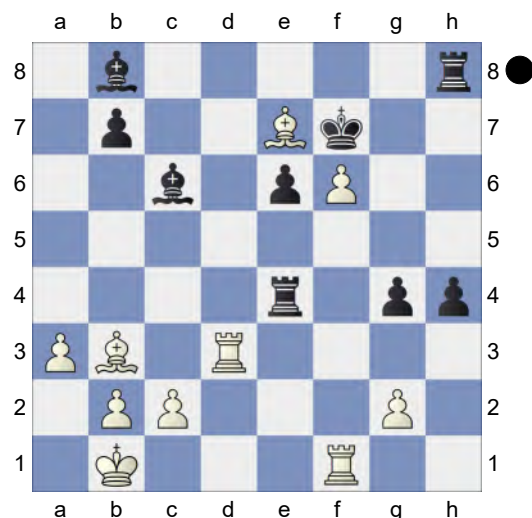
38.Bxf8 h2-+]

[33...Bb5 34.c4 Bc6-+]

34.Bc3

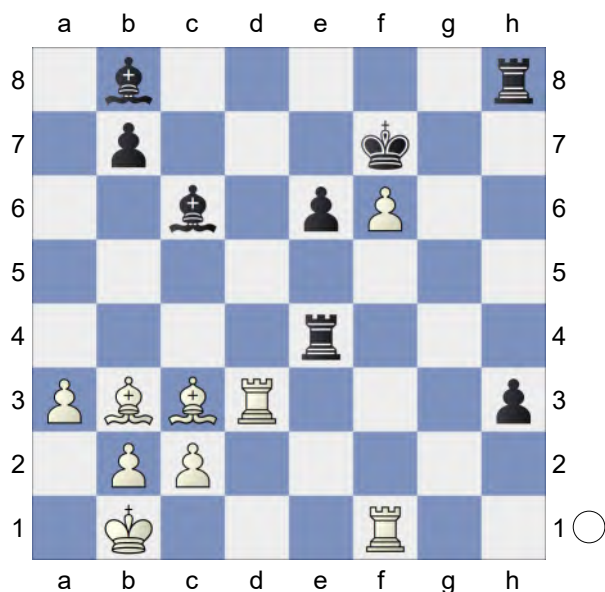
[RR34.Rg1 Paunovic,Tomislav]

[34.Be7 Diagram



Bb5! (34...h3? 35.gxh3 gxh3
36.Rg1+-) 35.c4 Bc6-+]

34...h3 35.gxh3 gxh3

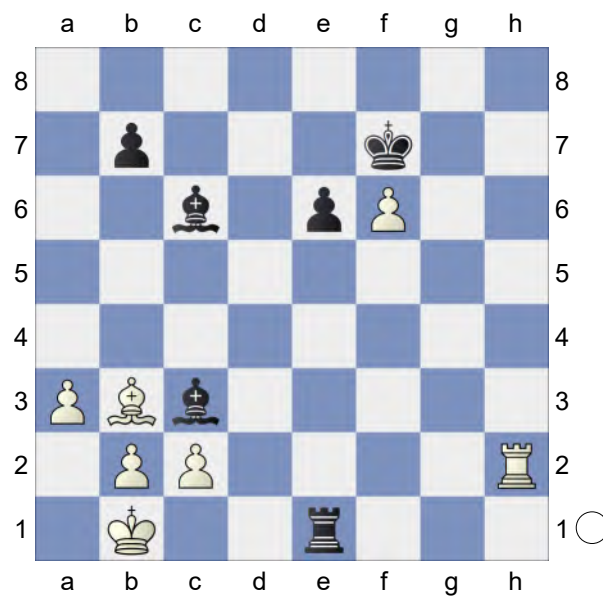


36.Rg1 Be5 37.Rh1 h2 38.Rd2 Bxc3

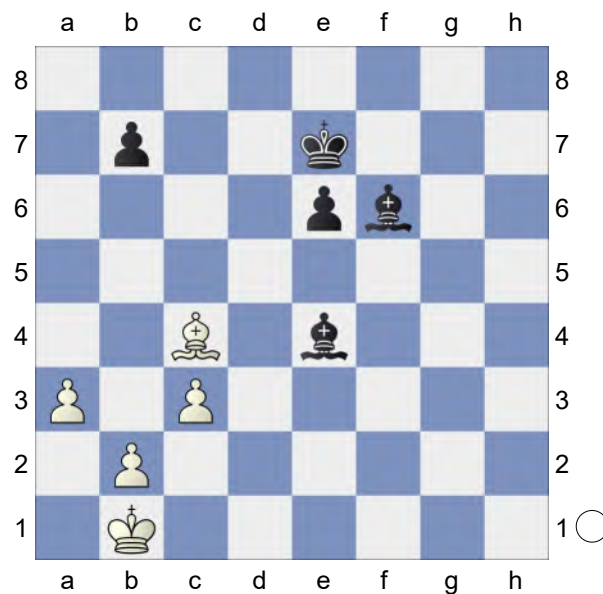
[38...Rg4! 39.Ka2 Rg1 40.Bxe5
Rxh1-+]

39.Rdxh2 Rxh2 40.Rxh2 Re1+

(Diagram)

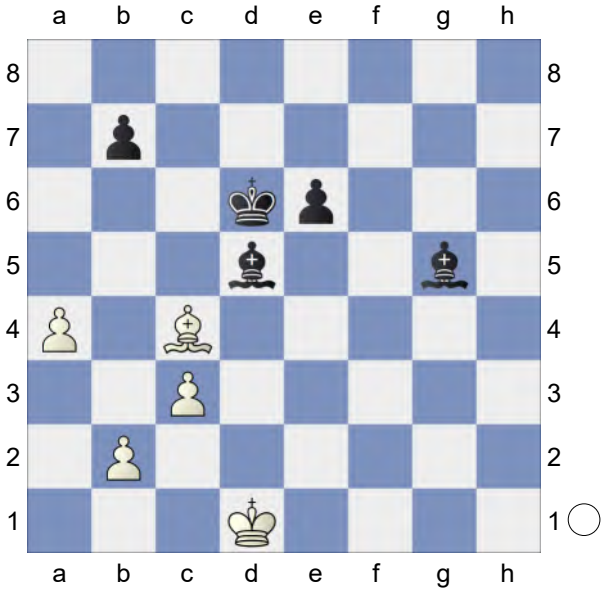


**41.Ka2 Bxf6 42.c3 Ke7 43.Bc4 Rh1
44.Rxh1 Bxh1 45.Kb1 Be4+**



46.Kc1 Bg5+ 47.Kd1 Kd6 48.a4 Bd5

(Diagram)



0-1

389

□ Sethuraman, S P

■ Wei, Yi

139/115 Astana

[Perunovic, Milos]

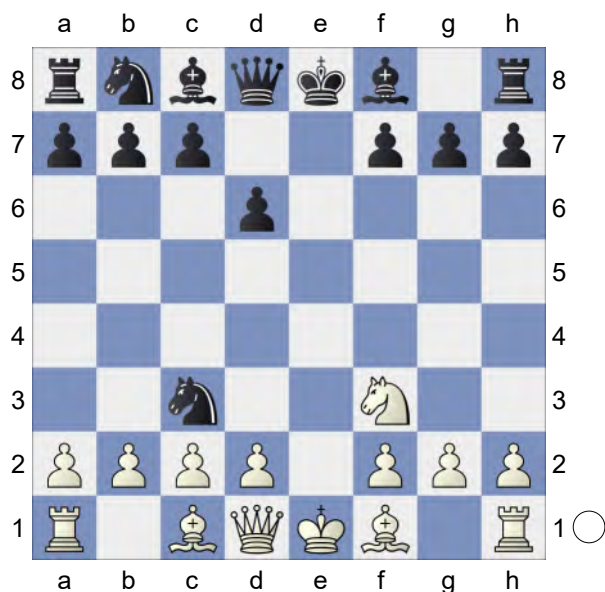
C42

2637

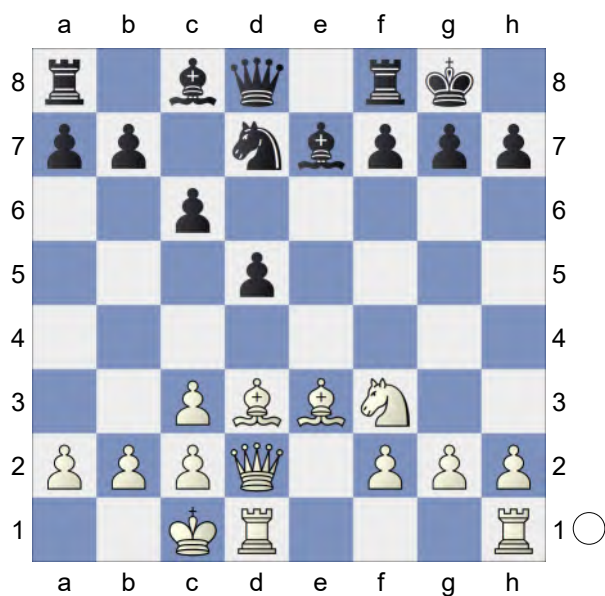
2733

2019

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3
Nxe4 5.Nc3 Nxc3

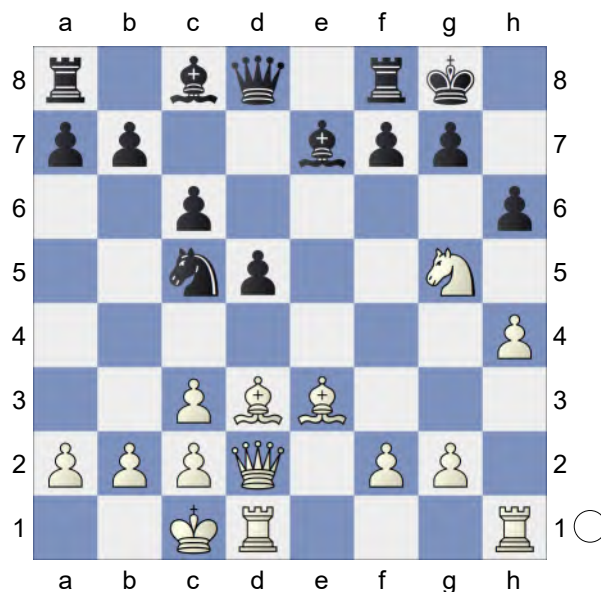


6.dxc3 Be7 7.Be3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nd7
9.0-0-0 c6 10.Bd3
[10.Kb1 - 136/(111)]
10...d5



11.h4 Nc5 12.Ng5 h6 Diagram

[12...Nxd3+ 13.Qxd3 g6 14.f3 f6
15.Nh3 Bf5 16.Qd2±]



13.Kb1!N

[13.Bh7+]

13...Nxd3

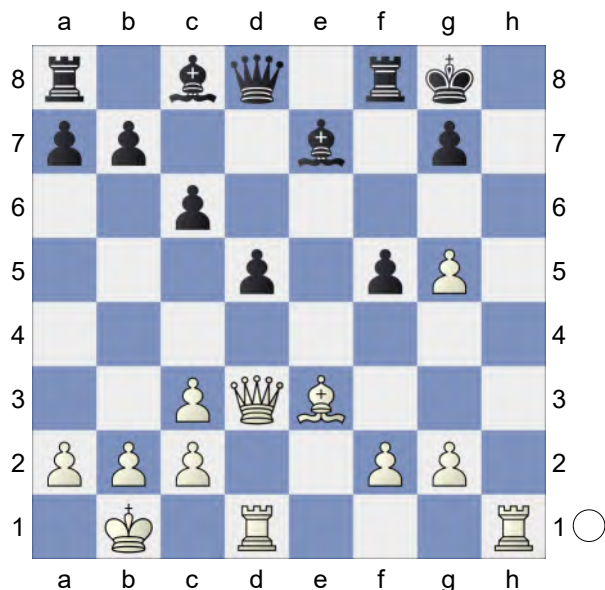
[13...hxc5? 14.hxc5 f5 (14...Ne4
15.Qe2 Nxc5 16.f4 f5 17.fxc5 Bxc5
18.Bc5 Rf6 19.g4+-) 15.g6 Qe8
16.Bxc5 Bxc5 17.Qg5 Rf6 18.Qh5
Qxc6 (18...Rxc6 19.Rde1+-)
19.Qh8+ Kf7 20.Be2 Ke7 21.Bh5
Qg5 22.f4 Qxc2 23.Qe8+ Kd6
24.b4 (24.Qd8+ Bd7 25.Qxa8±)
24...Kc7 25.bxc5±]

14.Qxd3 hxc5

[14...g6 15.Nh3 h5 16.f3 Bxh3
17.Rxh3±]

15.hxc5 f5

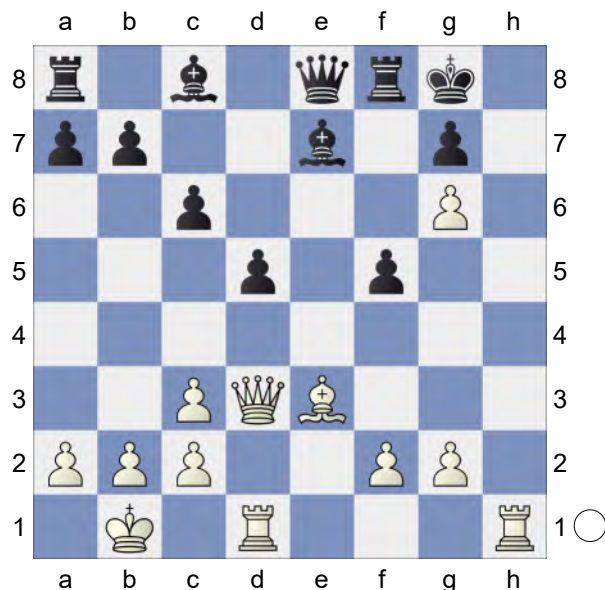
(Diagram)

**16.g6!?**

[16.gxf6 Bxf6 17.Qh7+ Kf7 18.Qh5+ g6 (18...Kg8? 19.g4 Qe8 20.Qh7+ Kf7 21.g5+-) 19.Qh7+ Bg7 20.Bd4 Rg8 21.Rde1 c5 22.Bxc5 Bf5 (22...Rh8? 23.Qxg7+! Kxg7 24.Bd4+ Kf7 25.Rxh8+-) 23.g4 Bxg4 24.f3 Rh8 (24...Bf5 25.Rh5 Re8 26.Rxf5+ gxf5 27.Qxf5+ Kg8 28.Rh1 Qf6 29.Qh7+ Kf7 30.Qh5+ Kg8 31.Qh7+=) 25.Qxg7+ Kxg7 26.Bd4+ Kf7 27.Rxh8 Qxh8 28.Bxh8 Bxf3 29.Bd4=]

16...Qe8 [Diagram](#)

(Diagram)

**17.Bc5! f4!**

[17...Bxc5?? 18.Rh8+! Kxh8 19.Qh3+-]

18.Rde1

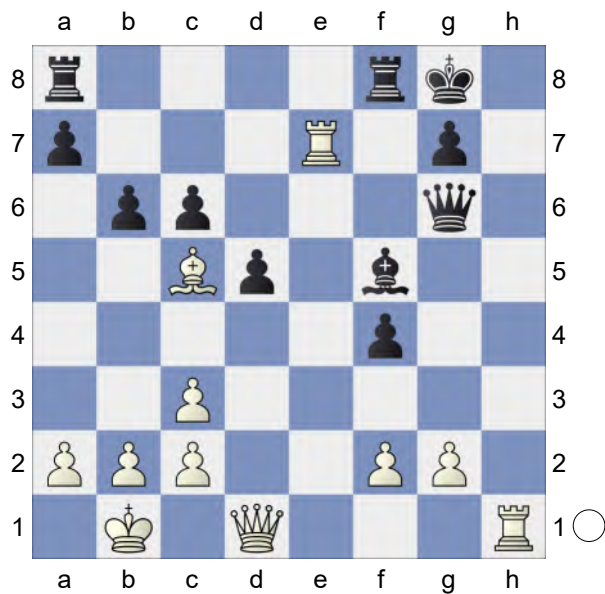
[18.g4 Bxg4 (18...fxg3 19.Qxg3+-) 19.Rdg1 Bf5 20.Qd1 Bxg6 21.Bxe7 Qxe7 22.Rxg6 Rae8 23.a3 Rf6 24.Rgg1 Qf7∞]

18...Bf5

[18...Bxc5? 19.Rxe8 Rxe8 20.Qf3 Be6 21.Qxf4 Be7 22.Qh2 Kf8 23.Qc7 Bg8 (23...Kg8 24.Re1+-) 24.Rh8 Rad8 25.f4 Rd6 26.f5+-]

19.Qd1 Qxg6 20.Rxe7 b6

(Diagram)



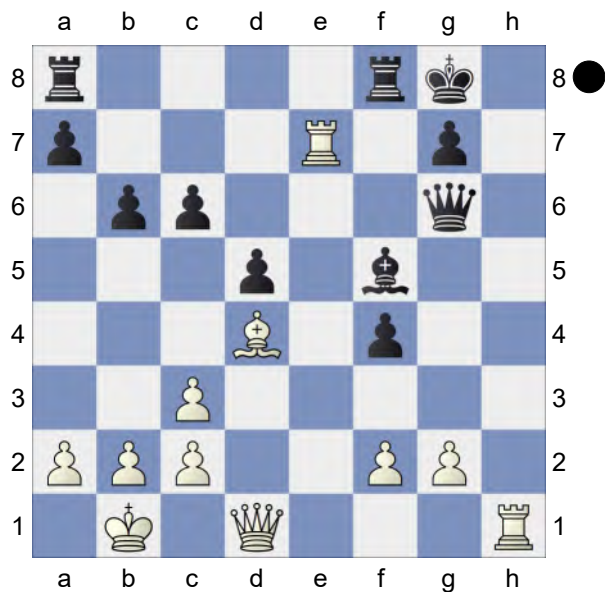
21.Bd4 Rf7 22.Ree1

[22.Re2 Rff8 23.Rhe1 Rae8=]

22...Rff8 23.Re7

[23.Rh4 Rae8 24.Reh1 c5 25.Rh8+ Kf7 26.Rxf8+ Kxf8 27.Rh8+ Kf7 28.Rxe8 Kxe8 29.Be5 Qxg2 30.Qe1 f3̄]

23...Rf7 24.Ree1 Rff8 25.Re7



$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

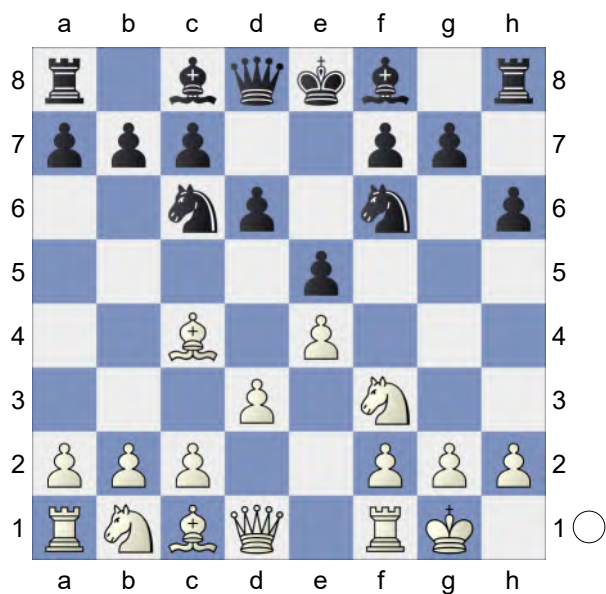
458

□ Pragganandhaa,Rameshbabu 2536

■ Wei,Yi 2736

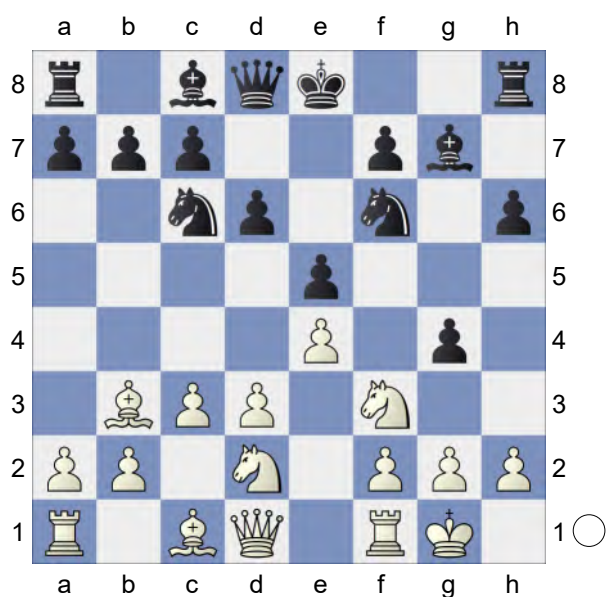
chess.com (Int.-m/14-blitz) 140/(126) 2019
[Perunovic,Milos]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3
h6 5.0-0 d6



6.c3 g5 7.Nbd2 Bg7 8.Bb3 * 8...g4

Diagram

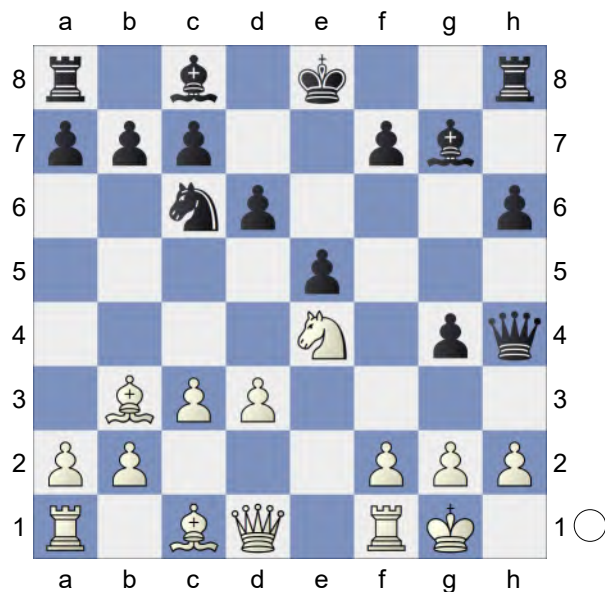


9.Nh4?!N

[9.Ne1 h5 10.f4 exf4 11.Rxf4 Qe7

12.Nc2±]

9...Nxe4! 10.Nxe4 Qxh4



373

□ Onischuk, Vladimir

■ Wei, Yi

139/168 Astana

[Perunovic, Milos]

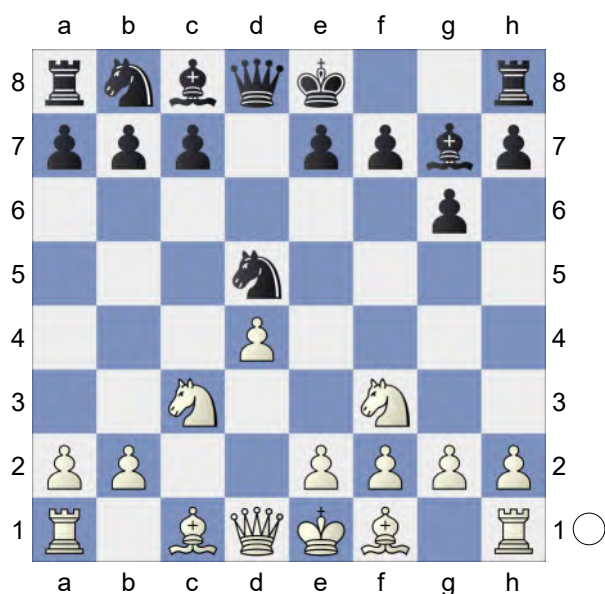
D85

2647

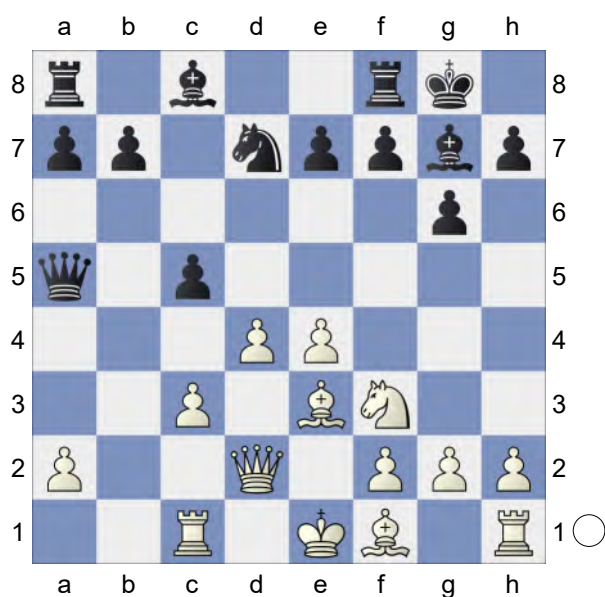
2733

2019

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3
Bg7 5.cxd5 Nxd5

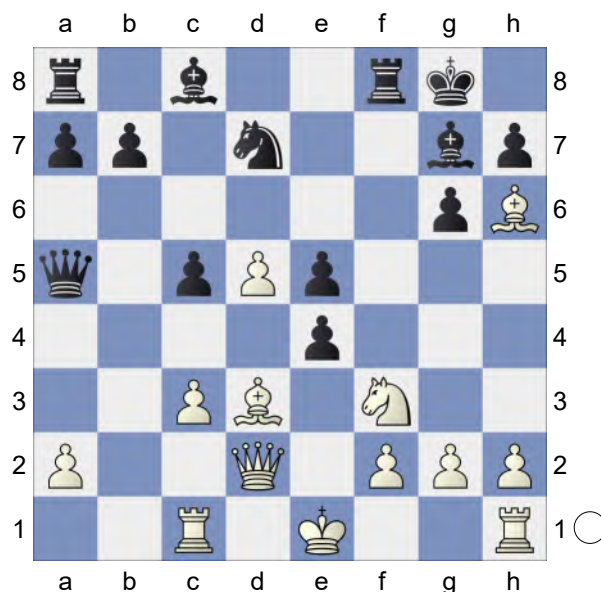


6.e4 Nxc3 7.bxc3 c5 8.Be3 Qa5
9.Qd2 0-0 10.Rc1 Nd7



11.Bd3 e5 12.d5 f5 13.Bh6
[13.Qe2 - 137/156]

13...fxe4 Diagram



14.Bxe4N

[14.Bxg7

A) 14...Rxf3!? 15.Be2 (15.gxf3
exd3 16.Bh6 c4 17.Qg5 Kf7
18.d6 Nf6 $\bar{7}$) 15...e3 16.fxe3 Rf7
17.Bh6 Qd8 18.h4 Nf6 ∞ ;

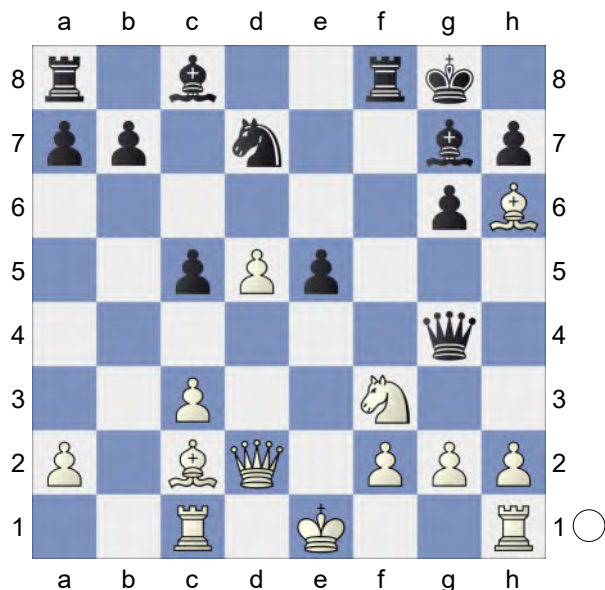
B) 14...Kxg7 15.Bxe4 Nf6 16.c4
Qb4!? 17.Qxb4 cxb4 18.Nd2
Bf5 ∞]

14...Qa4 15.Bc2

[15.c4 Nf6 16.Bxg7 Nxe4 17.Qe3
Qa5+ 18.Kf1 Kxg7 19.Qxe4 Bf5
20.Qxe5+ Kg8 ∞]

15...Qg4

(Diagram)

**16.Qg5**

[16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.Ng5 Qxg2
(17...Nb6 18.0-0) 18.Be4 Qg4
19.Ne6+ Kg8 20.f3 Qh4+ 21.Qf2
Qxf2+ 22.Kxf2 Rf7 23.Ke3]

16...Nf6 17.Bxg7

[17.0-0 Qxg5 18.Bxg5 Nxd5
19.Rfe1 h6 20.Bd2 Bf5 21.Bb3
Rad8 22.Nxe5 Kh7]

17...Kxg7 18.Rd1?

[18.d6 e4 19.Qxg4 Bxg4 20.Ne5
Rad8 21.Nxg4 Nxg4 22.0-0 Rxd6
23.Bxe4 b5]

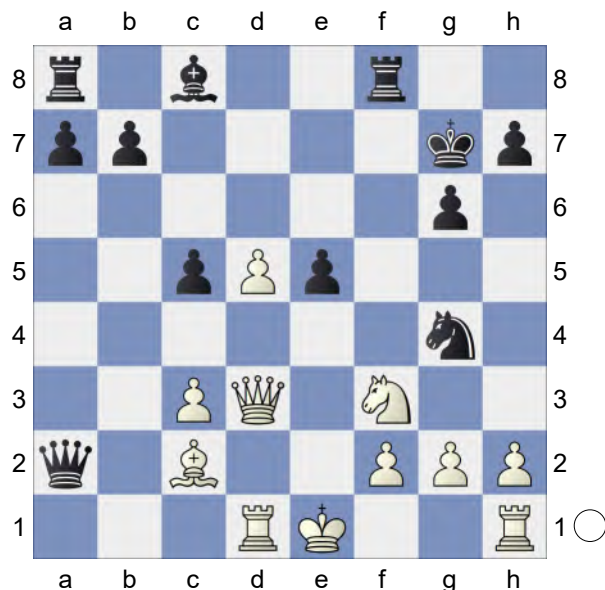
[18.0-0 Qxg5 19.Nxg5 Nxd5
20.Rfe1 Re8 21.Ne4 b6 22.Rcd1
(22.Nd6 Rd8 23.Nxc8 Raxc8)
22...Be6 23.Bb3 Rad8]

18...Qc4 19.Qe3

[19.Qd2 Bg4]

19...Ng4 20.Qd3 Qxa2

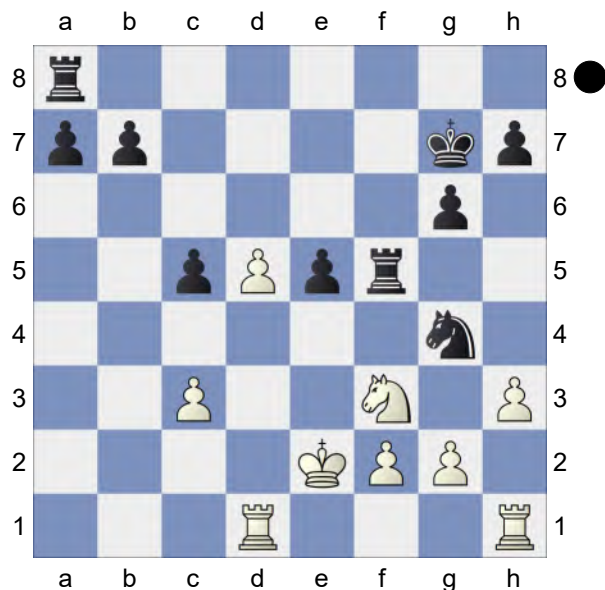
(Diagram)

**21.Qe2 Bf5**

[21...e4! 22.Bxe4 Qxe2+ 23.Kxe2
Re8 24.Nd2 Nf6 25.Kd3 (25.f3
Nxd5) 25...b5 26.Rhe1 a5]

22.Bxf5 Qxe2+ 23.Kxe2 Rxf5 24.h3

Diagram

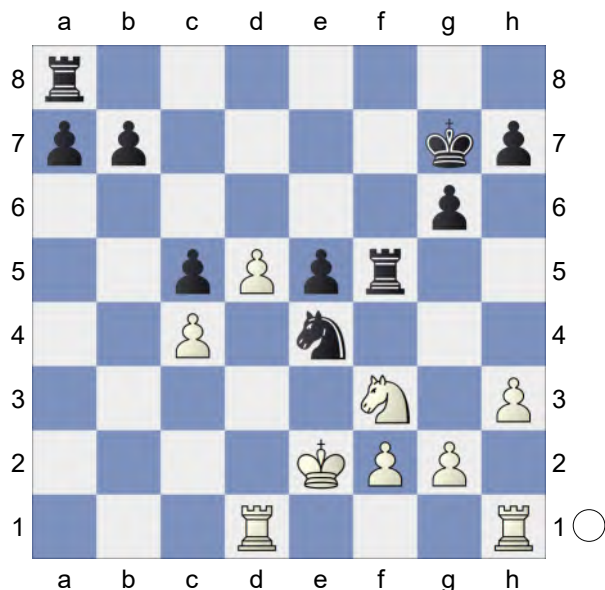
**24...Nf6**

[24...Nxf2! 25.Kxf2 e4 26.Rhe1 exf3
27.gxf3 (27.g4 Rf7 28.c4 a5)
27...Raf8 28.Re7+ R5f7 29.d6
(29.Rde1 b5 30.d6 a5) 29...Kf6]

25.c4

[25.g4 Rf4 26.Ng5 Kg8 27.Rhe1

a5 ♖]
25...Ne4



26.Ra1 Rf4

[26...Nd6 27.Nd2 Rf4 28.Rhb1 Rd4
29.f3 a5 30.Ne4 Nxe4 31.Rxb7+
Kh6 32.fxe4 Rxe4+ 33.Kd3 Rd4+ ♜]

27.Rhc1 Raf8?!

[27...Nd6 28.Ng5 Rxc4 29.Rxc4
Nxc4 30.Ne6+ Kf7 31.Nxc5 Nd6 ♜]

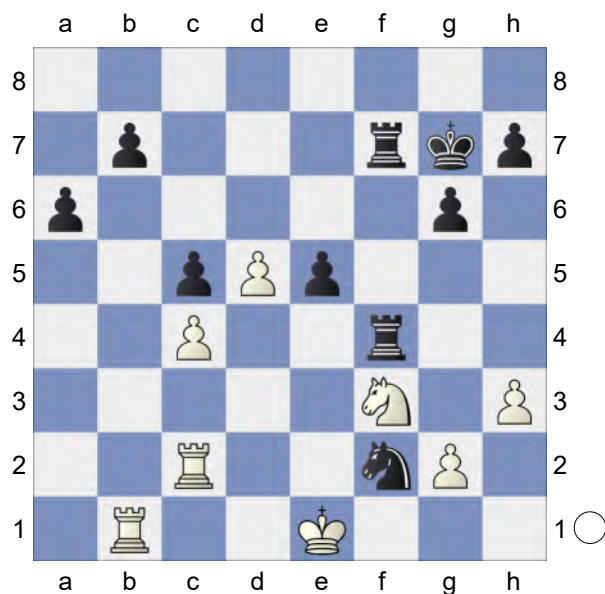
28.Ke1?!

[28.Rxa7 Nd6 29.Ke1 R8f5 30.Rc2
h5 31.Ra5 (31.h4 Kf6 ♜) 31...e4
32.Nh2 b6 33.Ra7+ Rf7 34.Rxf7+
Rxf7 ♜]

28...a6 29.Rab1 R8f7 30.Rc2 Nxf2

[30...Nd6 31.Ng5 Re7 32.Ne6+
Rxe6 33.dxe6 Kf6↑]

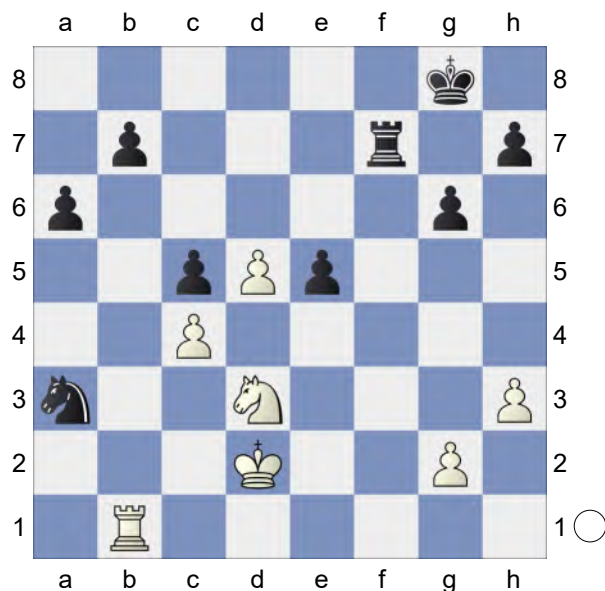
(Diagram)



31.Ng5 Nd3+ 32.Kd2 Nb4 33.Ne6+
Kg8 34.Nxf4 Nxc2

[34...Rxf4 35.Rc3 Rd4+ 36.Ke2 Kf7
37.Rf1+ Ke7∞]

35.Nd3 Na3

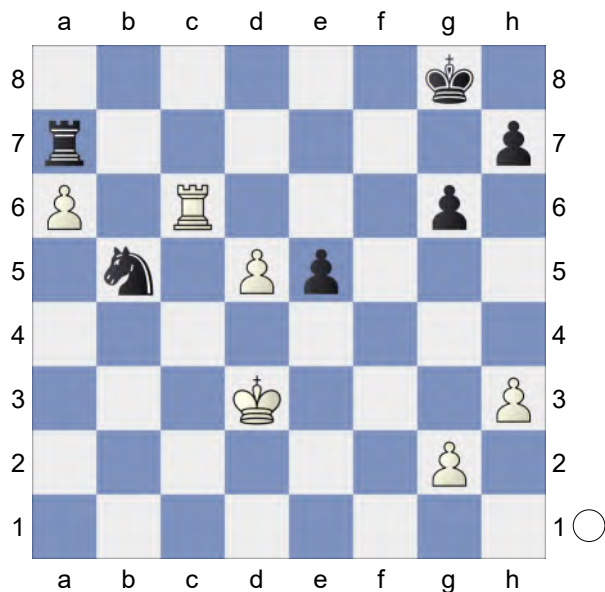


36.Rc1 b5 37.cxb5 c4 38.bxa6

[38.Nxe5 Rf5 39.bxa6 Rxe5 40.Kc3
Rxd5 41.Kb4 Nb5 42.Rxc4=]

38...cxd3 39.Kxd3 Ra7 40.Rc6 Nb5

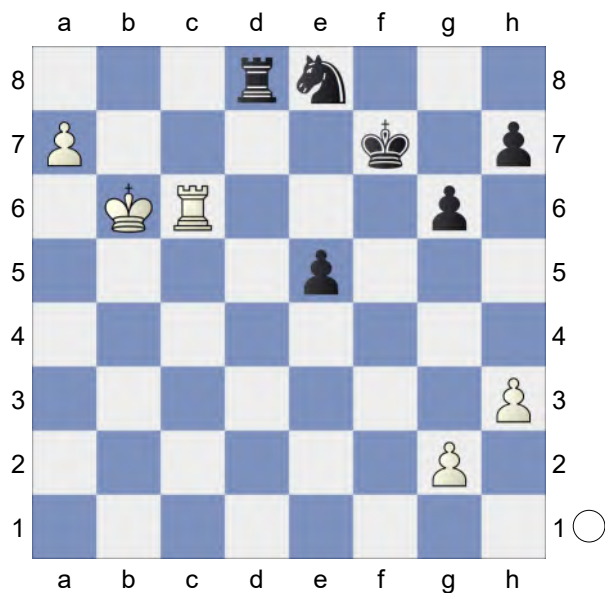
(Diagram)



41.d6 Rd7 42.Kc4 Nxd6+ 43.Kc5 Ne8

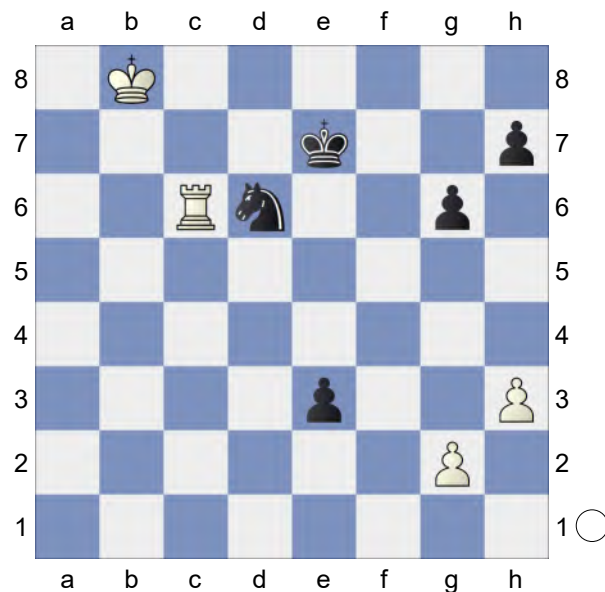
[43...Nf5 44.Kb6 Ne7 45.Rc5]

44.Kb6 Kf7 45.a7 Rd8



46.Kb7 Ke7 47.a8Q Nd6+ 48.Ka7 Rxa8+ 49.Kxa8 e4 50.Kb8 e3

(Diagram)



51.Rc1 Kf6 52.Kc7??

[52.Re1 Nc4 53.Rc1 Nd6 54.Re1=]

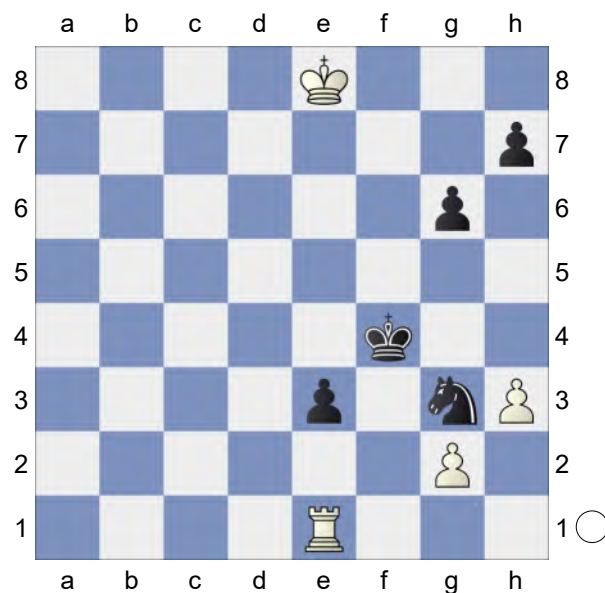
52...Nf5 53.Re1

[53.g4 Ke5! (53...Ng3 54.Kd6 Kg5 55.Ke5=; 53...Nd4 54.Kd6 e2 55.Re1=)]

53...Ke5 54.Kd8

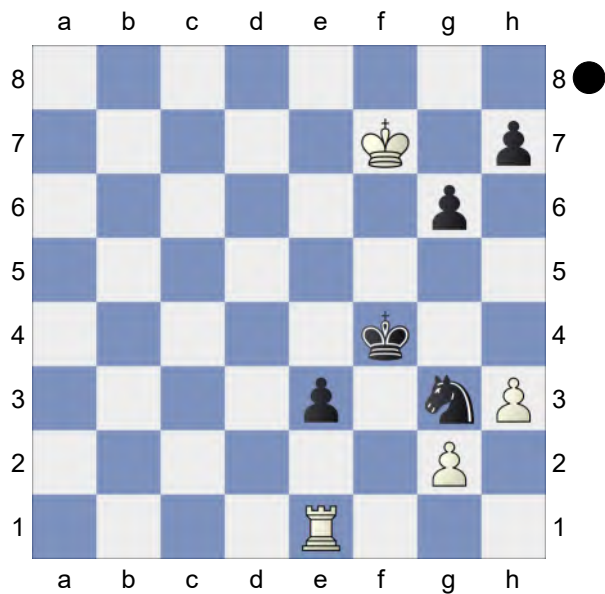
[54.g4 Ke4 55.gxf5 gxf5-+]

54...Kf4 55.Ke8 Ng3



56.Kf7 Diagram

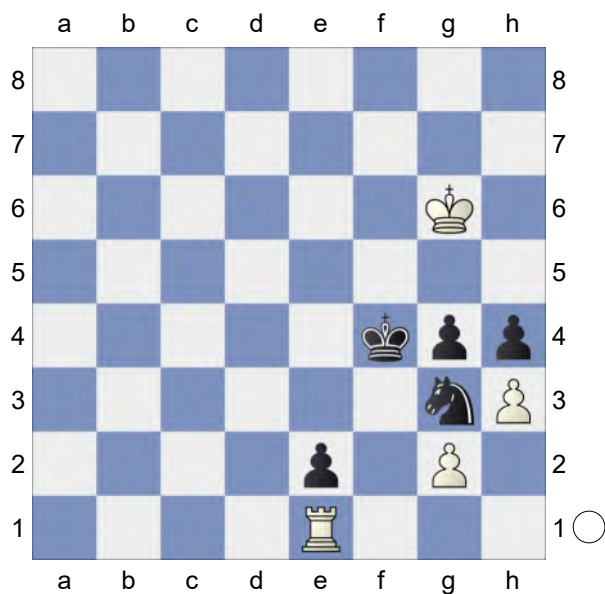
(Diagram)



56...g5??

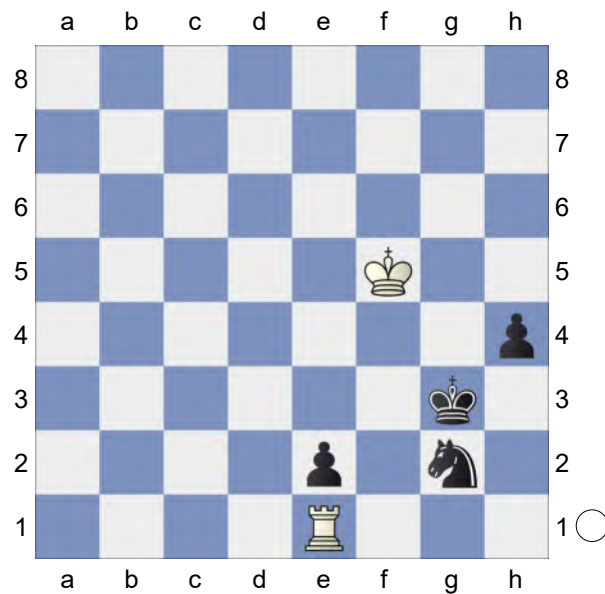
[56...e2 57.Kg7 h5 58.Kxg6 Ke3
59.Kg5 Kf2 60.Ra1 e1Q 61.Rxe1
Kxe1 62.Kf4 Kf2-+]

**57.Kg7= h5 58.Kg6 e2 59.Ra1 h4
60.Re1 g4**

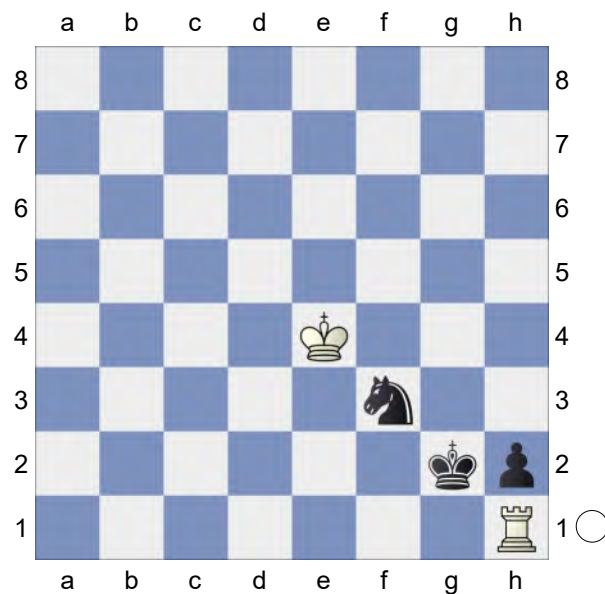


**61.hxg4 Kxg4 62.Kf6 Nh5+ 63.Ke5
Nf4 64.Ke4 Kg3 65.Kf5 Nxg2**

(Diagram)

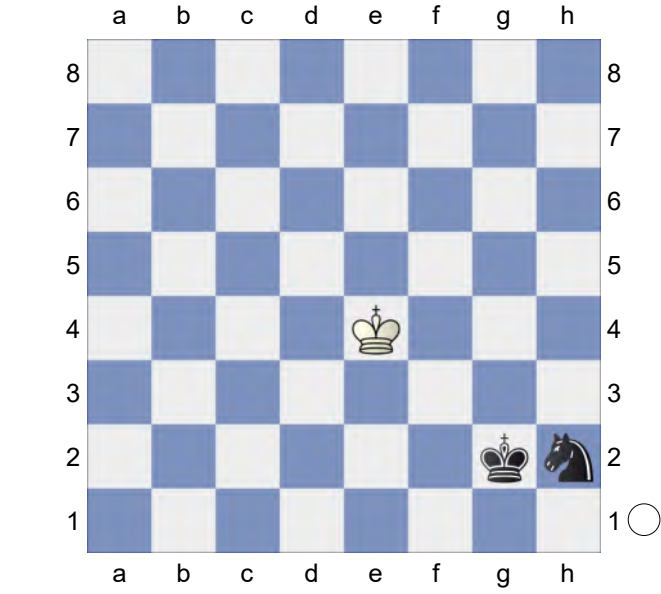


**66.Rxe2 h3 67.Ra2 Ne1 68.Ke4 Nf3
69.Ra1 h2 70.Rh1 Kg2**



71.Rxh2+ Nxh2

(Diagram)



$\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$

238

□ Naiditsch, Arkadij

■ Wei, Yi

(ol) 138/(133)

[Perunovic, Milos]

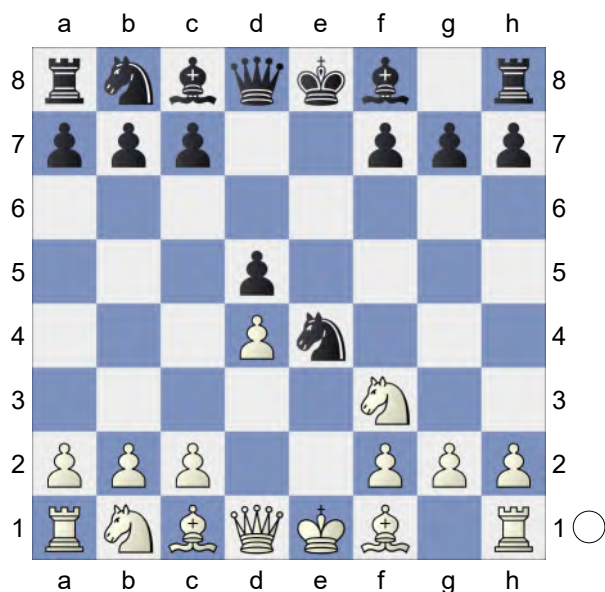
C42

2721

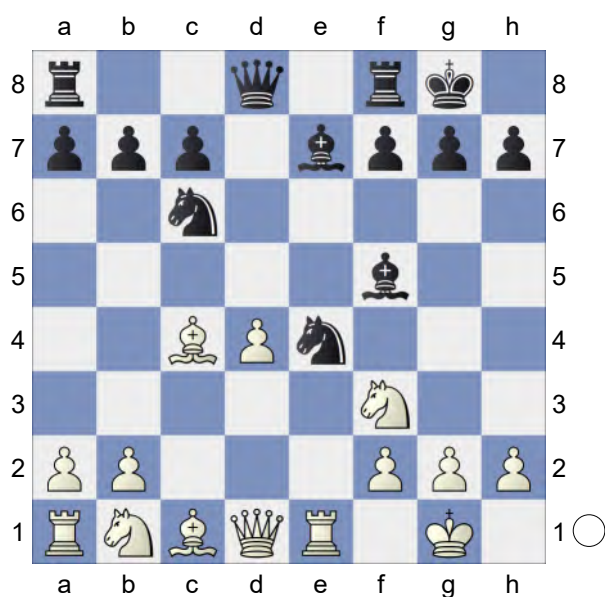
2742

2018

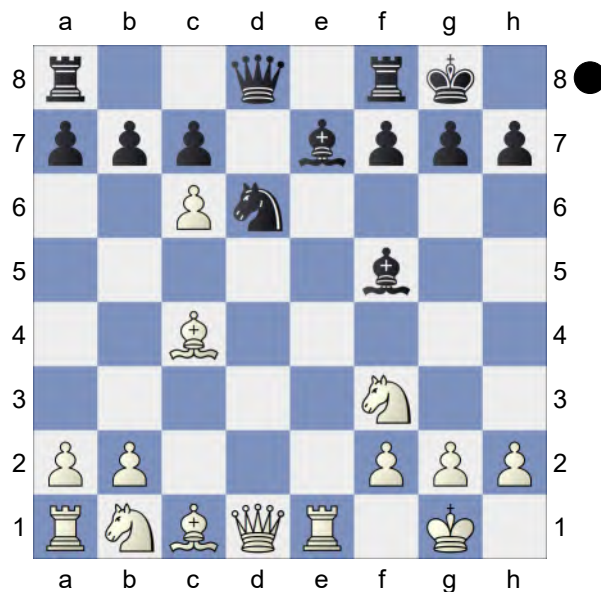
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3
Nxe4 5.d4 d5



6.Bd3 Bf5 7.0-0 Be7 8.c4 dxc4
9.Bxc4 0-0 10.Re1 Nc6



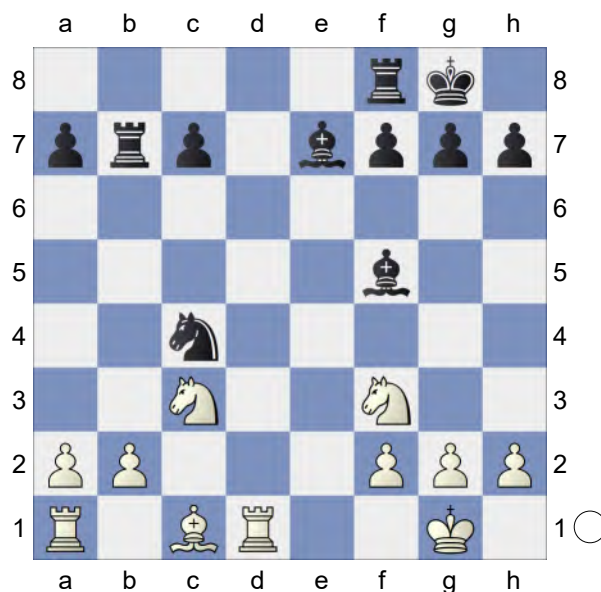
11.d5!? Nd6 12.dxc6 Diagram
(Diagram)



12...Nxc4 * 13.cxb7N

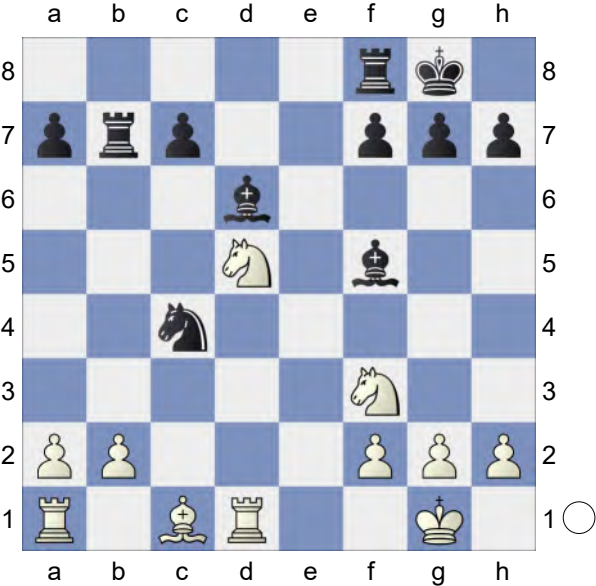
[13.Qxd8 Bxd8 14.cxb7 Rb8
15.Nbd2 Nxd2 (15...Nd6∞) 16.Bxd2
Rxb7 17.b3∞]
[13.Qa4 - 138/133]

13...Qxd1 14.Rxd1 Rab8 15.Nc3
Rxb7



16.Nd5 Bd6∞

(Diagram)



334

□ Inarkiev, Ernesto

■ Wei, Yi

Magas (m/3) 137/157

[Perunovic, Milos]

D90

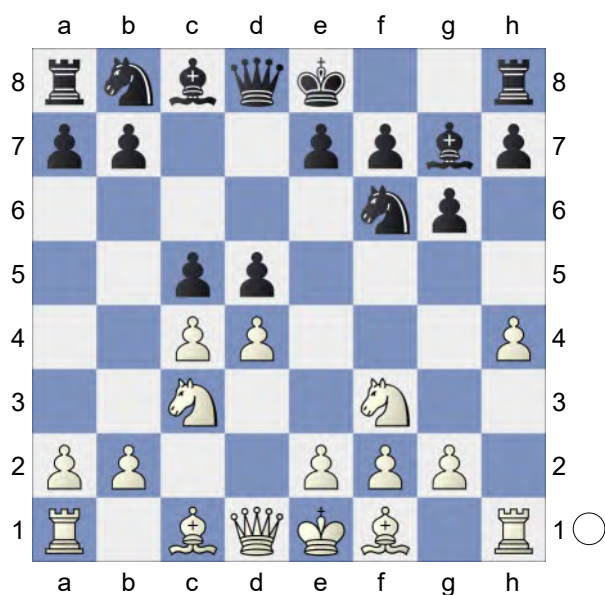
2690

2735

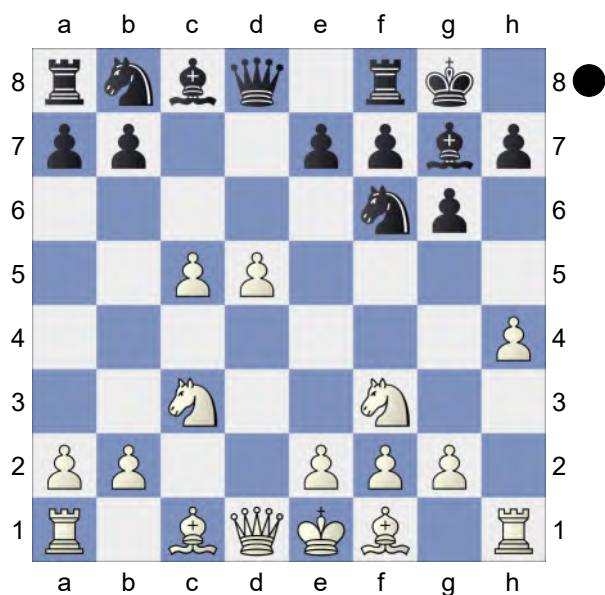
2018

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3
d5 5.h4 c5!?

[5...dxc4 - 130/165]



6.dxc5 0-0 7.cxd5 Diagram



7...Na6!?!N

[7...Qa5 8.Bd2 Qxc5 9.e4 Ng4
10.Qe2 Na6 (10...b6?! 11.Ng5±)
11.Rc1 Bd7 12.h5 Rac8=]

8.h5

[8.g3 Nxc5 9.Bg2 Bf5 10.Nd4 Be4
11.Nxe4 Ncxe4 12.Nb3 (12.0-0
Qxd5=) 12...e6 13.0-0 exd5=]

[8.Be3 Qa5 9.Bd4 Rd8 10.d6 exd6
11.cxd6 Bf5=]

[8.e4 Nxc5 9.e5 Ng4 10.Qd4 Qb6

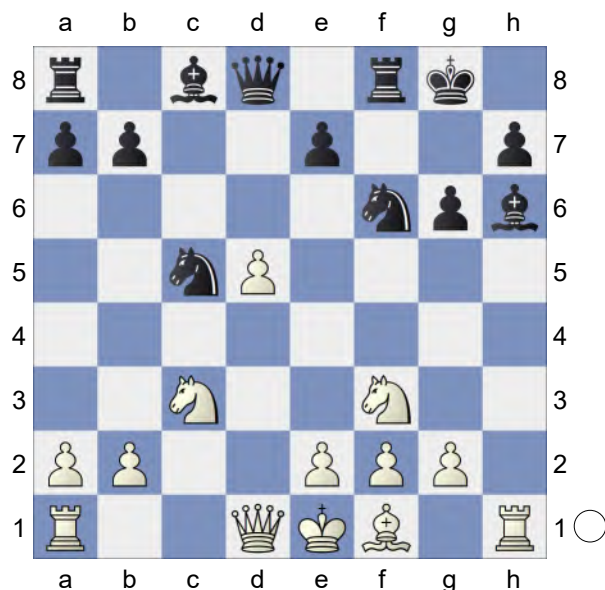
A) 11.b4?! Nd7! 12.Qxb6
(12.Qxg4 Nxe5 13.Qg3 Nd3+
14.Bxd3 Bxc3+ 15.Ke2 Bxa1=)
12...axb6=;

B) 11.Be2 f6=]

8...Nxc5 9.hxg6 fxg6 10.Bh6

[10.Be3 Nce4 11.Bd4 Nxc3 12.Bxc3
Qxd5=]

10...Bxh6



11.Rxh6 Qb6

[11...Bf5 12.Qd4 Qb6 13.Rd1
Rac8=]

12.Rh4 Bf5 13.Qd2 Nce4 14.Nxe4
Bxe4

[14...Nxe4 15.Qd4 Qa5+

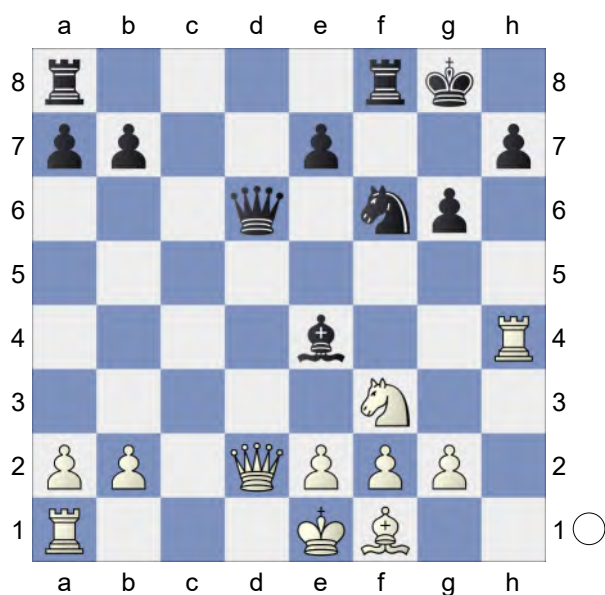
A) 16.b4 Qa3 17.e3 Rac8
18.Rd1 Rc1 19.Rxe4 Bxe4 20.d6!
(20.Qxe4 Rxf3!) 20...Bxf3

21.Bc4+ Rf7 22.Bxf7+ Kxf7
23.gxf3 exd6=;

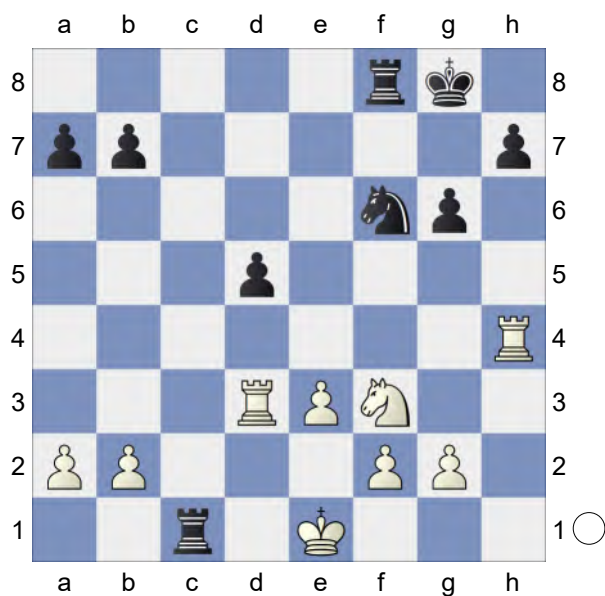
B) 16.Nd2 Nxd2 17.Qxd2 Qxd2+
18.Kxd2 Rad8 19.e4 g5 20.Rh5
Bxe4 21.Rxg5+ Kh8 22.Ke3 Rxd5
23.Rxd5 Bxd5 24.Rc1=]

15.d6 Qxd6

[15...Rad8 16.Rxe4 Nxe4 17.Qd5+
Rf7 18.Qxe4 Qxb2 19.Qd4 Qa3
20.Qe3 Qxe3 21.fxe3 Rxd6±]



16.Qxd6 exd6 17.Rd1 Rac8 18.e3 d5
19.Bd3 Bxd3 20.Rxd3 Rc1+



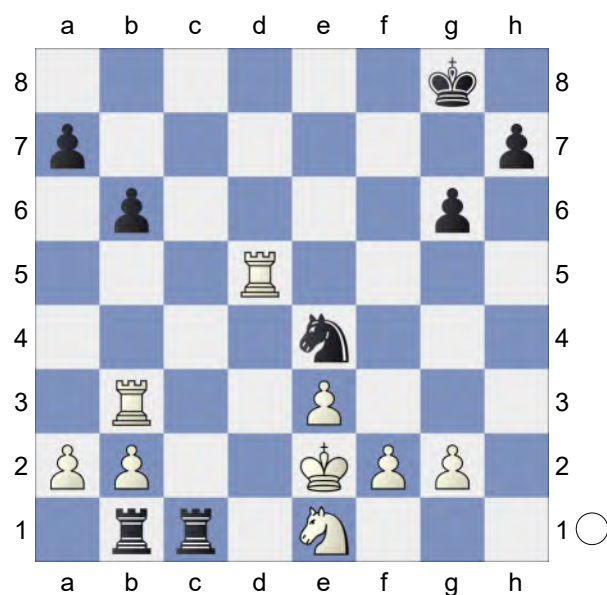
21.Ke2! Rfc8 22.Ne1 Rb1 23.Rb3?

[23.Rb4 Rcc1 24.Nf3 b6=]

23...b6

[23...Ne4 24.Rxb7 h5! (24...Rcc1
25.Rb8+ Kg7 26.Rb7+ Kf6 27.Nf3
Rc2+ 28.Kd3 Rcxb2 29.Rxb2 Rxb2
30.Rxh7 Rxa2 31.Rc7 Nxf2+
32.Kd4=) 25.g3 Rcc1 26.Nd3 Rc2+
27.Kf3 Rd1 28.Rxe4 dxe4+ 29.Kxe4
Rc4+ 30.Kd5 Ra4 31.Rb3 Rxa2±]

24.Rd4 Ne4 25.Rxd5 Rcc1 **Diagram**



26.Nf3?

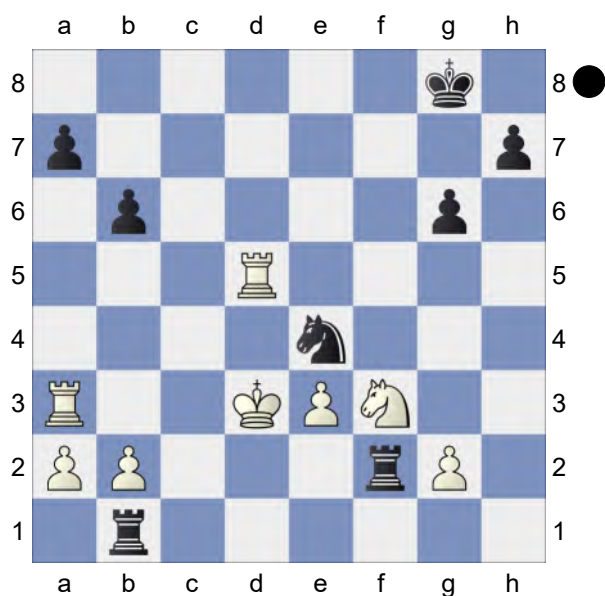
[26.Rd8+ Kg7 27.Kf3 (27.Nf3? Rf1
28.Ra3 Rxf2+ 29.Kd3 Rd1+ 30.Kxe4
Rxd8 31.Rxa7+ Kg8-) 27...Ng5+
(27...Nc5 28.Nd3 Nxb3 29.Rd7+
Kg8 30.axb3 Rc8 31.Rxa7±) 28.Kg3
Rxe1 29.Rd7+ Kg8 30.Rb4!
(30.Rxa7 Ne4+ 31.Kf4 Nxf2
32.Rxb6 Rxb2±) 30...Rbd1 31.Rxa7
Rd6 32.Rb7 Nf7 33.R7xb6±]

26...Rf1!± 27.Ra3?

[27.Rd8+ Kg7-+]

[27.Kd3 Nc5+ 28.Rxc5 bxc5
29.Rb8+ Kg7 30.Rb7+ Kf8 31.Ng5
(31.Ke2 Rfc1 32.Kd2 Rd1+ 33.Ke2
c4±) 31...Rxf2 32.Ne6+ Ke8
33.Rxh7 Rxb2 34.Rxa7 Rxg2±]

27...Rxf2+ 28.Kd3 Diagram



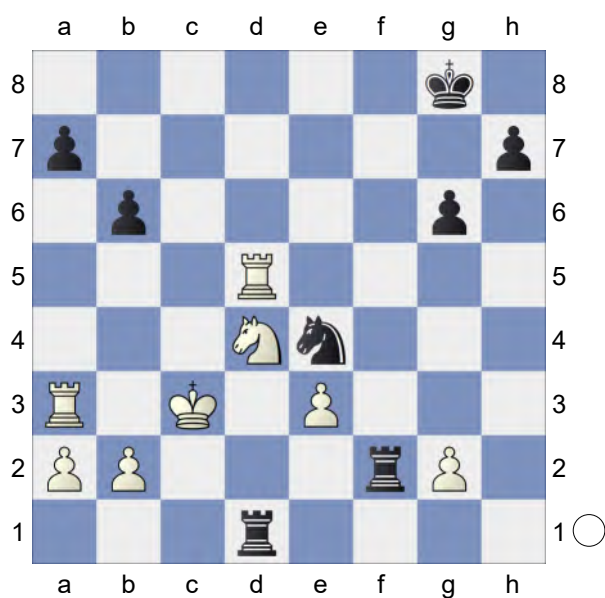
28...Nd6?

[28...Nc5+ 29.Kd4 a5 30.Ke5 Kg7!
(30...Rxb2 31.Kf6~~z~~) 31.Rd2 Rxd2
32.Nxd2 Rxb2 33.Nc4 Rxc2
34.Nxb6 h5-+]

29.Nd4?

[29.e4! ΔRxc2 (29...Rd1+ 30.Ke3
Rxd5 31.Kxf2 Nxe4+ 32.Ke3=)
30.Rxa7 Rd1+ 31.Ke3 Rxd5
32.exd5 Rxb2 33.Ng5 h6 34.Ne6
Nf5+ 35.Kf4=]

29...Rd1+ 30.Kc3 Ne4+



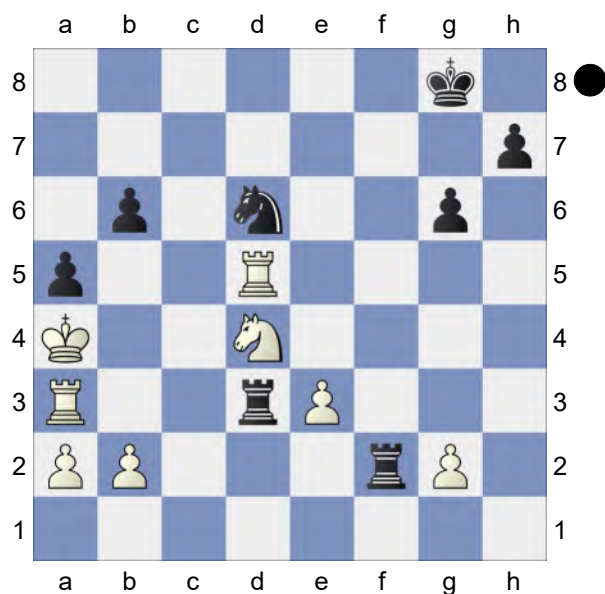
31.Kb3 a5 32.Re5

[32.Kc4 Rc1+ 33.Kb5 Rxb2+
34.Ka6 a4-+]

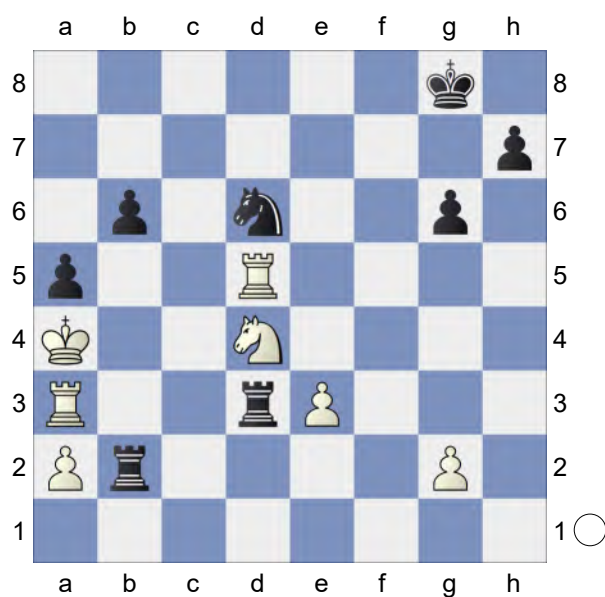
32...Nd6 33.Rd5

[33.Nb5 Rd3+ 34.Nc3 Rdd2-+]

33...Rd3+ 34.Ka4 Diagram



34...Rxb2!



0-1

331

□ Inarkiev, Ernesto

■ Wei, Yi

Magas (m/6-rapid) 137/25

[Perunovic, Milos]

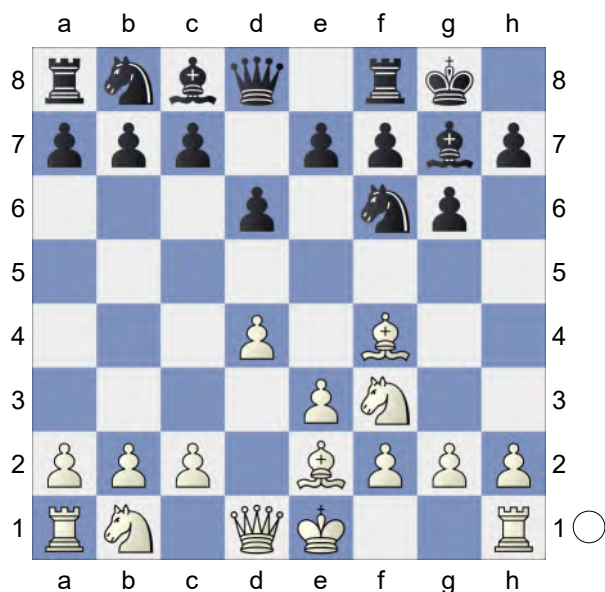
A48

2690

2735

2018

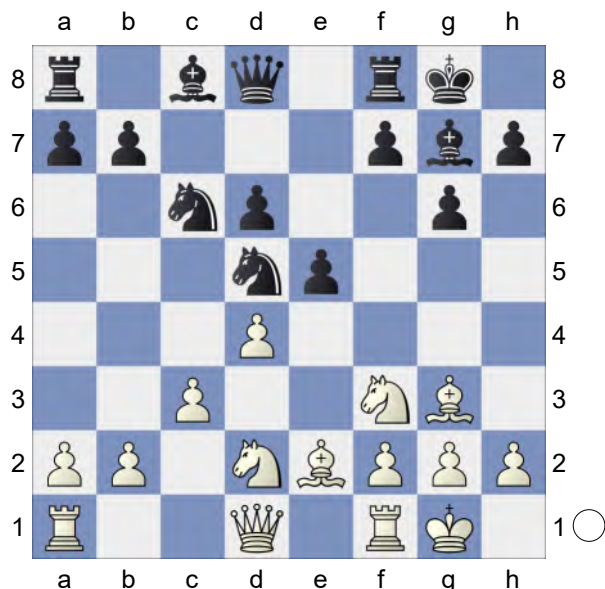
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bf4 Bg7 4.e3
0-0 5.Be2 d6



6.0-0 c5 7.c3 cxd4

[7...b6 - 62/58]

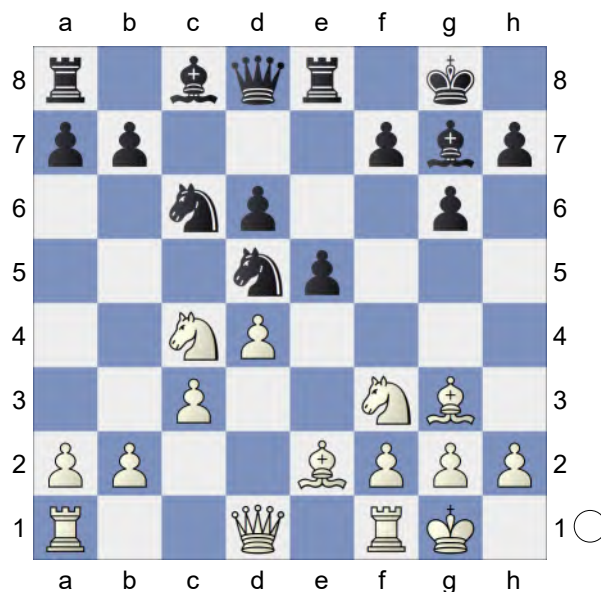
8.exd4 Nc6 9.Nbd2 Nd5 10.Bg3 e5



11.Nc4

[11.Bc4 Be6 (11...Nb6 12.dxe5
dxe5 13.Bb3 Bf5∞) 12.dxe5 dxe5
13.Re1 f6 14.Nd4 Bf7 15.Nxc6
bxc6∞]

11...Re8 Diagram



12.Qb3N

[12.dxe5 dxe5 13.Qb3 Nf4 14.Bxf4
exf4 15.Rad1 Qc7 16.Rfe1∞]

12...exd4

[12...Nf4 13.Bxf4 exf4 14.Rfe1 Rb8
(14...d5 15.Nce5 Nxe5 16.dxe5∞)
15.d5 Na5 16.Nxa5 Qxa5∞]

13.Nxd6

[13.Rae1 Nb6 14.Nxd6 (14.cxd4
Be6) 14...Re6 (14...Be6?! 15.c4
Re7 16.Ng5±) 15.Nxc8 Rxc8
16.cxd4 (16.Bh4 Qf8 17.Ng5 Ree8
18.Bg4 Rxe1 19.Rxe1 Re8∞)
16...Nxd4 17.Nxd4 Qxd4 18.Bf3
Qxb2∞]

13...Rxe2

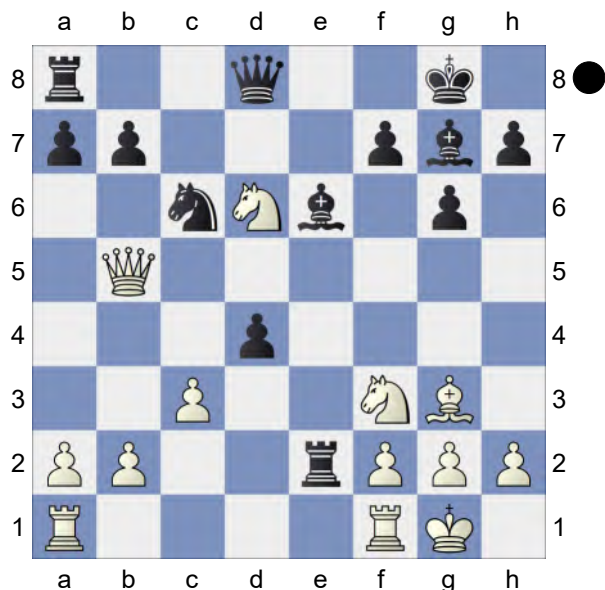
14.Qxd5

Be6

15.Qb5

Diagram

(Diagram)

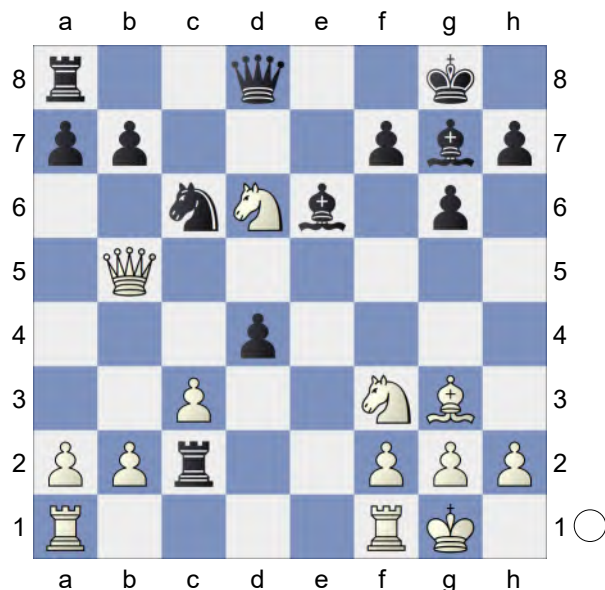
**15...Rc2**

[15...d3!? 16.Rad1 (16.Qxb7 Ne5 17.Nxe5 Bxe5 18.Rad1 Rb8 19.Qf3 Bxg3 20.Qxg3 Rxb2 21.Rxd3 Qf6[∞]) 16...Qb6 17.Qxd3 Rxb2 18.Ng5 Bxa2

A) 19.Ndxf7 Bxf7 20.Nxf7 Qb5! (20...Kxf7? 21.Qd5+ Kf8 22.Bd6+ Ne7 23.Rde1 Re8 24.Qe6+-) 21.c4 Qf5 22.Qxf5 gxf5 23.Nd6 Rf8[⚡];

B) 19.Qe4 Qa5 20.Qh4 h5 21.Nge4 Qd8 22.Qf4[⚡]]

(Diagram)

**16.Ng5**

[16.Ne1 Rd2 17.Nf3 Rc2=]

[16.Qxb7 dxc3 17.bxc3 (17.Rae1 Na5 18.Qe4 Rxb2 19.Ng5 Nb7 20.Nxe6 Nxd6 21.Bxd6 fxe6 22.Qxe6+ Kh8 23.Be5=) 17...Rxc3 18.Rad1 Qf8 19.Ng5 Bxa2 20.Ndxf7 Bxf7 21.Bd6 Rb3 22.Qxc6 Qe8[∞]]

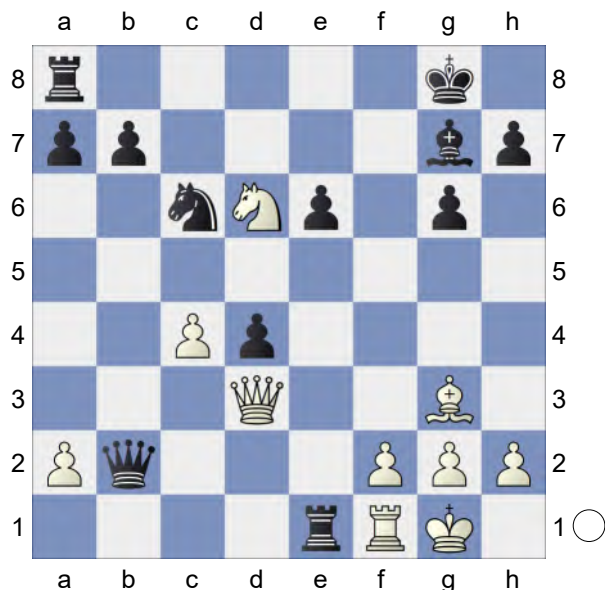
16...Qb6 17.Qd3 Qxb2 18.Nxe6 fxe6 19.c4

[19.Qc4 Nd8 20.Qa4 Nc6 21.Qc4 Nd8=]

[19.Rab1 Rxc3 20.Qe4 Qxa2 21.Rxb7 Qd5[⚡]]

19...Re2 20.Rae1 Rxe1

(Diagram)



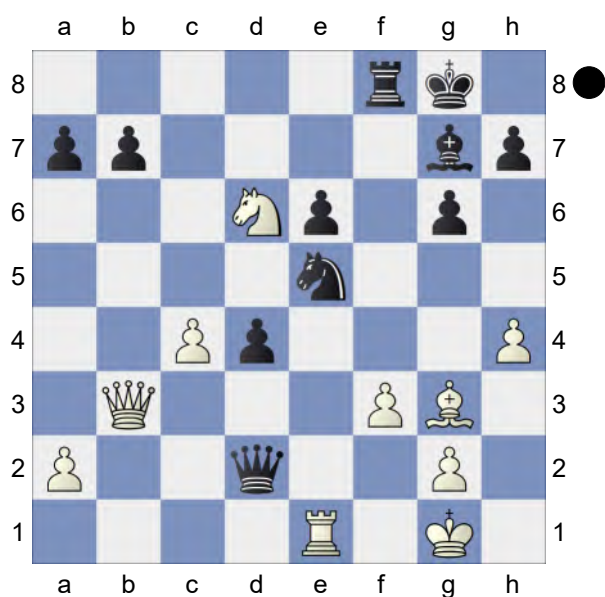
21.Rxe1 Rf8 22.h4 Ne5

[22...Nd8 23.Qb3 (23.h5 gxh5)
23...Qxb3 24.axb3 b6 25.Kf1 Nc6
26.Rxe6 d3 27.Re1 Nd4 28.Rd1
Nxb3 29.Rxd3 Nc5 30.Re3 a5]

23.Qb3 Qd2

[23...Qxb3 24.axb3 Nd3 25.Ra1
(25.Rxe6? Nc5) 25...a5 26.Nxb7
Nb2 27.Nd6 d3 28.Ne4 Rd8 29.Bf4
Nxc4 30.Rc1 Nb6 31.Bd2]

24.f3 Diagram

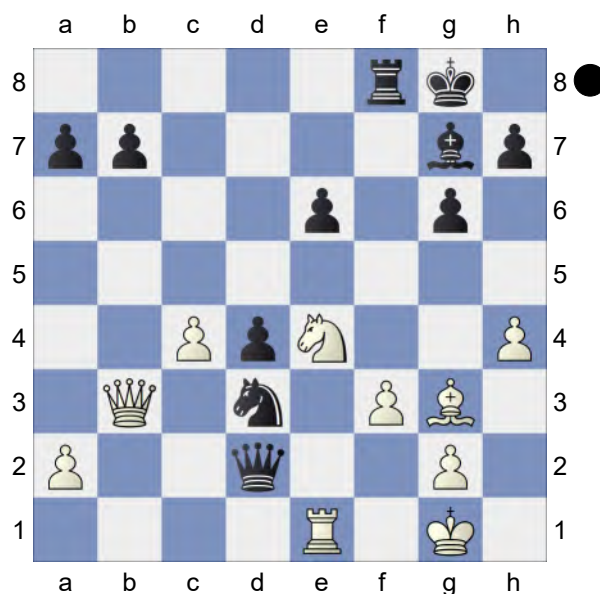


24...Nd3??

[24...Qc3 25.Qxc3 (25.Qxb7 Nxc4

26.Qe7 Nxd6 27.Qxd6=) 25...dxc3
26.Bxe5 Bxe5 27.Rxe5 c2 28.Re1
Rd8 29.c5 b6 30.cxb6 axb6 31.Rc1
Rxd6 32.Rxc2=]

25.Ne4



1-0

415

□ Idani,Pouya

■ Wei,Yi

142/(104) Astana

[Perunovic,Milos]

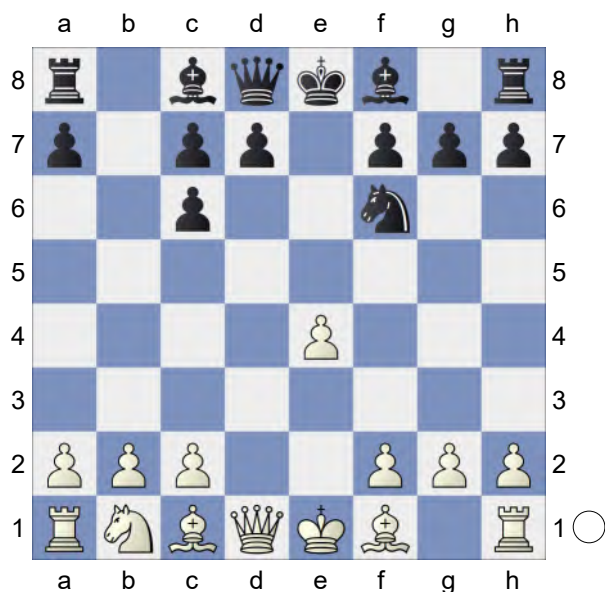
C45

2604

2733

2019

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nxc6 bxc6



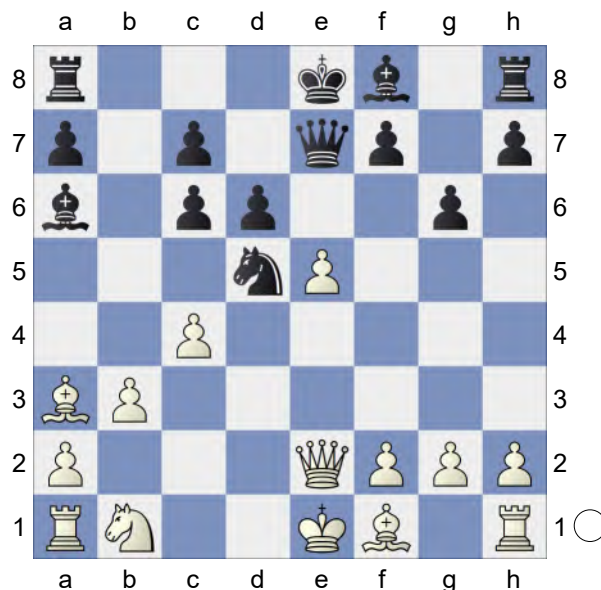
6.e5 Qe7 7.Qe2 Nd5 8.c4 Ba6 9.b3
g6 10.Ba3 * Perunovic,Milos: '*' 10...d6
Diagram

[10...Qxa3 11.Nxa3 Bb4+ 12.Qd2
Bxd2+ 13.Kxd2 Nb4 14.g3 0-0-0
15.Bh3±]

[10...Qg5 11.Bxf8 (11.g3?!
- 60/(308)) 11...Rxf8 12.Qb2 Nb6
13.Nd2 f6 14.Nf3 Qf4 15.Be2±]

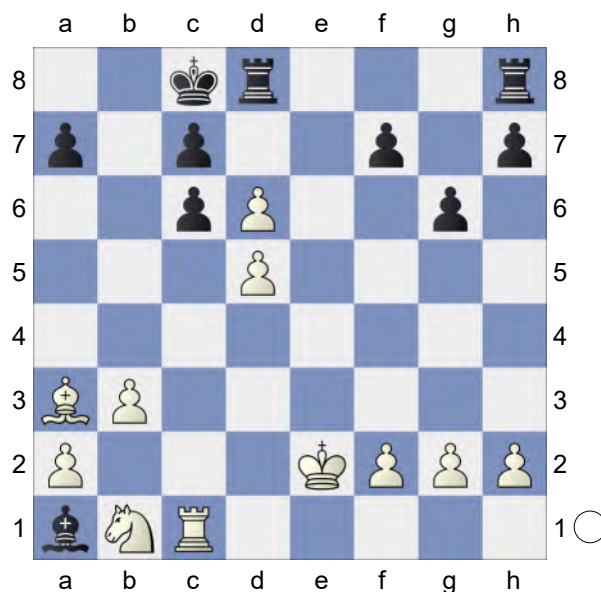
[10...Qh4!? 11.Bb2 Bb4+
A) 12.Kd1?! Nf4 13.Qe4 0-0-0!↑
(13...Qxf2 - 69/(298));

B) 12.Nd2 Nc3 13.Qe3 Ne4
14.g3 Bxd2+ (14...Qg4 15.f3
Bxd2+ 16.Qxd2 Qxf3 17.Qg2
Qe3+ 18.Qe2 Qxe2+ 19.Bxe2±)
15.Qxd2 Nxd2 16.gxh4 Nxf1
17.Rxf1±]



Perunovic,Milos: 'Diagram [#]' 11.exd6!
Perunovic,Milos: '!' 11...Qxe2+ 12.Bxe2
Bg7 13.cxd5 Bxe2 14.Kxe2 Bxa1
15.Rc1 0-0-0 Diagram

[15...cxd6 16.Nd2 Be5 17.Rxc6 0-0
18.Nc4 Rfe8 19.Kf3±]



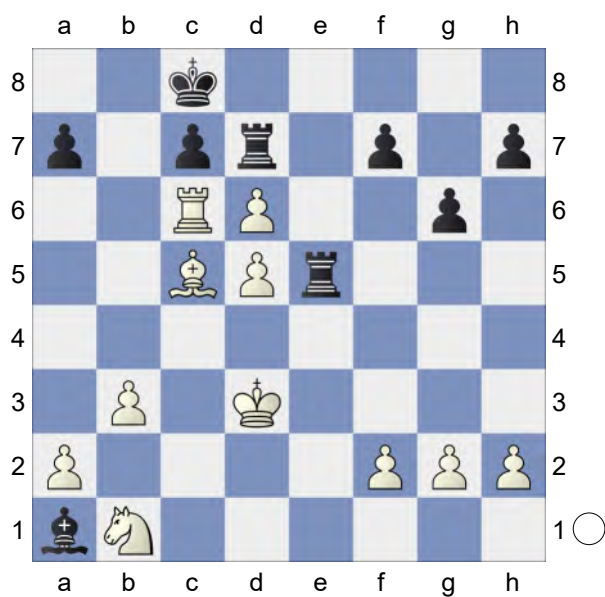
Perunovic,Milos: 'Diagram [#]' 16.Rxc6N
Perunovic,Milos: 'N'

[16.f4! - 142/(104)]

16...Rd7 17.Bc5 Re8+ 18.Kd3 Re5=

[18...Re5 19.Kc4 (19.Na3 Rxd5+
20.Kc4 Rd2 21.Nb5 Be5 22.a4 Kb7

23.dxc7 Rc2+ 24.Kb4 a5+ 25.Kxa5
 Bxc7+ 26.Rxc7+ Rxc7 27.Nxc7
 Rxc5+ 28.Nb5 Rc2 29.Nd6+ Kc6
 30.Nxf7 Rxf2 31.Ne5+ Kb7 32.Nd3
 Rxc2 33.b4 Rxh2 34.b5 Rh5
 35.Kb4 Rh4+ 36.Ka5 Rc4 37.Ne5
 Rd4 38.Nc6 Rd6 0-1 (38) Idani,P
 (2604)-Wei,Y (2733) Astana 2019
 [Perunovic,Milos]) 19...Re4+ 20.Kd3
 Re5=]



1

□ Carlsen,Magnus

■ Wei,Yi

chess24.com (Int.-rapid) 144/46

[Perunovic,Milos]

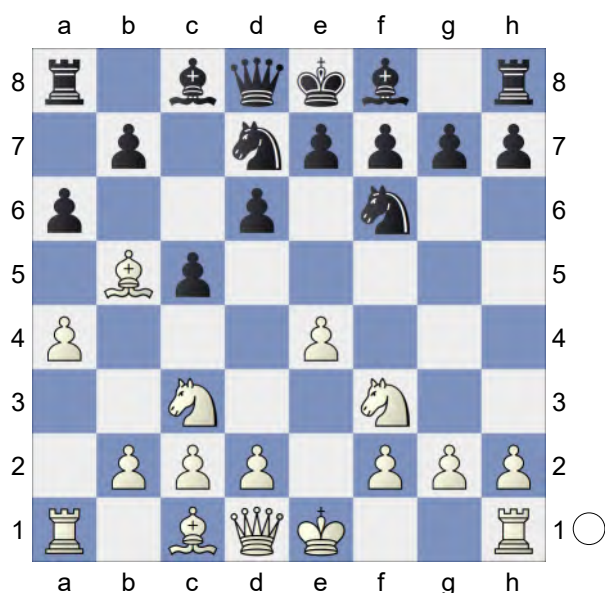
B51

2863

2732

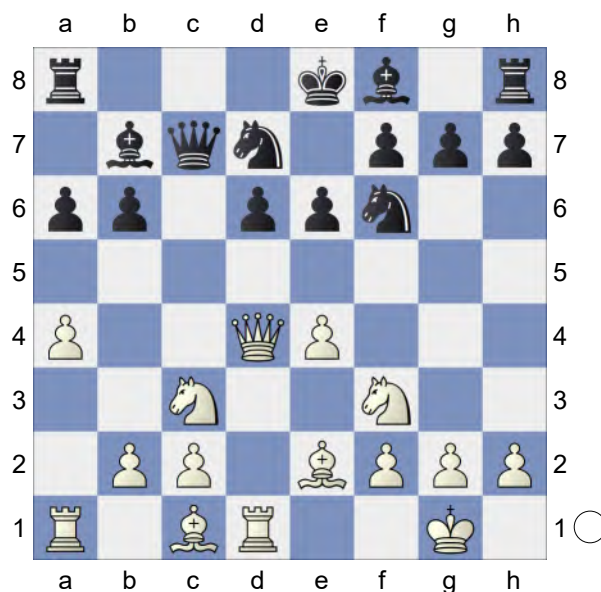
2020

1.e4 Collins,Sam Collins,Sam Collins,
Sam Collins,Sam Collins,Sam:
'Perunovic,Milos Perunovic,Milos:
'Collins,Sam" 1...c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+
Nd7 4.a4 Ngf6 5.Nc3 a6



6.Be2 b6 7.d4 cxd4 8.Qxd4 Bb7
9.0-0 Collins,Sam: 'I covered this line in the Archives, with Black aiming for Dragon-type play (G.Jones - E.Inarkiev, European Championship 2018 (1-0 in 36)) and Najdorf-type play (A.Giri - A. Salem, World Rapid Championship 2018 (1-0 in 39)). Here Wei Yi goes for a Scheveningen setup."I covered this line in the Archives, with Black aiming for Dragon-type play (G.Jones - E.Inarkiev, European Championship 2018 (1-0 in 36)) and Najdorf-type play (A.Giri - A. Salem, World Rapid Championship 2018 (1-0 in 39)). Here Wei Yi goes for a Scheveningen setup. Perunovic,Milos:

'Collins,Sam: 'I covered this line in the Archives, with Black aiming for Dragon-type play (G.Jones - E.Inarkiev, European Championship 2018 (1-0 in 36)) and Najdorf-type play (A.Giri - A. Salem, World Rapid Championship 2018 (1-0 in 39)). Here Wei Yi goes for a Scheveningen setup.'" 9...e6 10.Rd1 Qc7



11.Be3 Be7

[11...Ng4 - 143/49 Collins,Sam:
'(Perunovic,Milos) - 143/49']

12.Nd2 Collins,Sam: 'Bringing the knight to c4 to target the black b6- and d6-pawns.'"Bringing the knight to c4 to target the black b6- and d6-pawns. Perunovic,Milos: 'Collins,Sam: 'Bringing the knight to c4 to target the black b6- and d6-pawns.'"

[12.a5? (Collins,Sam) D.Lukinov - S. Strelnikov, Alushta 2006 (0-1 in 53) is well met by Collins,Sam: 'D.Lukinov - S.Strelnikov, Alushta 2006 (0-1 in 53) is well met by Perunovic,Milos: '(Collins,Sam) D.Lukinov - S. Strelnikov, Alushta 2006 (0-1 in 53) is well met by" b5 when Black will have excellent play on the c-file.]

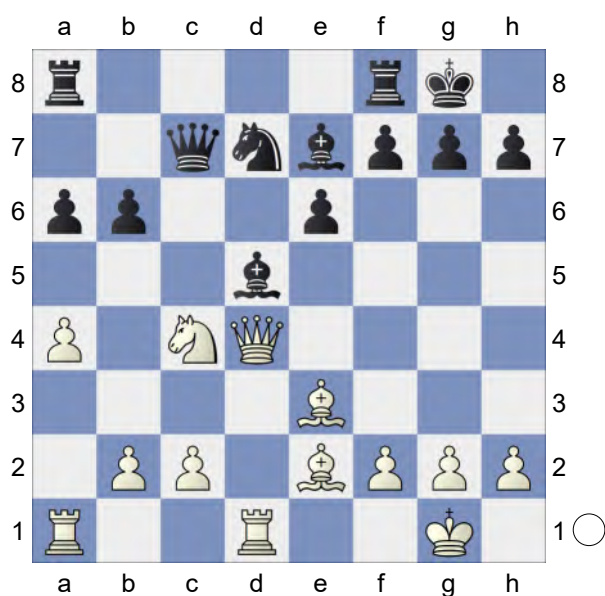
12...0-0

[12...Nc5 (Collins,Sam) is best met by 13.Nc4 with an edge, since Black had good counterplay after Collins,Sam: 'is best met by 13.Nc4 with an edge, since Black had good counterplay after Perunovic,Milos: '(Collins,Sam) is best met by 13.Nc4 with an edge, since Black had good counterplay after" 13.b4 Ncd7 14.Nc4 0-0 15.Ra3 d5!? in A.Giri - Z.Tsydypov, St Petersburg 2018 (1-0 in 36).]

[12...Rd8 Collins,Sam Collins,Sam: 'Perunovic,Milos: 'Collins,Sam' 13.Nc4 0-0 14.Nxb6 Nc5 15.a5 Nfxe4 16.Nxe4 Nxe4 17.Qc4 Qxc4 18.Bxc4 gave White a slightly better endgame in A.Pitra - Z.Tsydypov, Kuala Lumpur 2019 (1/2-1/2 in 58).]

13.Nc4 d5

[13...e5 Collins,Sam: 'Perunovic, Milos' 14.Qd3 Rad8 15.Nd5 Nxd5 16.exd5±]

14.exd5 Nxd5 15.Nxd5 Bxd5**16.Bf4 Qb7**

[16...Qc6 Collins,Sam: 'Perunovic, Milos' 17.Ne3 Nf6 18.Nxd5 (18.c3) 18...Nxd5 19.Be5 f6 20.Bg3 Qxc2

21.Bd3 Qc8 (21...Qc5?? 22.Qe4+-) 22.Rac1±]

17.Nd6 Bxd6N Collins,Sam: 'Perunovic, Milos: 'N'

[17...Qc6?! Collins,Sam: 'Perunovic, Milos' 18.Nf5! exf5 (18...Bf6 19.Qxf6! Nxf6 20.Ne7+ Kh8 21.Nxc6 Bxc6 22.c4±) 19.Qxd5±]

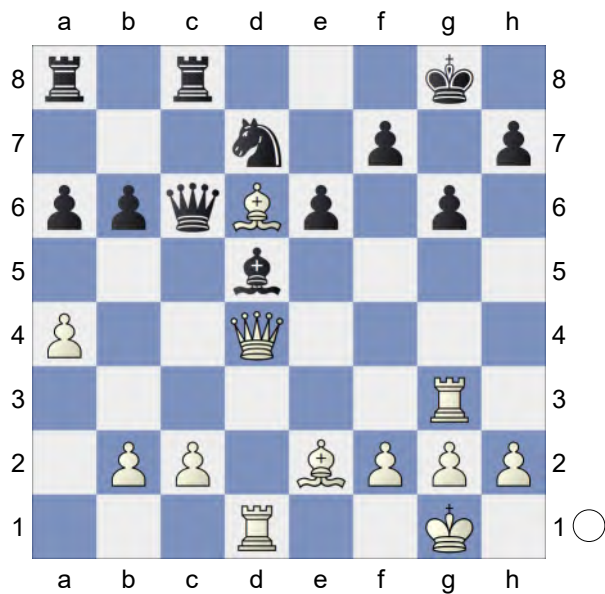
[17...Qa7 Collins,Sam: 'S.Kapnisis - F. Baenziger, Anogia 2019 (1/2-1/2 in 24) is well met by the prophylactic"S. Kapnisis - F.Baenziger, Anogia 2019 (1/2-1/2 in 24) is well met by the prophylactic Perunovic,Milos: 'Collins, Sam: 'S.Kapnisis - F.Baenziger, Anogia 2019 (1/2-1/2 in 24) is well met by the prophylactic'" 18.Qe3± Collins,Sam: '!' '!' '!' '!' Collins,Sam: 'followed by advancing the queenside majority with c4 and b4.'"followed by advancing the queenside majority with c4 and b4. Perunovic,Milos: ' ±' Perunovic,Milos: 'Collins,Sam: '!' Collins,Sam: 'followed by advancing the queenside majority with c4 and b4.'"]

18.Bxd6 Rfc8 19.Ra3 Collins,Sam: '!' '!' '!' '!' Collins,Sam: 'Bringing the rook into play along the third 'Bringing the rook into play along the third rank. Perunovic,Milos: 'Collins,Sam: '!' Collins,Sam: 'Bringing the rook into play along the third rank.'" rank.' 19...Qc6

[19...Rxc2? Collins,Sam: 'Perunovic, Milos' 20.Bd3 Rc6 21.Bxh7+ Kxh7 22.Qh4+ Kg8 23.Rh3 f6 24.Qh7+ Kf7 25.Rg3 Rxd6 26.Rxg7+ Ke8 27.Qg8+ Nf8 28.Rxb7 Bxb7 29.Rxd6+-]

20.Rg3 g6 Diagram

(Diagram)



Collins,Sam: 'Perunovic,Milos: 'Diagram [#]" **21.Bf4**

[21.Bb4! Collins,Sam: 'Perunovic, Milos' Qxc2 22.Re3 Qxa4 23.b3 Qc6 (23...Qa2 24.h4±) 24.h4 f6 25.h5 Kf7 26.Ba3±]

21...Qxc2 22.Bh6 f6 23.Re1

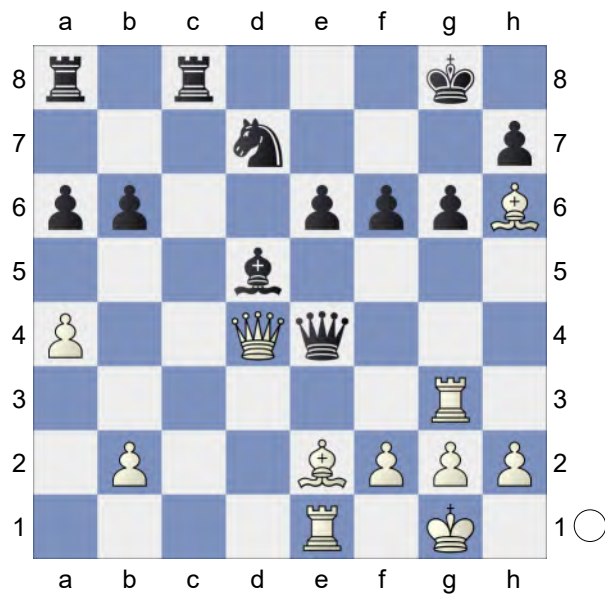
[23.Re3 Collins,Sam: 'Perunovic, Milos' b5 24.a5☞]

23...Qe4 24.Qd1

[24.Qxe4 Collins,Sam: 'Perunovic, Milos' Bxe4 25.Bg4 Bf5 26.Rxe6 Bxg4 27.Rxg4 Kf7 28.Rd6 Ne5 29.Rgd4 b5☞]

24...Qc2 25.Qd4 Qe4

(Diagram)



26.Qd1 Qc2 27.Qa1!? Collins,Sam: 'White had no objective reason to decline the repetition, but this move gets full marks for fighting spirit and visual appeal!' White had no objective reason to decline the repetition, but this move gets full marks for fighting spirit and visual appeal! Perunovic,Milos: 'Collins, Sam: 'White had no objective reason to decline the repetition, but this move gets full marks for fighting spirit and visual appeal!'" **27...Ne5**

[27...b5 Collins,Sam: 'Perunovic, Milos' 28.b3 bxa4 29.Qxa4 Qc6 30.Qh4☞]

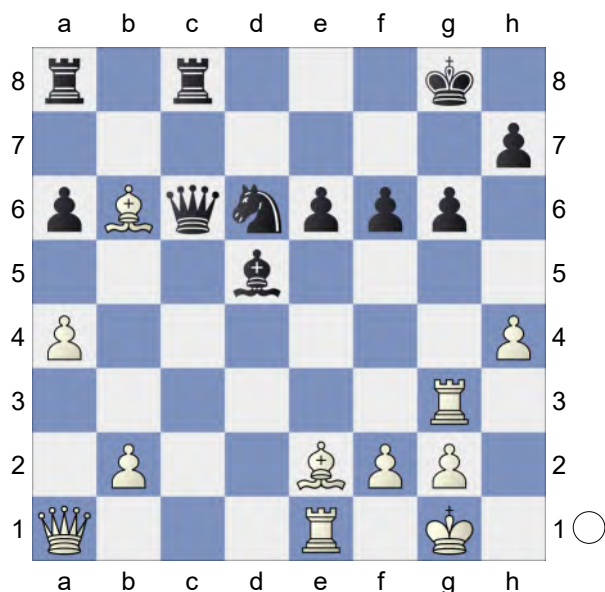
28.h4 Nf7?! Collins,Sam: 'Perunovic, Milos: '?!'

[28...b5 Collins,Sam: 'Perunovic, Milos' 29.b3 bxa4 30.bxa4☞]

29.Be3 Nd6 30.Bxb6 Qc6?

[30...Ne4 Collins,Sam: '±' '±' '±' '±' Collins,Sam: 'followed by ...Nd2-b3 gave more prospects of counterplay. Perunovic,Milos: 'Collins, Sam: '±' Collins,Sam: 'followed by ... Nd2-b3 gave more prospects of counterplay.'" erplay.' 31.Rd3±

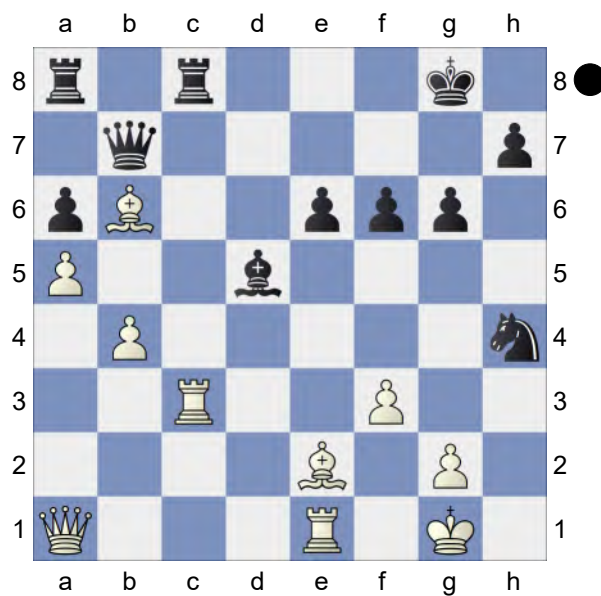
Collins,Sam: 'Perunovic,Milos']



Collins,Sam: 'Withdrawing the active queen is a step in the wrong direction. The counterplay against g2 is easily handled.' Withdrawing the active queen is a step in the wrong direction. The counterplay against g2 is easily handled. Perunovic,Milos: 'Collins,Sam: 'Withdrawing the active queen is a step in the wrong direction. The counterplay against g2 is easily handled.' 31.a5 Collins,Sam: ' ±'±'±'±' Collins, Sam: 'Consolidating the bishop on a powerful o'Consolidating the bishop on a powerful outpost. Perunovic,Milos: 'Collins,Sam: ' ±' Collins,Sam: 'Consolidating the bishop on a powerful outpost.' utpost.' 31...Nf5 32.Rc3 Qb7 33.f3 Nxh4

[33...Rxc3 Collins,Sam: 'Perunovic, Milos' 34.bxc3 e5 (34...Nxh4 35.c4+-) 35.Qa4±]
34.b4 Diagram

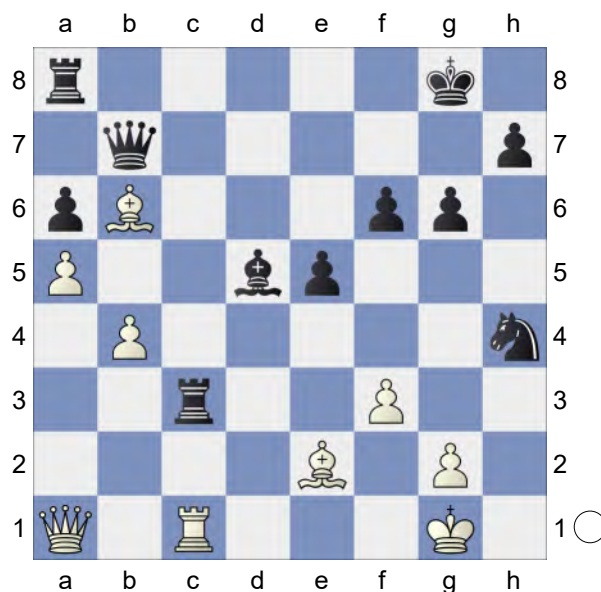
(Diagram)



Collins,Sam: 'Perunovic,Milos: 'Diagram [#]' 34...e5

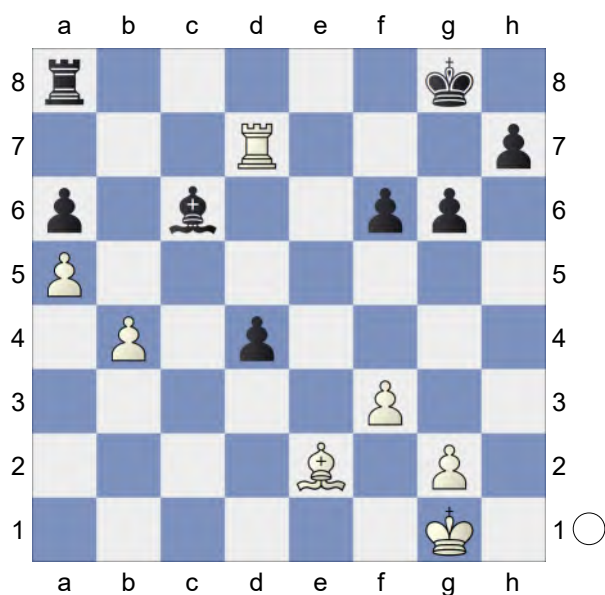
[♖34...Rxc3 Collins,Sam: 'Perunovic, Milos' 35.Qxc3 Qb8 36.Bf2 Nf5 37.Bd3±]

35.Rec1+- Collins,Sam: 'Perunovic, Milos: '+-' 35...Rxc3

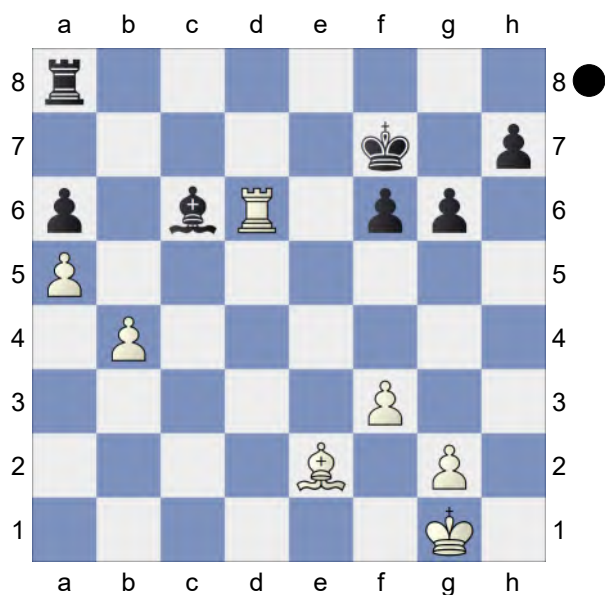


36.Qxc3 Collins,Sam: '+-' '+-' '+-' '+-' Collins,Sam: 'Now White dominates the open c-file, with prospects of both a kingside attack and simply queening his a-pawn, supported by the white bishop 'Now White dominates the open c-file,

with prospects of both a kingside attack and simply queening his a-pawn, supported by the white bishop pair. Perunovic,Milos: 'Collins,Sam: '+-' Collins,Sam: 'Now White dominates the open c-file, with prospects of both a kingside attack and simply queening his a-pawn, supported by the white bishop pair.'" **36...Nf5 37.Qc7 Nd4 38.Bxd4 Qxc7 39.Rxc7 exd4 40.Rd7 Bc6**



41.Rxd4 Kf7 42.Rd6



Collins,Sam: 'Black loses a pawn with a

hopeless endgame, and resigned."Black loses a pawn with a hopeless endgame, and resigned. Perunovic,Milos: 'Collins,Sam: 'Black loses a pawn with a hopeless endgame, and resigned.'" **1-0**

2

□ Carlsen,Magnus

■ Wei,Yi

chess24.com (Int.-rapid) 144/46

[Perunovic,Milos]

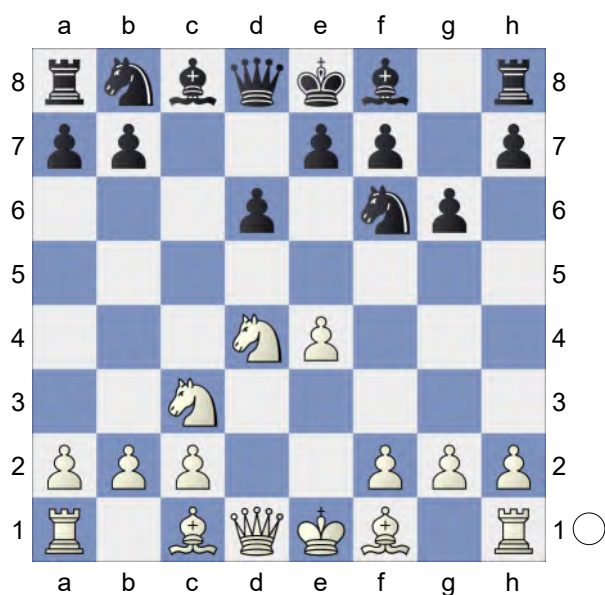
B76

2863

2732

2020

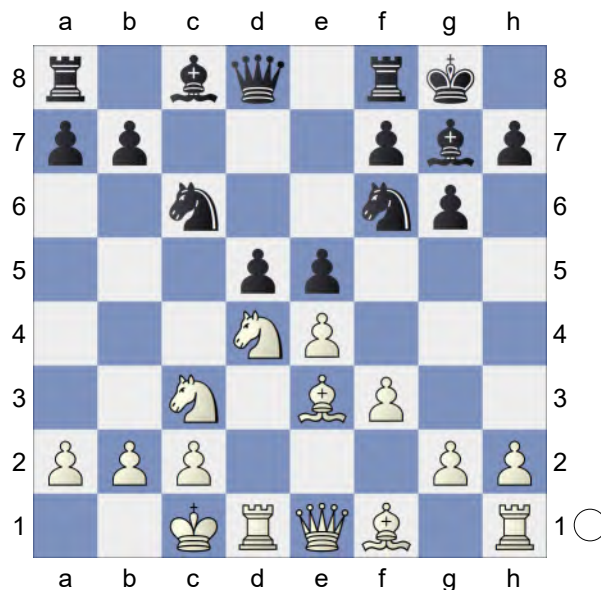
1.e4 Collins,Sam Collins,Sam Collins,
Sam: 'Perunovic,Milos Perunovic,Milos:
'Collins,Sam" 1...c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4
cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6



6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Qd2 0-0
9.0-0-0

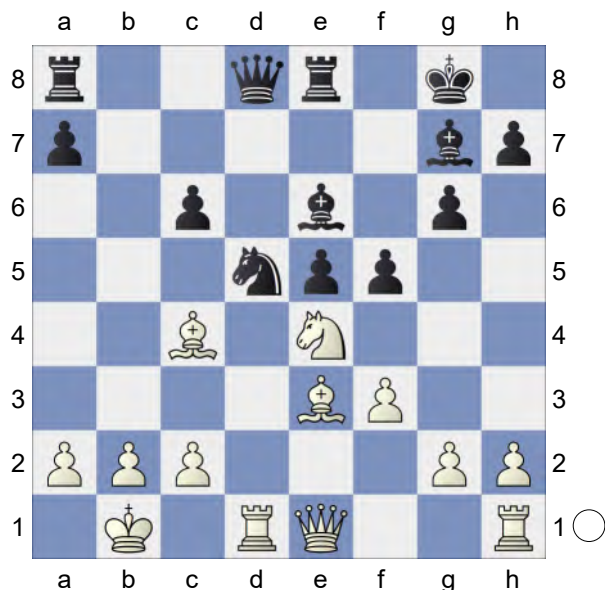
Collins,Sam: 'I covered this line in the Archives, with Black aiming for Dragon-type play (G.Jones - E.Inarkiev, European Championship 2018 (1-0 in 36)) and Najdorf-type play (A.Giri - A. Salem, World Rapid Championship 2018 (1-0 in 39)). Here Wei Yi goes for a Scheveningen setup."I covered this line in the Archives, with Black aiming for Dragon-type play (G.Jones - E.Inarkiev, European Championship 2018 (1-0 in 36)) and Najdorf-type play (A.Giri - A. Salem, World Rapid Championship 2018 (1-0 in 39)). Here Wei Yi goes for a Scheveningen setup. Perunovic,Milos: 'Collins,Sam: 'I covered this line in the

Archives, with Black aiming for Dragon-type play (G.Jones - E.Inarkiev, European Championship 2018 (1-0 in 36)) and Najdorf-type play (A.Giri - A. Salem, World Rapid Championship 2018 (1-0 in 39)). Here Wei Yi goes for a Scheveningen setup.'" 9...d5 10.Qe1 e5



11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.exd5 Collins,Sam:
'Bringing the knight to c4 to target the
black b6- and d6-pawns."Bringing the
knight to c4 to target the black b6- and
d6-pawns. Perunovic,Milos: 'Collins,
Sam: 'Bringing the knight to c4 to target
the black b6- and d6-pawns.'" 12...Nxd5
13.Bc4 Be6 14.Kb1 Re8 15.Ne4 f5

(Diagram)



16.Ng5 Bc8 17.g4

[17.h4 Rb8 18.Bb3 h6∞ 19.c4
Collins,Sam: 'Perunovic,Milos' hxg5
20.cxd5∞ Rxb3! Collins,Sam:
'Perunovic,Milos']

[17.Bb3 f4 18.h4 (18.Ne4 fxe3
19.c4 Be6 20.cxd5 cxd5 21.Qxe3)
18...fxe3 19.c4 e4 20.cxd5 Qf6
21.dxc6+ Kh8± 22.Nf7+ Kg8±
23.Ng5+? Collins,Sam: 'Perunovic,
Milos' Be6 24.Bxe6+ Rxe6 25.Qb4]

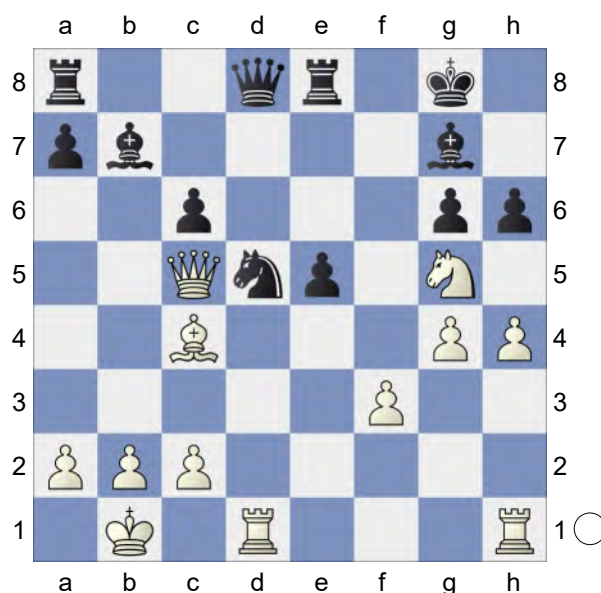
**17...f4N Collins,Sam: 'Perunovic,Milos:
'N' 18.h4**

[18.Bxf4 exf4∞ 19.Rxd5
Collins,Sam: 'Perunovic,Milos' cxd5
(19...Rxe1+ 20.Rd1+) 20.Bxd5+
Qxd5 21.Qxe8+ Bf8]

18...fxe3 19.Qxe3 Collins,Sam: '!' '!'?
Collins,Sam: 'Bringing the rook into
play along the third 'Bringing the rook into
play along the third rank. Perunovic,
Milos: 'Collins,Sam: '!' Collins,Sam:
'Bringing the rook into play along the
third rank.'" rank.' **19...h6 20.Qc5 Bb7**
Diagram

[20...hxg5+- 21.Qxc6 Collins,Sam: '±'
'±' Collins,Sam: 'followed by ...Nd2-b3
gave more prospects of count'followed

by ...Nd2-b3 gave more prospects of
counterplay. Perunovic,Milos: 'Collins,
Sam: '±' Collins,Sam: 'followed by ...
Nd2-b3 gave more prospects of
counterplay.'" erplay.' Be6±
Collins,Sam: 'Perunovic,Milos'
22.Bxd5 Collins,Sam: 'Perunovic,
Milos' Bxd5 23.Rxd5 Qb6∞ 24.Qc4
Collins,Sam: 'Perunovic,Milos' Qe6
25.hxg5 e4]



Collins,Sam: 'Perunovic,Milos: 'Diagram
[#]" **21.Ne4 Re6 22.h5 Qb6**

[22...g5]

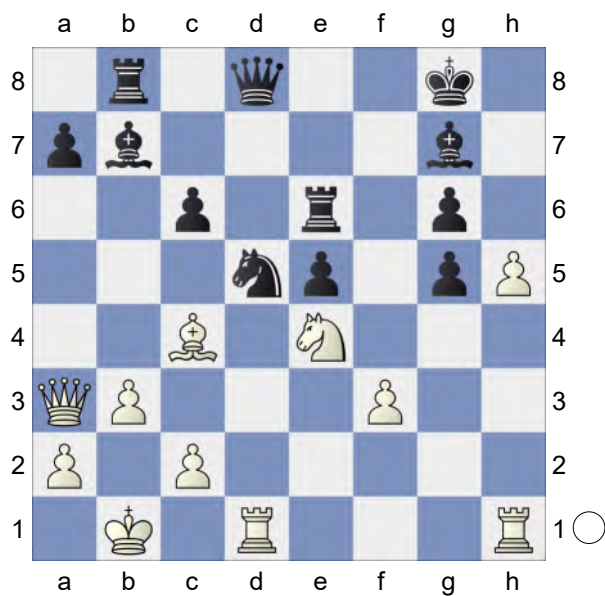
23.g5 hxg5

[∆23...Qxc5 Collins,Sam: 'Perunovic,
Milos' 24.Nxc5 Re7 25.Nxb7 Rxb7
26.Rxd5±]

[23...Bf8 Collins,Sam: 'Perunovic,
Milos' 24.Qg1 Qxg1 25.Rdxg1±]

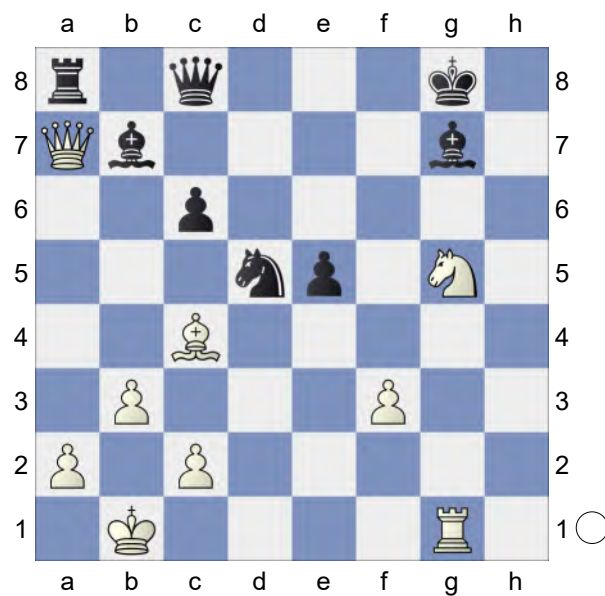
24.Qa3 Rb8 25.b3 Qd8

(Diagram)



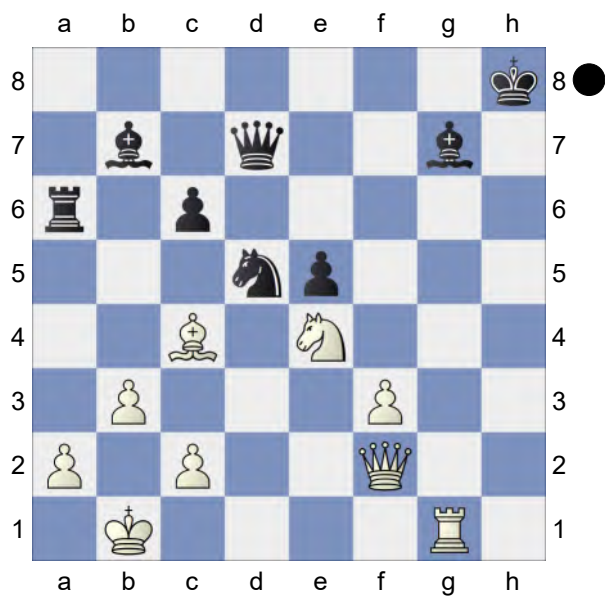
26.Qxa7 gxh5 27.Rxh5!? Collins,Sam: 'White had no objective reason to decline the repetition, but this move gets full marks for fighting spirit and visual appeal!' White had no objective reason to decline the repetition, but this move gets full marks for fighting spirit and visual appeal! Perunovic,Milos: 'Collins, Sam: 'White had no objective reason to decline the repetition, but this move gets full marks for fighting spirit and visual appeal!'" **27...Rg6 28.Rxg5 Rxg5?!** Collins,Sam: 'Perunovic,Milos: '?!' **29.Nxg5 Qc8 30.Rg1 Ra8?**

(Diagram)

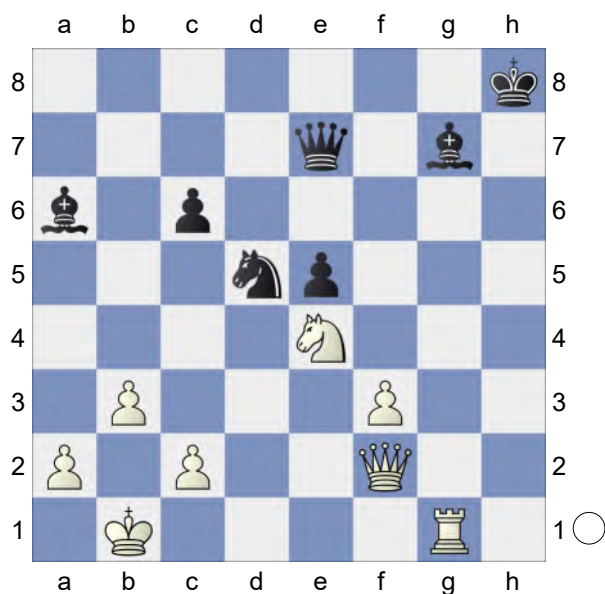


Collins,Sam: 'Withdrawing the active queen is a step in the wrong direction. The counterplay against g2 is easily handled.'"Withdrawing the active queen is a step in the wrong direction. The counterplay against g2 is easily handled. Perunovic,Milos: 'Collins, Sam: 'Withdrawing the active queen is a step in the wrong direction. The counterplay against g2 is easily handled.'" **31.Qb6** Collins,Sam: ' ± ' ± ' Collins,Sam: 'Consolidating the bishop on a powerful outpost.' Perunovic,Milos: 'Collins,Sam: ' ± ' Collins,Sam: 'Consolidating the bishop on a powerful outpost.'" utpost.' **31...Ra6 32.Qc5 Qd7 33.Ne4 Kh8 34.Qf2** Diagram

(Diagram)

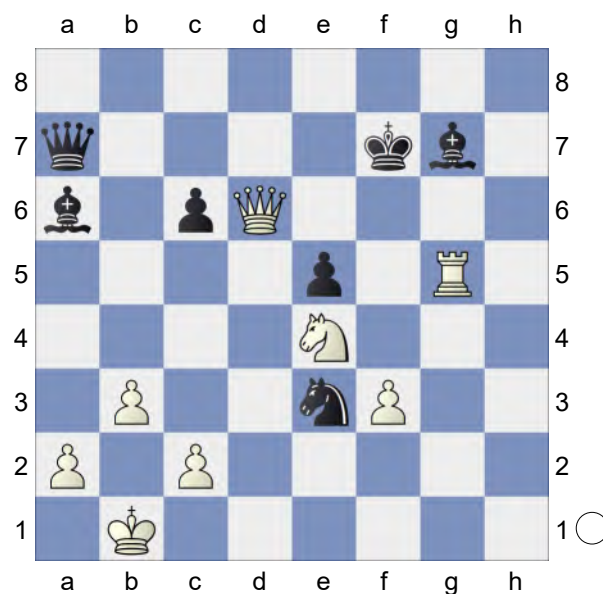


Collins,Sam: 'Perunovic,Milos: 'Diagram
[#]' 34...Qe7 35.Bxa6+- Collins,Sam:
'Perunovic,Milos: '+-' 35...Bxa6

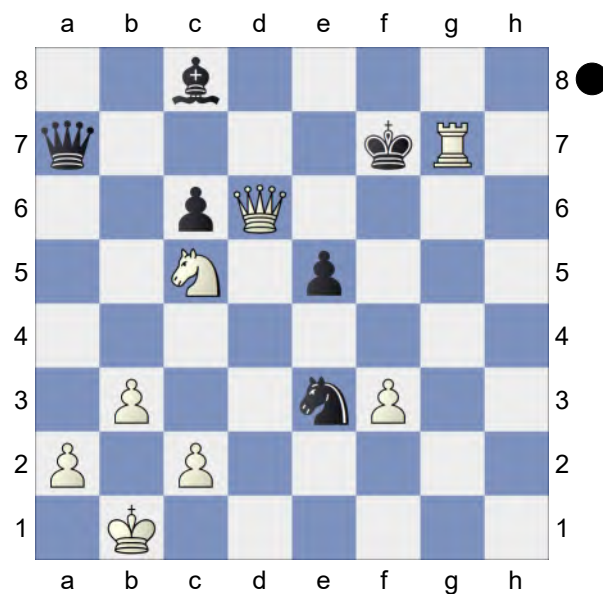


36.Qh2+ Collins,Sam: '+-' '+-' Collins,
Sam: 'Now White dominates the open c-
file, with prospects of both a kingside
attack and simply queening his a-pawn,
supported by the white bishop 'Now
White dominates the open c-file, with
prospects of both a kingside attack and
simply queening his a-pawn, supported
by the white bishop pair. Perunovic,
Milos: 'Collins,Sam: '+-' Collins,Sam:

'Now White dominates the open c-file,
with prospects of both a kingside attack
and simply queening his a-pawn,
supported by the white bishop pair." pair.
' 36...Kg8 37.Qh6 Qa7 38.Qe6+ Kf8
39.Rg5 Ne3 40.Qd6+ Kf7



41.Nc5 Bc8 42.Rxg7+



Collins,Sam: 'Black loses a pawn with a
hopeless endgame, and resigned."Black
loses a pawn with a hopeless endgame,
and resigned. Perunovic,Milos: 'Collins,
Sam: 'Black loses a pawn with a

hopeless endgame, and resigned."

1-0

371

□ Bu,Xiangzhi

■ Wei,Yi

(ch) 119/(141)

[Perunovic,Milos]

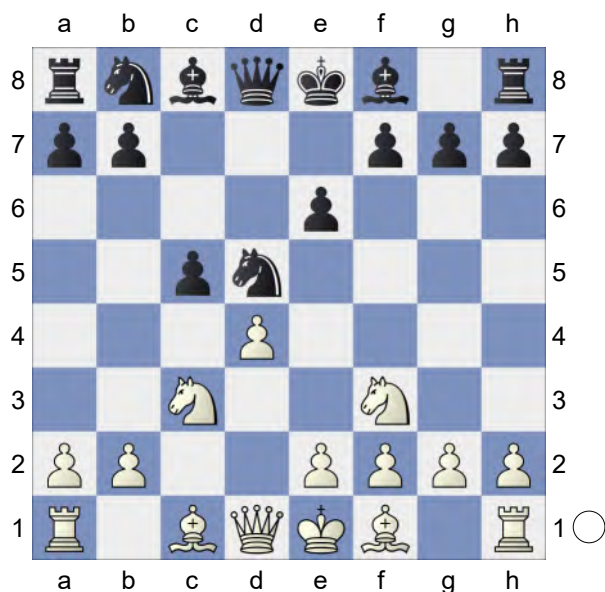
D41

2662

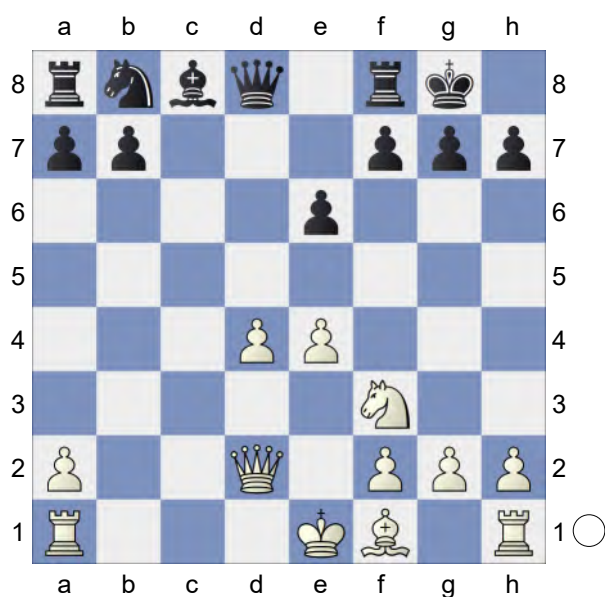
2530

2013

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 c5
5.cxd5 Nxd5



6.e4 Nxc3 7.bxc3 cxd4 8.cxd4 Bb4+
9.Bd2 Bxd2+ 10.Qxd2 0-0

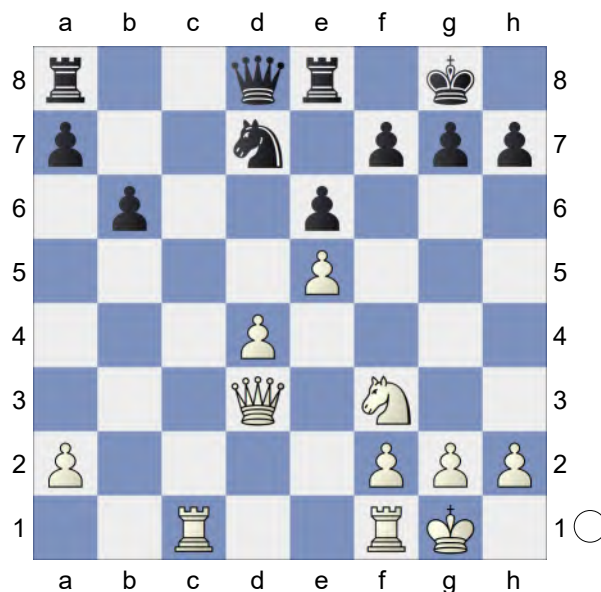


* 11.Rc1 b6 12.Bd3 Ba6
[12...Bb7]

13.0-0 Bxd3 14.Qxd3 Nd7 15.e5 Re8

[15...a6]

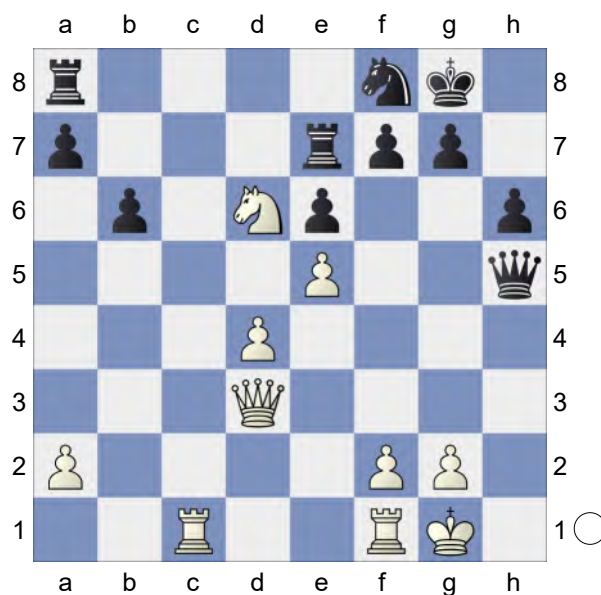
[15...h6]



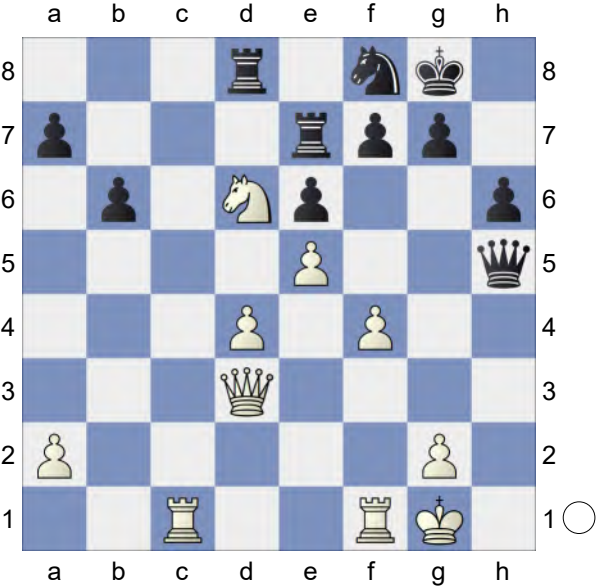
16.h4

[16.Qe3 Nf8 17.Nd2 Ng6 18.Ne4
Qd5 19.Nd6 Re7 20.Rc2 Nh4
21.Qg5 Ng6 22.Rfc1 Qxd4 23.Rc8+
Rxc8 24.Rxc8+ Nf8 25.h3 Qa1+
26.Rc1 f6 27.Rxa1 fxe5 28.Rc1]

16...h6N 17.h5 Nf8 18.Nd2 Qh4=
19.Ne4 Qxh5 20.Nd6 Re7



21.f4 Rd8



370

□ Bu,Xiangzhi

■ Wei,Yi

(ch) 119/(141)

[Perunovic,Milos]

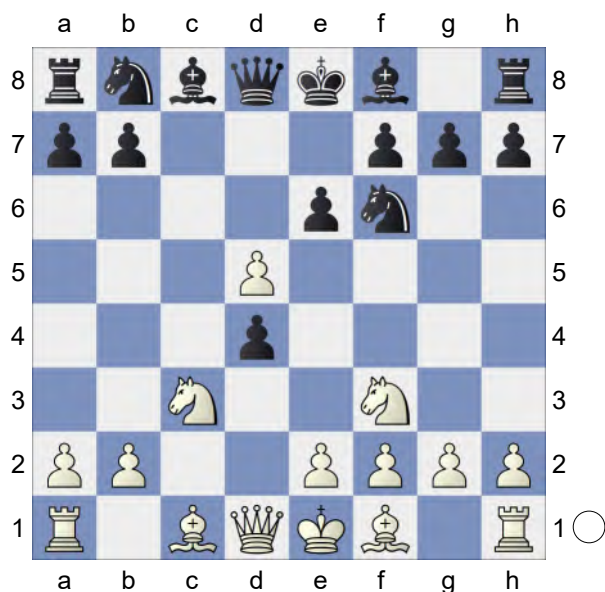
D41

2662

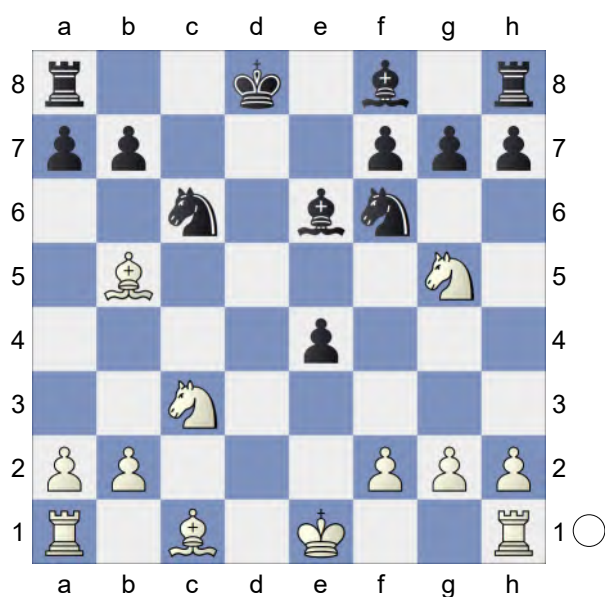
2530

2013

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.d4 c5
5.cxd5 cxd4

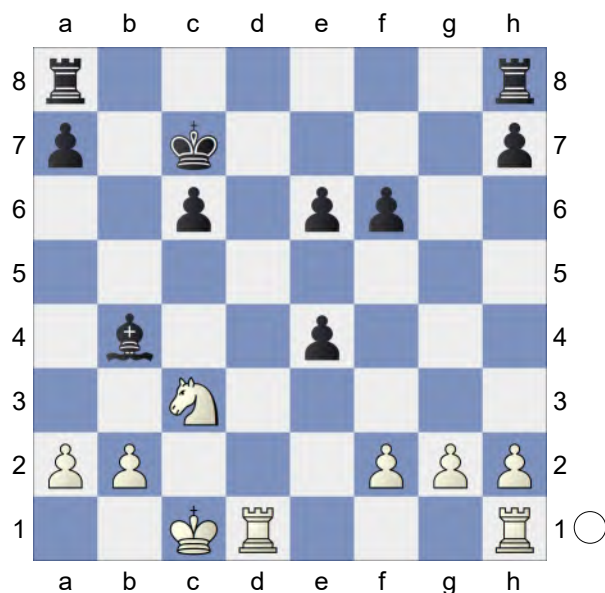


6.Qxd4 exd5 7.e4 Nc6 8.Bb5 dxe4
9.Qxd8+ Kxd8 10.Ng5 Be6



* 11.Bxc6 bxc6 12.Nxe6+ fxe6
13.Bg5

[13.Ke2 Bb4 (13...Kc7) 14.Na4
Nd5 15.Be3 Kc7 16.Rac1 Rhd8]
13...Bb4 14.0-0-0+ Kc7 15.Bxf6 gxf6



16.Nxe4 Rhg8N

[16...f5]

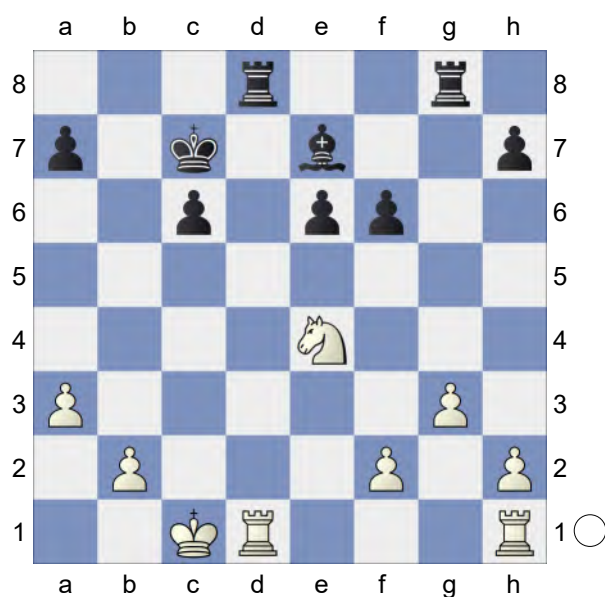
[16...Be7]

17.a3

[17.g3 f5 18.Nd2 e5 19.Nc4 e4]

17...Be7 18.g3 Rad8=

[18...e5]



68

□ Wei,Yi

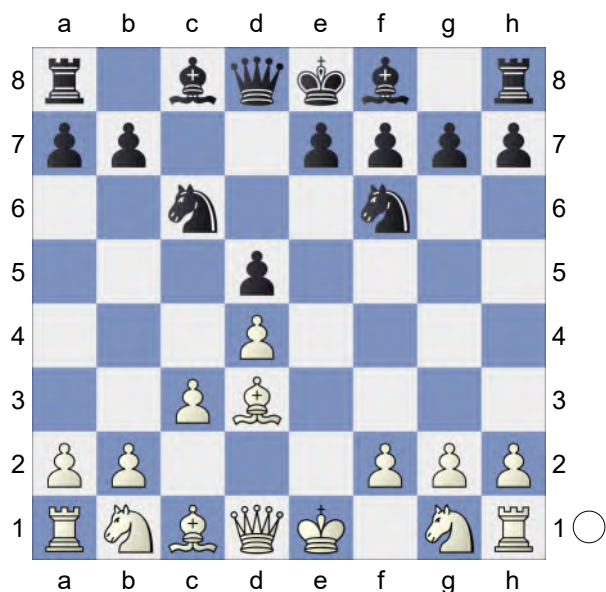
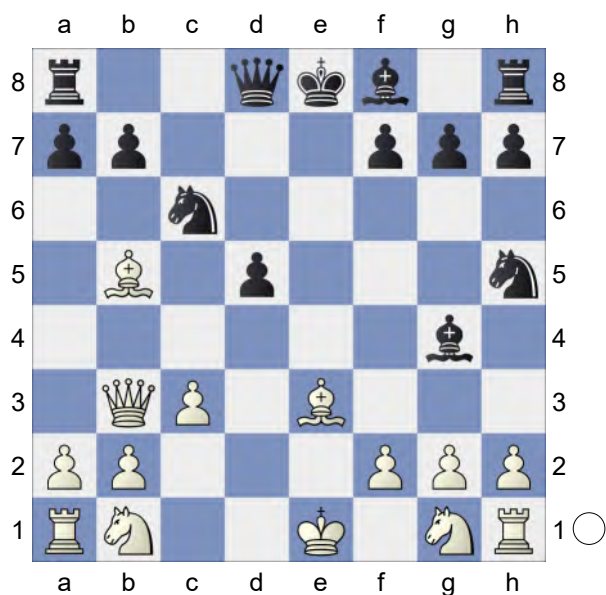
■ Navara,David

Yancheng (playoff-m/2-blitz) 136/(47)2018
[Petronijevic,Zoran]

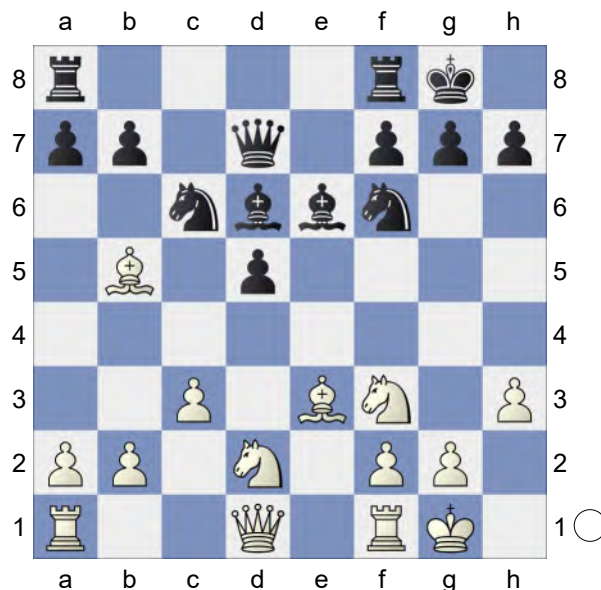
B13

2743

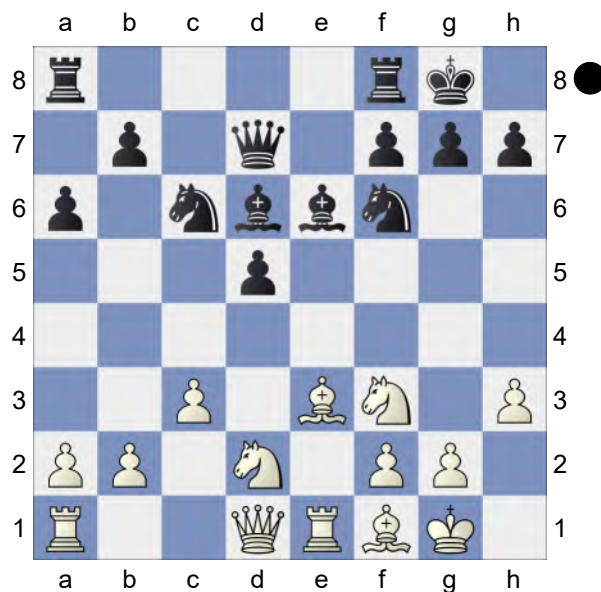
2740

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Bd3
Nc6 5.c3 Nf66.Bf4 Bg4 7.Qb3 e5 * 8.dxe5 Nh5
9.Be3 Nxe5 10.Bb5+ Nc611.h3 Be6 12.Qd1 Nf6 13.Nf3 Bd6
14.0-0 0-0 15.Nbd2 Qd7N

[15...a6]



16.Re1 a6 17.Bf1=



328

□ Rapport, Richard

■ Wei, Yi

119/(4) Gibraltar

[Petronijevic, Zoran]

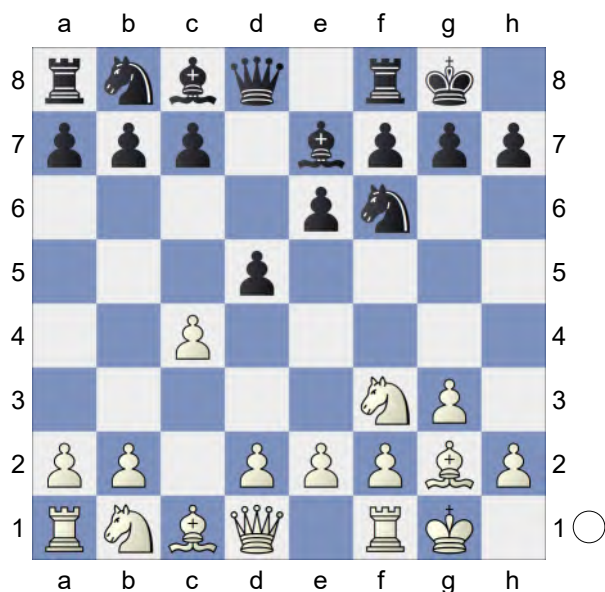
A14

2691

2607

2014

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Be7 4.Bg2
0-0 5.0-0 d5



6.b3 b6 7.Bb2 Bb7 8.e3 c5

[8...Nbd7 9.Nc3 (Kasparov suggests 9.Qe2!? to avoid Black's next move) 9...Ne4! (the exclamation mark is Kasparov's) is a rare but logical continuation, looking to trade a pair of knights and, possibly, dark-squared bishops. This position has been wonderfully analysed by Marin and Kasparov and rather than reproducing their notes here I would urge interested readers to consult the original sources. Lines are: Sam Collins: '(the exclamation mark is Kasparov's) is a rare but logical continuation, looking to trade a pair of knights and, possibly, dark-squared bishops. This position has been wonderfully analysed by Marin and

Kasparov and rather than reproducing their notes here I would urge interested readers to consult the original sources. Lines are:'

A) 10.Ne2 was Kasparov's choice in the final, 24th game of his 1987 World Championship match against Karpov, as evocatively annotated in 'Garry Kasparov on Modern Chess Part Three: Kasparov vs. Karpov 1986-1987'. Karpov chose the unfortunate Sam Collins: 'was Kasparov's choice in the final, 24th game of his 1987 World Championship match against Karpov, as evocatively annotated in 'Garry Kasparov on Modern Chess Part Three: Kasparov vs. Karpov 1986-1987'. Karpov chose the unfortunate 'a5?! and ended up losing a heartbreaking technical display. (Makarychev suggests

10...Bf6 11.d4 c5 "with an excellent game" Sam Collins: "'with an excellent game"; while Taimanov's 10...c5 11.d3 Bf6 12.Qc2 Bxb2 13.Qxb2 Qf6 also looks fully playable for Black. Sam Collins: 'also looks fully playable for Black.');

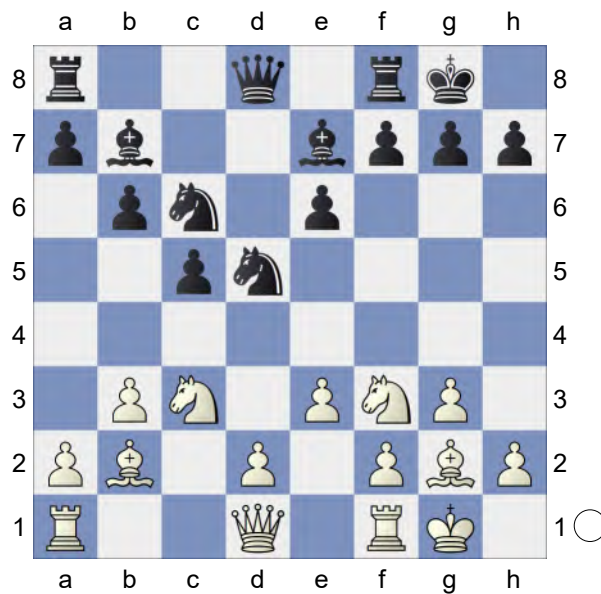
B) 10.cxd5 , M.Marin-Y. Kryvoruchko, Reykjavik 2015, is wonderfully analysed by Marin in Chessbase Magazine #170. Sam Collins: ', M.Marin-Y.Kryvoruchko, Reykjavik 2015, is wonderfully analysed by Marin in Chessbase Magazine #170.]

9.Nc3 Nc6 'Sam Collins: 'Black develops his pieces rapidly to their most active squares. Because of some small problems after White's next move, many black players have preferred alternative

setups, although it is notable that Dominguez chose this line with Black in an important blitz game against Wesley So." **10.cxd5** 'Sam Collins: '!' Sam Collins: 'Black faces a choice on this and the next move, namely whether to endure some tactical discomfort on the long diagonal (by taking with pieces) or a minor structural disadvantage by taking with the pawn. All options are playable and it's a matter of taste, but I believe White has the better chances in most lines.' **10...Nxd5**

[**10...exd5** makes sense since in the arising structures (where Black has a potential isolated queen's pawn or hanging pawns), Black often relies on dynamic play and having more pieces on the board is consistent with this aim. Sam Collins: 'makes sense since in the arising structures (where Black has a potential isolated queen's pawn or hanging pawns), Black often relies on dynamic play and having more pieces on the board is consistent with this aim.' **11.d4 Ne4** (**11...Re8 12.Rc1** was more pleasant for White in N.Vitiugov-D.Frolyanov, Olginka 2011 Sam Collins: 'was more pleasant for White in N.Vitiugov-D.Frolyanov, Olginka 2011') **12.dxc5 Nxc3 13.Bxc3 bxc5 14.Qe2 Re8?** (**14...Qb6** is a better try) **15.Rfd1 Bf8 16.Qb5 Qb6 17.Qxb6 axb6 18.Rxd5 Nd4 19.Nxd4 Bxd5 20.Bxd5 cxd4 21.Bxd4** White was better and went on to win a model game in V.Kramnik-G.Jones, London 2012. Sam Collins: 'White was better and went on to win a model game in V.Kramnik-G.Jones, London 2012.']

(Diagram)



11.Nxd5 Qxd5

[**11...exd5 12.d4** (E.Cordova-Y. Quesada Perez, Merida 2013) leaves White with a better structure but Black has good development. In my book on the Tarrasch I recommended Sam Collins: '(E.Cordova-Y.Quesada Perez, Merida 2013) leaves White with a better structure but Black has good development. In my book on the Tarrasch I recommended' **a5!?** , which I tested against Gawain Jones in Bunratty 2016. After Sam Collins: ', which I tested against Gawain Jones in Bunratty 2016. After' **13.dxc5 bxc5 14.Ne5 Nxe5 15.Bxe5 Ra6!?** **16.Qc2 Qa8 17.Rfd1 a4 18.Qf5** , instead of my **axb3** , (Jacob Aagaard recommended **18...Rd8** , when Black isn't worse.)]

12.d4 *'Sam Collins: 'White's next move is likely to be **Ne5**, while **dxc5** is also a significant idea. Black has a wide choice. " **12...Qf5** 'Sam Collins: 'This has come into fashion and is the simplest route to a sound position.'

[Instead: a) Sam Collins: 'Instead: a) **12...Qd8** is quite passive; e.g. **13.dxc5**

(White hardly needs an improvement here but Sam Collins: 'White hardly needs an improvement here but' 13.Ne5 is another option, for example 13.Ne5 14.Bxb7 Rb8 15.Bg2 cxd4 16.exd4 Nd7 17.d5 exd5 18.Qxd5 Bf6 19.Rad1 Bxb2 20.Qxd7 a5 21.Rfe1 Qxd7 22.Rxd7 and White ground out a win after further adventures in V.Kramnik -T.Radjabov, Kazan 2011 Sam Collins: 'and White ground out a win after further adventures in V.Kramnik -T.Radjabov, Kazan 2011') 13...Bxc5 14.Ne5 Nxe5 15.Bxb7 Rb8 16.Be4 Nd7 17.b4 Be7 18.Qa4 was much better for White in D.Reinderman-T.Gharamian, Belgium 2017, A.Moskalenko-A. Zabotin, Orsha 2019, and several other games. White has the bishop pair and a strong initiative for free. Sam Collins: 'was much better for White in D.Reinderman-T.Gharamian, Belgium 2017, A.Moskalenko-A. Zabotin, Orsha 2019, and several other games. White has the bishop pair and a strong initiative for free.']

[b) 12...Rad8 is the traditional main line, leaving Black a principled choice after Sam Collins: 'is the traditional main line, leaving Black a principled choice after' 13.Ne5 : Sam Collins: 'The most popular move is' The most popular move is

A) 13...Qxg2+!? is a remarkable queen sacrifice which has been used to gain draws against Kramnik and Ehlvest. After Sam Collins: 'is a remarkable queen sacrifice which has been used to gain draws against Kramnik and Ehlvest. After' 14.Kxg2 Nxe5+ 15.f3 and now cxd4 is the main try; (but 15...Ng4

16.Qe2 cxd4 17.exd4 Nf6 was tested in the stem game M. Andrijevic-M.Jovicic, Belgrade 1980. Since Black is trying to erect a fortress White's most principled approach is to open lines with Sam Collins: 'was tested in the stem game M.Andrijevic-M.Jovicic, Belgrade 1980. Since Black is trying to erect a fortress White's most principled approach is to open lines with' 18.a4 Nd5 19.a5 . This is assessed as winning by the engines, although admittedly not with a significantly higher evaluation than after 15...cxd4. However, White seems to have more prospects here than after 15...cxd4 and, in any event, 15...Ng4 has been completely abandoned. Sam Collins: ' . This is assessed as winning by the engines, although admittedly not with a significantly higher evaluation than after 15...cxd4. However, White seems to have more prospects here than after 15...cxd4 and, in any event, 15...Ng4 has been completely abandoned.')

A1) 16.exd4 Nc6 and your engine will assess this as totally winning for White, but in fact Black's positional compensation makes the position unclear (although the play is for two results) Sam Collins: 'and your engine will assess this as totally winning for White, but in fact Black's positional compensation makes the position unclear (although the play is for two results)' 17.Rc1 and now Black has tested several moves:

(17.Qe2 Rd5 18.Rac1 Rfd8 was tried in J.Ehlvest-H. Nakamura, St Louis 2009; after 19.Rc4 Ba6 20.Qe4 Bxc4 21.bxc4 R5d6 22.Rd1 Bf6 23.Ba3 Rxd4 24.Rxd4 Nxd4 White was unable to break through Sam Collins: 'White was unable to break through')

A1a) 17...Rd5 18.Rc4 b5 19.Rc2 Bd6 20.Qe2 Ne7 21.Rfc1 Rf5 and now: Sam Collins: 'and now: Marin's suggestion' Marin's suggestion

A1a1) 22.Bc3?!

was A.Morozevich-V. Bologan, Poikovsky 2014. Now Marin suggests Bxf3+ (22...h5) 23.Qxf3 Rxf3 24.Kxf3 h5 25.Ba5 g5 26.Bc7 Ba3 . This is a more understandable material balance (a pawn for the exchange) where Black appears to have good drawing chances since he retains his rook for the moment and his knight will have a stable square on d5. Sam Collins: '. This is a more understandable material balance (a pawn for the exchange) where Black appears to have good drawing chances since he retains his rook for the moment and his knight will have a stable square on d5. ';

A1a2) 22.d5! is strong, e.g. 22...Bxd5 (22...Nxd5 23.Kg1!) 23.Kg1 Bxf3 24.Qd3 , for example Bd5

(more tenacious than Marin's 24...Nd5 , which loses immediately to 25.Rc8) 25.Qxb5 Be4 26.Qa6 Rd5 27.Rf2 (as given by Demuth) and the asymmetrical pawn majorities are inconsistent with Black's desired fortress. Sam Collins: '(as given by Demuth) and the asymmetrical pawn majorities are inconsistent with Black's desired fortress. ';

A1b) 17...Rd7 seems less principled since White retains the option of sacrificing his d-pawn. Sam Collins: 'seems less principled since White retains the option of sacrificing his d-pawn.' 18.a3 (18.d5 Rxd5 19.Qe2 Nb4 20.Rfd1 Ba6 21.Qe4 Bd3? 22.Qg4 g6 23.Qf4 with a decisive attack in S.Azaladze-A. Nadanian, Batumi 2015) 18...Rfd8 19.Qe2 Bf6 20.b4 e5 (20...Ne7 21.d5 Bxb2 22.Qxb2) 21.d5 Rxd5 22.Rfd1 Nd4 23.Bxd4 exd4 24.Rc7 Bc8 was V.Kramnik-M. Ezat, Antalya 2013 and now Marin gives 25.Qc4 Be6 26.Qa6 d3 27.Rd2 Bg5 28.f4 Bf6 29.Rxa7 Bf5 (?) 30.Ra8 Be4+ 31.Kf1 as winning for White.;

A1c) 17...Bf6 18.Rc4 Rd7 (opening lines with 18...Nxd4 is rejected by Marin based on 19.Qa1 e5 20.Rc7 Ba6 21.Rf2 when the black

queenside is vulnerable and, of the fortress variations, this one seems more brittle to me, although a lot of analysis would be required to definitively assess the position Sam Collins: 'when the black queenside is vulnerable and, of the fortress variations, this one seems more brittle to me, although a lot of analysis would be required to definitively assess the position') 19.Qc2 Ne7 20.Rc7 Rfd8 21.Rxd7 Rxd7 22.Kf2 Nd5 23.a3 h5 24.h4 g6 and in A.Mikaelyan-A.Nadanian, Jermuk 2014 White won after a king march to the queenside (preparing the g4 break). Sam Collins: 'and in A.Mikaelyan-A.Nadanian, Jermuk 2014 White won after a king march to the queenside (preparing the g4 break).';

A2) In his notes to Morozevich-Bologan, Marin gives one of his blitz games, which proceeded Sam Collins: 'In his notes to Morozevich-Bologan, Marin gives one of his blitz games, which proceeded' 16.Bxd4!? Nxf3 17.Rxf3 e5 18.Rc1 exd4 19.exd4 and now: Sam Collins: 'and now: Demuth gives' Demuth gives

A2a) 19...Bc5 20.dxc5!? Rxd1 21.Rxd1 bxc5 22.Rd7 Bxf3+ 23.Kxf3 was M.Marin-T.Gelashvili, World Chess Network (blitz) 2003). As Marin notes, despite Black's (temporary) extra pawn, this

endgame is difficult for him. Sam Collins: 'was M.Marin-T.Gelashvili, World Chess Network (blitz) 2003). As Marin notes, despite Black's (temporary) extra pawn, this endgame is difficult for him.';

A2b) The analysts have differed in their suggested alternatives here. Marin gives Sam Collins: 'The analysts have differed in their suggested alternatives here. Marin gives' 19...Bf6 20.Rc7 (20.Kh3! Bxf3 21.Qxf3 Bxd4 is stronger, when Black retains hopes of building a fortress Sam Collins: 'is stronger, when Black retains hopes of building a fortress') 20...Rxd4 21.Qc1 as slightly better for White.;

A2c) 19...Bxf3+ 20.Kxf3 Rd7 with prospects of a fortress. Compared to 19...Bf6, I don't know how to assess this variation, where White retains his d-pawn. This pawn blocks the d-file (for both sides) and its route to d8 is very well controlled by the black pieces, so it seems to me that White's winning chances are roughly equivalent in both lines. Sam Collins: 'with prospects of a fortress. Compared to 19...Bf6, I don't know how to assess this variation, where White retains his d-pawn. This pawn blocks the d-file (for both sides) and its route to d8 is very well controlled by the black pieces, so it seems to me that White's winning

chances are roughly equivalent in both lines.;

B) 13...Qd6 14.dxc5! (14.Rc1 Nxe5 15.Bxb7 , V.Ivanchuk-M. Carlsen, Cap d'Agde 2008, is less ambitious though Black still needs to be precise to equalise completely Sam Collins: ', V.Ivanchuk-M. Carlsen, Cap d'Agde 2008, is less ambitious though Black still needs to be precise to equalise completely') 14...Qxc5 15.Nd7! . This position is wholly unpromising for Black and, over 40+ games, White has scored very heavily. Marin gives a very detailed coverage but I have sought only to give the key variations since it's a bad line for Black and White has alternatives along the way. Sam Collins: '. This position is wholly unpromising for Black and, over 40+ games, White has scored very heavily. Marin gives a very detailed coverage but I have sought only to give the key variations since it's a bad line for Black and White has alternatives along the way.'

B1) 15...Qf5 16.e4 Qg5 17.h4 Qh6 18.Bc1 g5 19.hxg5 and now:

B1a) 19...Qg7 20.e5 Kh8 (20...Nb8 21.Nf6+ Bxf6 22.exf6 Rxd1 23.Rxd1! Qg6 24.Bxb7 with overwhelming compensation for the queen in B.Khotenashvili -Z.Tan, Jiangsu Wuxi 2012 Sam Collins: 'with overwhelming compensation for the queen in B.Khotenashvili -Z.Tan, Jiangsu Wuxi 2012') 21.Bf4 Bxg5 22.Bxg5 Qxg5 23.Nxf8

Rxd1 24.Raxd1 and White went on to win in E. Miroshnichenko - G. Nakhbayeva, Al Ain 2014. He clearly has the better chances, though Black should try Sam Collins: 'and White went on to win in E.Miroshnichenko-G. Nakhbayeva, Al Ain 2014. He clearly has the better chances, though Black should try' h5!? to generate some kingside counterplay although, admittedly, the black king might feel uncomfortable after Sam Collins: 'to generate some kingside counterplay although, admittedly, the black king might feel uncomfortable after' 25.Rfe1! h4 26.Re3 .;

B1b) 19...Bxg5 20.f4 Be7 (20...Qg7 21.fxg5 Qxa1 22.Nf6+ Qxf6 23.gxf6 Rxd1 24.Rxd1 left Black with a very difficult endgame in O. Ruggieri-A.Kovacs, ICCF email 2013 Sam Collins: 'left Black with a very difficult endgame in O.Ruggieri-A. Kovacs, ICCF email 2013') 21.Qg4+ Qg6 22.Qxg6+ hxg6 23.Nxf8 was clearly better for White in V.Malakhov-B. Savchenko, Konya 2012.;

B2) 15...Qg5? 16.h4! Qh6 17.Rc1 Na5 (17...e5 18.Qg4 with a winning advantage in D. Flores-A.Hoffman, Buenos Aires 2017 Sam Collins: 'with a winning advantage in D.Flores-A.Hoffman, Buenos Aires 2017') 18.Rc7 Bxg2 19.Kxg2 and White won easily in D.Howell-A.Neiksans,

Tromsoe 2014. David Howell had a magnificent Olympiad in Tromsoe but here Neiksans fell into a known opening trap. Sam Collins: 'and White won easily in D.Howell-A.Neiksans, Tromsoe 2014. David Howell had a magnificent Olympiad in Tromsoe but here Neiksans fell into a known opening trap.'

[c) 12...Rfd8?! is a well-known error: 13.Ne5 Qd6 (Black should probably speculate with Sam Collins: 'Black should probably speculate with' 13...Qxg2+ 14.Kxg2 Nxe5+ 15.f3 , as in A.Mikaelyan-H.Hayrapetyan, Yerevan 2016, with comparable play to the 12...Rad8 13 Ne5 Qxg2+ line Sam Collins: ', as in A.Mikaelyan-H. Hayrapetyan, Yerevan 2016, with comparable play to the 12...Rad8 13 Ne5 Qxg2+ line') 14.Qf3 Nxe5 15.Qxb7 with the bishop pair for free and a clear advantage (for example, S.Brunello-M.Brunello, Biella 2011). Sam Collins: 'with the bishop pair for free and a clear advantage (for example, S.Brunello-M.Brunello, Biella 2011).'

[d) 12...Nb4 13.Nh4 Qd7 14.dxc5 Qxd1 15.Rfxd1 Bxg2 16.Kxg2 Bxc5 17.a3 Nd5 and now Marin (and the engines) endorse Nogueiras' suggestion Sam Collins: 'and now Marin (and the engines) endorse Nogueiras' suggestion' 18.b4! (18.e4 Nf6 19.Bxf6 gxf6 20.b4 Be7 21.Rd7 Rfe8 with a level endgame which has been tested in several games Sam Collins: 'with a level endgame which has been tested in several games') , for example 18...Be7 (18...Bxe3 19.Rxd5 exd5 20.fxe3 is also better

for White) 19.Nf5 Bf6 (19...exf5 20.Rxd5 and Black will lose the f5-pawn for insufficient compensation Sam Collins: 'and Black will lose the f5 - pawn for insufficient compensation') 20.Bxf6 Nxf6 21.Ne7+ Kh8 22.Rac1 (Marin) with a much better endgame for White.]

[e) 12...Na5 is well met by 13.dxc5! when the a5-knight is misplaced.]

13.Ne5 'Sam Collins: 'Getting the bishop pair is the most principled option.'

[13.dxc5 is less ambitious; e.g. Sam Collins: 'is less ambitious; e.g.' Rad8 14.Qe2 Bxc5 15.Rac1 Qh5 16.a3 a5 17.Qc4 was L.Van Wely-J. Schroeder, Germany 2019 and now Black could force matters with Sam Collins: 'was L.Van Wely-J.Schroeder, Germany 2019 and now Black could force matters with' Ne7 18.b4 (18.Qe2 f6 is level) 18...axb4 19.axb4 Bxf3 20.bxc5 Bxg2 21.Kxg2 bxc5 22.Qxc5 Qxc5 23.Rxc5 with a draw.]

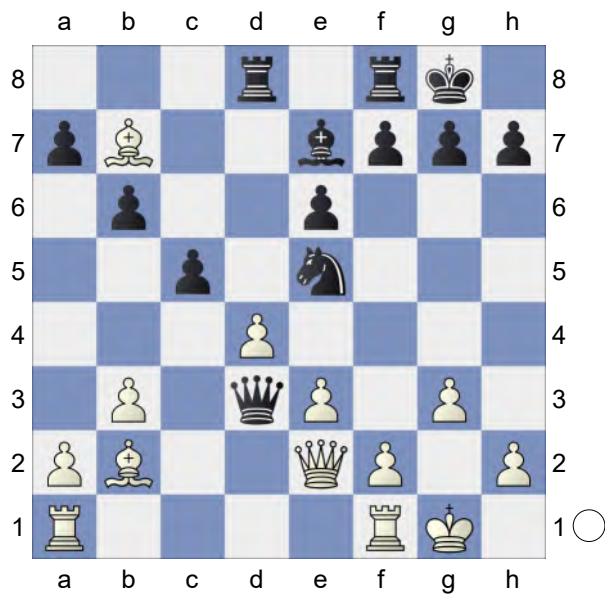
13...Nxe5 14.Bxb7 Rad8 15.Qe2

[15.Qb1 (D.Gordievsky-F.Berkes, Moscow 2017) is well met by Qxb1 16.Raxb1 Nd3 17.Ba1 cxd4 18.Bxd4 Bc5 (18...Bf6 leads to a similar endgame to So-Dominguez Sam Collins: 'leads to a similar endgame to So-Dominguez') 19.Ba1 Rd6 when Black's activity full compensates for the bishop pair. Sam Collins: 'when Black's activity full compensates for the bishop pair.']

15...Qd3N

[15...cxd4]

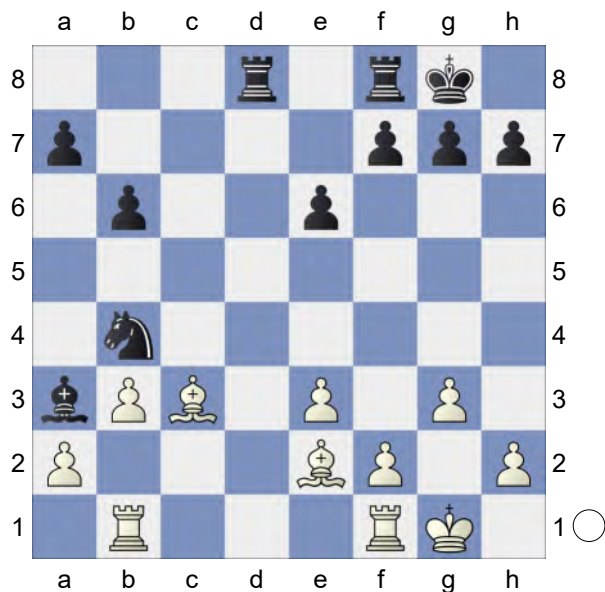
(Diagram)



'Sam Collins: '!' Sam Collins: 'The idea behind ...Qf5.' **16.Ba6** 'Sam Collins: '!' Sam Collins: 'The best hope at retaining an advantage.'

[16.Rae1 Qxe2 17.Rxe2 Nd3 18.Ba1 cxd4 19.Bxd4 Bf6 20.Bxf6 gxf6 was equal in W.So-L.Dominguez Perez, St Louis 2017.]

16...Qxe2 17.Bxe2 cxd4 18.Bxd4 Nc6 19.Bc3 Ba3 20.Rab1 Nb4

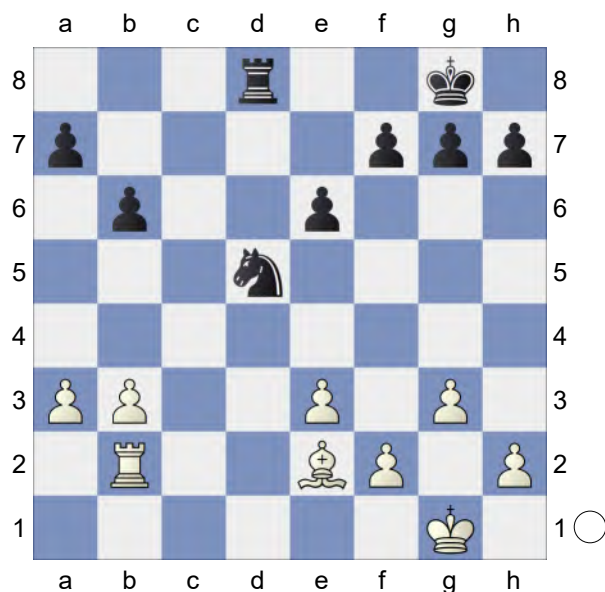


21.Bb2 Bxb2 22.Rxb2 Rc8

[22...Nd3 . It is possible to continue with 23.Bxd3 (23.Rc2 was agreed

drawn in A.Ipatov-M.Mchedlishvili, Izmir 2016 in view of Sam Collins: 'was agreed drawn in A.Ipatov-M. Mchedlishvili, Izmir 2016 in view of' Nb4) 23...Rxd3 24.Rc1 Rfd8 where White's advantage is cosmetic.]

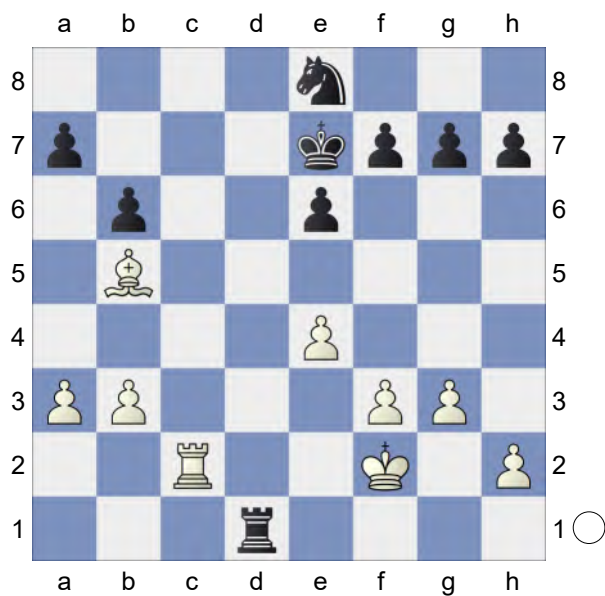
23.Rd1 Rfd8 24.Rxd8+ Rxd8 25.a3 Nd5



26.Rc2± 'Sam Collins: 'White has more to play for in this line than after 22...Nd3, since he has retained the better minor piece.' **26...Kf8 27.e4!** 'Sam Collins: '!' **27...Nf6 28.f3** Restricting t'Sam Collins: 'Restricting the black knight and preparing to invade on the seventh rank. " he black knight and preparing to invade on the seventh rank. **28...Ke7 29.Kf2**

[29.Rc7+ Rd7 leads nowhere.] **29...Ne8 30.Bb5 Rd1**

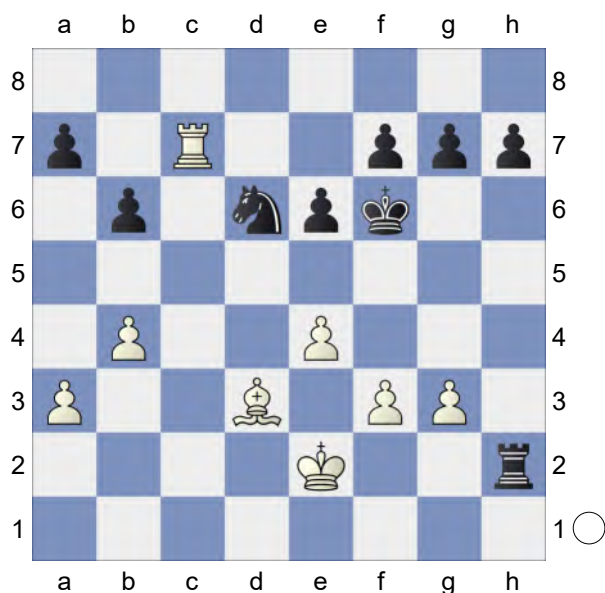
(Diagram)



31.Ke2

[31.f4 was a good alternative, with an edge.]

31...Rb1 32.b4 Rh1 33.Rc8 Nd6 34.Rc7+ Kf6 35.Bd3 Rxh2+



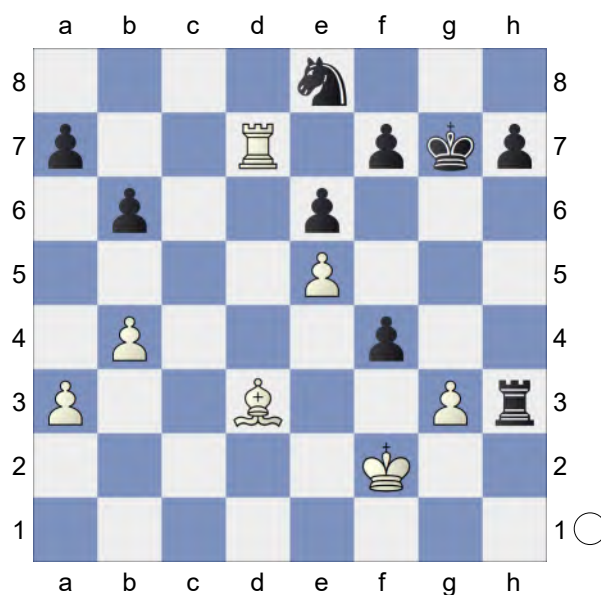
36.Ke3 g5? 'Sam Collins: '?'

[36...e5 was a sounder defence, although after Sam Collins: 'was a sounder defence, although after' 37.Rxa7 Ra2 38.Ra6 Ke6 White retains the better chances. Sam Collins: 'White retains the better chances.']

37.Rd7 Ne8 38.f4! Threatening to win the knight after e5+ and Re7. o win the knight after e5+ and Re7. **38...Rh3 39.e5+ Kg7 40.Kf2?** Now Black obtains counterplay along the third rank. 'Sam Collins: '?' Sam Collins: 'Now Black obtains counterplay along the third rank.'

[40.Kf3 gxf4 41.Kxf4 would leave Black in serious trouble.]

40...gxf4



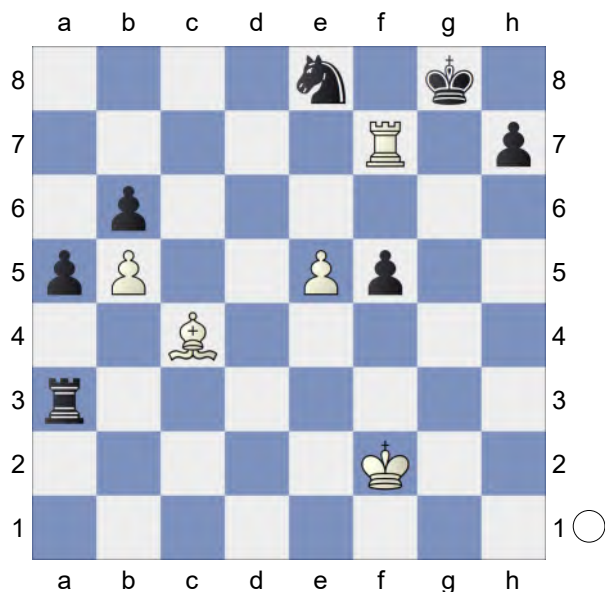
41.gxf4 Kf8

[41...a5!? looks like a better defence, limiting White to an edge. Sam Collins: 'looks like a better defence, limiting White to an edge.']

42.f5! 'Sam Collins: '! 42...a5 43.b5! A very natural decision, keeping more pawns on the board and fixing the weakness on b6. White loses the option of Bb5 (after Re8) but Black's position remains grim." I decision, keeping more pawns on the board and fixing the weakness on b6. White loses the option of Bb5 (after Re8) but Black's position remains grim.

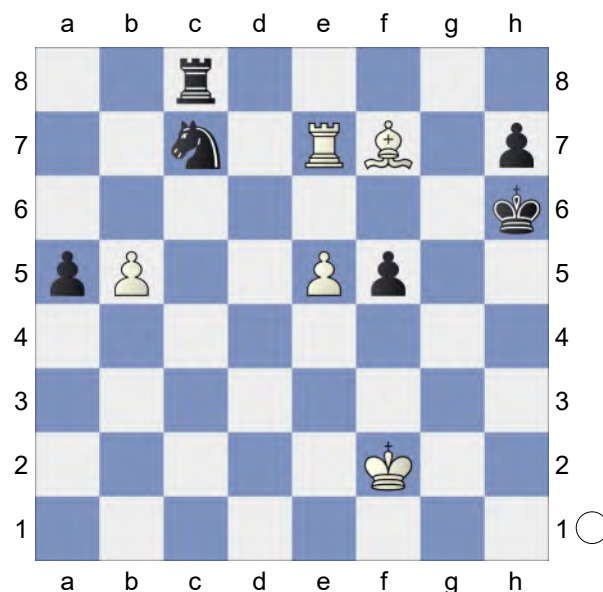
[43.f6 locks out the black knight and threatens Re8 and Bb5. Perhaps Rapport was worried that all his pawns would be eliminated, but I don't see how Black could achieve this, for example Sam Collins: 'locks out the black knight and threatens Re8 and Bb5. Perhaps Rapport was worried that all his pawns would be eliminated, but I don't see how Black could achieve this, for example' Rh5 44.bxa5 bxa5 45.Rd8 Rxe5 (threatening ...Rd5) 46.Ra8 Rh5 47.a4 Rh6 48.Bb5 Rxf6+ 49.Ke3 and White should win.]

43...exf5 44.Bc4! 'Sam Collins: '!'
44...Rxa3 45.Rxf7+ Kg8

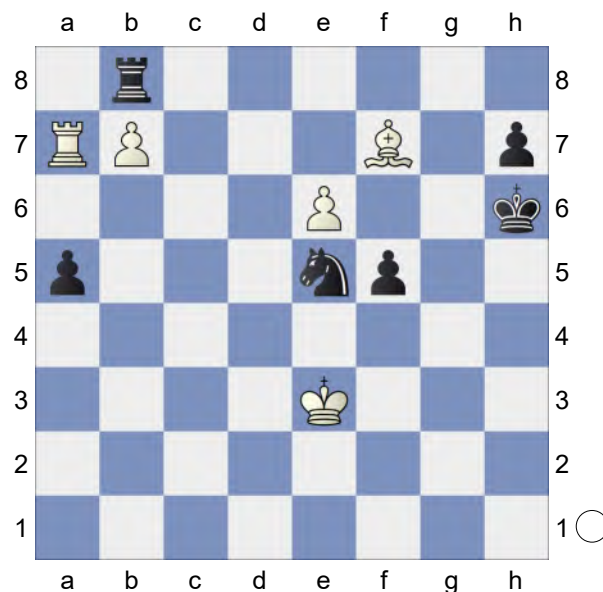


46.Rf6+ Kg7 47.Rxb6 Despite his p'awn deficit, White is winning since he has two mobile passed pawns and the black pieces are atrociously placed." awn deficit, White is winning since he has two mobile passed pawns and the black pieces are atrociously placed. **47...Rc3 48.Rb7+ Kh6 49.Bf7 Rc8 50.Re7 Nc7**

(Diagram)

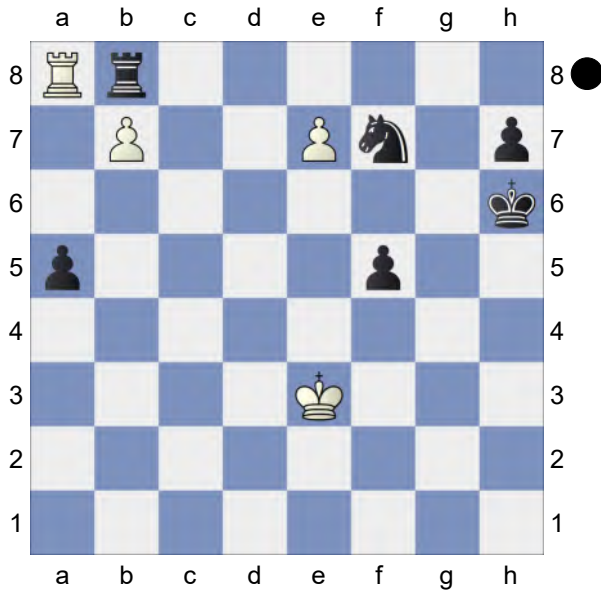


51.b6 Na6 52.Ra7 Nb4 53.e6 Nd3+ 54.Ke3 Ne5 55.b7 Rb8



56.e7 Nxf7 57.Ra8

(Diagram)



. A very fine 'Sam Collins: ' technical display. 1-0 (57) Rapport, R-Wei Yi 16: Gibraltar Masters 2014 MBM: The Réti [Sam Collins]

299

□ Wei, Yi

■ Van Wely, Loek

131/85 Wijk aan Zee

[Pikula, Dejan]

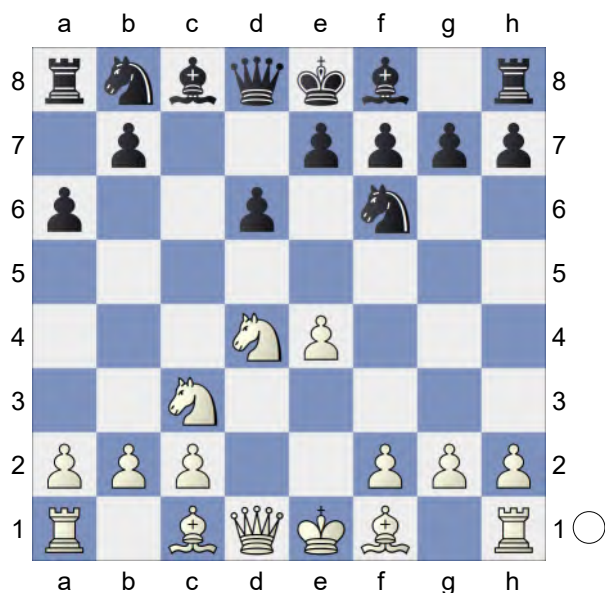
B94

2706

2695

2017

1.e4 Yermolinsky, A Yermolinsky, Alex
 Yermolinsky, Alex Yermolinsky, Alex
 Yermolinsky, Alex Yermolinsky, A
 Yermolinsky, A: 'Pikula, Dejan Pikula,
 Dejan: 'Yermolinsky, A Yermolinsky, A
 Yermolinsky, Alex Yermolinsky, Alex
 Yermolinsky, A" 1...c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4
 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6



6.Bg5 Nbd7 Yermolinsky, A: '!? '!'?
 Yermolinsky, Alex : '!? '!' '!' '!'?
 Yermolinsky, Alex : 'Yermolinsky, A: 'An
 interesting attempt to de'An interesting
 attempt to delay e7-e6 and change the
 move order from the regular Najdorf
 theory. Pikula, Dejan: 'Yermolinsky, A: '!'?
 '!' '!' Yermolinsky, Alex : '!' '!'?
 Yermolinsky, Alex : 'Yermolinsky, A: 'An
 interesting attempt to delay e7-e6 and
 change the move order from the regular
 Najdorf theory.'"

theory.' Yermolinsky, A: 'An
 interesting'Pikula, Dejan: 'Yermolinsky, A:
 'An interesting attempt to delay e7-e6
 and change the move order from the
 regular Najdorf theory. '" attempt to
 delay e7-e6 and change the move order
 from the regular Najdorf theory. ' 7.Bc4
 Yermolinsky, A: '!' '!' Yermolinsky, Alex :
 '!' '!' '!' '!'The most principled reply.
 Pikula, Dejan: 'Yermolinsky, A: '!' '!' '!'
 Yermolinsky, Alex : '!' '!' Yermolinsky, Alex
 : 'Yermolinsky, A: 'The most principled
 reply.'"" Yermolinsky, Alex : 'Yermolinsky,
 A: 'The most principled reply.'"
 Yermolinsky, A: 'The most princ'Pikula,
 Dejan: 'Yermolinsky, A: 'The most
 principled reply.'"" iple reply.'

[Yermolinsky, Alex : 'Yermolinsky, A:
 'For some time everybody went gaga
 over'"For some time everybody went
 gaga over Pikula, Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,
 Alex : 'Yermolinsky, A: 'For some time
 everybody went gaga over'" For some
 time everybody went gaga over
 Yermolinsky, A: 'Pikula, Dejan: 'For
 some time everybody went gaga over"
 7.Qe2 Yermolinsky, A Yermolinsky,
 Alex : 'Yermolinsky, A: 'but this move
 gets more credit for its edgy
 unorthodox appearance than it really
 deserves for its quality.'""but this move
 gets more credit for its edgy
 unorthodox appearance than it really
 deserves for its quality. Pikula, Dejan:
 'Yermolinsky, A Yermolinsky, Alex :
 'Yermolinsky, A: 'but this move gets
 more credit for its edgy unorthodox
 appearance than it really deserves for
 its quality.'"" but this move gets more
 credit for its edgy unorthodox
 appearance than it really deserves for
 its quality. Yermolinsky, A: 'Pikula,
 Dejan: 'but this move gets more credit

for its edgy unorthodox appearance than it really deserves for its quality."

h6 8.Bxf6 Nxf6 9.0-0-0 e5!

Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'A true Najdorf reply!'"A true Najdorf reply! Pikula,Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'A true Najdorf reply!'"' A true Najdorf reply! Yermolinsky,A: 'Pikula,Dejan: 'A true Najdorf reply!" 10.Nf5 g6 11.Ne3 Be6 Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'White has no attack, and for the slow plans of controlling the pace of events through occupation of the d5-square his king really doesn't belongs in the queenside.'"White has no attack, and for the slow plans of controlling the pace of events through occupation of the d5-square his king really doesn't belongs in the queenside.'" Pikula,Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'White has no attack, and for the slow plans of controlling the pace of events through occupation of the d5-square his king really doesn't belongs in the queenside.'" White has no attack, and for the slow plans of controlling the pace of events through occupation of the d5-square his king really doesn't belongs in the queenside. Yermolinsky,A: 'Pikula,Dejan: 'White has no attack, and for the slow plans of controlling the pace of events through occupation of the d5-square his king really doesn't belongs in the queenside."]

[Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'And'"And Pikula,Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'And'"' And Yermolinsky,A: 'Pikula,Dejan: 'And'" 7.f4 Yermolinsky,A Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'is inaccurate:'"is inaccurate: Pikula,Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,

A Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'is inaccurate:'" is inaccurate: Yermolinsky,A: 'Pikula,Dejan: 'is inaccurate:" Qc7 Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'White never gets to place his bishop on c4, which has always been considered the best weapon against Black's setup with Nbd7.'"White never gets to place his bishop on c4, which has always been considered the best weapon against Black's setup with Nbd7. Pikula,Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'White never gets to place his bishop on c4, which has always been considered the best weapon against Black's setup with Nbd7.'" White never gets to place his bishop on c4, which has always been considered the best weapon against Black's setup with Nbd7.'" White never gets to place his bishop on c4, which has always been considered the best weapon against Black's setup with Nbd7.'" 8.Qf3 b5 9.0-0-0 Bb7 10.Bd3 Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'and..."and... Pikula,Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'and..."' and... Yermolinsky,A: 'Pikula,Dejan: 'and..." g6! Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'Welcome to the Dragon's Den, courtesy of the late, great Vugar Gashimov.'"Welcome to the Dragon's Den, courtesy of the late, great Vugar Gashimov. Pikula,Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'Welcome to the Dragon's Den, courtesy of the late, great Vugar Gashimov.'" Welcome to the Dragon's Den, courtesy of the late, great Vugar Gashimov. Yermolinsky,A:

'Pikula,Dejan: 'Welcome to the Dragon's Den, courtesy of the late, great Vugar Gashimov."]

7...Qb6 8.0-0

[8.Bb3 Yermolinsky,A Yermolinsky, Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'appear the most logical, but White cannot quite transpose to the regular lines of Bg5 Najdorf.'"appear the most logical, but White cannot quite transpose to the regular lines of Bg5 Najdorf. Pikula, Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,A Yermolinsky, Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'appear the most logical, but White cannot quite transpose to the regular lines of Bg5 Najdorf.'" appear the most logical, but White cannot quite transpose to the regular lines of ♖g5 Najdorf.

Yermolinsky,A: 'Pikula,Dejan: 'appear the most logical, but White cannot quite transpose to the regular lines of ♖g5 Najdorf." e6 9.Qd2 Yermolinsky, Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'This is more like a Richter-Rauser attack of the Classical with a pinch of Fischer's Sozin Bc4-b3 thrown in.'"This is more like a Richter-Rauser attack of the Classical with a pinch of Fischer's Sozin Bc4-b3 thrown in. Pikula,Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'This is more like a Richter-Rauser attack of the Classical with a pinch of Fischer's Sozin Bc4-b3 thrown in.'" This is more like a Richter-Rauser attack of the Classical with a pinch of Fischer's Sozin ♗c4-b3 thrown in.

Yermolinsky,A: 'Pikula,Dejan: 'This is more like a Richter-Rauser attack of the Classical with a pinch of Fischer's Sozin ♗ c4-b3 thrown in."

(Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'if'"if Pikula,Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'if'" if Yermolinsky,A:

'Pikula,Dejan: 'if' 9.f4 Be7

Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'then White cannot place his queen on f3.'"then White cannot place his queen on f3. Pikula,Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'then White cannot place his queen on f3.'" then White cannot place his queen on f3. Yermolinsky,A: 'Pikula,Dejan: 'then White cannot place his queen on f3.") 9...Be7 10.0-0-0 Nc5 11.Rhe1 0-0 12.f4 h6 13.h4 Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'was played by Andreikin, but Dmitry's opening choices are not to be always taken for granted.'"was played by Andreikin, but Dmitry's opening choices are not to be always taken for granted. Pikula,Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'was played by Andreikin, but Dmitry's opening choices are not to be always taken for granted.'" was played by Andreikin, but Dmitry's opening choices are not to be always taken for granted. Yermolinsky,A: 'Pikula,Dejan: 'was played by Andreikin, but Dmitry's opening choices are not to be always taken for granted."]

[8.Qd2!? Yermolinsky,A Yermolinsky, Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'is a Poisoned Pawn combined with Bc4. Velimirovic would be ecstatic!'"is a Poisoned Pawn combined with Bc4. Velimirovic would be ecstatic! Pikula,Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,A Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'is a Poisoned Pawn combined with Bc4. Velimirovic would be ecstatic!'" is a Poisoned Pawn combined with ♗c4. Velimirovic would be ecstatic! Yermolinsky,A: 'Pikula, Dejan: 'is a Poisoned Pawn combined with ♗c4. Velimirovic would be

ecstatic!" Qxb2 9.Rb1 Qa3 10.0-0 Qc5 11.Bd5 Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'We follow a recent game Tsydypov-Yu Yangyi which I witnessed at Hainan International just a month ago.'"We follow a recent game Tsydypov-Yu Yangyi which I witnessed at Hainan International just a month ago. Pikula,Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'We follow a recent game Tsydypov-Yu Yangyi which I witnessed at Hainan International just a month ago. "' We follow a recent game Tsydypov-Yu Yangyi which I witnessed at Hainan International just a month ago. Yermolinsky,A: 'Pikula,Dejan: 'We follow a recent game Tsydypov-Yu Yangyi which I witnessed at Hainan International just a month ago.'" e6 12.Rfe1 Ne5 (12...Qc7 13.Bxe6 fxe6 14.Nxe6) 13.Na4 Qc7 14.Nb6 Rb8 15.f4 Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'Black's position came under considerable pressure. "'Black's position came under considerable pressure. Pikula,Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'Black's position came under considerable pressure.'" Black's position came under considerable pressure. Yermolinsky,A: 'Pikula,Dejan: 'Black's position came under considerable pressure."]

8...Qc5

[Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'Recently Black tried (and survived!)"Recently Black tried (and survived!) Pikula,Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'Recently Black tried (and survived!)" Recently Black tried (and survived!) Yermolinsky,A: 'Pikula,Dejan: 'Recently Black tried

(and survived!)" 8...Qxb2 Yermolinsky,A Yermolinsky,A: 'Pikula,Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,A" 9.Nd5 Nxd5 10.Rb1 Qc3 11.Bxd5 Qc7 Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'One wonders what the Chinese GM analytical team has up their collective sleeve.'"One wonders what the Chinese GM analytical team has up their collective sleeve. Pikula,Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'One wonders what the Chinese GM analytical team has up their collective sleeve.'" One wonders what the Chinese GM analytical team has up their collective sleeve. Yermolinsky,A: 'Pikula,Dejan: 'One wonders what the Chinese GM analytical team has up their collective sleeve."]

9.Bd5 e6

[Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'Call me a coward, but I'd choose'"Call me a coward, but I'd choose Pikula,Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'Call me a coward, but I'd choose'" Call me a coward, but I'd choose Yermolinsky,A: 'Pikula,Dejan: 'Call me a coward, but I'd choose" 9...g6 Yermolinsky,A Yermolinsky,A: 'Pikula,Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,A" 10.Qd2 Bg7 11.Rad1 0-0 Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'just to play a game of chess, not some memory contest. "'just to play a game of chess, not some memory contest. Pikula,Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'just to play a game of chess, not some memory contest.'" just to play a game of chess, not some memory contest. Yermolinsky,A: 'Pikula,Dejan: 'just to play a game of chess, not some memory contest."]

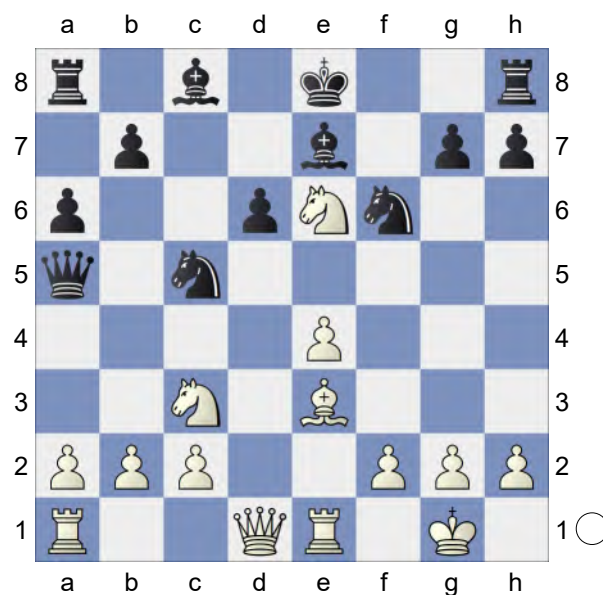
10.Re1 Be7

Dejan: '+-';

B) 14...Ke8 15.Nd5 Nxd5 16.exd5 Ne5 (16...Nf6 17.Bd4+-
 Yermolinsky,A: 'Pikula,Dejan: '+-'
 Kf8 Yermolinsky,A Yermolinsky,A:
 'Pikula,Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,A'
 18.Bxf6 Bxf6 19.Qh5 Yermolinsky,
 Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'was an
 Azarov quick kill against Xiong in
 2014. Rest assured Jeffery doesn't
 lose games in this fashion any
 more!'"was an Azarov quick kill
 against Xiong in 2014. Rest
 assured Jeffery doesn't lose games
 in this fashion any more! Pikula,
 Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,Alex :
 'Yermolinsky,A: 'was an Azarov
 quick kill against Xiong in 2014.
 Rest assured Jeffery doesn't lose
 games in this fashion any more!'"
 was an Azarov quick kill against
 Xiong in 2014. Rest assured Jeffery
 doesn't lose games in this fashion
 any more! Yermolinsky,A: 'Pikula,
 Dejan: 'was an Azarov quick kill
 against Xiong in 2014. Rest
 assured Jeffery doesn't lose games
 in this fashion any more!)" 17.Bf4
 Bf6 18.Ne4± Yermolinsky,A:
 'Pikula,Dejan: ' ±" Qc7 (Yermolinsky,
 A) Adhiban-Swiercz, 2014
 Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Adhiban-
 Swiercz, 2014 Yermolinsky,A:
 'Adhiban-Swiercz, 2014 is a
 reference game, but to my eye
 Black's position stops inspiring
 any confidence once you recall that
 he had already moved his king and
 therefore cannot castle'"Adhiban-
 Swiercz, 2014 is a reference game,
 but to my eye Black's position
 stops inspiring any confidence once
 you recall that he had already

moved his king and therefore
 cannot castle Pikula,Dejan:
 '(Yermolinsky,A) Adhiban-Swiercz,
 2014 Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Adhiban-
 Swiercz, 2014 Yermolinsky,A:
 'Adhiban-Swiercz, 2014 is a
 reference game, but to my eye
 Black's position stops inspiring
 any confidence once you recall that
 he had already moved his king and
 therefore cannot castle'" is a
 reference game, but to my eye
 Black's position stops inspiring
 any confidence once you recall that
 he had already moved his king and
 therefore cannot castle Yermolinsky,
 A: 'Pikula,Dejan: 'is a reference
 game, but to my eye Black's
 position stops inspiring any
 confidence once you recall that
 he had already moved his king and
 therefore cannot castle";

**C) 14...Kf8 Yermolinsky,A: 'Pikula,
 Dejan' 15.f4 h6 16.Nf3↑]**



Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'It
 only took Loek 50 minutes to come up
 with this over-the-board innovation. In

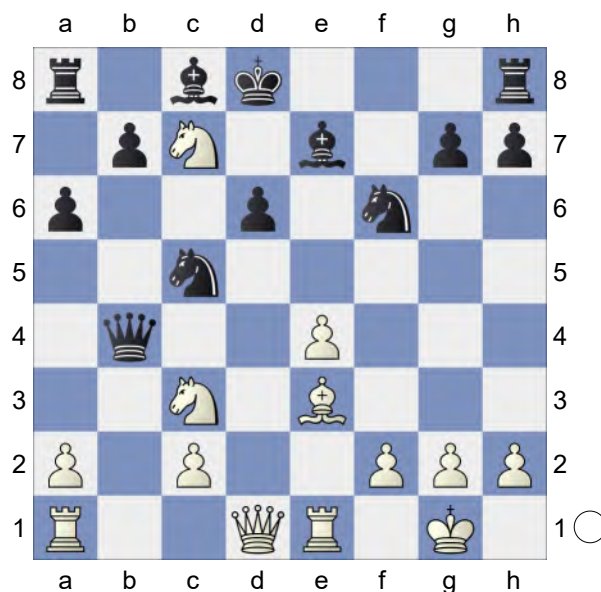
reality it's not such a good move, but additional value is placed on a surprise factor. Nobody wants to let his opponent just follow his computer-approved preparation all the way to victory." "It only took Loek 50 minutes to come up with this over-the-board innovation. In reality it's not such a good move, but additional value is placed on a surprise factor. Nobody wants to let his opponent just follow his computer-approved preparation all the way to victory. Pikula, Dejan: 'N?' Pikula, Dejan: 'Diagram [#]' Yermolinsky, Alex : 'Yermolinsky, A: 'It only took Loek 50 minutes to come up with this over-the-board innovation. In reality it's not such a good move, but additional value is placed on a surprise factor. Nobody wants to let his opponent just follow his computer-approved preparation all the way to victory.'" Yermolinsky, A: 'It only took L' Pikula, Dejan: 'Yermolinsky, A: 'It only took Loek 50 minutes to come up with this over-the-board innovation. In reality it's not such a good move, but additional value is placed on a surprise factor. Nobody wants to let his opponent just follow his computer-approved preparation all the way to victory.'" oek 50 minutes to come up with this over-the-board innovation. In reality it's not such a good move, but additional value is placed on a surprise factor. Nobody wants to let his opponent just follow his computer-approved preparation all the way to victory.'

14.b4!? Yermolinsky, A: 'Pikula, Dejan: '!?"

[Yermolinsky, Alex : 'Yermolinsky, A: 'We can also look at'" "We can also look at Pikula, Dejan: 'Yermolinsky, Alex : 'Yermolinsky, A: 'We can also look at'" Yermolinsky, A: 'We can also

lo'Pikula, Dejan: 'Yermolinsky, A: 'We can also look at'" ok at' 14.Nxg7+ Kf7 15.Nd5 Kxg7 16.Nxe7 Yermolinsky, Alex : 'Yermolinsky, A: 'Black's position is just hopeless here.'" "Black's position is just hopeless here. Pikula, Dejan: 'Yermolinsky, Alex : 'Yermolinsky, A: 'Black's position is just hopeless here.'" " Yermolinsky, A: 'Black's position is just hopeless here. Pikula, Dejan: 'Yermolinsky, A: 'Black's position is just hopeless here.'" " on is just hopeless here.' Kf7 Yermolinsky, A: 'Pikula, Dejan' (16...Qc7 Yermolinsky, A Yermolinsky, A: 'Pikula, Dejan: 'Yermolinsky, A' 17.Nd5 Nxd5 18.exd5 Yermolinsky, Alex : 'Yermolinsky, A: 'etc.'" etc. Pikula, Dejan: 'Yermolinsky, Alex : 'Yermolinsky, A: 'etc.'" " etc. Yermolinsky, A: 'Pikula, Dejan: 'etc.'" 17.b4! Qxb4 18.Qxd6+-]

14...Qxb4 15.Nc7+ Kd8



16.N3d5 Nxd5 17.Nxd5 Qa3

[17...Qa4 Yermolinsky, A: 'Pikula, Dejan' 18.Bxc5 dxc5 19.Nb6+ Qd4 20.Nxa8+-]

18.Nb6 Yermolinsky, Alex : 'Yermolinsky, A: 'The one and only miss by Wei Yi in

the whole game."The one and only miss by Wei Yi in the whole game. Pikula, Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky, A: 'The one and only miss by Wei Yi in the whole game.'" Yermolinsky,A: 'The one and on'Pikula,Dejan: 'Yermolinsky, A: 'The one and only miss by Wei Yi in the whole game.'" ly miss by Wei Yi in the whole game.'

[Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'Also, there was the pretty strong'"Also, there was the pretty strong Pikula, Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'Also, there was the pretty strong'" Yermolinsky,A: 'Also, there wa'Pikula,Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,A: 'Also, there was the pretty strong'" s the pretty strong' 18.e5! Yermolinsky, A: 'Pikula,Dejan: '!' Ne6 Yermolinsky, A: 'Pikula,Dejan' (18...dxe5 Yermolinsky,A: 'Pikula,Dejan' 19.Bc1! Qa4 20.Rxe5 Bg4 21.Qd2+-) 19.Qg4 dxe5 20.Nb6+-]

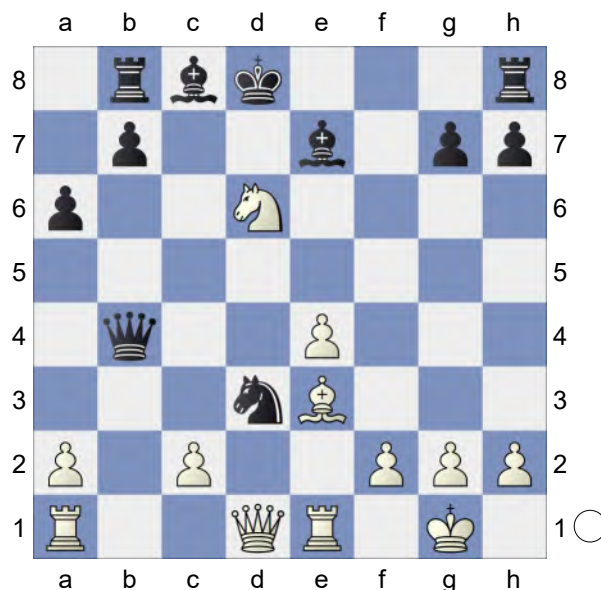
[18.Qf3! Yermolinsky,A Yermolinsky, Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'would make this a typical van Wely Najdorf miniature loss in Wijk aan Zee tournaments - I recall he had three of those in 2010 alone.'"would make this a typical van Wely Najdorf miniature loss in Wijk aan Zee tournaments - I recall he had three of those in 2010 alone.'" would make this a typical van Wely Najdorf miniature loss in Wijk aan Zee tournaments - I recall he had three of those in 2010 alone.'" would make this a typical van Wely Najdorf miniature loss in Wijk aan Zee tournaments - I recall he had three of those in 2010 alone. Yermolinsky,A: 'Pikula,Dejan: 'would make this a

typical van Wely Najdorf miniature loss in Wijk aan Zee tournaments - I recall he had three of those in 2010 alone." Rf8 (18...Qa5 19.Qf7 Bf6 20.Bg5 Bxg5 21.Qxg7) 19.Qg3 Qa5 (19...Be6 20.Nxe7 Kxe7 21.Bg5+ Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'and there goes the queen.'"and there goes the queen. Pikula,Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'and there goes the queen.'" and there goes the queen. Yermolinsky,A: 'Pikula,Dejan: 'and there goes the queen.'") 20.Qxg7 Re8 21.Bg5]

18...Rb8 19.Nc4

[19.e5 Yermolinsky,A: 'Pikula,Dejan' Ne6 20.Qg4 Bd7 21.Rad1 Qxa2 22.exd6 Bf6 23.Nd5+-]

19...Qb4 20.Nxd6 Nd3

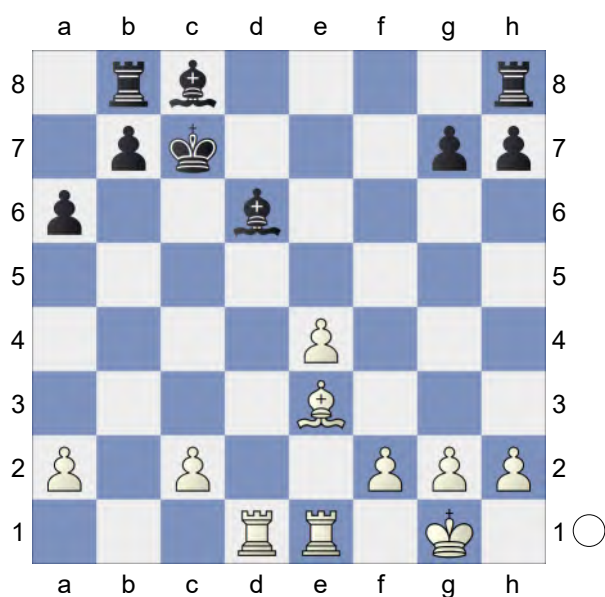


Yermolinsky,A: '!' '!' Yermoli'Pikula, Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,A: '!' '!' '!' Yermolinsky,Alex : '!' '!' nsky,Alex : '!' '!' '!' **21.Qxd3** Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'Wei Yi is still very young but his play shows maturity. Here he goes for a technical solution, hoping to win slowly but surely.'"Wei Yi is still very young but his play shows maturity.

Here he goes for a technical solution, hoping to win slowly but surely. Pikula, Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky, A: 'Wei Yi is still very young but his play shows maturity. Here he goes for a technical solution, hoping to win slowly but surely.''' Yermolinsky,A: 'Wei Yi is stil'Pikula,Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,A: 'Wei Yi is still very young but his play shows maturity. Here he goes for a technical solution, hoping to win slowly but surely.'''' I very young but his play shows maturity. Here he goes for a technical solution, hoping to win slowly but surely.'

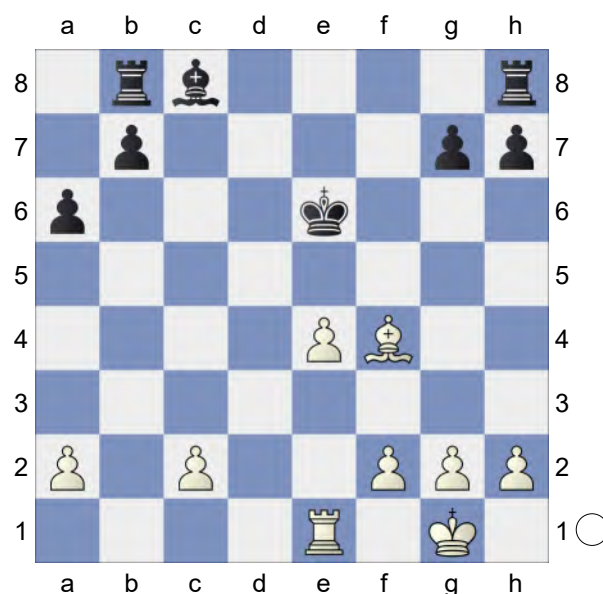
[21.Nf7+ Ke8 22.Qh5 g6 23.Qd5 Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'seems murky when you sit at the board.' Yermolinsky,A: 'seems murky when you sit at the board.' Rf8 Yermolinsky,A: 'Pikula,Dejan' 24.Reb1 Rxf7 (24...Qc3 25.Nd6+ Bxd6 26.Qxd6 Qe5 27.Qxd3+-) 25.Rxb4 Nxb4 26.Qe5 Nc6 27.Qh8+ Bf8 28.Bh6±]

21...Qxd6 22.Qxd6+ Bxd6 23.Rad1 Kc7 Diagram



Yermolinsky,A: 'Pikula,Dejan: 'Diagram [#]' **24.Rxd6!** Yermolinsky,A: 'Pikula,

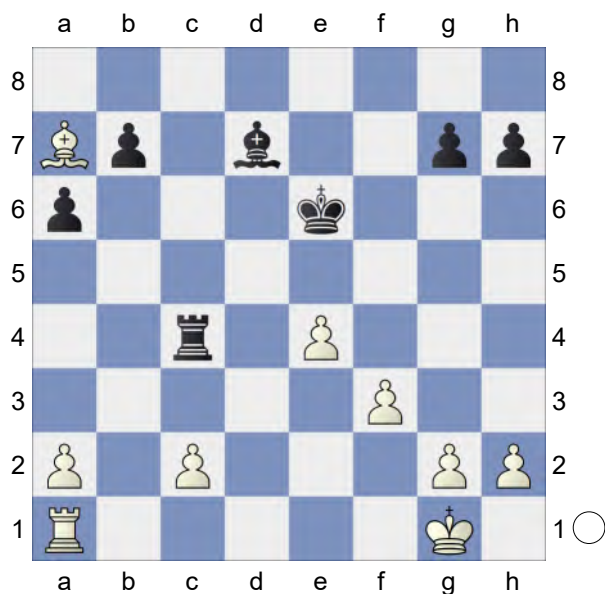
Dejan: '!" **24...Kxd6 25.Bf4+ Ke6**



26.Bxb8± Yermolinsky,Alex :

'Yermolinsky,A: 'Just like this we have arrived at an ending Black may or may not lose. Of course, Loek had maybe a minute left on his clock and was all but mentally spent.'''Just like this we have arrived at an ending Black may or may not lose. Of course, Loek had maybe a minute left on his clock and was all but mentally spent. Pikula,Dejan: ' ±' Pikula, Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky, A: 'Just like this we have arrived at an ending Black may or may not lose. Of course, Loek had maybe a minute left on his clock and was all but mentally spent.''' Yermolinsky,A: 'Just like this'Pikula, Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,A: 'Just like this we have arrived at an ending Black may or may not lose. Of course, Loek had maybe a minute left on his clock and was all but mentally spent.''' we have arrived at an ending Black may or may not lose. Of course, Loek had maybe a minute left on his clock and was all but mentally spent.'

26...Bd7 27.Ba7 Rc8 28.Rc1 Rc4 29.f3 Ra4 30.Ra1 Rc4 (Diagram)



31.c3! Yermolinsky,A: 'Pikula,Dejan: '!'
31...b5

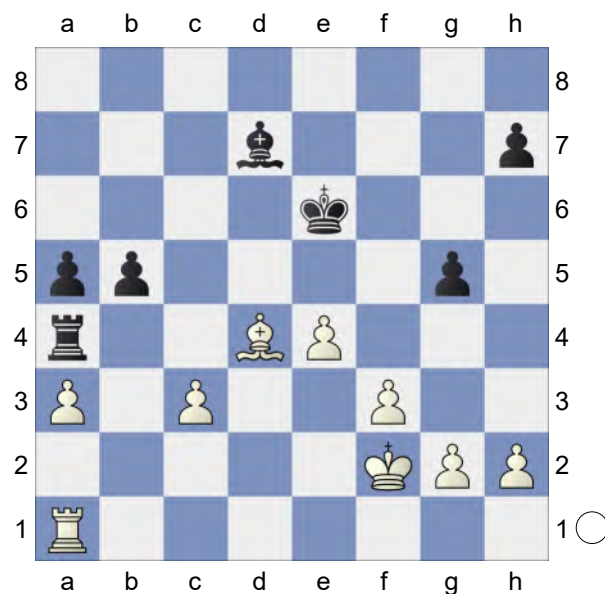
[31...Rxc3 Yermolinsky,A: 'Pikula,Dejan' 32.Bd4 Rc2 33.Bxg7+-]

32.a3 a5 Yermolinsky,Alex :
 'Yermolinsky,A: 'No, not this.'"No, not
 this. Pikula,Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,Alex :
 'Yermolinsky,A: 'No, not this.'"'
 Yermolinsky,A: 'No, not this.'"Pikula,
 Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,A: 'No, not this.'"'

[32...Rxc3 Yermolinsky,A
 Yermolinsky,A: 'Pikula,Dejan:
 'Yermolinsky,A" 33.Bd4 Rc2 34.Bxg7
 a5 Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A:
 'offers some counterchances.'"offers
 some counterchances. Pikula,Dejan:
 'Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A:
 'offers some counterchances.'" offers
 some counterchances. Yermolinsky,A:
 'Pikula,Dejan: 'offers some
 counterchances.'"]

33.Bb6 Ra4 34.Bd4 g6 35.Kf2 g5

(Diagram)



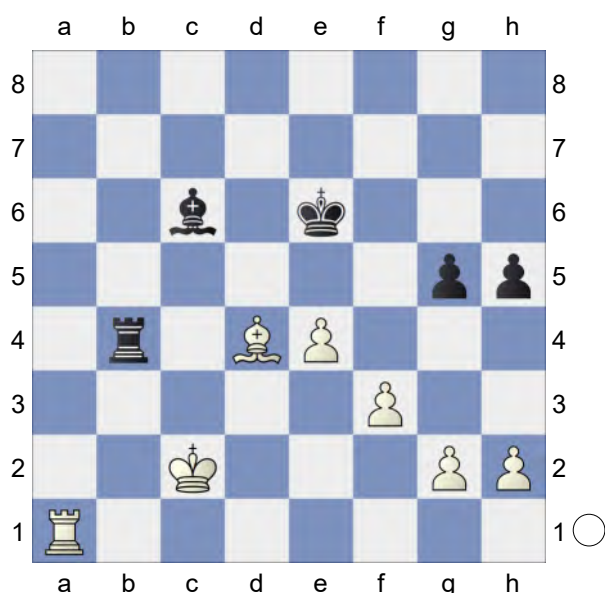
36.Ke3 Bc6 37.Kd2 h5 38.Kc2 b4

Yermolinsky,A: '?!' '?!' Yermolinsky,Alex
 : '?!' '?!' '?!' '?!' Yermolinsky,Alex :
 'Y' This offers White an easy expressway
 ride to victory. Pikula,Dejan:
 'Yermolinsky,A: '?!' '?!' '?!' Yermolinsky,
 Alex : '?!' '?!' Yermolinsky,Alex :
 'Yermolinsky,A: 'This offers White an
 easy expressway ride to victory.'"'
 Yermolinsky,A: 'This offers White an easy
 expressway ride to victory.'" Yermolinsky,
 A: 'This offers Wh'Pikula,Dejan:
 'Yermolinsky,A: 'This offers White an
 easy expressway ride to victory.'" ite an
 easy expressway ride to victory.'

[38...h4 Yermolinsky,A Yermolinsky,
 Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'had to be
 played to be able to trade the h-pawns
 once White begins to make his
 connected passers.'"had to be played
 to be able to trade the h-pawns once
 White begins to make his connected
 passers. Pikula,Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,
 A Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A:
 'had to be played to be able to trade
 the h-pawns once White begins to
 make his connected passers.'" had to
 be played to be able to trade the h-

pawns once White begins to make his connected passers. Yermolinsky, A: 'Pikula,Dejan: 'had to be played to be able to trade the h-pawns once White begins to make his connected passers."]

39.cxb4 axb4 40.axb4 Rxb4



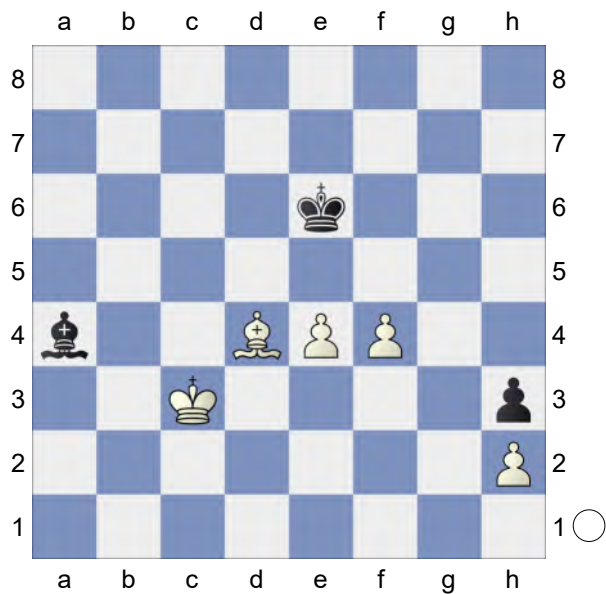
41.Kc3+- Yermolinsky,A: 'Pikula,Dejan: '+-' **41...Ra4 42.Rxa4 Bxa4 43.g3** Yermolinsky,A: '!' '!' Yermoli'Pikula, Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,A: '!' '!' '!' Yermolinsky,Alex : '!' '!' nsky,Alex : '!' '!' '!' **43...h4 44.f4 gxf4**

[44...hgx3 Yermolinsky,A Yermolinsky, A: 'Pikula,Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,A" 45.f5+! (45.hgx3? gxf4 46.gxf4 Bc6 47.f5+ Kf7 48.Kd3 Bb7 49.Ke3 Bc6 50.e5 Bd7= Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'is what Every Russian Schoolboy Knows about opposite-coloured bishop endings.'"is what Every Russian Schoolboy Knows about opposite-coloured bishop endings. Pikula,Dejan: 'Yermolinsky, Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'is what Every Russian Schoolboy Knows about opposite-coloured bishop endings.'" is what Every Russian Schoolboy

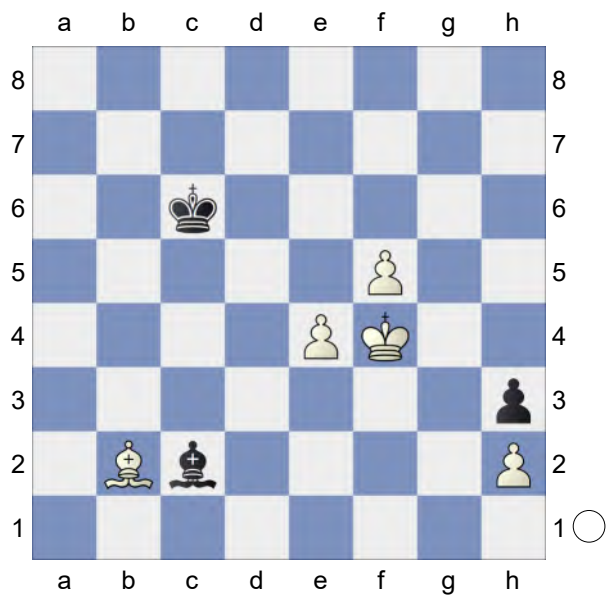
Knows about opposite-coloured bishop endings. Yermolinsky,A: 'Pikula,Dejan: 'is what Every Russian Schoolboy Knows about opposite-coloured bishop endings.'" 45...Kf7 46.hgx3 Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'having saved his g-pawn White is happy to trade e- and f-passers for the black bishop. "'having saved his g-pawn White is happy to trade e- and f-passers for the black bishop. Pikula,Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'having saved his g-pawn White is happy to trade e- and f-passers for the black bishop.'" having saved his g-pawn White is happy to trade e- and f-passers for the black bishop. Yermolinsky,A: 'Pikula,Dejan: 'having saved his g-pawn White is happy to trade e- and f-passers for the black bishop."]

45.gxf4 Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky, A: 'Same story here, because White's bishop is of the right colour for the remaining rook pawn.'"Same story here, because White's bishop is of the right colour for the remaining rook pawn. Pikula,Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'Same story here, because White's bishop is of the right colour for the remaining rook pawn.'" Yermolinsky,A: 'Same story her'Pikula, Dejan: 'Yermolinsky,A: 'Same story here, because White's bishop is of the right colour for the remaining rook pawn.'" e, because White's bishop is of the right colour for the remaining rook pawn.' **45...h3**

(Diagram)

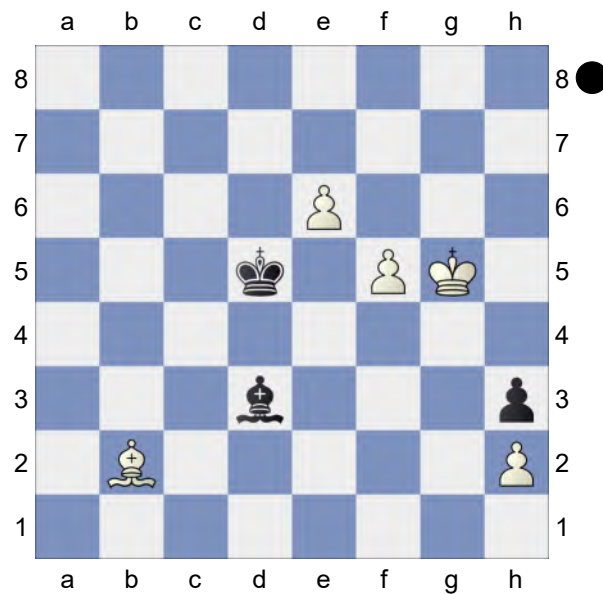


46.Kd2 Kd6 47.Ke3 Bc2 48.f5 Kc6 1-0
49.Kf4 Bd3 50.Bb2 Bc2



51.e5 Kd5 52.Kg5 Bd3 53.e6

(Diagram)



300

□ Wei,Yi

■ Giri,Anish

127/83 Wijk aan Zee

[Pikula,Dejan]

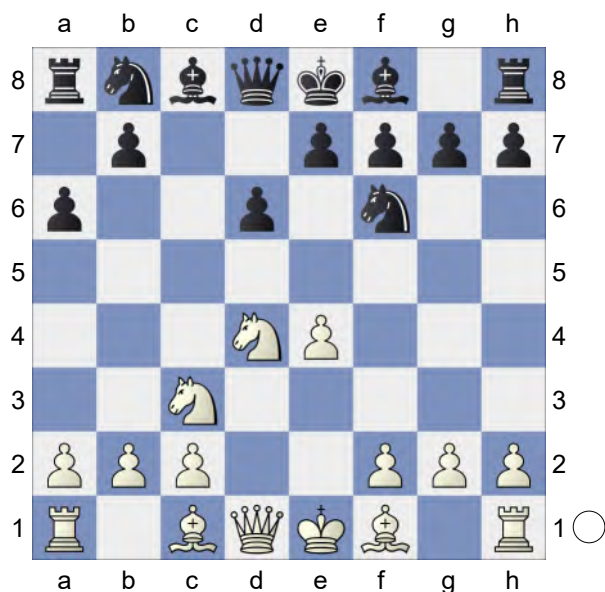
B91

2706

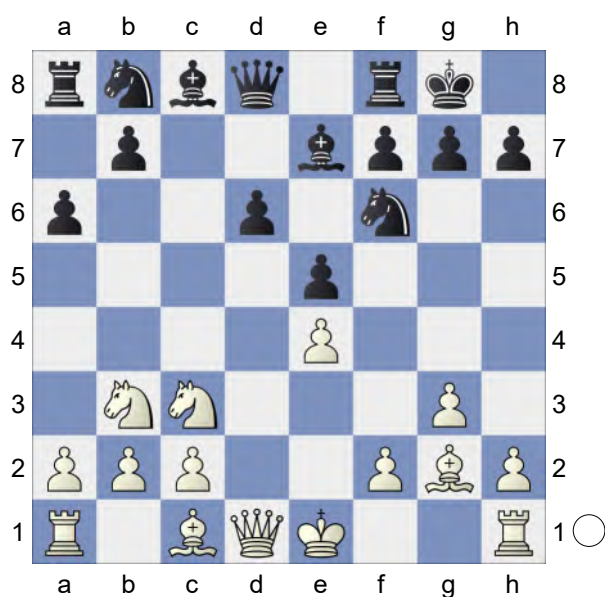
2798

2016

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6



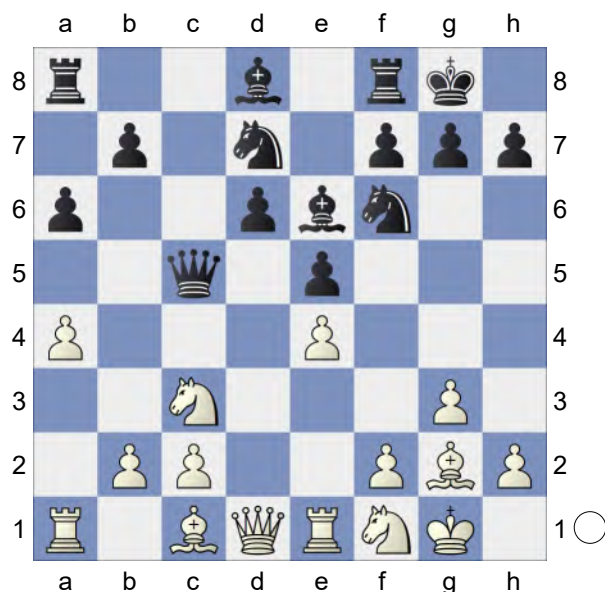
6.Be3 Ng4 7.Bc1 Nf6 8.g3 e5 9.Nb3
Be7 10.Bg2 0-0



11.0-0 Be6 12.a4 Nbd7 13.Re1 Qc7
14.Nd2 Bd8!?

[14...Qc5 - 97/175]

15.Nf1 Qc5



16.Ne3

[16.Nd5 Nxd5 (16...Bg4!?) 17.exd5
Bf5 18.Ne3 Bg6∞]

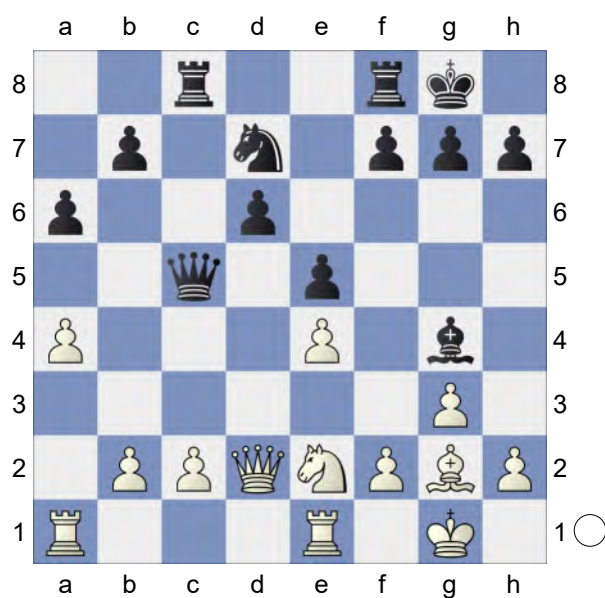
16...Ba5 17.Bd2 Rac8N

[17...Rfe8 18.Ncd5 Bxd5 19.exd5
Bxd2 20.Qxd2 a5 21.Ra3 g6
22.Rb3 Qc7∞]

18.Ne2 Bxd2

[18...Ng4 19.c3 Nxe3 20.Bxe3
Qc7=]

19.Qxd2 Ng4 20.Nxg4 Bxg4



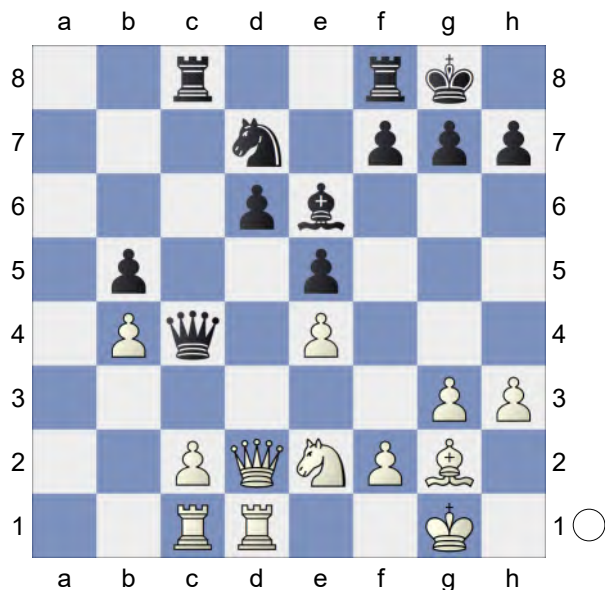
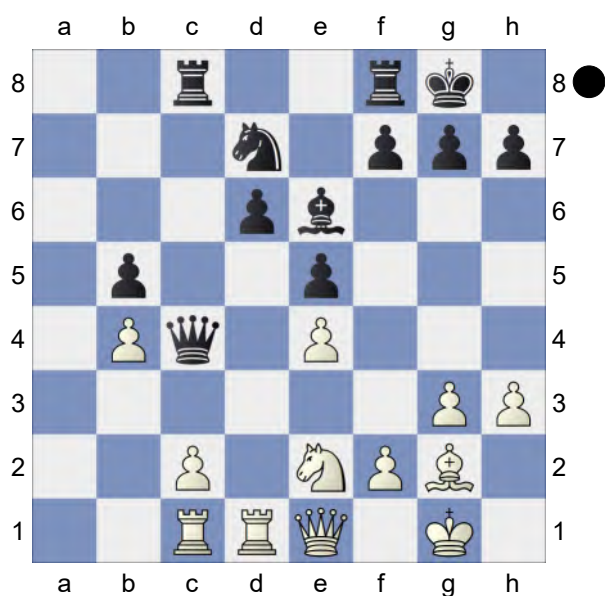
21.Rac1

[21.Nc3 Nf6 22.a5 Rfd8 23.Re3
Be6=]

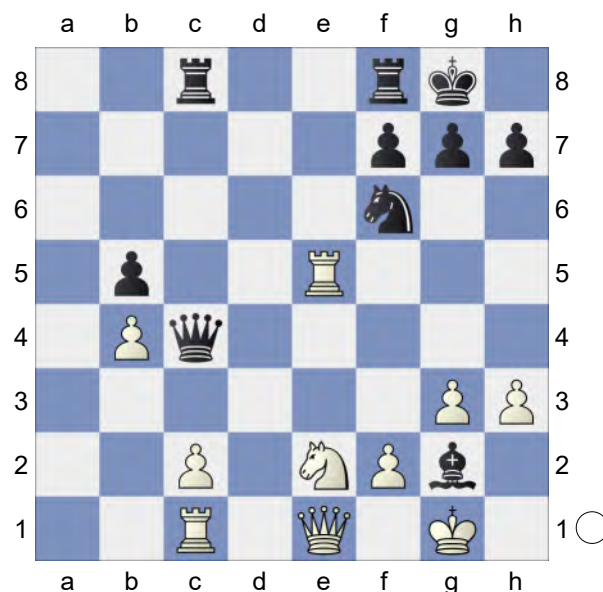
21...b5 22.b4?!

[22.Nc3 Nf6 23.axb5 axb5 24.Na2
Be6 25.Nb4=]

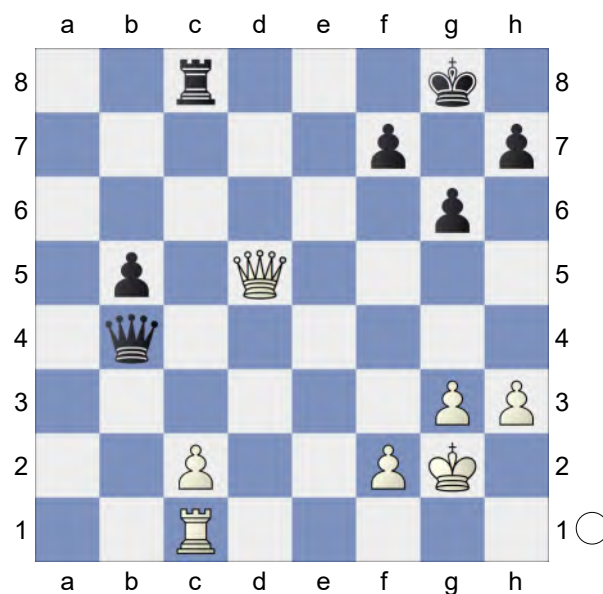
**22...Qc6 23.axb5 axb5 24.h3 Be6
25.Red1 Qc4**

**26.Qe1 Diagram****26...Nf6! 27.Rxd6 Nxe4 28.Rd3 Nf6?!**

[28...f5! 29.Kh2 (29.Re3 Bd5
30.Rd1 Ba8) 29...Qc7 30.Re3
Qb6]

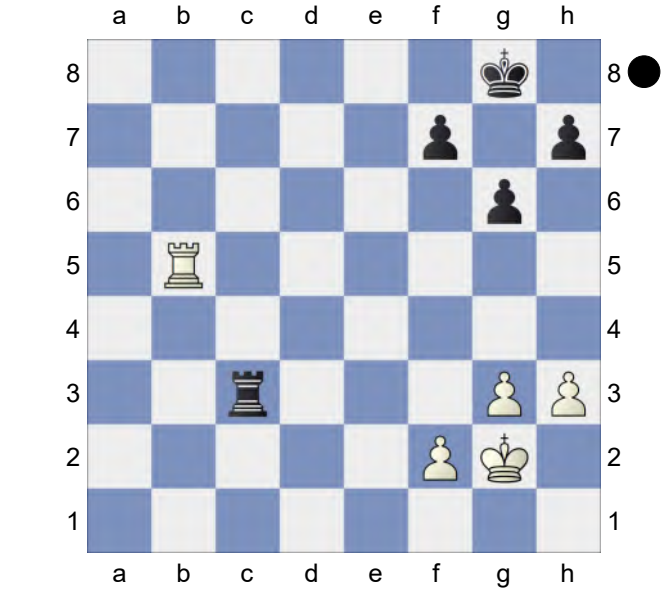
29.Re3 Bd5 30.Rxe5 Bxg2

**31.Kxg2 Rfe8= 32.Nf4 Rxe5 33.Qxe5
Qxb4 34.Nd5 Nxd5 35.Qxd5 g6**



**36.c3 Qc4 37.Qxc4 Rxc4 38.Rb1
Rxc3 39.Rxb5**

(Diagram)



1/2-1/2

282

□ Moiseenko,Alexander

■ Wei,Yi

(ol) 121/156

[Pikula,Dejan]

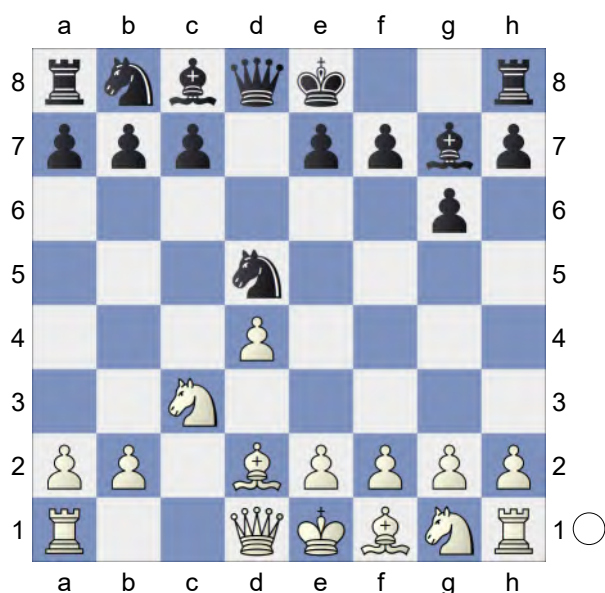
D85

2707

2638

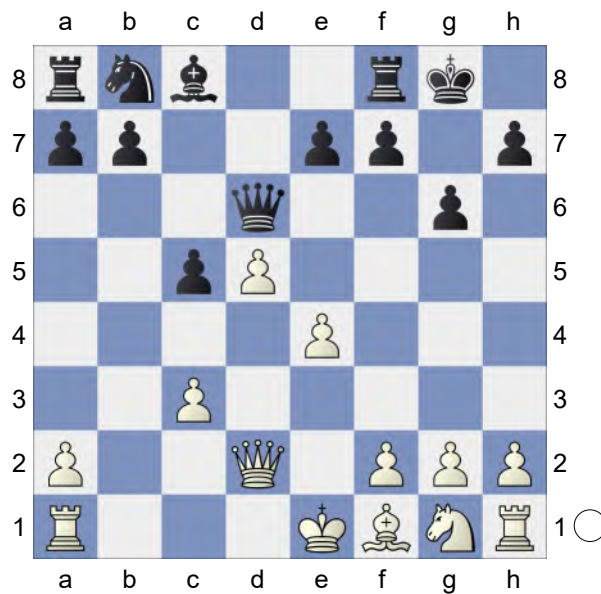
2014

1.d4 Postny,Evgeny Postny,Evgeny
 Postny,Evgeny Postny,Evgeny: 'Pikula,
 Dejan Pikula,Dejan Pikula,Dejan:
 'Postny,Evgeny' 1...Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3
 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Bd2 Bg7



6.e4 Nxc3 7.Bxc3 0-0 8.Qd2 c5 9.d5
 Bxc3 10.bxc3 Qd6

(Diagram)



11.h4N Postny,Evgeny: 'Pikula,Dejan: 'N'
 'N'

[11.f4 - 120/165 Postny,Evgeny:
 'Pikula,Dejan: '- 120/165" ' - see
 Gelfand,B-Dominguez Perez,L/Wijk
 aan Zee 2014 Pikula,Dejan: 'Postny,
 Evgeny: ' - see Gelfand,B-Dominguez
 Perez,L/Wijk aan Zee 2014"]

[11.Nf3 (Postny,Evgeny) Pikula,
 Dejan: 'Postny,Evgeny' Bg4 12.Ng5
 (12.Be2 e6 13.0-0 exd5 14.exd5
 Nd7 15.h3?! Bxf3 16.Bxf3 b5 0-1 (53)
 Chirila,I (2529)-Robson,R (2628) Las Vegas USA 2014) 12...f6
 (12...h6 Opening the h-file is risky for
 Black. 13.h3 hxg5 14.hxg4 Qe5
 15.Bd3± ½-½ (37) Terrieux,K (2434)-
 Edouard,R (2602) Mulhouse 2011) 13.h3 fxg5
 14.hxg4 Rf4?! (14...Qe5 15.Qe3 Nd7
 16.f3 c4!± Later on the knight may come
 out to c5.) 15.Qe3 Qe5 16.f3 b6 17.0-0-0 Nd7
 18.Bb5± ½-½ (42) Urban,K (2463)-Bobras,P
 (2550) Warsaw 2012]

11...e6

[11...f5 (Postny,Evgeny) Pikula,
 Dejan: 'Postny,Evgeny' 12.h5 fxe4
 13.hxg6 Qxg6 14.0-0-0 Nd7

is an option to consider. Black has an extra pawn, but his king is more vulnerable.]

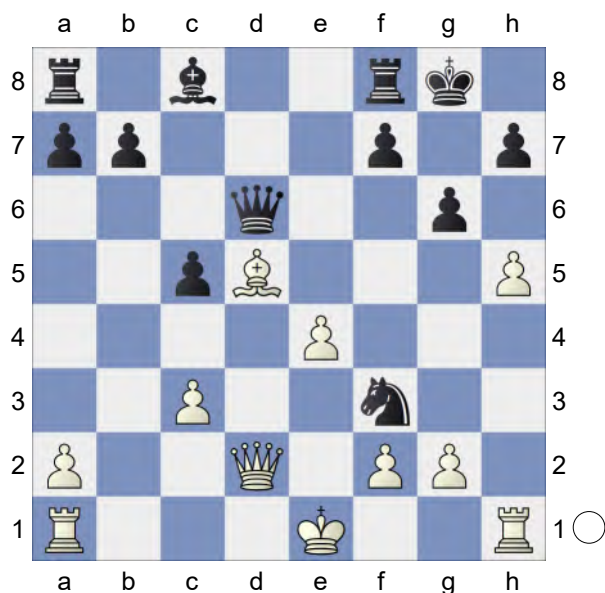
12.h5

[12.Bc4 (Postny,Evgeny) Pikula, Dejan: 'Postny,Evgeny' is worth being checked in practice. Black should reply by b5! 13.Bxb5 Qe5 14.0-0-0 Qxe4 15.h5 Ba6 Both kings might be in danger, anything can happen.]

12...exd5 13.Bc4 Nc6 14.Nf3

[14.hxg6 (Postny,Evgeny) Pikula, Dejan: 'Postny,Evgeny' fxg6 15.Qxd5+ (15.Bxd5+ Be6=) 15...Qxd5 16.Bxd5+ Kg7=]

14...Ne5 15.Bxd5 Nxf3+



16.gxf3 Be6 17.c4

[17.Qh6 Bxd5 18.hxg6 (18.0-0-0 Postny,Evgeny: 'Pikula,Dejan' Qe7 19.Rxd5 Rad8=) 18...Qxg6 19.exd5 'and after the exchange of queens a draw is the most likely outcome. Pikula,Dejan: 'Postny,Evgeny: 'and after the exchange of queens a draw is the most likely outcome.'" Rad8 Postny,Evgeny: 'Pikula,Dejan' 20.0-0-0 Qxh6+ 21.Rxh6 Rfe8=] [17.Bxb7 Postny,Evgeny: 'Pikula,

Dejan' Rad8 18.Qxd6 Rxd6 19.e5 Rd3=]

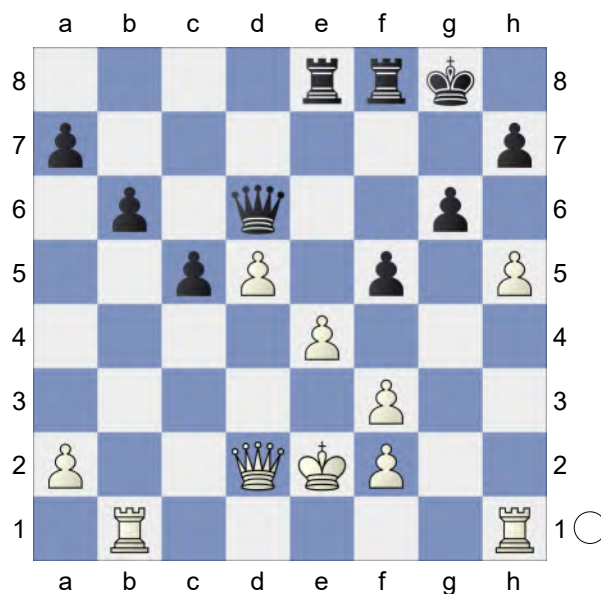
17...Rae8

[17...Bxd5 Postny,Evgeny: 'Pikula, Dejan' 18.cxd5 Rae8 19.Rb1 Re7=]

18.Rb1

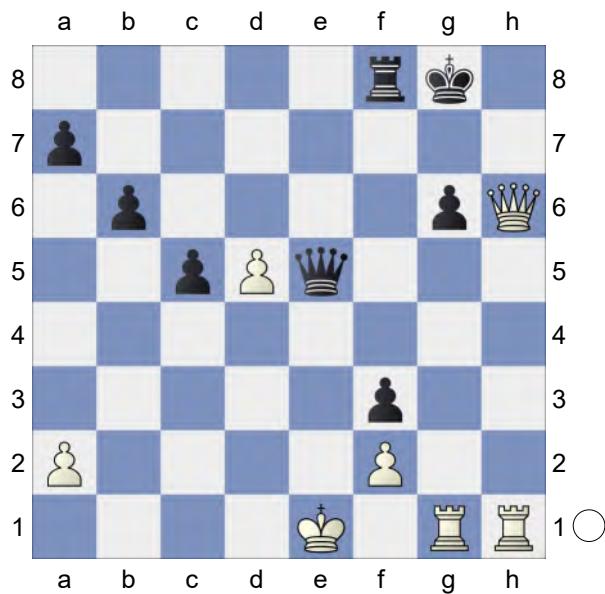
[18.Bxb7 Postny,Evgeny: 'Pikula, Dejan' Qxd2+ (18...Qe5 19.Rc1 Rb8 20.Bd5 Rb2 21.Qe3 Rxa2 22.hxg6 hxg6=) 19.Kxd2 Bxc4 20.Rac1 Rd8+ 21.Ke3 Rd3+ 22.Kf4 Rd4=]

18...b6 19.Ke2 Bxd5 20.cxd5 f5



21.hxg6 hxg6 22.Rbg1 fxe4 23.Qh6 exf3+ 24.Kf1 Re1+! 25.Kxe1 Qe5+=

(Diagram)



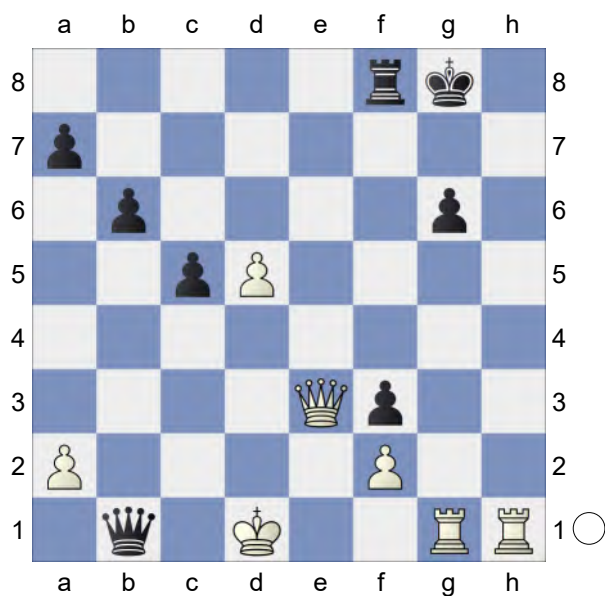
Postny,Evgeny: 'Pikula,Dejan: '=' '='
26.Qe3?! Postny,Evgeny: 'Pikula,Dejan:
 '?!' '?!'

[26.Kd1 Postny,Evgeny: 'Pikula,
 Dejan' Qe2+ 27.Kc1 Qc4+ 28.Kb2
 Qb4+=]

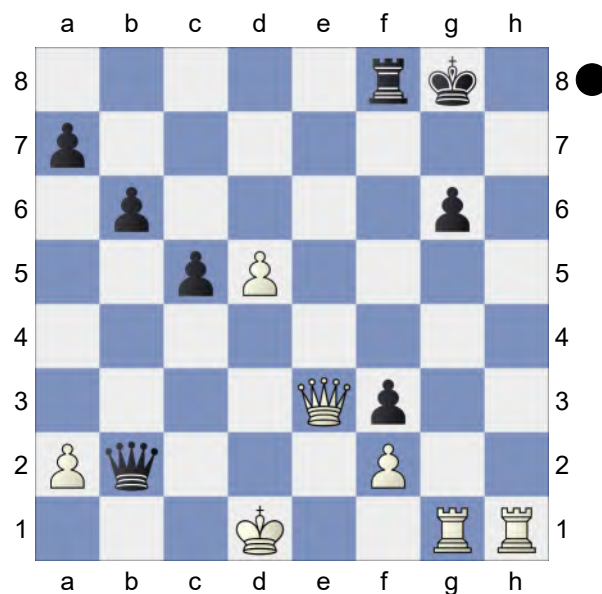
26...Qa1+?! Postny,Evgeny: 'Pikula,
 Dejan: '?!' '?!'

[26...Qxe3+ Postny,Evgeny: 'Pikula,
 Dejan' 27.fxe3 f2+ 28.Ke2 fxg1Q
 29.Rxg1 Kf7#]

**27.Kd2 Qb2+ 28.Kd1 Qb1+ 29.Kd2
 Qb2+ 30.Kd1 Qb1+**



31.Kd2 Qb2+ 32.Kd1



1/2-1/2

151

□ Wei, Yi

■ Firouzja, Alireza

Lindores Abbey Prelim rapid (5) 20.5.20
[Postny, Evgeny]

B12

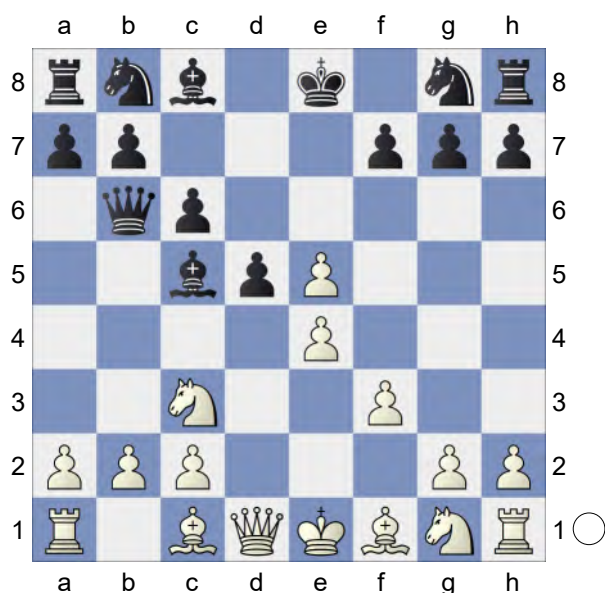
2732

2728

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.f3 Qb6 4.Nc3
e5?! Not the best moment for this push.

[4...dxe4 5.fxe4 e5 is the right way.]

5.dxe5 Bc5

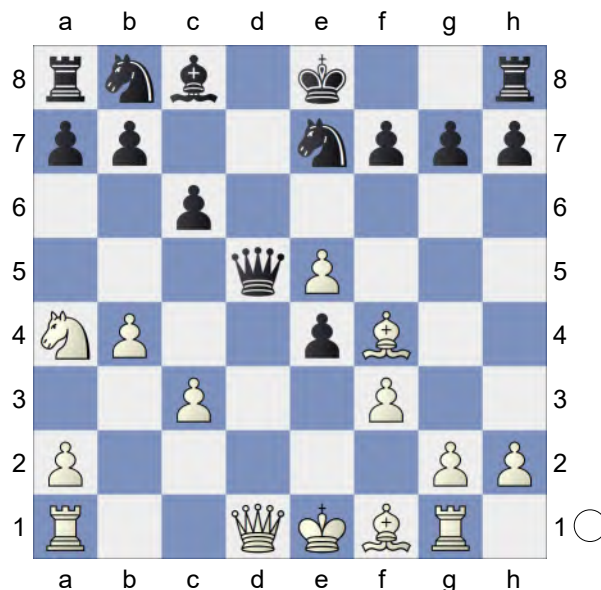


6.Na4 Qa5+

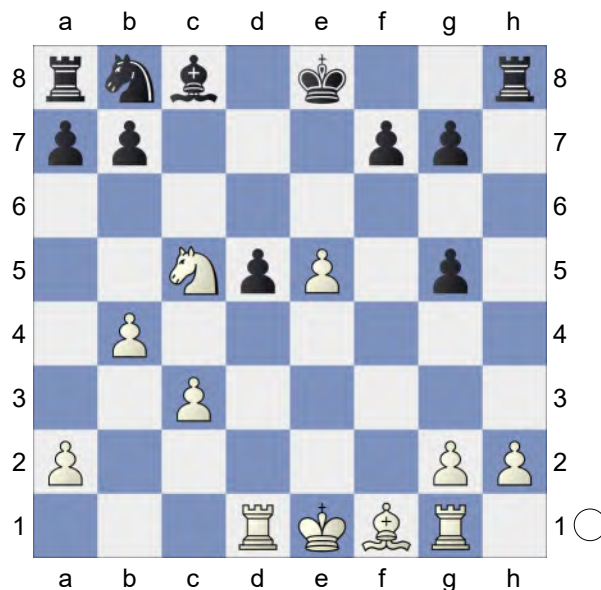
[6...Bf2+ 7.Ke2 Qd4 8.Qxd4 Bxd4
9.f4 (9.exd5?! Bxe5 10.dxc6 Nxc6=)
1-0 (61) Agrest, I (2320)-Bjorkeröth, J
(2147) Sweden 2020) 9...dxe4
10.Be3 Bxe3 11.Kxe3 f5 12.Ne2±
1-0 (39) Hartung, T (2044)-Bach, M
(2195) Playchess.com INT 2020]7.c3 Bxg1 Black has to give this
important bishop. 8.Rxg1 dxe4 9.Bf4[9.Qd4 Ne7 10.Bg5 Nd7 11.Bxe7
Kxe7 12.f4 Rd8 13.0-0-0 Nf8
14.Qxd8+ Qxd8 15.Rxd8 Kxd8
16.c4±]

9...Ne7 10.b4 Qd5

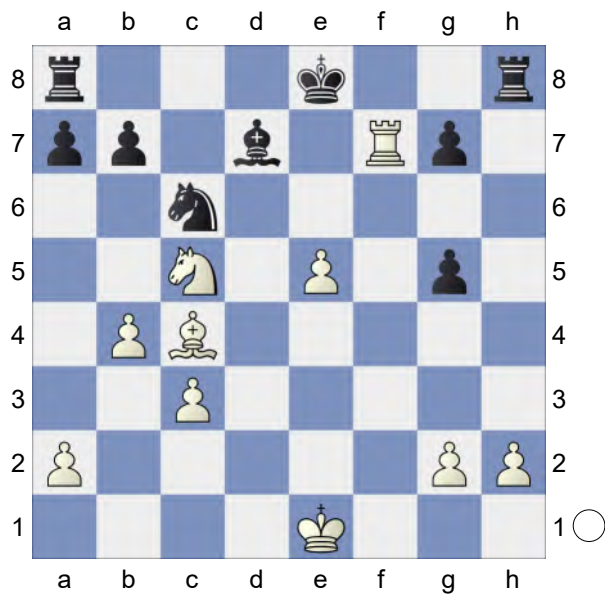
(Diagram)



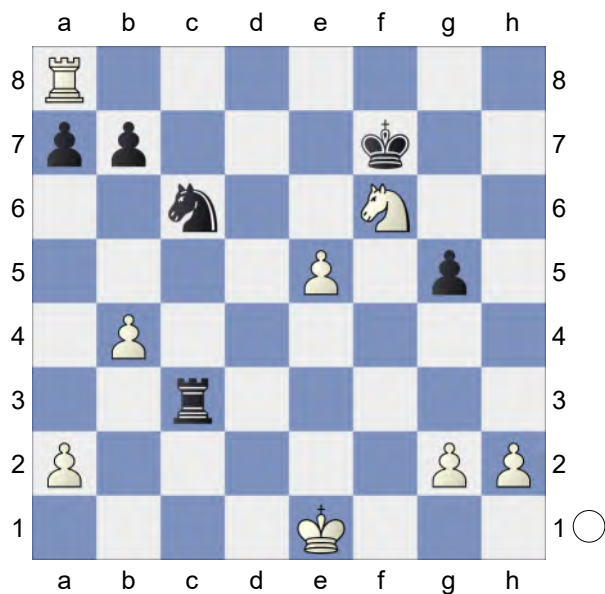
11.Nc5

[11.Qc2 Ng6 12.Rd1 Qe6 13.Nc5
Qe7 14.Qxe4 a5 15.Bg3 axb4
16.e6 Bxe6 17.Nxe6 Qxe6
18.Qxe6+ fxe6 19.cxb4 b5 20.a4!
bxa4 21.Bc4±]11...Qxd1+ 12.Rxd1 Nd5 13.Bg5 h6
14.fxe4 hxg5 15.exd5 cxd516.Rxd5 White is in possession of an
initiative. 16...Ke7 17.Bc4 Nc6 18.Rf1
Be6 19.Rd7+! Bxd7 20.Rxf7+ Ke8

(Diagram)

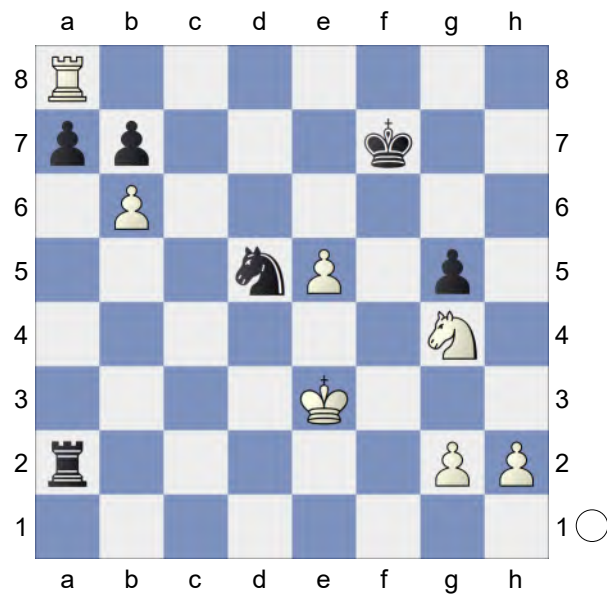


21.Nxd7 Rh4 22.Rxg7 Rxc4 23.Nf6+ Kf8 24.Rg8+ Kf7 25.Rxa8 Rxc3

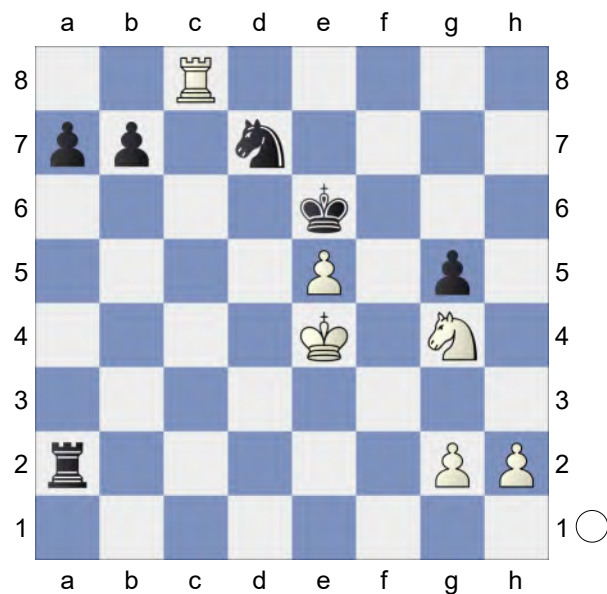


26.Ng4 Rc1+ 27.Ke2 Ra1 28.Ke3 Rxa2 29.b5 Ne7 30.b6 Nd5+

(Diagram)

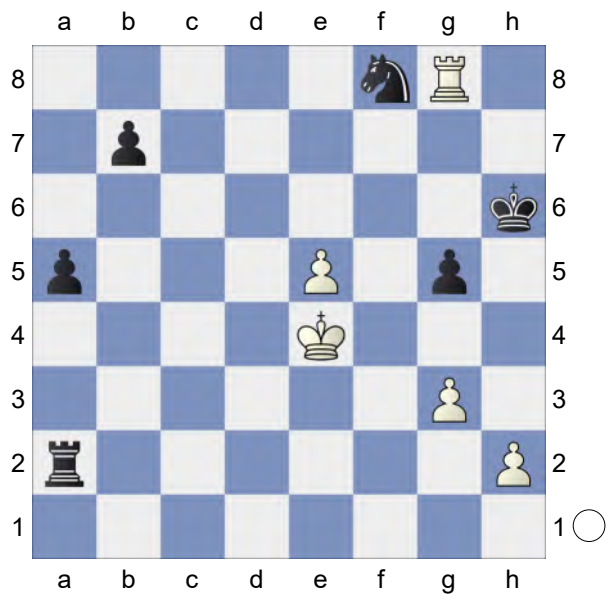


31.Ke4 Nxb6 32.Rb8 Nd7 33.Rc8 Ke6 34.Re8+ Kf7 35.Rc8 Ke6

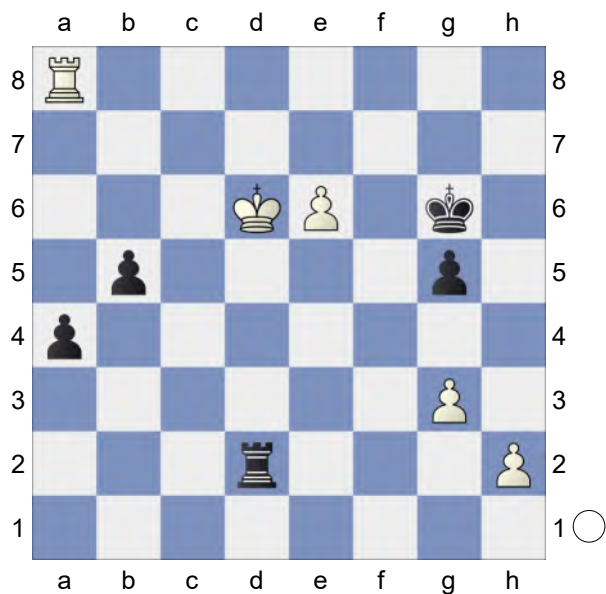


36.Re8+ Kf7 37.Rh8 Nf8 38.g3 a5 39.Nh6+ Kg7 40.Rg8+ Kxh6

(Diagram)

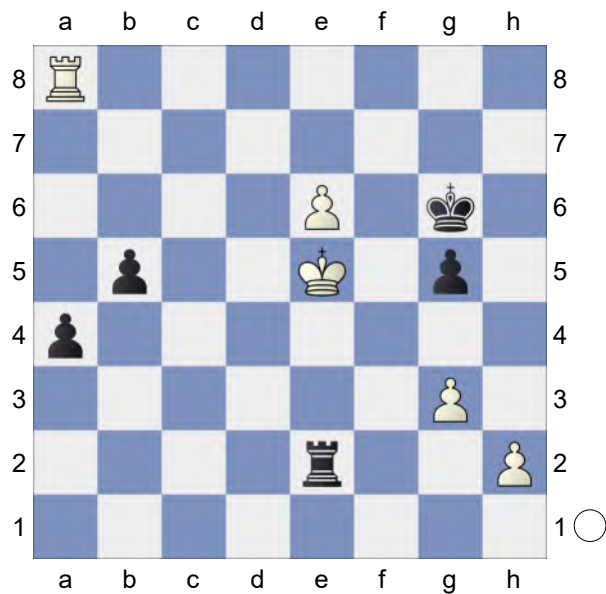


41.Rxf8 Re2+ 42.Kd5 a4 43.Ra8 b5 44.e6 Kg6 45.Kd6 Rd2+ $\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$



46.Ke5 Re2+ 47.Kd6 Rd2+ 48.Ke5 Re2+

(Diagram)



304

□ Ni,Hua

■ Wei,Yi

Danzhou 6th (7)

[Postny,Evgeny]

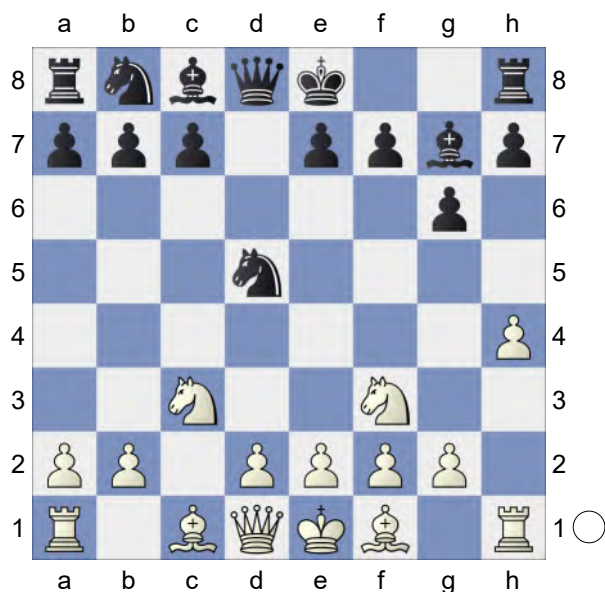
A16

2703

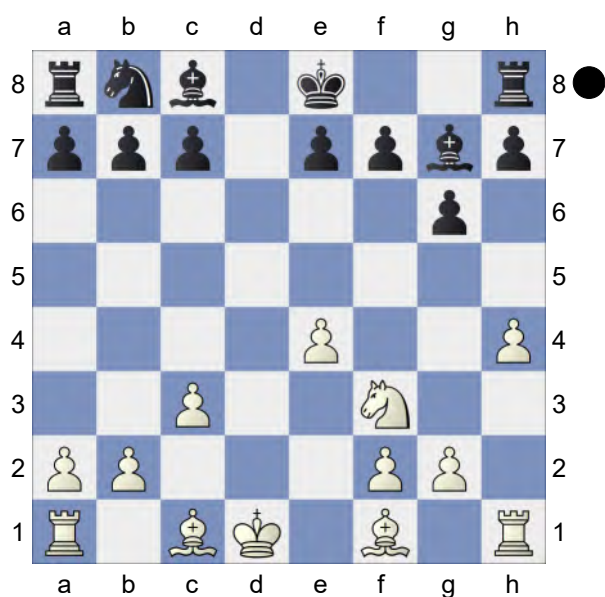
2724

09.07.2015

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5
Nxd5 5.h4 Bg7



Tadic,Branko: '*' 6.e4 Nxc3 7.dxc3
Qxd1+ 8.Kxd1 Tadic,Branko: 'Diagram



' 8...Nd7 Tadic,Branko: 'N' 'N' 'N' The
most accurate. A few rounds before Wei

Yi tried 8...b6, but suffered throughout
the whole game. The alternative 8... ♗g4
is also not sufficient for equality. Black
should first develop the knight and then
the light-squared bishop according to
White's setup.

[8...b6 Tadic,Branko: '-' 126/(9)' 9.Bf4
Bb7 10.Bb5+ c6 11.Be2 Nd7
(11...Ba6 12.a4 0-0 13.a5 Rd8+
14.Nd2 Bxe2+ 15.Kxe2 Nd7
16.Rhd1± 1-0 (43) Wang Yue (2718)-
Maghsoodloo,P (2489) Abu Dhabi
2016) 12.Kc2 e5 13.Be3 c5 14.Nd2
f5 15.f3± 1-0 (43) Wang,Y (2716)-Wei,
Y (2724) Danzhou 2015]

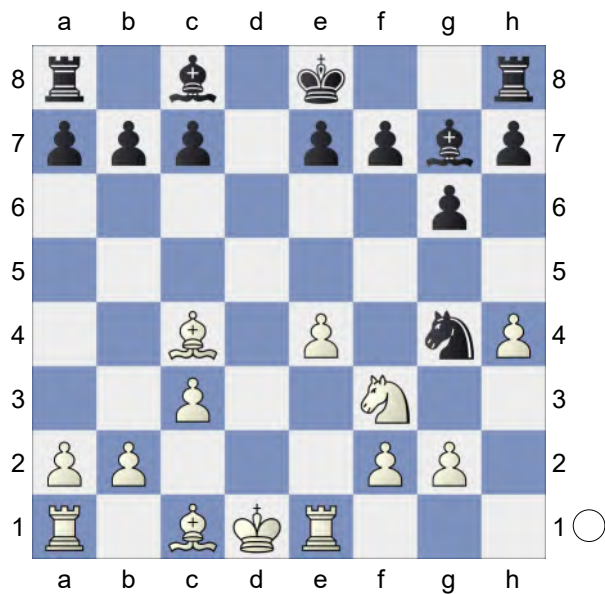
[8...Bg4 9.Kc2 Nd7 (9...Nc6 10.Be3
Ne5?! 11.Nxe5 Bxe5 12.Bb5+ c6
13.Bc4 h5 14.f3 Be6 15.Bxe6 fxe6
16.Rad1± ½-½ (73) Bai,J (2501)-
Turov,M (2603) Graz 2016) 10.Be3
Nf6 (10...e5 11.Bc4 Bxf3 12.gxf3
h5 13.Rad1 Nb6 14.Bb3 Bh6
15.a4± ½-½ (52) Adhiban,B (2669)-
Puranik,A (2442) Doha 2015) 11.Nd2
Be6 12.f3 Nh5 13.Bb5+ c6 14.Bc4
Bxc4 15.Nxc4 f5 16.exf5 Ng3
17.Rhe1 Nxf5 18.Rad1± ½-½ (59) Le,
Q (2699)-Gupta,A (2619) Al Ain 2015]

9.Bc4 Nf6

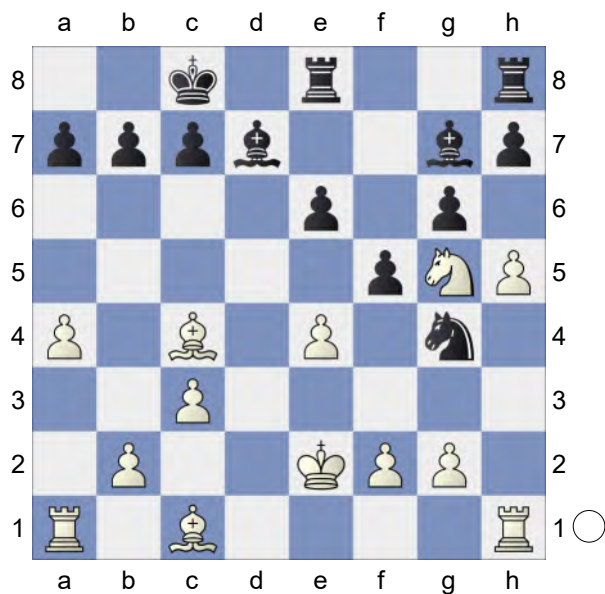
[9...Nc5 10.Re1 Bd7 11.Kc2
is still a tad better for White.]

10.Re1 Ng4

(Diagram)

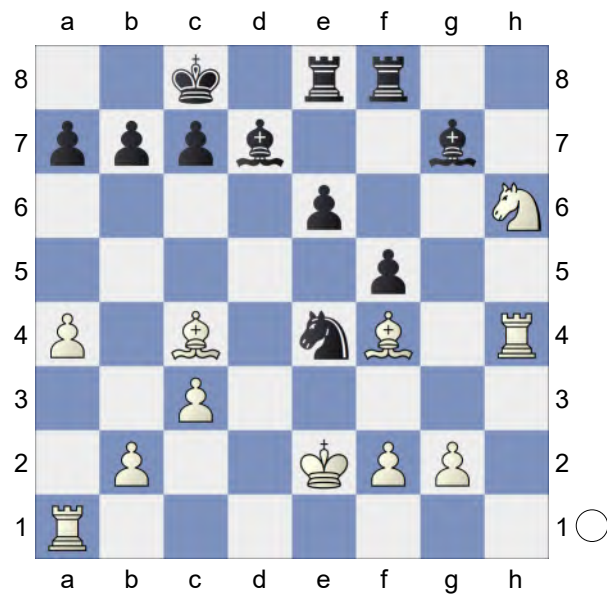


11.Ke2 Bd7 12.a4 e6= 13.h5 0-0-0
14.Rh1 f5 15.Ng5 Rde8

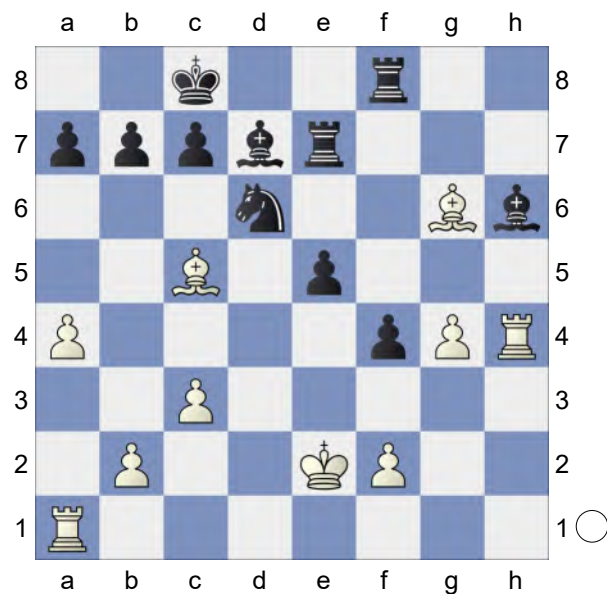


16.Bf4 Tadic,Branko: '?' '?' '?'
16...gxh5 17.Rxh5 h6 18.Nf7 Rhf8
19.Nxh6 Nf6 20.Rh4 Nxe4

(Diagram)

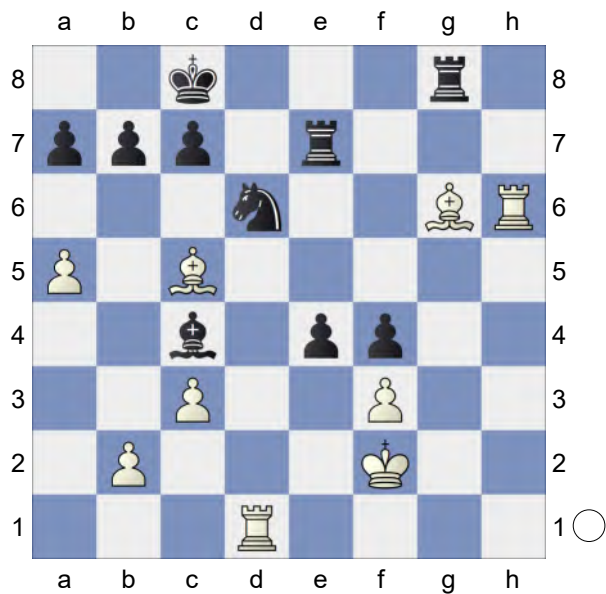


21.Be3 e5 22.Bf7 Re7 23.Bg6 Nd6
24.g4 f4 25.Bc5 Bxh6

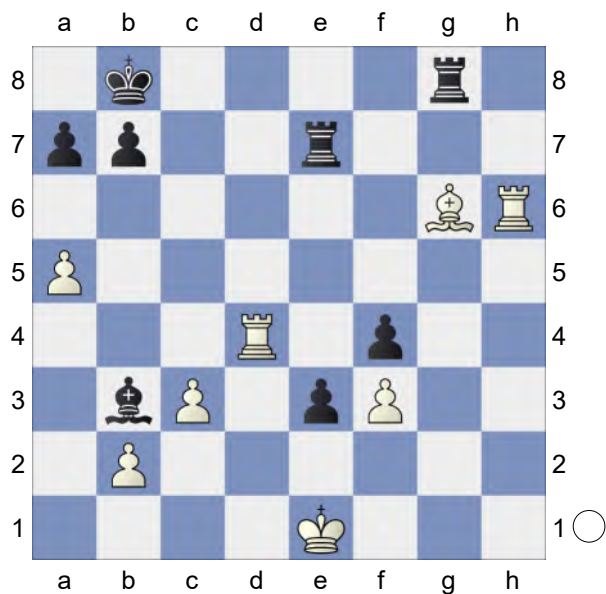


26.Rxh6 Bxg4+ 27.f3 Be6 28.a5 Rg8
29.Rd1 Bc4+ 30.Kf2 e4

(Diagram)

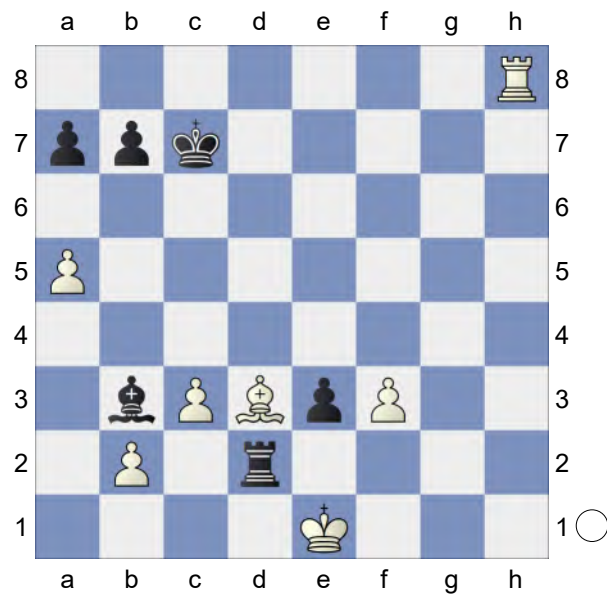


31.Bxd6 e3+ 32.Ke1 cxd6 33.Rd4 Bf7 34.Rxd6 Bb3 35.Rd4 Kb8

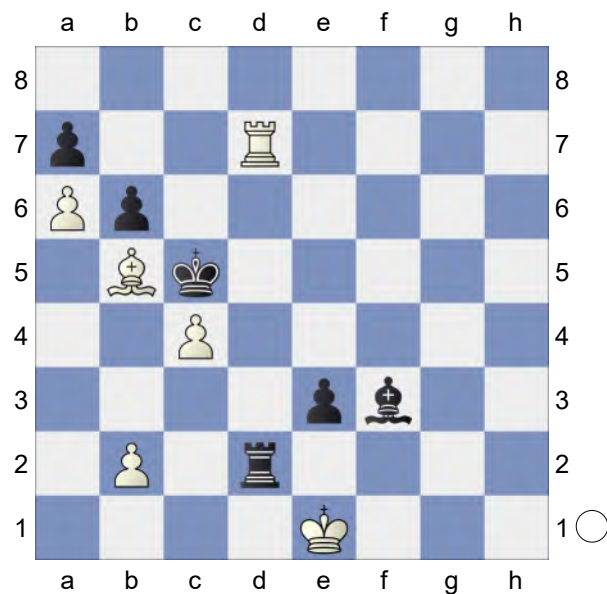


36.Rxf4 Re5 37.Re4 Rxe4 38.Bxe4 Rg2 39.Bd3 Rd2 40.Rh8+ Kc7

(Diagram)

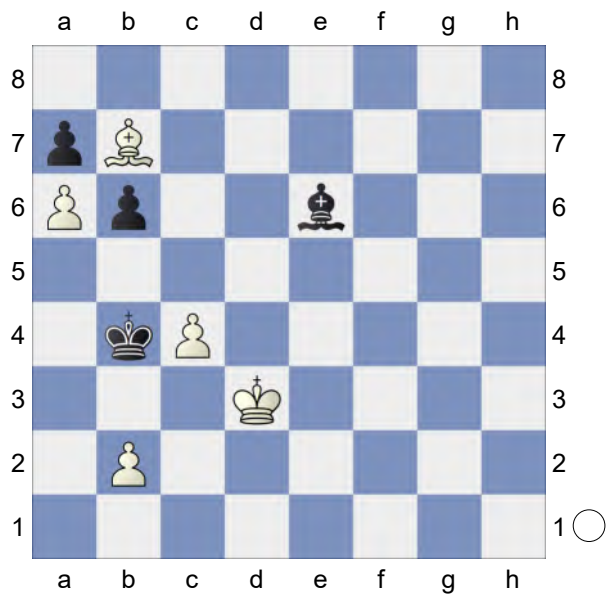


41.Rh7+ Kd6 42.a6 b6 43.Bb5 Bd5 44.c4 Bxf3 45.Rd7+ Kc5

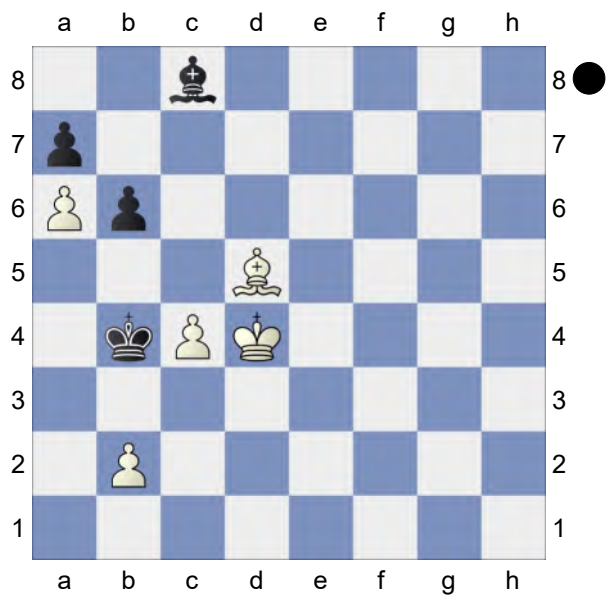


46.Rxd2 exd2+ 47.Kxd2 Kb4 48.Kd3 Bg4 49.Bc6 Bc8 50.Bb7 Be6

(Diagram)



**51.Bd5 Bc8 52.Bb7 Be6 53.Bd5 Bc8
54.Kd4**



1/2-1/2

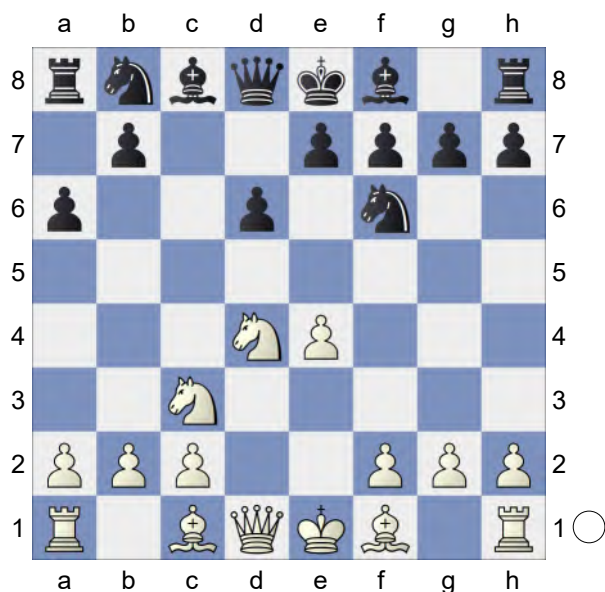
280□ **Moiseenko,Alexander**■ **Wei,Yi**

Olympiad-41 Tromsøe (9.4) 11.08.2014

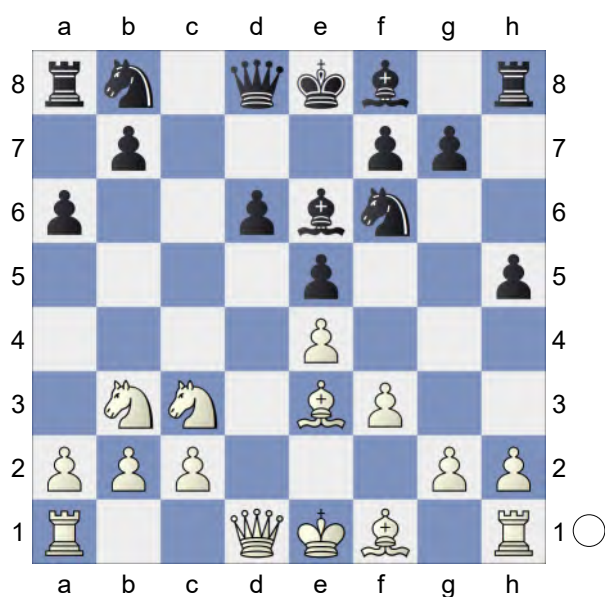
[Postny,Evgeny]

B90**2707****2638**

1.Nf3 c5 2.e4 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6



6.Be3 Ng4 7.Bc1 Nf6 8.f3 e5 9.Nb3
Be6 10.Be3 h5



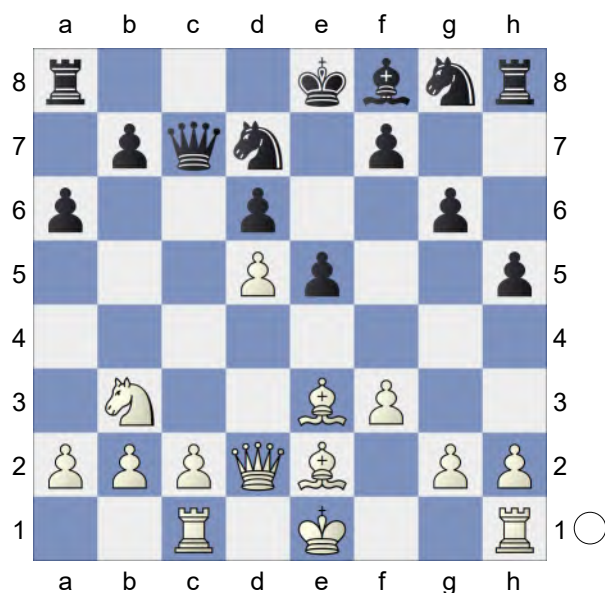
11.Qd2 Nbd7 12.Nd5 Bxd5 13.exd5
g6 14.Be2 Qc7 15.Rc1

[15.c4 a5]

15...Ng8

[15...a5 16.a4]

[15...Bg7 16.0-0 0-0 17.c4 b6
 18.Na1 Kh7 19.h3 Ng8 20.g4 Qd8
 21.gxh5 Qh4 22.hxg6+ fxg6]

**16.0-0**

[16.c4 Bh6 17.f4 Ne7 (17...exf4
 18.Bxf4 Bxf4 19.Qxf4 Qb6) 18.fxe5
 Bxe3 19.Qxe3 Nxe5 20.0-0 Nf5
 21.Qd2 (21.Rxf5 gxf5 22.c5)
 21...b6]

16...Ne7

[16...Bh6 17.f4]

17.Bg5 f6

[17...Bg7 18.Kh1]

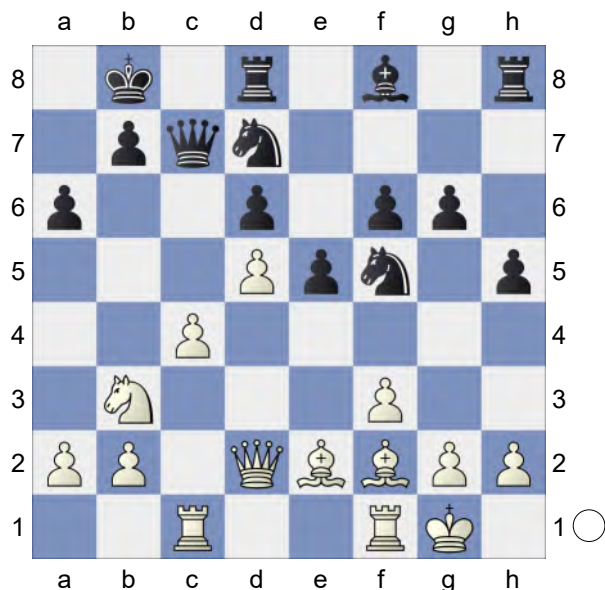
18.Be3 0-0-0

[18...Bg7 19.c4 b6 (19...0-0 20.c5)
 20.c5 bxc5 21.Nxc5 Nxc5
 (21...dxc5 22.d6) 22.b4]

19.c4 Nf5 20.Bf2 Kb8

[20...Bh6 21.Qb4 Bxc1 22.Rxc1
 Kb8 23.Na5]

(Diagram)



21.Qc3 Bh6 22.Rcd1 Nc5 23.Nd2

[23.Na5 Be3 (23...Ne3 0-1 (53) Chirila,I (2529)-Robson,R (2628) Las Vegas USA 2014 24.b4 - see Gelfand, B-Dominguez Perez,L/Wijk aan Zee 2014 Nxd1 25.Rxd1 Nd7 26.c5; 23...Nd4 24.Rfe1) 24.Bxe3 Nxe3 25.Nc6+?! bxc6 26.Qxe3]

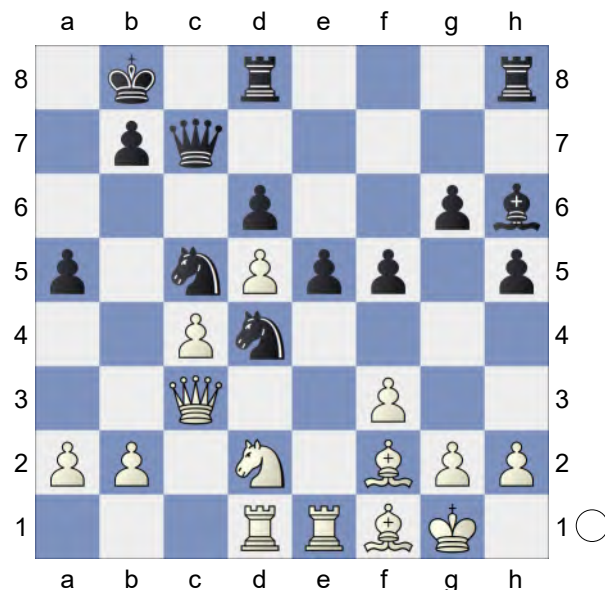
23...Nd4 24.Rfe1

[24.Bxd4 exd4 ½-½ (37) Terrieux,K (2434)-Edouard,R (2602) Mulhouse 2011 25.Qxd4 Rhe8]

24...a5! 25.Bf1 f5

[25...Na4 26.Qc1 Nc5]

(Diagram)



26.Nb3 Ndx3 27.axb3 e4

[27...Qb6 28.Ra1 Qb4 ½-½ (42) Urban,K (2463)-Bobras,P (2550) Warsaw 2012 29.Qxb4 axb4 30.Bxc5 dxc5 31.Rxe5! Later on the knight may come out to c5. Rhe8 Opening the h-file is risky for Black.]

28.b4 axb4 29.Qxb4 Rhe8

[29...exf3 30.gxf3]

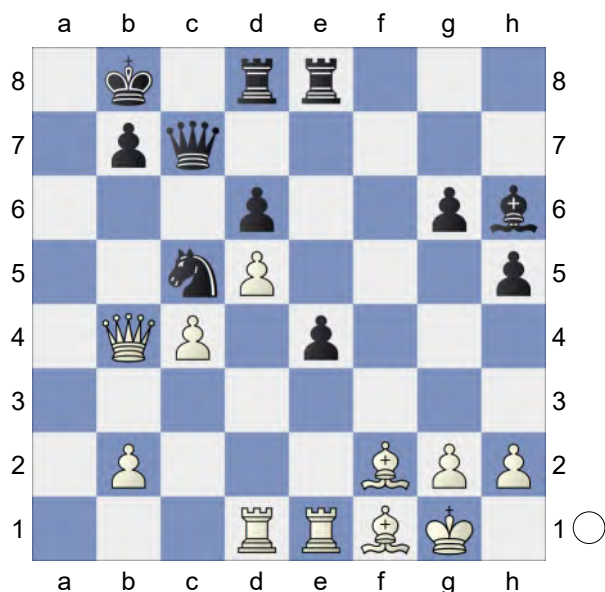
30.fxe4

[30.Qc3]

30...fxe4

[30...Rxe4?! 31.Ra1]

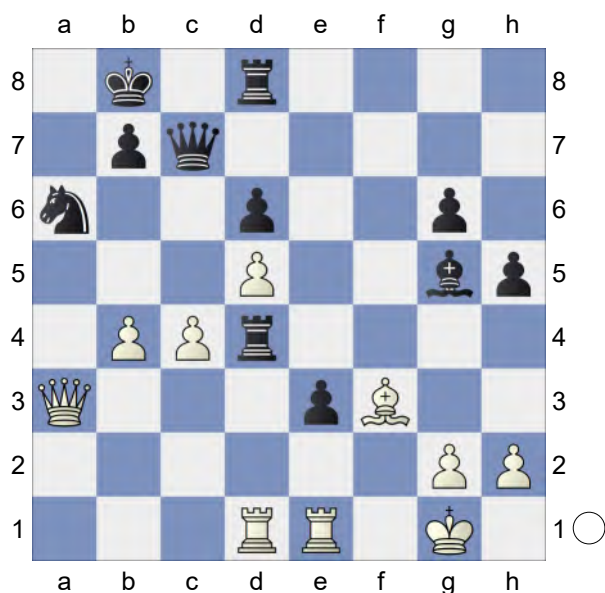
(Diagram)



31.Bd4 e3

[31...Bg7 32.Be3 Be5 33.Qa3]

32.Qa3 Re4 33.b4 Na6 34.Be2 Bg5
and after the exchange of queens a draw
is the most likely outcome. **35.Bf3 Rxd4**

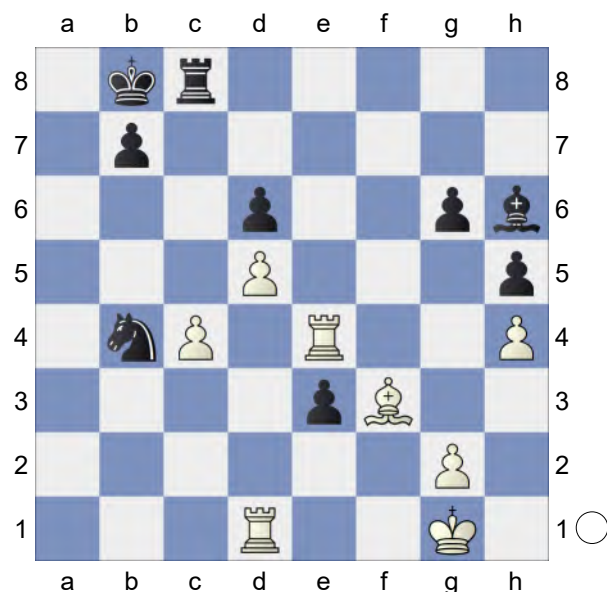


36.Rxd4 Qb6 37.Re4 Qxb4= 38.Qxb4
Nxb4= 39.h4 is worth being checked in
practice. Black should reply by **39...Bh6!**
40.Rd1

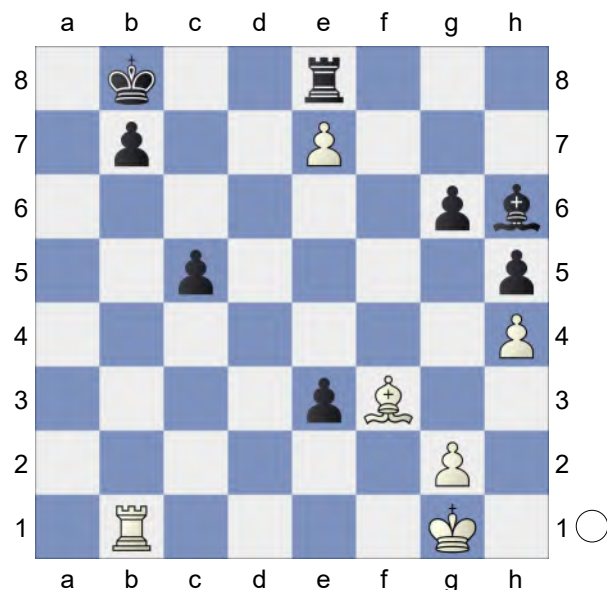
[40.Rb1]

40...Rc8

(Diagram)

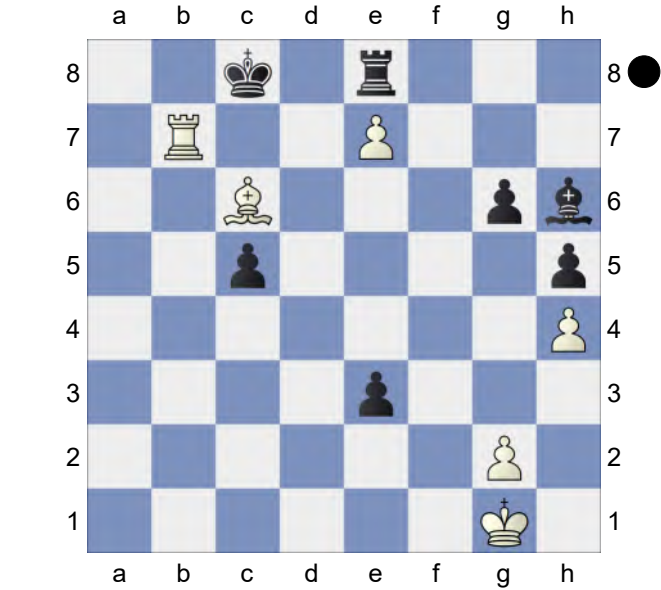


41.c5 dxc5 42.d6 Nc6 Both kings
might be in danger, anything can
happen. **43.Rb1 Rd8 44.Re7 Nxe7**
45.dxe7 Re8



46.Rxb7+ is an option to consider. Black
has an extra pawn, but his king is more
vulnerable. **46...Kc8 47.Bc6**

(Diagram)



1/2-1/2

22

□ Ding,Liren

■ Wei,Yi

FIDE World Cup (4.1)

[Postny,Evgeny]

D37

2782

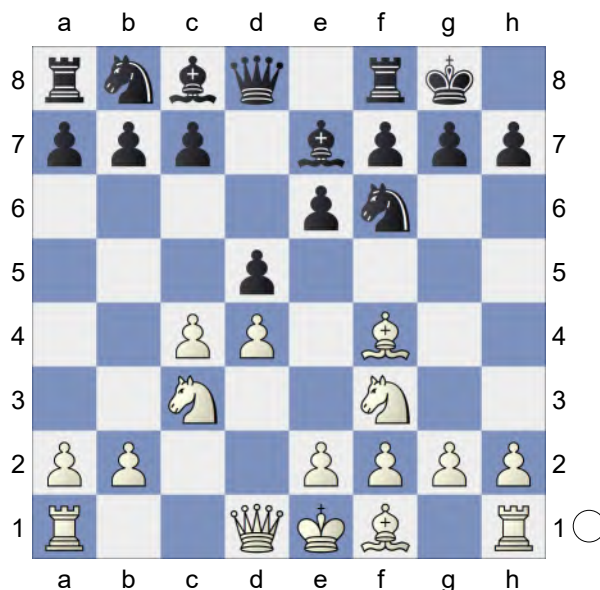
2734

20.09.2015

Sethuraman,SP: 'This battle is between the Chinese No 1 Liren Ding and the young and rapidly advancing Yi Wei, who is only 16(!) and considered by many to be a future challenger to World Champion Magnus Carlsen. It was very exciting for the spectators since it had many up and down moments. When asked before the match who I thought would win this game, I said I was rooting for Ding Liren since I thought he had more experience of playing in super tournaments and also because he had achieved the amazing feat of defeating Boris Gelfand in their World Cup match. Hence, as far as I was concerned, he was the favourite. However my prediction was proved wrong and Wei won the match in the rapid tiebreaks. The number of losing positions he saved in this match and also in his previous match against GM Yuri Vovk was simply astonishing, and showed just how cold-blooded he can be, Some call it luck, but as they say luck favours the brave!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'In Round 4 of the Fide World Cup in Baku a highly interesting encounter took place, as the two most promising players in China, who fared really well in this event, were paired against each other. ' **1.d4** Wagner,Dennis Sethuraman,SP Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D' **1...Nf6** **2.c4 e6** **3.Nf3 d5** Sethuraman,SP: 'Wei Yi mainly plays the Gruenfeld and Anti-Gruenfeld against Nf3/c4 systems, so it

was no surprise either to Ding nor to the spectators.' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'Most of the Grünfeld adherents have adopted 2...c5 as a counter to 1. ♘f3, but Wei Yi is faithful to the more principled but also more risky Anti-Grünfeld, which can be seen often in his games. " **4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bf4**

David Cummings: 'This line of the Pseudo-Grünfeld should perhaps be renamed the anti-Wei Yi variation! This is the fourth game in the last few months where other leading Chinese players have chosen this approach against the 16-year old star.' Sethuraman,SP: '!?' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'A trendy line that already featured in some of Wei Yi's games.' **5...0-0** Sethuraman,SP: 'Diagram



' **6.e3** David Cummings: 'White goes for the aggressive h-pawn push which typically leads to a sharp game with queens on the board and sometimes (as in this game) opposite side castling. In contrast, White can enter the queenless middlegame which we covered in the July 2015 Update with:' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'A rather uncommon

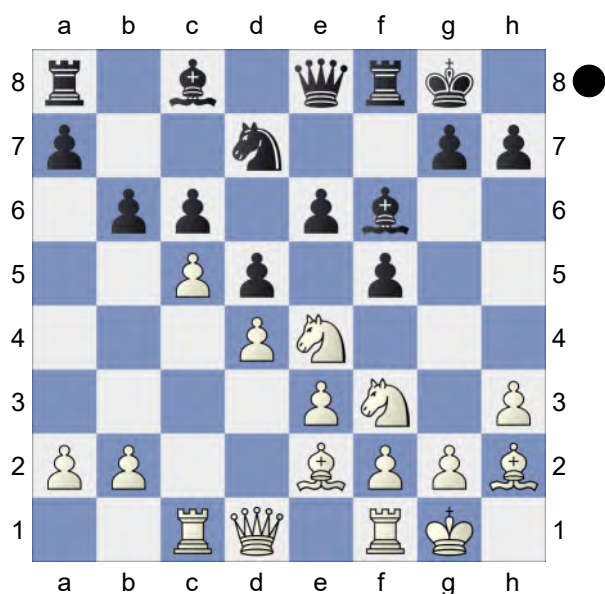
9...c6 David Cummings: 'After the game, Ding Liren gave an interview on the live broadcast where he analyzed the game in great detail. I have quoted him liberally here as he gave some great insights into this exciting game and demonstrated the depth to which he was calculating throughout.' **10.Be2**

Dennis: '!' a5 (Sethuraman,SP)
Wagner,D 12.a3 axb4 13.axb4!
clearing the 6th rank for the rook. b5
14.0-0 Re8 15.Ne2 Bb7 16.Ra1]

' **11.0-0** David Cummings: 'A novelty, and Ding Liren's prepared improvement over Wei Yi's previous outing in this line, which continued:' Sethuraman,SP: 'N' Sethuraman,SP: 'Here comes the improvement on the game mentioned below with Qa4. In the press conference after the game, Ding mentioned that he only analysed this idea a day before the game at Baku. Perhaps it is the top choice of the computer engines. Wagner, D: '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' Sethuraman, SP: 'Wagner,D: 'White is still behind in development but anyway he starts concrete operations leading to a highly complicated situation.' **11...Qe8 12.Bh2** David Cummings: '!' David Cummings: 'A move Ding Liren found on the morning before the game, the computer suggested' **12...b6?!** Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'This leads by force to an endgame where White is holding the initiative.' **13.Nxe4!** David Cummings:

'the only move, as White can't go for' Sethuraman,SP: 'Diagram

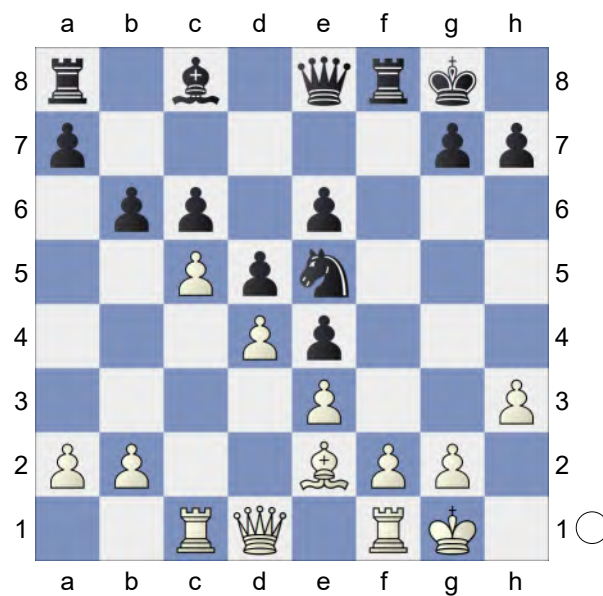
[13.b4 bxc5 14.bxc5 Ndx5 15.Ne5 Nxc3 16.Rxc3 Ne4 17.Rc2 Bxe5+- (17...Bd7 18.Ba6 is still not clear after) Surprisingly 18.Bxe5 Sethuraman,SP a5 19.Qc1 Ba6 20.Bxa6! Rxa6 21.Qa3]



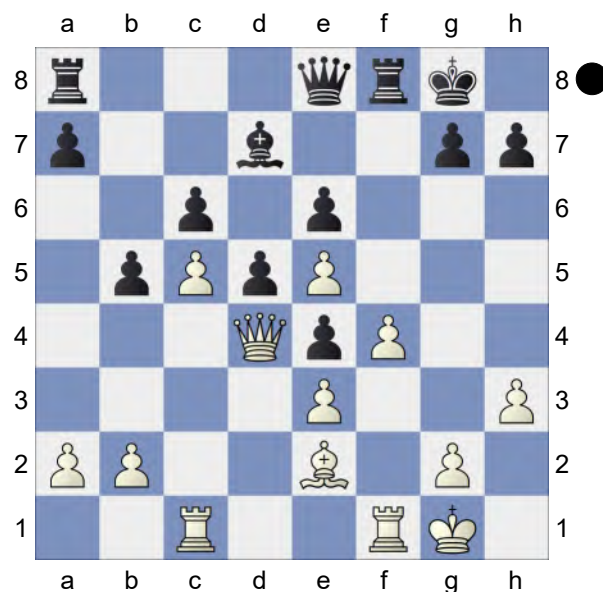
' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'forcing the exchange of queens, but the character of the game still remains extremely forcing and complicated.'

13...fxe4 14.Ne5 David Cummings: '!' David Cummings: 'Wei Yi spent about half an hour on this move, and before long Ding Liren was about an hour ahead on the clock, but the game now enters a demanding phase with tactics to be calculated on every move' Sethuraman,SP: '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'An energetic counter-attacking developing move! Now unclear complications arise which should lead to a balanced position if both sides act accurately.' **14...Bxe5 15.Bxe5 Nxe5**

(Diagram)

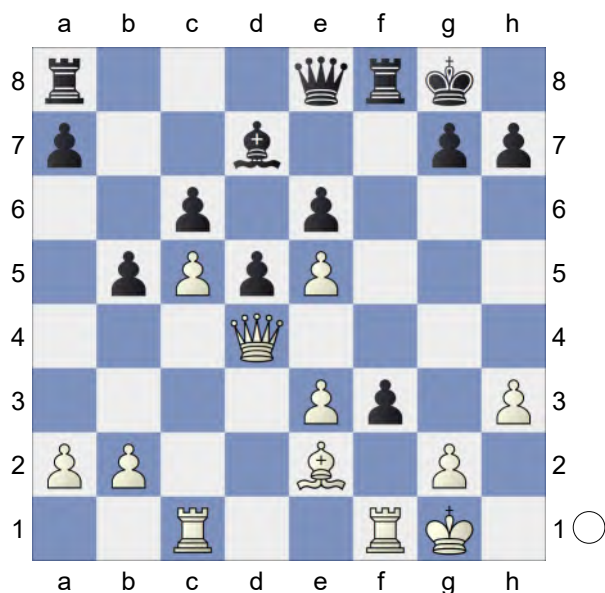


David Cummings: '!' David Cummings: 'A very interesting move, sacrificing the exchange. The problem is that normal moves work out well for White, for example' **16.dxe5 Bd7 17.Qd4** David Cummings: 'Ding Liren also considered' **17...b5 18.f4!** Sethuraman,SP: 'Diagram

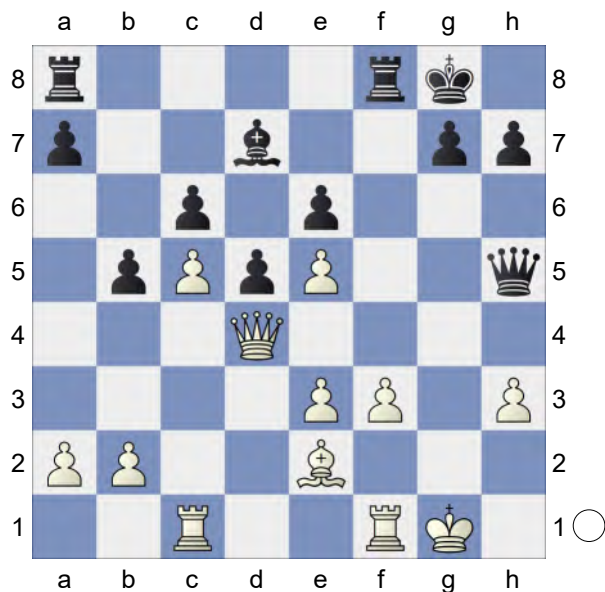


' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'A pretty way of activating the last piece.' **18...exf3** David Cummings: '?' David Cummings: 'Ding Liren said he overlooked this possibility, although

objectively it is not the best move. He mainly looked at' Sethuraman,SP: '?' Sethuraman,SP: 'Diagram

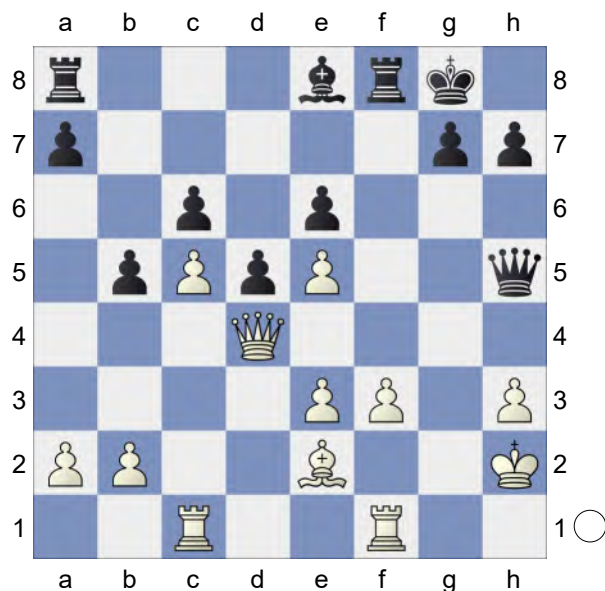


'Wagner, Dennis: '?' 19.gxf3? David Cummings: 'Here White missed a big chance to gain an advantage with' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '?' 19...Qh5! David Cummings: 'An important in-between move' Sethuraman, SP: '□' Sethuraman,SP: 'Diagram



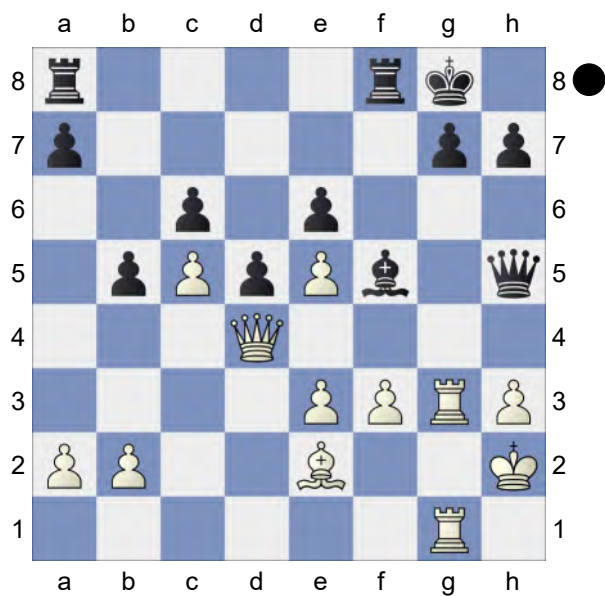
Wagner,D: '!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner, D: 'Maybe Ding underestimated this strong intermediate move. " 20.Kh2

David Cummings: 'The engine gives' Sethuraman,SP: '?' Sethuraman,SP: '[As the position becomes more complex, move by move, it is difficult for both sides to play very accurately. Indeed, after playing a series of good moves, Ding now makes an error.]' 20...Be8



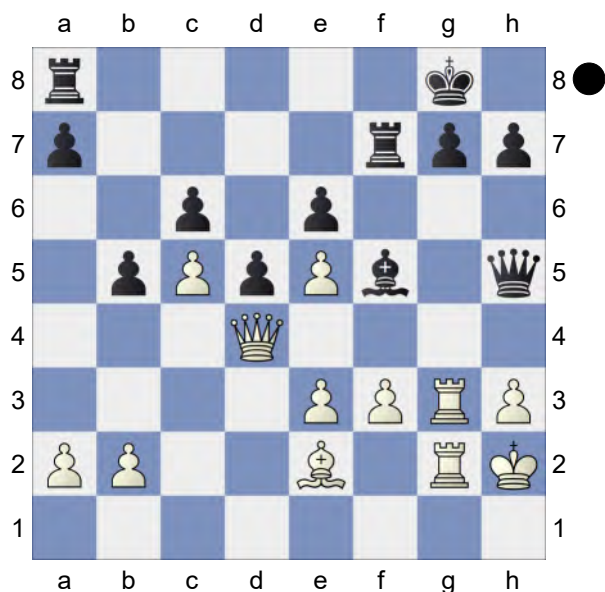
21.Rg1 Bg6! David Cummings: 'Another critical finesse' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner, D: 'It's important to activate the rook with check in order to take away the important e6-square from the white knight." 22.Rg3 Bf5 23.Rcg1 Sethuraman,SP: 'Diagram

(Diagram)



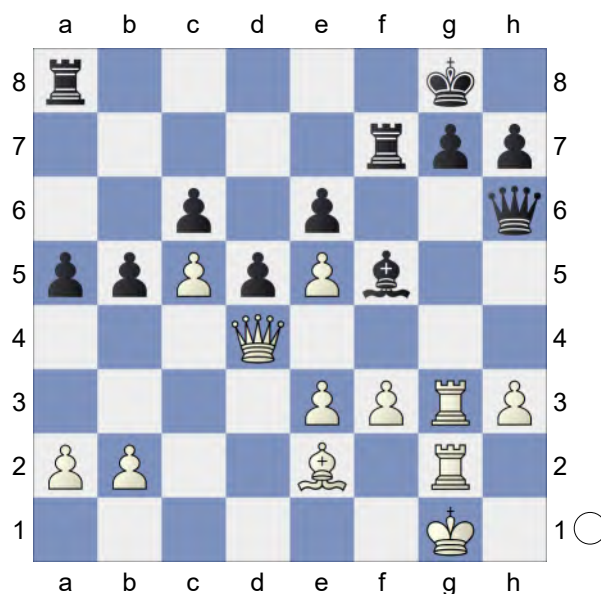
' **23...Rf7** David Cummings: '?!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '?' Wagner, Dennis: '?' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'Unfortunately Wei Yi fails to exploit a golden opportunity to seize the initiative.'

24.R1g2 David Cummings: 'White is trying to open the c-file and extricate his knight' Sethuraman,SP: 'Diagram



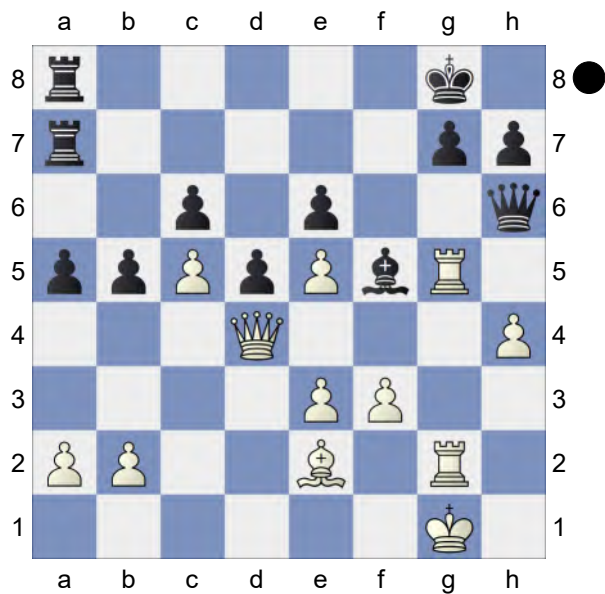
Wagner,D: '!?' Wagner,Dennis: '!?' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'I really like this energetic idea to create some threats on the queenside.'" **24...Qh6** David Cummings: 'now the position is

roughly balanced...'" **25.Kg1** David Cummings: '?!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'Increasing the tension even further..." **25...a5**



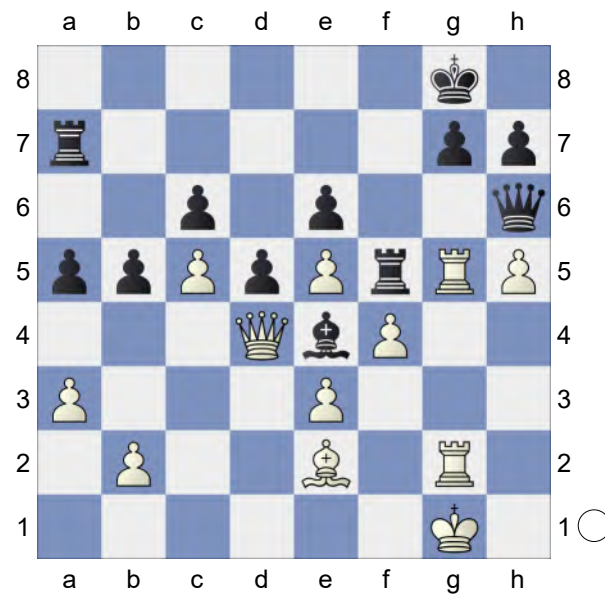
David Cummings: '?' David Cummings: 'Now the advantage swings back to White. Instead' Sethuraman,SP: '?' Wagner,Dennis: '?' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'It's too risky to decentralise the knight in this fashion, but Ding fails to exploit this.'" **26.h4** David Cummings: '?!' Sethuraman,SP: '?!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '?' Wagner,Dennis: '?' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'Now Ding Liren misses a big chance. The position is so complicated that it's impossible for both players to avoid serious mistakes.'" **26...Rfa7 27.Rg5** David Cummings: '?!' Sethuraman,SP: '[Threatening Rg6.] Diagram

(Diagram)

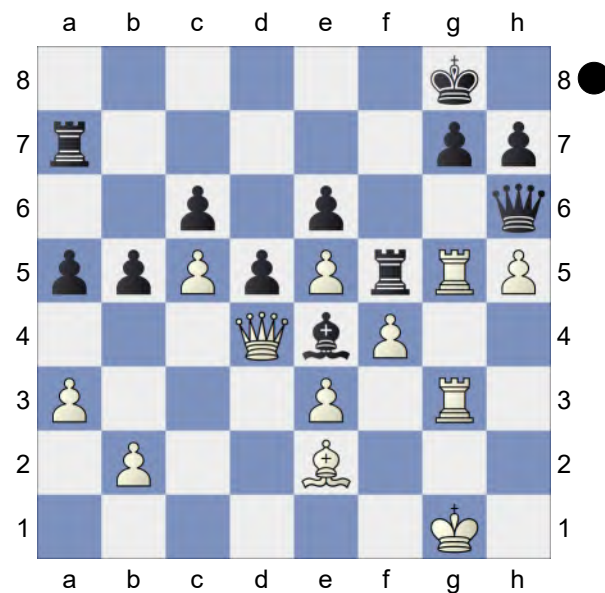


Wagner,D: '?!' Wagner,Dennis: '?!'
27...Rf8 David Cummings: '?'
 Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '?!'
 Wagner,Dennis: '?!' **28.h5** Sethuraman,
 SP: '!' **28...Bb1** **29.a3** Sethuraman,SP:
 'Wagner,D: '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!'
 Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'The h7-
 pawn is much more important than the
 immobile knight on d6!'" **29...Rf5** **30.f4**
 Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'Like in
 most complicated posititons in chess the
 computer evaluates it 0.00 after dozens
 of moves. Still in a practical game it
 seems like Black has more problems to
 solve than White, so I would tend to
 evaluate this constellation as +=''
30...Be4

(Diagram)



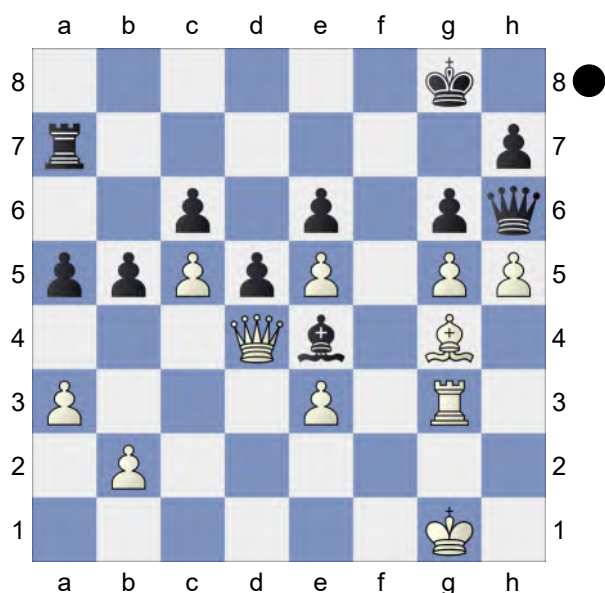
31.R2g3 Sethuraman,SP: 'Finally, after
 severe pressure from his opponent, Wei
 embarks on a series of inaccurate
 moves. Diagram



' **31...g6** David Cummings: '?!' David
 Cummings: 'Black should be holding
 after, for example' Sethuraman,SP:
 'Wagner,D: '?' Wagner,Dennis: '?'
 Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'It's not
 easy to decide how to arrange the
 pieces, but this construction with the
 rook on g6 is definitly a step in the
 wrong direction.'" **32.Bg4** Sethuraman,

SP: 'Wagner,D: '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'After this exact rook move Black has difficult problems. But with precise moves he should still hold his position together.'

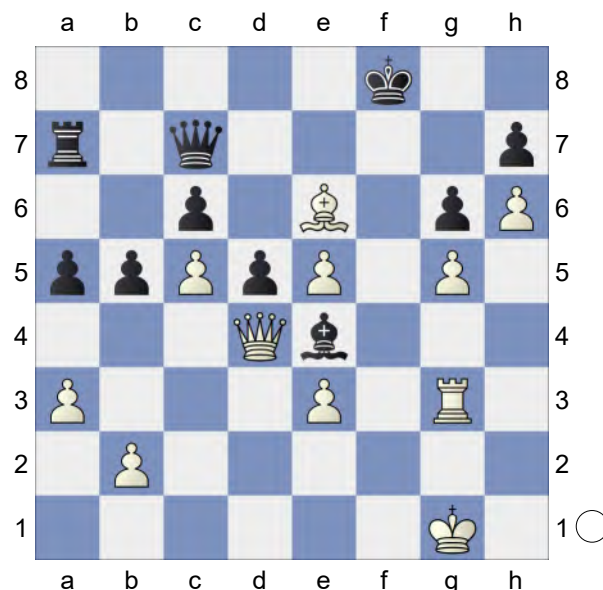
32...Rxc5 Sethuraman,SP: '?!' Wagner,Dennis: '?!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'It was necessary to improve the position of the king. Strangely enough, its movement in both directions was still enough to save the game.'
33.fxg5 Sethuraman,SP: 'Diagram



' **33...Qg7** David Cummings: '?' David Cummings: 'a final swing of the pendulum, and this time White does not let go of the win' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '?' Wagner,Dennis: '?' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'Only this move seems to be the decisive mistake! It was still necessary to evacuate the king, while the important knight, which cages the rook in on d6, had to be kept in the centre.'
34.Bxe6+ Kf8 35.h6 David Cummings: '!' David Cummings: 'Attacking both b4 and g4' Sethuraman,SP: '!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Precise play by Ding, avoiding the position with queen for two pieces in the variation discussed

below.' Wagner,Dennis: '!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'Now it's all over, because both of White's rooks are active.'

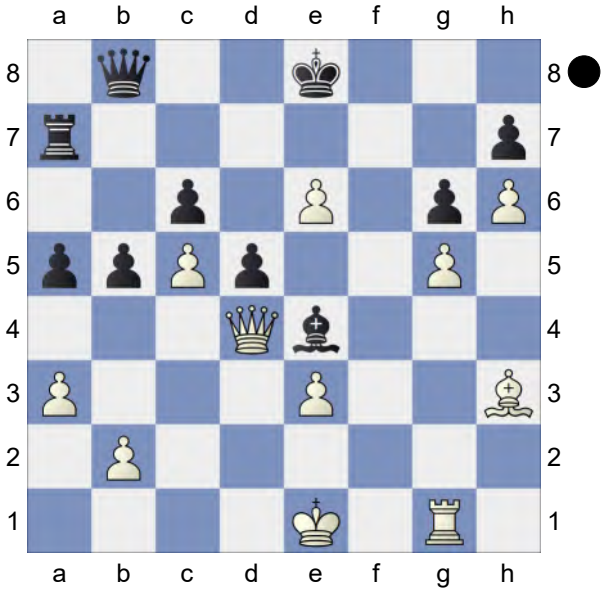
" **35...Qc7**



36.Bh3 David Cummings: 'The h-pawn finally makes it one step further, 28 moves after 8 h6!' **36...Ke8 37.Kf2 Qf7+ 38.Ke1 Qc7 39.Rg1**

David Cummings: 'The h-pawn will queen and White's material advantage will prevail. It is amazing how much influence the h6-pawn had throughout the game.' Sethuraman,SP: 'A fighting game which ended in Ding's favour. However Wei struck back with a win in the second game to level the score, and finally won the match in the rapid tiebreaks.' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'A really complicated and nerve-racking game!'
39...Qb8 (Sethuraman,SP) Wagner,D **40.e6**

(Diagram)



1-0

23

□ Ding,Liren

■ Wei,Yi

FIDE World Cup (4.1)

[Postny,Evgeny]

A16

2782

2734

20.09.2015

Sethuraman,SP: 'This battle is between the Chinese No 1 Liren Ding and the young and rapidly advancing Yi Wei, who is only 16(!) and considered by many to be a future challenger to World Champion Magnus Carlsen. It was very exciting for the spectators since it had many up and down moments. When asked before the match who I thought would win this game, I said I was rooting for Ding Liren since I thought he had more experience of playing in super tournaments and also because he had achieved the amazing feat of defeating Boris Gelfand in their World Cup match. Hence, as far as I was concerned, he was the favourite. However my prediction was proved wrong and Wei won the match in the rapid tiebreaks. The number of losing positions he saved in this match and also in his previous match against GM Yuri Vovk was simply astonishing, and showed just how cold-blooded he can be, Some call it luck, but as they say luck favours the brave!' Sethuraman,SP: 'This battle is between the Chinese No 1 Liren Ding and the young and rapidly advancing Yi Wei, who is only 16(!) and considered by many to be a future challenger to World Champion Magnus Carlsen. It was very exciting for the spectators since it had many up and down moments. When asked before the match who I thought would win this game, I said I was rooting for Ding Liren since I thought he had

more experience of playing in super tournaments and also because he had achieved the amazing feat of defeating Boris Gelfand in their World Cup match. Hence, as far as I was concerned, he was the favourite. However my prediction was proved wrong and Wei won the match in the rapid tiebreaks. The number of losing positions he saved in this match and also in his previous match against GM Yuri Vovk was simply astonishing, and showed just how cold-blooded he can be, Some call it luck, but as they say luck favours the brave!' Sethuraman,SP: 'This battle is between the Chinese No 1 Liren Ding and the young and rapidly advancing Yi Wei, who is only 16(!) and considered by many to be a future challenger to World Champion Magnus Carlsen. It was very exciting for the spectators since it had many up and down moments. When asked before the match who I thought would win this game, I said I was rooting for Ding Liren since I thought he had more experience of playing in super tournaments and also because he had achieved the amazing feat of defeating Boris Gelfand in their World Cup match. Hence, as far as I was concerned, he was the favourite. However my prediction was proved wrong and Wei won the match in the rapid tiebreaks. The number of losing positions he saved in this match and also in his previous match against GM Yuri Vovk was simply astonishing, and showed just how cold-blooded he can be, Some call it luck, but as they say luck favours the brave!' Wagner,D: 'In Round 4 of the Fide World Cup in Baku a highly interesting encounter took place, as the two most promising players in China, who fared

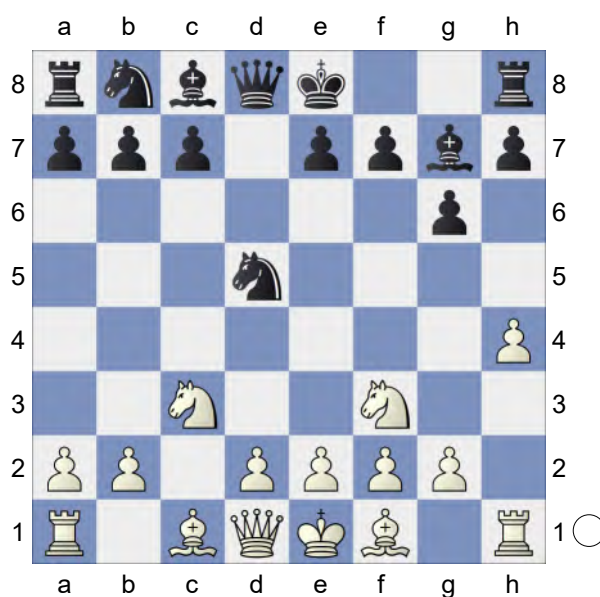
really well in this event, were paired against each other.' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'In Round 4 of the Fide World Cup in Baku a highly interesting encounter took place, as the two most promising players in China, who fared really well in this event, were paired against each other. " **1.Nf3** Sethuraman, SP Wagner,Dennis Sethuraman,SP Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D' Sethuraman, SP Wagner,D Wagner,Dennis Sethuraman,SP Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D' Wagner,Dennis Sethuraman,SP Wagner,Dennis Sethuraman,SP Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D' Wagner, Dennis: 'Postny,Evgeny' **1...Nf6 2.c4 g6** [2...c5!? (Sethuraman,SP) Wagner,D (Sethuraman,SP) Wagner,D Wagner, D: 'is a sound additional line to the Grünfeld.' is a sound additional line to the Grünfeld.]

3.Nc3 d5 Sethuraman,SP: 'Wei Yi mainly plays the Gruenfeld and Anti-Gruenfeld against Nf3/c4 systems, so it was no surprise either to Ding nor to the spectators.' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wei Yi mainly plays the Gruenfeld and Anti-Gruenfeld against Nf3/c4 systems, so it was no surprise either to Ding nor to the spectators.' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wei Yi mainly plays the Gruenfeld and Anti-Gruenfeld against Nf3/c4 systems, so it was no surprise either to Ding nor to the spectators.' Wagner,D: 'Most of the Grünfeld adherents have adopted 2...c5 as a counter to 1.Nf3, but Wei Yi is faithful to the more principled but also more risky Anti-Grünfeld, which can be seen often in his games.' Sethuraman, SP: 'Wagner,D: 'Most of the Grünfeld adherents have adopted 2...c5 as a counter to 1. f3, but Wei Yi is faithful to the more principled but also more risky

Anti-Grünfeld, which can be seen often in his games. " **4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.h4** David Cummings: 'This line of the Pseudo-Grunfeld should perhaps be re-named the anti-Wei Yi variation! This is the fourth game in the last few months where other leading Chinese players have chosen this approach against the 16-year old star.' Sethuraman,SP: '!? '!? David Cummings: 'This line of the Pseudo-Grunfeld should perhaps be re-named the anti-Wei Yi variation! This is the fourth game in the last few months where other leading Chinese players have chosen this approach against the 16-year old star.' Sethuraman,SP: '!? '!? Wagner,D: 'A trendy line that already featured in some of Wei Yi's games.' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'A trendy line that already featured in some of Wei Yi's games.'

[5.Qb3 (Sethuraman,SP) Wagner,D (Sethuraman,SP) Wagner,D Wagner, D: 'is the main alternative.' is the main alternative.]

5...Bg7 Sethuraman,SP: 'Diagram



' **6.h5** David Cummings: 'White goes for the aggressive h-pawn push which

typically leads to a sharp game with queens on the board and sometimes (as in this game) opposite side castling. In contrast, White can enter the queenless middlegame which we covered in the July 2015 Update with: 'David Cummings: 'White goes for the aggressive h-pawn push which typically leads to a sharp game with queens on the board and sometimes (as in this game) opposite side castling. In contrast, White can enter the queenless middlegame which we covered in the July 2015 Update with: 'Wagner,D: 'A rather uncommon opening concept. White achieves a huge space advantage on the kingside but on the other hand fails to develop his pieces at the same time.' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'A rather uncommon opening concept. White achieves a huge space advantage on the kingside but on the other hand fails to develop his pieces at the same time.'

[6.e4 Sethuraman,SP: 'is another possibility There are two recent games played back to back by Wang Yue and Ni Hua against Wei Yi in the Danzhou Cup 2015, which led to an endgame after' Sethuraman,SP: 'is another possibility There are two recent games played back to back by Wang Yue and Ni Hua against Wei Yi in the Danzhou Cup 2015, which led to an endgame after' Nxc3 Sethuraman,SP: 'N' 'N' (RR6...Nb6 (Sethuraman,SP) Zhou,Jianchao 2652 - Li,Chao 2619, Danzhou 2010 Sethuraman,SP: 'Zhou,Jianchao 2652 - Li,Chao 2619, Danzhou 2010') 7.dxc3 Qxd1+ 8.Kxd1

A) 8...Nd7 9.Bc4 Nf6 10.Re1 Ng4 11.Ke2 Bd7 12.a4 e6 13.h5 0-0-0

14.Rh1 f5 15.Ng5 Rde8 16.Bf4 (16.hxg6 hxg6 17.Rxh8 Bxh8 18.f3 looks more promising) 16...gxh5 17.Rxh5 h6 and Black is at least fine Ni, H (2703)-Wei, Y (2724) Danzhou 2015 1/2-1/2 (53) 18.Nf7 Sethuraman,SP Rhf8 19.Nxh6 Nf6 20.Rh4 Nxe4 21.Be3 e5 22.Bf7 Re7 23.Bg6 Nd6 24.g4 f4 Ni,Hua 2703 - Wei,Yi 2724, Danzhou 2015 - 126/ (9) Sethuraman,SP: 'Ni,Hua 2703 - Wei,Yi 2724, Danzhou 2015 - 126/ (9)';

B) 8...b6 was featured in Wang Yue-Wei Yi in the July 2015 Update (see the game in the PGN Archives) 9.Bf4 Sethuraman,SP Bb7 10.Bb5+ c6 11.Be2 Nd7 12.Kc2 e5 13.Be3 c5 14.Nd2 f5 15.f3 Nf6 16.Bd3 0-0 17.a4 Rac8 18.a5 b5 19.a6± Wang,Yue 2716 - Wei,Yi 2724, Danzhou 2015 - 126/ (9)]

6...Nc6

[6...Nxc3 7.bxc3 c5 8.g3 Nc6 9.Bg2 Be6 10.Qa4 with good chances for White, is covered in Shimanov-Mchedlishvili in the Archives]

7.g3

[7.d4 switching to a more conventional Grunfeld setup, is analyzed in the Archives in Vallejo Pons-Safarli]

7...Bg4

[7...Bf5 Wagner,Dennis: 'Postny, Evgeny'

A) 8.h6 Bf6 9.Bg2 Nxc3 (9...e5 is also playable. is also playable.) 10.bxc3 0-0∞;

B) 8.Bg2 Ncb4 (8...Qd7?! 9.Ng5 Nb6 10.d3 Rd8 11.Bd2 Ne5 12.h6 Bf6 13.Nge4± 1-0 (39)

Sadorra,J (2525)-Robson,R (2606)
Richardson 2012) 9.0-0

B1) 9...Nxc3 10.bxc3 (10.dxc3
Qxd1 11.Rxd1 Nc2 12.Rb1
Na3 13.Ra1 Nc2=) 10...Bc2
11.Qe1 Be4 12.h6 Bf6 13.Qd1
Bc2 14.Qe1 Be4=;

B2) 9...Nc2? 10.Nxd5 Qxd5
11.Nh4 Qc5 12.Nxf5 Qxf5
13.h6! Bf6 (13...Bxh6? 14.e4
Qc5 15.d4+-) 14.g4 Qc5
15.Rb1± 1-0 (31) Gupta,A (2633)-
Liu,X (2423) Olongapo City
2015]

8.h6 David Cummings: 'Although White
is by no means better by force here, the
advanced h-pawn is a thorn in Black's
side and brings up persistent tactical
themes throughout the whole game'

8...Bxc3 David Cummings: 'In an earlier
game, Wei Yi kept his dark-squared
bishop with'

[8...Bf6 Wagner,D: 'is the main
alternative.' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,
D: 'is the main alternative.'" 9.Bg2

A) 9...Nxc3 Wagner,Dennis:
'Postny,Evgeny' 10.bxc3

A1) 10...0-0 11.0-0 Qd7
12.Rb1 (12.d4
is more promising. is more
promising.) 12...b6 13.Qc2 Na5
14.d3 Rad8 15.Rd1 c5=
1-0 (58) Sulava,N (2497)-
Bosicic,M (2562) Zagreb 2012;

A2) 10...Qd7 11.Rb1 Rb8
12.d4 0-0 13.Nd2± ½-½ (41)
Olszewski,M (2566)-Nasuta,G
(2345) Poland 2015 ½-½ (41)
Olszewski,M (2566)-Nasuta,G
(2345) Poland 2015 ½-½ (41)
Olszewski,M (2566)-Nasuta,G
(2345) Poland 2015;

B) 9...0-0 10.0-0 Wagner,D: 'White

is relying on his extra pawn in the
centre and space advantage on the
kingside, with decent chances for a
slight edge.' Sethuraman,SP:
'Wagner,D: 'White is relying on his
extra pawn in the centre and space
advantage on the kingside, with
decent chances for a slight edge.'

Bxf3 Sethuraman,SP: 'RR' 'RR'
Sethuraman,SP: 'Cori Tello,Jorge
Moise 2612 - Wei,Yi 2641, Pune
2014' Sethuraman,SP: 'RR'
Sethuraman,SP: 'Cori Tello,Jorge
Moise 2612 - Wei,Yi 2641, Pune
2014' (10...Re8 Sethuraman,SP:
'N' 'N' 11.Ne4 Bh8 12.d3 Nd4
13.Nxd4 Bxd4 14.Qa4 Nb6
15.Qc2± 1-0 (41) Tomashevsky,E
(2758)-Navara,D (2734) Berlin 2015
Sethuraman,SP: 'Tomashevsky,
Evgeny 2758 - Navara,David 2734,
Berlin (rapid) 2015 - 126/(9)'
Sethuraman,SP: 'Tomashevsky,
Evgeny 2758 - Navara,David 2734,
Berlin (rapid) 2015 - 126/(9)' 1-0
(41) Tomashevsky,E (2758)-Navara,
D (2734) Berlin 2015 Sethuraman,
SP: 'Tomashevsky,Evgeny 2758 -
Navara,David 2734, Berlin (rapid)
2015 - 126/(9)' Sethuraman,SP:
'Tomashevsky,Evgeny 2758 -
Navara,David 2734, Berlin (rapid)
2015 - 126/(9)' Wagner,Dennis:
'Postny,Evgeny: ' ±' Postny,Evgeny:
'1-0 (41) Tomashevsky,E (2758)-
Navara,D (2734) Berlin 2015" c6
(Sethuraman,SP) Wagner,D
16.Re1 Nd5 17.Bd2 Qb6 18.e3
Bh8 19.Rab1± 1-0 (41)
Tomashevsky,E (2758)-Navara,D
(2734) Berlin 2015 1-0 (41)
Tomashevsky,E (2758)-Navara,D
(2734) Berlin 2015 Wagner,D: '1-0

(41) Tomashevsky,E (2758)-Navara, D (2734) Berlin 2015') 11.Bxf3 Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D' e6 12.Bg2 David Cummings: 'White loses some time with his minor pieces over the next few moves. Perhaps' (12.e3!?

David Cummings: 'trying to establish a pawn centre with d2-d4 is a better try' David Cummings: 'trying to establish a pawn centre with d2-d4 is a better try' Wagner, Dennis: 'Postny,Evgeny' Ne5 13.Bg2±) 12...Qd7 13.Ne4 Be7 14.d3 Rad8 15.Bd2 Nd4 16.Rc1 b6 17.Ng5 c5 18.Nf3 Bf6

David Cummings: 'Black is fine here Cori Tello, J (2612)-Wei, Y (2641) Pune 2014 1/2-1/2 (75). It looks like Wei Yi was aware of an improvement for White or simply preferred the character of the game with queenside castling' Sethuraman,SP: '=' Sethuraman, SP: '1/2 (75) -1/2 (75) Cori Tello,J (2612)-Wei,Y (2641) Pune 2014' Wagner,Dennis: '=' David Cummings: 'Black is fine here Cori Tello, J (2612)-Wei, Y (2641) Pune 2014 1/2-1/2 (75). It looks like Wei Yi was aware of an improvement for White or simply preferred the character of the game with queenside castling' Sethuraman, SP: '=' Sethuraman,SP: '1/2 (75) -1/2 (75) Cori Tello,J (2612)-Wei,Y (2641) Pune 2014' Wagner,Dennis: '=' Wagner,D: '=' Wagner,D: '1/2 (75) -1/2 (75) Cori Tello,J (2612)-Wei, Y (2641) Pune 2014' David Cummings: 'Black is fine here Cori Tello, J (2612)-Wei, Y (2641) Pune 2014 1/2-1/2 (75). It looks like Wei

Yi was aware of an improvement for White or simply preferred the character of the game with queenside castling' Sethuraman, SP: '=' Sethuraman,SP: '1/2 (75) -1/2 (75) Cori Tello,J (2612)-Wei,Y (2641) Pune 2014' Wagner,Dennis: '=' '=' 19.Rb1 Wagner,Dennis: 'Postny,Evgeny' e5 20.Nxd4 exd4= 1/2-1/2 (75) Cori Sanchez,J (2612)-Wei,Y (2641) Pune 2014 1/2-1/2 (75) Cori Sanchez,J (2612)-Wei,Y (2641) Pune 2014 1/2-1/2 (75) Cori Sanchez,J (2612)-Wei,Y (2641) Pune 2014]

9.dxc3

[9.bxc3 Sethuraman,SP: 'RR' 'RR' Sethuraman,SP: 'Piket,Jeroen 2575 - Shirov,Alexei 2710, Monaco (rapid) 1998 - 78/(11)' Sethuraman,SP: 'RR' Sethuraman,SP: 'Piket,Jeroen 2575 - Shirov,Alexei 2710, Monaco (rapid) 1998 - 78/(11)' Sethuraman,SP: 'RR' 'RR' Sethuraman,SP: 'Piket,Jeroen 2575 - Shirov,Alexei 2710, Monaco (rapid) 1998 - 78/(11)' Wagner, Dennis: 'Postny,Evgeny' Bxf3 10.exf3 Qd6 11.Be2 0-0-0 12.Qb3 f5± 1-0 (22) Piket,J (2575)-Shirov,A (2710) Monte Carlo 1998]

9...Qd6 David Cummings: 'After the game, Ding Liren gave an interview on the live broadcast where he analyzed the game in great detail. I have quoted him liberally here as he gave some great insights into this exciting game and demonstrated the depth to which he was calculating throughout.'

[9...Qd7?! Wagner,Dennis: 'Postny, Evgeny' 10.Bg2 f6 (10...0-0-0 11.Ng5) 11.Ne5 Nxe5 12.Qxd5 Qxd5 13.Bxd5 0-0-0 14.Bb3 Bd7 15.Bf4 Bc6 16.f3± 1-0 (45) Ivanisevic,

I (2630)-Bok,B (2453) Wijk aan Zee 2011]

[As usual, a worthwhile idea can be found in a correspondence game: As usual, a worthwhile idea can be found in a correspondence game: 9...Bxf3 Wagner,Dennis: 'Postny,Evgeny' 10.exf3 David Cummings: 'is

suggested by the engine but White has the long term advantage of the two bishops, for example' Qd6 11.Bh3 e6 12.0-0 Qc5 13.Qe2 0-0-0= ½-½ (22) Oliveira,D (2137)-

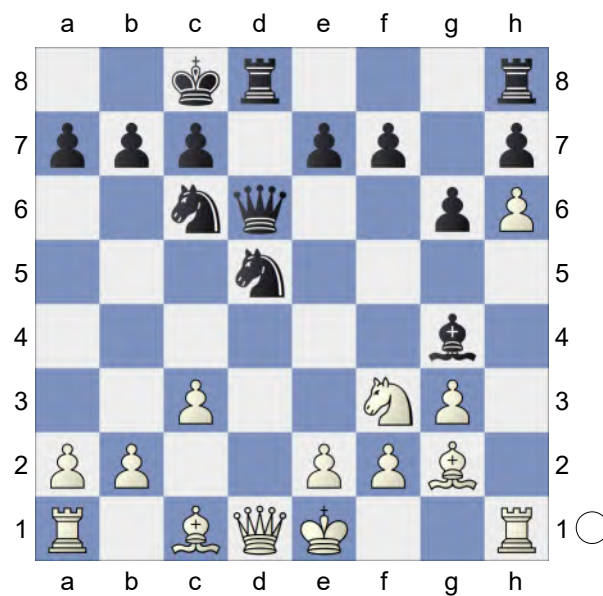
Daanen,A (2193) LSS email 2012 David Cummings: 'with an unclear position' ½-½ (22) Oliveira,D (2137)- Daanen,A (2193) LSS email 2012 David Cummings: 'with an unclear position' ½-½ (22) Oliveira,D (2137)- Daanen,A (2193) LSS email 2012]

10.Bg2

[Wagner,D: 'The alternative' The alternative 10.Ng5!? (Sethuraman, SP) Wagner,D f6 11.Bg2 Nb6 (11...Rd8 12.Ne4 Qe5 13.Qb3±) 12.Ne4 Qxd1+ 13.Kxd1 0-0-0+ 14.Ke1 Wagner,D: 'leads to a highly interesting endgame. Thanks to his advanced h-pawn and the bishop pair White seems to have some chances for a slight edge.' leads to a highly interesting endgame. Thanks to his advanced h-pawn and the bishop pair White seems to have some chances for a slight edge. Nd7 15.b3±]

10...0-0-0 Sethuraman,SP: 'Diagram

(Diagram)



' **11.Ng5** David Cummings: 'A novelty, and Ding Liren's prepared improvement over Wei Yi's previous outing in this line, which continued:' Sethuraman,SP: 'N' 'N' Sethuraman,SP: 'Here comes the improvement on the game mentioned below with Qa4. In the press conference after the game, Ding mentioned that he only analysed this idea a day before the game at Baku. Perhaps it is the top choice of the computer engines. Wagner, D: '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' Sethuraman, SP: 'Here comes the improvement on the game mentioned below with Qa4. In the press conference after the game, Ding mentioned that he only analysed this idea a day before the game at Baku. Perhaps it is the top choice of the computer engines.' David Cummings: 'A novelty, and Ding Liren's prepared improvement over Wei Yi's previous outing in this line, which continued:' Sethuraman,SP: 'N' Sethuraman,SP: 'Here comes the improvement on the game mentioned below with Qa4. In the press conference after the game, Ding mentioned that he only analysed this idea a day before the game at Baku.

Perhaps it is the top choice of the computer engines. Wagner,D: '!' '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' Wagner,D: 'White is still behind in development but anyway he starts concrete operations leading to a highly complicated situation.' David Cummings: 'A novelty, and Ding Liren's prepared improvement over Wei Yi's previous outing in this line, which continued:' Sethuraman,SP: 'N' Sethuraman,SP: 'Here comes the improvement on the game mentioned below with Qa4. In the press conference after the game, Ding mentioned that he only analysed this idea a day before the game at Baku. Perhaps it is the top choice of the computer engines. Wagner,D: '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' David Cummings: 'A novelty, and Ding Liren's prepared improvement over Wei Yi's previous outing in this line, which continued:' Sethuraman,SP: 'N' 'N' Sethuraman,SP: 'Here comes the improvement on the game mentioned below with Qa4. In the press conference after the game, Ding mentioned that he only analysed this idea a day before the game at Baku. Perhaps it is the top choice of the computer engines. Wagner,D: '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' '!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Here comes the improvement on the game mentioned below with Qa4. In the press conference after the game, Ding mentioned that he only analysed this idea a day before the game at Baku. Perhaps it is the top choice of the computer engines.' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'White is still behind in development but anyway he starts concrete operations leading to a highly complicated situation.'

[11.Qa4 Wagner,D: 'soon led to a huge advantage for the young

Chinese prodigy in a recent game.' Sethuraman,SP: '- 126/9' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'soon led to a huge advantage for the young Chinese prodigy in a recent game.'" Qe6 12.0-0 f6 13.Qc4?! Wagner,Dennis: 'Postny, Evgeny: '?!'" (13.Nd4 with an unclear position) 13...Bh3 Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: ' ♣' Wagner,D: '1/2 (31)-1/2 (31) Wang,Y (2721)-Wei,Y (2725) Zaozhuang 2015' Wagner,Dennis: ' ♣' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: ' ♣' ♣' Wagner,D: '1/2 (31)-1/2 (31) Wang,Y (2721)-Wei,Y (2725) Zaozhuang 2015' Wagner,Dennis: ' ♣' Wagner,D: '1/2 (31)-1/2 (31) Wang,Y (2721)-Wei,Y (2725) Zaozhuang 2015' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: ' ♣' Wagner,D: '1/2 (31)-1/2 (31) Wang,Y (2721)-Wei,Y (2725) Zaozhuang 2015' Wagner,Dennis: ' ♣' ♣' 14.Bxh3 Wagner,Dennis: 'Postny, Evgeny' Qxh3 ♣ ½-½ (31) Wang,Y (2721)-Wei,Y (2725) Zaozhuang 2015 ½-½ (31) Wang,Y (2721)-Wei,Y (2725) Zaozhuang 2015 ½-½ (31) Wang,Y (2721)-Wei,Y (2725) Zaozhuang 2015 15.a4 g5 and Black is already better. He has a looming kingside attack, and the h6-pawn is dropping off, Wang, Y (2721) - Wei, Y (2725) Zaozhuang 2015 1/2-1/2 (31) 16.a5 Sethuraman,SP Rhg8 17.a6 Nb6 18.Qe4 Rd5 19.Qxh7 Rgd8 20.Re1 bxa6 21.b3 Rf5 22.Nd4 Nxd4 23.cxd4 Rxd4 24.Be3 Rdd5 25.Bxb6 axb6 26.Rac1 Rxf2 27.Kxf2 Qh2+ 28.Kf1 Qh1+ 29.Kf2 Qh2+ 30.Kf1 Qh3+ 31.Kf2 Qh2+ 1/2 : 1/2 Wang,Yue 2721 - Wei,Yi 2725, China 2015 - 126/9]

11...Ne5 12.Qa4 David Cummings: '!'? David Cummings: 'A move Ding Liren

found on the morning before the game, the computer suggested'

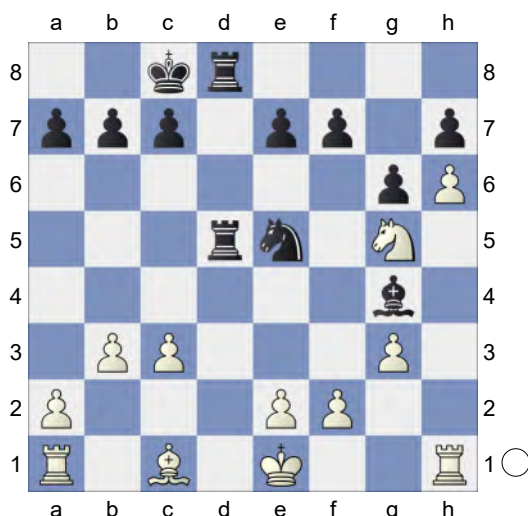
[12.f4? Wagner,Dennis: 'Postny, Evgeny' Qa6! 13.Qc2 Nc4 $\neq$]

[12.Qxd5 Wagner,Dennis: 'Postny, Evgeny' Qxd5 13.Bxd5 Rxd5

A) 14.b3 Sethuraman,SP

A1) 14...f6 15.c4 Rd7
(15...Ra5 16.Bd2 Rc5
17.Ne4 $\pm$) 16.Bb2 $\pm$;

A2) 14...Rhd8 Diagram



A2a) 15.Bf4 f6 16.Nxh7

A2a1) 16...Rh8 17.c4 Rc5
18.f3! (18.b4?! Rxc4
19.Bxe5 Rxh7 20.Bf4
Rxb4 $\neq$) 18...Bd7 19.b4
Rxc4 20.Bxe5 Rxh7
21.Bb2 Rc2 (21...Rxb4
22.Ba3 Rb6 23.Bxe7);

A2a2) 16...Nf7!
and the knight is stuck on
h7 and the knight is stuck
on h7 Sethuraman,SP: ' $\neq$ ';

A2b) 15.Be3 f6 16.c4 R5d7
17.Ne4 (17.Nxh7 Rh8)
17...Nf3+ 18.Kf1 Nd4
19.Bxd4 Sethuraman,SP Rxd4
20.f3 Bf5 21.Nc3=;

B) 14.f4 Sethuraman,SP f6
15.Ne4 (15.Nxh7 Nf7 $\neq$) 15...Rhd8

16.Nf2 Nc6 $\neq$;

C) 14.c4 David Cummings: 'but
after' 14...Rd7 15.b3 f6 16.Bb2 $\pm$
Sethuraman,SP: ' $\pm$ ' $\pm$ ' Nc6 17.f3
Nd4! David Cummings: 'and the
position looks drawish - Ding Liren'
18.Rd1 (18.fxg4 fxg5=) 18...Ne6
19.Rxd7 Kxd7 20.Ne4 Bf5 21.Nf2
g5=]

12...Nb6?! Wagner,D: 'This leads by
force to an endgame where White is
holding the initiative.' Wagner,Dennis:
'Postny,Evgeny: '?!' Sethuraman,SP:
'Wagner,D: 'This leads by force to an
endgame where White is holding the
initiative.'

[12...Bxe2? Wagner,Dennis: 'Postny,
Evgeny' 13.Kxe2 Nxc3+ 14.bxc3
Qd3+ 15.Ke1 Qxc3+ 16.Kf1 Qxa1
17.Bh3+ Kb8 18.Kg2 $\pm$]

[Wagner,D: 'After' Sethuraman,SP:
'After' 12...f6 Sethuraman,SP: '!?'
Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D' Wagner,
Dennis: '!?' Sethuraman,SP: '!?'
Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D' Wagner,
Dennis: '!?' is an improvement for the
next game. Wagner,D: '!?' Wagner,D:
'Black might have less problems to
solve.' Sethuraman,SP: '!?'
Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D' Wagner,
Dennis: '!?' '!?' is an improvement for
the next game. Sethuraman,SP:
'Black might have less problems to
solve.' is an improvement for the next
game. Sethuraman,SP: 'Black might
have less problems to solve.' Wagner,
Dennis: 'Black might have less
problems to solve. Postny,Evgeny: 'is
an improvement for the next game.'
13.Nf7 (13.f4 Wagner,Dennis:
'Postny,Evgeny' Nc6 14.Ne4 Qe6
15.Qc4 Nxf4 16.Qxe6+ Nxe6 17.Nf2
f5=) 13...Nxf7 14.Qxg4+ Kb8

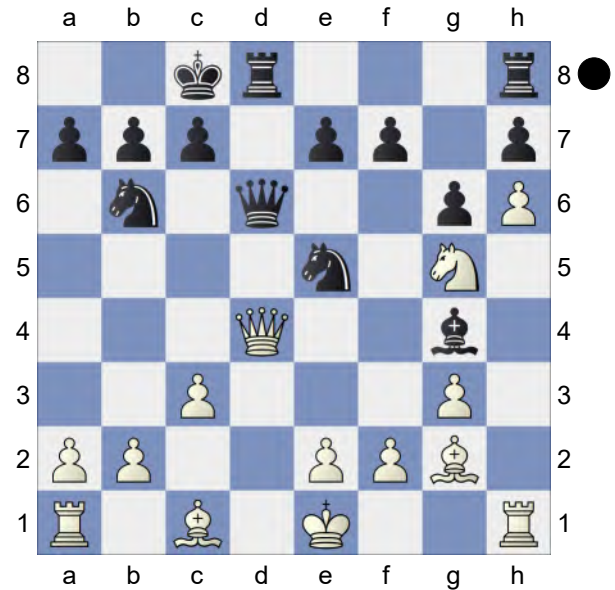
David Cummings: "is very complicated but White should be better due to the bishop pair" David Cummings: "is very complicated but White should be better due to the bishop pair" White enjoys the bishop pair, but Black is well developed, so the position is balanced. White enjoys the bishop pair, but Black is well developed, so the position is balanced. White enjoys the bishop pair, but Black is well developed, so the position is balanced. Wagner,Dennis: 'Postny,Evgeny: 'White enjoys the bishop pair, but Black is well developed, so the position is balanced.

" 15.Qa4 Sethuraman,SP e5 Wagner,D: 'leads to another double-edged situation with chances for both sides.' leads to another double-edged situation with chances for both sides.]

[12...Kb8 defending the a7-pawn, can be answered by Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '?' Wagner,Dennis: '?' defending the a7-pawn, can be answered by Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '?' '?' Wagner,Dennis: '?' defending the a7-pawn, can be answered by Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '?' Wagner,Dennis: '?' '?' 13.f4 Sethuraman,SP: '±!' '±!' (13.Qe4! (Sethuraman,SP) Wagner,D Bc8 14.Qxd5 Qxd5 15.Bxd5 Rxd5 16.Bf4±; 13.Nxf7? (Sethuraman,SP) Wagner,D Nxf7 14.Qxg4 Nxc3!) 13...Nc6 14.Qb5! and Black has difficulty defending f7]

13.Qd4! David Cummings: 'the only move, as White can't go for' Sethuraman, SP: 'Diagram

[13.Qxa7 Qd1#]



' David Cummings: 'the only move, as White can't go for' Sethuraman,SP: 'Diagram [#]' Wagner,D: 'forcing the exchange of queens, but the character of the game still remains extremely forcing and complicated.' David Cummings: 'the only move, as White can't go for' Sethuraman,SP: 'Diagram [#]' Wagner,Dennis: 'Postny,Evgeny: '!' Sethuraman, SP: 'Wagner,D: 'forcing the exchange of queens, but the character of the game still remains extremely forcing and complicated.'" **13...f6**

[13...Qxd4 14.cxd4 Rxd4 15.b3 is strong for White due to his control of the a1-h8 diagonal Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' is strong for White due to his control of the a1-h8 diagonal Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '!' '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' Wagner,D: 'White will get a strong initiative on the long diagonal.' is strong for White due to his control of the a1-h8 diagonal Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' '!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'White will get a strong initiative on the long diagonal.'" (15.Bf4 Sethuraman,SP

Nbd7; 15.f3 Sethuraman,SP f6
 Sethuraman,SP: '!'; 15.f4 (Sethuraman,
 SP) Wagner,D f6 16.fxe5 fxg5
 17.Bxg5 Be6 18.Bxe7 Re8 19.Bf6
 Nd7=) 15...Rdd8! Sethuraman,SP
 (15...f6 Sethuraman,SP 16.Bb2
 Sethuraman,SP: ' ±'; 15...Rhd8
 Sethuraman,SP 16.Bb2 Rd2
 17.Bxe5 Rxe2+ 18.Kf1 Rxe5
 19.Nxf7 Sethuraman,SP: '±')

A) 16.Bb2 Nbd7 17.f3 (17.f4 f6
 18.Ne4 Nf7) 17...f6! (17...Bf5
 18.g4 Be6 19.f4±) 18.fxg4 fxg5
 19.Bc1 Nxc4 20.Bxg5 Ngf6
 Sethuraman,SP: '±';

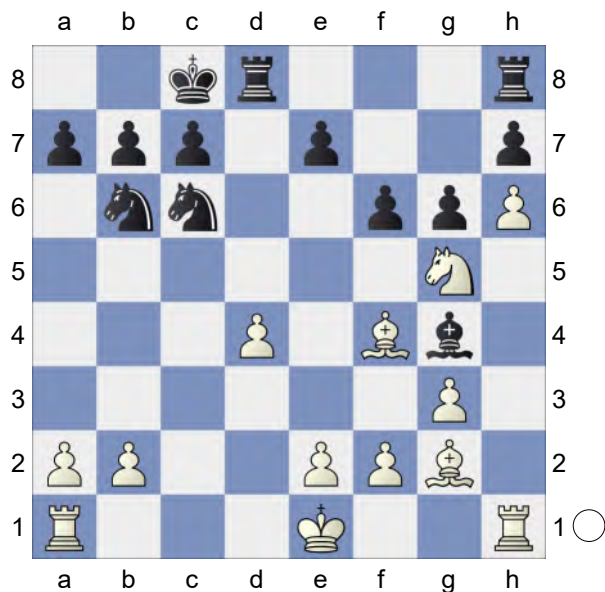
B) 16.f3! f6 (16...Bf5 17.g4 Be6
 18.Bb2±) 17.fxg4 fxg5 18.Bxg5±
 Nd5 Wagner,D (18...Nxc4?
 Wagner,D 19.Bh3+-) 19.0-0±]

14.Bf4 David Cummings: '! David
 Cummings: 'Wei Yi spent about half an
 hour on this move, and before long Ding
 Liren was about an hour ahead on the
 clock, but the game now enters a
 demanding phase with tactics to be
 calculated on every move' Sethuraman,
 SP: '! '!' Wagner,Dennis: '! David
 Cummings: '! David Cummings: 'Wei Yi
 spent about half an hour on this move,
 and before long Ding Liren was about an
 hour ahead on the clock, but the game
 now enters a demanding phase with
 tactics to be calculated on every move'
 Sethuraman,SP: '! '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!
 Wagner,D: '! Wagner,D: 'An energetic
 counter-attacking developing move!
 Now unclear complications arise which
 should lead to a balanced position if
 both sides act accurately.' David
 Cummings: '! David Cummings: 'Wei Yi
 spent about half an hour on this move,
 and before long Ding Liren was about an
 hour ahead on the clock, but the game

now enters a demanding phase with
 tactics to be calculated on every move'
 Sethuraman,SP: '! Wagner,Dennis: '!
 David Cummings: '! David Cummings:
 'Wei Yi spent about half an hour on this
 move, and before long Ding Liren was
 about an hour ahead on the clock, but
 the game now enters a demanding
 phase with tactics to be calculated on
 every move' Sethuraman,SP: '! '!'
 Wagner,Dennis: '! '!' Sethuraman,SP:
 'Wagner,D: 'An energetic counter-
 attacking developing move! Now unclear
 complications arise which should lead to
 a balanced position if both sides act
 accurately.'" **14...Qxd4 15.cxd4 Nc6**

[Sethuraman,SP: 'On' 15...Rxd4
 Sethuraman,SP: 'follows' 16.Bxe5
 fxe5 17.Rc1 planning Rc5 and Rh4,
 and if Black plays Sethuraman,SP: '!
 '!' Sethuraman,SP: '. Since the rook is
 tied down to the h7 pawn there is no
 need to hurry with Nf7 so instead
 White improves his pieces and
 increases his pressure' Sethuraman,
 SP: '. Since the rook is tied down to
 the h7 pawn there is no need to hurry
 with Nf7 so instead White improves
 his pieces and increases his pressure'
 planning Rc5 and Rh4, and
 if Black plays Sethuraman,SP: ' ↑! '!'
 Sethuraman,SP: '. Since the rook is
 tied down to the h7 pawn there is no
 need to hurry with Nf7 so instead
 White improves his pieces and
 increases his pressure' planning Rc5
 and Rh4, and if Black plays
 Sethuraman,SP: '! Sethuraman,SP: '.
 Since the rook is tied down to the h7
 pawn there is no need to hurry with
 Nf7 so instead White improves his
 pieces and increases his pressure'
 (17.Nf7 Sethuraman,SP Rf8 18.Nxe5

Be6 19.f4 Sethuraman,SP: '♞'; 17.b3± (Sethuraman,SP) Wagner,D (Sethuraman,SP) Wagner,D Wagner,D: 'leaves Black with a horribly compromised structure.' leaves Black with a horribly compromised structure.) 17...Bf5 then 18.Rh4 Rxh4 19.gxh4 Nd7 (19...Kb8 20.Rc5 Nd7 21.Rb5 b6 22.e4 Bg4 23.f3 Bh5 24.Rd5 and White is better) 20.e4 Bg4 21.f3 Bh5 22.Bh3 is great for White - Ding Liren]



David Cummings: '!' David Cummings: 'A very interesting move, sacrificing the exchange. The problem is that normal moves work out well for White, for example' 16.Nf7

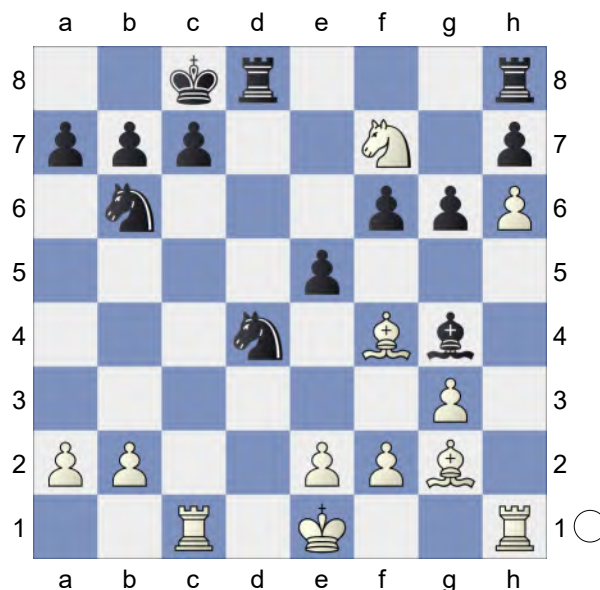
[16.Bxc6? is bad because of fxe5 with a double attack]

16...Nxd4 17.Rc1 David Cummings: 'Ding Liren also considered'

[17.f3 but wasn't sure about e5 (17...Nc2+ 18.Kf2 Nxa1 19.fxe4 Nc2 20.Rc1 e5 21.Rxc2 exf4 22.gxf4 is close to equal and may be Black's best try) 18.fxe4 here he showed a long line with exf4

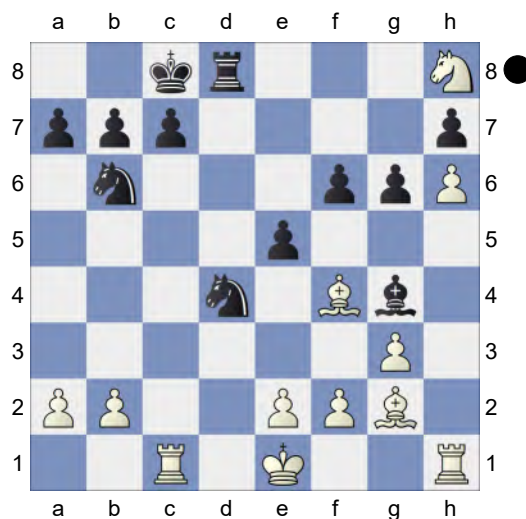
19.Nxh8 Nc2+ 20.Kf2 fxe3+ 21.Kxe3 Nxa1 22.Nxg6 hxe6 23.Rxa1 g5 but here White should win after (23...Rh8 24.g5 fxe5 25.Rh1 Nc4 26.Kg4 and White is winning) 24.Rf1]

17...e5 Sethuraman,SP: 'Diagram



' 18.Rh4! Sethuraman,SP: 'Diagram

[18.Nxh8 Sethuraman,SP: 'Diagram



A) 18...Rxh8 Sethuraman,SP

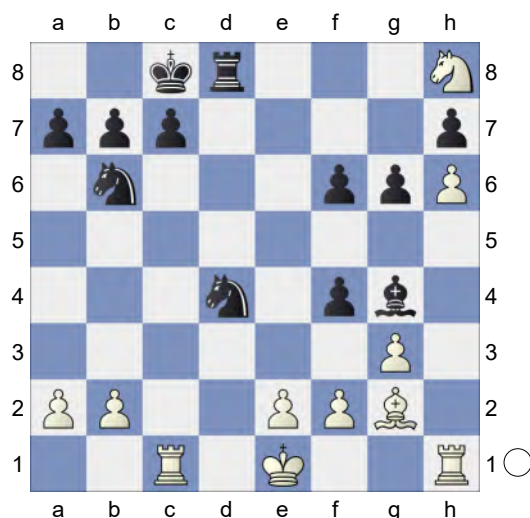
A1) 19.Rh4 Bxe2 20.Be3

A1a) 20...Re8? 21.Bxd4 exd4 22.Re4! Rxe4 23.Bxe4 d3 (23...Bh5 24.g4 Bxe4 25.Bxe6) 24.Bxe6;

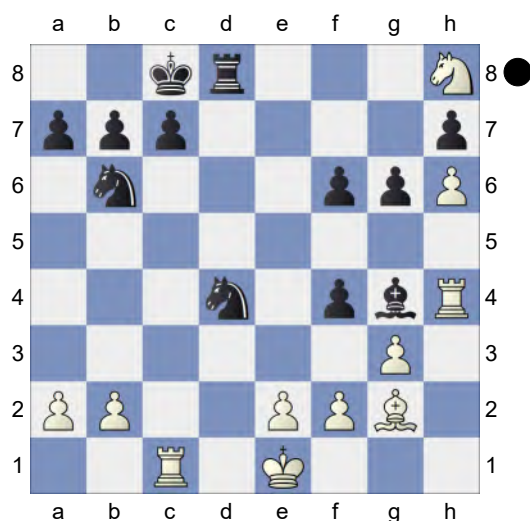
A1b) 20...Bf3 21.Bxd4
(21.Bh3+ Wagner,D Nf5=)
21...Bxg2;

A2) 19.Be3 The difference now
being that the black rook is on h8
rather than d8. 19...Nxe2
20.Rd1± (20.Rc2 Nd4 21.Bxd4
exd4 22.Kd2) 20...Nc4?
21.Rh4!+-;

B) 18...exf4 Sethuraman,SP:
'Diagram



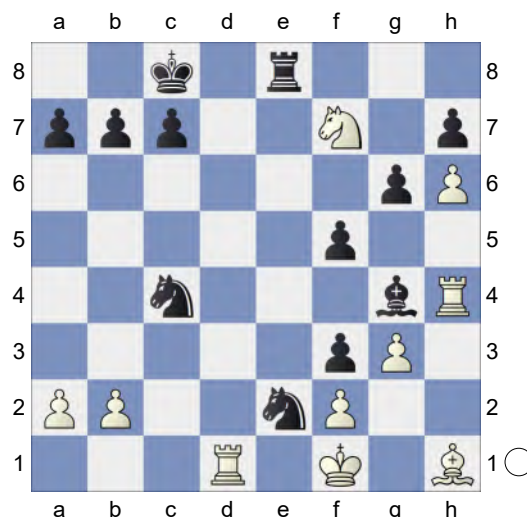
B1) 19.Rh4 Sethuraman,SP
Sethuraman,SP Sethuraman,SP:
'Diagram



' f3!

B1a) 20.Bh1

B1a1) 20...Nxe2 21.Rd1
Re8 22.Kf1 (22.Rxg4?
Nc3+ 23.Kd2 Nxd1) 22...f5
23.Nf7 Nc4 Diagram



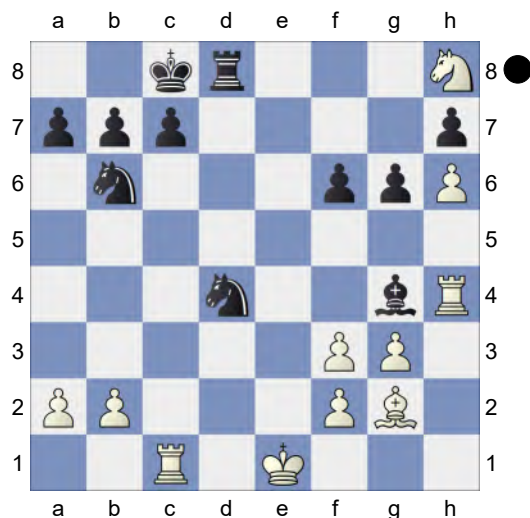
B1a11) 24.Ng5
Nxg3+!+-;

B1a12) 24.Bxf3 Bxf3
25.Rxc4 Nxg3+ 26.Kg1
(26.fxg3 Be2+)
26...Ne4 (26...Rf8
27.Nd6+ Kd7 28.Rd3
Be2 29.Rxg3 cxd6
30.Rb4 Ba6; 26...Bxd1
27.Nd6+);

B1a13) 24.Rd3 Nc1
25.Rd1 Ne2= (25...Nxa2
26.Ng5 Nxb2 27.Re1
Rxe1+ 28.Kxe1 Nd3+
29.Kf1 Nc3 30.Nxh7+-);

B1a2) 20...Bf5
A calm move, threatening
Nc2+ and winning the knight
on h8, which looks far
stronger Sethuraman,SP: 'A
calm move, threatening
Nc2+ and winning the knight
on h8, which looks far
stronger' 21.Nf7 Rd7;

B1b) 20.exf3 Diagram
(Diagram)



B1b1) 20...Bxf3 21.Rxd4

Sethuraman,SP: '±';

B1b2) 20...Nxf3+ 21.Bxf3
Bxf3 22.Rf4 (22.Nf7 g5!)

B1b21) 22...Re8+

23.Kd2 Bc6 24.Nxg6
Rd8+ (24...Nd5 25.Rg4
f5 26.Rg5 hxg6 27.Rxg6
Rh8 28.Re1↑

Sethuraman,SP) 25.Ke2
Nd5 26.Rg4 Rg8!

Sethuraman,SP: '±!'
27.Ne5 Re8 28.Rg7
Rxe5+ 29.Kd2 Rf5
(29...Re7? 30.Re1+-)
30.Ke1 Bb5 31.Rxh7
Re5+;

B1b22) 22...Bc6

23.Nxg6 Nd5 24.Rg4
Rg8 25.Ne5 Re8
26.Rg7 Rxe5+ 27.Kd2
Rf5 Sethuraman,SP: '±';

B1b3) 20...Bf5!

Sethuraman,SP: '±!';

B2) 19.Nxg6 hxg6 20.f3
(20.Rh4 (Sethuraman,SP)

Wagner,D f3 21.exf3 Nxf3+
22.Bxf3 Bxf3 23.Rf4 Bd5
24.Rxf6 Nd7 25.Rxg6 Ne5
26.Rg7 Nd3+ 27.Kd2 Nxc1

28.Kxc1 Bxa2=) 20...Bd7

(20...Be6 Sethuraman,SP

21.gxf4 Rh8 with a complex
position. with a complex position.

Sethuraman,SP: '±'; 20...Bf5

Sethuraman,SP 21.gxf4) 21.gxf4

Nd5 and Black is OK, while]

[18.Be3? Nxe2 19.f3? Nxc1 20.fxg4
Nd3+ wins for Black]

[18.Nxd8 Sethuraman,SP

A) 18...Nxe2 19.Nf7 Rf8

20.Nd6+±;

B) 18...exf4 19.Nf7 Rf8 20.Nd6+

(20.f3 Rxf7 21.fxg4 Re7 22.Kd2

Rxe2+ 23.Kd3 Rxg2 24.Kxd4 fxc3

25.Rhe1 Kd7±) 20...Kb8 21.f3

cxg6 22.fxg4 Re8 23.Kd2 Rxe2+

24.Kd3 Rxg2 25.Kxd4 fxc3

26.Rhe1 Rd2+ 27.Kc3 Rd5

28.Re8+ Kc7 Sethuraman,SP

29.b4±;

C) 18...Rxd8

C1) 19.Bd2 Nxe2 20.Rc5

Nd4±;

C2) 19.Be3 Nxe2 20.Rc2 Nf4!

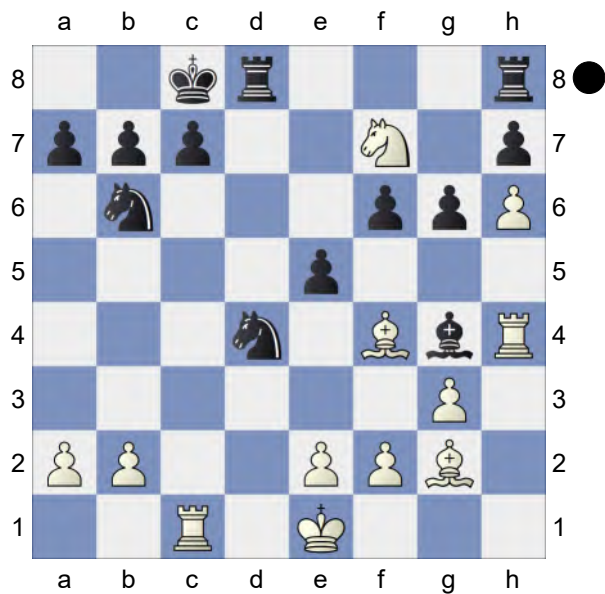
(20...Ng1!?) 21.0-0 Nxg2

22.Kxg2 Nd5 Sethuraman,SP:

'±';

C3) 19.Rh4!]

(Diagram)



'Sethuraman,SP: 'Diagram [#]' Wagner, D: 'A pretty way of activating the last piece.' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'A pretty way of activating the last piece.'

18...exf4 David Cummings: '?' David Cummings: 'Ding Liren said he overlooked this possibility, although objectively it is not the best move. He mainly looked at' Sethuraman,SP: '?' '?' Sethuraman,SP: 'Diagram

[18...Bxe2 David Cummings: 'and now:' Wagner,Dennis: '!' David Cummings: 'and now:' Wagner, Dennis: '!' Wagner,D: '!' Wagner,D: 'was the way of maintaining the balance, based on concrete variations.' David Cummings: 'and now:' Wagner, Dennis: '!' '!' Wagner,Dennis: 'was the way of maintaining the balance, based on concrete variations.'

A) 19.Be3 Bf3

A1) 20.Bh3+ Sethuraman,SP

A1a) 20...Kb8 21.Nxd8 (21.Nxh8? Nc2+) 21...Rxd8 22.Bxd4 exd4 23.Rf4±;

A1b) 20...Nf5∞;

A2) 20.Bxd4 Bxg2 21.Bxb6 axb6 22.Ra4 Kb8 23.Nxh8

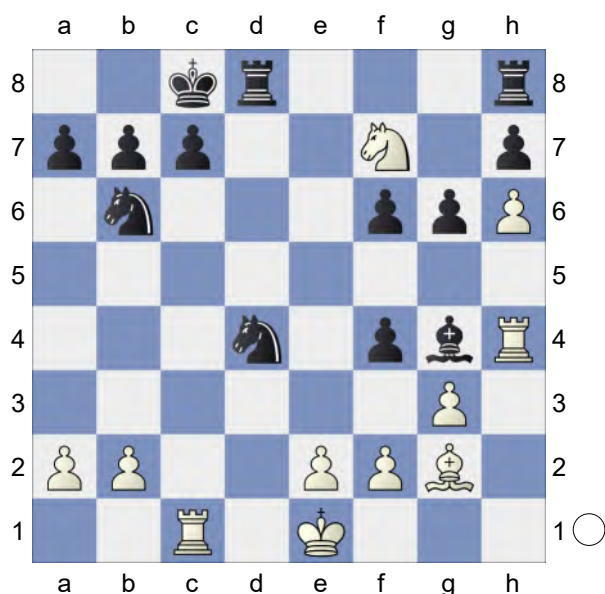
Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D' Rxh8 and Black has good drawing chances Sethuraman, SP: '=' Wagner,Dennis: '=' and Black has good drawing chances Sethuraman,SP: ' ♙ '=' Wagner, Dennis: '=' Wagner,D: '=' and Black has good drawing chances Sethuraman,SP: '=' Wagner, Dennis: '=' '=';

B) 19.Bh3+?! Kb8 20.Be3 Bc4 is good for Black;

C) 19.Nxd8 Sethuraman,SP Rxd8 also transposes 20.Bh3+ Sethuraman,SP (20.Be3 Sethuraman,SP Bf3 21.Bh3+ Nf5) 20...Kb8 21.Be3;

D) 19.Bxe5 (Sethuraman,SP) Wagner,D fxe5 20.Nxh8 Bc4 21.Nxg6 hxg6♞;

E) 19.Nxh8 Rxh8 Sethuraman,SP: 'transposes to the above note' 20.Be3 (20.Bh3+ Kb8 21.Be3 Re8 is similar Sethuraman,SP: '!' is similar Sethuraman,SP: ' ∞!') 20...Bf3 21.Bh3+ Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D' Nf5= David Cummings: 'with a roughly balanced game, Black has two pawns for the exchange' Sethuraman,SP: '=' Wagner,Dennis: '=' David Cummings: 'with a roughly balanced game, Black has two pawns for the exchange' Sethuraman,SP: '=' Wagner, Dennis: '=' Wagner,D: '=' David Cummings: 'with a roughly balanced game, Black has two pawns for the exchange' Sethuraman,SP: '=' Wagner, Dennis: '=' '22.Bxb6 Wagner,Dennis: 'Postny,Evgeny' axb6 23.Rc3±]



' Wagner,Dennis: '?' David Cummings: '?' David Cummings: 'Ding Liren said he overlooked this possibility, although objectively it is not the best move. He mainly looked at' Sethuraman,SP: '?' '?' Sethuraman,SP: 'Diagram [#]' Wagner, Dennis: '?' Wagner,D: '?' David Cummings: '?' David Cummings: 'Ding Liren said he overlooked this possibility, although objectively it is not the best move. He mainly looked at' Sethuraman,SP: '?' '?' Sethuraman,SP: 'Diagram [#]' Wagner, Dennis: '?' '?' '19.Nxd8? David Cummings: 'Here White missed a big chance to gain an advantage with' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '?'

[19.Rxg4 David Cummings: '!' David Cummings: 'for example' Sethuraman, SP: 'Wagner,D: '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' David Cummings: '!' David Cummings: 'for example' Sethuraman,SP:

'Wagner,D: '!' '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' Wagner,D: 'would have secured a huge advantage.' David Cummings: '!' David Cummings: 'for example' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' '!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'would have secured a huge advantage.'

A) 19...Nxe2 20.Bxb7+!

This is the key intermediate move that both players likely missed Sethuraman,SP: '!!' '!!' Sethuraman, SP: 'Probably this is what Wei missed in his calculations. An important intermediate move killing off Black's whole plot' Wagner,D: '!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Probably this is what Wei missed in his calculations. An important intermediate move killing off Black's whole plot' This is the key intermediate move that both players likely missed Sethuraman, SP: '!!' '!!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Probably this is what Wei missed in his calculations. An important intermediate move killing off Black's whole plot' Wagner,D: '!' Wagner,D: 'Maybe the two players did not spot this nice shot.' This is the key intermediate move that both players likely missed Sethuraman,SP: '!!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Probably this is what Wei missed in his calculations. An important intermediate move killing off Black's whole plot' Wagner, D: '!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'Maybe the two players did not spot this nice shot.' (20.Kxe2 Rhe8+ 21.Kf1 Rd7 when Black is fine was the line given by Ding Liren) 20...Kxb7 (20...Kb8 Sethuraman, SP 21.Kxe2 Sethuraman,SP: '+-') 21.Nxd8+ Rxd8 Sethuraman,SP:

'Wagner,D' 22.Kxe2 with an extra exchange and excellent winning chances
 Sethuraman,SP: ' ±'
 Wagner,Dennis: ' ±' with an extra exchange and excellent winning chances
 Sethuraman,SP: ' ±' ±'
 Wagner,Dennis: ' ±' Wagner,D: ' ±' with an extra exchange and excellent winning chances
 Sethuraman,SP: ' ±' Wagner,Dennis: ' ±' ±';

B) 19...f3

B1) 20.Bh3 with deadly discovered check ideas
 Sethuraman,SP: ' ±' ±'
 Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '!'
 Wagner,Dennis: '!' with deadly discovered check ideas
 Sethuraman,SP: ' ±' ±'
 Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '!' '!'
 Wagner,Dennis: '!' with deadly discovered check ideas
 Sethuraman,SP: ' ±' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' with deadly discovered check ideas
 Sethuraman,SP: ' ±' ±' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' '!' Nxe2
 Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D' 21.Nxd8 Nxc1 22.Nf7 Rf8 (22...Re8+ Sethuraman,SP 23.Re4+-) 23.Rxg6+ Kb8 24.Rxf6 and White is much better in this endgame;

B2) 20.Bf1! Wagner,Dennis: 'Postny,Evgeny: '!' 20...Nxe2 21.Bxe2 Rhe8 22.Nxd8 Rxe2+ 23.Kf1 Kxd8

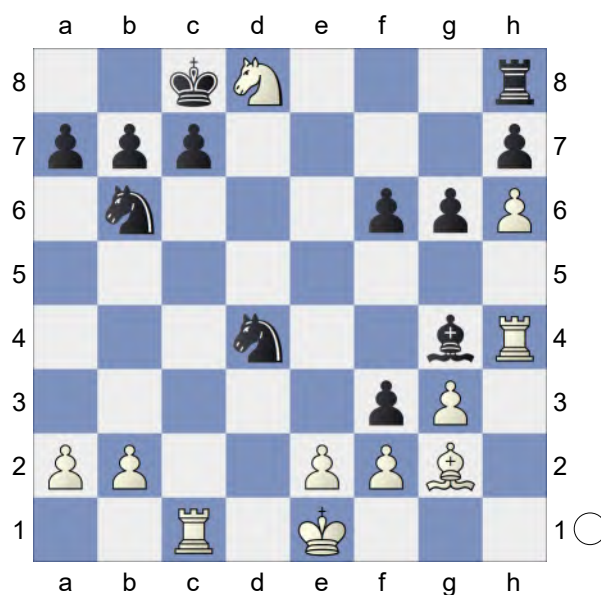
B2a) 24.Rd1+ Sethuraman,SP Kc8 (24...Ke7 25.Rxg6!; 24...Ke8 25.Rxg6!) 25.Rf4 Re6 26.Rxf3±;

B2b) 24.Rf4±

Wagner,Dennis: 'Postny,Evgeny']

19...f3! David Cummings: 'An important in-between move' Sethuraman,SP: ' □' □' Sethuraman,SP: 'Diagram

[19...Nxe2 20.Bxb7+ Kxd8 (20...Kb8 Sethuraman,SP 21.Ba6 Nxc1 22.Nc6+ Ka8 23.Rxg4±) 21.Rd1+ is good for White - Ding Liren]
 [19...Bxe2 Sethuraman,SP 20.Nf7±]



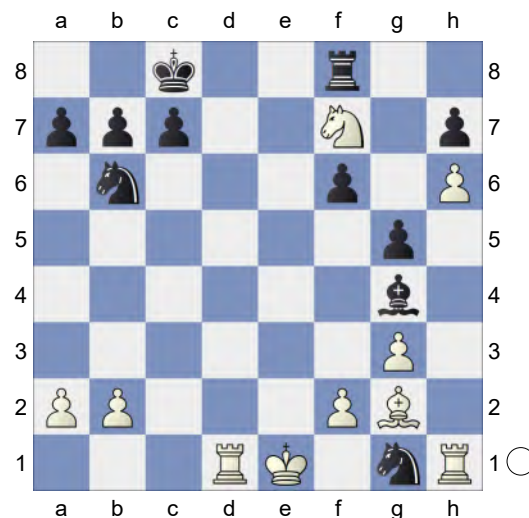
Wagner,D: '!' David Cummings: 'An important in-between move' Sethuraman,SP: ' □' □' Sethuraman,SP: 'Diagram [#]
 Wagner,D: '!' Wagner,D: 'Maybe Ding underestimated this strong intermediate move.' David Cummings: 'An important in-between move' Sethuraman,SP: ' □' Sethuraman,SP: 'Diagram [#] Wagner,D: '!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'Maybe Ding underestimated this strong intermediate move.' **20.exf3**
 David Cummings: 'The engine gives' Sethuraman,SP: '? ' ?' Sethuraman,SP: '[As the position becomes more complex, move by move, it is difficult for both sides to play very accurately. Indeed, after playing a series of good moves,

Ding now makes an error.]] Sethuraman, SP: '[As the position becomes more complex, move by move, it is difficult for both sides to play very accurately. Indeed, after playing a series of good moves, Ding now makes an error.]]' David Cummings: 'The engine gives' Sethuraman, SP: '?' Sethuraman, SP: '[As the position becomes more complex, move by move, it is difficult for both sides to play very accurately. Indeed, after playing a series of good moves, Ding now makes an error.]]'

[20.Bh1 as the only move to hold the balance, but this would be a hard move for a human to make Wagner, Dennis: '! ' Sethuraman, SP: ' ♠' as the only move to hold the balance, but this would be a hard move for a human to make Wagner, Dennis: '! ' Wagner, D: '! ' Wagner, D: 'seems to be safer, although it's quite counter-intuitive to place the bishop in the corner of the board.' Sethuraman, SP: ' ♠' as the only move to hold the balance, but this would be a hard move for a human to make Wagner, Dennis: '! ' '!' Sethuraman, SP: ' ♠' Wagner, Dennis: 'seems to be safer, although it's quite counter-intuitive to place the bishop in the corner of the board.'

A) 20...Nxe2 Sethuraman, SP 21.Nf7 (21.Rd1 f5 22.Nf7 Re8 23.Kf1 Nc4= transposes to the variations discussed above. Sethuraman, SP: 'transposes to the variations discussed above.') 21...Rf8 22.Rd1 (22.Rc5 Wagner, D Rxf7 23.Rxg4±) 22...Bd7! 23.Bxf3 Ng1 24.Bg2 g5 25.Rh1 Bg4 Diagram

(Diagram)



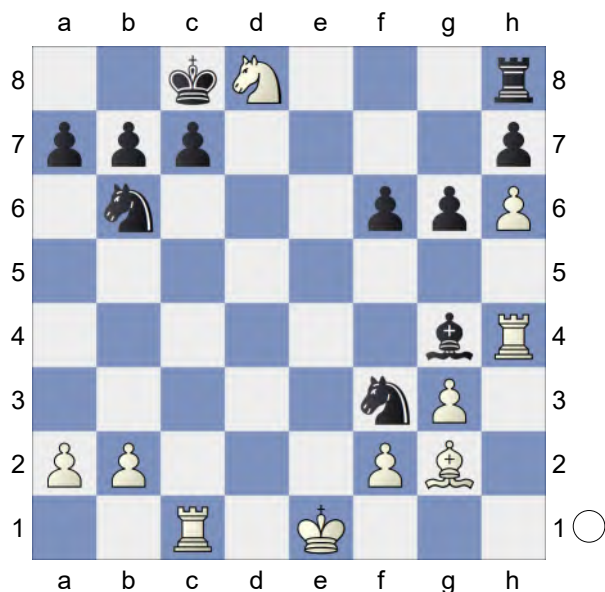
A1) 26.Rd8+ Rxd8 27.Nxd8 Nf3+ 28.Ke2 Ne5+ (28...Nh4+! 29.f3 Nxg2 30.fxg4 Kxd8 31.Kf3 Nc4 32.Kxg2 Ne5 and hopefully Black builds a fortress. Sethuraman, SP: 'and hopefully Black builds a fortress.' and hopefully Black builds a fortress. Sethuraman, SP: '=') 29.f3 Bd7 30.Nxb7! (30.f4 gxf4 31.gxf4 Ng6 32.Be4 f5) 30...Kxb7 31.f4+ Bc6 (31...Nc6? 32.fxg5 fxg5 33.Rf1+-) 32.Bxc6+ Nxc6 33.fxg5 fxg5 34.Rf1 Ne5 35.Rf5 Nbd7 . Black should be able to hold this endgame but it is still far from clear Sethuraman, SP: '. Black should be able to hold this endgame but it is still far from clear' 36.Rxg5± Sethuraman, SP;

A2) 26.Nd6+ cxd6 27.Rc1+ Kb8 28.Rxg1 Re8+ 29.Kd2 (29.Kf1 Be2+ 30.Ke1 Nc4 31.f3 Bd3+ 32.Kd1 Re2) 29...Re2+ 30.Kd3 Rxf2∞;

B) 20...Rxd8! Sethuraman, SP 21.Rxg4 f5 22.Rh4 (22.Rxd4 Wagner, D Rxd4 23.Bxf3=

Wagner,D: 'should lead to a draw in the long run.' should lead to a draw in the long run.) 22...fxe2↑]

20...Nxf3+



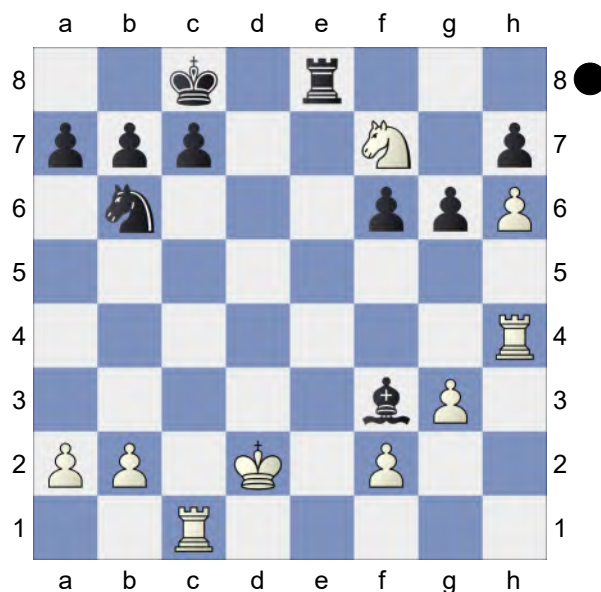
21.Bxf3 Re8+! David Cummings: 'Another critical finesse' David Cummings: 'Another critical finesse' Wagner,D: 'It's important to activate the rook with check in order to take away the important e6-square from the white knight.' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'It's important to activate the rook with check in order to take away the important e6-square from the white knight.'

[21...Bxf3 Sethuraman,SP: '?' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D' Wagner, Dennis: '?' Sethuraman,SP: '?' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D' Wagner, Dennis: '?' Wagner,D: '?' Sethuraman,SP: '?' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D' Wagner, Dennis: '?' '?' 22.Ne6! Sethuraman,SP: '±' Wagner,Dennis: '±' Sethuraman,SP: '±' Wagner, Dennis: '±' Wagner,D: '±' Sethuraman,SP: '±' Wagner,Dennis: '±' ±' Re8 23.Rxc7+ Kb8 24.Rxh7 and Black won't be able to stop the h-pawn]

22.Kd2

[22.Kf1 Bxf3 23.Nf7 Bc6 and the White knight is trapped (23...Re7 Sethuraman,SP 24.Nh8 g5 25.Rd4 c6 with the idea of ...Bd5 and knight is stuck forever on h8. with the idea of ...Bd5 and knight is stuck forever on h8. Sethuraman,SP: ' ♠' Sethuraman,SP: 'Δ ♘d5')]

22...Bxf3 23.Nf7 Sethuraman,SP: 'Diagram



' **23...Bc6** David Cummings: '?!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '?' Wagner, Dennis: '?' David Cummings: '?!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '?' '?' Wagner,Dennis: '?' Wagner,D: 'Unfortunately Wei Yi fails to exploit a golden opportunity to seize the initiative.' David Cummings: '?!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '?' Wagner,Dennis: '?' '?' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'Unfortunately Wei Yi fails to exploit a golden opportunity to seize the initiative.'

[Sethuraman,SP: 'The very accurate intermediate check' 23...Re2+! Sethuraman,SP: 'gives Black the upper hand, since after Kd3 he always has the trick of another check with Be2, when the white knight escapes

with Nd6 and Nc4. Then follows: 'Sethuraman, SP: 'gives Black the upper hand, since after Kd3 he always has the trick of another check with Be2, when the white knight escapes with Nd6 and Nc4. Then follows: 'Sethuraman, SP: 'gives Black the upper hand, since after Kd3 he always has the trick of another check with Be2, when the white knight escapes with Nd6 and Nc4. Then follows: 'forcing White's king on to a vulnerable square. Wagner, D: 'would have been strong, luring the white king to an unfortunate square.' forcing White's king on to a vulnerable square. Sethuraman, SP: 'Wagner, D: 'would have been strong, luring the white king to an unfortunate square.'" forcing White's king on to a vulnerable square. Sethuraman, SP: 'Wagner, D: 'would have been strong, luring the white king to an unfortunate square.'" Wagner, Dennis: 'would have been strong, luring the white king to an unfortunate square. Postny, Evgeny: 'forcing White's king on to a vulnerable square.'" 24.Kd3 (24.Kc3 (Sethuraman, SP) Wagner, D Re7) 24...Re7

A) 25.Rf4

A1) 25...Be2+ Sethuraman, SP 26.Kd2 Nd5 27.Re4! Sethuraman, SP: ' ±!' (27.Rd4 Bf3 28.Nd6+);

A2) 25...Rd7+ Sethuraman, SP: '!' '!' 26.Kc2 (26.Ke3 Sethuraman, SP Bc6-+) 26...Bd5 27.Nh8 Rd8 and the knight is trapped in the corner so has to give itself up for a couple of kingside pawns 28.Nxg6 Sethuraman, SP hxg6 29.Rxf6

Rh8!±;

B) 25.Nh8 (Sethuraman, SP) Wagner, D g5 26.Rd4 Nd5;

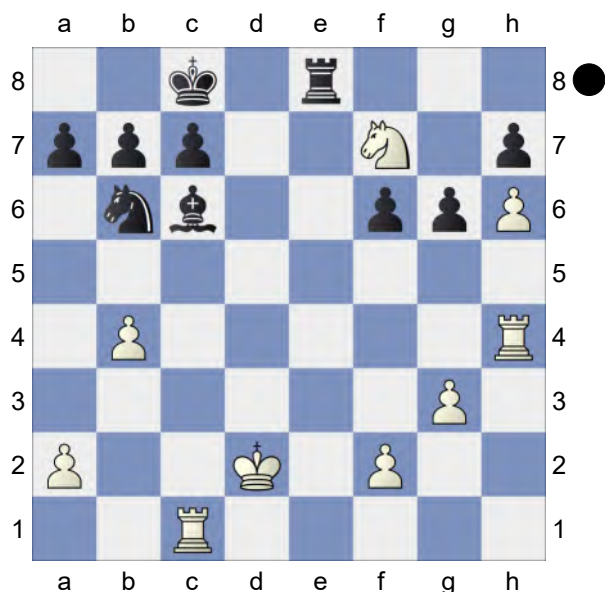
C) 25.Nd6+ Kd8 26.Rf4 Sethuraman, SP: 'Wagner, D' (26.Ne4 Sethuraman, SP g5 Sethuraman, SP: '-+'; 26.Nc4 (Sethuraman, SP) Wagner, D Be2+-+) 26...Be2+± Wagner, D: 'Now the black bishop can escape with check!' Wagner, Dennis: 'Postny, Evgeny: ' ±' Sethuraman, SP: 'Now the black bishop can escape with check!' 27.Kd2 (27.Kd4 Sethuraman, SP Rd7 28.Rxf6 Rxd6+ 29.Rxd6+ cxd6±) 27...cxd6 and Black is better with two pieces for the rook]

[23...Re7? 24.Nd6+ Kd8 Sethuraman, SP: 'Wagner, D' 25.Rf4 Black has no check with the bishop. so White saves his knight and remains an exchange to the good Sethuraman, SP: '±' Wagner, Dennis: ' ±' Black has no check with the bishop. so White saves his knight and remains an exchange to the good Sethuraman, SP: '±' Wagner, Dennis: ' ±' Wagner, D: '±' Black has no check with the bishop. so White saves his knight and remains an exchange to the good Sethuraman, SP: '±' Wagner, Dennis: '±' '±']

24.b4 David Cummings: 'White is trying to open the c-file and extricate his knight' Sethuraman, SP: 'Diagram

[24.Rf4 Sethuraman, SP Nd5 25.Rd4 Kd7 Sethuraman, SP: '±']

(Diagram)



Wagner,D: '!?' Wagner,Dennis: '!?'
 David Cummings: 'White is trying to open the c-file and extricate his knight'
 Sethuraman,SP: 'Diagram [#] Wagner,D: '!? '!?' Wagner,Dennis: '!? '!?' Wagner,D: 'I really like this energetic idea to create some threats on the queenside.'
 David Cummings: 'White is trying to open the c-file and extricate his knight'
 Sethuraman,SP: 'Diagram [#] Wagner,D: '!?' Wagner,Dennis: '!? '!?' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'I really like this energetic idea to create some threats on the queenside.'
24...a6 David Cummings: 'now the position is roughly balanced.. '

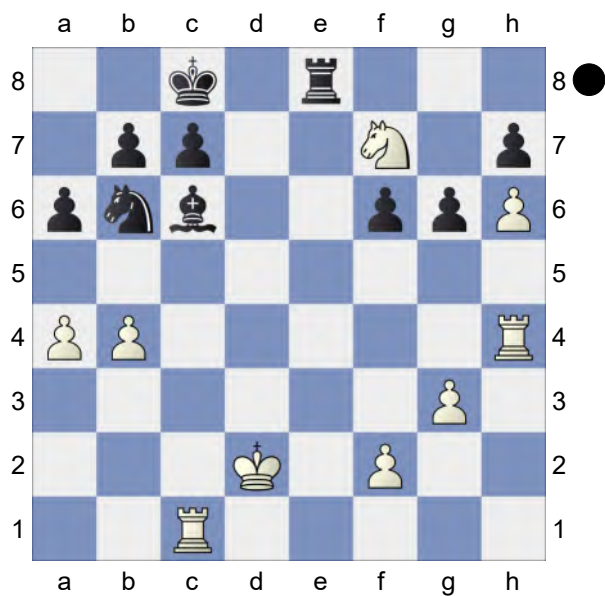
[24...Rf8 25.Nd6+ cxd6 26.b5 illustrates White's idea]

[24...Kd7 was Black's best chance for an edge, though the position remains very complex Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' was Black's best chance for an edge, though the position remains very complex Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '!' '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' Wagner,D: 'was the best reaction, but the text move seems too natural to reject it. But if you are aware of White's strong

response, it becomes clear that it would be more appropriate not to insert a6.' was Black's best chance for an edge, though the position remains very complex Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' '!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'was the best reaction, but the text move seems too natural to reject it. But if you are aware of White's strong response, it becomes clear that it would be more appropriate not to insert a6.' 25.Rf4 Sethuraman,SP (25.Rd4+ Sethuraman,SP Bd5 Sethuraman,SP: ' ♣' 26.a4 Wagner,D c6♣) 25...Nd5 (25...Ke6 26.b5) 26.Rd4 b6! , making room for the bishop as the knight on h8 has nowhere to run. Sethuraman,SP: ', making room for the bishop as the knight on h8 has nowhere to run.' (26...Ke6 27.Rc5! a6 28.a4 Kxf7 29.b5) 27.Rg4 (with the tricky idea of Rg6) (27.b5 Wagner,D Bb7♣) 27...Rf8 28.Rxg6 hxg6 29.h7 Nxb4 30.h8Q Rxh8 31.Nxh8 Nxa2 32.Re1 g5 and Black's three connected pawns give him the upper hand. Sethuraman,SP: 'and Black's three connected pawns give him the upper hand.' and Black's three connected pawns give him the upper hand. Sethuraman,SP: '♣']

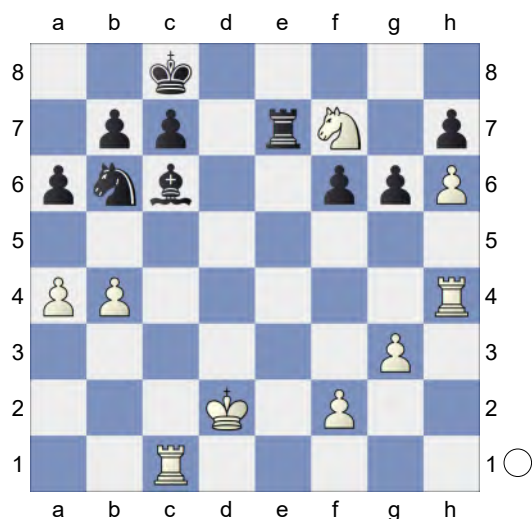
25.a4 David Cummings: '!?' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' David Cummings: '!?' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '!' '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' Wagner,D: 'Increasing the tension even further...' Sethuraman,SP: 'Diagram

(Diagram)



' David Cummings: '!?' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '!' Wagner,Dennis: '! '!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'Increasing the tension even further...' **25...Nxa4**

[25...Re7 Sethuraman,SP: 'Diagram



Wagner,D: '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Diagram [#] Wagner,D: '!' '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' Wagner,D: 'would have maintained the balance.' Sethuraman,SP: 'Diagram [#] Wagner,D: '!' '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' '!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'would have maintained the balance.'

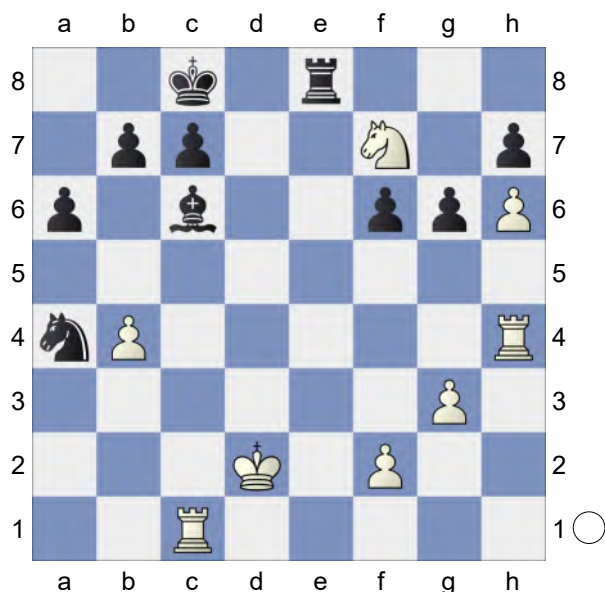
A) 26.Nh8 Sethuraman,SP Rd7+ 27.Ke1 g5-+ (27...Rd8 28.Nf7);

B) 26.Nd6+ Sethuraman,SP: '!' '!' 26...cxd6 27.b5 Kc7 (27...axb5 Sethuraman,SP 28.axb5) 28.bxc6 Sethuraman,SP: ' ♞ ' bxc6 Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D' 29.Rb4 (29.Re1 Sethuraman,SP Rxe1 30.Kxe1 Nd5=) 29...c5 would be roughly equal]

[25...Kd7 (Sethuraman,SP) Wagner,D: '?' Wagner,Dennis: '?' (Sethuraman,SP) Wagner,D: '?' '?' Wagner,Dennis: '?' Wagner,D: 'is not possible anymore.' (Sethuraman,SP) Wagner,D: '?' Wagner,Dennis: '?' '?' Wagner,D: 'is not possible anymore.' 26.Rd4+ Bd5 27.a5 - revealing the point of the inclusion of Black's ...a6 and White's a4 Wagner,D: '+-' Wagner,Dennis: '+-' - revealing the point of the inclusion of Black's ...a6 and White's a4 Wagner,D: '+-' '+' Wagner,Dennis: '+-' '+' Sethuraman,SP: '+-' - revealing the point of the inclusion of Black's ...a6 and White's a4 Wagner,D: '+-' Wagner,Dennis: '+-' '+']

[25...g5 Sethuraman,SP 26.Rd4 Nxa4 27.Re1 Rf8 28.Re7 Nb6 29.Nxg5 (29.Nd8 Sethuraman,SP: '!'? Rxd8 30.Rxd8+ Kxd8 31.Rxh7 Be4 32.Rg7 Nd5 33.h7 Bxh7 34.Rxh7 Nxb4) 29...fxg5 30.Rxh7 Nd7 31.Rg7 Nf6 and Black is in time to save the position. and Black is in time to save the position. Sethuraman,SP: '♞']

(Diagram)



David Cummings: '?' David Cummings: 'Now the advantage swings back to White. Instead' Sethuraman,SP: '?' '?' Wagner,Dennis: '?' David Cummings: '?' David Cummings: 'Now the advantage swings back to White. Instead' Sethuraman,SP: '?' '?' Wagner,Dennis: '?' Wagner,D: '?' Wagner,D: 'It's too risky to decentralise the knight in this fashion, but Ding fails to exploit this:' David Cummings: '?' David Cummings: 'Now the advantage swings back to White. Instead' Sethuraman,SP: '?' '?' Wagner,Dennis: '?' '?' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'It's too risky to decentralise the knight in this fashion, but Ding fails to exploit this:' **26.Re1** David Cummings: '?'! Sethuraman,SP: '?'! '?'! Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '?'! Wagner,Dennis: '?' David Cummings: '?'! Sethuraman,SP: '?'! '?'! Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '?' '?'! Wagner,Dennis: '?' Wagner,D: 'Now Ding Liren misses a big chance. The posititon is so complicated that it's

impossible for both players to avoid serious mistakes.' David Cummings: '?'! Sethuraman,SP: '?'! Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '?'! Wagner,Dennis: '?' David Cummings: '?'! Sethuraman,SP: '?'! '?'! Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '?'! Wagner,Dennis: '?' '?' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'Now Ding Liren misses a big chance. The posititon is so complicated that it's impossible for both players to avoid serious mistakes.'

[Sethuraman,SP: 'Though this looks natural, White has the stronger option of' Sethuraman,SP: 'Though this looks natural, White has the stronger option of' 26.Rf4 Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '!' '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' '!' Nb6 (26...f5 (Sethuraman,SP) Wagner,D 27.Rd4 Nb6 28.Re1+-) 27.Rxf6 Nd5 28.Rxg6! Sethuraman,SP: '±' '±' Sethuraman,SP: 'with the same trick. Wagner,D: '!'! Wagner,Dennis: '!'! Sethuraman,SP: '±' '±' Sethuraman,SP: 'with the same trick. Wagner,D: '!'! '!'! Wagner,Dennis: '!'! Wagner,D: 'The main point, that was probably missed by both players.' Sethuraman,SP: '±' Sethuraman,SP: 'with the same trick. Wagner,D: '!'! Wagner,Dennis: '!'! Sethuraman,SP: '±' '±' Sethuraman,SP: 'with the same trick. Wagner,D: '!'! Wagner,Dennis: '!'! '!'! Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'The main point, that was probably missed by both players.' hxc6 Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D' 29.h7 is better for White Sethuraman,SP: '±' Wagner,Dennis: '±' is better for White Sethuraman,SP: '±' Wagner,Dennis: '±' Wagner,D: '±' Wagner,D: '±' Wagner,D:

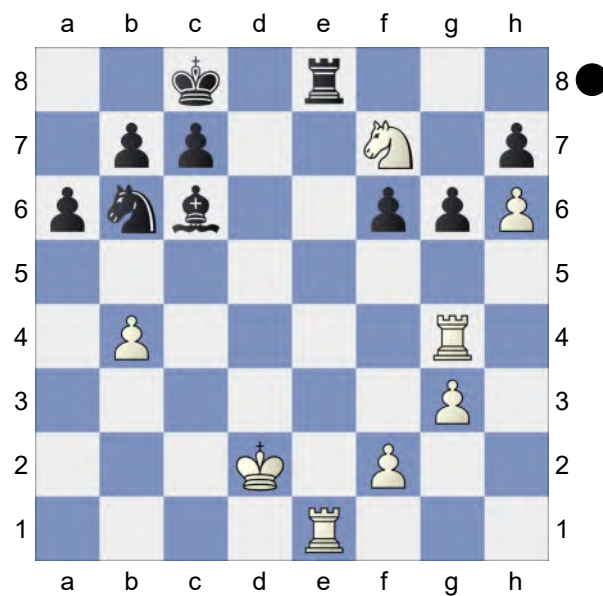
'White will emerge an exchange up with decent winning chances.' is better for White Sethuraman,SP: '±' Wagner, Dennis: '±' '±' Sethuraman,SP: 'White will emerge an exchange up with decent winning chances.']

26...Nb6 27.Rg4 David Cummings: '?!' Sethuraman,SP: '[Threatening Rg6.] Diagram

[27.Rd4! Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D' Rf8 28.Nd6+ (28.Re7 Sethuraman, SP Bd5 29.Nd6+ cxd6 30.Rxh7 Rg8 31.Kd3 Kd8± Wagner,D: 'Objectively the position should be in some kind of balance but it's definitely easier to play with White since Black has to be constantly aware of tactics connected with the white h-passed pawn.' Objectively the position should be in some kind of balance but it's definitely easier to play with White since Black has to be constantly aware of tactics connected with the white h-passed pawn.) 28...cxd6 29.Re7 Nd5 30.Rxh7 f5 31.Rg7 Nf6 32.Rxg6 Kd7 33.h7 is about equal according to Ding Liren]

[27.Rxe8+ Sethuraman,SP Bxe8 28.Re4 Bxf7 29.Re7 Nc4+ 30.Kc3 Nd6-+]

(Diagram)



Wagner,D: '?!' Wagner,Dennis: '?!' Sethuraman,SP: '[Threatening Rg6.] Diagram [#]' David Cummings: '?!' Sethuraman,SP: '[Threatening Rg6.] Diagram [#]' Wagner,D: '?!' '?!' Wagner, Dennis: '?!' David Cummings: '?!' Sethuraman,SP: '[Threatening Rg6.] Diagram [#]' Wagner,D: '?!' Wagner, Dennis: '?!' '?!' Sethuraman,SP: '[Threatening Rg6.] Diagram [#]' **27...Rg8** David Cummings: '?!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '?!' Wagner,Dennis: '?!' David Cummings: '?!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '?!' '?!' Wagner,Dennis: '?!' David Cummings: '?!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '?!' Wagner,Dennis: '?!' '?!'

[27...Rf8 Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '!' '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' '!' 28.Re7

A) 28...Bd5 Sethuraman,SP 29.Nd6+ cxd6 30.Rxh7 looks dangerous for Black in practice, but the computer somehow defends the position by giving up one of the black minor

pieces for the h-pawn Sethuraman, SP: 'looks dangerous for Black in practice, but the computer somehow defends the position by giving up one of the black minor pieces for the h-pawn' Nd7[∞] (30...Rg8 Wagner,D 31.Rf4 f5 32.Rd4 g5);

B) 28...Nd5 Sethuraman,SP: '!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D' Wagner,Dennis: '!' Sethuraman,SP: '!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D' Wagner,Dennis: '!' Wagner,D: '!' Sethuraman,SP: '!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D' Wagner,Dennis: '!' '!' 29.Nd6+ cxd6 30.Rxh7 Nc7 and Black will be able to stop the h-pawn and gain the upper hand. Black's last move prevents Sethuraman,SP: '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' and Black will be able to stop the h-pawn and gain the upper hand. Black's last move prevents Sethuraman,SP: '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' Wagner,D: '!' Wagner,D: 'The black rook is better placed on f8 than on g8, because Rg7 doesn't win an important tempo now!' and Black will be able to stop the h-pawn and gain the upper hand. Black's last move prevents Sethuraman,SP: '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' '!' Sethuraman,SP: 'The black rook is better placed on f8 than on g8, because Rg7 doesn't win an important tempo now!' 31.Rxg6 due to (31.Rg7 Sethuraman,SP Ne8 32.h7 Nxg7 33.Rxg6 Rh8 34.Rxg7 Bd5 35.Kc3 Kd8 36.Kd4 Be6 37.f3 Ke8 38.Rxb7 Kf8 39.g4 Bf7 40.Rb6 Rxh7 41.Rxd6 Ke7 42.Rxa6 Be6 43.Kc5= Wagner,D: 'This position should

liquidate into a draw.' This position should liquidate into a draw.)

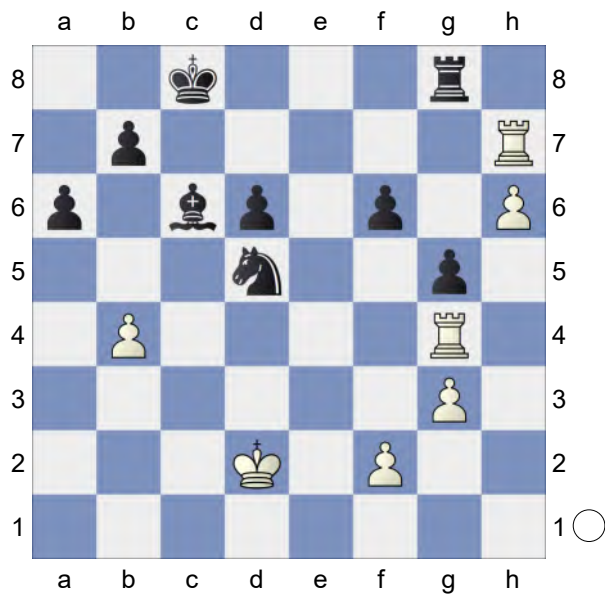
31...Be4 Sethuraman,SP: '-+' Wagner,Dennis: '-+' Sethuraman,SP: '-+' Wagner,Dennis: '-+' Wagner,D: '-+' Sethuraman,SP: '-+' Wagner,Dennis: '-+' '-+']

28.Re7 Sethuraman,SP: '!' '!' **28...Nd5**

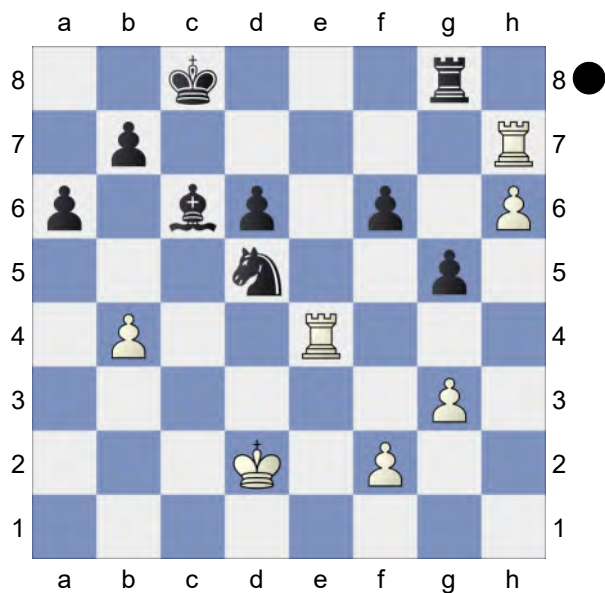
[28...Kb8 (Sethuraman,SP) Wagner,D 29.Ng5! Wagner,D: 'is similar' is similar]

29.Nd6+ Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' Sethuraman,SP: '!' 'Wagner,D: '!' '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' Wagner,D: 'The h7-pawn is much more important than the immobile knight on d6!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' '!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'The h7-pawn is much more important than the immobile knight on d6!' **29...cxd6 30.Rxh7** Wagner,D: 'Like in most complicated posititons in chess the computer evaluates it 0.00 after dozens of moves. Still in a practical game it seems like Black has more problems to solve than White, so I would tend to evaluate this constellation as +=' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'Like in most complicated posititons in chess the computer evaluates it 0.00 after dozens of moves. Still in a practical game it seems like Black has more problems to solve than White, so I would tend to evaluate this constellation as +=' **30...g5**

(Diagram)



31.Re4 Sethuraman,SP: 'Finally, after severe pressure from his opponent, Wei embarks on a series of inaccurate moves. Diagram



' Sethuraman,SP: 'Finally, after severe pressure from his opponent, Wei embarks on a series of inaccurate moves. Diagram [#]' **31...Rg6** David Cummings: '?!' David Cummings: 'Black should be holding after, for example' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '?' Wagner,Dennis: '?' David Cummings: '?!' David Cummings: 'Black should be

holding after, for example' Sethuraman, SP: 'Wagner,D: '?' '?' Wagner,Dennis: '?' Wagner,D: 'It's not easy to decide how to arrange the pieces, but this construction with the rook on g6 is definitely a step in the wrong direction.' David Cummings: '?!' David Cummings: 'Black should be holding after, for example' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '?' Wagner,Dennis: '?' '?' Sethuraman, SP: 'Wagner,D: 'It's not easy to decide how to arrange the pieces, but this construction with the rook on g6 is definitely a step in the wrong direction.'

[31...Nc7 Sethuraman,SP: 'Δ!' 'Δ!' Sethuraman,SP: 'bringing the knight into the defence after Wagner,D: '!'?' Wagner,Dennis: '!'?' Sethuraman,SP: 'Δ!' 'Δ!' Sethuraman,SP: 'bringing the knight into the defence after Wagner,D: '!'?' '!'?' Wagner,Dennis: '!'?' Wagner,D: 'Also it looks kind of passive it seems necessary to redeploy the knight in order to arrange a fortress.' Sethuraman,SP: ' Δ!' Sethuraman,SP: 'bringing the knight into the defence after Wagner,D: '!'?' Wagner,Dennis: '!'?' Sethuraman,SP: ' Δ!' ' Δ!' Sethuraman,SP: 'bringing the knight into the defence after Wagner,D: '!'?' Wagner,Dennis: '!'?' '!'?' Sethuraman, SP: 'Wagner,D: 'Also it looks kind of passive it seems necessary to redeploy the knight in order to arrange a fortress.'] 32.Ree7 Ne8 Sethuraman,SP: ' ∞' 33.Ke3 (33.Kd3 (Sethuraman,SP) Wagner,D Kd8 34.Rhf7 Bd5 35.Rh7 Bc6=) 33...Bd5 34.g4 Kd8 35.Kd4 Bc6 36.Rhf7 Rg6 37.Rh7 (37.h7 Rh6) 37...Rg8 Black has an unusual kind of fortress] [31...f5!? (Sethuraman,SP) Wagner,D 32.Re6 Nc7 33.Rxd6 Ne8 34.Re6

Kd8 35.Ree7 f4 36.gxf4 gxf4
37.Rhf7 Rh8 38.h7 Nf6=]

32.Re6 Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '!' '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' Wagner,D: 'After this exact rook move Black has difficult problems. But with precise moves he should still hold his position together.' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '!' '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' '!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'After this exact rook move Black has difficult problems. But with precise moves he should still hold his position together.'

32...g4 Sethuraman,SP: '?!' '?!' Wagner,Dennis: '?!' Sethuraman,SP: '?!' '?!' Wagner,Dennis: '?!' Wagner,D: '?!' Wagner,D: 'It was necessary to improve the position of the king. Strangely enough, its movement in both directions was still enough to save the game.' Sethuraman,SP: '?!' Wagner,Dennis: '?!' Sethuraman,SP: '?!' '?!' Wagner,Dennis: '?!' '?!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'It was necessary to improve the position of the king. Strangely enough, its movement in both directions was still enough to save the game.'

[32...Kd8 Sethuraman,SP: '!' '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' Sethuraman,SP: '!' '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' Wagner,D: '!' Sethuraman,SP: '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' Sethuraman,SP: '!' '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' '!' 33.Rxd6+ Ke8 may be OK for Black (Ding Liren) 34.Rh8+ Sethuraman,SP Kf7 35.Rdd8 Ke6 Sethuraman,SP: '= ' 36.Rdg8 Wagner,D Kf7 37.Rb8 Ke6 38.b5 axb5 39.Rhe8+ Bxe8 40.Rxe8+ Kf5 41.h7 Rh6 42.h8Q Rxh8 43.Rxh8 Ke4=]

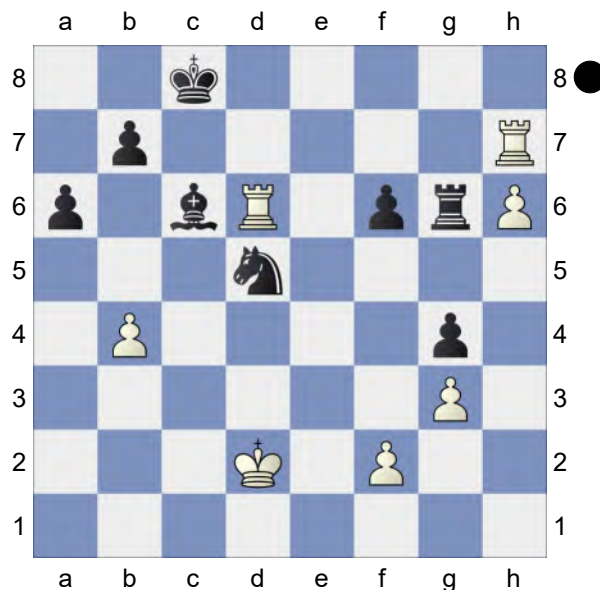
[32...Nc7 Sethuraman,SP 33.Ree7 Ne8 34.Rh8 Kd8 35.Rf7 Bd5

36.Rff8 Bc6 37.h7 Rh6 38.Rf7 Bd5 39.Rg7 Be4 40.Ke3±]

[32...Nxb4 Sethuraman,SP 33.Ree7 Wagner,D: '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' Wagner,D: '!' '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' Wagner,D: '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' '!' Rg8 Wagner,D 34.Ref7 Bd5 35.Rxf6±]

[32...Kb8! (Sethuraman,SP) Wagner,D 33.Rxd6 Nxb4 34.Rh8+ Ka7 35.h7 Rh6 36.Rxf6 Rh2 (36...Rxf6 37.Ra8+ Kxa8 38.h8Q++-) 37.Rg6 (37.Rf7 Be4) 37...Be4 38.Rxg5 Rxh7 39.Rxh7 Bxh7 40.Kc3 Nd3 41.Rg7 Nxf2 42.Rxh7 Ne4+ 43.Kd3 Nxc3 Wagner,D: 'Amazingly the knight cannot be won quickly enough in this situation.' Amazingly the knight cannot be won quickly enough in this situation. 44.Rf7 a5=]

33.Rxd6 Sethuraman,SP: 'Diagram



' **33...Nxb4** David Cummings: '?' David Cummings: 'a final swing of the pendulum, and this time White does not let go of the win' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '?' Wagner,Dennis: '?' David Cummings: '?' David Cummings: 'a final swing of the pendulum, and this time

White does not let go of the win' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '?' '?'
 Wagner,Dennis: '?' Wagner,D: 'Only this move seems to be the decisive mistake! It was still necessary to evacuate the king, while the important knight, which cages the rook in on d6, had to be kept in the centre.' David Cummings: '?'
 David Cummings: 'a final swing of the pendulum, and this time White does not let go of the win' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: '?'
 Wagner,Dennis: '?' '?'
 Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'Only this move seems to be the decisive mistake! It was still necessary to evacuate the king, while the important knight, which cages the rook in on d6, had to be kept in the centre.'

[Sethuraman,SP: 'The only non-human-like move to save the position is' Sethuraman,SP: 'The only non-human-like move to save the position is' 33...Kb8 was called for Sethuraman,SP: 'but it can nevertheless be found by means of Dvoretsky's favourite method 'Elimination of possibilities'. Black has hardly any other possibility than ...Nb4, which is inferior since White has at least two options to achieve a decent advantage. The other knight moves don't make any sense. So the only remaining possibility is to move the king away from any checks, since the black rook is doing a good job keeping an eye on the h6 pawn and hampering the movements of the white rook on h7. With both players having little time on clock and still only 33 moves played, it was even more difficult to find this move. Wagner,D: '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' Sethuraman,SP: 'but it can nevertheless be found by means of

Dvoretsky's favourite method 'Elimination of possibilities'. Black has hardly any other possibility than ...Nb4, which is inferior since White has at least two options to achieve a decent advantage. The other knight moves don't make any sense. So the only remaining possibility is to move the king away from any checks, since the black rook is doing a good job keeping an eye on the h6 pawn and hampering the movements of the white rook on h7. With both players having little time on clock and still only 33 moves played, it was even more difficult to find this move.' was called for Sethuraman,SP: '!' 'but it can nevertheless be found by means of Dvoretsky's favourite method 'Elimination of possibilities'. Black has hardly any other possibility than ...Nb4, which is inferior since White has at least two options to achieve a decent advantage. The other knight moves don't make any sense. So the only remaining possibility is to move the king away from any checks, since the black rook is doing a good job keeping an eye on the h6 pawn and hampering the movements of the white rook on h7. With both players having little time on clock and still only 33 moves played, it was even more difficult to find this move. Wagner,D: '!' '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' was called for Sethuraman,SP: 'but it can nevertheless be found by means of Dvoretsky's favourite method 'Elimination of possibilities'. Black has hardly any other possibility than ...Nb4, which is inferior since White has at least two options to achieve a decent advantage. The other knight moves

don't make any sense. So the only remaining possibility is to move the king away from any checks, since the black rook is doing a good job keeping an eye on the h6 pawn and hampering the movements of the white rook on h7. With both players having little time on clock and still only 33 moves played, it was even more difficult to find this move. Wagner,D: '!' Wagner,Dennis: '!' '!' Sethuraman,SP: 'but it can nevertheless be found by means of Dvoretsky's favourite method

'Elimination of possibilities'. Black has hardly any other possibility than ...Nb4, which is inferior since White has at least two options to achieve a decent advantage. The other knight moves don't make any sense. So the only remaining possibility is to move the king away from any checks, since the black rook is doing a good job keeping an eye on the h6 pawn and hampering the movements of the white rook on h7. With both players having little time on clock and still only 33 moves played, it was even more difficult to find this move.' 34.Rd8+ (Sethuraman, S P) W a g n e r , D (34.Rh8+ (Sethuraman,SP) Wagner,D Ka7 35.h7 Rh6 36.Rdd8 Rh2=) 34...Ka7 35.Rdh8 f5! Wagner,D: 'clearing the 6th rank for the rook.' clearing the 6th rank for the rook. 36.Rg7 Rd6 37.h7 Nf6+ 38.Kc3 Nxb7 39.Rgxb7 Be4=]

34.Rh8+ Kc7 35.Rd4 David Cummings: '!' David Cummings: 'Attacking both b4 and g4' Sethuraman,SP: '!' '!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Precise play by Ding, avoiding the position with queen for two pieces in the variation discussed below.' Wagner,Dennis: '!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Precise play by Ding, avoiding the

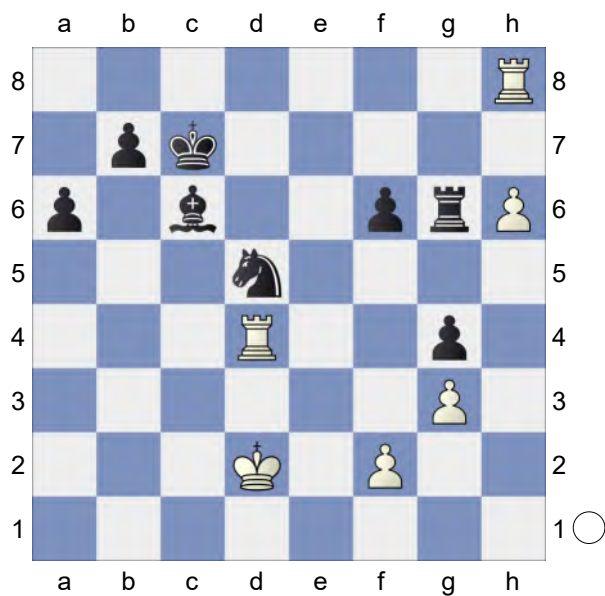
position with queen for two pieces in the variation discussed below.' David Cummings: '!' David Cummings: 'Attacking both b4 and g4' Sethuraman,SP: '!' '!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Precise play by Ding, avoiding the position with queen for two pieces in the variation discussed below.' Wagner,Dennis: '!' Wagner,D: '!' Wagner,D: 'Now it's all over, because both of White's rooks are active.' David Cummings: '!' David Cummings: 'Attacking both b4 and g4' Sethuraman,SP: '!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Precise play by Ding, avoiding the position with queen for two pieces in the variation discussed below.' Wagner,Dennis: '!' David Cummings: '!' David Cummings: 'Attacking both b4 and g4' Sethuraman,SP: '!' '!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Precise play by Ding, avoiding the position with queen for two pieces in the variation discussed below.' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'Now it's all over, because both of White's rooks are active.'

[Surprisingly 35.h7 Sethuraman,SP Rh6 36.Rxf6 Rxf6 37.Rc8+! Kb6 38.h8Q Rxf2+ 39.Kc3 is still not clear after Kb5 Sethuraman,SP: '±' (39...Ka5)]

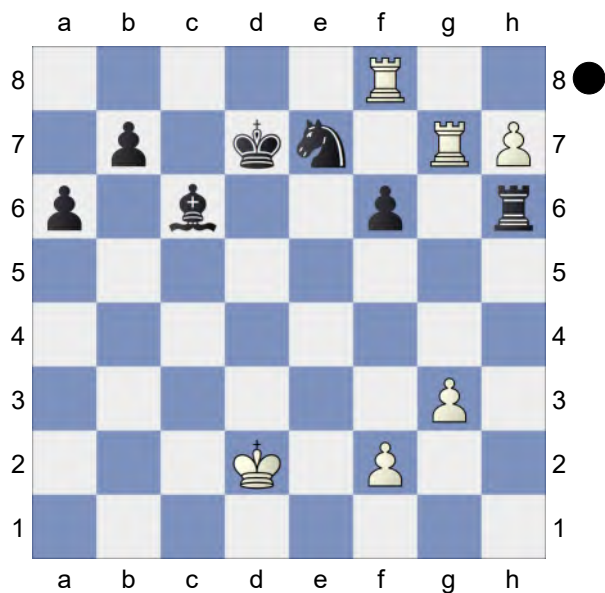
35...Nd5

[35...a5 (Sethuraman,SP) Wagner,D 36.h7 Rh6 37.Rxg4 Kb6 38.Rg7 Be4 39.Re7 Rxb7 40.Rexh7 Bxb7 41.Rxb7+-]

(Diagram)



36.h7 David Cummings: 'The h-pawn finally makes it one step further, 28 moves after 8 h6!' **36...Rh6 37.Rxg4 Ne7 38.Rg7 Kd7 39.Rf8**



David Cummings: 'The h-pawn will queen and White's material advantage will prevail. It is amazing how much influence the h6-pawn had throughout the game.' Sethuraman,SP: 'A fighting game which ended in Ding's favour. However Wei struck back with a win in the second game to level the score, and finally won the match in the rapid

tiebreaks.' Sethuraman,SP: 'A fighting game which ended in Ding's favour. However Wei struck back with a win in the second game to level the score, and finally won the match in the rapid tiebreaks.' David Cummings: 'The h-pawn will queen and White's material advantage will prevail. It is amazing how much influence the h6-pawn had throughout the game.' Sethuraman,SP: 'A fighting game which ended in Ding's favour. However Wei struck back with a win in the second game to level the score, and finally won the match in the rapid tiebreaks.' Wagner,D: 'A really complicated and nerve-racking game!' Sethuraman,SP: 'Wagner,D: 'A really complicated and nerve-racking game!' 1-0

289

□ Wei,Yi

■ Gonzalez Vidal,Yuri

WchT 10th Tsaghkadzor (8.4) 27.04.15

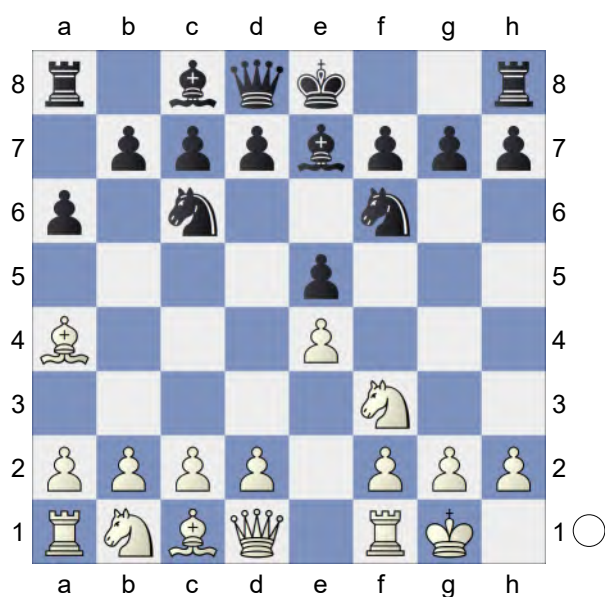
[Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal]

C90

2706

2557

1.e4 Tadic,Branko Tadic,Branko Tadic,Branko Tadic,Branko Mokal,P Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko Tadic,Branko Tadic,Branko Mokal,P' Tadic,Bra'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko Tadic,Branko' Tadic,Branko Tadic,Branko Mokal,P Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko Tadic,Branko Tadic,Branko Mokal,P' Tadic,Branko Mokal,P' nko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko Tadic,Branko Tadic,Branko Mokal,P' **1...e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7**



6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.a4 Once used by Kasparov. It's a sort of an anti-

Marshall, although Black can argue that he never intended to play the Marshall. Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Once used by Kasparov. It's a sort of an anti-Marshall, although Black can argue that he never intended to play the Marshall.'"Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Once used by Kasparov. It's a sort of an anti-Marshall, although Black can argue that he never intended to play the Marshall.'"Once used by Kasparov. It's a sort of an anti-Marshall, although Black can argue that he never intended to play the Marshall. Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Once used by Kasparov. It's a sort of an anti-Marshall, although Black can argue that he never intended to play the Marshall.'" ' ']

[8.c3 Tadic,Branko Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko"Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko" Tadic,Branko Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko" ' ']

8...b4

[8...Bg4!? Tadic,Branko Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko"Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko" Tadic,Branko Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko" ' ']

9.d4 Bg4

[9...0-0 Tadic,Branko Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko"Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko" Tadic,Branko Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko" ' ']

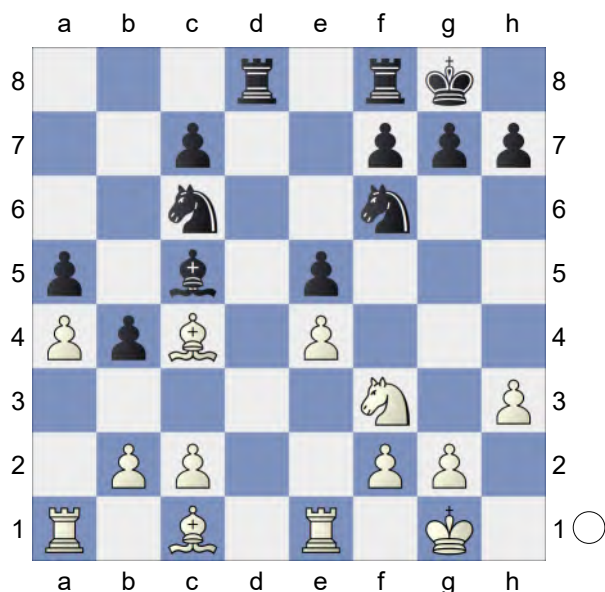
10.dxe5 dxe5

[10...Nxe5 (Tadic,Branko) - 36/416 Tadic,Branko: '- 36/416 Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: '(Tadic,Branko) - 36/416"- 36/416 Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal:

15.Nfxe5 Nxe5 16.Nxe5 Nxe4
17.Nd3±]

[13...Bh5 Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,
Sunil Mokal'"Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal
Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,
Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal'"
leaves the ♔ out of play after 14.g4
Bg6 15.Bc4±]

14.Nxf3 Bc5 15.Bc4 Tadic,Branko: '!' '!' '!' '!'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal:
'Tadic,Branko: '!' '!'Tadic,Branko: '!' '!'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,
Branko: '!' '!' '!' '!' h,Sunil Mokal:
'Tadic,Branko: '!' '!' '!' **15...a5**



16.c3 Rd6 17.Bb5 Rfd8 18.Be3

[18.Bg5!? Tadic,Branko Tadic,
Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal:
'Tadic,Branko'"Prathamesh,Sunil
Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko'"Tadic,Branko
Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil
Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko'" ']

18...Bxe3 Tadic,Branko: '?!' '?!' '?!' '?!'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal:
'Tadic,Branko: '?!' '?!'Tadic,Branko: '?!' '?!'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,
Branko: '?!' '?!' '?!' '?!' amesh,
Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko: '?!' '?!' '?!' '?!'
[18...Nxe4!? Tadic,Branko:

'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: '!'?' Tadic,
Br'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: '!'?' '!'?'
'!'?'Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil
Mokal: '!'?' ' ' anko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil
Mokal: '!'?' '!'?' 19.Bxc5 Nxc5 20.Nxe5
Nxe5 21.Rxe5 Nb3 22.Rae1 g6
23.cxb4 axb4± Tadic,Branko:
'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: ' ±' Tadic,
Br'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: ' ±' '±'
'€Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil
Mokal: ' ±' " anko: 'Prathamesh,
Sunil Mokal: ' ±' '±' seems like a slight
edge for White due to ♔ vs ♘ and the
outside passed pawn. Tadic,Branko:
'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'seems like
a slight edge for White due to ♔ vs ♘
and the outside passed pawn.
'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'seems like
a slight edge for White due to ♔ vs ♘
and the outside passed pawn.'seems
like a slight edge for White due to ♔ vs
♘ and the outside passed pawn.

Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil
Mokal: 'seems like a slight edge for
White due to ♔ vs ♘ and the outside
passed pawn.' ' ' 24.R1e3
Tadic,Branko Tadic,Branko:
'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,
Branko'"Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal:
'Tadic,Branko'"Tadic,Branko Tadic,
Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal:
'Tadic,Branko'" ' ' Rd1+ 25.Kh2 Nd4
26.Bc4±]

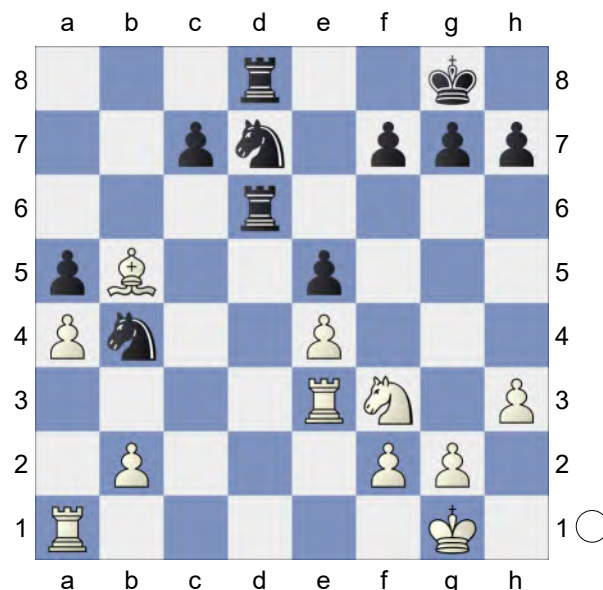
19.Rxe3 Nd7 20.cxb4?! Tadic,Branko:
'?' '?' '?' '?'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: '?!'
Pr'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: '?!' '?!' '?!'
Pratham' Tadic, Branko: '?!'
'?'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: '?!'
Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko:
'?' '?' '?' ' ' esh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,
Branko: '?' '?' '?' ' ' athamesh,Sunil
M'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: '?!' '?!'
Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko:

'?' '?' '?'" okal: 'Tadic,Branko: '?' '?' '?'"

[White had a chance to win a pawn with a forced sequence of moves Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'White had a chance to win a pawn with a forced sequence of moves "Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'White had a chance to win a pawn with a forced sequence of moves "White had a chance to win a pawn with a forced sequence of moves Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'White had a chance to win a pawn with a forced sequence of moves "' ' ' 20.Bxc6 Tadic,Branko: '!' '!' '!'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko: '!' '!'Tadic, Branko: '!' '!'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko: '!' '!' '!' '!' h,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko: '!' '!' '!' Rxc6 21.cxb4 axb4 22.Rd3 Rd6 (22...Re6 Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal"Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic, Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal"' 23.Rad1 Re7 24.Rc1 Rc8 25.Rb3+-wins the b4-pawn.) 23.Rxd6 cxd6 24.Rd1 Nc5 25.Nxe5 Nxa4 26.Nc6 Ra8 Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal"Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic, Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal"' (26...Re8 27.Rxd6 Tadic,Branko: '±' '±' '±'P'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko: ' ±' '±' "Tadic,Branko: ' ±' '±' "Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic, Branko: ' ±' '±' '±' " ' ±' " rathamesh, Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko: ' ±' '±' '±' " Nxb2 Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh, Sunil Mokal"Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic, Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal"

28.Nxb4 g6 29.f3±) 27.Nxb4 Nxb2 28.Rxd6± with good practical winning chances.]

20...Nxb4

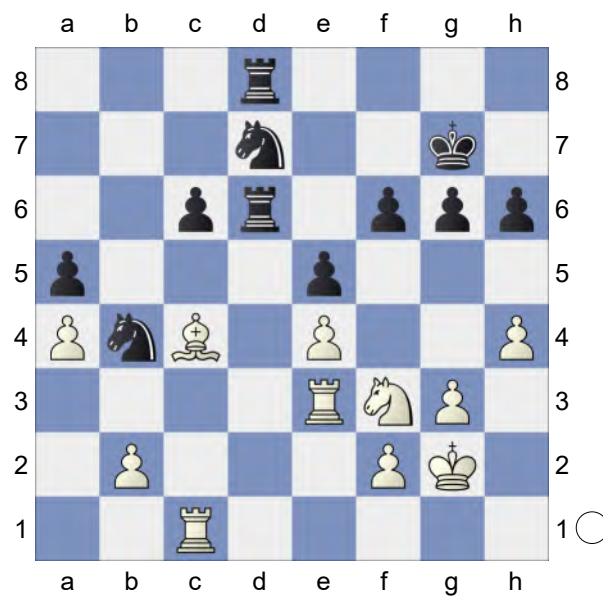


T a d i c , B r a n k o : ' ! ' ! ' ! ' ! 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko: '!' '!'Tadic,Branko: '!' '!'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic, Branko: '!' '!' '!' '!' h,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko: '!' '!' '!' 21.Rc1 c6 22.Bc4 White's advantage seems too slight to give any real winning chances. The pawn that seems isolated and weak on c6 actually helps Black to control important squares that could have been used for anchor by White pieces. Also Black's control of d ↔ keeps the White ♖s away from combining with the ♙. Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'White's advantage seems too slight to give any real winning chances. The pawn that seems isolated and weak on c6 actually helps Black to control important squares that could have been used for anchor by White pieces. Also Black's control of d ↔ keeps the White ♖s away from combining with the ♙. "Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'White's

advantage seems too slight to give any real winning chances. The pawn that seems isolated and weak on c6 actually helps Black to control important squares that could have been used for anchor by White pieces. Also Black's control of d $\leftrightarrow$ keeps the White ♖ s away from combining with the ♙ . "White's advantage seems too slight to give any real winning chances. The pawn that seems isolated and weak on c6 actually helps Black to control important squares that could have been used for anchor by White pieces. Also Black's control of d $\leftrightarrow$ keeps the White ♖ s away from combining with the ♙ . Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'White's advantage seems too slight to give any real winning chances. The pawn that seems isolated and weak on c6 actually helps Black to control important squares that could have been used for anchor by White pieces. Also Black's control of d $\leftrightarrow$ keeps the White ♖ s away from combining with the ♙ .'" 22...h6 23.g3 g6 24.Kg2 Kg7 25.h4 Tadic,Branko: '!' '!' '!' '!' "Prath'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko: '!' '!' "Tadic, Branko: '!' '!' "Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko: '!' '!' '!' '!' '!' "amesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko: '!' '!' '!' '!' " 25...f6

[25...h5 Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal'"Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic, Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal'" 26.Ng5± helps White.]

(Diagram)



26.h5 g5 27.Be2 Nf8 28.Bc4

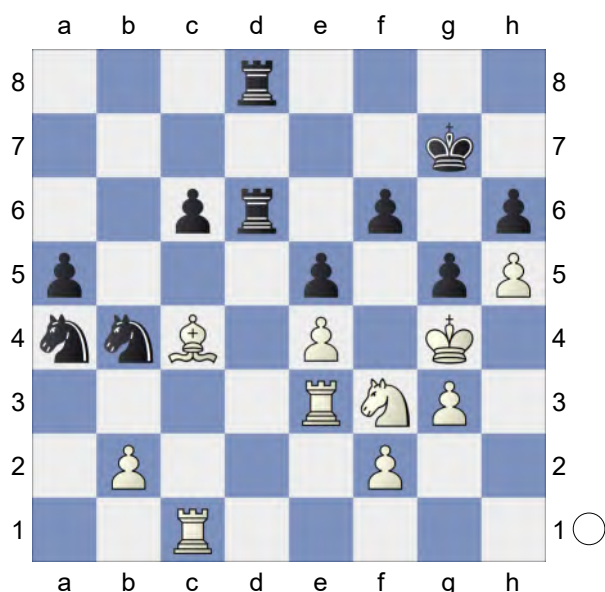
[28.Rc5 Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal'"Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic, Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal'" Ra8= is temporary. The ♖ on c5 will be pushed back after ... ♜ d7 or ... ♜ e6 and the Black ♖ will return into the game.]

28...Nd7 29.Kh3 Tadic,Branko: '?!' '?!' '?!' '?!' "Prath'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko: '?!' '?!' "Tadic,Branko: '?!' '?!' "Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic, Branko: '?!' '?!' '?!' '?!' " amesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko: '?!' '?!' '?!' " The White ♔ begins a bold march. The best practical try to create some imbalance from this equal position. Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'The White ♔ begins a bold march. The best practical try to create some imbalance from this equal position.'"Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'The White ♔ begins a bold march. The best practical try to create some imbalance from this equal position.'"The White ♔ begins a bold march. The best practical try to create some imbalance from this equal position. Tadic,Branko:

'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'The White ♔ begins a bold march. The best practical try to create some imbalance from this equal position.' ' ' **29...Nc5 30.Kg4**

[30.b3 Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh, Sunil Mokal'"Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic, Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal'" Rd1 31.Rxd1 Rxd1 ♜]

30...Nxa4



31.Ra3 Nc5?! Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: '?!' Tadic, Br'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: '?!' '?!' '?!' Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: '?!' ' anko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: '?!' '?!'

[♞31...Nxb2 Tadic,Branko: '!' '!' '!' '!' Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: ' ♞' P'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: ' ♞' '♞' '♞' Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: ' ♞' Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko: '!' '!' '!' '!' hamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko: '!' '!' '!' '!' Prathamesh,Sunil Mo'Prathamesh, Sunil Mokal: ' ♞' '♞' Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko: '!' '!' '!' '!' kal: 'Tadic,Branko: '!' '!' '!' 32.Rxa5 f5+!

A) 33.Kxf5 Nxc4 Tadic,Branko:

'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal' (33...Rf6+ Tadic,Branko 34.Kg4 Nxc4) 34.Rxc4 (34.Ra7+ Kg8 35.Rxc4 Nd3 36.Rc2 Rf8+ 37.Kg4 Rdf6-+) 34...Rf6+ 35.Kg4 (35.Kxe5 Tadic,Branko: ' P r a t h a m e s h , S u n i l Mokal'"Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic, Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal'" Nd3#) 35...Nd3 36.Ra2 Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal'"Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic, Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal'" Rdf8-+;

B) 33.exf5 Rd4+ 34.Nxd4 Rxd4+ 35.Kh3 Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh, Sunil Mokal'"Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal'" Nxc4 ♜]

32.Rxa5

[32.Kf5 Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh, Sunil Mokal'"Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic, Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal'" Nb7 ♜]

32...Nxe4 33.Kf5 Tadic,Branko: '!' '!' '!' '!' Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko: '!' '!' Tadic,Branko: '!' '!' Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic, Branko: '!' '!' '!' '!' '!' h,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko: '!' '!' '!' 33...Nxf2 34.Be6 e4?

[Black needed a ♞ for » defence. ♞34...Nbd3 Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal'"Prathamesh, Sunil Mokal Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal'"

A) 35.Ra7+ Kh8 36.Rca1 (36.Kxf6? Re8-+; 36.Kg6?

Sunil Mokal Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal:
'Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil
Mokal'" 37.Kg6 Rg8+ 38.Kxh6 Ng4+
39.Bxg4 Rgd8 40.Be6+-]

[♘36...Nfd3 Tadic,Branko:
'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: ' ♘ " Tadic,

Br'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: ' ♘ ' ♘ '

ï€Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil

Mokal: ' ♘ "' " anko: 'Prathamesh,

Sunil Mokal: ' ♘ ' ♘ " This was the best

way to put both ♘s to effective use.

Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil

Mokal: 'This was the best way to put

both ♘s to effective use."Prathamesh,

Sunil Mokal: 'This was the best way to

put both ♘s to effective use."This was

the best way to put both ♘s to

effective use. Tadic,Branko:

'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'This was

the best way to put both ♘s to

effective use.'" ' ' 37.Kg6 Ne5+

38.Kxh6 Ng4+ 39.Bxg4 (39.Kg6

Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil

Mokal"Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal

Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,

Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal'"

Ne5+= 40.Kxf6? Nbd3-+) 39...f5+

40.Kxg5 Rg8+ 41.Kxf5 Rxd4

42.Be2± Tadic,Branko: '±' '±' '±'

'±"Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal:

ï€Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: ' ±' '±'

'±' Prathame'Tadic,Branko: ' ±'

'±"Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: ' ±'

Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,

Branko: ' ±' '±' '±'" ' sh,Sunil Mokal:

'Tadic,Branko: ' ±' '±' '±'" ■ '

Prathamesh,Su'Prathamesh,Sunil

Mokal: ' ±' '±' Prathamesh,Sunil

Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko: ' ±' '±' '±'" nil

Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko: ' ±' '±' '±'"

White is slightly better but Black

seems to have some chances to hold.

Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil

Mokal: 'White is slightly better but
Black seems to have some chances to
hold."Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'White
is slightly better but Black seems to
have some chances to hold."White is
slightly better but Black seems to have
some chances to hold. Tadic,Branko:
'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'White is
slightly better but Black seems to have
some chances to hold.'" ' ']

37.Rxc6+- Tadic,Branko: '+-!' '+-!' '+-!' '+-

!'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: '+-

'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: '+-' '+-' '+-

Prathamesh,'Tadic,Branko: '+-!' '+-

!'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: '+-

Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko:

'+-!' '+-!' '+-!' "' ' Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,

Branko: '+-!' '+-!' '+-!' "' ' Prathamesh,

S'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: '+-' '+-

Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko:

'+-!' '+-!' '+-!' "' unil Mokal: 'Tadic,

Branko: '+-!' '+-!' '+-!' "' Fortune has

favoured the brave. Tadic,Branko:

'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Fortune has

favoured the brave."Prathamesh,Sunil

Mokal: 'Fortune has favoured the brave.

"Fortune has favoured the brave. Tadic,

Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal:

'Fortune has favoured the brave.'" ' ']

37...Rxc6

[37...Rxd4 38.Rcc7 R4d5+ 39.Bxd5

Rxd5+ 40.Ke6 Tadic,Branko: '! '!' '!']

!'Prathamesh'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal:

'Tadic,Branko: '! '!'Tadic,Branko: '!'

!'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Tadic,

Branko: '! '!' '!' "' '!' h,Sunil Mokal:

'Tadic,Branko: '! '!' '!' "' Rd8

(40...Re5+ Tadic,Branko Tadic,

Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal:

'Tadic,Branko"Prathamesh,Sunil

Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko"Prathamesh,Sunil

Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil

Mokal: 'Tadic,Branko"' ' ' 41.Kf7+-)

Chessboard diagram showing a game state. The board is labeled with columns a-h and rows 1-8. White pieces are on h8, e6, a7, c6, e6, d2, f2, g3, h5. Black pieces are on h8, e6, f8, d3, e6, d4, f2, g6, h6. A black circle is on the right.

Mate is inevitable. Tadic,Branko:
'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal: 'Mate is
inevitable.'"Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal:
'Mate is inevitable.'"Mate is inevitable.
Tadic,Branko: 'Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal:
'Mate is inevitable.'"

1-0

412

□ Salem,AR Saleh

■ Wei,Yi

FIDE World Cup (1.1)

[Prathamesh,Sunil Mokal]

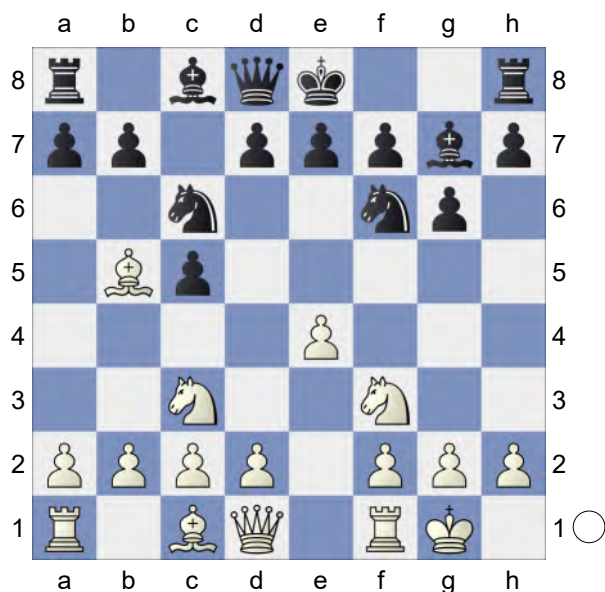
B31

2610

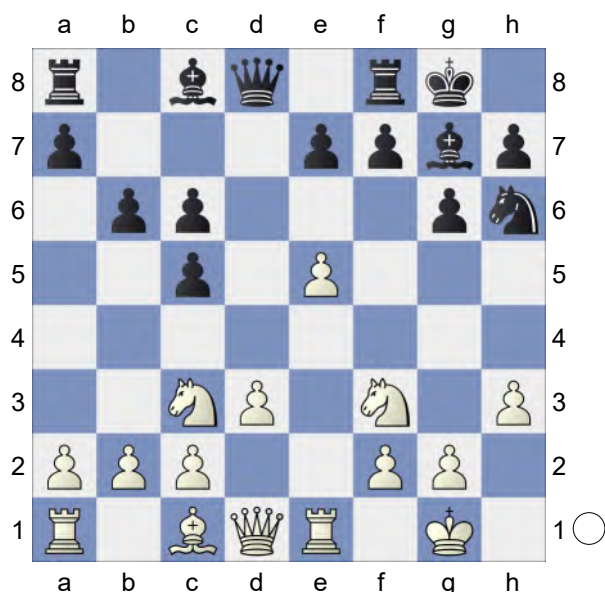
2734

11.09.2015

1.e4 Mokal,P 1...c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5
Saying no to Wei Yi's Sveshnikov/
Pelikan. 3...g6 4.0-0 Bg7 5.Nc3 Nf6

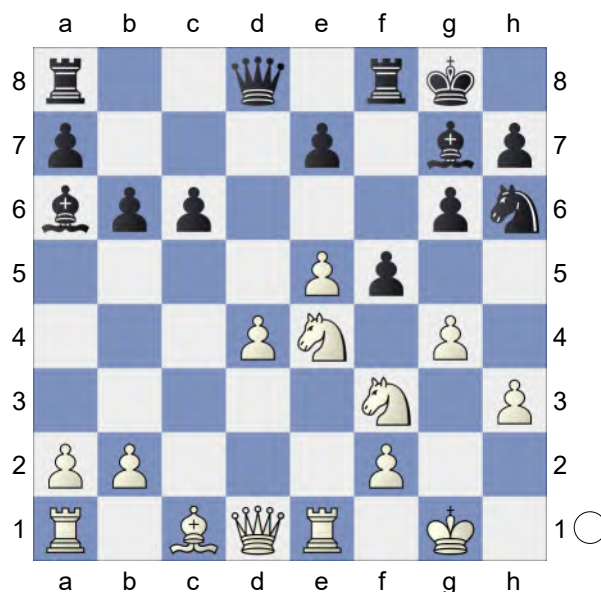


6.e5 Ng4 7.Bxc6 dxc6 8.Re1 0-0
9.d3 Nh6 10.h3 b6



11.Ne4 Nf5 12.c3 Ba6 13.g4 Nh6

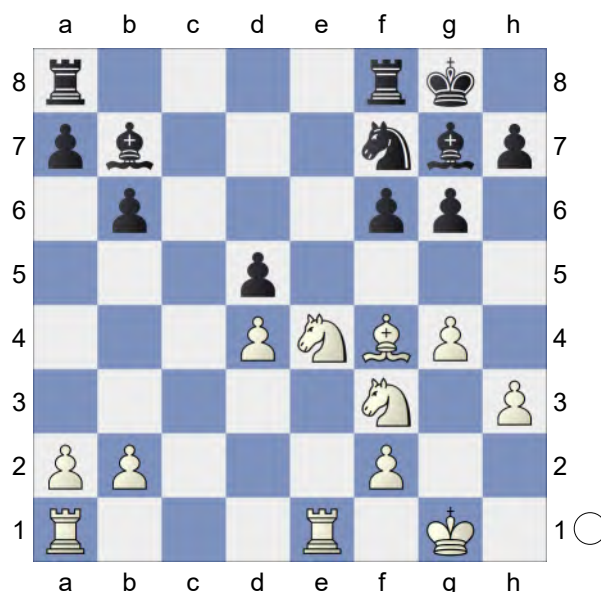
14.d4 cxd4 15.cxd4 f5



16.exf6 exf6 17.Qa4 An uncommon
idea, to first push the ♗ back and then
return with ♔b3.

[17.Qb3+ Kh8 18.Bf4 Nf7 19.Rad1
(19.Rac1!?) 19...Qd7 20.Qa3
(20.d5 c5≠) 20...Bc4 21.Nd6 Bd5
22.Re3 Nd8 23.Rde1 Ne6
½-½ Dolzhikova,K (2278)-Zontakh,A
(2545)/Kiev 2007/CBM 119 ext (67)]

17...Bb7 18.Qb3+ Nf7 19.Bf4 Qd5
20.Qxd5 cxd5



21.Nd6

[21.Nc3 Rfe8 seems ok for Black.]
21...Nxd6 22.Bxd6 Rf7 Black has come out of the opening with no serious problems. He has 2 ♖s but the pawn structure is not optimal for them at the moment. One important point to note is that White's pawn has advanced to g4. He will always have to look out for ...f5 and ...h5 breaks which could open Black's ♖s. White's control of the e ↔ and the d6-square is not permanent. All these factors make the position complex but dynamically equal. It is therefore interesting to see Wei Yi's approach to it. He wants to keep one ♜ on the board to keep some fighting chances, rather than going for simplifications with a very tiny edge.

[Both the ♜s would have been exchanged after 22...Rfe8!? 23.Rxe8+ Rxe8 24.Rc1 Rc8 25.Rxc8+ Bxc8 Black can still try but it is closer to equality.]

23.Re6

[23.Rac1 Rd8 24.Re6 Rfd7≠]

23...h6

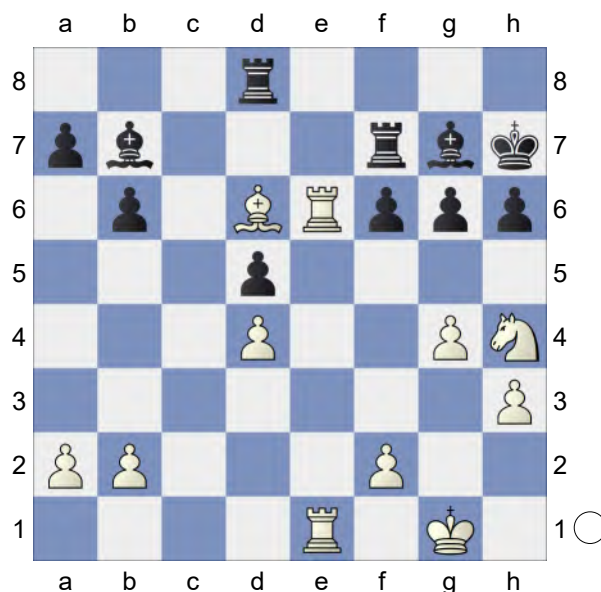
[23...Rc8 24.Rae1 Bh6∞ (24...Rd7?! 25.Re7±; 24...h6 25.Nh4 Kh7 26.Re7±)]

24.Rae1 Rd8 25.Nh4

[It was worth considering bringing up the ♘ to bolster the ♗ pawn mass with 25.Kg2 Ba6 (25...Kh7 26.Kg3 Bc8 27.Re8=) 26.Kg3=]

25...Kh7

(Diagram)



26.Bb4

[The natural follow-up seemed to be ♖26.f4 with the intention of closing the eyes of Black's dark squared ♖.

A) 26...f5 27.Be5 (27.Nxg6?+ Bc8) 27...fxg4 28.Rxg6 gxh3 29.Rxg7+ Rxg7+ 30.Bxg7 Rg8 31.Kh2 Rxg7 32.Nf5 Rd7 33.Kxh3±;

B) 26...Bc8 27.Re7 (27.Re8 Rxd6 28.Rxc8 f5 29.Nf3 fxg4 30.hxg4 Rxf4 31.Re7 Rxf3 32.Rcc7=) 27...Rxe7 28.Bxe7 Re8 29.f5 (29.Kf2? f5-+) 29...gxf5 (29...Bf8? 30.Nxg6+-) 30.Nxf5 Bxf5 31.gxf5 Bf8 32.Bb4 Rxe1+ 33.Bxe1=]

26...Bc8 27.Re8 This loses some important tempi.

[27.Re7 would be answered by Rd7 (27...Rxe7 28.Rxe7 a5 29.Bd2=) 28.Rxf7 Rxf7 29.Nf3 h5≠ (29...f5?! 30.g5)]

[27.Rc6!? was worth considering, maintaining an active position of the ♜ to be ready for the ♖ breaks.

A) 27...f5!? 28.gxf5 (28.Rxg6? fxg4 29.hxg4 Bxd4≠; 28.Nxg6 Bb7

29.Rce6) 28...gxf5 29.Nf3=;

B) 27...Bd7 28.Rc7±;

C) 27...Ba6∞ 28.Re7 Rd7
29.Rxd7 Rxd7 30.Kg2=
with good chances to hold.]

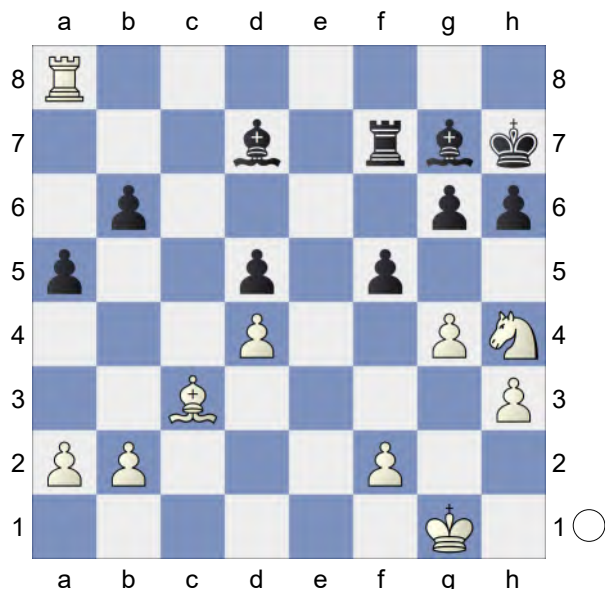
27...Rxe8 28.Rxe8 Bd7 29.Ra8 a5

[It was more precise to play Δ29...f5 right away. For example 30.gxf5 g5 31.Nf3 (31.Ng6 Bxf5 is the same) 31...Bxf5 32.Ne5 Bxe5 33.dxe5 Bxh3⚡]

30.Bc3 The position seems to be getting difficult for White, especially with Black's ...f5 coming, but White does have a resource.

[It would need some computer precision to find 30.Bd6!? f5 31.g5! The machine wants to use the idea of trapping the Black ♔ in a mating net to carry out some simplifications. (31.Nf3 fxg4 32.Ne5 Bxe5 33.Bxe5 g5 34.hxg4 Bxg4⚡) 31...Bxd4 (31...hxg5 32.Nf3 Kh6 33.Ne5 Bxe5 34.dxe5∞) 32.Nf3 Bxb2 33.Ne5 Rg7 (33...Bxe5? 34.Bxe5+-) 34.gxh6 Kxh6 35.Nd3 Bf6 36.Bf8=]

30...f5



31.gxf5?!

[Compared to 30.♙d6 f5 31.g5, the resource Δ31.Nf3 fxg4 32.Ne5 was not out of human reach. Bxe5 33.dxe5 g5 (33...gxh3?? 34.e6+-) 34.hxg4 Bxg4 35.Rb8= with good chances to hold.]

31...g5 32.Ng2?! The ♘ would have been happier in the centre.

[Δ32.Nf3 Bxf5 33.Ne5 (33.Kh2? Be4+-) 33...Rb7 34.Kh2 Bf6⚡ Although it is Black who has every reason to keep pushing, White's pieces are in the sort of position to create counterplay.]

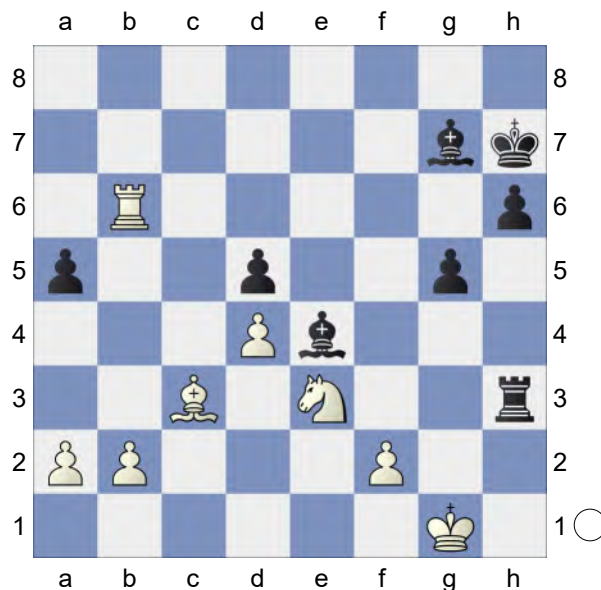
32...Bxf5 33.Ne3

[33.Kh2 Bb1+-]

33...Be4⚡ Black's 2♙s are now dominating. Wei Yi gives a fine demonstration of his technique now.

[33...Bxh3?! 34.Nxd5=]

34.Rb8 Rf3 35.Rxb6 Rxh3

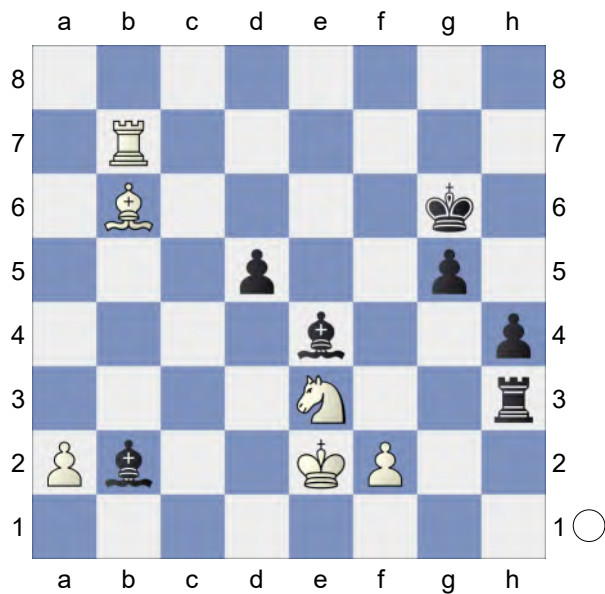


36.Kf1 h5 37.Rb7 h4 38.Bxa5 Kg6!

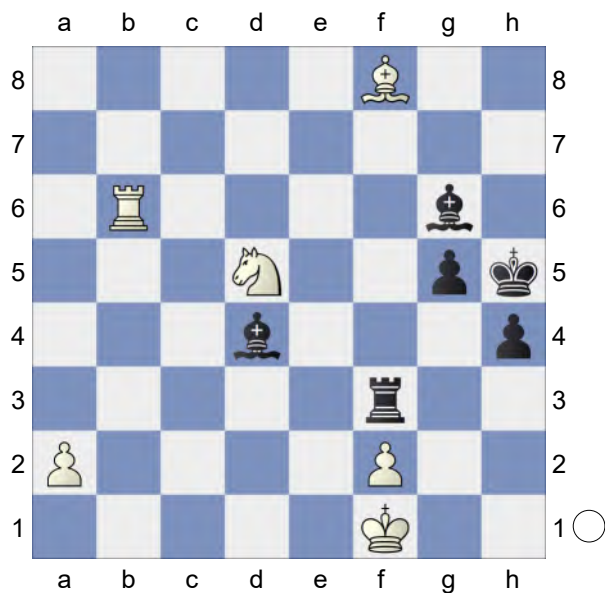
[38...Rh1+ 39.Ke2 h3 40.Bc7⚡ invites unnecessary complications.]

39.Ke2 Bxd4 40.Bb6 Bxb2

(Diagram)

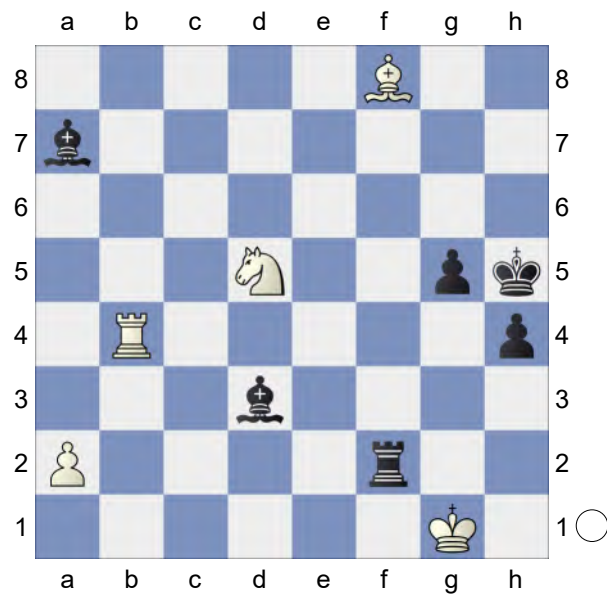


41.Bc5 Bc3 42.Rb6+ Kh5 43.Bf8 Bg6
44.Kf1
 [44.Nxd5 Bd3+ 45.Kd1 Rh1#]
44...Bd4 45.Nxd5 Rf3

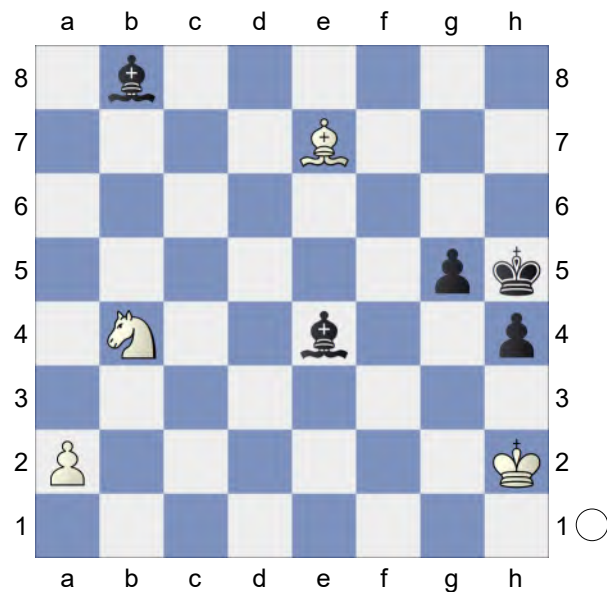


46.Rb4 Bd3+ 47.Kg2 Rxf2+ 48.Kg1
Rf1+ 49.Kg2 Rf2+ 50.Kg1 Ba7

(Diagram)



51.Be7
 [51.Ra4 Rxa2+-+]
 [51.Rb7 Rf7+-+]
51...Rb2+ 52.Kh1 Rxb4 53.Nxb4
Be4+ 54.Kh2 Bb8+
 [54...Bb8+ 55.Kg1 (55.Kh3 g4#)
 55...h3]



After this game, Wei Yi drew the second one to advance to the 2nd round of the World Cup.

0-1

286

□ Wei,Yi

■ Ding,Liren

CHN-chT Chiva (11.6)

[Primer,Dominique]

B19

2706

2755

27.07.2015

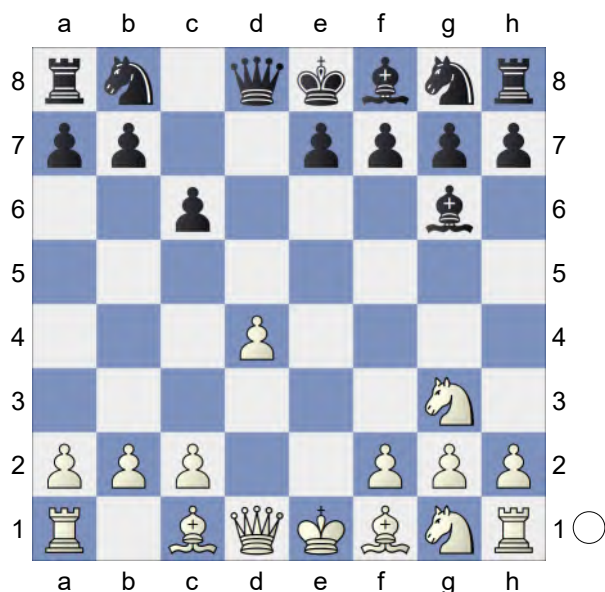
Slow 90min+30sec

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5

[4...Nd7 ½-½ Inarkiev,E (2688)-Ding, L (2730) Moscow Petrosian Memorial 2014 (5)]

[4...Nf6]

5.Ng3 Bg6



6.h4 h6 7.Nf3 e6!?

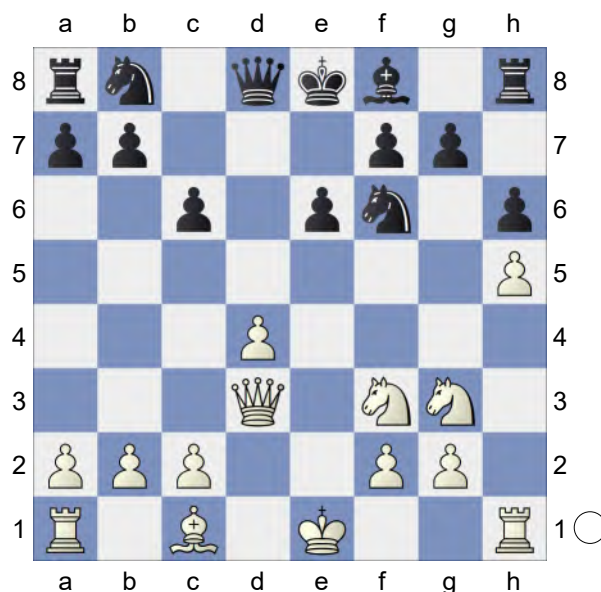
[7...Nd7 La grande ligne et le choix de la variante entraîne souvent des positions aigües avec des roques sur les ailes opposées]

8.h5

[8.Ne5!? Bh7 9.Bd3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 1-0 Anand,V (2783)-Ding,L (2707) Alekhine Memorial 2013 (5)]

8...Bh7 9.Bd3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 Nf6

[10...Nd7 Aurait transposé dans la grande ligne où le ♖ Noir préfère se réfugier à l'aile-dame 11.Bd2 Qc7 12.0-0-0 0-0-0 13.Ne4 Ngf6]



11.Bd2 Be7

[11...c5!? Anticipant le ooo]

12.0-0-0 0-0 Dans la pratique, les Noirs ont des bons résultats avec cette variante malgré l'avantage d'espace des Blancs à l'aile-roi 13.Ne4

[13.Kb1 c5 14.Ne4 Nc6 15.Bc3 Nb4 16.Nxf6+ Bxf6 17.Bxb4 cxb4 18.Qe4 Qb6 19.Ne5 Rad8 20.f4 Rd5 21.Rd2 Rfd8 22.Rhd1 a5 23.g4 a4 24.Rd3 Bxe5 25.fxe5 R8d7 26.Qf4 Qd8 27.Qd2 Rb5 28.Rg1 b3 29.g5 hxg5 30.Rxg5 bxc2+ 31.Kxc2 Kh8 32.Rg4 a3 33.Rxa3 Rxe5 34.Rag3 Rc5+ 35.Kb1 Qf6 36.a3 Rxh5 37.Rxg7 Qxg7 38.Rxg7 Kxg7 39.a4 Rhd5 40.a5 Rxd4 41.Qg5+ Kf8 42.Qf6 R7d5 Yu,Y (2675)-Ding,L (2714) Danzhou 2014 0-1 (119)]

[13.Qe2 Nbd7 14.Nf1!? ½-½ Vallejo Pons,F (2708)-Vuckovic,B (2630) EU-ch 11th Rijeka 2010 (8)]

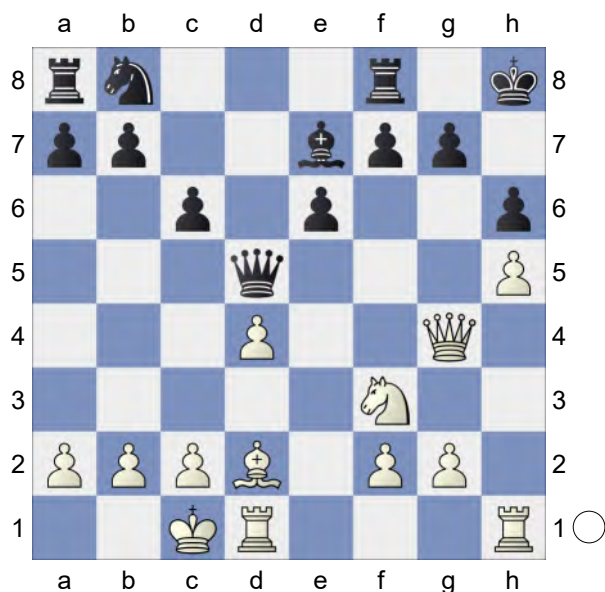
13...Nxe4!? La préparation des Noirs alors que presque toutes les parties ont continué le développement avec ♘bd7

[13...Nbd7 14.Kb1 c5 15.g4! Nxg4 ½-½ Grandelius,N (2644)-Navara,D

(2730) EU-chT (Men) 20th 2015 (2.1)]
14.Qxe4 Qd5 15.Qg4!? Changeant le
 premier par rapport à une partie jouée
 par Ding Liren quelques mois plus tôt

[15.Qxd5 cxd5 16.g4 0-1 Xu,X
 (2101)-Ding,L (2710) CHN-chT China
 2014 (21.4)]

15...Kh8



16.Kb1 Nd7= 17.Qh3

[17.Nh4]

17...Rad8

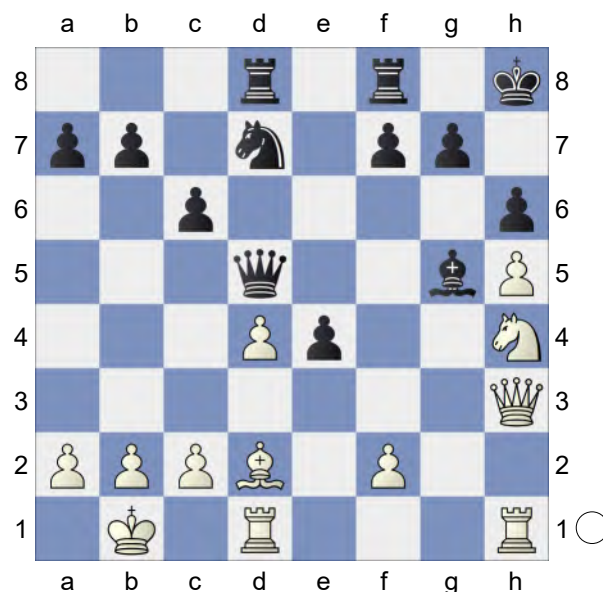
[17...a5 18.g4 a4 0-1 Jurkovic,A
 (2309)-Golubovic,B (2450) Nova
 Gorica op 04th 1999 (8) (18...Bb4
 19.c3 Be7 20.g5 hxd5 21.h6 g6
 22.h7= Bf6)]

18.g4 e5 19.g5 e4! 20.Nh4N

[20.gxh6 exf3 21.hxd7+ Kxd7
 22.Qg3+ Kh8 23.Rhg1 Rg8 24.Qf4
 Nf6 25.Bb4 Qe4 26.Qh6+ Nh7
 27.Rge1 Qxe1 28.Bxe1 Bg5
 0-1 (28) Gruber,G (2108)-Schneider
 Zinner,H (2347) Aschach 2003]

20...Bxg5

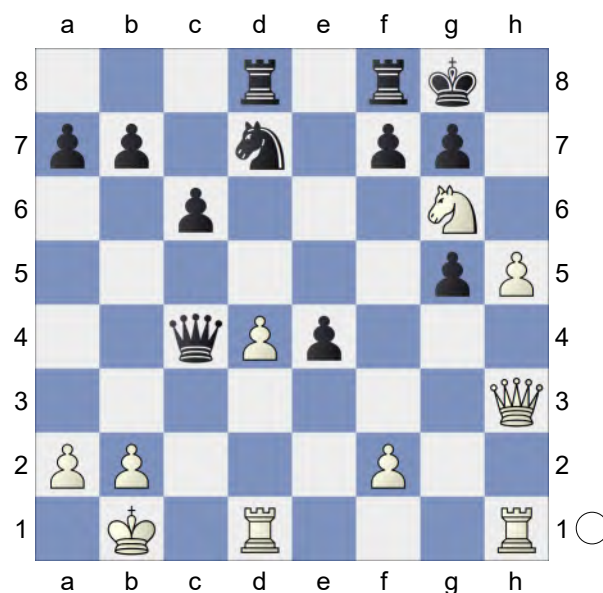
(Diagram)



21.c4!? Qxc4 **22.Bxg5 hxd5 23.Ng6+!**
Kg8 24.Ne7+ Jouant pour le gain mais
 au risque de forcer la position.

[24.Nxf8 Nxf8 25.h6]

24...Kh8 25.Ng6+ Kg8



26.Nxf8 Après avoir gagné du temps
 avec la répétition de coups, les Blancs
 encaissent le matériel **26...Nxf8 27.h6**
g6 28.Qa3

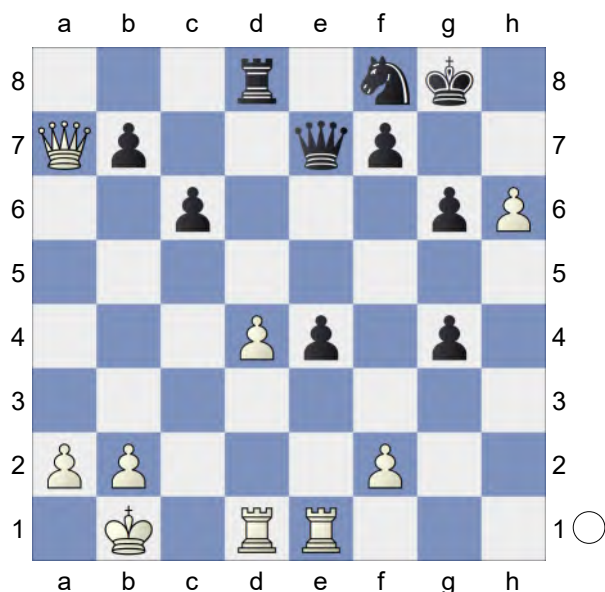
[28.h7+?! Kh8= Et il n'est pas facile
 de progresser pour les Blancs]

28...Qe6 29.Qxa7 Qe7 30.Rhe1

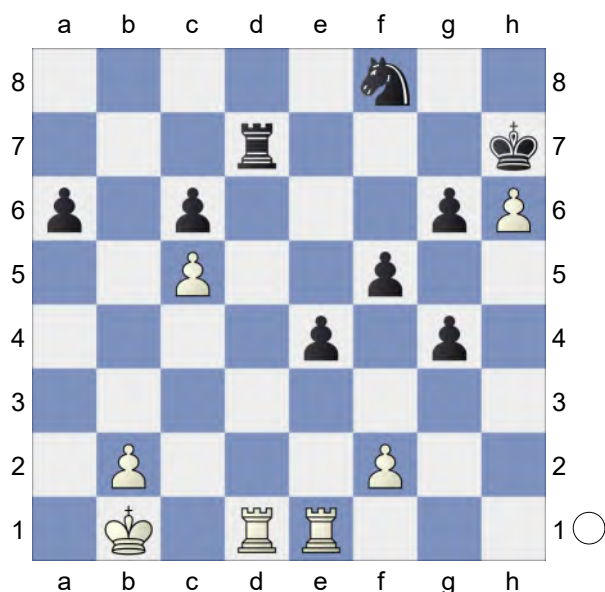
[30.Qc5 La centralisation de la ♔ était

un coup candidat]

30...g4!

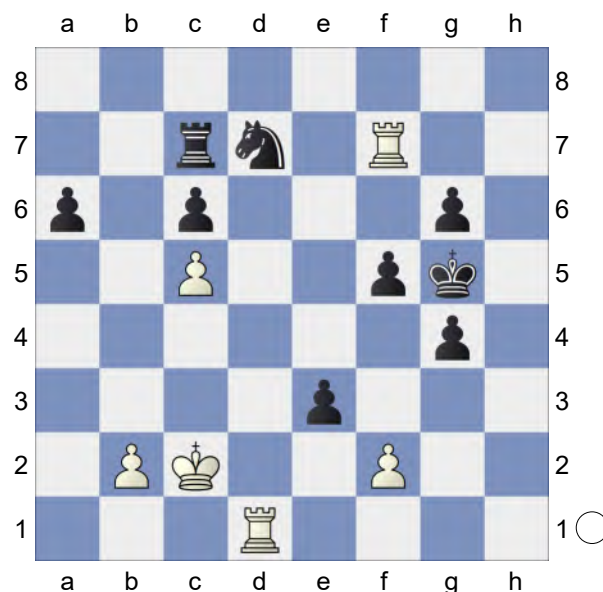


**31.a4 Kh7 32.a5 Rd7 33.Qc5 f5
34.a6 Qxc5 35.dxc5 bxa6**



36.Rd6 Rc7 37.Rf6! Nd7 38.Rf7+→
Attaque 03 pièces! 38...Kxh6 39.Rd1
 [39.Rh1+?! Kg5]
39...Kg5! Une bonne case pour le ♔
 Noir qui est à l'abri tout en pouvant
 essayer de soutenir la majorité Noire
40.Kc2 e3!

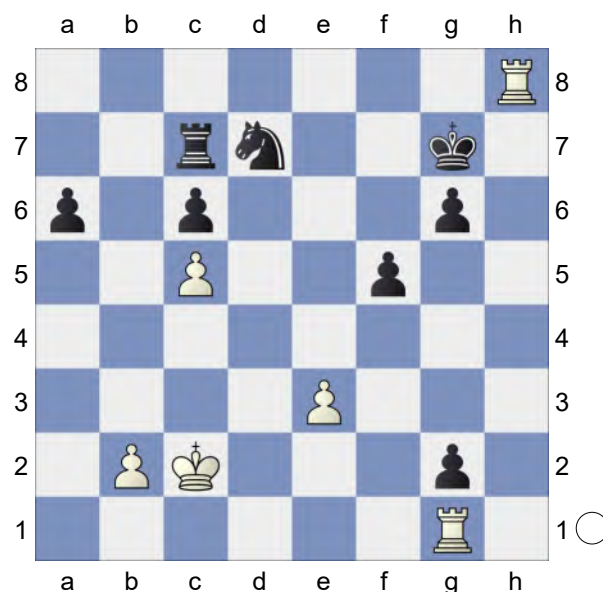
(Diagram)



41.fxe3 g3 42.Rg7

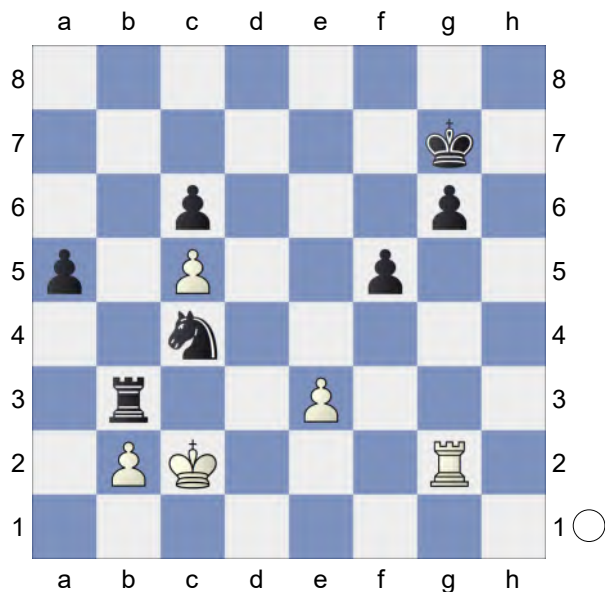
[42.Rg1 Kg4 43.Rg7 g5↑]

**42...g2 43.Rg1 Kf6 44.Rg8 Kf7
45.Rh8 Kg7**



**46.Rh2 Rb7 47.Rhxg2 Ne5 48.Ra1
a5 49.Ra3**
 [49.Rxa5 Rxb2+ 50.Kxb2 Nc4+]
49...Nc4 50.Rb3 Rxb3

(Diagram)

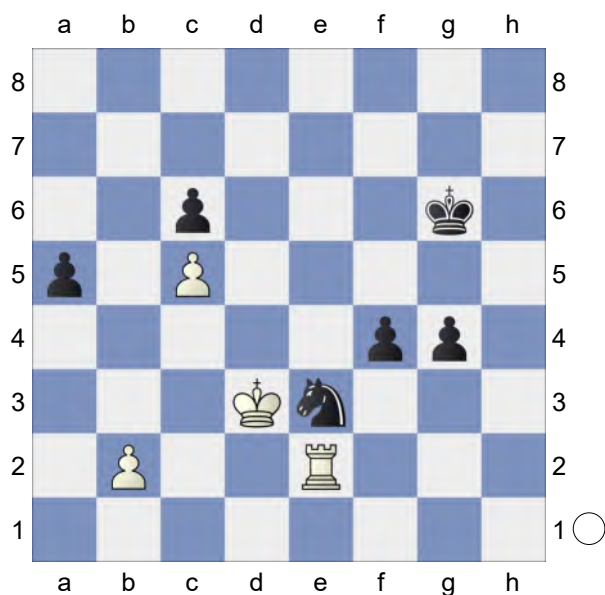


51.Kxb3 Nxe3 La ♔ Blanche manque d'activité et la majorité soutenue par le ♘ et le ♔ paraît très dangereuse

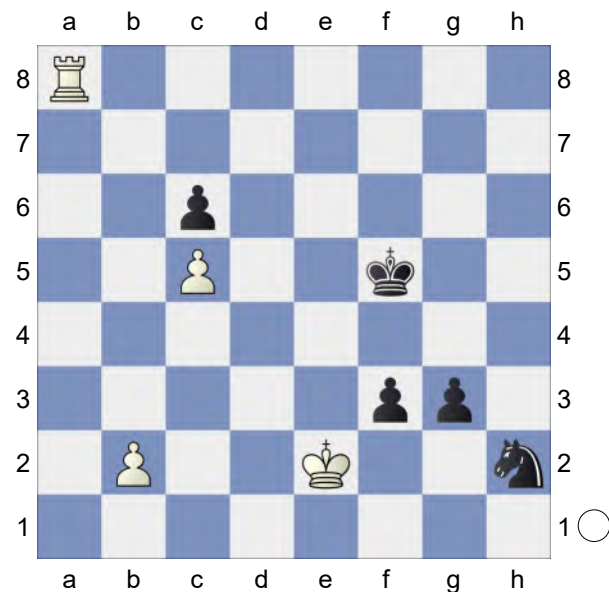
52.Rf2?!

[52.Rd2 f4 53.Rd7+ Kf6 54.Rd6+ Kf5 55.Rxc6 f3 56.Rc8 Kg4 (56...f2 57.Rf8+ Kg4) 57.Rf8 Nf5 58.c6! Nd4+ 59.Kc4 Nxc6 60.Rxf3]

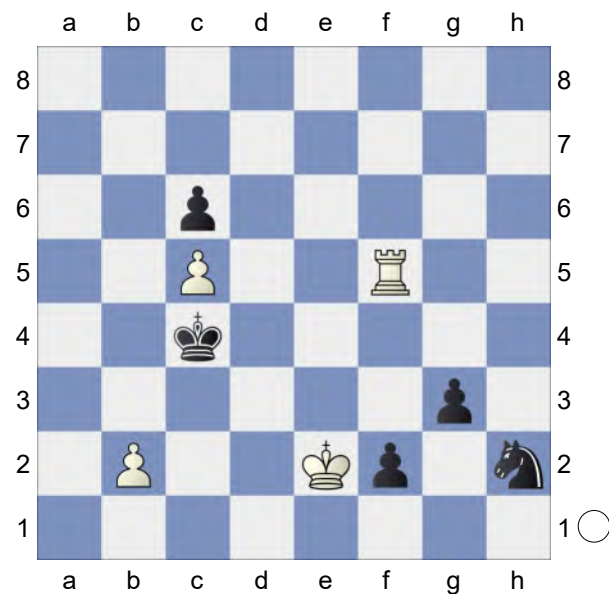
52...g5 53.Re2 f4 54.Kc3 g4 55.Kd3 Kg6



56.Re1 Kf5 57.Ra1 Trop tard 57...g3 58.Ke2 Ng4! 59.Rxa5 Nh2 60.Ra8 f3+



61.Ke3 f2 62.Rf8+ Ke5 63.Ke2 Kd4 64.Rf5 Kc4



0-1

78

□ Wei, Yi

2743

■ Navara, David

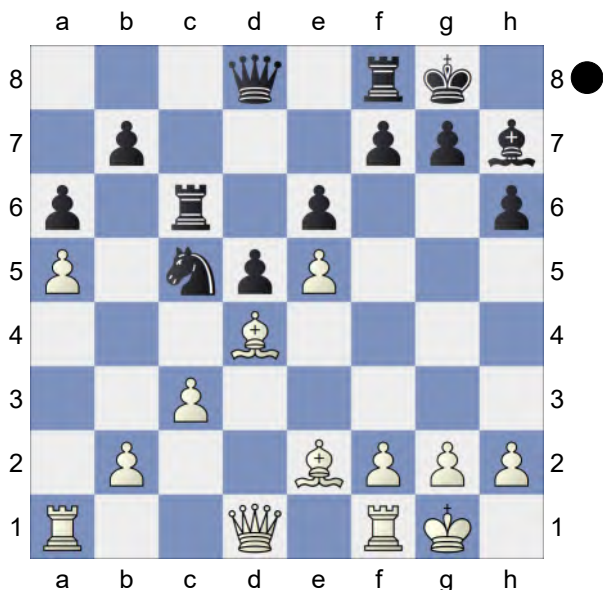
2740

Yancheng (m/1)

2017

[Priyadharshan, Kannappan]

White is slowly outplaying Black in this Advanced Caro-Kann opening position. White has the pair of bishops, a lot of space in the centre and queenside thanks to his e5- and a5-pawns. Diagram



17...Qg5!? Black starts searching for some counterplay by bringing his queen to take aim at the white king.

[17...Qc7 Black will try to put pressure on the e5-pawn and also possibly an exchange sacrifice on c3 if White plays b4 in the future.]

18.Ra3?

[18.f3! simply taking the e4-square away from Black's minor pieces. Now White is threatening to play b4 and consolidate his space advantage on the queenside.]

18...Qf5!?

[18...Bf5 with the idea to go ...Qg6

and...Bd3 and get better control on the light-squares. 19.b4 Bh3 20.Bf3 Nd7 21.Kh1±]

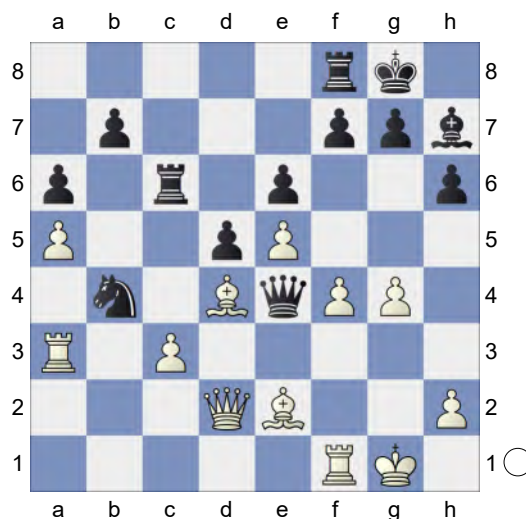
19.b4?! White is trying to force things on the board.

[19.f3! h5 20.Qd2±]

19...Nd3 20.g4 Keeping the initiative going. **20...Qg6 21.f4 Qe4** The black queen has moved around quite a bit in the past few moves, and White has pushed his kingside pawns too much attacking her, making his own king weak in the process. White has to play accurately to keep his initiative going, and if not - the extended kingside pawns could become targets of attack. If you would want to get a calculation workout, I would highly suggest you spend at least 15-20 minutes in this position and calculate all the intricacies of the position. **22.Bf3?**

[22.Qd2! White plans to reroute the a3-rook to d1 and win the trapped d3-knight.

A) 22...Nxb4? Looks like White has blundered a pawn, but he has a very nice trick up his sleeve. Diagram



23.f5!! Disrupting the coordination between the black pieces.

(23.cxb4?? Rc2 $\neq$) 23...exf5
 24.Bd1! (24.Rb3 Nc2 25.Bf3
 Nxd4 26.Bxe4 Nxb3 27.Qxd5
 fxe4 28.Qxb3 Rc7 $\neq$ Black should
 be able to hold this position, as
 White pawns are very weak.)

A1) 24...Nd3 25.Bf3+-;

A2) 24...Qd3 25.Qb2+-
 The black knight and queen are
 poorly placed. fxg4 (25...Rc4
 26.Be2 Qe4 27.Bxc4+-)
 26.cxb4;

A3) 24...Rc4 25.Rb3 Qd3
 26.Qxd3 Nxd3 27.gxf5 $\pm$
 The black bishop on h7 is out of
 the game, and White can use
 that to his advantage.;

B) 22...h5!

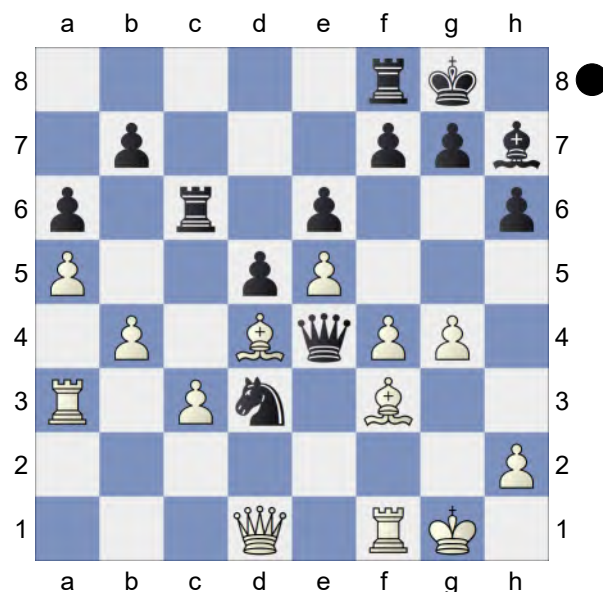
B1) 23.Rf3!?

B1a) 23...Nc1! 24.Bd1 hxg4
 25.Re3 Qb1 26.Re1 Rfc8
 27.Ba4 Rc4! 28.Be3
 (28.Rxc1?? Rxd4!-+) 28...d4
 29.Qxc1 Qd3 30.Bf2 dxc3 $\neq$;

B1b) 23...Nxb4! 24.f5 hxg4
 25.Rf4 Qc2 26.Qe3 exf5
 27.cxb4 g5 28.Rf2 f4 $\neq$
 I like Black's chances in this
 position.;

B2) 23.Raa1 Rc4! (23...hxg4
 24.Rad1 Nxb4 25.f5!! Bxf5
 26.Rf4 Qc2 27.cxb4+-) 24.Rad1
 (24.gxh5? Rxd4 25.cxd4
 Qxd4+ 26.Kg2 Be4+ 27.Kg3
 Rc8 $\neq$) 24...Rxd4 25.cxd4 Qxd4+
 26.Kg2 Qe4+ 27.Kg3 Nxb4
 28.gxh5 (28.Bf3 Qc4 29.Rc1
 Qb3 $\neq$) 28...Nc6 29.Bf3 $\neq$]

(Diagram)



22...Qxf4

[22...Qg6?? 23.f5 exf5 24.Qxd3+-]

23.Bxd5 exd5 24.Rxf4 Nxf4

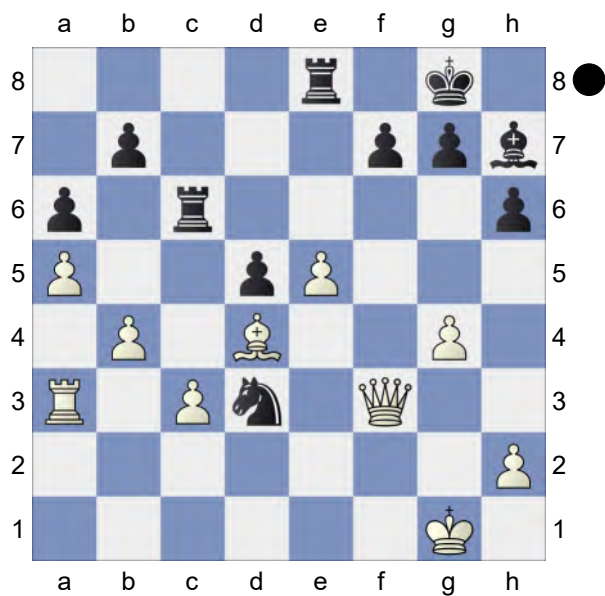
We have reached the position with the
 material imbalance as Black has a rook
 and knight for the queen. The
 compensation that Black has in this
 position: 1) Weak white king. 2) Weak
 light squares near the king. 3) Opposite
 coloured bishops giving good drawing
 chances. 4) Great outposts available for
 the pieces, as Black can place his
 bishop on e4, rook on g6, knight on e6
 and so on. **25.Be3**

[25.Qf3 Ne6 26.Qxd5 Rd8 27.Qf3
 Nxd4 28.cxd4 Rxd4= Technically
 equal, but White is the side that needs
 to be precise to hold a draw.]

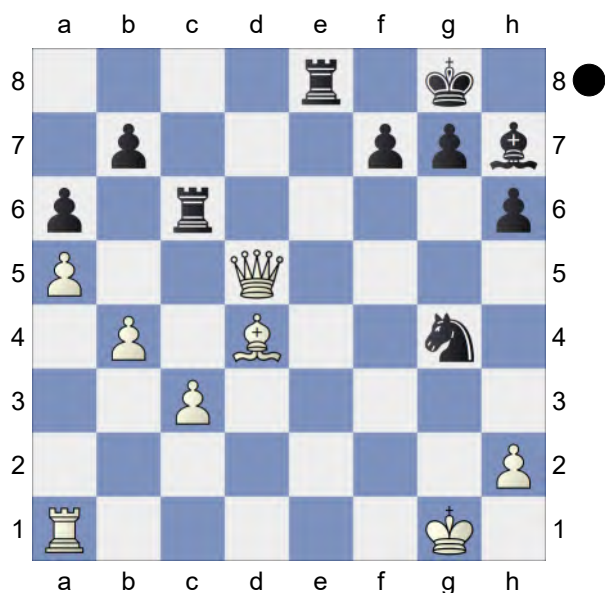
25...Nd3! 26.Bd4 Re8 27.Qf3?

[27.Ra2! White has to use all his
 pieces to defend his precarious
 position, so it becomes important to
 activate the passive rook on a3. Nxe5
 28.Bxe5 Rxe5 29.Re2 Be4 30.Re3 $\neq$
 White has to be careful, as any minor
 error could make his position terrible.]

(Diagram)



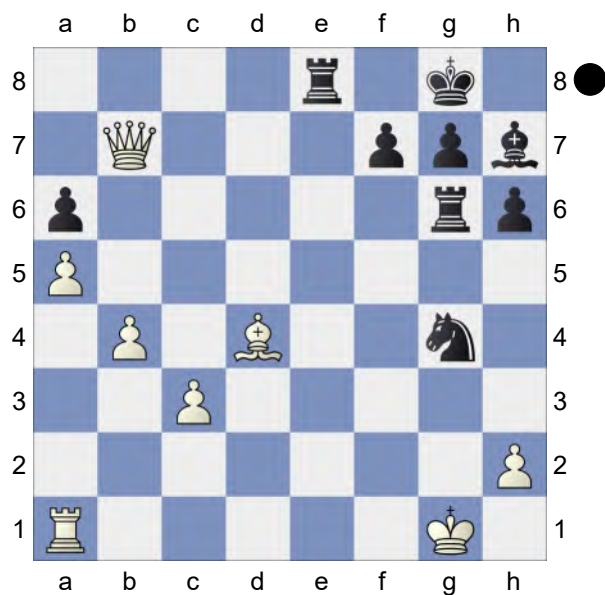
27...Nxe5 28.Qxd5? Nxe4 The white king is terribly exposed now, and that will lead to his downfall. **29.Ra1** How can Black force matters in this position? Diagram



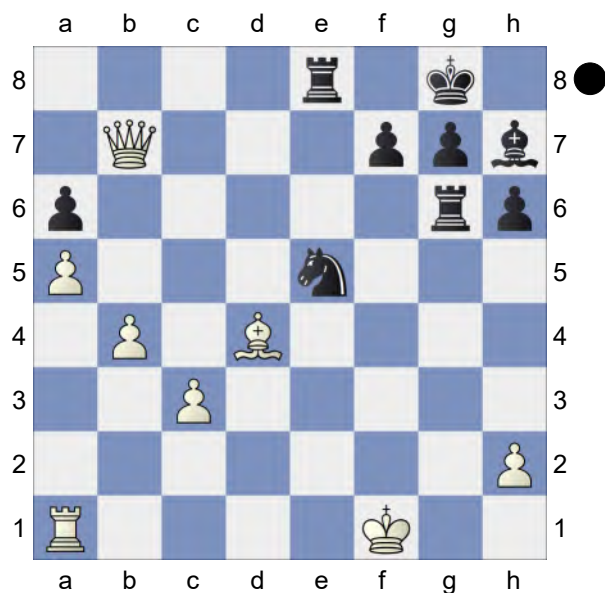
29...Rg6! Going straight for the opponent's king! **30.Qxb7 Ne3+?!**
[30...Ne5+ 31.Kh1 Nd3 32.Rf1 Nf2+!! - possibly Black did not spot this brilliant move in his calculation. 33.Bxf2 Rg4+]

31.Kf2 Ng4+ 32.Kg1
[32.Kf3 Nxe2+ 33.Kf2 Ng4+]

34.Kf3 Nf6 35.Qc7 (35.Qxa6?? Ne4+) 35...Nd5 36.Qd7 Rge6+]

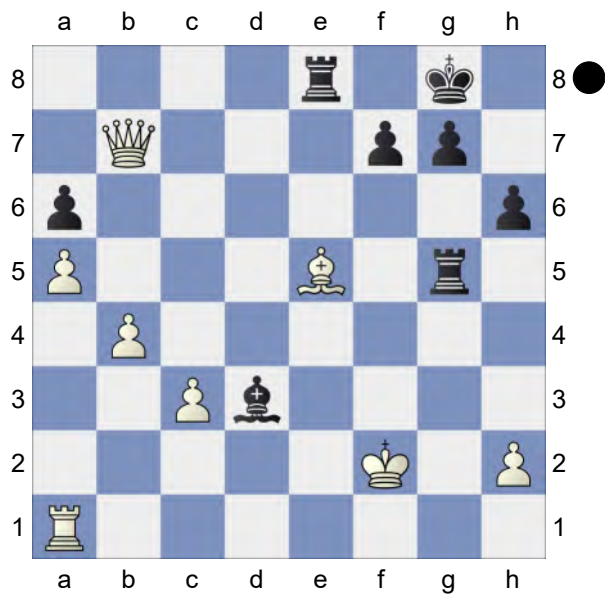


Do not box your king in a corner, if you are getting attacked as that would make it easier for the attacking side, as there would be no escape squares available. **32...Ne5+ 33.Kf1?? Rf6+ 34.Kg2 Rg6+ 35.Kf1** Diagram



35...Rg5! Allowing the h7-bishop to join the attack. **36.Bxe5 Bd3+ 37.Kf2**

(Diagram)



opened up all sorts of attacks on the white king, which could have been avoided had White defended that pawn. Black played brilliantly with his minor pieces coordinating them in magnificent fashion, and they were also defending each other as they progressed forward, aiming at the white king. RR This game is published in Chess Informant 136/(45)

0-1

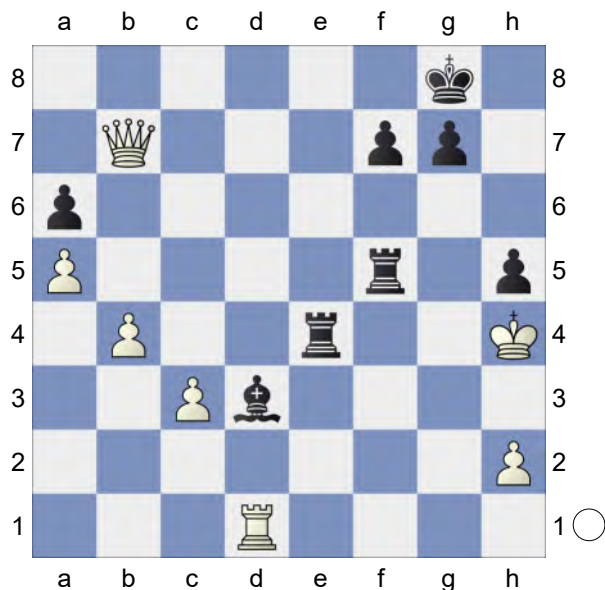
Rexe5

[37...Rgxe5 38.Qb6 Re2+ 39.Kg1 Rd2+]

38.Rd1

[38.Qc8+ Kh7 39.Rd1 Be4 40.Rd4 Rgf5+ 41.Kg1 Rf4+]

38...Re2+ 39.Kf3 Rf5+ 40.Kg4 h5+ 41.Kh4 Re4+



One of the critical reasons why White lost this game was the fact that he had activated his Rook on a3 too late and by then Black had built a big attack against the white king. Losing the g4-pawn

237

□ Wei,Yi

■ Anton Guijarro,David

(m/1) Khanty Mansiysk

[Priyadharshan,Kannappan]

C54

2721

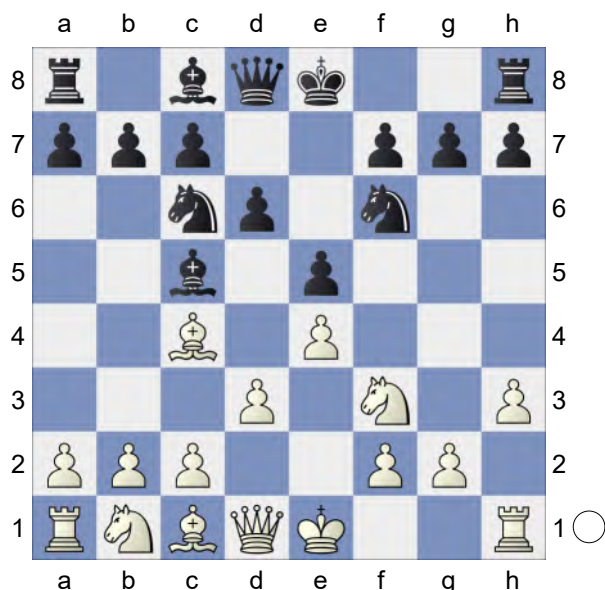
2674

2019

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4

The fashionable move! 3...Bc5 4.d3

Nf6 5.h3 d6

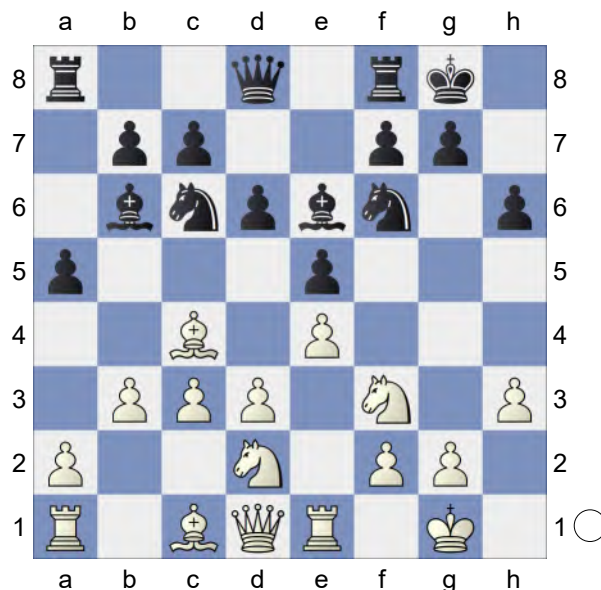


6.c3 a5 One of the new ideas that have changed the landscape of the Giuoco Piano for black side. **7.0-0 0-0 8.Re1 h6 9.Nbd2 Be6 10.b3!?** Tested heavily in the correspondence world, and then the novelty found its way to over-the-board games at the elite level.

[The most popular continuation for White: 10.Bb5 Qb8 An important theoretical tabiya in the The Giuoco Piano.]

10...Bb6

(Diagram)



A new idea for over-the-board games.

11.Nf1 a4

[11...d5 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Bd2 Qf6 14.N1h2 Rad8=]

12.Bd2

[12.Bxe6 fxe6 13.b4 Nh5=]

12...axb3 13.axb3 Rxa1 14.Qxa1 Qd7

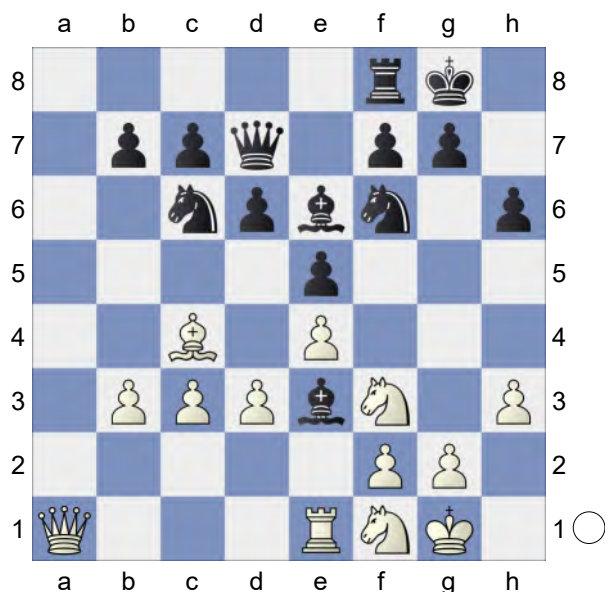
A quiet position, as there seems to be no weakness on either side and there seems to be no good pawn break on the board. It's time now for both sides to continuously manoeuvre the pieces and place them on best possible squares.

15.Be3

[15.Ng3 d5 16.exd5 Bxd5 17.Qd1 Re8=]

15...Bxe3

(Diagram)



16.Nxe3 Ne7 17.Bxe6 White pieces seem to be bit clueless, so Wei Yi decides to swap a pair of knights on g4. Therefore he makes a preparatory move.

[17.Qa7 b6 18.Qb7 Ng6 19.Ra1 Nf4 20.Ra7 Bxc4 21.dxc4 Ne2+ 22.Kf1 Nxc3 23.Nd2∞]

17...fxe6! Anton makes a practical decision to change the pawn structure and create some pressure on the f-file.

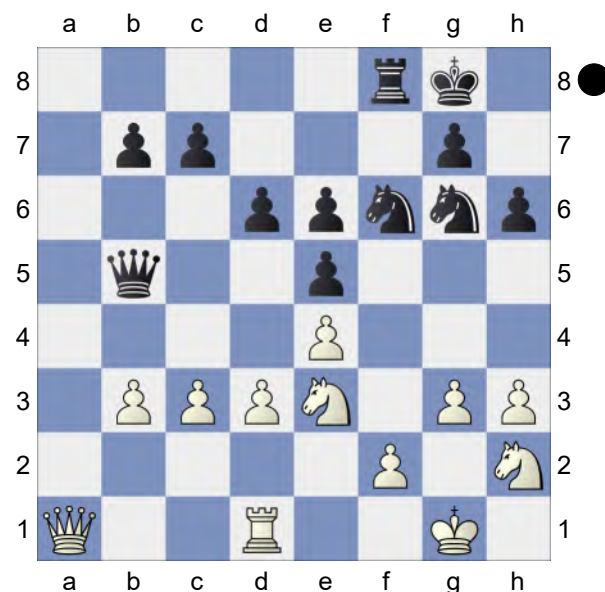
[This recapture would have kept the symmetrical pawn structure intact increasing the chances of a draw. 17...Qxe6 18.c4=]

18.Nh2 Ng6 It's evident we are not going to see Na1 or Na8 in this game, so that means somewhere soon we will see Nh1 or Nh8 on the board! **19.g3 Qb5**

[19...Nh8!? A bit early. 20.b4 Nf7 21.h4 d5∞]

20.Rd1 Diagram

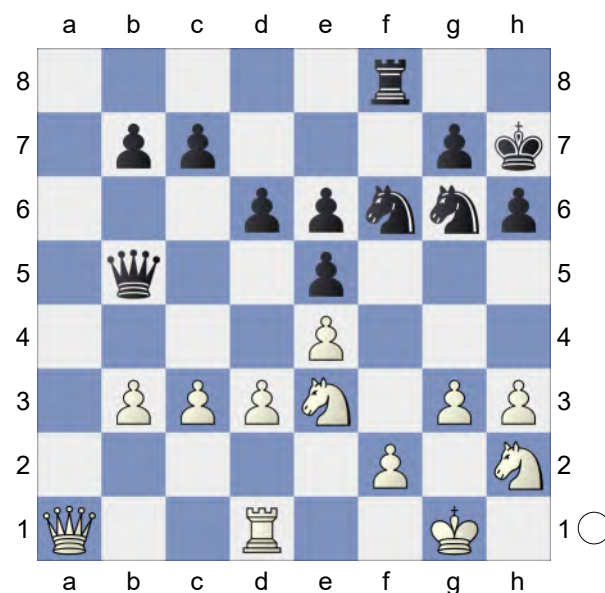
(Diagram)



20...Kh7!

[20...Qxb3?? 21.Rb1+- The queen is trapped!]

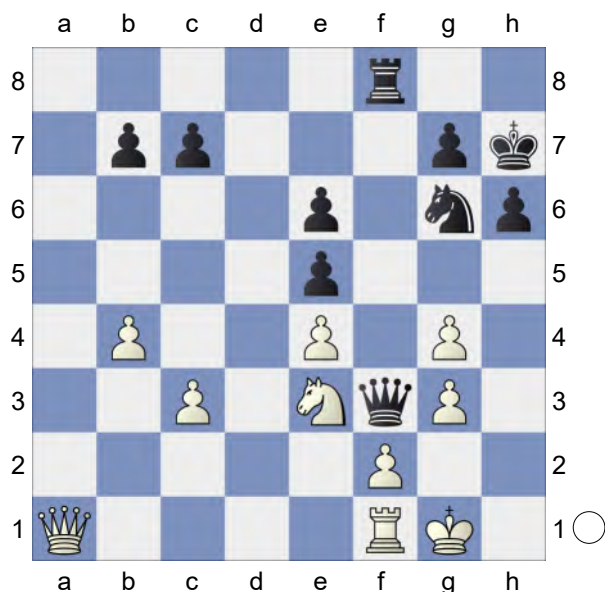
[20...d5!?]



When you don't have a clear plan, improve your pieces! **21.b4?!**

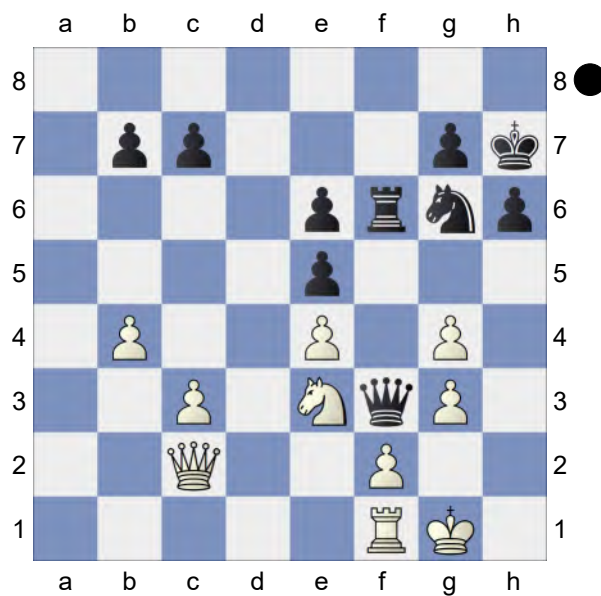
[21.Qa2 This is a multi-tasking move, as it defends the f2 and b3 pawns, and keeps control of the a-file and at the same time puts some indirect pressure on the e6-pawn. d5 22.Nhg4=]

21...d5 22.Nhg4 Nxg4 23.hxg4 dxe4
24.dxe4 Qe2 25.Rf1 Qf3



White's treading on thin ice of equality now, and one slip here would give Black a significant advantage. **26.Qa2 Rf6 27.Qc2** Let's talk to the black pieces and see how they feel: Queen - I am in the most active square I can be on the board. Rook - I am multitasking as I am defending weakness on e6, and putting some pressure on the d-file. Knight - I need some purpose for my existence, and I am not doing much right now. King - I am safe, what else I need!? Diagram

(Diagram)



27...Nh8! Anton listened to his knight's whispers and made a great move
28.Rd1??

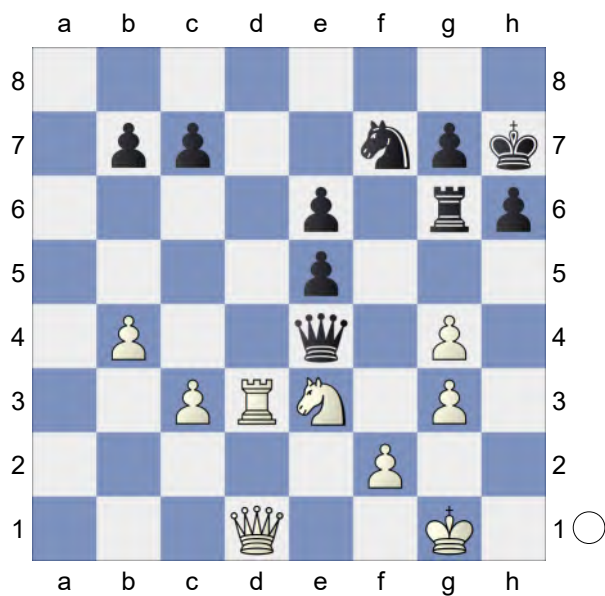
[28.g5! A deep tactical idea to equalise! hxg5 29.Qd1 Qxe4 Two pawns have been sacrificed, so what's the idea? 30.Ng4 The point being - Black's extra pawns are too weak, so White can liquidate to a pawn down, but drawn endgame. Rf5 31.Re1 Qf3 32.c4! Nf7 33.Qxf3 Rxf3 34.Nxe5 Nxe5 35.Rxe5 Rc3 36.Rc5 c6 37.b5 cxb5 38.Rxb5 Rxc4 39.Rxb7=]

28...Nf7 29.Rd3 Rg6! Getting away from all the knight jump ideas, and also giving a cover for the king. A big threat for Black is now to play ...Ng5.

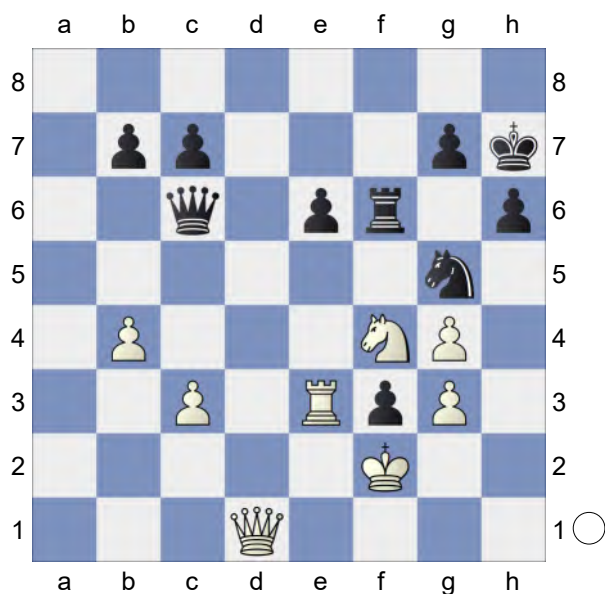
[I believe Wei Yi considered this logical move for Black and missed the Black's 29...Rg6! 29...Ng5? 30.Nd5 Nh3+ 31.Kh2 Qxf2+ 32.Qxf2 Rxf2+ 33.Kxh3 exd5=]
[29...Qxe4? 30.Rd7 Qxc2 31.Nxc2 Ng5 32.Rxc7 Nh3+ 33.Kg2 Nxf2 34.Ne3 Ne4 35.Nd1=]

30.Qd1 Qxe4-+

(Diagram)

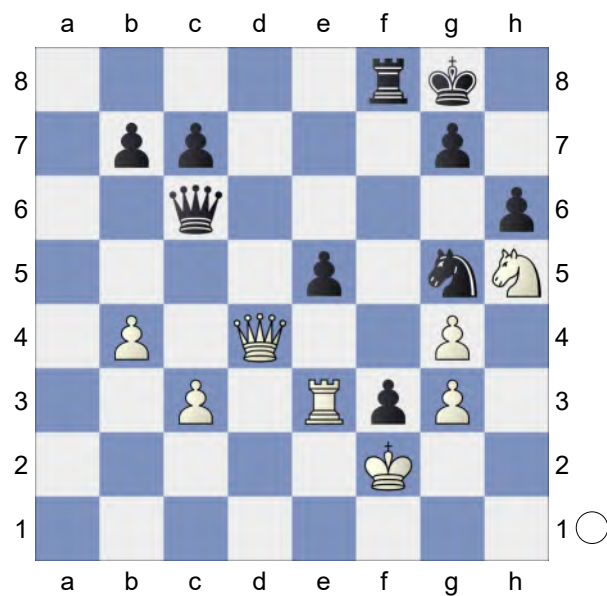


31.f3 Qc6 32.Ng2 e4! White's position is crumbling. 33.Re3 exf3 34.Nf4 Rf6 35.Kf2 Ng5



Mission accomplished. Now let's quickly look at the route taken by this knight which started its journey on b8. Nb8-c6-e7-g6-h8-f7-g5 and the knight arrived at its winning destination! **36.Qd3+ Kg8 37.Nh5 Rf8 38.Qd4 e5!? Diagram**

(Diagram)



39.Rxe5

[39.Qxe5 Nh3+

A) 40.Ke1_____ A quick test for the viewers! Can you calculate the mate in 11 here? f2+ 41.Kd2 Rd8+ 42.Kc1 (42.Kc2 Qa4+ 43.Kb2 Rd2+ 44.Kc1 Qc2# #) 42...Qh1+ 43.Kb2 Rd2+ 44.Kb3 Qb1+ 45.Kc4 Qa2+ 46.Kc5 Qa7+ 47.Kc4 f1Q+ 48.Re2 Qxe2+ 49.Qxe2 Qa2+ 50.Kc5 Qd5# # and that's how you do a checkmate in 11!;

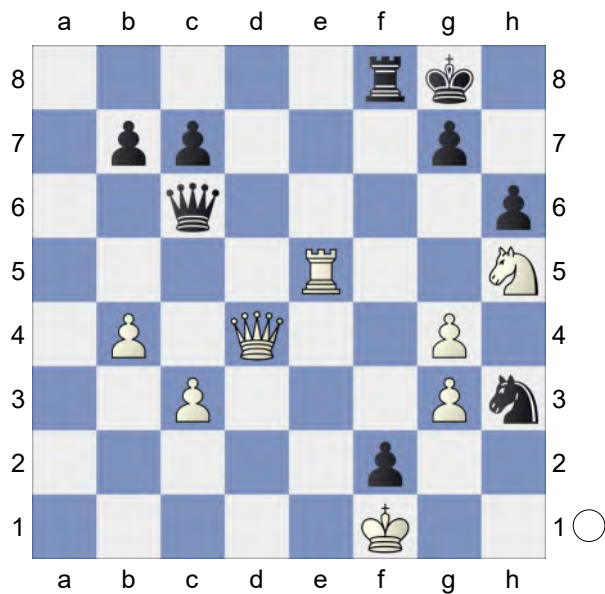
B) 40.Kf1 Qc4+ 41.Ke1 f2+]

39...Nh3+ 40.Kf1

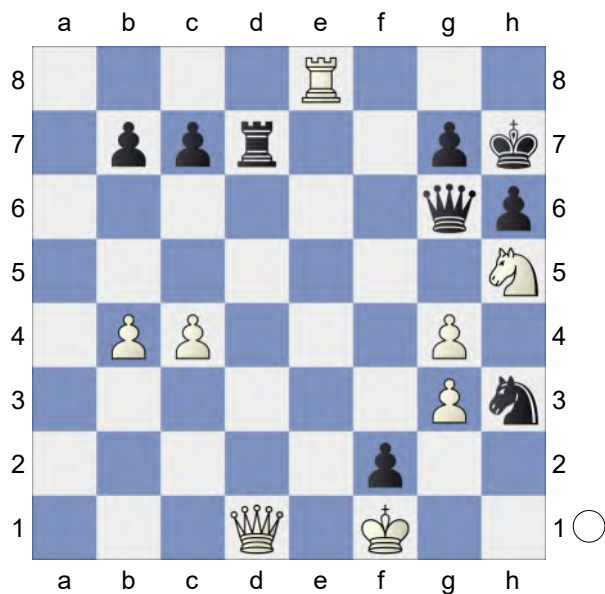
[40.Ke3 f2 41.Rf5 Qe6+ 42.Kd2 Qa2+ 43.Kd3 Qb1+ 44.Kc4 f1Q+ 45.Rxf1 Qxf1+]

40...f2

(Diagram)



**41.Re4 Qa6+ 42.c4 Qg6 43.Qa1 Rf7
44.Re8+ Kh7 45.Qd1 Rd7**



A game that seemed uneventful at the beginning ended up in sharp play after a series of manoeuvres. White made a bunch of minor inaccuracies and got himself in a tough spot and then through a series of clever manoeuvring starting with ...Kh7 and ...Rf6... and the key ...Nh8-f7-g5 Black won the game!

0-1

525

□ 3.g3 b5 4.Bg2 Bb7/ 6.Na3

■ Wei,Yi

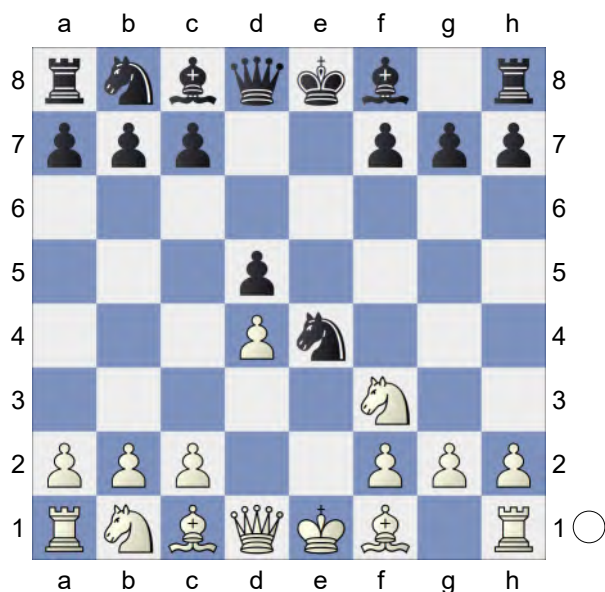
(ol) 121/114

[QCH 6 pp406-7]

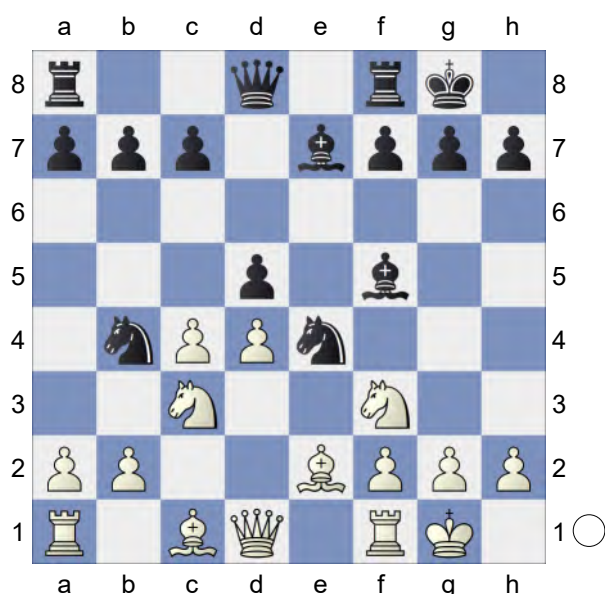
C42

2023

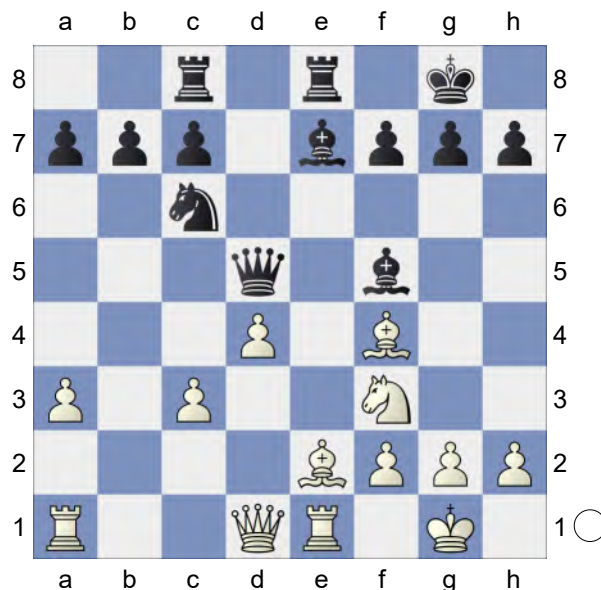
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3
Nxe4 5.d4 d5



6.Bd3 Be7 7.0-0 Nc6 8.c4 Nb4
9.Be2 0-0 10.Nc3 Bf5



11.a3 Nxc3 12.bxc3 Nc6 13.Re1 Re8
14.cxd5 Qxd5 15.Bf4 Rac8



16.c4 Qe4 17.Be3

[17.Qd2 Bf6 18.Bf1 Qc2 19.Rxe8+
Rxe8 20.Qxc2 Bxc2 21.Rc1 Bf5
22.Rd1 Bc2 23.Rc1]

17...Bf6

[17...Qc2 18.d5 Na5 19.Nd4 Qxd1
20.Rexd1 (20.Raxd1 Bd7 21.Bd2
b6 22.Bxa5 bxa5 23.Rd3 Rb8
24.Kf1 Kf8) 20...Bd7 21.Bd2 Bf6
22.Bxa5 Bxd4 23.Rxd4 Rxe2]

18.Ra2

[18.Rc1

A) 18...b6 19.h3 (19.c5 Na5
20.Bd2 Qd5 21.Bxa5 bxa5
22.Bc4 Qd7 23.Qb3 a4 24.Qa2
Rxe1+ 25.Rxe1)

A1) 19...Rcd8 20.d5 Bb2
21.Bf1 Bxc1 (21...Qe7 22.Bg5
Qxa3 23.Bxd8 Rxe1 24.Qxe1
Nxd8 25.Qe8+ Qf8 26.Re1)
22.Bxc1 Qb1 23.Rxe8+ Rxe8
24.dxc6;

A2) 19...Bg6 20.c5

A2a) 20...Qd5 21.Bc4 Qd7
22.Qa4 Be4 23.d5

A2a1) 23...Bxf3 24.cxb6
cxb6 (24...Bxd5 25.Bxd5
Qxd5 26.b7 Rb8 27.Rxc6)

25.gxf3 Ne5 26.Qxd7 Nxd7
27.Bb5 Rxc1 28.Rxc1 Rd8
29.Rc7;

A2a2) 23...Nb8 24.Bb5 c6
25.dxc6 Nxc6 26.cxb6;

A2b) 20...Na5 21.Bd2 Qd5
22.Bxa5 bxa5 23.Qa4;

A2c) 20...Ne7 21.Ba6 Rcd8
22.Bg5 Qc6 (22...Qf5 23.g4
Qd7 24.Bxf6 gxf6 25.Qb3)
23.cxb6 Qxb6 24.Bxf6 gxf6
25.Qa4;

B) 18...Rcd8 19.d5 Ne7 20.Nd2
Qh4 21.g3 Qh3 22.Bf1 Qg4
23.Qxg4 Bxg4 24.Ne4 Nxd5
25.cxd5 Rxe4 26.Rxc7;

C) 18...Bg6;

D) 18...h6 19.d5 Ne5 (19...Ne7
20.Nd4 Bd7 21.Bf3 Qg6 22.c5)
20.Bxa7 (20.Nd2 Qh4 21.g3 Qh3
22.Bf1 Qg4 23.Bxa7 b6 24.Qxg4
Nxg4 25.h3 Nxf2 26.Kxf2 Rxe1
27.Rxe1 Ra8 28.Bxb6 cxb6)
20...Nd3 (20...Ra8 21.Bc5 b6
22.Bb4) 21.Bxd3 Qxd3 22.Rxe8+
Rxe8 23.Bd4 (23.Qxd3 Bxd3
24.Bd4 Bxd4 25.Nxd4 Bxc4 26.f3
Bxd5 27.Rxc7) 23...Qxa3 24.Bxf6
gxf6 25.Qd2 (25.Nd4 Qd3
26.Nxf5 Qxf5 27.h3)]

18...b6

[18...Rcd8 19.d5 Ne5 20.Nd2 Qh4
21.g3 Qh3 22.Bf1 Qg4 23.Be2
Qh3]

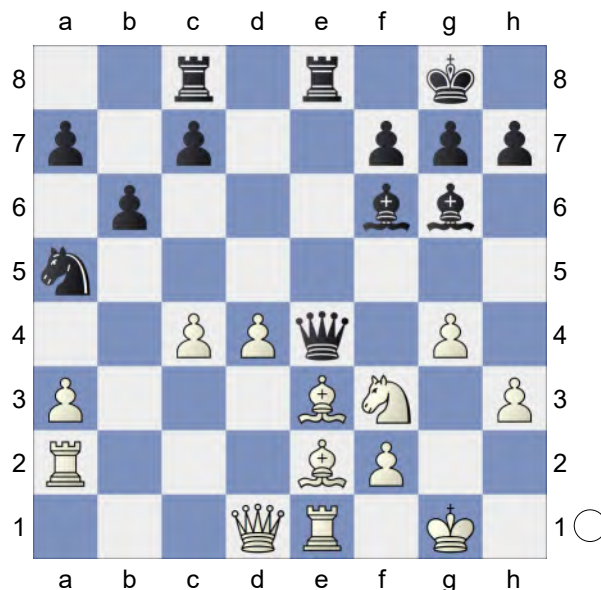
19.h3 Na5 20.g4

[20.Bf1 Qc6 21.d5 Qd6 22.Nd4
Bd7 23.Qd3 c6 24.dxc6 Nxc6]

[20.Bd2 Qb1 21.Qxb1 Bxb1
22.Rxb1 Rxe2 23.Kf1 Rce8 24.Ng1
R2e4 25.Bxa5 bxa5 26.Re2]

20...Bg6

(Diagram)



21.g5 Be7 22.Ne5 Bd6 23.Bd3

[23.Nxg6 hxg6 24.c5 Bf8 25.Bg4
Rcd8 26.Rae2

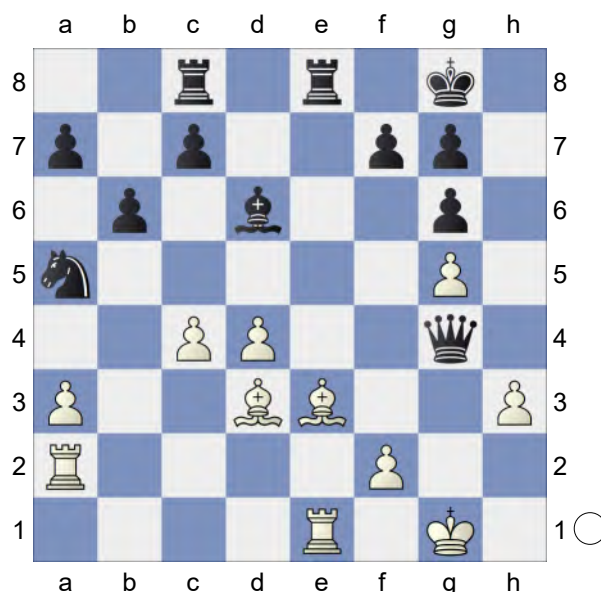
A) 26...Qd5 27.Bf4 Rxe2 28.Qxe2
c6 (28...Qc6 29.Bf3 Qd7)
29.Bc7;

B) 26...Qc6 27.cxb6]

23...Qh4 24.Nxg6 hxg6 25.Qg4

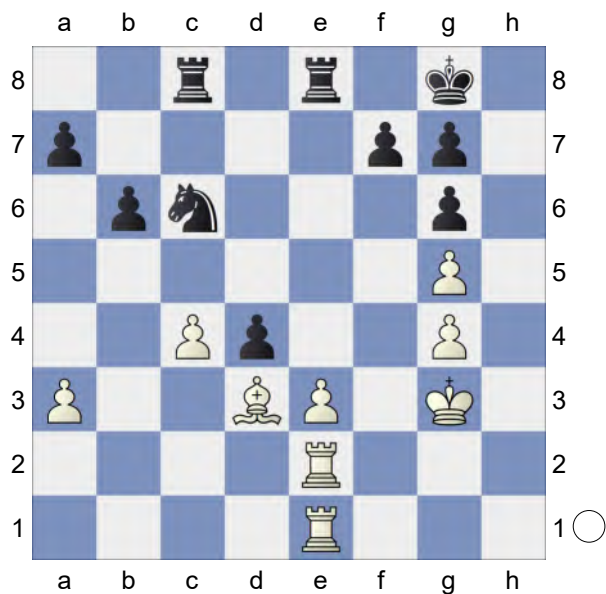
[25.Qf3 Nb3 26.Rae2 c5 27.Bxg6
fxg6 28.Qd5+ Kh7 29.Qxd6 cxd4
30.Bf4 Red8 31.Qe5 d3]

25...Qxg4+

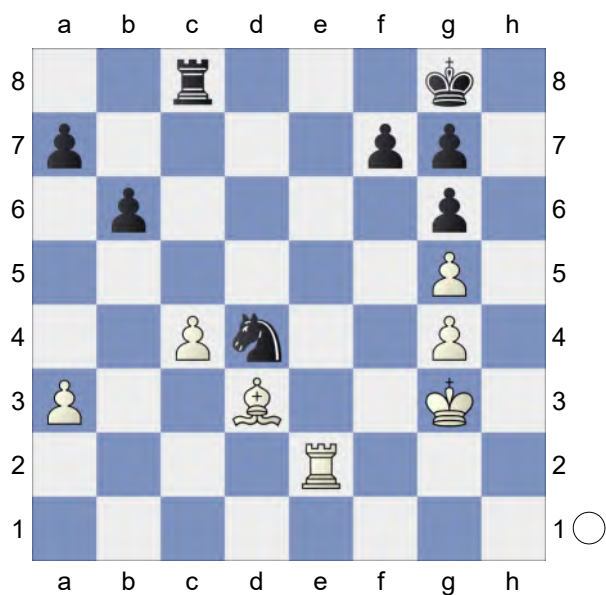


26.hxg4 Bf4

[26...c5 27.d5 Nb3]
27.Rae2 Bxe3 28.fxe3
[28.Rxe3 Rxe3 29.Rxe3 Kf8]
28...c5 29.Kf2 Nc6 30.Kg3 cxd4



31.exd4 Rxe2 32.Rxe2 Nxd4



492

□ 3.g3 b5 4.Bg2 Bb7/ 6.Na

■ Wei,Yi

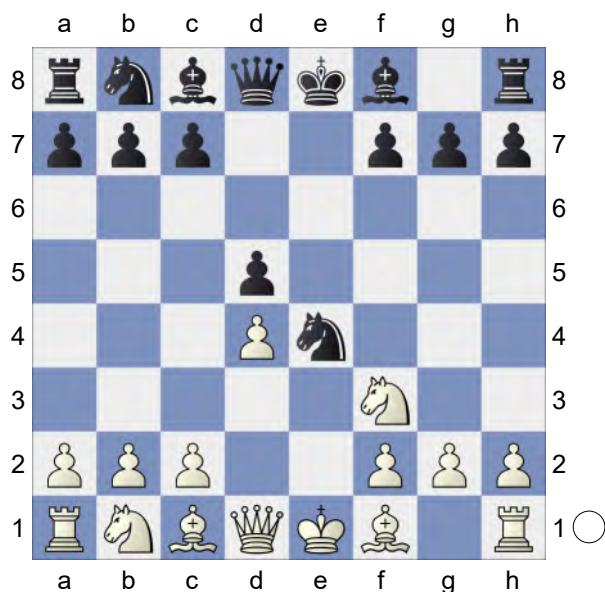
(ol) 121/114

[QCH 6 pp406-7]

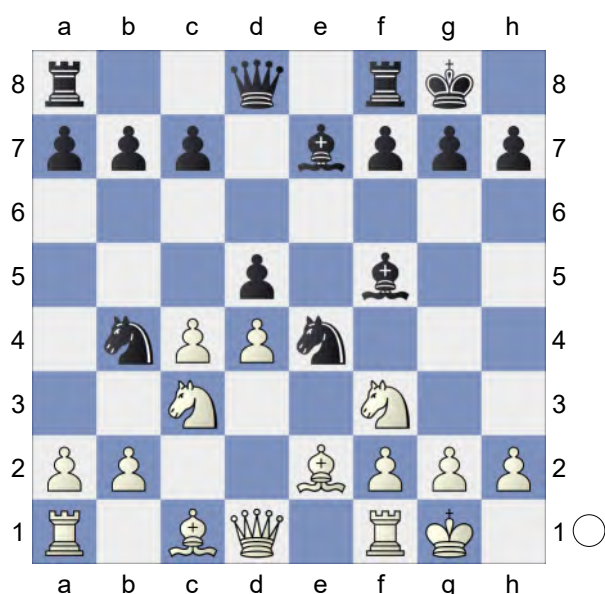
C42

2023

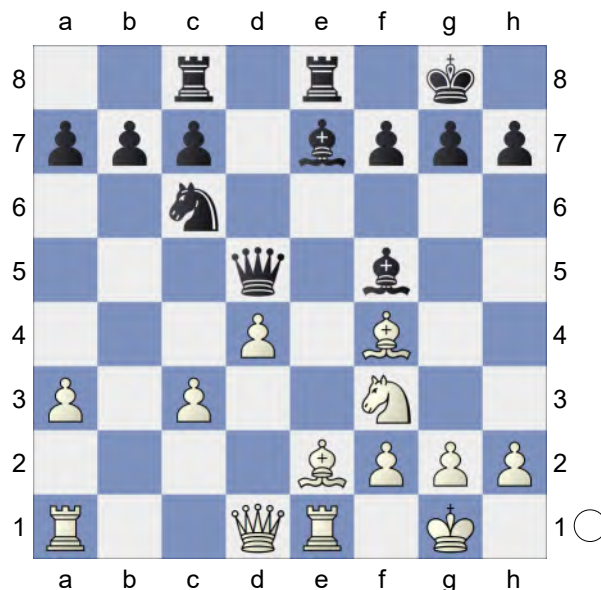
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3
Nxe4 5.d4 d5



6.Bd3 Be7 7.0-0 Nc6 8.c4 Nb4
9.Be2 0-0 10.Nc3 Bf5



11.a3 Nxc3 12.bxc3 Nc6 13.Re1 Re8
14.cxd5 Qxd5 15.Bf4 Rac8



16.c4 Qe4 17.Be3

[17.Qd2 Bf6 18.Bf1 Qc2 19.Rxe8+
Rxe8 20.Qxc2 Bxc2 21.Rc1 Bf5
22.Rd1 Bc2 23.Rc1]

17...Bf6

[17...Qc2 18.d5 Na5 19.Nd4 Qxd1
20.Rexd1 (20.Raxd1 Bd7 21.Bd2
b6 22.Bxa5 bxa5 23.Rd3 Rb8
24.Kf1 Kf8) 20...Bd7 21.Bd2 Bf6
22.Bxa5 Bxd4 23.Rxd4 Rxe2]

18.Ra2

[18.Rc1

A) 18...b6 19.h3 (19.c5 Na5
20.Bd2 Qd5 21.Bxa5 bxa5
22.Bc4 Qd7 23.Qb3 a4 24.Qa2
Rxe1+ 25.Rxe1)

A1) 19...Rcd8 20.d5 Bb2
21.Bf1 Bxc1 (21...Qe7 22.Bg5
Qxa3 23.Bxd8 Rxe1 24.Qxe1
Nxd8 25.Qe8+ Qf8 26.Re1)
22.Bxc1 Qb1 23.Rxe8+ Rxe8
24.dxc6;

A2) 19...Bg6 20.c5

A2a) 20...Qd5 21.Bc4 Qd7
22.Qa4 Be4 23.d5

A2a1) 23...Bxf3 24.cxb6
cxb6 (24...Bxd5 25.Bxd5
Qxd5 26.b7 Rb8 27.Rxc6)

25.gxf3 Ne5 26.Qxd7 Nxd7
27.Bb5 Rxc1 28.Rxc1 Rd8
29.Rc7;

A2a2) 23...Nb8 24.Bb5 c6
25.dxc6 Nxc6 26.cxb6;

A2b) 20...Na5 21.Bd2 Qd5
22.Bxa5 bxa5 23.Qa4;

A2c) 20...Ne7 21.Ba6 Rcd8
22.Bg5 Qc6 (22...Qf5 23.g4
Qd7 24.Bxf6 gxf6 25.Qb3)
23.cxb6 Qxb6 24.Bxf6 gxf6
25.Qa4;

B) 18...Rcd8 19.d5 Ne7 20.Nd2
Qh4 21.g3 Qh3 22.Bf1 Qg4
23.Qxg4 Bxg4 24.Ne4 Nxd5
25.cxd5 Rxe4 26.Rxc7;

C) 18...Bg6;

D) 18...h6 19.d5 Ne5 (19...Ne7
20.Nd4 Bd7 21.Bf3 Qg6 22.c5)
20.Bxa7 (20.Nd2 Qh4 21.g3 Qh3
22.Bf1 Qg4 23.Bxa7 b6 24.Qxg4
Nxg4 25.h3 Nxf2 26.Kxf2 Rxe1
27.Rxe1 Ra8 28.Bxb6 cxb6)
20...Nd3 (20...Ra8 21.Bc5 b6
22.Bb4) 21.Bxd3 Qxd3 22.Rxe8+
Rxe8 23.Bd4 (23.Qxd3 Bxd3
24.Bd4 Bxd4 25.Nxd4 Bxc4 26.f3
Bxd5 27.Rxc7) 23...Qxa3 24.Bxf6
gxf6 25.Qd2 (25.Nd4 Qd3
26.Nxf5 Qxf5 27.h3)]

18...b6

[18...Rcd8 19.d5 Ne5 20.Nd2 Qh4
21.g3 Qh3 22.Bf1 Qg4 23.Be2
Qh3]

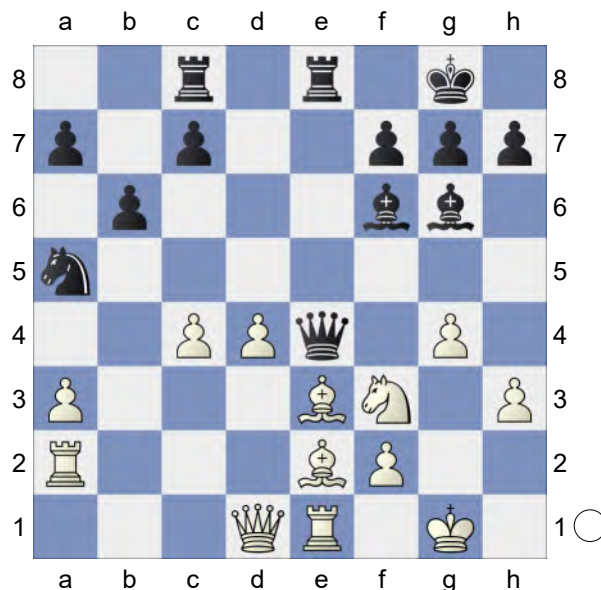
19.h3 Na5 20.g4

[20.Bf1 Qc6 21.d5 Qd6 22.Nd4
Bd7 23.Qd3 c6 24.dxc6 Nxc6]

[20.Bd2 Qb1 21.Qxb1 Bxb1
22.Rxb1 Rxe2 23.Kf1 Rce8 24.Ng1
R2e4 25.Bxa5 bxa5 26.Re2]

20...Bg6

(Diagram)



21.g5 Be7 22.Ne5 Bd6 23.Bd3

[23.Nxg6 hxg6 24.c5 Bf8 25.Bg4
Rcd8 26.Rae2

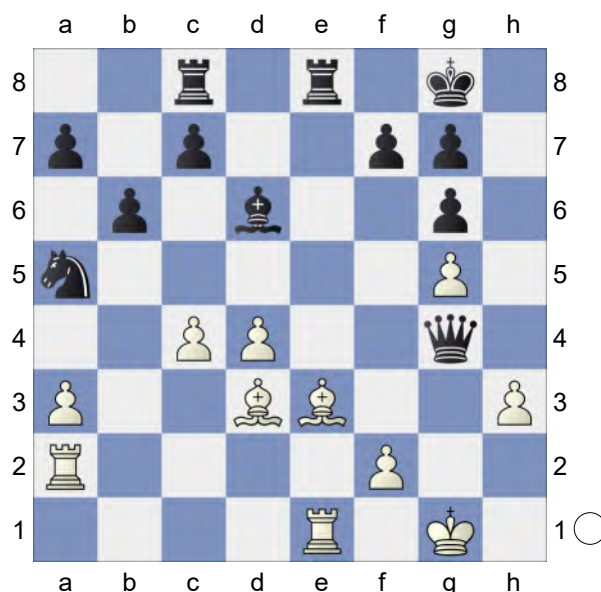
A) 26...Qd5 27.Bf4 Rxe2 28.Qxe2
c6 (28...Qc6 29.Bf3 Qd7)
29.Bc7;

B) 26...Qc6 27.cxb6]

23...Qh4 24.Nxg6 hxg6 25.Qg4

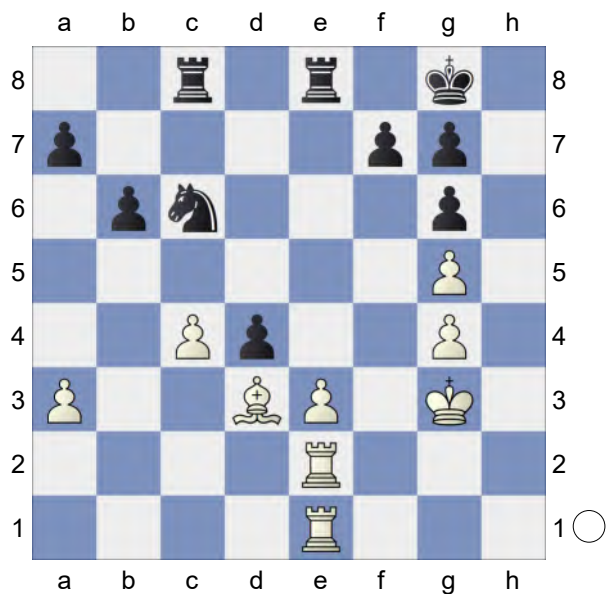
[25.Qf3 Nb3 26.Rae2 c5 27.Bxg6
fxg6 28.Qd5+ Kh7 29.Qxd6 cxd4
30.Bf4 Red8 31.Qe5 d3]

25...Qxg4+

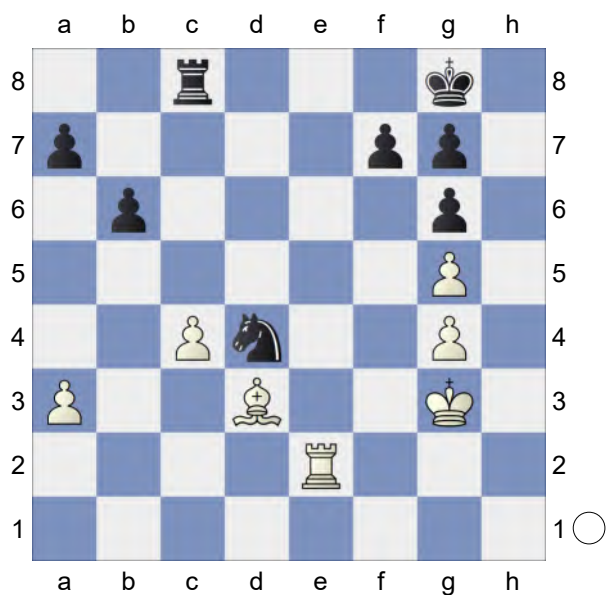


26.hxg4 Bf4

[26...c5 27.d5 Nb3]
27.Rae2 Bxe3 28.fxe3
[28.Rxe3 Rxe3 29.Rxe3 Kf8]
28...c5 29.Kf2 Nc6 30.Kg3 cxd4



31.exd4 Rxe2 32.Rxe2 Nxd4



100

□ Wei, Yi

■ Deac, Bogdan Daniel

Medias King blitz 11th (1.1) 28.11.2017

[Quintiliano, Renato]

A01

2739

2566

1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.e3 Nf6 4.Bb5

This is the main line, in which White intends to press immediately against Black's centre. **4...Bd6** As paradoxical as it may look, this is a good way to protect the pawn.

[4...e4 turns the pawn into a target on e4 5.Ne2 some games continued a6 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.Ng3 h5!? with chances for both sides, but Black is the one who should look for dynamic ideas, or the pawn will become a serious weakness]

[4...d6 generally leaves White with a slightly better structure 5.Ne2 Be7 (5...a6 6.Bxc6+ bxc6 7.d4 doesn't change anything) 6.d4! exd4 7.Nxd4 Bd7 8.Bxc6 bxc6 and White has ensured a small advantage due to Black's doubled pawns 9.Qf3! d5 10.Nf5! forcing exchanges, White is looking for better endgames Bxf5 11.Qxf5 0-0 12.Nd2 Qd7 13.Qxd7 Nxd7 14.Nf3 Bf6 15.0-0-0 1-0 Hodgson, J (2575)-Parcerias, P (2255) EU-Cup sf Breda 1998 (1) and White managed to win the endgame in]

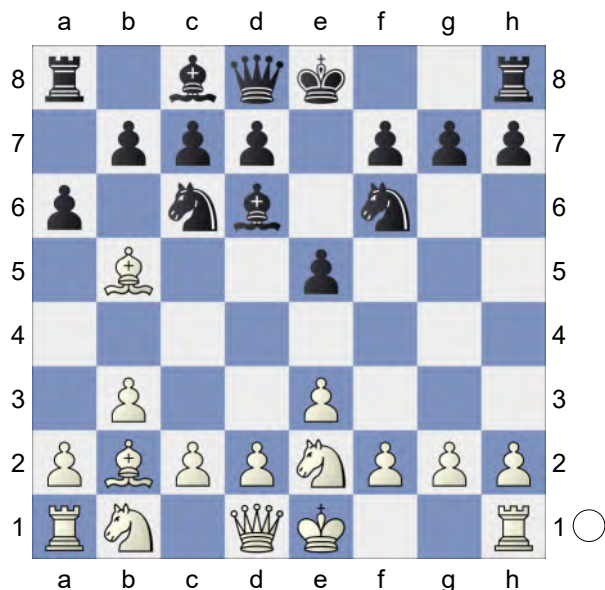
5.Ne2 The second most played idea, and Wey Yi's favorite. White intends to keep his position flexible and explore ideas like g3-f5 or 0-0 followed by f4, in order to open both the d-file and the a1-h8 diagonal for his pieces.

[5.Na3!? looking for quick pressure against the e5-pawn, is the main line.]

5...a6

[In 2016, I faced this position against the same Wey Yi in a blitz game and, after careless play, realised how unpleasant White's ideas can be. Although I had a decent position before starting to make bad moves, I think this game illustrates pretty well some dangers that Black can face if White manages to put all these ideas into practice 5...0-0 6.0-0 Re8 (6...a6 7.Bxc6 dxc6 0-1 Wei, Y (2724)-Karjakin, S (2753) CHN-RUS Super Go 2015 (1.2)) 7.Ng3 a6 (7...Bf8 8.f4 exf4 9.Rxf4↑ ; 1-0 Neiksans, A (2590)-Gumula, D (2218) European Blitz 2017 (11.64) it is not difficult to realise that White's position has great potential -) 8.Be2 Bf8 Black is ready for d5 9.c4 (9.f4 d5 10.fxe5 Nxe5 is ok for Black) 9...d5 10.cxd5 Nxd5 11.Nc3 Nxc3 (11...Be6 0-1 Wei, Y (2734)-Svidler, P (2727) FIDE World Cup 2015 (5.6)) 12.Bxc3 Be6 13.f4 exf4 14.Rxf4 Bd6 15.Re4 Qg5 16.Qe1 Rad8 (16...a5!?) 17.Qf2 Black has a totally acceptable position, but now I took a terribly wrong decision Bxg3?! (17...Qg6! 18.Rf1 Bxg3 19.Qxg3 Qxg3 20.hxg3 Ne7=) 18.hxg3 Bf5? (18...f6) 19.Rf4 Bg6 20.Rf1 and now the defence was very bad f6? (20...Rd7 would keep the position safe) 21.Bc4+ suddenly White is winning with thematic sacrifices on f6 Bf7 22.Bxf7+ Kxf7 23.Rf5! Qg4 24.Rxf6+- 1-0 Wei, Y (2707)-Quintiliano Pinto, R (2484) Wch Blitz Doha 2016 (1)]

(Diagram)



It makes sense to take the bishop pair if Black has the chance. **6.Bxc6 dxc6** It is important to understand this change in pawn structure. **7.d3** Once Black has the bishop pair, White should be careful in opening the position, and start to place the pawns on light squares. This structure resembles some Anti-Berlin or Rossolimo positions, in which White plays Bb5 and takes on c6. In those positions, with the pawn already on e4, the plan is to look for initiative in kingside with f4, or d4 and play with the kingside majority. We can safely add that the bishop is well placed on b2 to support both plans. This is my guess as to why some players like this 5. Ne2 variation. **7...Qe7** Leaving the king on e8 Black has an interesting idea.

[7...0-0 is the most played, and looks very decent. Some recent games show how the game can develop 8.Nd2 Qe7 (8...Re8 9.h3 c5 10.g4!? In a blitz game, White tried this hyper-aggressive idea b5 11.Ng3 Bb7 12.Rg1 suddenly the position becomes very tense and risky for both sides Re6 13.g5 Nd5 14.h4 a5

15.a4 bxa4 16.Rxa4 Nb6 17.Rg4!?∞ $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ Caruana,F (2823)-Anand,V (2779) Saint Louis Showdown Blitz 2016 (12); 8...Be6 9.0-0 Re8 10.e4 a5 11.a4 Nd7 1-0 Moussard,J (2576)-Dek,L (2288) PRO League Central rapid 2017 (3) 12.Nc4!? f6 13.Ne3 Black is very solid, but White is always moving pieces around, preparing f4 or Nf5 in good circumstances) 9.0-0 (9.a4 probably played in order to avoid Ba3 Be6 10.0-0 a5 11.Ng3 Rfe8 12.h3 Nd7 13.e4 b6 1-0 Drozdowski,K (2490)-Miesbauer,J (2321) Ceske Budejovice 2016 (5) 14.Nc4 Bxc4 15.Nf5! Qf8 16.bxc4 g6?! 17.Nxd6 Qxd6 18.f4! exf4 19.Qg4±) 9...Bg4 10.h3 Bh5 11.Qe1 Nd5 12.Ng3 Bg6 13.e4 Nf4 14.Ne2 Ne6 15.Nc4 f6 1-0 Drozdowski,K (2508)-Niemann,H (2273) Dallas UT Fall op 2016 (1) 16.Nxd6 cxd6 (16...Qxd6 17.f4 exf4 18.Qc1) 17.f4 exf4 18.Nxf4 Nxf4 19.Rxf4 Of course it is not much, but White can build up some pressure on the kingside.]

8.Nd2

[The point is if 8.0-0 1-0 Wei,Y (2649)-Lupulescu,C (2643) Bazna Kings blitz 2014 (7) h5!N then Black will be the one looking for the initiative on the kingside, for example 9.Nd2 h4 10.h3 Be6 11.d4 exd4 12.Nxd4 0-0-0 13.Nxe6 Qxe6 14.Qe2 Rhg8 and Black's coming attack looks annoying.]

8...h5!? Even if White doesn't play 0-0, this is an interesting way to seize space on the kingside, and now probably the best idea is put the king on the queenside.

[8...Ba3 is also enough to equalise

9.Bxa3 Qxa3 10.0-0 Bg4 11.f3 Be6
12.d4 exd4 13.Nxd4 0-0-0=
0-1 Vaisser,A (2542)-Maze,S (2553)
FRA-ch 83rd Pau 2008 (9)]

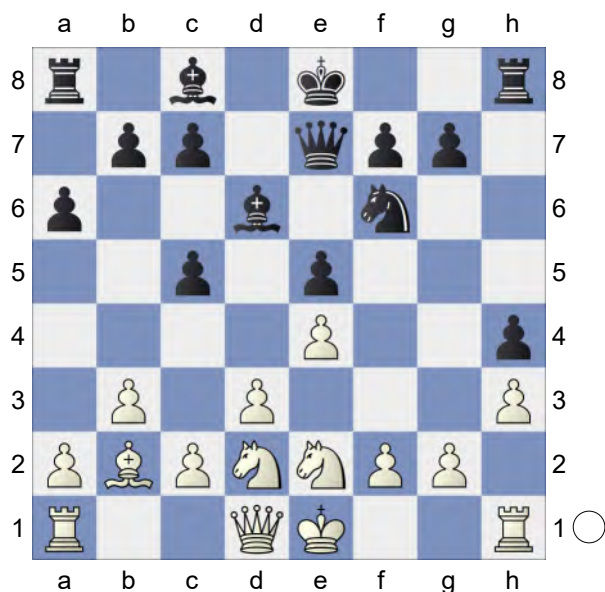
9.e4

[9.h3 Be6 10.e4 0-0-0 actually
White is already in trouble as to
continuing the development, but now
he played with fire 11.f4? exf4 12.0-0
(12.e5 Nd5) 12...Ng4! 13.hxg4
hxg4-+ ;0-1 Soffer,R (2508)-Kravtsiv,
M (2653) EU-ch 18th Minsk 2017 (4)
with a winning attack in]

9...h4! 10.h3 c5?!

[10...Be6? 11.f4!]

[10...Nh5!? keeping an eye on f4
would be more careful 11.Nc4 Bd7
12.Qd2 Bb4! 13.c3 (13.Bc3 Bxc3
14.Qxc3 f6 15.0-0-0 0-0-0=)
13...Bd6 14.0-0-0 0-0-0=]



more space and can press the
kingside pawns.]

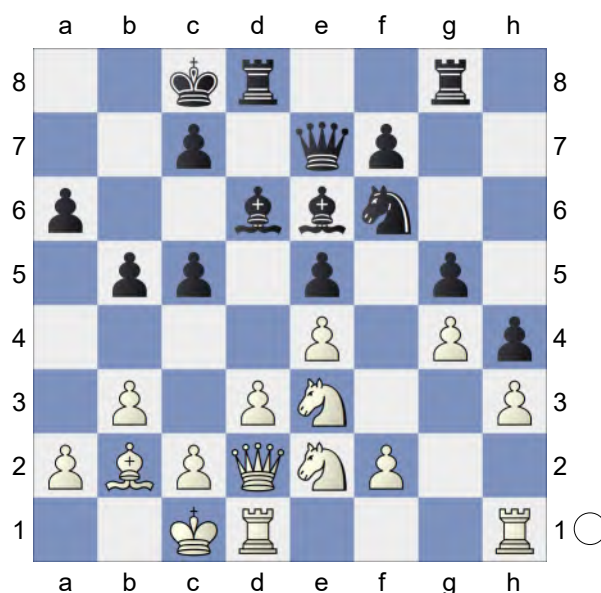
11...g5! Now Black stops f4-ideas at
once. **12.Qd2 Rg8 13.0-0-0 b5**
14.Ne3

[14.Nxd6+ cxd6= is harmless.]

14...Be6 15.g4 After the closing of
kingside, it is difficult for both sides to
make any progress, and the position is
very equal.

[15.Ng1 0-0-0 16.Nf3 Nd7 17.Nh2]

15...0-0-0

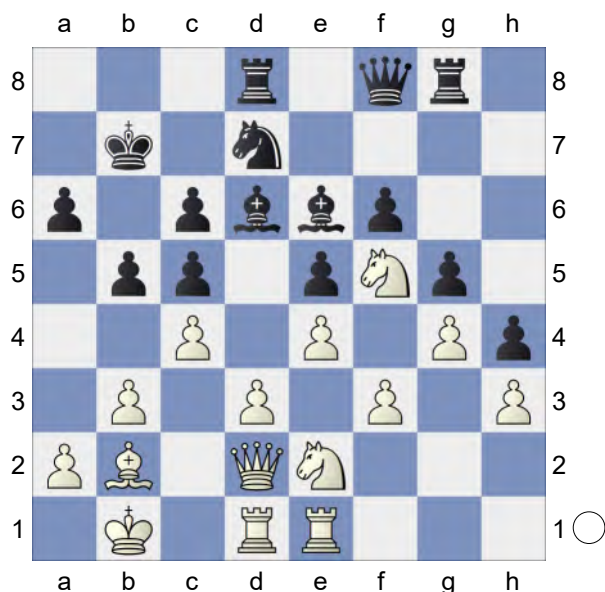


16.c4 c6 17.f3 Nd7 18.Rhe1 f6
19.Nf5 Qf8 20.Kb1 Kb7=

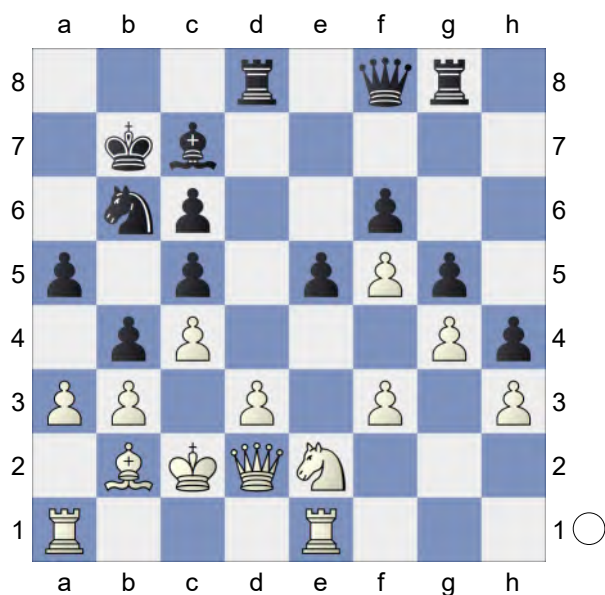
(Diagram)

This allowed a strong continuation for
White. **11.Nc4**

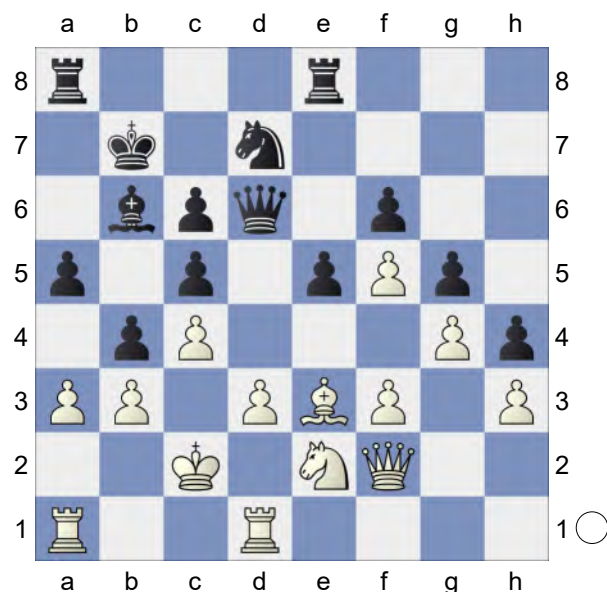
[11.f4! exf4 12.Nc4! would had put
some unexpected problems for Black
f3 13.Nxd6+ (13.gxf3 Bg3+!)
13...cxd6 14.gxf3 Nh5 15.Qd2 Be6
16.0-0-0 0-0-0 17.f4± White enjoys



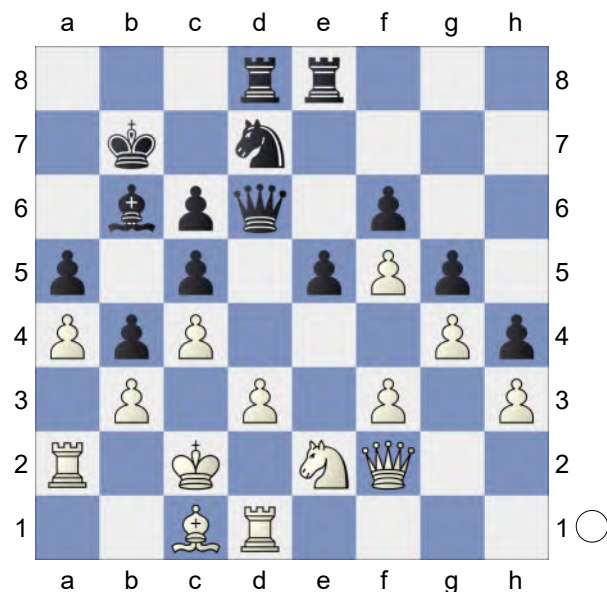
Neither side really wants to force an opening on the queenside where both kings are, and the likely result would be a draw but for it being a blitz game. Wey Yi eventually overpushed in the wrong moment and got an inferior position, then it was Deac's turn to blunder and be lost, but in the end Black won. **21.Rc1 Bxf5 22.exf5 b4 23.Kc2 a5 24.a3 Nb6 25.Ra1 Bc7**



26.Qe3 Qd6 27.Red1 Rge8 28.Bc1 Nd7 29.Qf2 Bb6 30.Be3 Ra8
(Diagram)

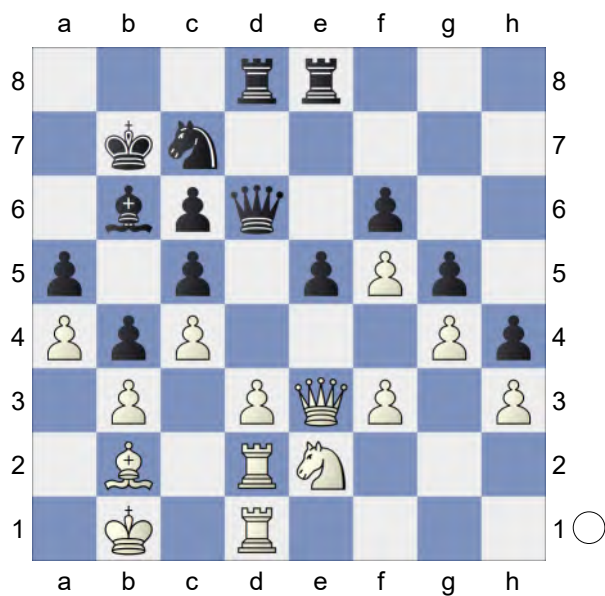


31.Kb2 Ra7 32.Ra2 Rea8 33.a4 Re8 34.Kc2 Raa8 35.Bc1 Rad8

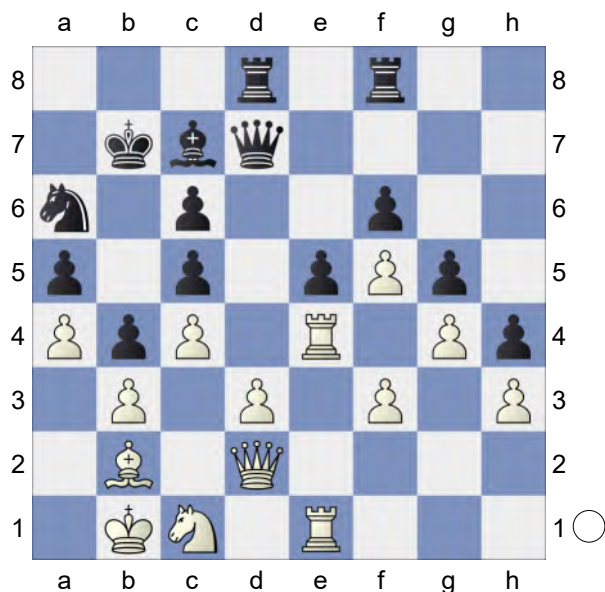


36.Qe3 Nf8 37.Rb2 Nd7 38.Kb1 Nb8 39.Rbd2 Na6 40.Bb2 Nc7

(Diagram)

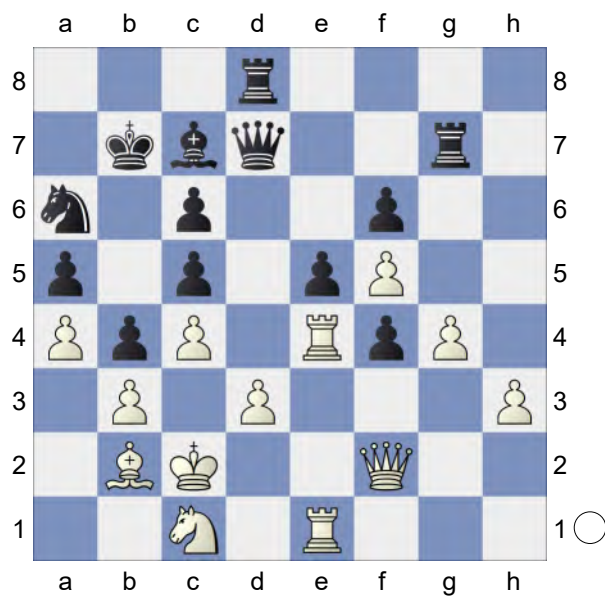


**41.Nc1 Na6 42.Re2 Rf8 43.Qd2 Qc7
44.Re4 Qd7 45.Rde1 Bc7**

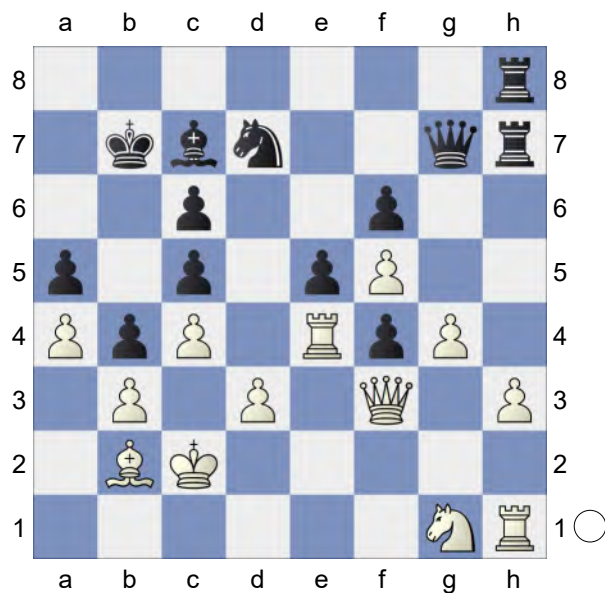


**46.Kc2 Rf7 47.Qf2 Qd6 48.f4? gxf4
49.Qxh4 Qd7 50.Qf2 Rg7**

(Diagram)

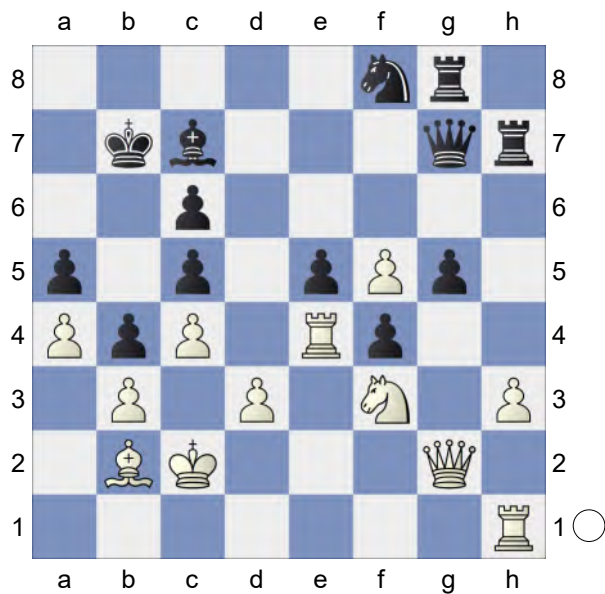


51.Qf1 Rh8 Black simply organises
strong pressure against White's
kingside. **52.Qf3 Rgh7 53.Rh1 Qg7
54.Ne2 Nb8 55.Ng1 Nd7**

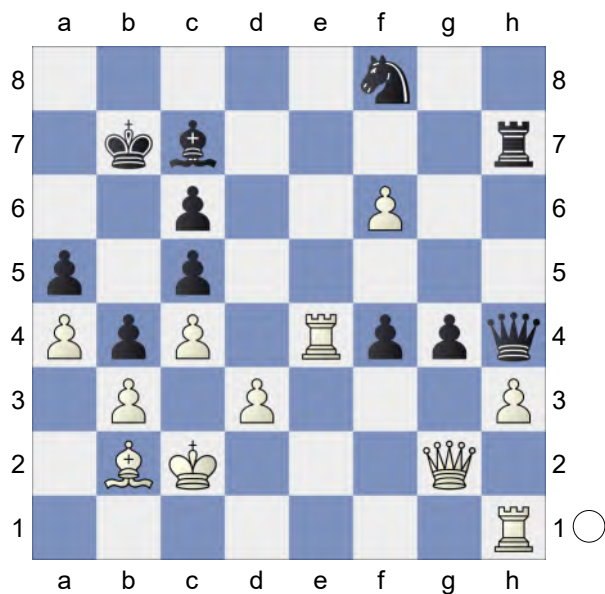


**56.Qg2 Nf8 57.Nf3 Rg8 58.Rhe1 Nd7
59.Rh1 Nf8 60.g5 fxe5?
[60...Rh5 61.Qe2 Rxe5! 62.Nxe5
Qxe5]**

(Diagram)



61.Nxe5 Qh6 62.Ng4+- Qh4 63.Nf6 Rgg7 64.Nxh7 Rxh7 65.f6 g4

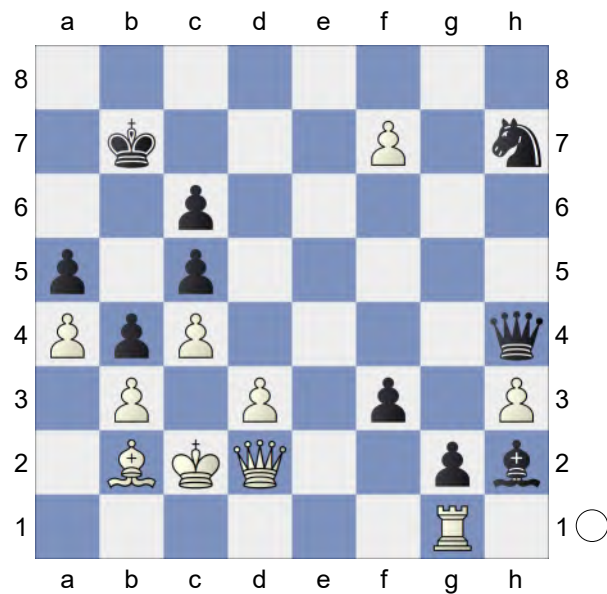


66.Re7 f3 67.Qd2?

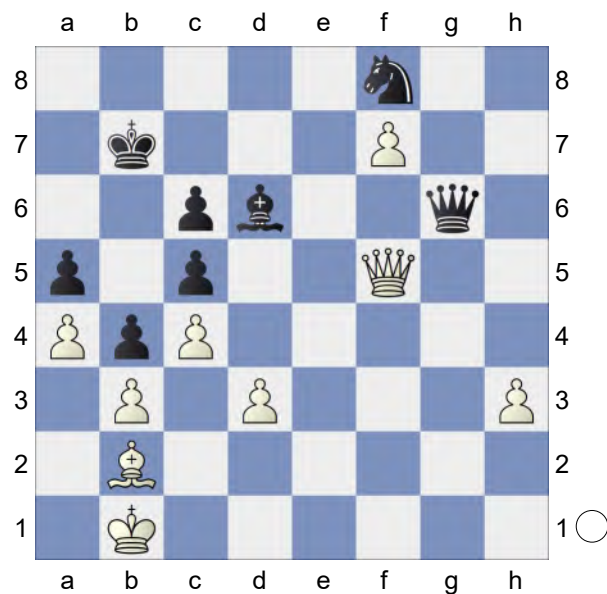
[67.Qf1!+- keeps the f3-pawn under surveillance.]

67...g3+- 68.Rxh7 Nxh7 69.f7 g2 70.Rg1 Bh2

(Diagram)

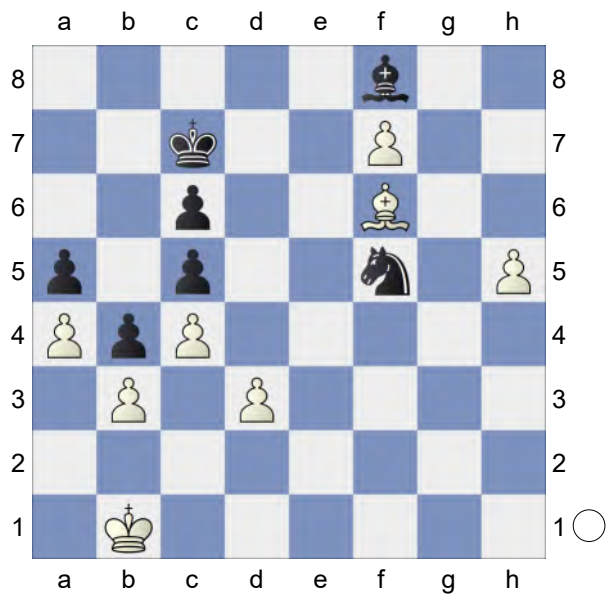


71.Rxg2 fxf2 72.Qxg2 Bd6 73.Qf3 Nf8 74.Qf5 Qg3 75.Kb1 Qg6

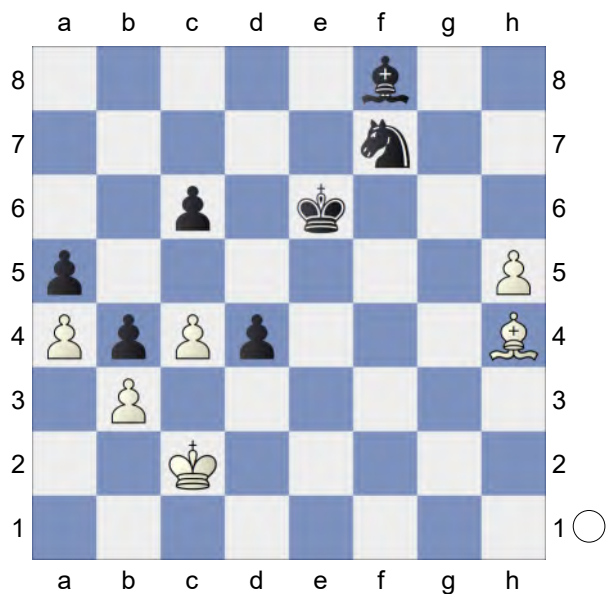


76.Qxg6 Nxg6 77.Bg7 Bf8 78.Bf6 Kc7 79.h4 Ne7 80.h5 Nf5

(Diagram)

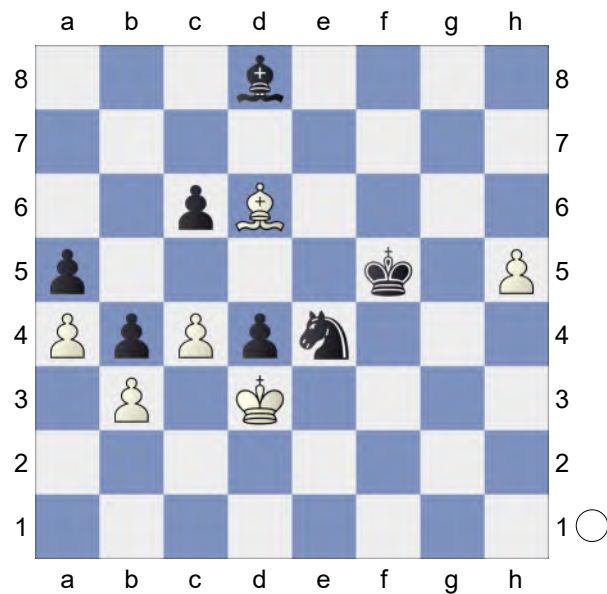


81.Kc2 Nh6 82.Be5+ Kd7 83.d4 Nxf7
84.Bf6 Ke6 85.Bh4 cxd4

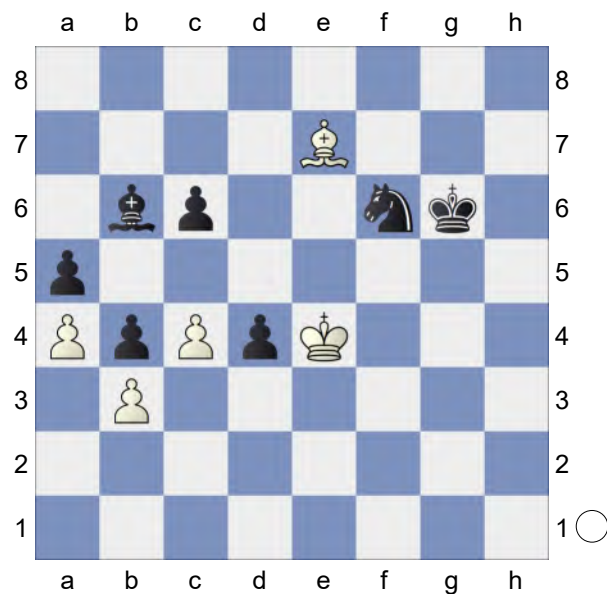


86.Kd3 Be7 87.Bg3 Bd8 88.Ke4
Ng5+ 89.Kd3 Kf5 90.Bd6 Ne4

(Diagram)



91.Bf8 Bb6 92.h6 Nf6 93.Be7 Kg6
94.h7 Nxh7 95.Ke4 Nf6+



96.Ke5 d3

(Diagram)

0-1

94

□ Wei, Yi

■ Deac, Bogdan Daniel

Medias Kings rapid 11th (4) 27.11.2017

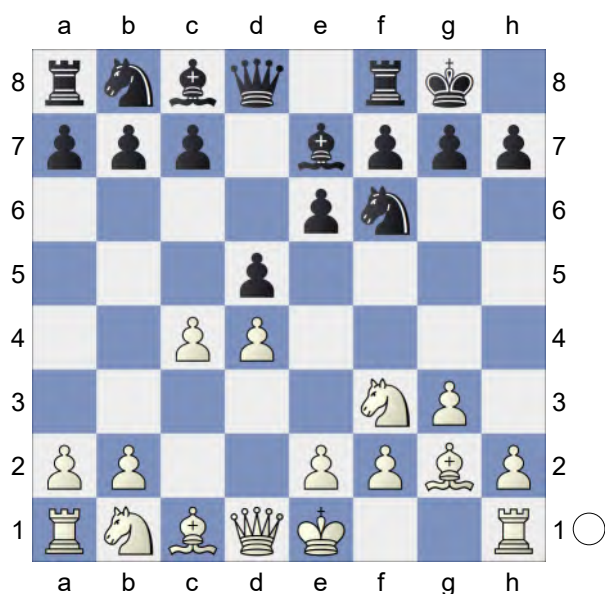
[Quintiliano, Renato]

E05

2739

2566

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 Be7
5.Nf3 0-0

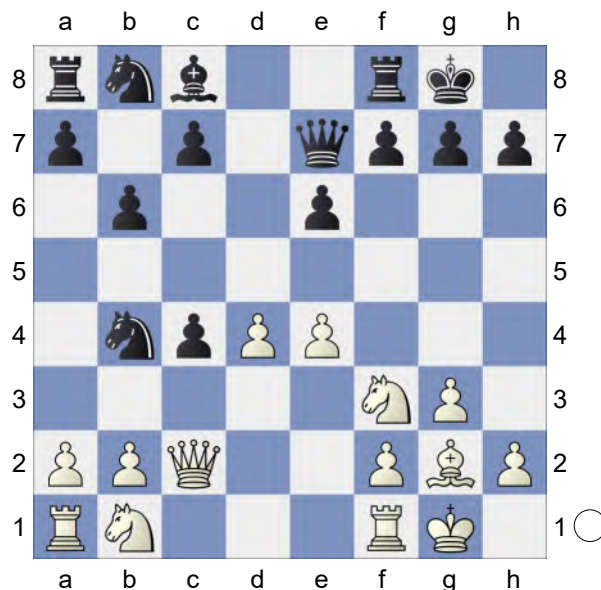


6.0-0 dxc4 7.Qc2 b6!? 8.Bg5 Nd5!
9.Bxe7 Qxe7 10.e4!? Trying to take
advantage of White's lead in
development.

[10.Qxc4 Ba6 11.Qc2 Nd7
;0-1 Studer,N (2493)-Bacrot,E (2715)
Biel GM 50th 2017 (5) was just ok for
Black -]

10...Nb4

(Diagram)



11.Qc3 c5! Black should contest
White's center at the first chance.

[11...Ba6 would be similar, but gives
White more options 12.a3 N4c6
13.Nbd2 (13.d5?! Na5 14.Nbd2
Nd7 15.Rfe1 Rad8) 13...Na5
14.Rfe1 (14.Ne5 c5 15.d5 Nd7
transposes to the game) 14...c5
(14...Nd7) 15.d5! Nd7 16.Bf1
Besides recapturing the pawn and
keeping the f3, which is a better
piece in this structure (see Gelfand-
Hammer), White still has a subtle
threat here, for example Rad8?!
17.b3!]

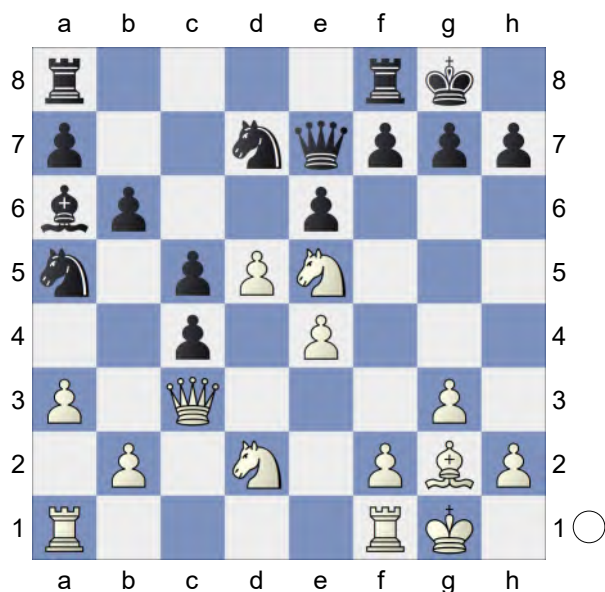
12.a3 N4c6 13.d5 Na5 This knight is
having a lot of work! 14.Nbd2 Ba6
Black tries to solve his development
problem while keeping the material
advantage. 15.Ne5 There are two
games with this move, but the position
is very fresh, maybe White can try
other ideas in future.

[For example 15.Rfe1 Nd7 16.Bf1
reaching the position proposed in the
notes to Black's 11th move Rfe8!
preparing a nice idea (16...exd5
17.exd5 Qf6 18.Ne5!) 17.b4 (17.b3

exd5 18.exd5 Qf6! Now ♖e5 is avoided 19.Qxf6 Nxf6 20.bxc4 Rxe1 21.Rxe1 Re8= Black keeps up good pressure against c4) 17...Nb7 18.Bxc4 Bxc4 19.Nxc4 exd5 20.exd5 Qf6 21.Qxf6 Nxf6 22.d6 Rxe1+ 23.Rxe1 cxb4 24.axb4 Kf8! and again Black is doing fine (24...b5 25.Re7!) 25.Ra1 (25.Re7? Nxd6!) 25...b5 26.Nb6 Rd8 27.Rxa7 Nxd6=]

[15.Nh4!?N also looks very interesting, with ideas of d6, e5 or even f4. It needs to be more deeply analysed and tested, but one illustrative variation could be Nd7 16.e5! (16.Rfe1 exd5 17.exd5 Qf6; 16.f4 Nf6 17.d6 Qd7!∞) 16...exd5 17.Bxd5 Qxe5!? maybe the best practical solution 18.Bxa8 Rxa8 19.Rfe1 Qxc3 20.bxc3 g6=]

15...Nd7



transposes to the game 16.f4 Keeping the tension.

[16.Nexc4 was harmless for Black exd5 17.exd5 Qf6 18.Rfc1 Nxc4 19.Nxc4 Qxc3 20.Rxc3 Bxc4 21.Rxc4 Rfe8= ½-½ Gelfand,B

(2737)-Hammer,J (2632) 21st European Teams 2017 (1.5)]

16...Nf6 The position remains tense and Black should be careful, but he has already finished his development and kept the pawn. **17.Rae1**

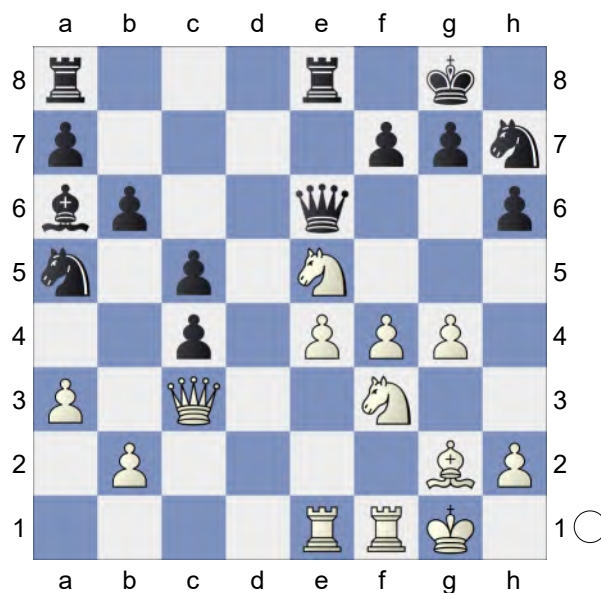
[17.Ndxc4 wouldn't make sense Nxc4 18.Nxc4 Bxc4 19.Qxc4 exd5 20.exd5 Qe3+! 21.Kh1 Rfe8 Black has a pleasant position]

17...Rfe8 Deac has obtained an easier position. **18.dxe6?!**

[18.Ndf3! was interesting and difficult to calculate h6 (18...exd5 19.exd5 Nxd5? 20.Qc2 Nf6 21.Ng5 Rad8 22.Ng4!+-) 19.Ng5! hxg5 20.fxg5 Nh7 21.Rxf7 Qxg5 (21...Qxf7 22.Nxf7 Kxf7 23.e5+-) 22.h4! Qh6 23.Ng4 Qg6 24.Ne5 Qh6 25.Ng4 a funny draw :)]

18...Qxe6 19.Ndf3 h6 20.g4 Nh7?

[20...Bb7! would be very annoying for White]



Now the game becomes very unclear and there are mistakes on both sides, probably due to time pressure on the players. **21.h4**

[21.Nh4!?]

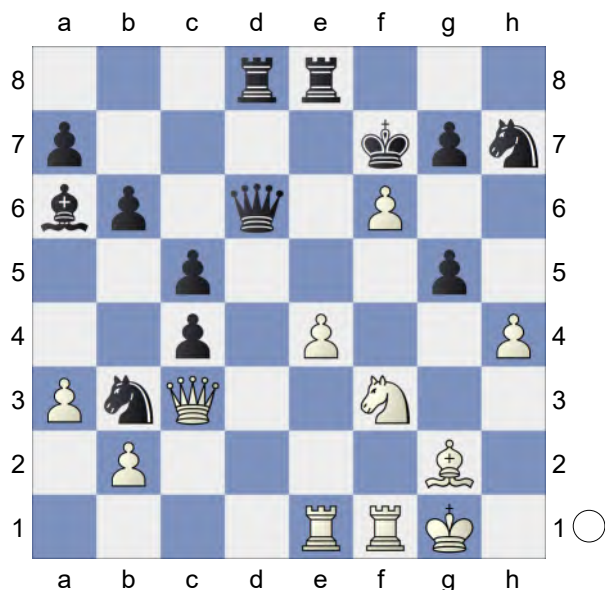
21...Nb3! The knight is coming back to the game. **22.g5 Rad8**

[A more precise move was 22...hgx5 23.hxg5 Nd4! 24.f5 (24.Nxd4 cxd4 25.Qxd4 Nxd5!) 24...Qe7 25.Nxf7! Qxf7 26.g6 Qe7 27.gxh7+ Kh8!∞]

23.f5→ The attack looks very threatening now. **23...Qd6 24.f6?** But the execution was wrong.

[24.Nxf7! Kxf7 25.e5! The pawns rolling over Black's position give a good signal of what is coming Qc7 (25...Qe7 26.g6+ Kg8 27.gxh7+ Kh8 28.f6 Qe6 29.h5!+-) 26.e6+ Kg8 27.f6! Black's position is crushed by the pawns gxf6 28.gxf6 Nxf6□ 29.Qxf6 Qg7 30.Ne5!+-]

24...hgx5 25.Nxf7 Kxf7



26.e5 Qd7? In time pressure, both attack and defence are difficult to handle.

[26...Qe6 27.hxg5 g6!+-]

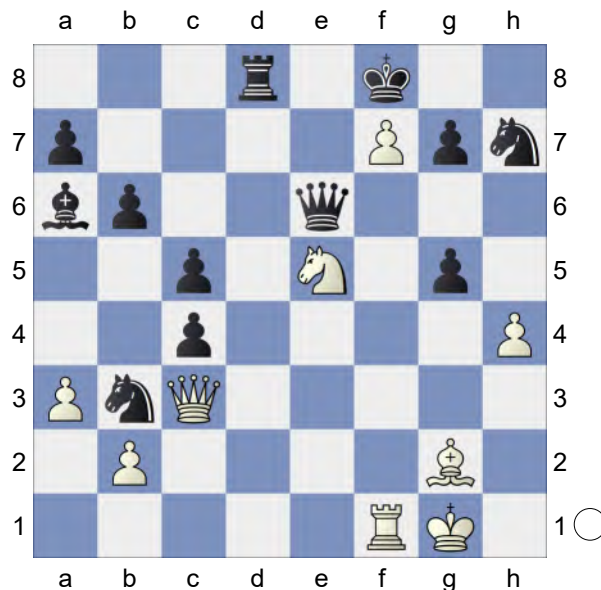
27.e6+?!

[27.hxg5! Nd4 (27...g6 28.e6+ Rxe6 29.Bh3+-) 28.g6+! Kxg6 29.Nh4+ Kf7 30.Qg3→]

27...Rxe6 28.Rxe6?

[28.Bh3! g4! 29.Bxg4 Rxe1 30.Bxd7 Rxf1+ 31.Kxf1 Nxf6! 32.Ng5+ Kg8 33.Be6+ Kf8 34.Ke1!±]

28...Qxe6-+ 29.Ne5+ Kg8 30.f7+ Kf8



31.Bh3 g4?!

[31...Qd6-+]

32.Bxg4 Qh6?? Between time pressure and the many complications of a difficult position, suddenly White is winning again. **33.Nd7+**

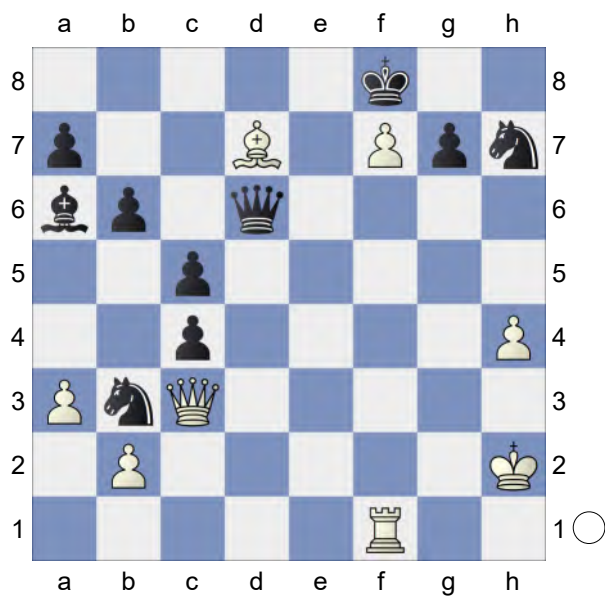
[33.Qe1!! Nf6 (33...Bb5 34.Qe4 Nf6 35.Ng6+ Kxf7 36.Be6+ Ke8 37.Bxc4+!! Nxe4 38.Bxb5+ Rd7 39.Rf8# A spectacular mate!) 34.Nc6! Rd7 35.Bxd7+-]

33...Rxd7 34.Bxd7 Now the emotion is over and Black is winning.

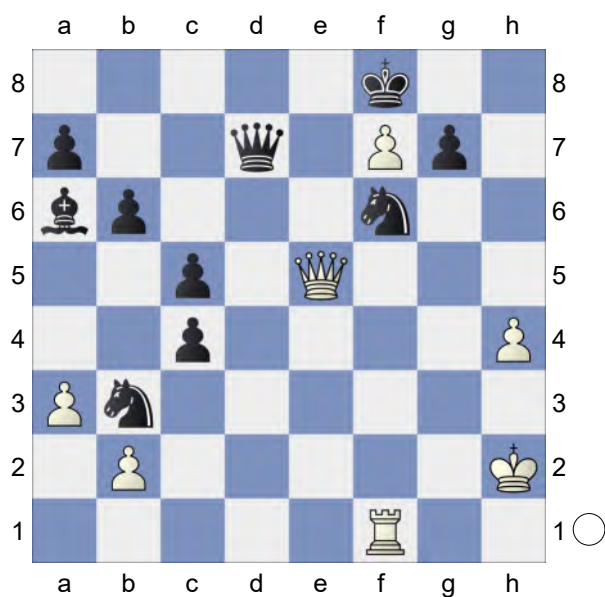
[34.Qe5! Rd8 (34...Nf6 35.Rxf6) 35.Re1 Kxf7 36.Qe7+ Kg8 37.Qxd8+ Nf8 38.Be6+ Kh7 39.Qxf8 Qg6+ 40.Kf2!+-]

34...Qg6+ 35.Kh2 Qd6+

(Diagram)



36.Qg3 Qxd7 37.Qe5 Nf6



A tense and complicated game, in a short time control where neither player was able to find the best moves all the time. But it was theoretically interesting for this variation, showing some aggressive ideas for White and how to handle the position for Black.

0-1

420

Shimanov,Alexandr

Wei,Yi

Wch U20 Athens (9)

[R.Scherbakov]

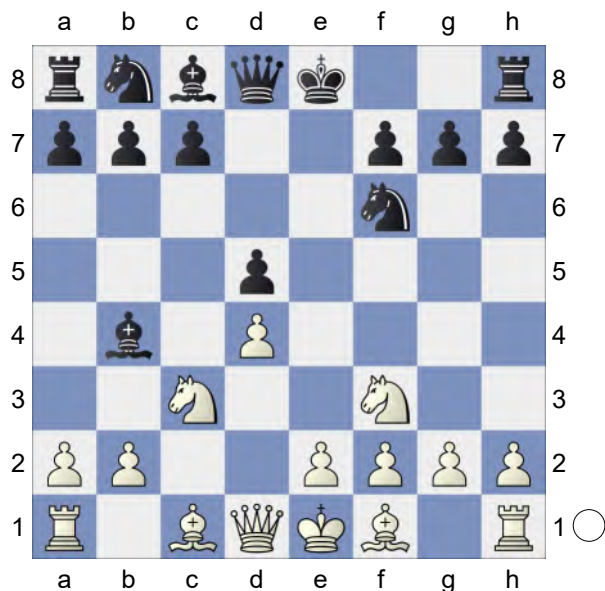
D38

2596

2418

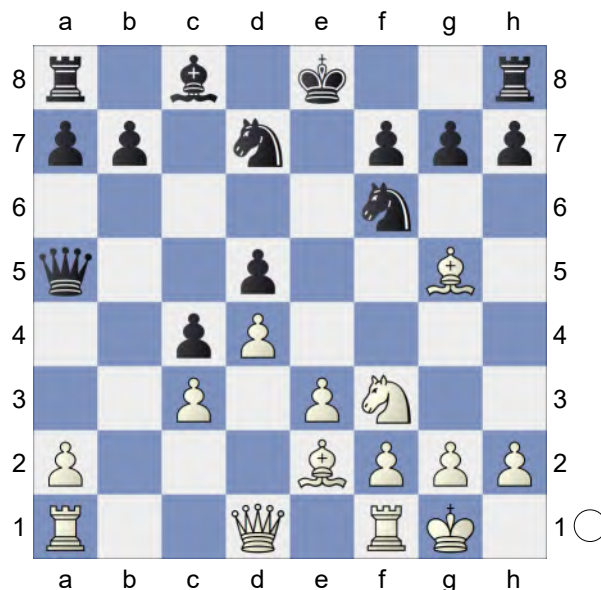
11.08.2012

An important theoretical dispute in a recently popular line. Black reacted in the most principled way but White's trumps still turned out to be higher. It seems that Black has to work out his defence more precisely or choose some other earlier way... **1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.cxd5 exd5**



6.Bg5 Nbd7 7.e3 c5 8.Be2
 Recently this modest bishop's advance is becoming more popular than the approved **8. Bd3. 8...Qa5 9.0-0 Bxc3 10.bxc3 c4**

(Diagram)



11.Qc2 Ne4 12.Rac1 This position is being tested these days. **12...Nb6** A typical manoeuvre. Black is heading his knight towards White's Q-side, at the same time opening a route for his light-squared bishop. However, his K-side might lack protection.

[12...0-0? fails to 13.Bxc4!]

[12...b5?! 13.Bf4 Bb7 14.Ne5 Nb6 15.f3 Nd6 16.Nc6! Qa3 17.Na5! Bc8 18.e4 was favourable for White in the game Hammer - Aleksandrov, Dubai 2011]

[12...Nxg5!? is playable: 13.Nxg5 Nf6 (13...h6 14.Nf3 0-0 15.Nd2± was somewhat better for White in Edouard - Moor, Switzerland 2012) 14.e4 h6 15.Nxf7!? (15.Nf3!? Nxe4 16.Bxc4 is worth considering) 15...Kxf7 16.e5 Ne8!? (after 16...Nh7 17.Bh5+ Kg8 18.Qg6 Nf8 19.Qf7+ Kh7 20.f4 Bd7 21.f5 White has obtained excellent compensation for the piece, Douven - Ikonnikov, Sochi 1990) 17.Bh5+ Ke7 18.f4 Kd8 19.f5 Bd7 with a very unclear position, in which White keeps sufficient compensation for the

piece thanks to his powerful central passers. The game Cheparinov - Alekseev, Moscow 2011, continued 20.Rce1 Qa3 21.Qd2 (21.Qf2!? Qxc3 22.Bf7[∞]) 21...Bc6 (21...Kc7!? 22.Qf4 Kb6) 22.Qf4 Kc7 23.Qg3 Kb6 24.Rb1+ Ka6 and here a draw was agreed though Black's chances are probably better.]

13.Bf4 0-0

[13...Qa4 14.Qb2± didn't improve Black's position much in Dambacher - Halkias, Netherlands 2007.]

14.Ne5!? White begins action in the center without delay.

[Alexander already tried 14.Rfe1 Re8 15.Ng5 Bf5 16.Nxe4 Bxe4 17.Qb2 Na4 18.Qa3 b5 and Black has got acceptable play. The game Shimanov - Gajewski, Stockholm 2011 continued 19.f3 Bg6 20.Bd1 Rac8? (20...Bd3! was fine for Black) 21.Re2 Re6 22.Rb2! Ra6 23.Bxa4 Qxa4 24.Qxa4 Rxa4 25.Rxb5 Rxa2 26.Rxd5 and White converted his extra pawn.]

[14.Nd2 Bf5 is fine for Black: 15.Nxe4 Bxe4 16.Qd2 Qa3 17.h4 Rfe8 18.h5 h6 and Black has obtained some edge though she eventually lost, Zhao Xue - Koneru, Nalchik 2010]

[14.Ng5 , which has been played in Zhao Xue - T.Kosintseva, Nalchik 2010, should have been met by the simple Bf5]

[The rather unexpected 14.Nh4!? is worth considering: f6 15.f3 Ng5 16.e4 Nf7 17.Nf5 Bxf5 18.exf5 Rae8 19.Rce1 Na4 20.Bd2 b5 21.Bd1 a6 22.g4 Nd8 23.h4 Nc6 24.Kg2 Nb6 25.g5 and White has got the better chances, Tseng - Vetter, corr. 2010.]

14...g5!? A principled but very risky reply, which must be thoroughly prepared at home. Black also tried some other options, let's take a look at them.

[An immediate 14...f6? would not be too good - White simply grabs the pawn by 15.Nxc4!]

[14...Nd6?! is a clear mistake due to 15.Nc6! bxc6 16.Bxd6 , Kalinitschew - Tischbierek, Berlin East 1984]

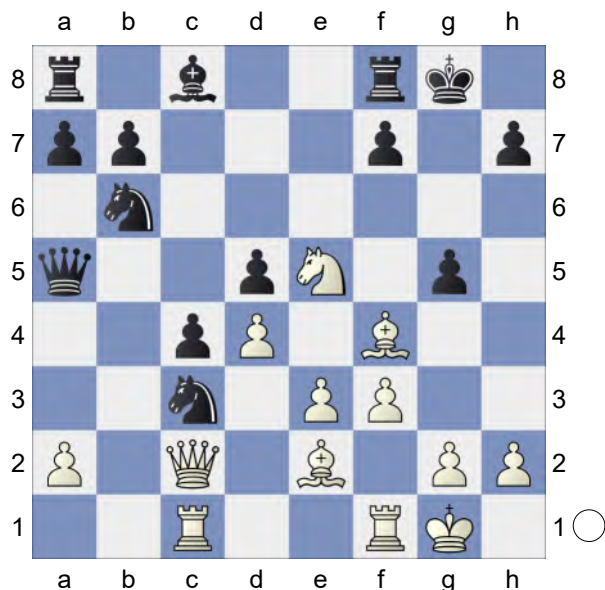
[14...Qa4!? is not so clear. Here White can think about 15.f3!? (15.Qb2 f6 looks acceptable for Black, who has successfully pushed the knight away, Izeta - Campos, Seville 1990) 15...Qxc2 16.Rxc2± with somewhat better chances in the ending.]

[Black did not equalise after 14...Re8 15.f3 Nd6 16.e4 Be6 17.Ng4 Nb5 18.Ne3± , Ding Liren - Hou Yifan, Danzhou 2012]

[14...Bf5 15.g4! Be6 16.f3 Nf6 has been played in Douven - I.Rogers, Groningen 1988. White's chances look preferable but he should have probably thought about his e-pawn advance now, or later while in the game he played 17.Bg3 Rfe8 18.Rf2 Qa3 19.h4 Na4 20.h5 a5 21.Bh4 (21.h6!?) 21...Nd7 22.f4?! f6 23.f5?! fxe5 24.fxe6 Rxe6 25.Rcf1 Nxc3 26.Qf5 Nxe2+ 27.Rxe2 Qd6 and found himself in a lost position.]

15.f3 Nxc3

(Diagram)



16.Bxg5 Nxe2+ 17.Qxe2 f6 18.Bh6

[18.f4 did not create any problems:
fxg5 19.Qh5 Bf5 20.g4! Qa3
21.Qxg5+ Kh8 22.gxf5 Qxe3+
with a draw.]

18...fxe5 19.Bxf8 Kxf8 20.f4! exd4?

[20...e4! should have been played,
keeping the center closed. The
following brief analysis shows that
Black still faces real problems, but he
keeps chances to hold on: 21.f5
(21.Qh5 Be6!?) 21...Qa3! 22.Qh5

A) 22...Qxe3+ 23.Kh1 h6
does not help:

A1) 24.h4!? is also interesting:
Bd7 (24...Qg3 25.f6 Be6
26.Qxh6+ Ke8 27.f7+! Bxf7
28.Rxf7 Kxf7 29.Rf1+ Kg8
30.Rf5+-) 25.Qg6 Ke7 26.f6+
Kd6 27.Qg7 Qxd4 28.Qe7+
Kc7 29.f7 e3 30.f8Q Rxf8
31.Rxf8 though Black is still alive
after e2! 32.Qxe2 Qxh4+
33.Kg1 Qd4+ 34.Kf1 Bg4
35.Qf2 Qxf2+ 36.Kxf2 Kd6
and his passers keep White in
tension;

A2) 24.Qg6 Qg5 25.Qd6+ Qe7

26.Qxh6+ Qg7 27.Qh4→
with a strong attack.;

B) 22...Qe7 23.Rf4 (in case of
23.f6? Qf7 24.Qh6+ Kg8
there was no way to transfer
White's rook to the g-file) 23...Kg8
(23...Bd7 24.Rg4! Qa3! 25.Re1
Ke7 26.Qxh7+ Kd6 27.Qg7 Re8
28.Rg6+ Kc7 29.f6 c3 30.f7 Rf8
31.Qe5+ Kc8 32.Rg8 c2 33.h4±)
24.Rcf1 Bd7 25.a4!! (otherwise
White could hardly make progress)
c3! (25...Nxa4?! 26.f6 Qf7
27.Qg5+ Kh8 28.Qg7+! Qxg7
29.fxg7+ Kxg7 30.Rf7+ Kg6?
31.R1f6+ Kg5 32.Rd6+-) 26.a5
Nc4 27.f6 Qf7 28.Qg5+ Kh8
29.Qg7+ Qxg7 30.fxg7+ Kxg7
31.Rf7+ Kg6

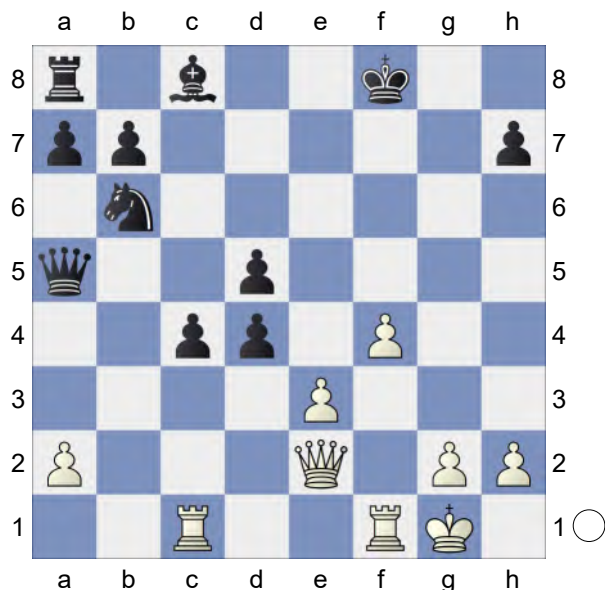
B1) or 32.h4 Rg8 (32...Nxe3??
33.R1f6+ Kh5 34.Rxh7+ Kg4
35.Rg7+ Kh5 36.g3+-)

B1a) 33.g4 Kh6!
(33...Bxg4?? 34.R1f6+ Kh5
35.Rxh7#);

B1b) 33.Rxd7 Nxe3 34.Rc1
Kf5! 35.Kf2 Ng4+ 36.Ke1
Ne3 37.Rxc3 Nxc2+
followed by ...Ng2xh4±;

B2) 32.Rxd7 b5! 33.Rxd5 Nxe3
34.Rd6+ Kg5 35.Rb1 a6
(35...c2 36.Rxb5+ Kg4 37.h3+
Kg3 38.Rg5+ Kh4 39.Rc5 Rf8
40.Rd7! Rf1+ 41.Kh2 Ng4+!
42.hxg4 c1Q 43.Rxc1 Rxc1
with decent drawing chances)
36.Rc6 Nc4 37.Rc1 e3
38.Rxc3 Kf5 and Black keeps
good drawing chances thanks to
his active pieces and the e-
passer.]

(Diagram)

**21.f5!**

[21.exd4? would be a waste of important time: Bf5 (21...Bd7!?)
 22.Qe5 Be4 23.Rce1 Qa3
 and White had to force a draw by
 24.Rxe4 dxe4 25.Re1 Qe7 26.Qh8+
 Kf7 27.Qxh7+ Kf8 28.Qh8+=]

21...Qc5

[21...Qa3 did not help either: 22.exd4
 (22.f6?? Qxe3+; 22.Qh5!? Qe7
 23.Rf3! Qf7 24.Qh6+ Ke8
 25.exd4→) 22...Qe7 23.Qh5 Qf6
 24.Rce1 with a decisive attack: Bd7
 25.Qxh7 c3 26.Re3 c2 27.Rg3+-]

22.f6!

[Surely not 22.exd4? Qxd4+ 23.Kh1
 Qf6]
 [but White could have begun with
 22.Qh5]

22...d3

[Or 22...dxe3 23.Qh5! Be6 24.Qxh7
 e2+ 25.Rf2 d4 26.Qg7+ Ke8 27.f7+
 Bxf7 28.Rxe2+! Kd8 29.Qf6+ Kc8
 30.Re7+-]

23.Qh5 Qxe3+

[23...Be6 24.Qxh7+-]
 [23...Nd7 24.Rf3+-]

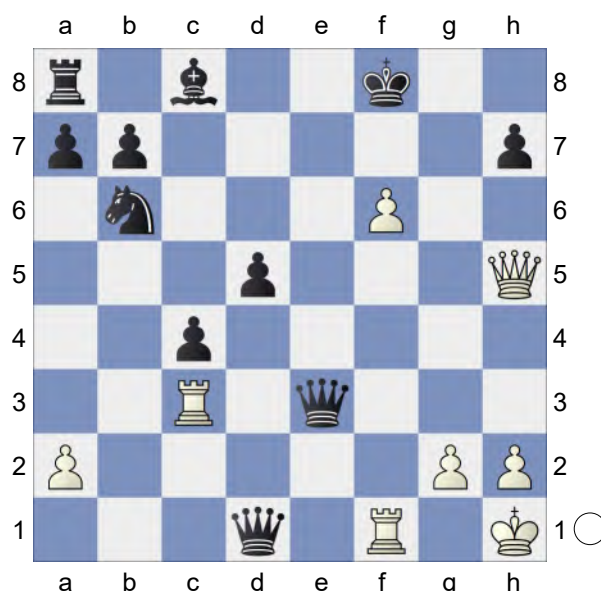
24.Kh1 d2 Black was probably hoping

for this resource but... **25.Rc3!**
 The only way!

[25.Rcd1? was slow: Bh3! 26.Qxh7
 Bxg2+ 27.Kxg2 Qe4+ 28.Qxe4 dxe4
 29.Rxd2 Kf7 and Black was
 fighting.]

25...d1Q

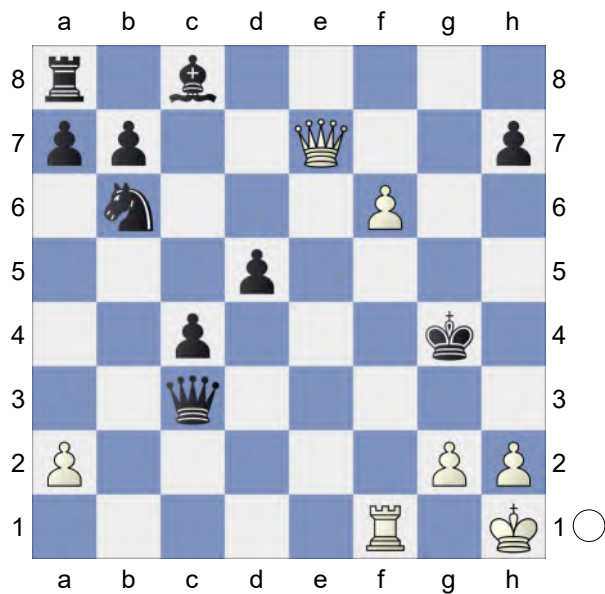
[The rook was untouchable: 25...Qxc3
 26.Qh6+ White gets a second queen
 soon.]

**26.Rxd1 Qxc3 27.Qh6+ Kf7**

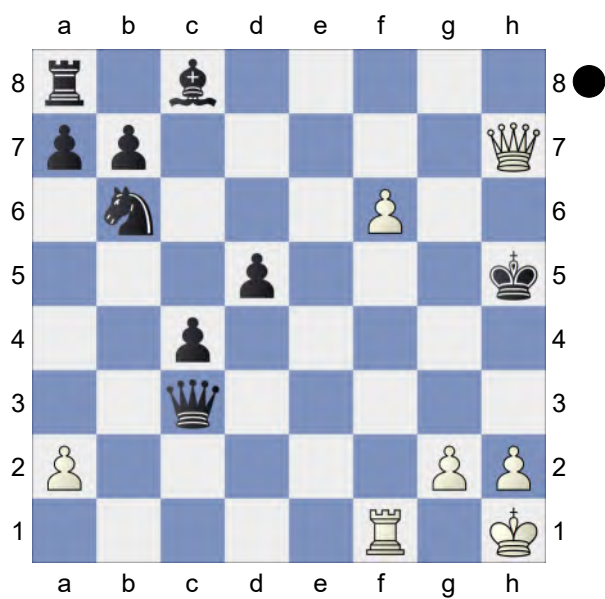
[27...Ke8 28.Qg7]

28.Qg7+ Ke6 29.Qe7+ Kf5 30.Rf1+ Kg4

(Diagram)



31.Qg7+ Kh5 32.Qxh7+



and Black resigned in view of the quick mate.

1-0

465

□ Ju, Wenjun

■ Wei, Yi

Asian Continental (1)

[R. Scherbakov]

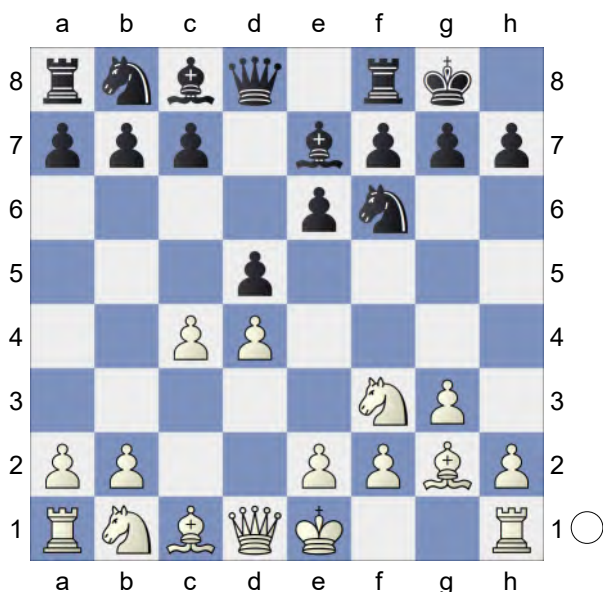
E05

2529

2376

05.05.2012

White's pawn sacrifice seems to be the most dangerous way to counter his opponent's set-up. White is gaining time by pursuing Black's queen but it is still not easy to convert certain pressure into something substantial... **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3 Be7 5.Bg2 0-0**



6.0-0 dxc4 7.Qc2 b5 8.a4 b4 9.Nfd2!? This somewhat unexpected retreat seems to be the most dangerous for Black. **9...c6 10.Nxc4 Qxd4**

[In the game Mikhalevski - Hess, Wheeling 2012, Black rejected the gift: 10...Ba6!? 11.Rd1 Nbd7

A) 12.Bxc6? Rc8 13.Bb5 Bb7 14.Qd3 Be4!? (14...a6 15.Bxd7 Qxd7=) 15.Qd2 Nb8!? 16.Ne5 Bc2 17.Re1 Ne4 18.Qe3 Nd6= 19.Bd3 Nf5 20.Bxf5 exf5 21.Nd2 Re8↑;

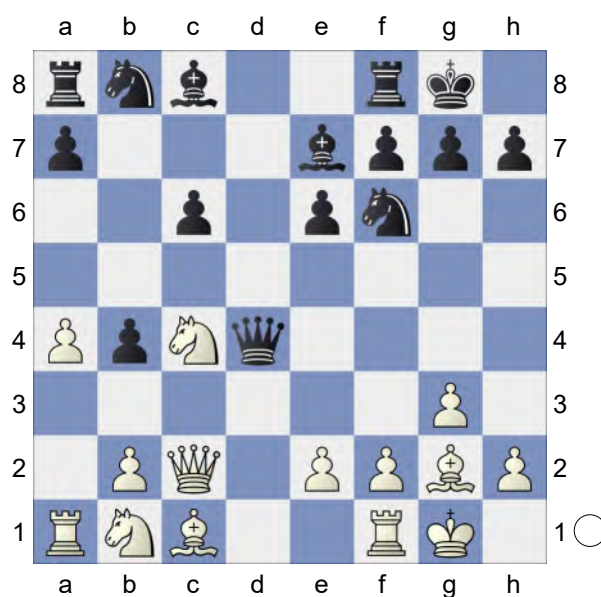
B) 12.Nbd2 Rc8 13.e4 Nb6

but it should not be equal:

B1) 14.Nxb6!? axb6 (14...Qxb6 15.Nb3) 15.Nc4 Bxc4 16.Qxc4 c5 17.Qe2 cxd4 18.e5±;

B2) 14.b3!? Qxd4 (14...c5 15.d5 exd5 16.Nxb6 axb6 17.exd5±) 15.Bb2 Qd8 16.Nf1 Qe8 17.Nd6 Bxd6 18.Rxd6=;

B3) 14.a5 Nxc4 15.Nxc4 Qd7 16.b3 Rfd8 17.Be3 Nd5!? An interesting trick, useful to remember. 18.Bd2 (18.exd5? cxd5 19.Bf1 dxc4 20.bxc4 Qc6 21.Rac1 Bb7 22.d5 exd5 23.Bg2 Qa6≠) 18...Nf6 19.Bf4 Qb7 20.Rac1 Bb5 21.Bf3!? (after 21.h3 Qa6 22.Be3 Nd5 23.Bd2 Nf6 24.Be3 Nd5 25.Bd2 Nf6 a draw was agreed) 21...Qa6 22.Qb2± White intends to improve slowly by h2-h4, Kg1-g2... Then the thematic c5?! did not bring the desired effect: 23.d5 exd5 24.exd5↑ with initiative.]



11.Rd1

[11.Bf4 is harmless: Ba6

(11...Nd5!?) 12.Nbd2 Qc5 13.Rac1 and here in the game Bulski - Zeberski, Litomysl 2011, Black could have got excellent play by Nd5∞]

[The tricky 11.b3!? is interesting but the principled

A) 11...Qc5 12.Bb2 Ba6 13.Nbd2 gives White the better chances:

A1) 13...Qh5?! _____ 14.Rfd1! increases Black's problems: Rc8 (or 14...Rd8 15.Bf3 Qg6 16.Ne4 Rxd1+ 17.Rxd1± Nbd7? 18.Bxf6! Nxf6 19.Ne5 Qf5 20.Nxc6 Bf8 21.Nd4 Rc8 22.Qxc8 1-0 Ganguly -

Thejkumar, Kolkata 2012) 15.Nf3 (15.Rac1!?) 15...Nbd7 16.Rac1 Nb6 17.Nce5 c5 18.a5 Nbd5 and here, in the game Gordon - Medina, Jakarta 2012, in which White has actually played the line 11. Rd1 Qc5 12. Nbd2 (see Meier - Fridman/Baden-Baden 2013), he could have obtained a tangible advantage by 19.h4!± with the idea Nf3-g5;

A2) 13...Nbd7! 14.Rfd1 Rfd8 15.Rac1±;

B) 11...Qxa1!? 12.Bb2 Qa2 13.Nbd2 Ba6 14.Ra1 Qxa1+ 15.Bxa1 Nbd7 is unclear and playable for Black.]

[11.Be3 is the main alternative:

A) 11...Qg4 12.Ne5 (in the game Grigoryan - Olszewski/Shenzhen 2011, White played 12.Nbd2 , which had to be met by Nd5!/?∞ with acceptable play for Black) 12...Qh5

A1) 13.Nxc6? Nxc6 14.Qxc6 Ng4 favours Black: 15.h3 Nxe3 16.fxe3 Rb8 17.Qc7 Qc5! (17...Ba6 18.Qxe7 Qxe2

19.Qxa7 Ra8 20.Qb6 Rab8 21.Qa7 Ra8 22.Qb6 Rab8 1/2 Golichenko - Vysochin, Kiev 2012) 18.Qxc5 (18.Qxb8? Bd6 19.Qa8 Qxe3+ 20.Kh1 Qxg3 21.Kg1 Qh2+ 22.Kf2 Bc5+ 23.e3 Qe5 24.Qf3 Qxb2+--) 18...Bxc5 19.Kf2 Rd8± with a big advantage;

A2) 13.Bf4 Bd6 14.Bf3 Qh3 15.Rd1 Bxe5 16.Bxe5 Ng4 17.Bxg4 Qxg4 18.Bd6 Re8 19.f3 Qf5 20.Qxf5 exf5 21.Bxb4± with a small advantage in the ending;

B) 11...Qd8 12.Rd1 Nd5 13.Bd4

B1) 13...Ba6?! is dubious: 14.e4 Bxc4 15.Qxc4 Nb6 16.Qe2↑ Qc8 (16...Qc7!?) 17.a5 N6d7 18.e5! Na6 19.Nd2 Ndc5 20.Qe3 Qc7 21.Nc4 Rfd8 22.Rac1± Gagunashvili - Shanava, Tbilisi 2012.;

B2) 13...Nd7! 14.e4 N5b6! (14...b3?! 15.Qxb3 Nb4 16.Qc3 was better for White in the game Gleizerov - Paikidze, Alghero 2011)

B2a) 15.Nxb6?! _____ axb6 16.Qxc6 would be met by the amazing Bb7! 17.Qxb7 (17.Qc2!/?±) 17...Nc5 18.Qc6 Rc8 19.Qb5 Nb3 20.Nd2 Nxd4↑;

B2b) 15.Na5 c5 16.Nc6 Qe8 17.Be3 a5 is okay for Black: 18.e5 Nd5 (18...Ba6!? 19.Nxe7+ Qxe7 20.Bxa8 Rxa8 21.Nd2 Rc8±) 19.Rxd5! (19.Nd2 Bb7 20.Nxe7+ Qxe7) 19...exd5 20.Bxd5 Ba6 (20...Ra6?! 21.Nd2↑) 21.Nd2 Rc8

with a complex play.]

11...Qc5 12.Be3 Qh5 13.Nbd2 Ng4

This is the only move Black has tried here, according to Megabase 2013. However, other moves have already been played.

[13...Ba6?! is bad: 14.Bf3! (not 14.h3? Nd5 15.Bd4? c5 16.Be5 Nc6 Zanan - Sihite, Biel 2011) 14...Ng4 15.Bxg4 Qxg4 16.f3 Qg6 17.Ne4 h5 18.Rac1 h4 19.Kg2± and Black cannot get his knight into play.]

[Actually I prefer not to hurry with the knight's exchange: 13...Nd5!? 14.Nb3 (14.Bd4? favoured Black in the game Zanan - A.Dewi, Biel 2011: c5 15.e4 Nc6! 16.Nb3 Nxd4 17.Nxd4 cxd4 18.exd5 exd5 19.Na5 Bf6; but such options as 14.Bf3!?; or 14.Ne4!? are worth considering)

A) 14...Ba6?! 15.Bc5;

B) 14...Nd7

B1) 15.Bf3!? deserves attention: Qg6 (15...Qh3 16.Nba5 c5 17.Bf4! Ba6 18.Nc6 Bf6 19.Bd6 Rfc8 20.N4a5± Δ e2-e4) 16.Qxg6 hxg6 17.Nba5 and White restores the material balance and secures a small advantage;

B2) 15.Nd4 Bf6 16.Nxc6 Bb7 17.Bf3 Qh3

B2a) 18.Nxa7 Nxe3 19.Nxe3 b3! (19...Rxa7 20.Rxd7 Be4 21.Qxe4 Rxd7 22.Qxb4± Pa; 19...Bxf3 20.Rxd7±) 20.Qxb3 Bxf3 21.Rxd7 Bxe2 22.Nc6 h5±;

B2b) 18.N4a5 Bxc6 (18...Nxe3 19.fxe3 Bxc6 20.Nxc6 Nb6 21.e4 e5 22.a5 Nd7 23.Qd2 Nc5 24.Qxb4

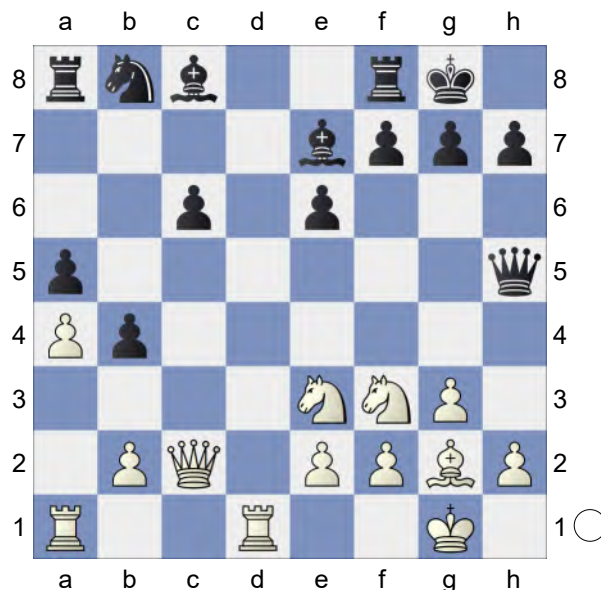
Ne6 25.Rd5±) 19.Nxc6 Rac8 20.Bf4 b3!? 21.Qxb3 (21.Qc1!?) 21...Rxc6 22.Bxd5! Rb6 (22...exd5 23.Qxd5 Rc2 24.Qxd7±) 23.Bg2! Rxb3 24.Bxh3 Nb6± and Black gets the pawn back though White is still somewhat better;

C) 14...Nxe3!? 15.Nxe3 a6 followed by ...Ra8-a7 with acceptable play, though Black is still under pressure.]

14.Nf3 Nxe3

[14...e5!? is also worth considering but it doesn't completely solve the problems: 15.Bd2! b3!? 16.Qxb3 Bc5!? (16...e4 is well met by 17.h3! Nxf2 18.Kxf2 exf3 and here in the game Edvardsson - Zumsande, Reykjavik 2012, White could have secured a stable advantage by the simple 19.Qxf3!±) 17.Be1 e4 18.h3 exf3 19.hxg4 Qxg4 20.Ne3! Bxe3 21.exf3 Qxg3! 22.fxe3 Qg6 23.Rac1± with more than sufficient compensation for the pawn.]

15.Nxe3 a5



16.Nd4!?

[16.Nc4 Ra7 (after 16...Ba6 17.Rac1 Ra7 18.Nfe5 Bxc4 19.Nxc4 Black was under pressure in the game Gelfand - Ponomarev, RUS-chT Olginka 2011) 17.Nd4 (17.Rac1±) 17...Ba6 was fine for Black in H. Hernandez - Krysa, Montevideo 2011: 18.Rac1 Bf6 (18...Rd7!?) 19.Qe4? (19.Ne3!?) 19...Rd7 20.Nb3 (20.Nxc6 Rxd1+ 21.Rxd1 Nxc6 22.Qxc6 Bxc4 23.Qxc4 Bxb2±) 20...Bxc4 21.Qxc4 Bxb2± with a big advantage.]

16...Ra7

[16...Ba6!? came to mind as well.]

17.Rac1

[Any capture of the c6-pawn made Black's play easier: 17.Nxc6?! Nxc6 18.Qxc6 Qxe2]
[or 17.Bxc6?! Rc7 18.Bf3 Rxc2 19.Bxh5 Rc7 (19...Rxb2!? 20.Nc4 e5! 21.Nxb2 exd4±) 20.Nb3 Bf6∞]

17...Ba6

[17...Rd7 18.Bf3 Qe5 (18...Qg5!? 19.h4 Qe5) 19.Nc4 Qc7 20.Nb3± looked better for White.]

18.Bf3

[After 18.f4 Rc8 (or 18...Bd8!? with the idea ... Bd8-b6 Black was okay.)]

18...Qe5 19.Nxc6? This impatient capture helps Black to solve all the problems.

[19.Ng4! was much stronger:

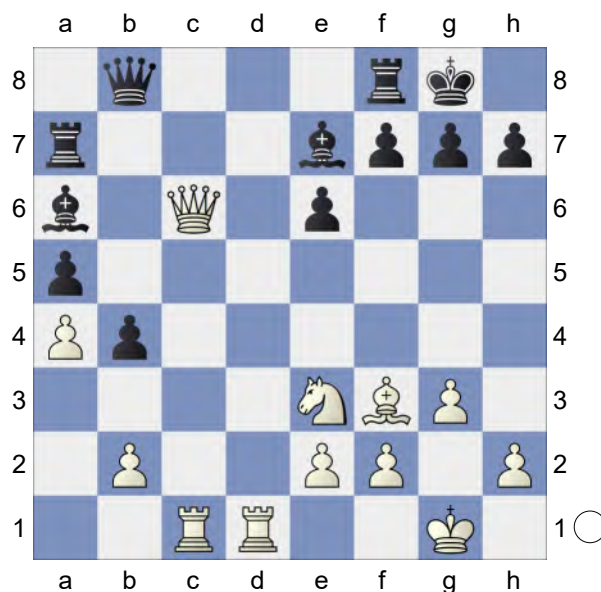
A) not 19...Qg5? 20.Nxc6 Nxc6 21.h4! (21.Qxc6 Bb7 22.Qb6 Bxf3 23.Qxa7? Bxg4)

A1) 21...Qf5 22.Qxc6 Rb8 (22...Bb7? 23.Qb6 Bxf3 24.Qxa7+-) 23.Rd7 Rxd7 24.Qxd7 Bf8 25.Rc7+-;

A2) 21...Nd4!? 22.Rxd4 Qg6

23.Qd1±;

B) 19...Qc7 20.Bxc6! (20.Nxc6 Nxc6 21.Qxc6 Rc8) 20...Qc8 (20...Rd8 21.Nb5 Bxb5 22.Bxb5 Qxc2 23.Rxd8+ Bxd8 24.Rxc2 Rc7 25.Rd2±; 20...Qb6 21.Bb5±) 21.Bb5 Qxc2 22.Rxc2± and White maintains a small advantage.]

19...Nxc6 20.Qxc6 Qb8**21.Nc4 Rc8**

[21...Bg5!? deserved serious attention: 22.Ne3 (22.e3?? Bb7) 22...Rc8 23.Qd6 Qxd6 24.Rxc8+ Qf8 25.Rxf8+ Kxf8± with better chances in the ending.]

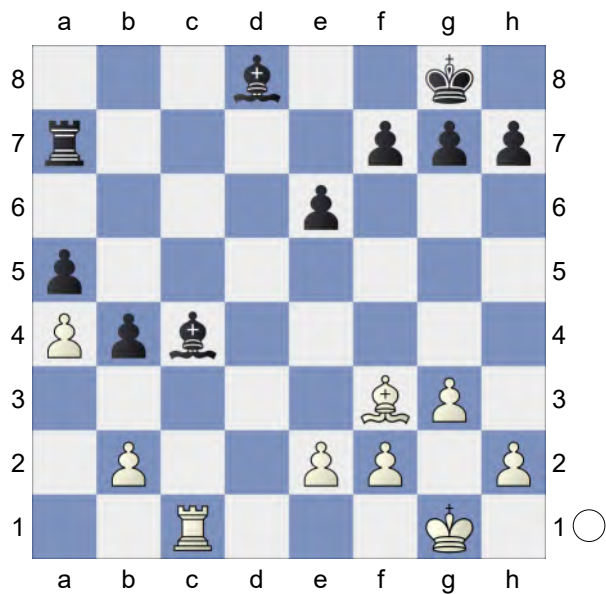
22.Qb6 Qxb6 23.Nxb6 Rxc1

[23...Rcc7!?]

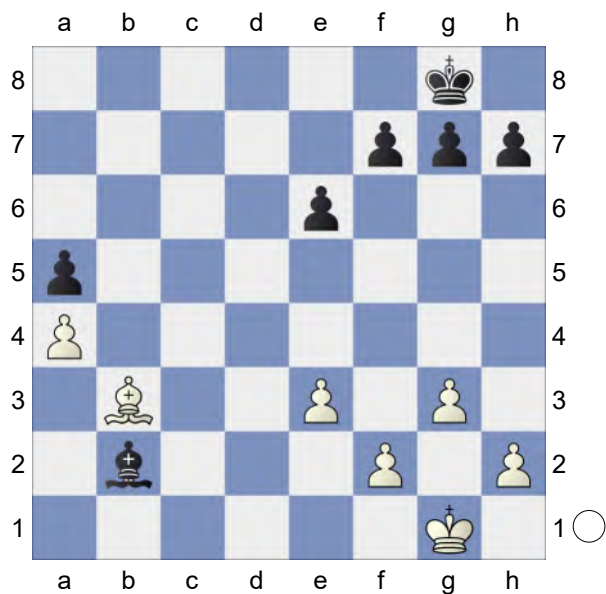
24.Rxc1 Bd8 25.Nc4 White's strong knight on c4 does not give Black any chances for advantage. **25...Bxc4**

[Or 25...Rc7 26.Rd1! Rc8 27.Nd6 Rc2 28.Be4!? Rxe2 29.Bf3 Rc2 30.Be4= with a draw as Rc7? fails to 31.Nb5 Rc8 32.Na7+-]

(Diagram)

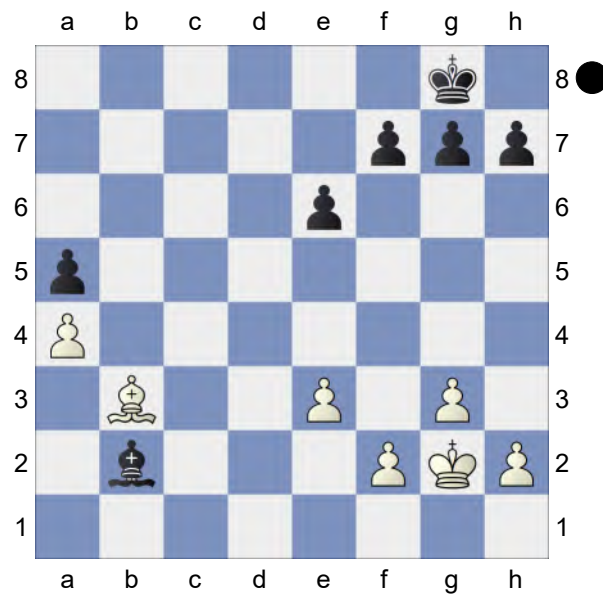


**26.Rxc4 Rc7 27.Rxc7 Bxc7 28.e3 b3
29.Bd1 Be5 30.Bxb3 Bxb2**



31.Kg2

(Diagram)



and the players signed the scoresheets.
 $\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$

284

□ Wei,Yi

■ Wojtaszek,Radoslaw

Tata Steel-A 79th (13)

29.01.2017

[Ramirez Alvarez,Alejandro]

C88

2706

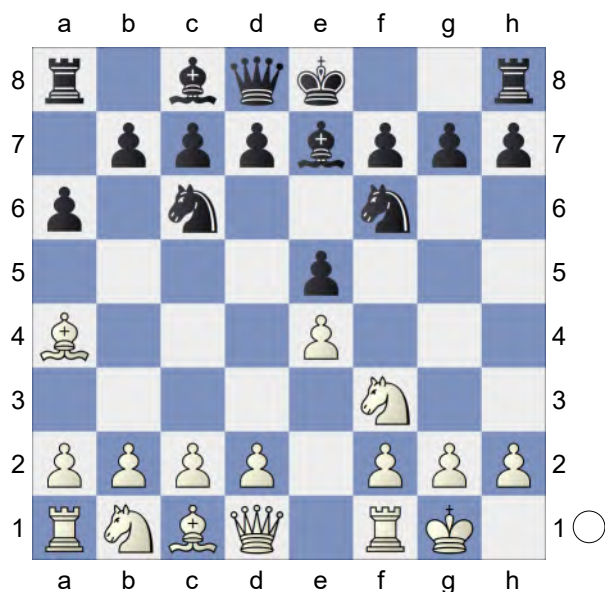
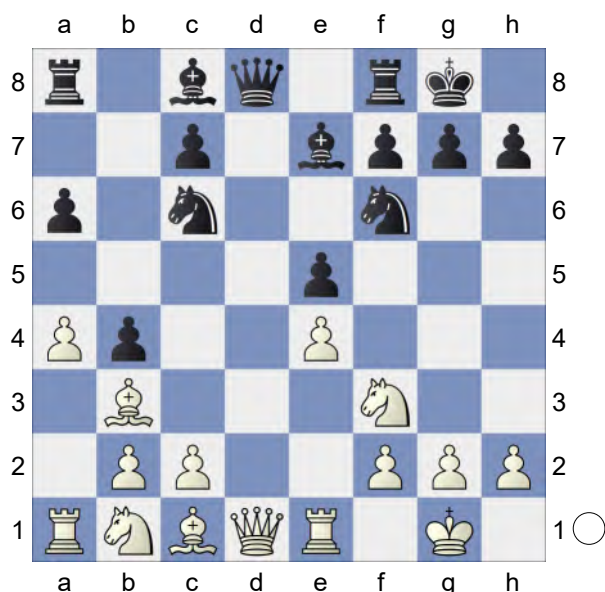
2750

(100min+30sec)/40+(50min+30sec)/20+(15min+10sec)/20

1.e4 0 Ramirez Alvarez,A 1...e5 4 2.Nf3

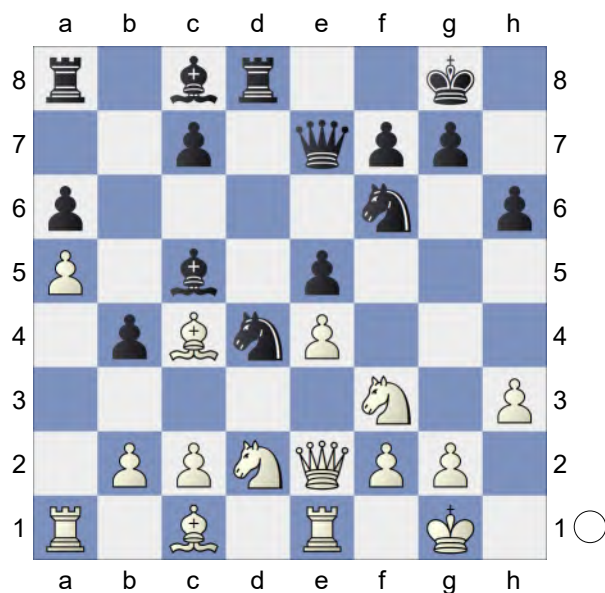
0 Nc6 4 3.Bb5 0 a6 5 4.Ba4 0 Nf6 5

5.0-0 7 Be7 5

6.Re1 7 b5 7 7.Bb3 6 0-0 6 8.a4 50
b4 12 9.d4 13 d6 34 10.dxe5 8 dxe5 4

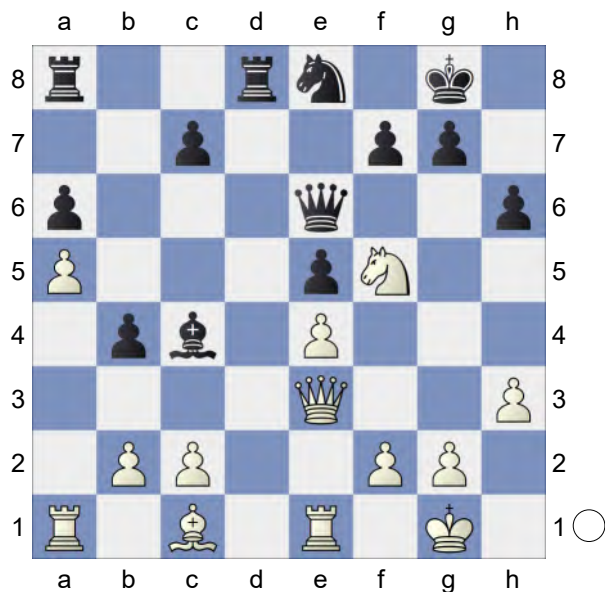
11.Nbd2 18 Bc5 9 12.Qe2 32 Qe7 5:38

13.h3 2:30 h6 8:00

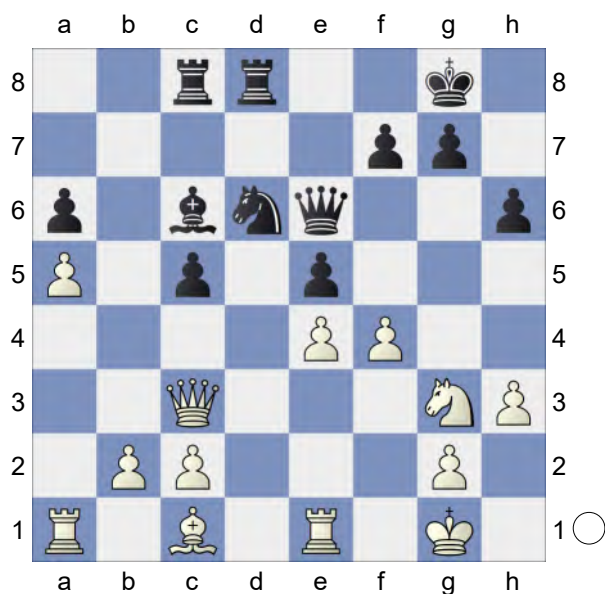
[13...Rd8 14.Nc4 Nd4 15.Nxd4
Rxd4 16.Be3 Rxe4 17.Qf3 Bb7
18.Na5 Rxe3 19.Qxb7 Rxe1+
20.Rxe1 Re8 21.Qxa6 e4 22.Nc4
e3 23.Nxe3 Ne4 24.Qc4 g6 25.Ng4
Nd2 26.Qxf7+ 1-0 (26) Dominguez
Perez,L (2739)-Aronian,L (2785) Doha
2016]14.a5 9:26 Rd8 13:08 15.Bc4 12:04
Nd4 3:1016.Nxd4 29 Bxd4 5 17.Nb3 6:29 Be6
19:35 18.Nxd4 11:00 Bxc4 17 19.Nf5
25:59 Qe6 8:00 20.Qe3N 1:56[20.Qf3 Kh7 21.b3 Bb5 22.Qg3
Rg8 23.Qh4 Ne8 24.Bd2 Nd6
25.Qe7 Rge8 26.Qxe6 Rxe6
27.Bxb4 Nxf5 28.exf5 Ree8 29.Rad1
Bc6 30.Rd3 Rab8 31.Rc3 Bd5
32.Ba3 Rb5 33.Rxc7 Rxa5 34.Bd6
f6 35.c4 Bg8 36.Re3 e4 37.Rg3
Rxf5 38.Rgxg7+ Kh8 39.Rg6 Rh5
40.g4 Rxh3 41.Kg2 1-0 (41) Caruana,
F (2791)-Tomashevsky,E (2695)
Dubai 2014]

20...Ne8 9:46

(Diagram)

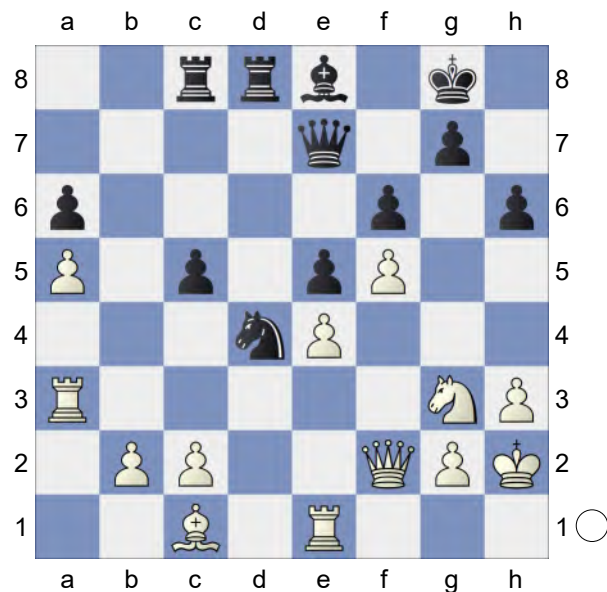


21.Qc5 1:49 Nd6 13:27 22.Qxb4 2:28
Bb5 3:39 23.Ng3 5:59 c5 57 24.Qc3
3:24 Rac8 4:08 25.f4 1:44 Bc6 4:26

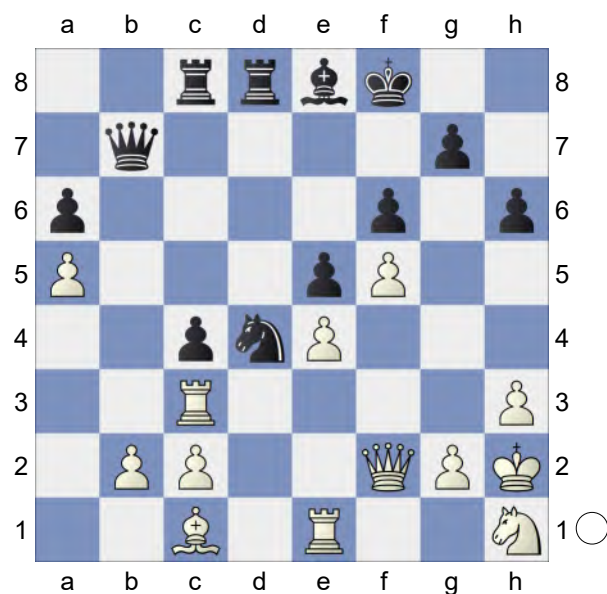


26.f5 13:32 Qe7 58 27.Kh2 30 Nb5
4:06 28.Qf3 10 f6 12 29.Qf2 4:57 Nd4
1:03 30.Ra3 47 Be8 2:02

(Diagram)

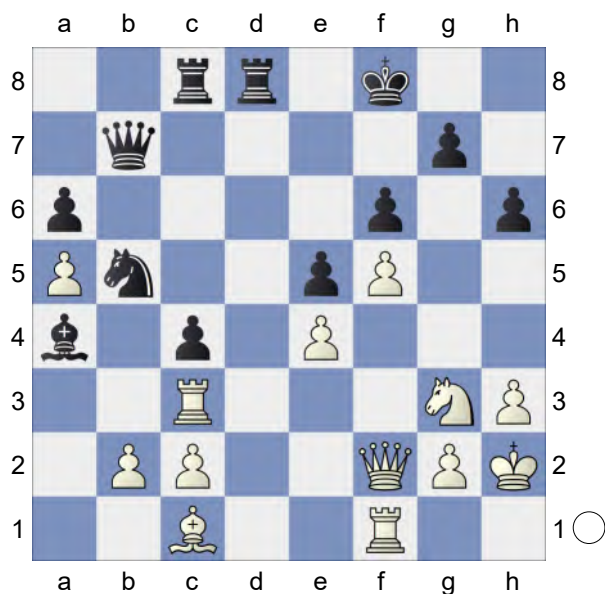


31.Nf1 37 Kf8 22 32.Rg3 47 Qb7 1:14
33.Rc3 2:27 Bb5 2:33 34.Ng3 1:45
Be8 7 35.Nh1 55 c4 4:11

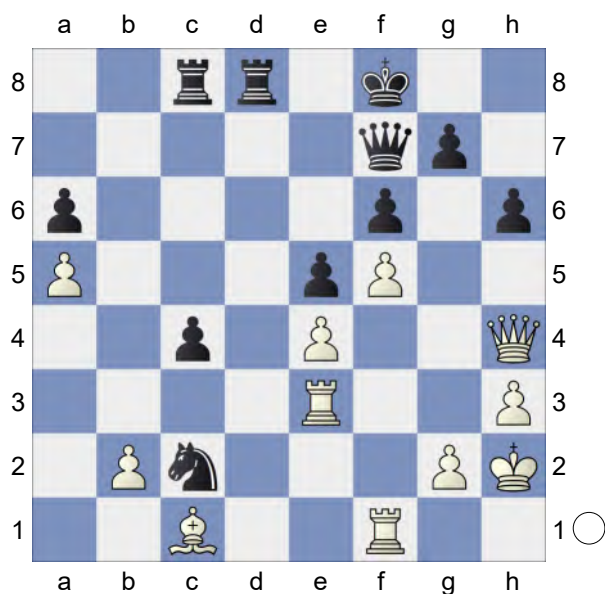


36.Qh4 1:55 Qf7 4 37.Qf2 1:31 Ba4 24
38.Rd1 57 Qd7 2:25 39.Rf1 30 Qb7
2:45 40.Ng3 0 Nb5 51

(Diagram)

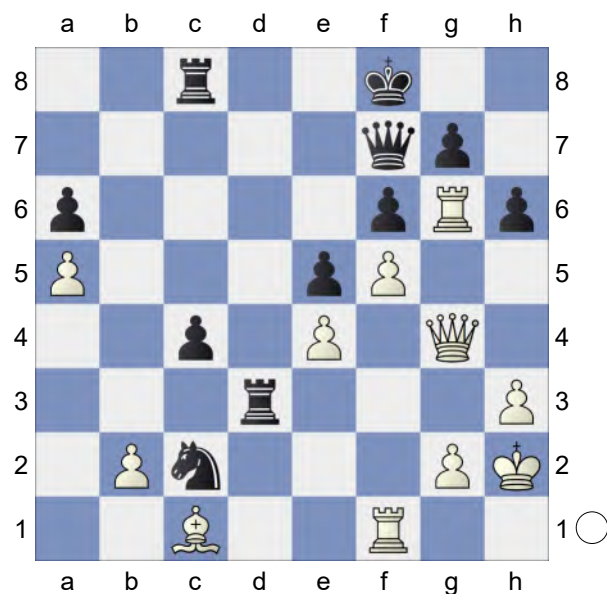


41.Re3 1:27 Nd4 28 42.Nh5 3:09 Be8
7:03 43.Qh4 8:52 Bxh5 4:03 44.Qxh5
2 Qf7 8 45.Qh4 8 Nxc2 2:23

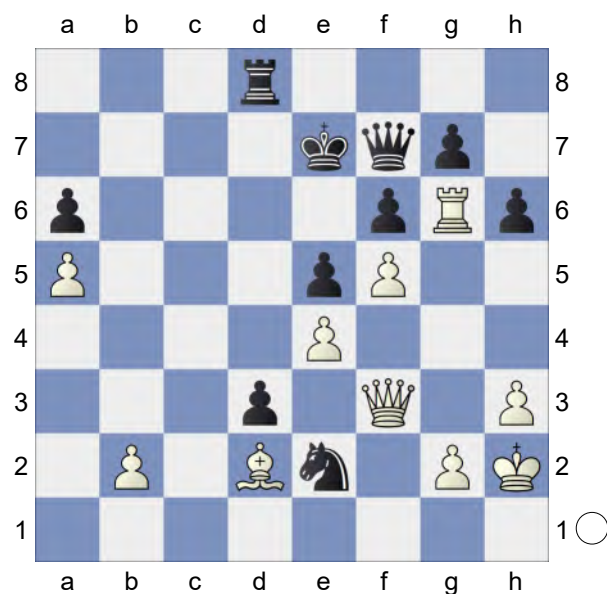


46.Rg3 5 Ke7 12 47.Rg6 1:05 Rd3
8:01 48.Qg4 18:16 Kf8 1:21 49.Qh5
1:37 Ke7 29 50.Qg4 10:50 Kf8 55

(Diagram)



51.Qh5 11 Ke7 6 52.Rf3 51 Nd4 2:41
53.Rxd3 2:00 cxd3 6 54.Bd2 1:08 Ne2
16:33 55.Qf3 3:41 Rd8 17



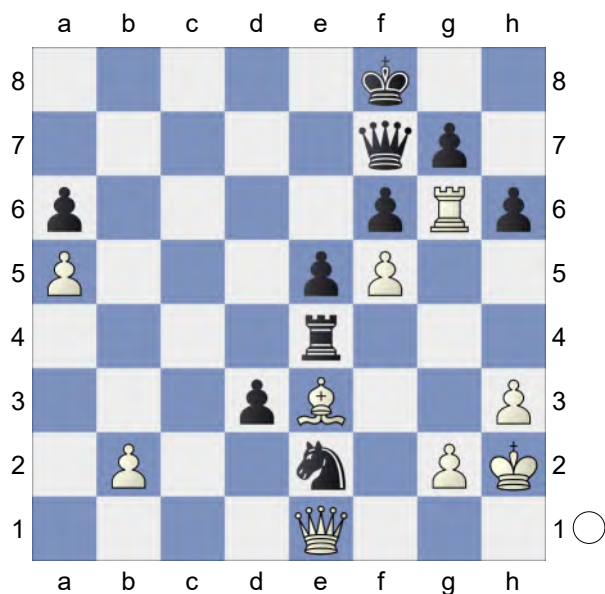
56.Qf2 1:24 Rd4 2:21 57.Be3 2:57 Rd7
1:01 58.Bd2 22 Rd4 2:59 59.Be3 2
Kf8 4:13 60.Qe1?

[60.Bxd4 exd4 61.e5

A) 61...fxe5 62.Rxa6!? (62.Qf3
gives White at least enough
counterplay here.);

B) 61...Qc7 62.Qf3! Qxe5+ 63.g3
and the threat of the perpetual
cannot be avoided.]

60...Rxe4

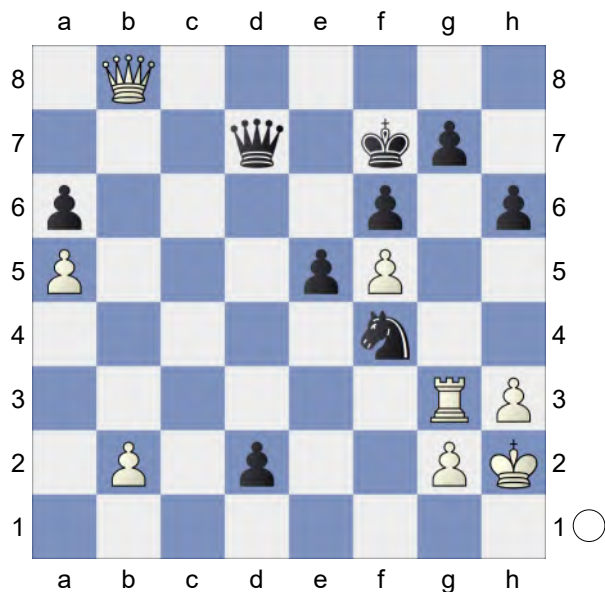


61.Qd2 Rxe3

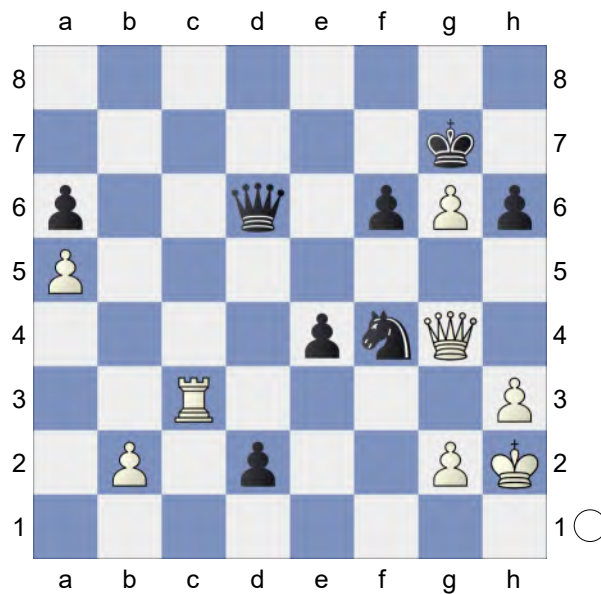
[61...Qd5 was cleaner, but who is counting?]

62.Qxe3 Qd7 Now White has no perpetual possibilities and the pawn on d3 is a monster. The rook on g6, without the possibilities of breaks on f6, seems completely stuck and out of place.

63.Qb6 Nf4 64.Rg3 d2 65.Qb8+ Kf7



66.Qb3+ Qd5 67.Qd1 e4 68.Qg4 g5
69.fxg6+ Kg7 70.Rc3 Qd6
(Diagram)



Black queens next move.

0-1

236

□ Wei, Yi

■ Vachier Lagrave, Maxime

Leon 28th rapid (2.3)

14.06.2015

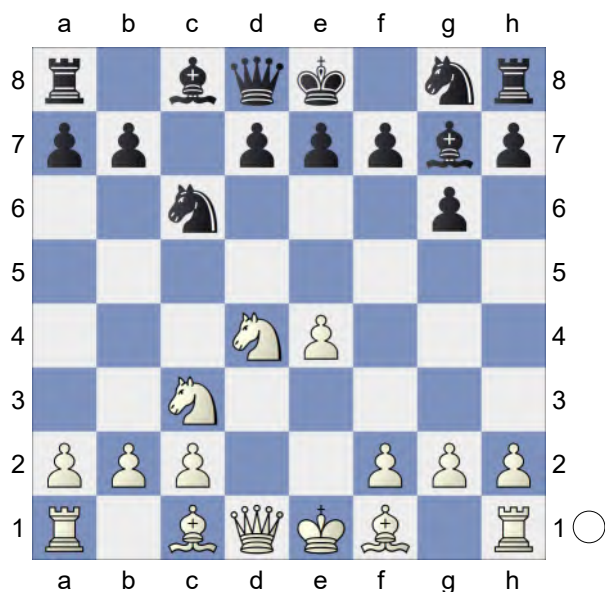
[Ramirez Alvarez, Alejandro]

B35

2721

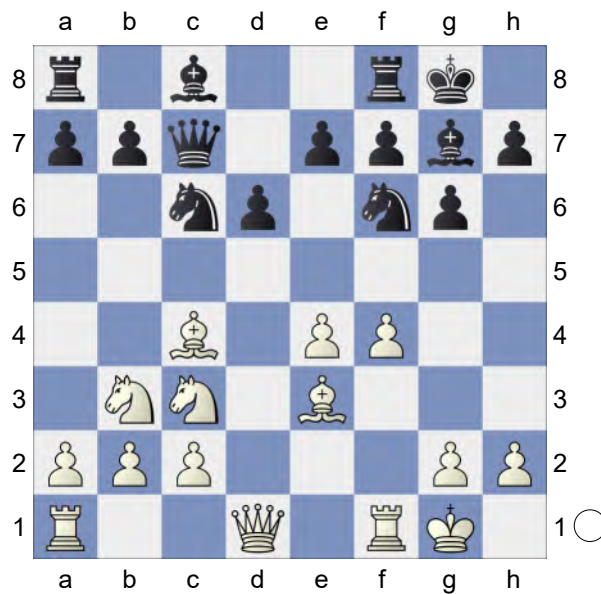
2723

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 g6 4.d4
cxd4 5.Nxd4 Bg7



6.Be3 Nf6 7.Bc4 Qa5 MVL has used this version of the Accelerated Dragon a couple of times in the past - including a draw against Carlsen in last year's Sinquefeld Cup (where he forgot his mover order!). Notice that in this specific Dragon there is no possibility to go into a Maroczy bind. 8.0-0 0-0 9.Nb3 Qc7 10.f4 d6

(Diagram)



11.Be2 an old line of the Dragon, but perfectly playable for both sides.

11...Bd7 12.Qe1

[12.g4!? is an idea from the 70s that might still work nowadays. Wei Yi's approach is more positional.]

12...a6 13.Rd1

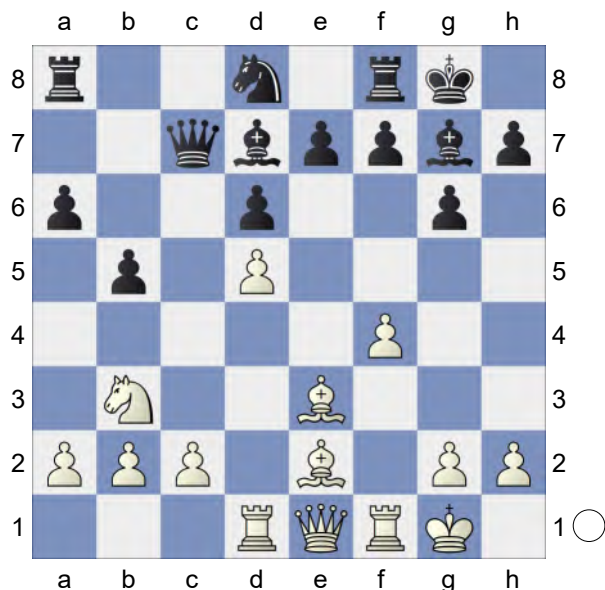
[13.Nd5!? this was a good time to play this move, as the knight has to retreat to a somewhat awkward square. Nxd5 (13...Qd8 14.Bb6 Qc8 15.Nxf6+ Bxf6 16.c3±) 14.exd5 Nb8 15.Nd4±]

13...b5 14.Nd5 Nxd5

[14...Qd8 15.Nxf6+ Bxf6 16.e5! leaves Black with real problems. If he takes on e5 the pin down the d-file is dangerous. dxe5 17.Nc5 Ra7 18.Bg4! with unsormountable pressure.]

15.exd5 Nd8

(Diagram)



16.Nd4 e5! Breaking through while this move is still available. 17.fxe5 dxe5 18.d6! An important intermezzo.

[18.Nb3 Nb7 allows the Black knight access to the very important d6 square.]

18...Qc8

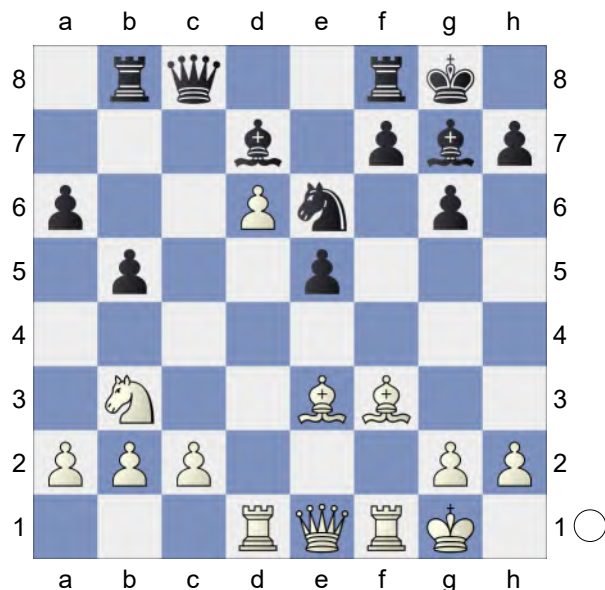
[18...Qxd6 19.Nf5 Qc7 20.Nxg7 Kxg7 21.Qh4 is too much: the pressure on the darksquares will collapse Black's defense. It is already impossible to defend against Bh6+]

19.Nb3 Ne6?!

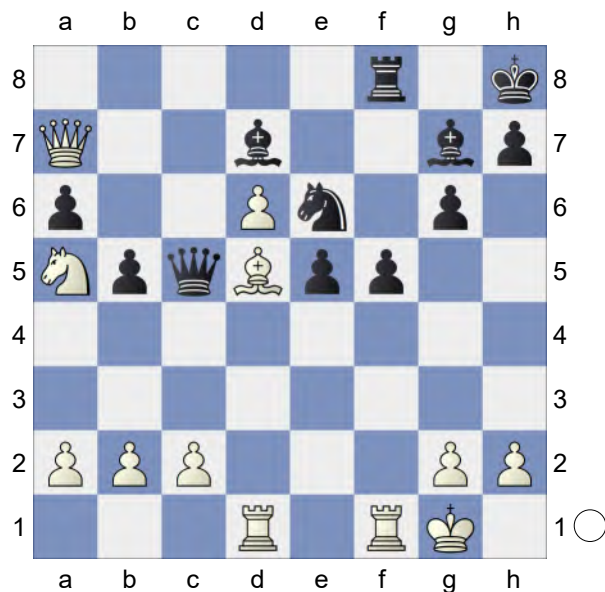
[19...f5 was already necessary, avoiding the following continuation in the game. However here White is also a little better. 20.Nc5 Ne6 21.Nxd7 Qxd7 22.c4±]

20.Bf3 Rb8

(Diagram)

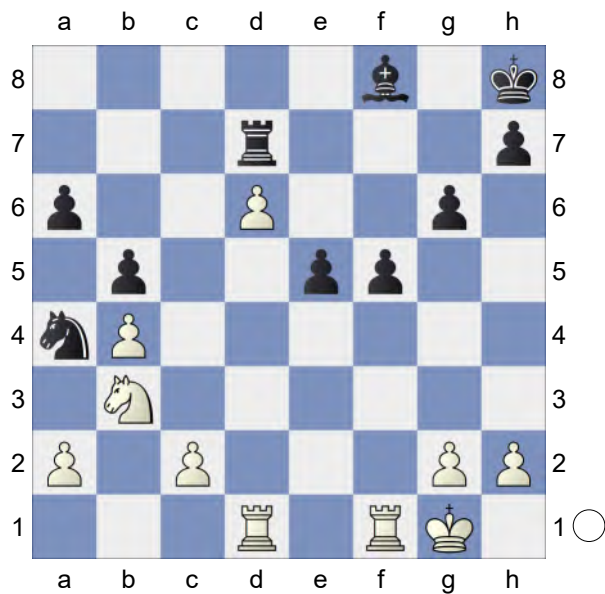


21.Ba7 Rb7 22.Qf2! The patience demonstrated by Wei Yi to place such a move, specially in a rapid, is unbelievable. Most grandmasters would take the rook and think later - but defending the a7 bishop is more accurate. 22...f5 23.Bd5! Kh8 24.Na5! And finally the rook is forced to take on a7, leaving White with the better bishop on the board. 24...Rxa7 25.Qxa7 Qc5+

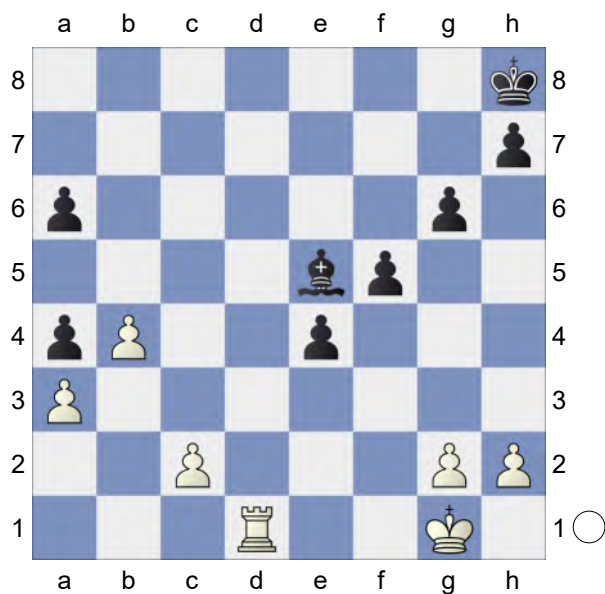


26.Qxc5 Nxc5 27.b4 Na4 28.Bc6 Rf7 29.Bxd7 Rxd7 30.Nb3 Bf8

(Diagram)

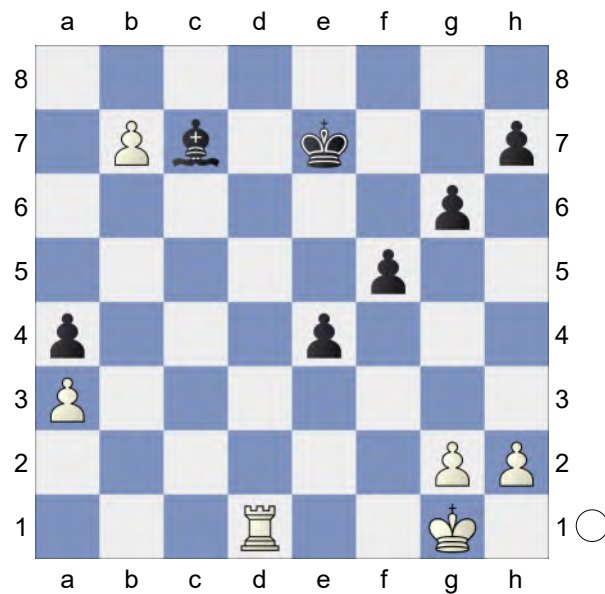


31.Nc5 Rxd6 32.Rxd6 Bxd6 33.Nxa4 bxa4 34.a3 Black doesn't have enough compensation for the exchange. He has a pawn, but White's passed c-pawn is powerful and the bishop cannot support the e-pawn well. **34...e4 35.Rd1 Be5**



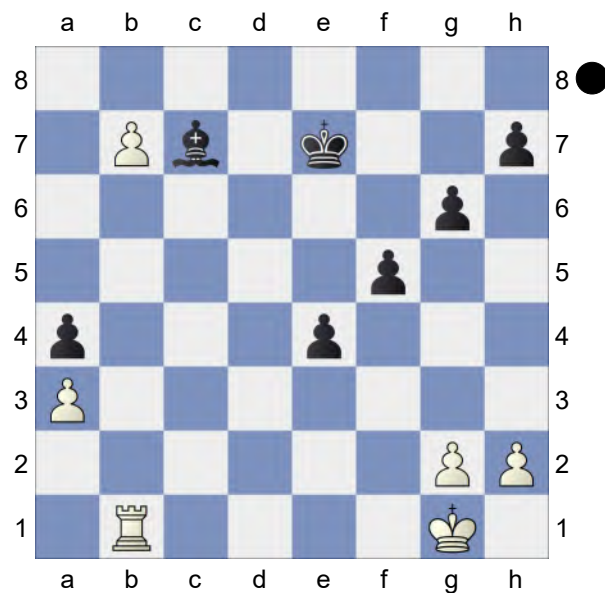
36.c4 Kg7 37.b5 axb5 38.cxb5 Kf6 39.b6 Ke7 40.b7 this pawn will cost Black his bishop. **40...Bc7**

(Diagram)



41.Rb1

[41.Rb1 Bb8 42.Rc1 Kd7 43.Rc8 Ba7+ 44.Kf1 and queens next move.]



1-0

129

A01

□ Wei, Yi

2734

■ Svidler, Peter

2727

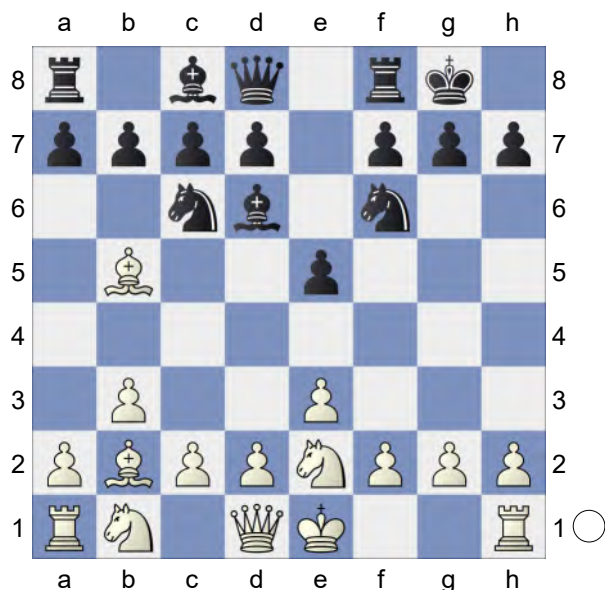
FIDE World Cup (5.6)

25.09.2015

[Ramirez Alvarez, Alejandro]

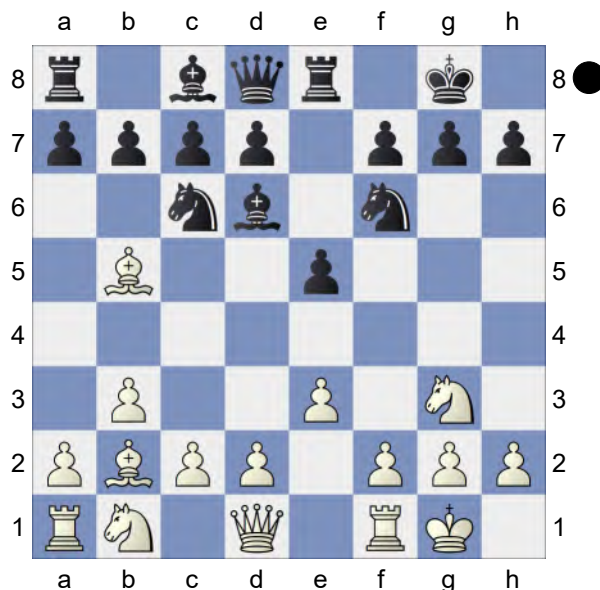
Wei Yi won many unclear matches in the World Cup and was stopped in the quarter finals by Svidler, losing the first game where he had some advantage after 5 difficult draws. **1.b3** The Chinese prodigy had problems in the openings in this match, so he correctly decided to change his first move. **1...e5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.e3 Nf6 4.Bb5 Bd6 5.Ne2**

[5.Na3 is more popular but Black has many good weapons at his disposal.]

5...0-0

6.0-0 Re8 Changing from the game Wei Yi-Karjakin, where Black played 6...a6. **7.Ng3**

(Diagram)



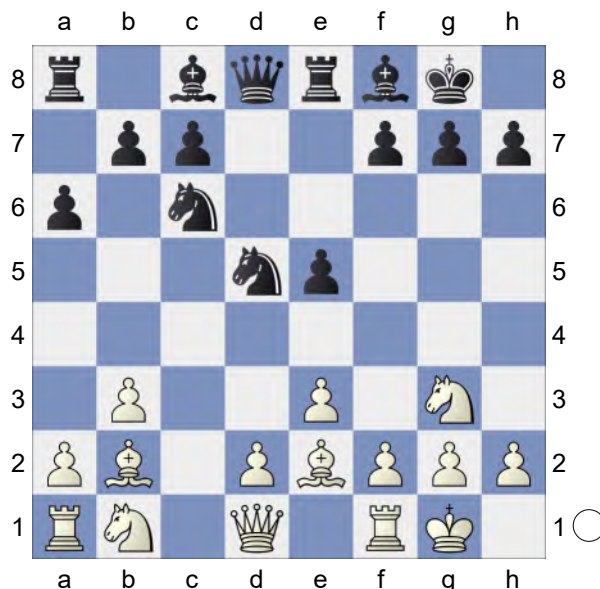
a6 I don't think this is precise here.

[7...Bf8 is more logical and if White wants to fight for an advantage, an interesting sequence is: 8.f4 exf4 9.Rxf4 Ne5 ! 10.Rf5 a6 ! 11.Bxe5 Rxe5 12.Rxe5 axb5 □ With full compensation thanks to the oddly placed rook.]

8.Be2 Bf8

[8...b5 !?]

9.c4 ! The white pieces are nicely placed for this move. **9...d5 10.cxd5 Nxd5**



11.Nc3 Be6 12.Rc1 Ndb4 ?! Not an

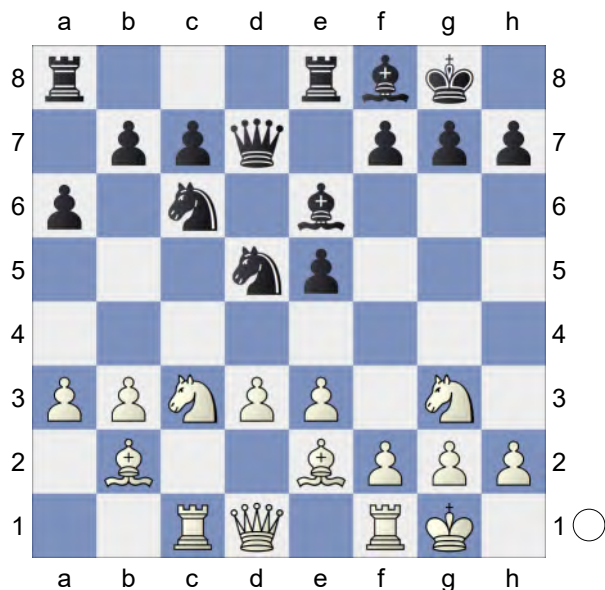
easy position to play in a rapid time control. I would fight for the e4 square with:

[12...Nxc3 !? 13.Bxc3 f5 ∞]

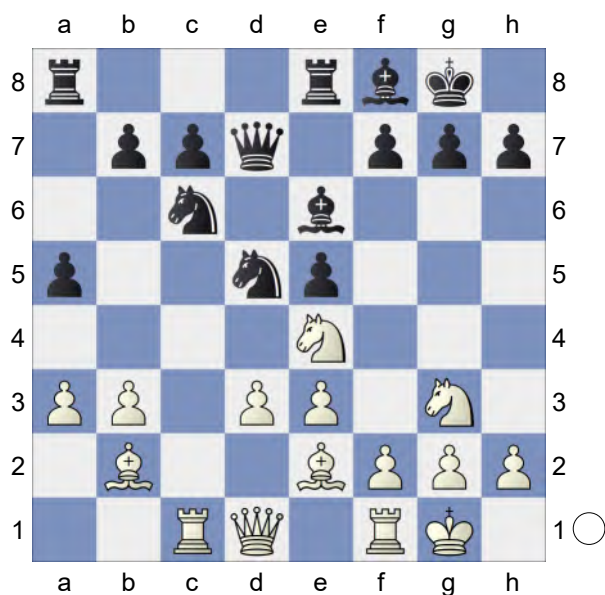
13.d3 Qd7 Here it seems necessary to fight for the control of c5 by playing

[13...a5 !? 14.a3 Na6]

14.a3 Nd5

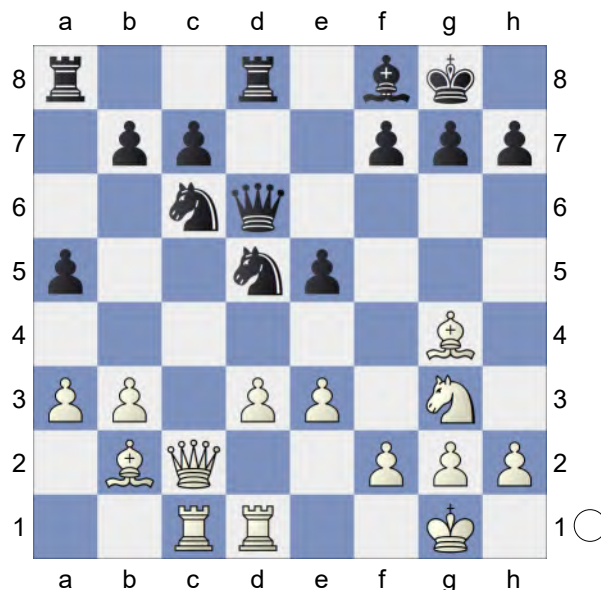


15.Nce4 ± White simply takes the bishop pair after the loss of two tempi by his opponent. **15...a5**

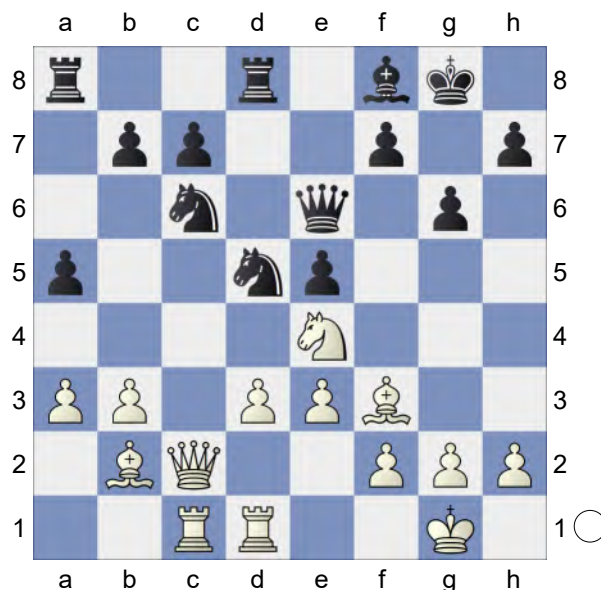


16.Ng5 Nb6 17.Nxe6 Qxe6 18.Bg4 Qd6 19.Qc2 Nd5 This knight just

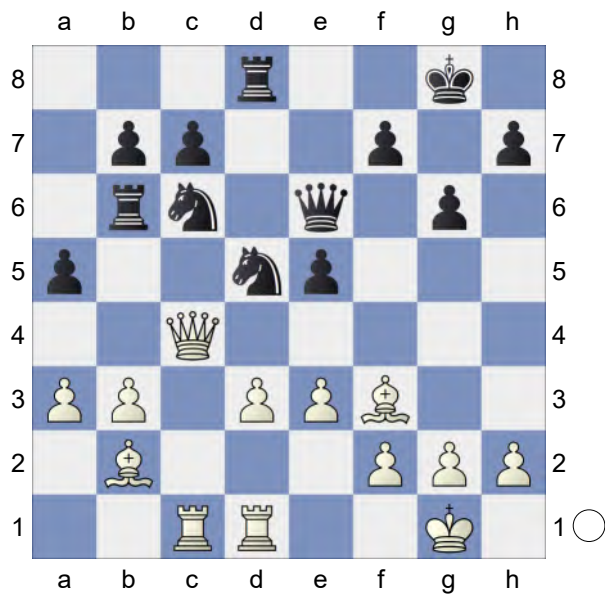
moved too many times! **20.Rfd1 ± 20...Red8**



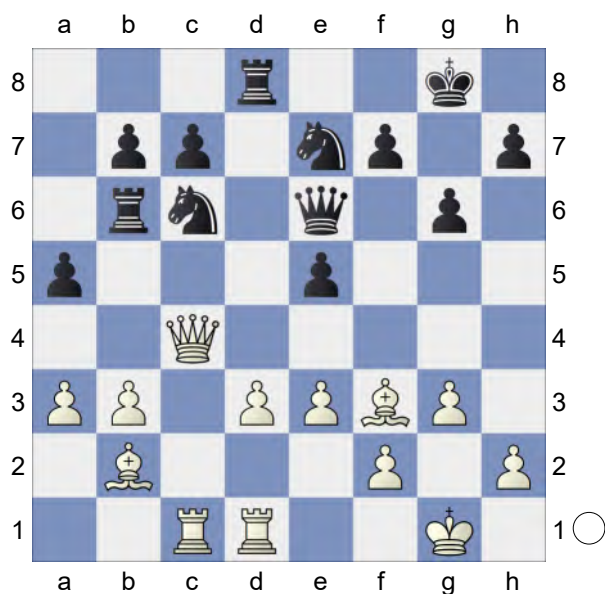
21.Bf3 g6 22.Ne4 Qe6



23.Nc5 ?! White should keep the pressure and not go for the second bishop. Some improving moves like Qc4, g3, Kg2, h4 and waiting for a good opportunity to open the position was better. **23...Bxc5 24.Qxc5 Ra6** ! This strong rook maneuver, putting some pressure on the b3 pawn as well as parrying the Qb5 threat was probably missed by White. **25.Qc4 Rb6**



26.g3 ?! A prophylactic move. Instead, 26.Ba1 followed by Rb1 was needed.
26...Nde7 !



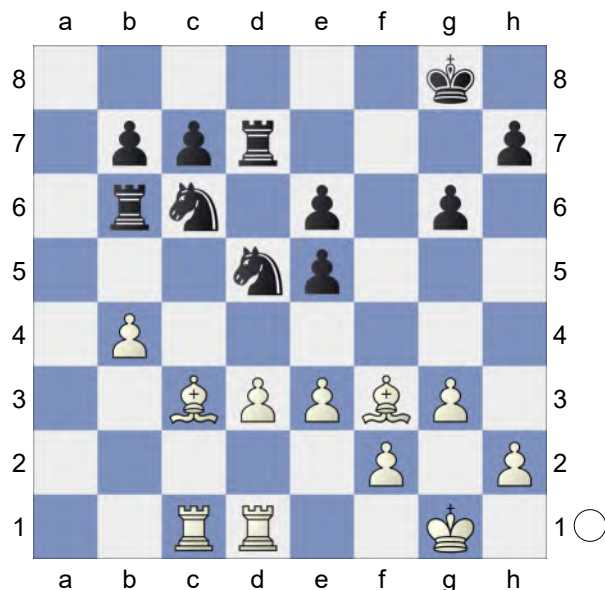
27.Qxe6 Losing all the remaining edge, but the only way to keep an advantage was too difficult to find with little time on the clock.

[27.Rc3 !! ± and if Black tries to repeat moves with Nd5 28.Rc2 Nde7 29.d4 ! is strong now that the bishop on b2 is protected by the rook.]

27...fxe6 ∞ 28.b4

[28.Bxc6 Nxc6 29.Rc3 e4

! is very ok for Black.]
28...axb4 29.axb4 Nd5 30.Bc3 Rd7



31.d4

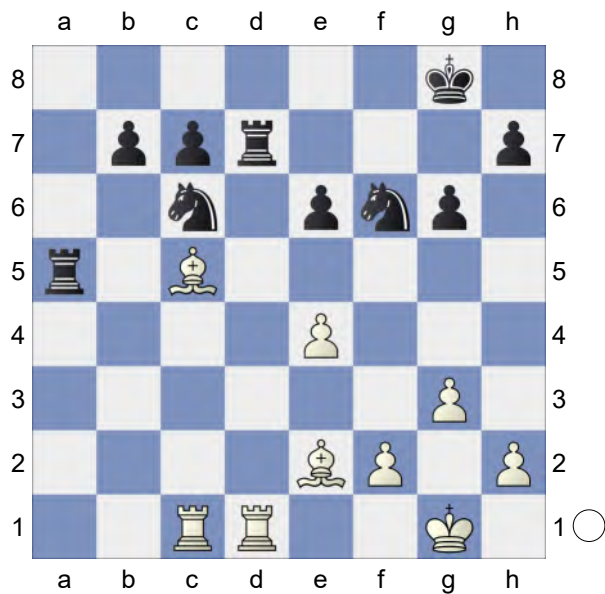
[31.Bxd5 is the other way to play for equality.]

31...exd4

[31...Nxc3 !? It is maybe a good idea to swap one bishop. 32.Rxc3 Nxb4 33.dxe5 Rxd1+ 34.Bxd1 Nd5 35.Rc1 c6 The passed pawns should ensure Black's advantage.]

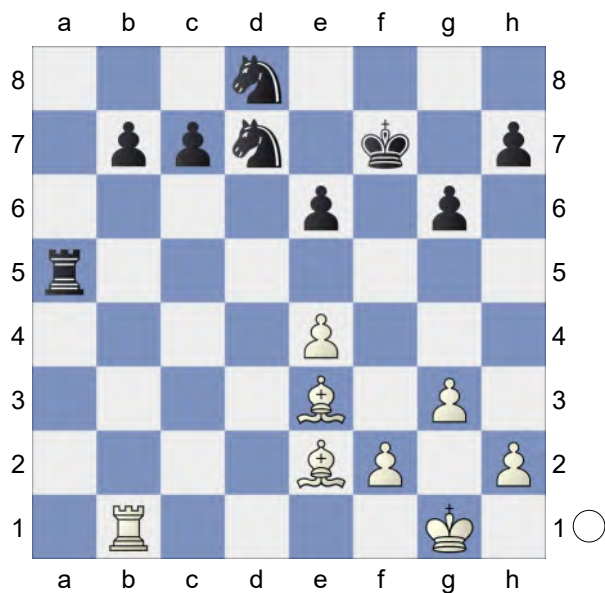
32.Bxd4 Rxb4 33.Bc5 ?! The wrong diagonal. The bishop would be better placed on a1. **33...Ra4 34.Be2 Ra5 35.e4 Nf6**

(Diagram)



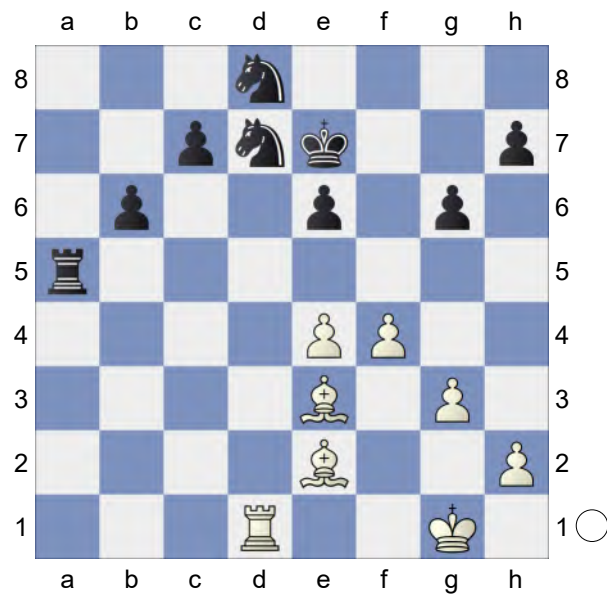
36.Rxd7 Nxd7 37.Be3 Kf7 38.Rb1 Nd8

[38...b6 immediately is more logical.]



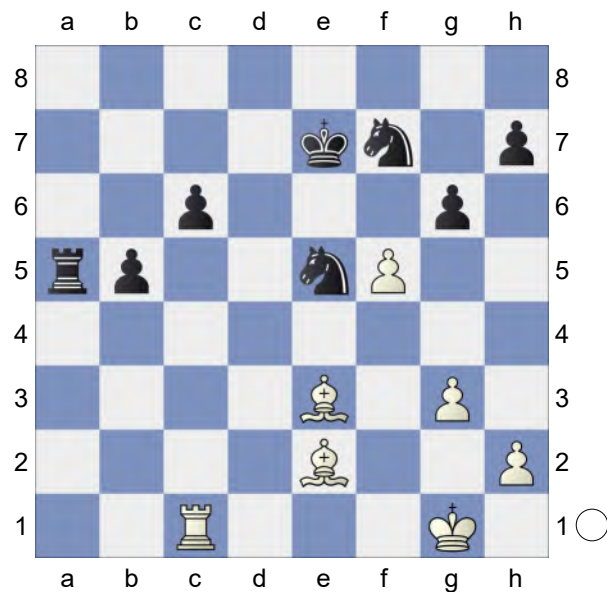
39.f4 On the verge of collapsing, White chooses the right path and goes for opening the position. **39...b6 40.Rd1 Ke7**

(Diagram)



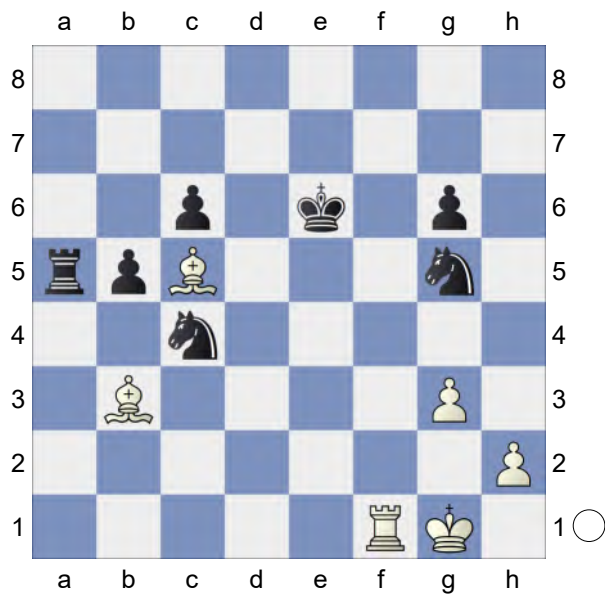
41.f5 ! 41...exf5 42.exf5 Nf7 43.Bf4 Nde5 44.Rc1 White is provoking the pawns to advance. Much more natural is [44.fxg6 hxg6 45.h4 with good drawing chances.]

44...c6 45.Be3 b5



46.Bc5+ Kf6 47.fxg6 hxg6 48.Rf1+ Ke6 49.Bd1 Ng5 ? The rook should be improved first. **49...Ra8** would have given Black a big advantage. **50.Bb3+ Nc4**

(Diagram)



51.Kg2 ? Missing the chance:

[51.Bb4 ! Ra8 52.Re1+ Black has some problems now to stop the checks: Kd5 53.Rd1+ Ke5 54.Re1+ Kd4 (54...Ne4 ? 55.Bc2 +□-) 55.Rd1+ Ke4 56.Re1+ Ne3 A try not to repeat moves. 57.Kf2 ! Nh3+ 58.Ke2 and somehow the black pieces completely lost coordination.]

51...Ra8 More precise is

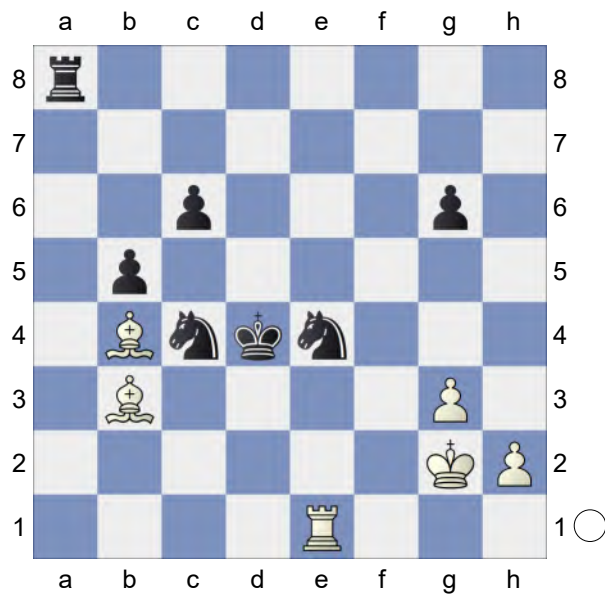
[51...Ne4 52.Re1 Kd5 ♢ is almost over.]

52.Bb4

[52.Bc2 ! Ra2 (52...Kd5 53.Bf2 ! was still a fight.) 53.Rf2 Rxc2!? 54.Rxc2 Kd5 55.Bf2 b4 56.Rc1! Looks risky but is holdable.]

52...Ne4! ♢ Now the black moves play themselves. The knights are doing an excellent job of controlling the bishops now. **53.Re1 Kd5 54.Rd1+ Ke5 55.Re1 Kd4**

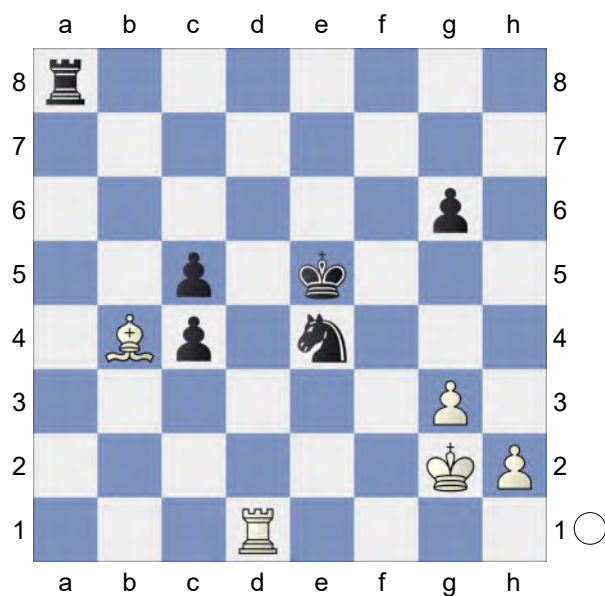
(Diagram)



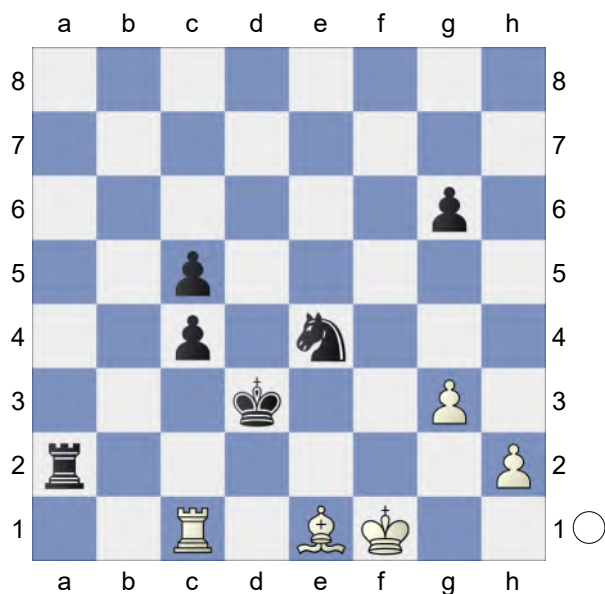
56.Rd1+ Ke3 57.Rc1 ? Strange. If White had continued with checks Black would have needed to be precise to conclude the game: Black's made real progress, and now Svidler goes in for the kill.

[57.Re1+ Kd3 58.Rd1+ Ncd2 59.Bf7 c5 !? 60.Bxd2 Nxd2 61.Bxg6+ Ke2 62.Bh5+ Ke3 ♢ Black pawns should be faster than White's.]

57...c5 -□+ It is all over now. 58.Re1+ Kd4 59.Rd1+ Ke5 60.Bxc4 bxc4

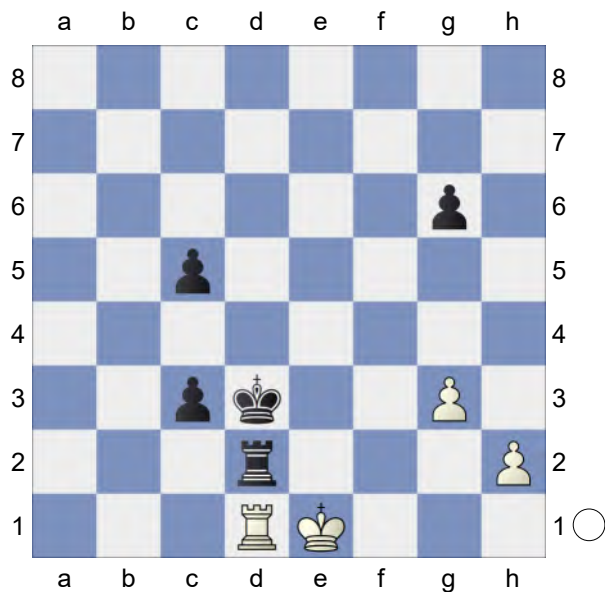


61.Be1 Ra3 62.Kf1 Ra2 63.Rc1 Kd4
64.Rd1+ Ke3 65.Rc1 Kd3



66.Rd1+ Nd2+ Black is simply too active. The pawn rolls forward. 67.Bxd2 Rxd2 68.Ke1 c3

[68...Rxd1+ 69.Kxd1 Ke3 is actually also winning.]



The junior is eliminated after a tense fight. Black threatens Ke3, Rxh2 and there is nothing White can do about it.

0-1

246

□ Wei,Yi

■ Ding,Liren

CHN-ch Xinghua (4)

21.05.2015

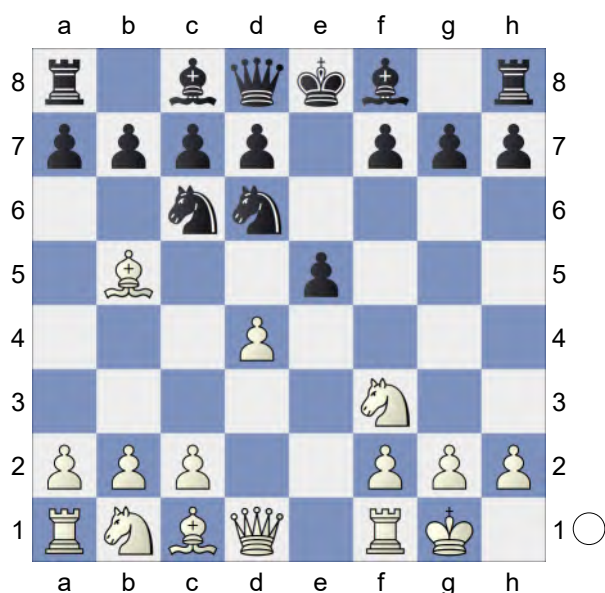
[Ramirez Alvarez,Alejandro]

C67

2718

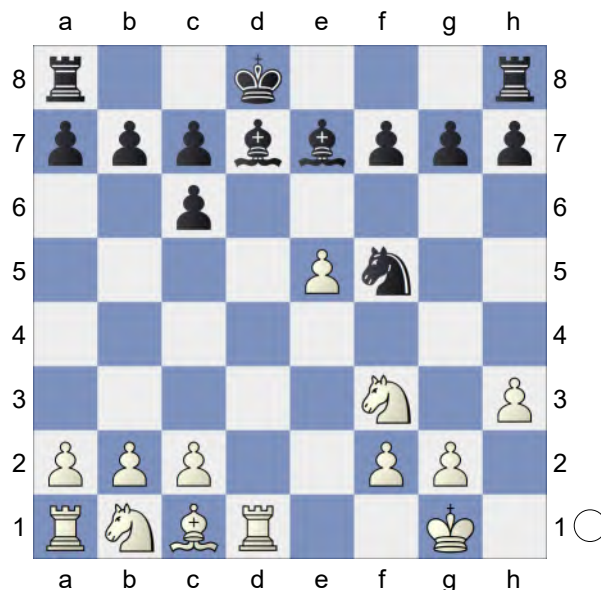
2757

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Mikhalevski,
V: 'Recently the young Chinese super
GM switched from the Four Knights to
the Spanish.' 3...Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.d4
Nd6



6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Nf5 8.Qxd8+
Kxd8 9.h3 Mikhalevski, V: 'This move is
gaining more and more popularity.
Earlier White preferred to start with 9.
Nc3.' 9...Bd7 10.Rd1 Be7

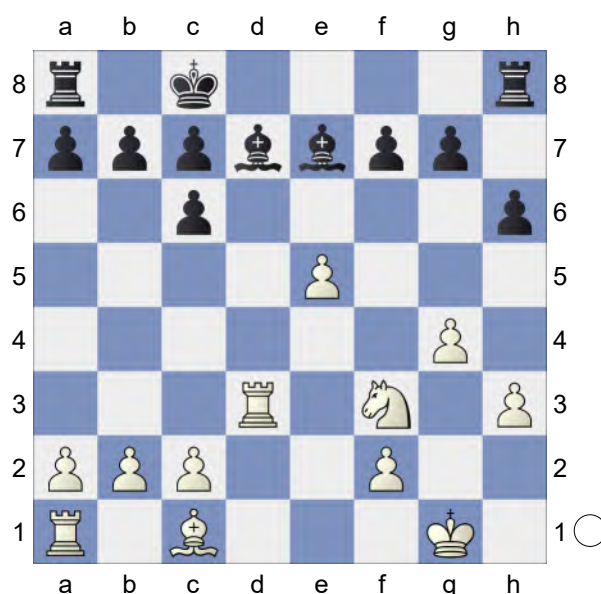
(Diagram)



11.g4 Nh4 12.Nxh4 Bxh4 13.Nd2
Kc8 14.Nf3 Be7 15.Rd3 h6

[15...b5 occurred in Kasimdzhanov, R
(2706)-Radjabov, T (2726)/Baku AZE
2014/[Mikhalevski, V]. Find the game
in our PGN archive for detailed
information about the current line.]

[I also considered 15...c5
in my annotations to the
aforementioned game.]



Mikhalevski, V: 'As I had already
mentioned before, Black's idea was to

prevent 16.Bg5.' **16.Nd4** Mikhalevski, V: 'The knight is heading to f5. White has to make this move before Black plays ... c5.'

[White also tested 16.Bf4 , but it looks inaccurate. c5! Taking away the d4-square from the White's knight. 17.Rad1 Be6 18.b3 b5 with a promising position for Black in Abdumalik, Z (2332)-Pashikian, A (2617) /Al-Ain UAE 2014.]

16...b6 Mikhalevski, V: '!? ' !?' Mikhalevski, V: 'An attempt to improve upon the only preceding game. As usual in the Berlin with the king on c8, Black uses the b7-square for the king.'

[16...Re8!? 17.Bf4 c5 18.Nf5 Bf8 19.c4 a6 20.Ne3 b5 21.b3 g5 22.Bg3 Be6 23.Rad1 Kb7= with equal chances in Caruana, F (2782)-Grischuk, A (2785)/Warsaw 2013.]

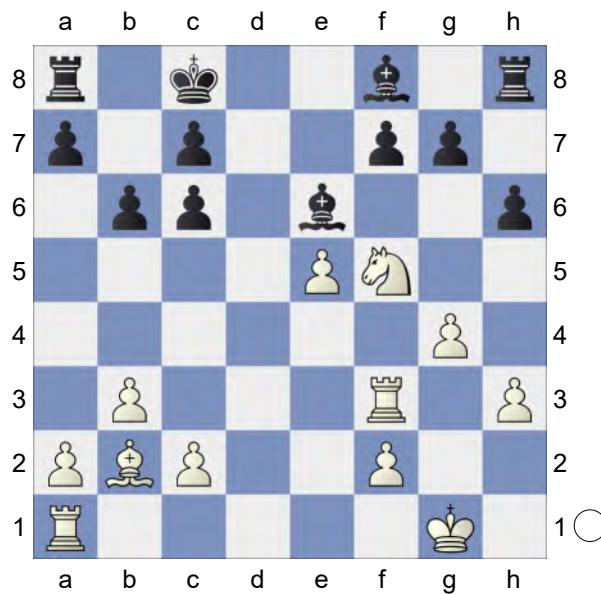
17.Rf3 Be8 18.Nf5 Bf8 19.b3 Mikhalevski, V: '!? ' !?' Mikhalevski, V: 'The bishop will be well placed on the a1-h8 diagonal.' **19...Bd7** Mikhalevski, V: 'Ding Liren brings the bishop to e6.'

[19...g6!? deserved attention, driving the annoying knight away. 20.Ng3 Kb7 (or 20...Bg7 21.Bb2 c5 22.Rd1 Kb7) 21.Bb2 Bg7 22.Rd1 c5 23.c4 Rf8 24.Rfd3 Bc6 25.f4 Rae8= and Black is fine.]

20.Bb2 Be6

[Black could have started with 20...h5 21.g5 and only then Be6 22.Nd4 Bd5]

(Diagram)



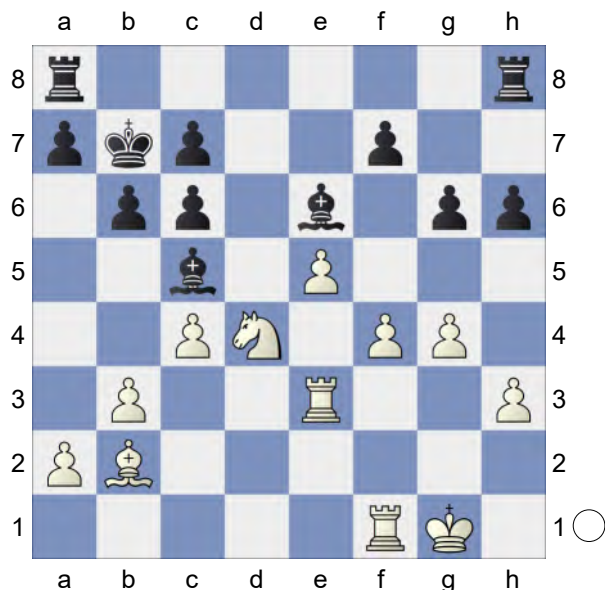
21.Nd4 Mikhalevski, V: '!' '!' Mikhalevski, V: 'Forcing the bishop to d5 where it will be attacked by the c-pawn.' **21...Bd5 22.Re3 Bc5** Mikhalevski, V: '!' '!' **23.c4 Be6 24.f4**

[24.Rd3!? deserved attention. For example, Bxd4 25.Bxd4 c5 26.Be3 h5 27.f3 Kb7 28.Kg2 Rae8 29.Kg3 with some slight pressure, although Black should be able to hold a draw.]

24...g6 Mikhalevski, V: 'Black stops 25.f5 and the pin along the a7-g1-diagonal yields Black slightly better chances.'

25.Rf1 Mikhalevski, V: 'Renewing the idea of f5.' **25...Kb7**

(Diagram)



Mikhalevski, V: '!' '!' **26.Kg2**

[26.f5 gxf5 27.gxf5 Bd7 28.Kh1 (28.e6 Rhg8+ 29.Kh1 fxe6 30.fxe6 Be8) turns out to be better for Black because of the bad position of White's king and Black's bishop pair.) 28...Rae8 and the e-pawn is becoming vulnerable.]

26...Rad8

[26...h5!? deserved attention, trying to force an opening of the lines near White's king. 27.f5 (27.Kg3 hxc4 28.hxc4 Rad8 29.Re4 Rh7) is dangerous for White as Black is going to double on the h-file.) 27...gxf5 28.gxf5 Bd7 29.Rg3 h4 30.Rg4 Rhe8 31.Ne2 Rad8 32.Rxh4 Bc8 with an initiative for the sacrificed pawn.]

27.Rd3! This move is the start of an excellent concept. It seems as if White is pinning himself, but this is not the end of the story. **27...h5** Mikhalevski, V: 'It seems that the highest rated Chinese player underestimated the coming exchange sacrifice.'

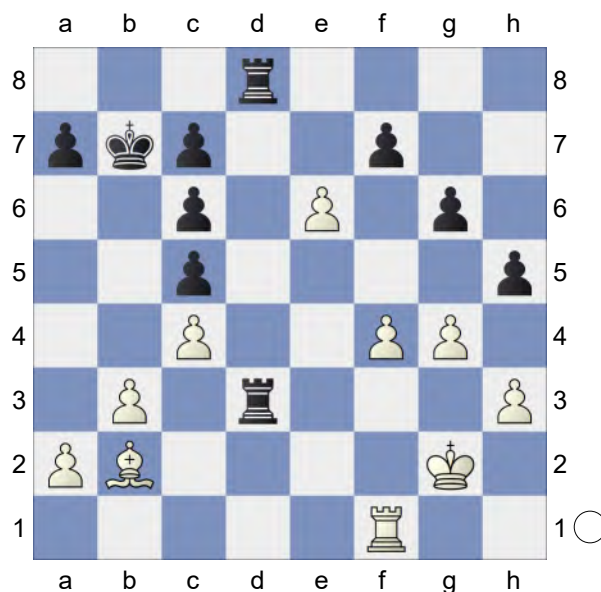
[27...Bxd4 28.Rxd4 Rdg8! Preventing the move f5, would have

given Black excellent chances to draw the game. However, h5 seemed so tempting...]

[27...Bc8! is much safer, and only after 28.Rfd1 h5 29.Ne6 Rxd3 30.Nxc5+ bxc5 31.Rxd3 hxc4 32.hxc4 Rh4 with a minimal edge for Black, although White shouldn't have problems holding.]

28.Nxe6 Mikhalevski, V: '!' '!' The point: **28...Rxd3 29.Nxc5+ bxc5 30.e6** Mikhalevski, V: '!' '!' Mikhalevski, V: 'White's moves are forced.' A simple attack on the rook, but it is not so easy to deal with. **30...Rhd8**

[30...Rf8? Mikhalevski, V: '??' '??' Mikhalevski, V: 'would be a blunder because of' 31.Bg7 Mikhalevski, V: '+- ' '+-' loses instantly.] [30...Re8? 31.exf7]



Mikhalevski, V: '!' '!' **31.exf7** Mikhalevski, V: 'It turns out that Black's defence is not an easy task.' The pawn on f7 is still quite powerful. Black has a tough defense ahead of him. **31...Rd2+?** Mikhalevski, V: 'This move is the decisive mistake.'

[31...Rf8 32.f5! gxf5 33.g5 (33.Rxf5 hxc4 34.hxc4 Rd2+ 35.Kg3 Rxb2 36.g5 Re2 37.Rf6 Re1 38.Kg4± is dangerous for Black.) 33...Rxf7 34.g6 Rf8 35.g7 Rg8 36.Be5! Still is unpleasant for Black. (36.Rxf5?! Rd2+ 37.Rf2 Rxb2 38.Rxb2 Rxc7+=)]

[31...h4 Mikhalevski, V: '!' Mikhalevski, V: 'was necessary, with the idea to meet' 32.Rf3! Mikhalevski, V: 'is stronger and promises some edge for White.' (32.Bg7 Rg3+ 33.Kf2 Rd2+ 34.Ke1 Rgg2 is a computer-like draw.; 32.f5 by Rg3+ once again Black uses his 31st move. 33.Kf2 Rd2+ 34.Ke1 Rgg2 35.Rf3 Rxb2 36.Kf1 Rh2 37.Kg1 Rbg2+ 38.Kf1 Rxa2 39.Kg1=) 32...Rd2+ 33.Rf2 Rxf2+ 34.Kxf2 Rf8 35.f5 Rxf7 36.f6 (36.Kf3 gxf5 37.g5 Rd7! Black is just in time to create counterplay. The move 31...h4 is becoming very handy. 38.g6 Rd3+ 39.Kf4 Rxh3 40.g7 Rg3 41.Be5 Rg2 42.Kxf5 h3 43.Kf6 Rf2+ 44.Ke6 Rg2= leads to a draw.) 36...Kc8 37.Ke3 Kd7 38.Kf4 Ke6 39.Kg5 Rf8 40.Kxg6 Rg8+ 41.Kh7 Kf7 42.Bc1 Rg6 43.g5 Rg8= Black waits with the rook on g8 and g6 and holds a draw.]

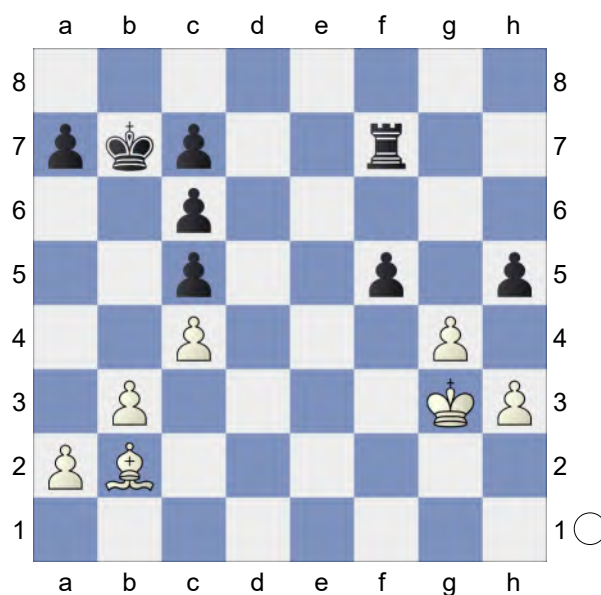
32.Rf2 Mikhalevski, V: '+-' '+-' Mikhalevski, V: 'Now White's pawns on the kingside are unstoppable.'

32...Rxf2+ 33.Kxf2 Rf8 34.f5! Rxf7

[34...gxf5 doesn't help. 35.g5 (35.gxh5 Rxf7 36.h6 Rh7 37.Bg7 Kc8 38.Kf3 Kd7 39.Kf4 Ke6 40.Kg5 Kf7 41.Kxf5+- also wins.) 35...Rxf7 36.g6 Rf8 37.g7 Rg8 38.Kf3 Kc8]

35.Kg3! Mikhalevski, V: 'White wins thanks to this clever move.' This is the point of the combination. **35...gxf5**

[35...h4+! is a tougher defence. 36.Kf4! (36.Kxh4? gxf5 37.g5 f4= is equal.) 36...Kc8 37.f6 Kd7 38.Kg5 Ke6 39.Kxg6 Rd7 40.g5 Rd8 41.Bc3 Rg8+ 42.Kh5 Kf7 43.Kxh4 Kg6 44.Kg4 Re8 45.Bd2 Re2 46.Bf4 Rg2+ 47.Bg3 Rg1 48.h4 Rh1 49.Bxc7 Rg1+ 50.Bg3 Rh1 51.Bf2 Rh2 52.Bxc5 a6 53.a4+- White creates a passed pawn on the queenside and wins.]

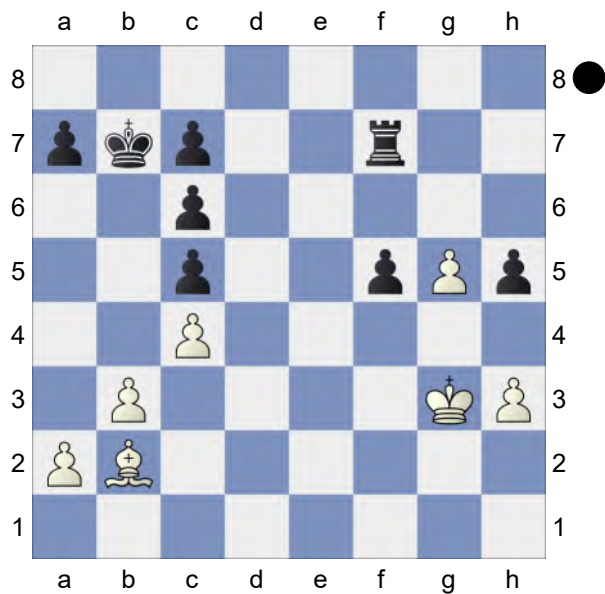


36.g5

[36.g5 Kc8 37.g6 Rf8 38.g7 Rg8 39.Kf4 Kd7 40.Kxf5 Ke7 41.Kg6 Ke6 and White has many ways to win. He can play Ba3-xc5-f8 and then Kh7, trapping the rook and winning when Black runs out of moves, or taking on h5 and making way for the h-pawn. 42.Ba3!+- and White wins.]

[But not 36.gxh5 f4+ 37.Kf3 Rf5!=]

(Diagram)



Mikhalevski, V: '!' '!' '!' '!' Mikhalevski, V: 'and Black resigned as White advances his pawn to g7 and brings the king to support it. A very interesting fighting game, in which one mistake decided its outcome. From the theoretical point of view the line, which occurred in the game looks equal, but playable.' Despite Black's overwhelming material advantage, he is completely powerless against the simple g6-g7 followed by the forward king march. Black simply resigned before getting zugzwanged to death.

1-0

179

□ Svidler, Peter

■ Wei, Yi

FIDE World Cup (5.3)

[Ramirez Alvarez, Alejandro]

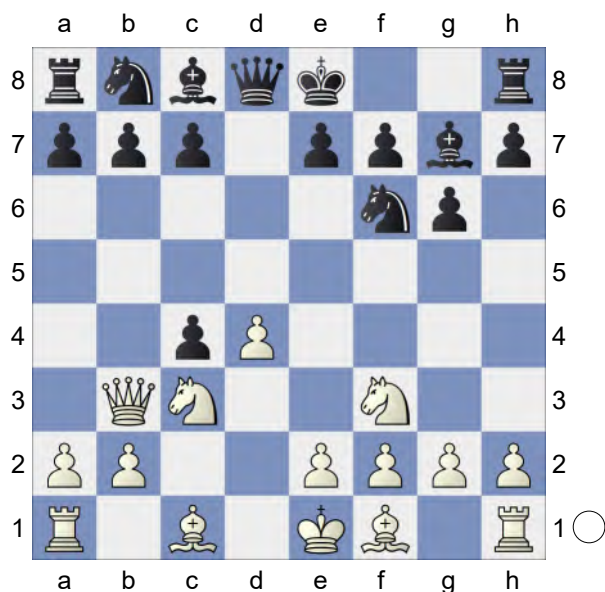
D97

2727

2734

25.09.2015

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3
Bg7 5.Qb3 dxc4



6.Qxc4 0-0 7.e4 Be6 8.Qd3

[In a later game from their match, Svidler opted for 8.Qb5 i.e. Bd7 9.Qb3 c5 10.d5 Qb6 (Black hasn't done very well with 10...b5!? but this looks more dynamic than the game move. After 11.e5 I suggest the unplayed Ng4 12.Bf4 Qc7 with double-edged play) 11.Bc4 (varying from the benign 11.Qxb6 axb6 12.Bg5 e6 13.0-0-0 exd5 14.Bxf6 Bxf6 15.Nxd5 Bd8= Li Zuhao-Mu Ke, Canberra 2014) 11...Bg4 12.Be3 Nbd7 13.Nd2! Ne5 14.h3 Bc8 15.Be2 with some pressure Svidler, P-Wei Yi, (fifth match game) Baku 2015.]

8...c5 9.d5 Bg4

[Facing this position (as Black!) a few

years ago, Svidler preferred to retreat the whole way: 9...Bc8

A) 10.Be2 e6 11.Bg5 h6 12.Be3 exd5 13.exd5 Na6 Potkin, V-Nepomniachtchi, I Yaroslavl 2014. This definitely reminds one of the Prins Variation where the queen is odd on d3, but it could of course (if need be) drop back to d2 with a gain of tempo. Going further... (I suspect that 13...Bf5 is better than the 'natural' 13...Na6 e.g. 14.Qd2 Ne4 15.Nxe4 Bxe4=) 14.Rd1 Ng4 15.Bf4 Bf5 16.Qd2 Nb4 17.0-0 turned out to favour White;

B) 10.Be3 b6 11.h3 e6 12.dxe6 Bxe6 13.Qxd8 Rxd8 14.Ng5 Nc6 15.Nxe6 fxe6 16.Bc4 Kf7 Jakovenko, D-Svidler, P Moscow rapid 2012, doesn't seem to inconvenience Black too much (bishop pair and less pawn islands for White, but Black's knights are fine steeds).]

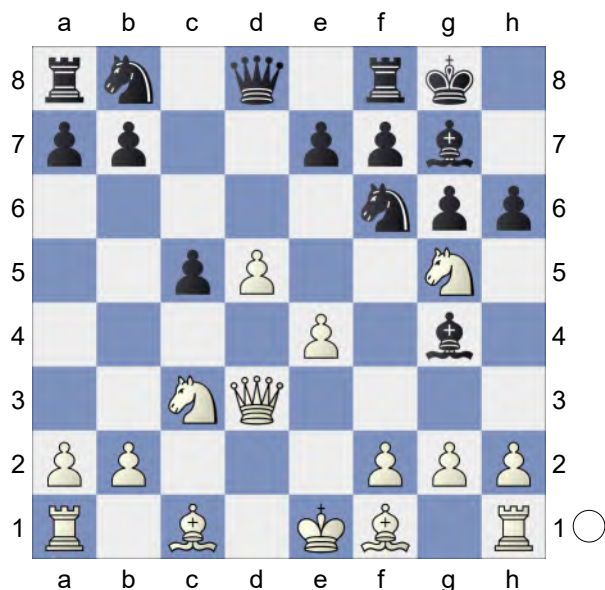
[Going back to d7 may seem slightly odd (isn't it getting in the way?), but it worked well in the following: 9...Bd7 10.Be3 Qa5 11.Nd2 Na6 12.Be2 b5 13.0-0 c4 14.Qb1 Ng4 Omar, Noa-Safarli, E Baku 2014.]

10.Ng5

[10.Be3 Nbd7 11.Nd2 (Black has to be careful about getting his minor pieces tangled, but he correctly and courageously continued in this example with...) e6! 12.d6 (12.h3 exd5! 13.exd5 Bf5) 12...e5 13.Be2 Be6?! (I prefer 13...Bxe2 14.Qxe2 Qb6 15.Nc4 Qc6 with an acceptable game) 14.0-0 Ne8 (Black now lacks space) 15.Rfd1 Rc8 16.Nc4 Rc6 17.Rd2 Qb8 18.a4 Bxc4 19.Qxc4

Nxd6 20.Qa2 Vidit, S-Khusnutdinov,
R Al-Ain 2015, with good
compensation for the first player, as
by winning the d-pawn Black has
opened up lines for White's pieces.]

10...h6



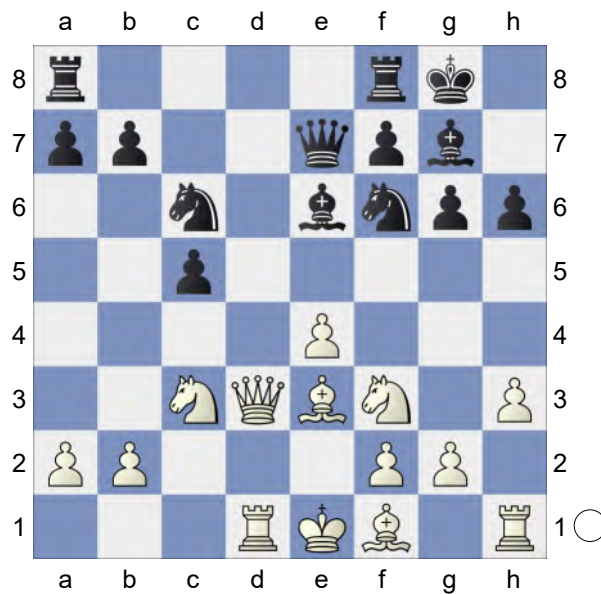
11.h3 Bc8 12.Nf3 e6 Glenn Flear:
'Normally the addition of the moves h3
and ... h6 should be beneficial for White.
However Black is quite active so Svidler
makes the radical decision not to keep
his d-pawn, as he must have judged it
more 'isolated' than 'passed'!' **13.dxe6**

[13.Be2 exd5 14.exd5 Bf5=]

[13.Be3 exd5 14.exd5 Bf5 15.Qd2
Ne4 is at least equal.]

13...Bxe6 14.Be3 Qe7 15.Rd1 Nc6

(Diagram)



16.Qd6 Glenn Flear: 'The idea is to
leave Black with problems linked to the
loose c-pawn.' **16...Qxd6 17.Rxd6**
A typical Grunfeld position. Black has
some problems with his c5 pawn at the
moment, but he is definitely better
developed than White. **17...c4**

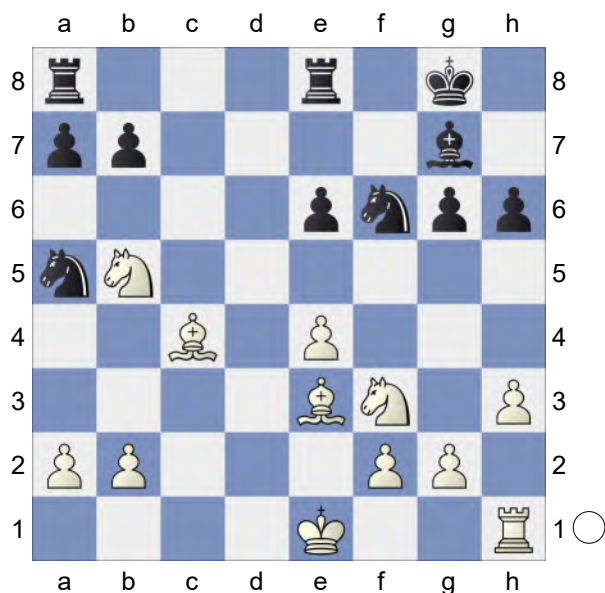
[17...Na5 18.Bxc5 Rfc8 19.Be3
Rxc3! With strong counterplay.]

[Also plausible is 17...Nd7 when the
most challenging reply is 18.Bb5
. Here there is more than one way to
obtain a correct position: Nde5
(18...Rfc8!? 19.Bxc6 Rxc6 20.Rxc6
bxc6 leaves Black with doubled pawns,
but not for long... 21.Kd2 Rb8 22.b3
a5 and ... c4 is coming) 19.Bxc5
Nxf3+ 20.gxf3 Ne5 21.Be2 b6
22.Be3 Rfc8 with adequate activity as
compensation.]

18.Rxe6 Glenn Flear: '!?' Glenn Flear: 'A
dynamic exchange sacrifice.' An
obvious exchange sacrifice. White does
get enough compensation for the lost
material, but it is unlikely that it is any
more than that. **18...fxe6 19.Bxc4 Rfe8**
[19...Kf7!]

20.Nb5 Glenn Flear: 'White has a pawn

and good pieces for the exchange. He also has a superior pawn structure and threats of invading on c7 or d6.' **20...Na5**



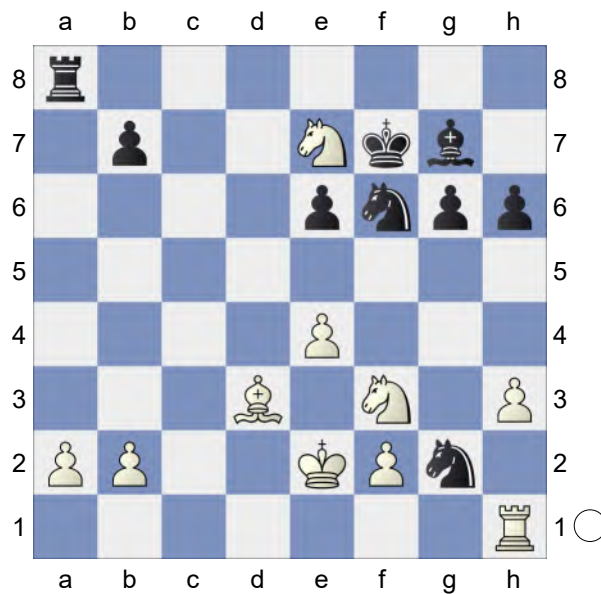
Glenn Flear: '!' Glenn Flear: 'To deflect the annoying bishop.' **21.Bd3** Black has some issues since a7 is hanging and there is a fork that is being threatened on c7. **21...Rec8 22.Ke2 Nc4!?** The start of an unusual series of trades.

[Glenn Flear: 'The more conventional' 22...a6 Glenn Flear: 'would have been many a player's choice.' 23.Nd6 Rd8 24.e5 Nd7 25.Bxg6±]

23.Nxa7! Nxe3 Glenn Flear: 'Wei Yi gives back the exchange in order to obtain counterplay.' **24.Nxc8 Nxg2** Glenn Flear: 'The threat of ...Nf4+ is annoying, but Svidler finds a solution.' **25.Ne7+!**

[25.Rc1 Nf4+ 26.Ke3 Nxh3±]
25...Kf7

(Diagram)



26.Nxg6! A nice detail. Because the knight covers f4, it cannot be ignored.

26...Kxg6 27.Rg1 Rxa2

[27...Nd7 28.Rxg2+ Kf7 was probably better, gunning for the b2 pawn and taking control of e5.]

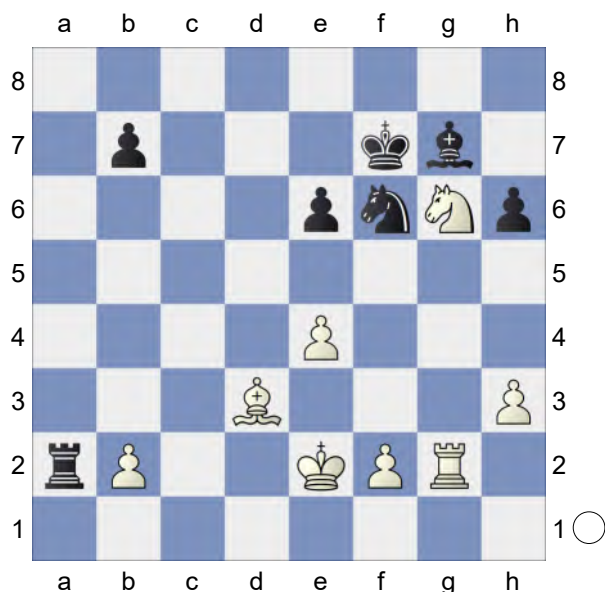
28.Rxg2+ Kf7 Glenn Flear: 'White temporarily has an extra pawn, but b2 is doomed. The only way forward is to create threats before Black gets sorted.'

29.Ne5+ White emerges up a pawn and retains winning chances. **29...Kf8**

[Better than 29...Kg8?! as White would then obtain pressure with 30.Bc4 Rxb2+ 31.Ke3 Rb6 32.f4 Kh7 33.Rd2]

30.Ng6+ Kf7

(Diagram)

**31.Nf4 Rxb2+**

[Black could also try 31...b5 32.Kf3 (the immediate 32.Nxe6 would be met with the tricky Nh5!) 32...Rxb2 33.Nxe6! Kxe6 34.Rxg7 Nd7 with practical chances for the pawn.]

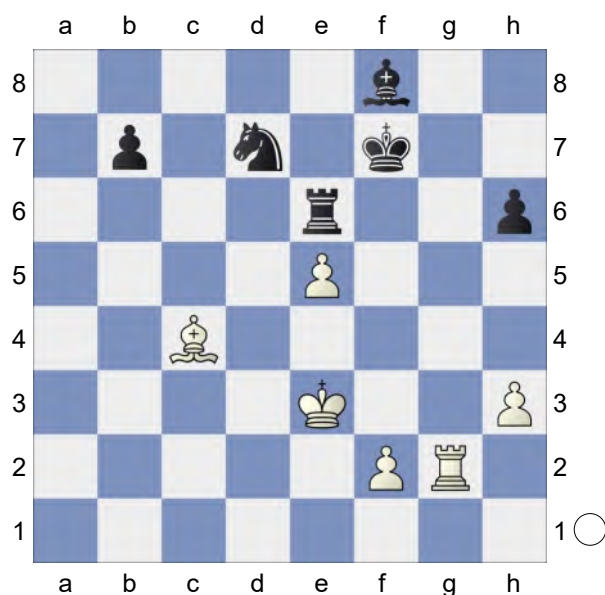
32.Ke3 Bf8 33.Bc4 Rb6 Black is just in time to defend his pawn, but even that endgame is unpleasant. **34.Nxe6** Glenn Flear: '!'

[34.Rg6! is slightly awkward for Black who then needs a precise sequence to escape serious difficulties. Ba3! 35.e5 Bc1+ 36.Kf3 Nh7 37.Rxh6 Ng5+ and despite White's advantage being evident it may not be enough to win: 38.Kg4 Rb4!]

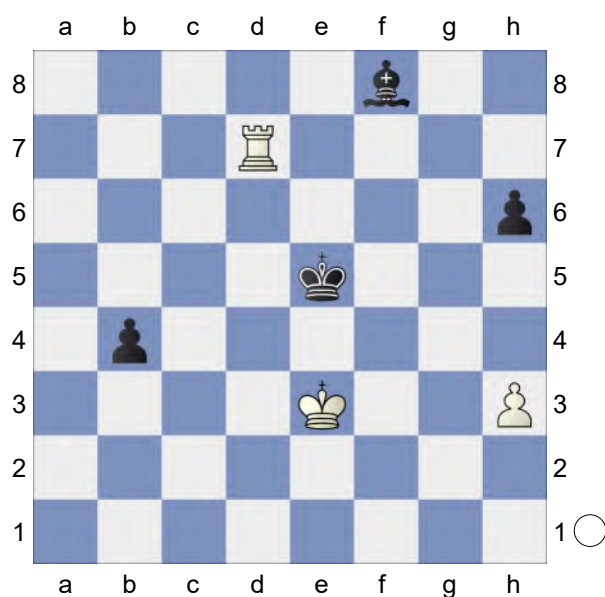
34...Rxe6 35.e5 Glenn Flear: '?!'

[Glenn Flear: 'The best chance was offered by' 35.f4 Glenn Flear: '!' Ke7 (35...b5 36.Ba2 Ke7 37.Bxe6 Kxe6 38.Kd4 when the two connected passed pawns offer significant winning chances. In my experience Rook plus two supported connected passed pawns beat a bare Bishop and Knight. Here the presence of the b-pawn might not change very much.)

36.Bxe6 Kxe6 37.Kd4 Nd7!
seems close to a draw as well.]
35...Nd7

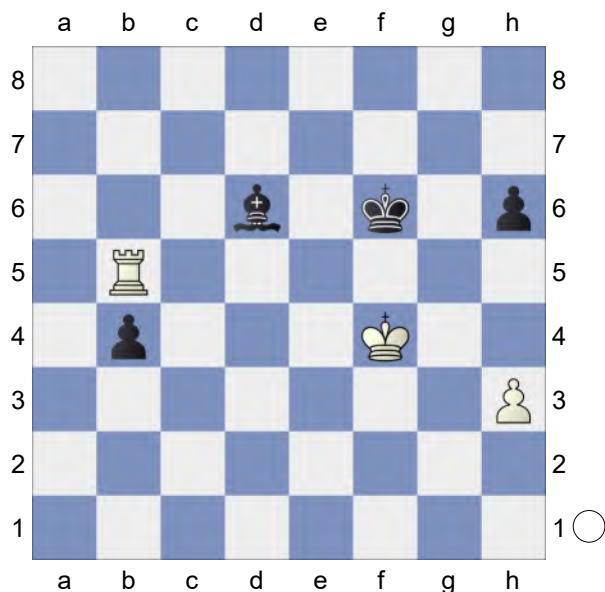


36.f4 b5! 37.Bxe6+ Kxe6 38.Rd2 b4!
Glenn Flear: 'White's problem with the pawns on e5 and f5 is that Black knows where the threat is coming from.' **39.f5+**
Glenn Flear: 'Winning material, but not the game.' **39...Kxf5** Glenn Flear: '!'
Glenn Flear: 'Quite right, this should draw.' **40.Rxd7 Kxe5**

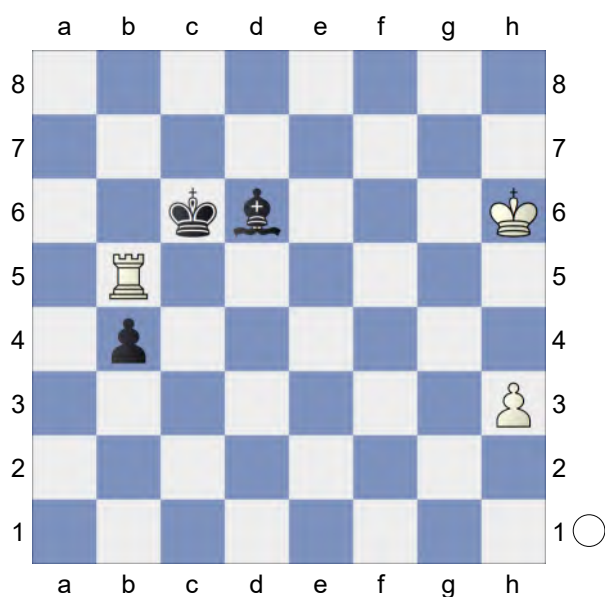


White has an extra exchange, but because of the powerful passed b-pawn

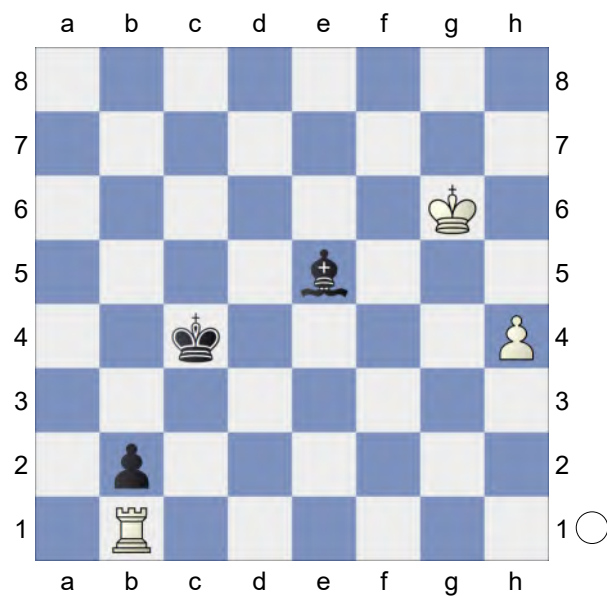
and the reduced number of pawns there is nothing Svidler can do to win. **41.Kd3 Kf6 42.Rd5 Ke6 43.Rb5 Kf6 44.Ke4 Be7 45.Kf4 Bd6+**



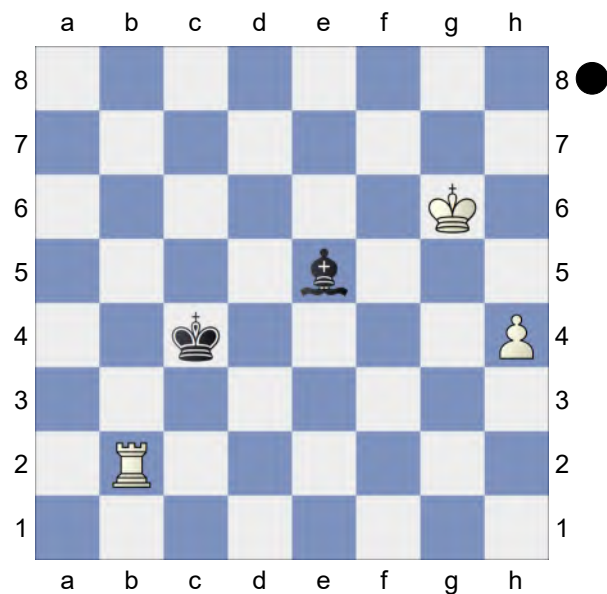
46.Ke4 Be7 47.Kf4 Bd6+ 48.Kg4 Ke6 Glenn Flear: '!' Glenn Flear: 'Active defence. It's always a key moment when the defender decides to come out of his shell.' **49.Kh5 Kd7** White captures the pawn on h6, but now the b-pawn is dangerous. **50.Kxh6 Kc6**



51.Rf5 b3 52.Rf1 Kc5 53.h4 b2 54.Rb1 Be5 55.Kg6 Kc4



Glenn Flear: 'The race is an easy draw.' **56.Rxb2**



1/2-1/2

346

□ Sasikiran,Krishnan

■ Wei,Yi

IND-CHN Summit (7.1)

09.03.2015

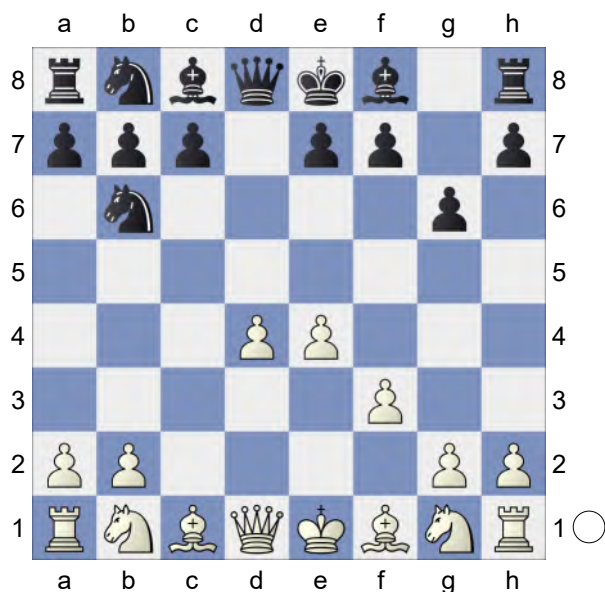
[Ramirez Alvarez,Alejandro]

D70

2682

2706

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.f3 d5 4.cxd5
Nxd5 5.e4 Nb6



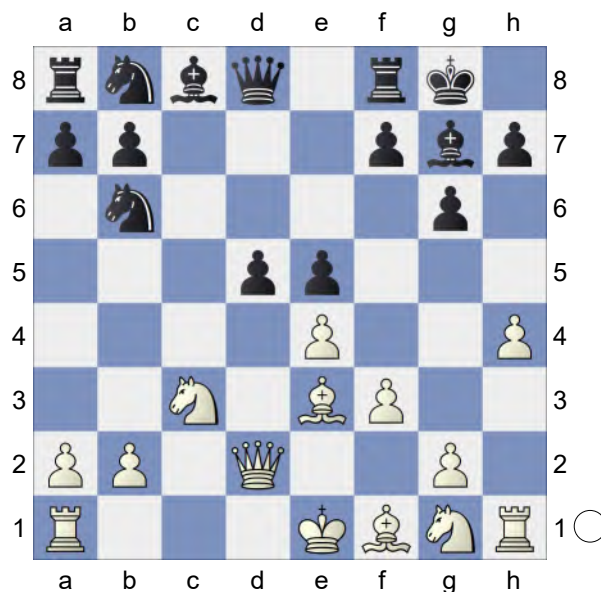
6.Nc3 Bg7 7.Be3 0-0 8.Qd2 e5 9.d5
c6 10.h4 Glenn Flear: 'The most
popular choice.' The most popular choice.
Ramirez Alvarez,Alejandro: 'Glenn
Flear: 'The most popular choice.'"

[Instead there are two alternatives
worthy of note: 10.Rd1 cxd5 11.exd5
Qh4+ (for 11...N8d7 12.Nh3
see the archives) 12.Bf2 Qb4 13.h4
N8d7 14.h5 Nf6 15.Rh4 e4 16.hxg6
hxg6 17.fxe4 Re8 Wojtaszek, R-
Dominguez Perez, L 2014, with
double-edged play.]

[10.0-0-0 cxd5 11.exd5 Na6 12.h4
h5 13.Be2 (this proves to be too slow)
(13.Nh3 Bd7 14.Ng5 Rc8 15.Kb1
is critical with complex play, Urkedal,
F-Ostenstad, B Sandefjord 2012)
13...Bd7 14.g4 Rc8 15.gxh5 Nb4!

16.Kb1 Nc4 17.Bxc4 Bf5+ 18.Ne4
Rxc4 Pascua, H-Laylo, D Quezon City
2014, and Black's attack was already
winning.]

10...cxd5



11.exd5 N8d7 12.h5 Nf6 13.hxg6
fxg6 14.0-0-0 Qd6 Glenn Flear: '!?' '!?'
'!?' '!?' '!?' Glenn Flear: 'Rarely played.'
"Rarely played. Ramirez Alvarez,
Alejandro: 'Glenn Flear: '!?' Glenn Flear:
'Rarely played.'"

[Instead 14...Bd7 15.Kb1 Rc8
has been tested at the highest level
(check out the archives for games with
both 16.d6 (and 16.Ka1)]

15.Kb1

[Developing the knight with 15.Nh3
comes into consideration: Bxh3
16.Rxh3 Rac8 (Black has rapid
development, always handy)

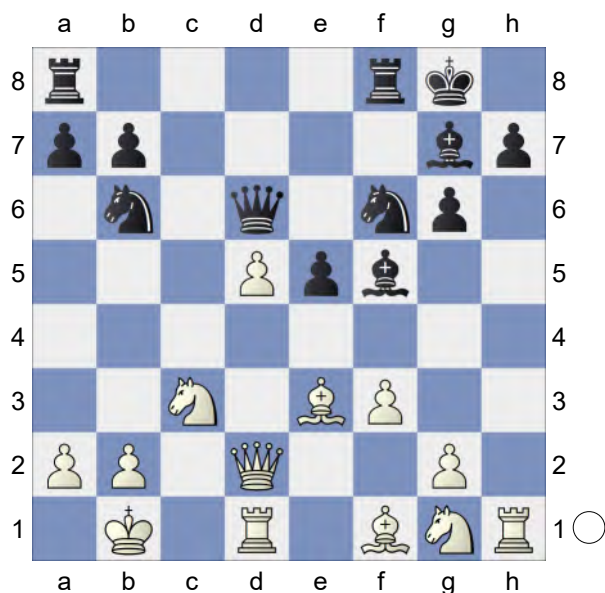
A) 17.Rh4_____ is given by Kaufman
when Qxd5 (or perhaps
17...Rfd8!?) 18.Kb1 Qxd2 19.Rxd2
Rfe8 20.Bb5 Red8 look like a
reasonable line for Black;

B) 17.Kb1_____ e4?! (17...Rfd8=
is a more solid alternative) 18.Bh6
(18.fxe4 Ng4 19.Bg1 is given by

the computer as better for White. So we can take it that it doesn't believe in Black's initiative then!) 18...Bxh6 19.Rxh6 Qe5 20.Rh4 e3 Gretarsson, Hj-Wei Yi, Reykjavik rapid 2013, with sharp play.]

15...Bf5+

[Alternatively 15...Rd8 16.Ka1 Nbx d5 17.Nxd5 Qxd5 18.Bc4 Qxc4 19.Qxd8+ Bf8 20.Qd3 (20.Qxf6?? fails to Be6) 20...Qxd3 21.Rxd3 Bf5 22.Rd1 h5 23.a3 is analyzed by Kaufman as being marginally better for White.]



16.Ka1 h5 17.Nh3 e4 Glenn Flear: '?!' '?!' '?!' '?!' '?!' Glenn Flear: 'As one can see in his game against Gretarsson (see above) Wei Yi likes this advance. Black wants, in principle, to open up the long dark-squared diagonal, but what can White do in reply?' As one can see in his game against Gretarsson (see above) Wei Yi likes this advance. Black wants, in principle, to open up the long dark-squared diagonal, but what can White do in reply? Ramirez Alvarez, Alejandro: 'Glenn Flear: '?!' Glenn Flear:

'As one can see in his game against Gretarsson (see above) Wei Yi likes this advance. Black wants, in principle, to open up the long dark-squared diagonal, but what can White do in reply?'

[After 17...Rac8 18.Nf2 Nc4 19.Bxc4 Rxc4 (this looks at first sight to be fine for Black, but Kaufman goes on to analyze a couple of ideas which he judges to be preferable for White...) 20.Bh6 (or 20.Rc1 Rfc8 21.Bh6 Rd4 22.Qg5!?) 20...Rd4 21.Qg5 when White is (slightly) for preference e.g. Nxd5 22.Bxg7 Kxg7 23.Rxd4 exd4 24.Nfe4 Qd8 25.Nxd5 Qxd5 26.Rxh5 Kg8 27.Rh6!]

18.Bh6 Glenn Flear: '! '!' '!' '!' '!' Ramirez Alvarez, Alejandro: 'Glenn Flear: '!'

[18.Bd4 exf3 19.gxf3 Rac8 looks fine for Black, so Sasikiran decides to eliminate Black's 'Indian' bishop.]

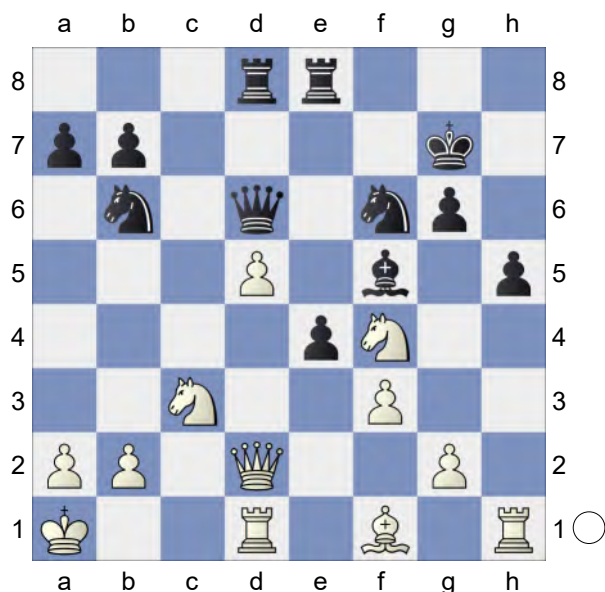
18...Rad8 19.Bxg7 Kxg7 20.Nf4 Glenn Flear: '! '!' '!' '!' '!' Ramirez Alvarez, Alejandro: 'Glenn Flear: '!'

[After 20.fxe4 Bxe4! 21.Nxe4 Nxe4 22.Qd4+ Nf6 White hasn't achieved a great deal and d5 is weak, whereas g6 is less so.]

20...Rfe8

[If 20...exf3?! 21.gxf3 Rfe8 then White would be happy to exploit the g-file with 22.Rg1 etc. (or 22.Bb5 Re5 23.Rhg1)]

(Diagram)



21.Bb5 e3 Glenn Flear: '!' '!' '!' '!' '!' '!' Ramirez Alvarez,Alejandro: 'Glenn Flear: '!' '!' '!' '!' '!' '!' **22.Qd4 Re5**

[After 22...Re7 White has 23.g4! hxg4 24.fxg4 Bxg4 25.Nxg6! Kxg6 26.Rdf1 and Black's king is too exposed.]

23.Bd3

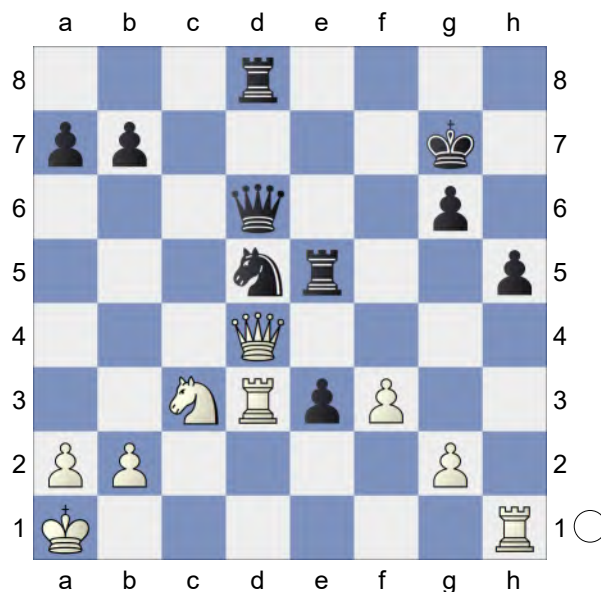
[Best is 23.Be2! threatening both Nb5 and g4, and proves to be strong e.g. a6 24.g4! with a dangerous attack.]

23...Nbx d5 24.Nfx d5? Glenn Flear: 'Losing his way in this complicated struggle.' Ramirez Alvarez, Alejandro: 'Glenn Flear: 'Losing his way in this complicated struggle.' Sasikiran underestimates his opponent's chances. Glenn Flear: 'Ramirez Alvarez, Alejandro: 'Sasikiran underestimates his opponent's chances.'

[Glenn Flear: 'White keeps the advantage by including the preliminary' Ramirez Alvarez, Alejandro: 'Glenn Flear: 'White keeps the advantage by including the preliminary'

preliminary'" 24.Bxf5! Glenn Flear: 'as the following lines suggest:' Ramirez Alvarez,Alejandro: 'Glenn Flear: 'as the following lines suggest:'" gxf5 (or 24...Rxf5 25.Nfxd5 Re5 26.Rde1) 25.Ncx d5 e2 26.Rde1 Nxd5 (26...Kf7 27.a3! (the first rank is otherwise vulnerable to tricks) Nxd5 28.Rxe2 Rxe2 29.Nxe2 when the h-pawn will probably not survive for long.) 27.Ne6+!! Would have been a brilliant way to gain an advantage. (27.Rxe2 the far more normal move, also was good for a plus.) 27...Qxe6 28.Rxe2 and the rook on e5 will fall.]

24...Bxd3 25.Rxd3 Nxd5



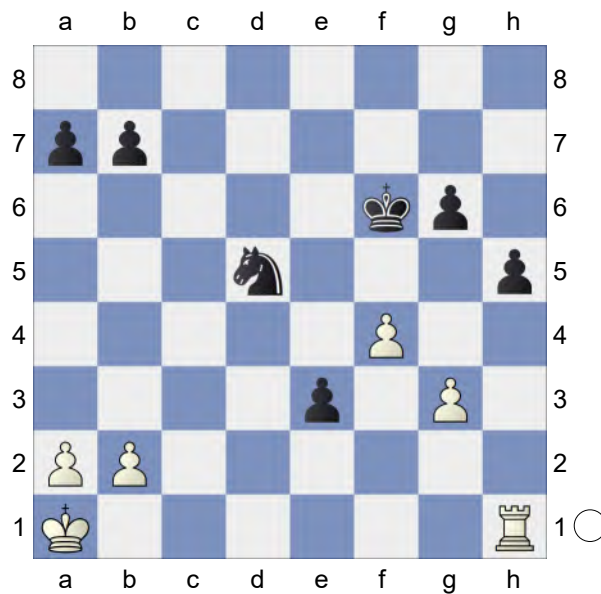
26.f4 Glenn Flear: 'Unfortunately for Sasikiran this pin (surprisingly) doesn't yield an advantage.' Ramirez Alvarez, Alejandro: 'Glenn Flear: 'Unfortunately for Sasikiran this pin (surprisingly) doesn't yield an advantage.' Ramirez Alvarez, Alejandro: 'Glenn Flear: 'Unfortunately for Sasikiran this pin (surprisingly) doesn't yield an advantage.' **26...Nxc3** Glenn Flear: '!' '!' '!' '!' '!' Ramirez Alvarez,Alejandro: 'Glenn Flear: '!' '!' '!' '!' '!' **27.Qxd6 Rxd6 28.Rxd6 Rd5!**

Glenn Flear: 'Saving himself from further material loss. White may have won the exchange, but Black has held onto his big e-pawn.' 'Saving himself from further material loss. White may have won the exchange, but Black has held onto his big e-pawn. Ramirez Alvarez,Alejandro: 'Glenn Flear: 'Saving himself from further material loss. White may have won the exchange, but Black has held onto his big e-pawn.'" A beautiful sequence. Sasikirian has no choice but to take the rook, and although he is up the exchange, the powerful knight on d5, the passed pawn on e3 and the quickness with which the king can approach the center is enough to render his position hopeless. Glenn Flear: 'Ramirez Alvarez,Alejandro: 'A beautiful sequence. Sasikirian has no choice but to take the rook, and although he is up the exchange, the powerful knight on d5, the passed pawn on e3 and the quickness with which the king can approach the center is enough to render his position hopeless.'" **29.Rxd5**

[Rook endgames are often drawish, but after 29.Re6 e2 30.bxc3 Rd1+ 31.Kb2 Rxh1 32.Rxe2 Kf6 Black has winning chances due to the coming pressure against White's kingside.]

29...Nxd5 30.g3 Kf6

(Diagram)



Glenn Flear: 'Black's combined forces of knight, passed pawn and more active king hold sway over a rook. Only Black can win.'" Black's combined forces of knight, passed pawn and more active king hold sway over a rook. Only Black can win. Ramirez Alvarez,Alejandro: 'Glenn Flear: 'Black's combined forces of knight, passed pawn and more active king hold sway over a rook. Only Black can win.'" **31.Rd1 Ke6** Glenn Flear: '?' '?' '?' '?' '?' Ramirez Alvarez, Alejandro: 'Glenn Flear: '?'

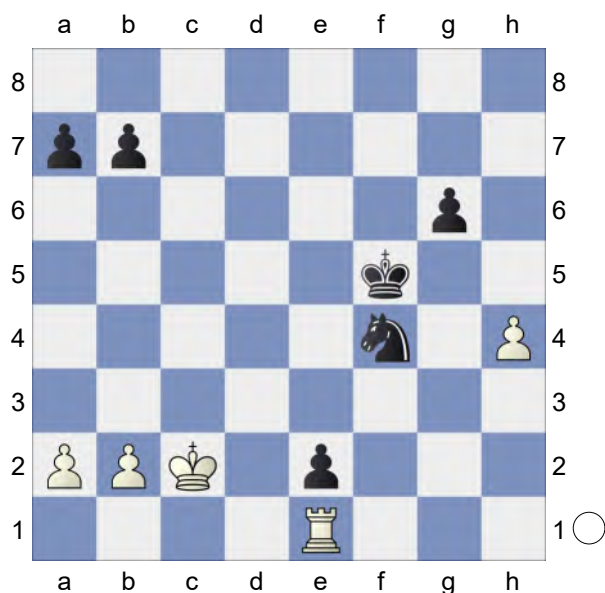
[Not bad, but White should now be able to wriggle out. Instead the flashy 31...h4! works for Black: 32.Rxd5 (32.gxh4 e2 33.Re1 Nxf4 is winning for Black, rather like in the game) 32...hxg3 33.Rd1 Kf5 34.Kb1 Kxf4 and White is struggling: 35.Re1 Kf3 36.Kc2 g2 37.Kd1 a5 38.a3 e2+ 39.Kd2 a4 40.Rg1 Kf2-+]

32.Kb1 h4 33.gxh4 Glenn Flear: '?' '?' '?' '?' '?' Glenn Flear: 'Losing a key tempo and ultimately the game.'" Losing a key tempo and ultimately the game. Ramirez Alvarez,Alejandro: 'Glenn Flear: '?' Glenn Flear: 'Losing a key tempo and

ultimately the game."

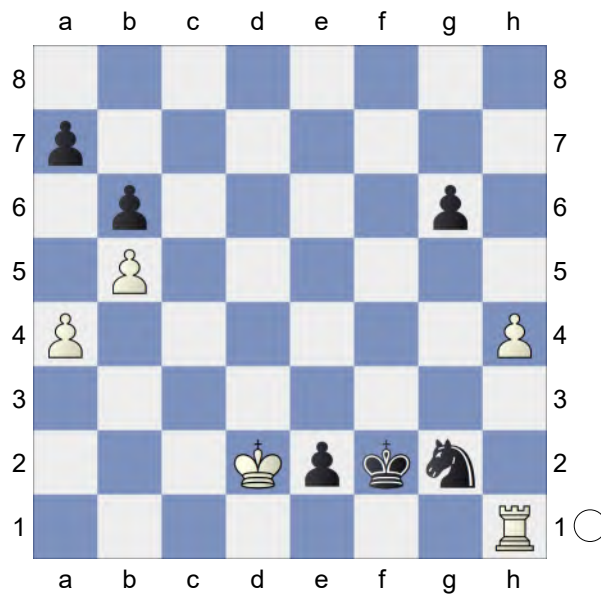
[Instead 33.Kc2! (in endgames, 'when in doubt, bring up the king') should hold e.g. hxg3 34.Rg1 e2 35.Kd2 Nxf4 36.Rxg3 Kf5 and Black can't make progress.]

33...e2 34.Re1 Nxf4 35.Kc2 Kf5



36.Kd2 Ke4 Glenn Flear: 'Black's king glides into White's backyard and rules the roost.' Black's king glides into White's backyard and rules the roost. Ramirez Alvarez,Alejandro: 'Glenn Flear: 'Black's king glides into White's backyard and rules the roost.'" **37.b4 Kf3 38.a4 Kf2 39.b5 b6** Glenn Flear: 'Zugzwang. The rook is obliged to move. "Zugzwang. The rook is obliged to move. Ramirez Alvarez,Alejandro: 'Glenn Flear: 'Zugzwang. The rook is obliged to move.'" **40.Rh1 Ng2**

(Diagram)



0-1

398

□ Anton Guijarro, David

■ Wei, Yi

Leon 28th rapid (1.1)

13.06.2015

[Ramirez Alvarez, Alejandro]

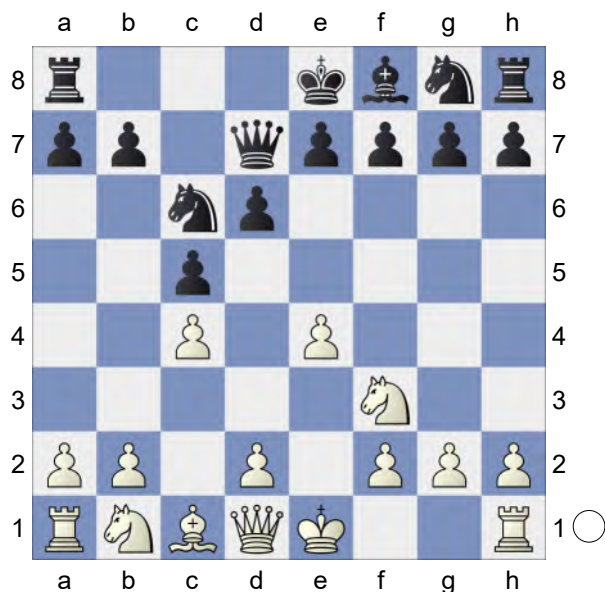
B52

2626

2721

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7
 4.Bxd7+ Qxd7 5.c4 The Grunfeld with
 5.♔d2 seems to be more popular in the
 recent months. The idea are varied and
 Black has yet to fully equalize in some
 lines. 5...Nc6

[5...Nf6 6.Nc3 g6 7.0-0 Bg7 8.d4
 cxd4 9.Nxd4 0-0 10.f3 Rc8 11.b3
 d5 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Nxd5 e6]

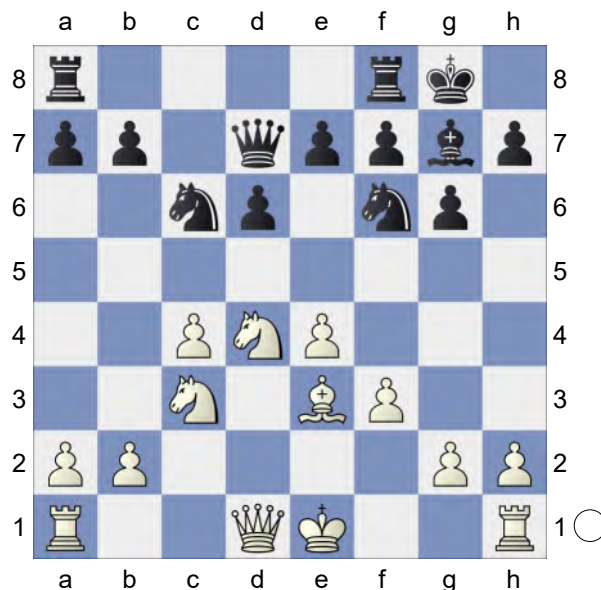


6.Nc3

[6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 g6 8.b3]

6...g6 7.d4 This idea of preventing e5 at
 all costs has been seen at the top level
 a few times. Wang Hao has used it
 three times, Tomashevsky twice.
 7...cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bg7 9.Be3 Nf6 10.f3
 0-0

(Diagram)



11.Rc1 Black's bishops are not powerful
 yet - the central blockade is doing a
 good job of lessening the power of the
 fianchetto bishop while the one on e6
 lacks targets. However, things change
 quickly - Black only needs to break
 through on c5.. 11...Rfc8

[11...Nxd4 12.Bxd4 Rfc8]

[11...a6 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.0-0 Qb7
 14.Rf2 Nd7 15.b3]

12.b3 a6! An excellent time for this
 break. Wei Yi ignores his structure and
 gives priority to the activity of his pieces.

13.Nxc6?!

[13.a4 e6 14.0-0 d5 15.Nxc6 bxc6
 16.a5 (16.e5 Ne8 17.f4 a5)
 16...Qe7 17.Na4 (17.exd5 cxd5
 18.Na4 Rc6 19.Qe2 Rd8 20.Bb6
 Rdc8) 17...dxe4 18.Nb6 Rd8 19.Qe2
 Rab8]

[13.Nde2 Qd8 14.Qd2 Qa5 15.Na4
 Qxd2+ 16.Kxd2 Nd7 17.Nec3 b5
 18.cxb5 Bxc3+ 19.Rxc3 (19.Nxc3
 axb5) 19...axb5 20.Rhc1 Nde5 21.f4
 Nc4+ 22.bxc4 b4 23.Nb6 bxc3+
 24.Kd1 Rd8 25.Nxa8 Rxa8]

[13.0-0 Nxd4 14.Bxd4 b5]

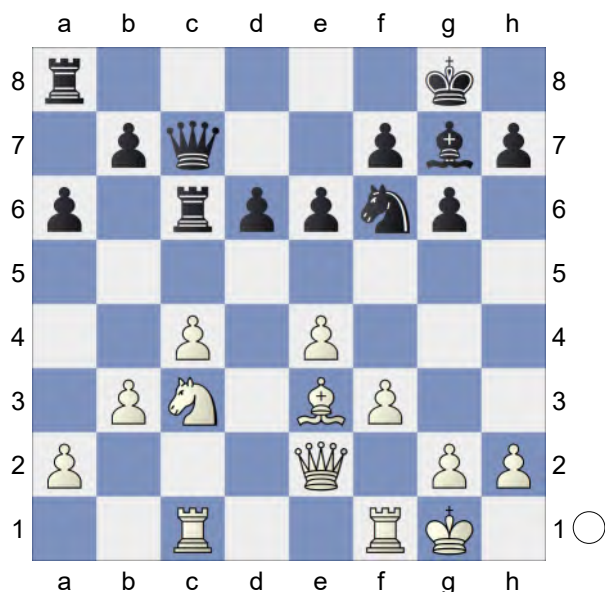
13...Rxc6! 14.Qe2

[14.a4 e6 (14...Qd8 15.0-0 Qa5
16.Nd5 Nxd5 17.exd5 Rc7 18.Qe1)
15.0-0 Qd8 16.Kh1 Qa5 17.Bd2
Qc7 18.Qe2 Nd7]

[14.Nd5 b5 15.c5 Qe6]

14...e6 This simple maneuver gives White very unpleasant problems. The structure on the center is easily attacked, while the pawn on c5 will not survive for long. Notice the difference in power between the bishops now and a few moves ago. **15.0-0 Qc7**

[15...d5 16.Rfd1]



16.a4 Nd7 17.Rc2

[17.Rfd1 Bxc3 18.Rxc3 b5 19.c5
Nxc5 20.Rdc1]

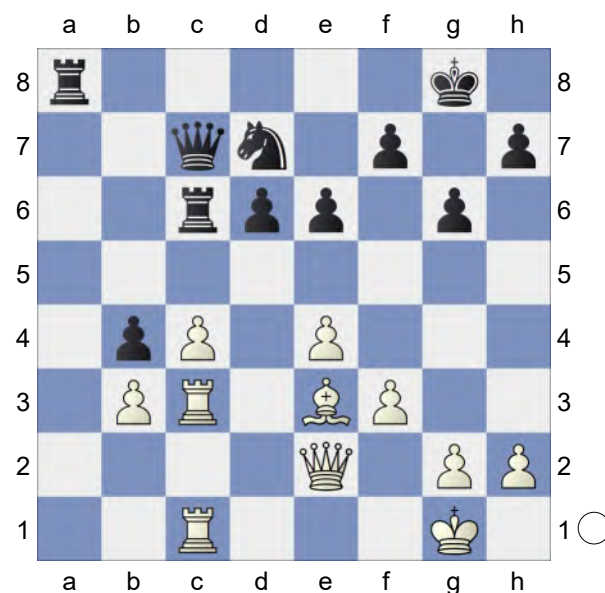
17...Bxc3 18.Rxc3 b5! Black has recovered his pawn and his pair of bishops gives him an advantage. It is uncomfortable to find moves for White, who simply does not have an answer to the bishop on g7. **19.axb5**

[19.c5 bxa4 20.cxd6 Qxd6 21.Rd1
Qc7 22.Rxc6 Qxc6 23.bxa4 Qxa4
24.Rd4 Qc6 (24...Qa1+ 25.Rd1
Qa4 26.Rd4) 25.Qd2 Nf6 26.Rd6
Qc4 27.h3 Ne8 28.Rd8 Rxd8

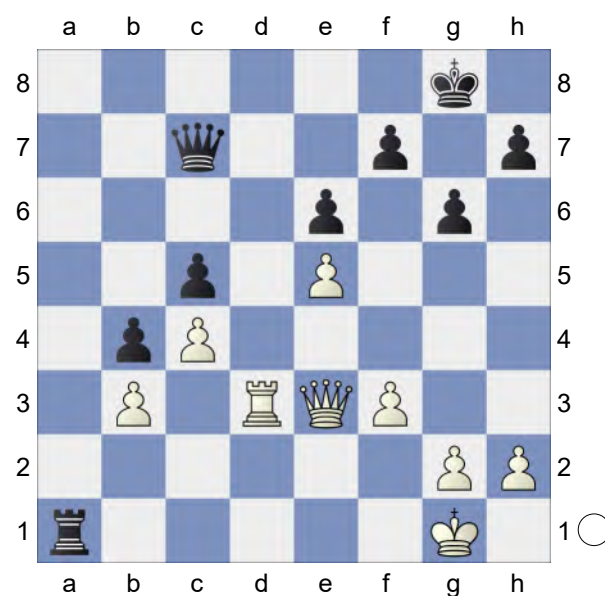
29.Qxd8 Qb5 30.Qe7 a5 31.Bc5
Qb1+ 32.Kf2 (32.Kh2 Qb8+ 33.Kg1
Ng7) 32...Qb2+ 33.Kg1]

19...axb5 20.Rfc1 b4

[20...bxc4 21.Rxc4 Rxc4 22.Qxc4
Qxc4 23.Rxc4]

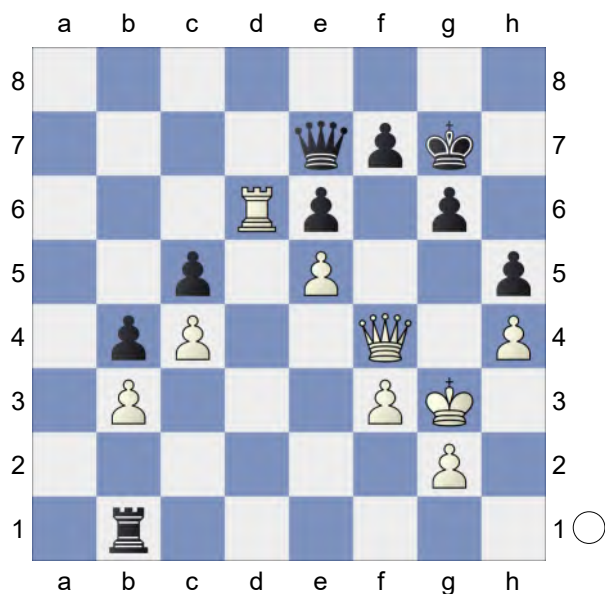


**21.Rd3 Nc5 22.Bxc5 dxc5 23.e5
Rca6 24.Qe3 Ra1 25.Rxa1 Rxa1+**

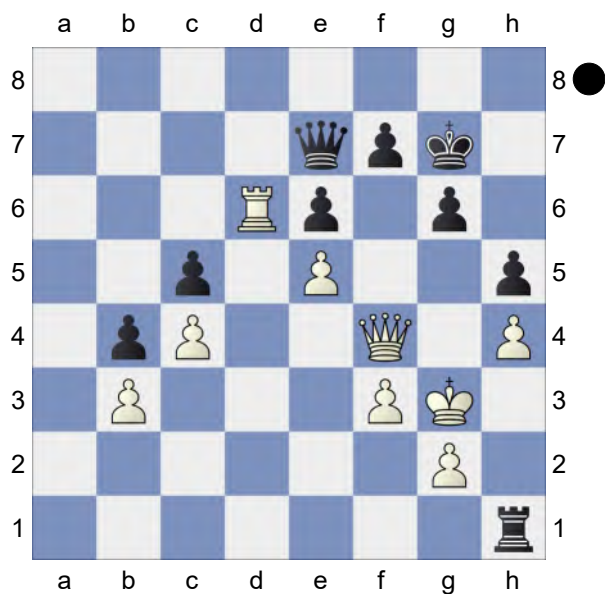


26.Kf2 Qe7 27.Qf4 Kg7 28.h4 h5 Anton gives up in a position that is hopeless. He is down a pawn and Black's activity is overwhelming. **29.Kg3**

Rh1 30.Rd6 Rb1



and despite the weakness on e6, Black's superior activity gives him the easier play. **31.Rd3** was Moiseenko-Khusnutdinov from 2014. **31...Rh1 32.Rd6**



0-1

400

□ Anton Guijarro, David

■ Wei, Yi

Leon 28th rapid (1.1)

[Ramirez Alvarez, Alejandro]

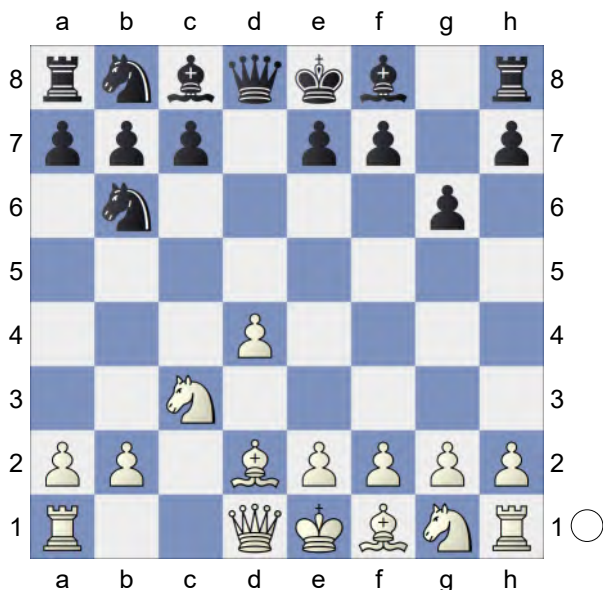
D85

2626

2721

13.06.2015

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5
 Nxd5 5.Bd2 The Grunfeld with 5.♗d2
 seems to be more popular in the recent
 months. The idea are varied and Black
 has yet to fully equalize in some lines.
 5...Nb6



6.e3 Bg7 7.f4 This idea of preventing
 e5 at all costs has been seen at the top
 level a few times. Wang Hao has used it
 three times, Tomashevsky twice. 7...0-0
 8.Nf3 Be6

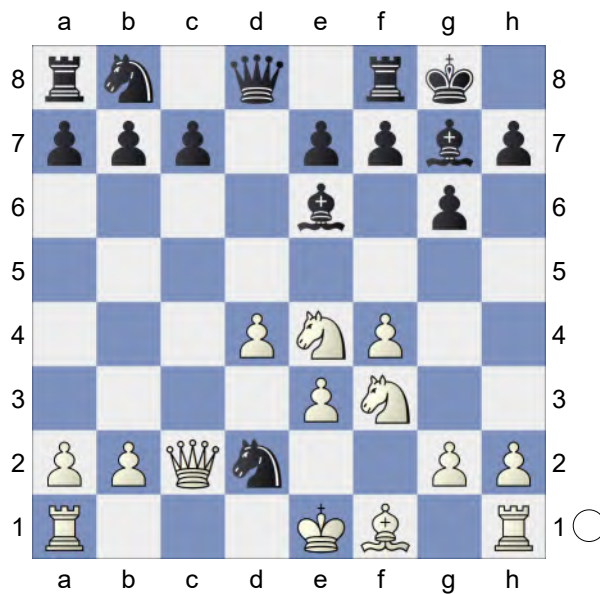
[8...N8d7 - 121/(158)]

9.Ne4 Arsovic, Goran: 'N'

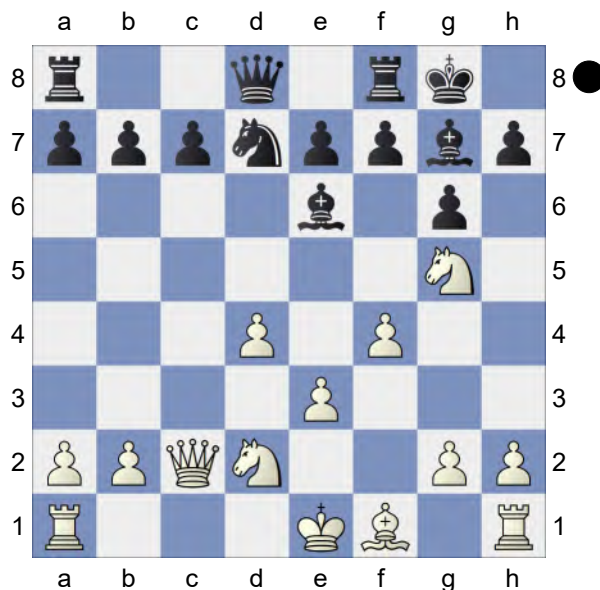
[9.Rc1 was Moiseenko-Khusnutdinov
 from 2014.]

9...Nc4 10.Qc2 Nxd2

(Diagram)



11.Nfxd2 Black's bishops are not
 powerful yet - the central blockade is
 doing a good job of lessening the power
 of the fianchetto bishop while the one on
 e6 lacks targets. However, things
 change quickly - Black only needs to
 break through on c5.. 11...Nd7 12.Ng5
 Arsovic, Goran: 'Diagram



' 12...c5! An excellent time for this break.
 Wei Yi ignores his structure and gives
 priority to the activity of his pieces.
 13.dxc5?!

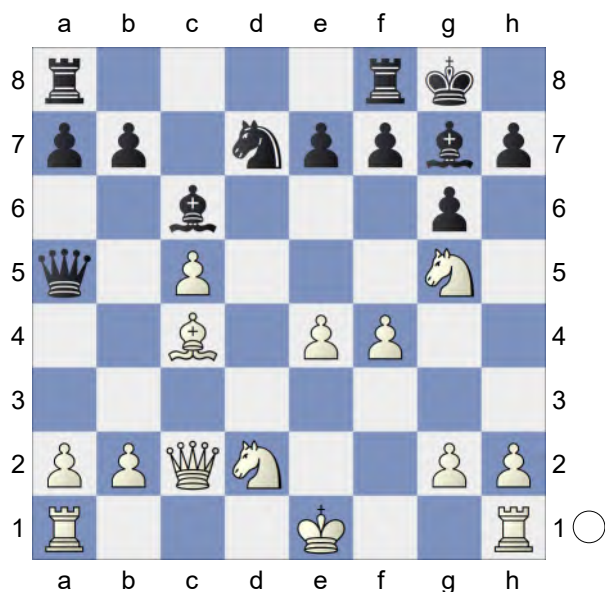
[13.Nxe6 fxe6 14.dxc5 Rc8

and despite the weakness on e6, Black's superior activity gives him the easier play. 15.Bc4 Rxc5! 16.Bxe6+ (16.Qb3 Rc6 17.Bxe6+ Kh8 18.Bxd7 Qxd7 19.Rd1 Rd8 20.Ne4 Qxd1+ 21.Qxd1 Rxd1+ 22.Kxd1 Bxb2=) 16...Kh8 17.Qd3 Bxb2 18.Rd1 Rc3 19.Qd4+ Nf6 20.Qxd8 Rxd8 21.Ke2 Rc6=]

13...Bd5! 14.e4 Bc6 Arsovic,Goran: '♞' This simple maneuver gives White very unpleasant problems. The structure on the center is easily attacked, while the pawn on c5 will not survive for long. Notice the difference in power between the bishops now and a few moves ago.

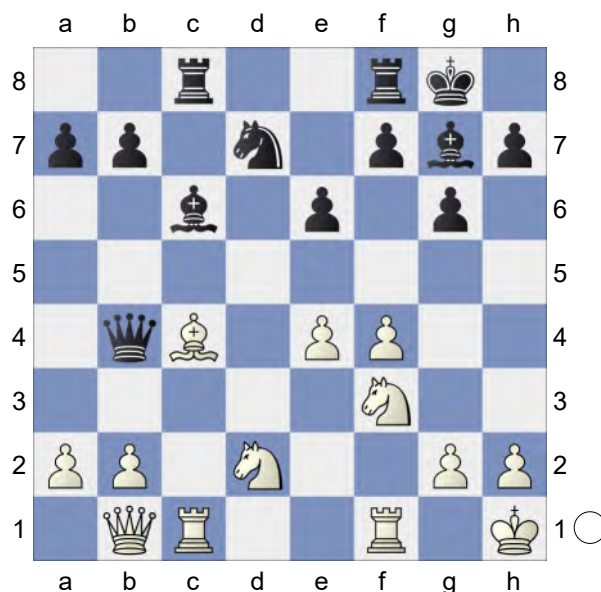
15.Bc4 Qa5

[15...e6!? 16.Nb3 Nxc5 17.Nxc5 Qa5+ 18.Kf1 Qxc5 19.Nxe6 Bxe4 20.Qxe4 fxe6 21.g3 Kh8 22.Kg2 e5♞]



16.Rc1 e6 17.0-0 Qxc5+ 18.Kh1 Qe7! Black has recovered his pawn and his pair of bishops gives him an advantage. It is uncomfortable to find moves for White, who simply does not have an answer to the bishop on g7. **19.Ng3**

Rac8 20.Qb1 Qb4

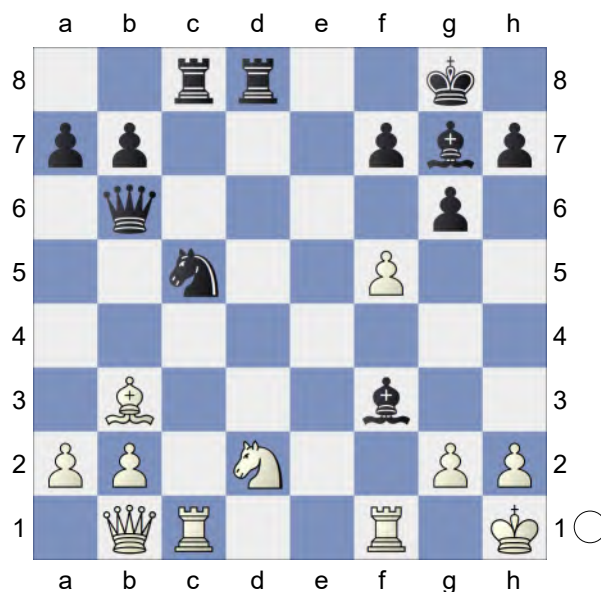


21.Bb3 Nc5 Arsovic,Goran: '♞' **22.Rc4 Qb6 23.Rcc1 Rfd8 24.f5**

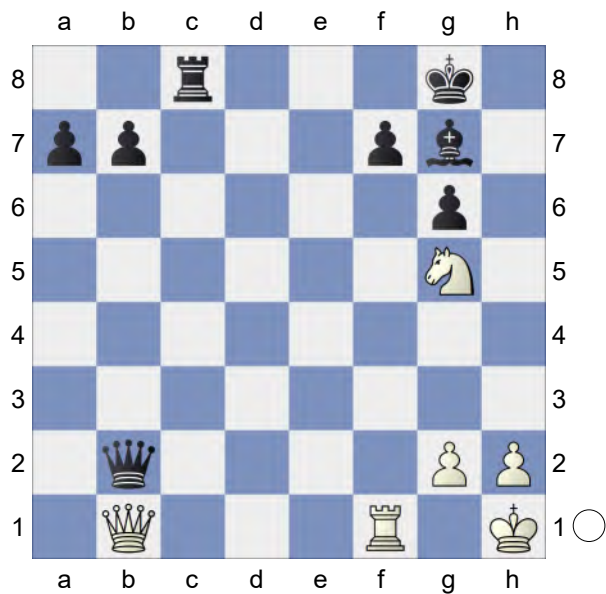
[24.e5 Nd3 25.Nc4 Qb4♞]

24...exf5 25.exf5 Bxf3

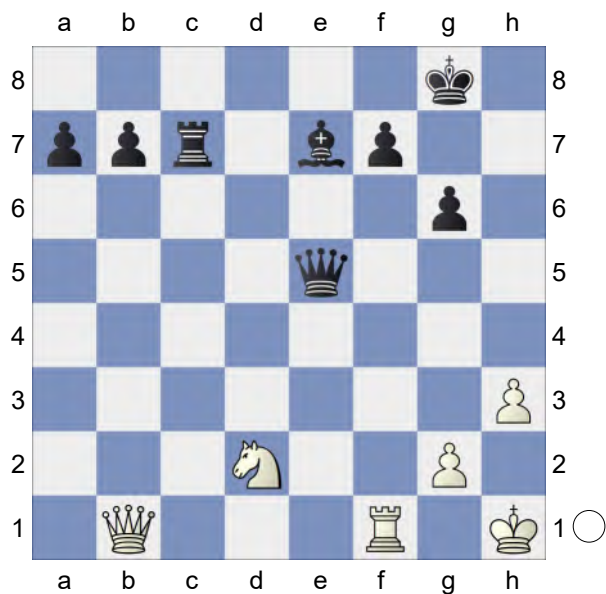
[25...Nxb3 26.Nxb3 a5-+]



26.Nxf3 Nxb3 27.axb3 Qxb3 Arsovic,Goran: '-+' **28.fxg6 hxg6** Anton gives up in a position that is hopeless. He is down a pawn and Black's activity is overwhelming. **29.Rxc8 Rxc8 30.Ng5 Qxb2**

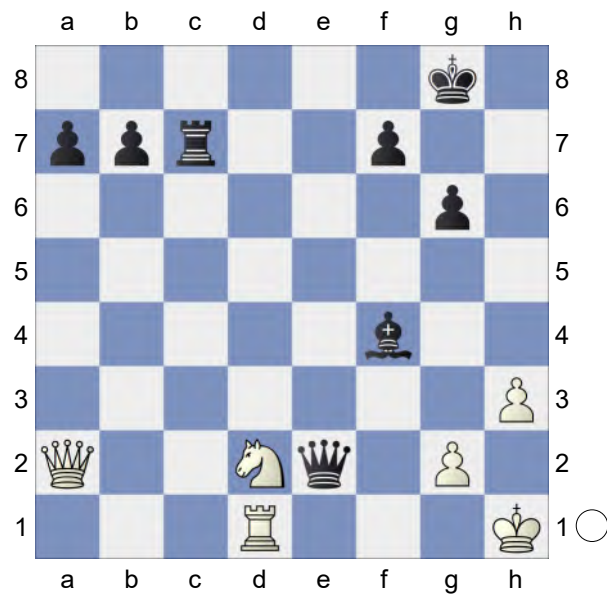


31.Qe1 Bf6 32.Ne4 Be7 33.h3 Qe5
34.Qb1 Rc4 35.Nd2 Rc7



36.Qa2 Bd6 37.Nf3 Qe3 38.Nd2 Bf4
39.Rd1 Qe2

(Diagram)



0-1 (39) Anton Guijarro,D (2626)-Wei,Y (2721) Leon 2015 Cl1-130 [Arsovic, Goran]

0-1

239

D00

□ Yu, Yangyi

2721

■ Wei, Yi

2706

Shenzhen (rapid) (5.2)

28.11.2016

[Richard Palliser]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 e6 3.Nd2

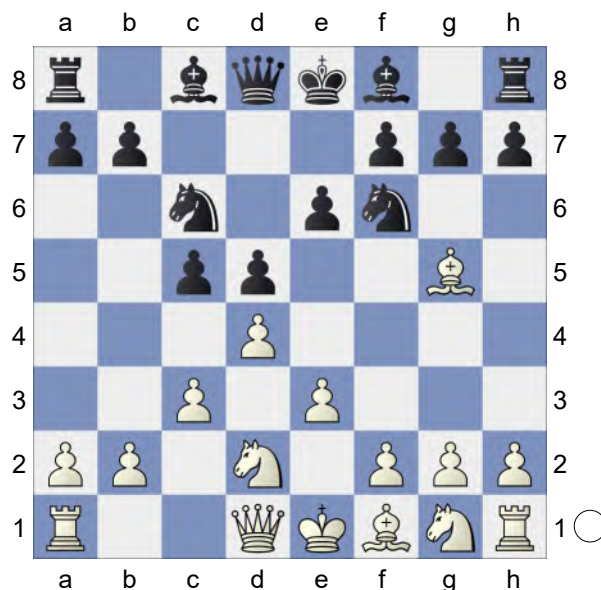
[The most trendy alternative to pushing the e-pawn two squares, although 3.e3 is, of course, also possible and after c5 4.c3 cxd4 5.exd4 Be7 6.Bd3 a6 7.a4 b6 8.Nf3 Bb7 9.Nbd2 d6 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Re1 0-0 12.Nf1 Re8 13.Ng3 Qc7 a very common sort of Torre struggle had arisen in Stopa-Richter, German Bundesliga 2016. Clamping down on b5 with a2-a4 was surely a reasonable call and White does have more space, but Black is typically compact and flexible. Play continued 14.c4!? when I suspect that Black should even consider breaking with his d-pawn, since Bf8 15.a5! was quite annoying, White going on to exploit his edge after bxa5 16.Bd2 a4 17.Qxa4 e5?! 18.Ba5 Qc8 19.d5 Nc5 20.Qc2 Nxd3 21.Qxd3 g6 22.b4 .]

3...c5

[In both the pure Torre and delayed Torre lines White must be ready for positions with and without ...h6. Indeed, 3...h6 4.Bh4 d5 5.e3 Be7 6.Bd3 0-0 7.c3 b6 8.f4!? should be compared with our main game. This feels like exactly the sort of early f4 White is trying to make work, partly because Black hasn't any tricks here. Following Bb7 (8...Ba6! would be prudent) 9.Bxf6! (avoiding 9.Ngf3 Ne4, which should equalise) 9...Bxf6

10.Qh5 Nd7 11.Ngf3

I would certainly feel quite nervous in Black's shoes. However, the key question is: can White's aggressive play really be justified? Well, yes, here I believe it can: Be7 12.g4 Nf6 13.Qh3 Ne4 14.Rg1 . The attack simply runs on oiled wheels and after c5 15.g5 hxg5 16.fxg5 g6 17.Rg4! Nxc5 18.Nxc5 (18.Qh6! would have been an immediate game-ender, and if Ne4 19.Bxe4 dxe4 20.Ne5) 18...Bxc5 19.Nf3 Bf6 20.0-0-0 Kg7 21.Qg3 Rg8 22.Rf1! Bc6 23.Ne5 there was nothing much to be done about a devastating blow on g6 in Sengupta-Zarkovic, European Club Cup, Novi Sad 2016.]

4.e3 d5 5.c3 Nc6**6.Bd3**

[6.Ngf3 might well be prudent and, moreover, takes play into a reasonable enough version of the Torre for White.]

6...h6 7.Bh4

[This time after 7.Bxf6!? Black can either recapture with the f-pawn or develop while hitting f4 with Qxf6 8.f4

Bd6 9.Ne2 0-0 10.0-0 Qd8 .]

7...Qb6!?

[In practice one can imagine many weaker players developing with 7...Be7 ,]

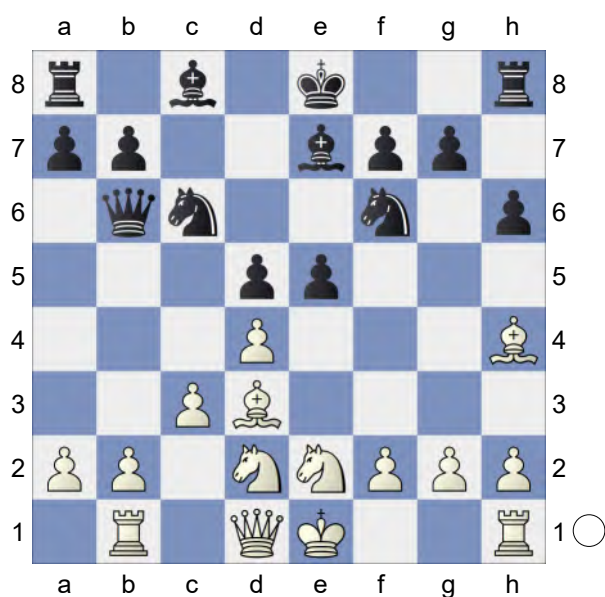
[but the text or 7...e5! must be critical. Moreover, this central reaction just seems to equalise, as shown by 8.Bxf6 Qxf6 9.e4!? (9.dxe5 Nxe5 10.Bb5+ Nc6 11.Ngf3 Be7 is all too easy for Black) 9...exd4! 10.exd5 Ne5 11.Qe2 Be7 12.Bb5+ Kf8 and Black is at least OK in the resulting small mess.]

8.Rb1 cxd4 9.exd4 e5!? I'm not sure I would have opened the e-file before playing this, but even here White doesn't seem to have anything. 10.Ne2

[10.Qe2!? Bg4 11.f3 is the critical line, but after Be6 12.dxe5 Nh5 13.Bf2 Nf4 Black seems to equalise.]

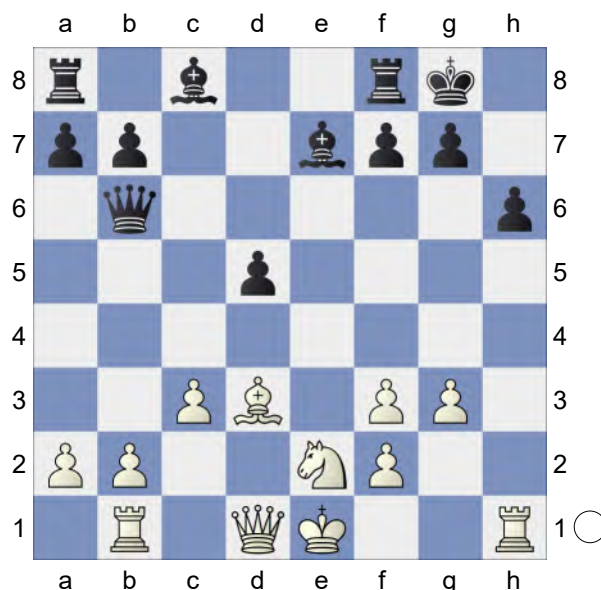
[Likewise, 10.dxe5 Nxe5 11.Bc2 Bg4 12.Ne2 0-0-0!? isn't a position I'd want to give more than an unclear assessment to.]

10...Be7



11.dxe5 Ne4! Equalising. White cannot allow an accident to happen on h4, so is

forced to retreat after which the further exchanges are fairly favourable for Black. **12.Bg3 Nxg3 13.hxg3 Nxe5 14.Nf3 Nxf3+ 15.gxf3** At first I did wonder if White's firm grip on d4 might mean something, but unsurprisingly - no! The problem, as so often in IQP structures, is that White's kingside isn't entirely stable and that Black can continue actively. **15...0-0**

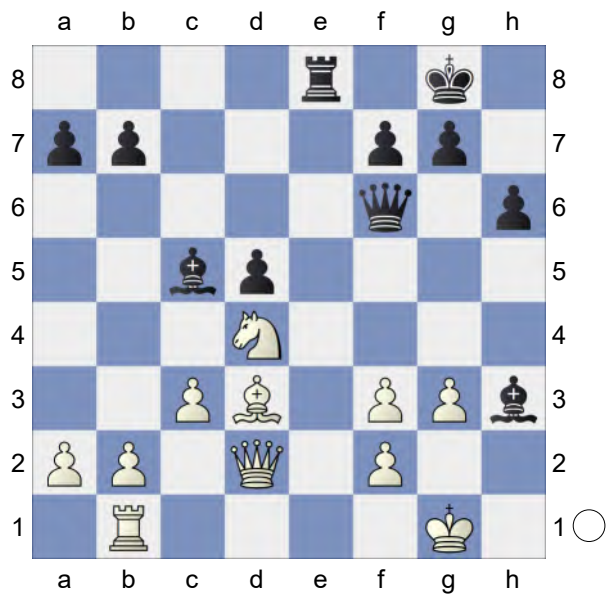


16.0-0 Bh3 17.Re1 Bc5 Logical, and strong. **18.Nd4 Rae8 19.Qd2 Qf6 20.Rxe8**

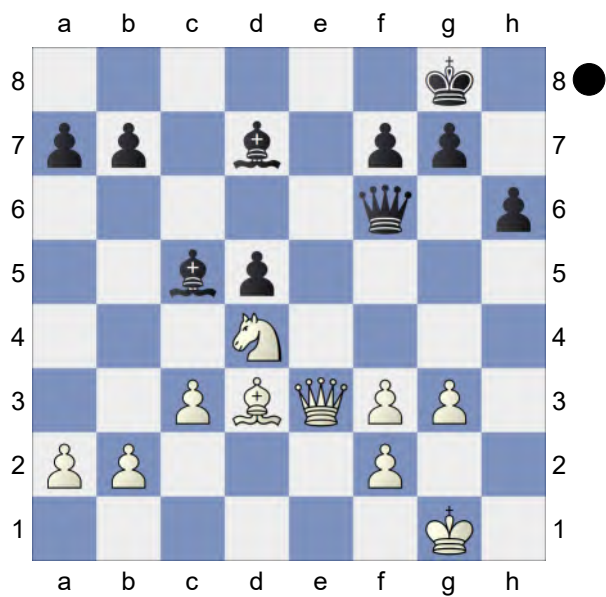
[After something like 20.f4!? h5 21.Nf3 Bg4 22.Ne5 Be6 23.Bc2 White would have been risking at least as much as Black. Yu Yangyi prefers to keep matters under control.]

20...Rxe8

(Diagram)



21.Re1 Rxe1+ 22.Qxe1 Bd7 23.Qe3



1/2-1/2

234

D00

□ Yu Yangyi

2721

■ Wei, Yi

2706

Shenzhen (rapid) (5.2)

28.11.2016

[Richard Palliser]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 e6 3.Nd2

[The most trendy alternative to pushing the e-pawn two squares, although 3.e3 is, of course, also possible and after c5 4.c3 cxd4 5.exd4 Be7 6.Bd3 a6 7.a4 b6 8.Nf3 Bb7 9.Nbd2 d6 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Re1 0-0 12.Nf1 Re8 13.Ng3 Qc7 a very common sort of Torre struggle had arisen in Stopa-Richter, German Bundesliga 2016. Clamping down on b5 with a2-a4 was surely a reasonable call and White does have more space, but Black is typically compact and flexible. Play continued 14.c4!? when I suspect that Black should even consider breaking with his d-pawn, since Bf8 15.a5! was quite annoying, White going on to exploit his edge after bxa5 16.Bd2 a4 17.Qxa4 e5?! 18.Ba5 Qc8 19.d5 Nc5 20.Qc2 Nxd3 21.Qxd3 g6 22.b4 .]

3...c5

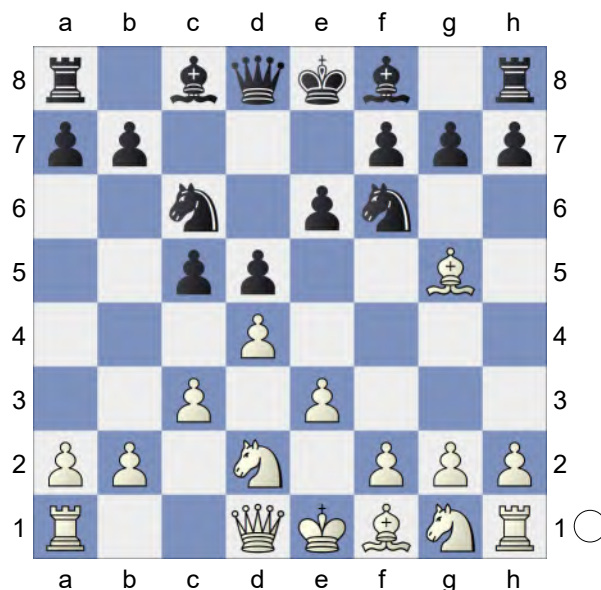
[In both the pure Torre and delayed Torre lines White must be ready for positions with and without ...h6. Indeed, 3...h6 4.Bh4 d5 5.e3 Be7 6.Bd3 0-0 7.c3 b6 8.f4!? should be compared with our main game. This feels like exactly the sort of early f4 White is trying to make work, partly because Black hasn't any tricks here. Following Bb7 (8...Ba6! would be prudent) 9.Bxf6! (avoiding 9.Ngf3 Ne4, which should equalise) 9...Bxf6

10.Qh5

Nd7

11.Ngf3

I would certainly feel quite nervous in Black's shoes. However, the key question is: can White's aggressive play really be justified? Well, yes, here I believe it can: Be7 12.g4 Nf6 13.Qh3 Ne4 14.Rg1 . The attack simply runs on oiled wheels and after c5 15.g5 hxg5 16.fxg5 g6 17.Rg4! Nxc5 18.Nxc5 (18.Qh6! would have been an immediate game-ender, and if Ne4 19.Bxe4 dxe4 20.Ne5) 18...Bxc5 19.Nf3 Bf6 20.0-0-0 Kg7 21.Qg3 Rg8 22.Rf1! Bc6 23.Ne5 there was nothing much to be done about a devastating blow on g6 in Sengupta-Zarkovic, European Club Cup, Novi Sad 2016.]

4.e3 d5 5.c3 Nc6**6.Bd3**

[6.Ngf3 might well be prudent and, moreover, takes play into a reasonable enough version of the Torre for White.]

6...h6 7.Bh4

[This time after 7.Bxf6!? Black can either recapture with the f-pawn or develop while hitting f4 with Qxf6 8.f4

Bd6 9.Ne2 0-0 10.0-0 Qd8 .]

7...Qb6!?

[In practice one can imagine many weaker players developing with 7...Be7 ,]

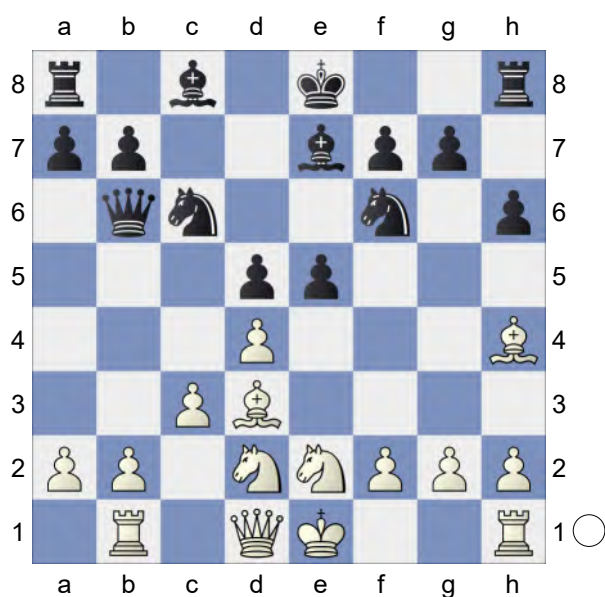
[but the text or 7...e5! must be critical. Moreover, this central reaction just seems to equalise, as shown by 8.Bxf6 Qxf6 9.e4!? (9.dxe5 Nxe5 10.Bb5+ Nc6 11.Ngf3 Be7 is all too easy for Black) 9...exd4! 10.exd5 Ne5 11.Qe2 Be7 12.Bb5+ Kf8 and Black is at least OK in the resulting small mess.]

8.Rb1 cxd4 9.exd4 e5!? I'm not sure I would have opened the e-file before playing this, but even here White doesn't seem to have anything. **10.Ne2**

[10.Qe2!? Bg4 11.f3 is the critical line, but after Be6 12.dxe5 Nh5 13.Bf2 Nf4 Black seems to equalise.]

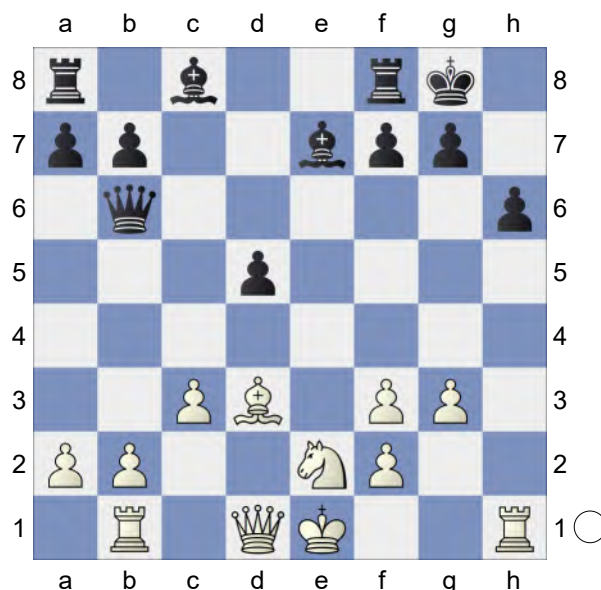
[Likewise, 10.dxe5 Nxe5 11.Bc2 Bg4 12.Ne2 0-0-0!? isn't a position I'd want to give more than an unclear assessment to.]

10...Be7



11.dxe5 Ne4! Equalising. White cannot allow an accident to happen on h4, so is

forced to retreat after which the further exchanges are fairly favourable for Black. **12.Bg3 Nxg3 13.hxg3 Nxe5 14.Nf3 Nxf3+ 15.gxf3** At first I did wonder if White's firm grip on d4 might mean something, but unsurprisingly - no! The problem, as so often in IQP structures, is that White's kingside isn't entirely stable and that Black can continue actively. **15...0-0**

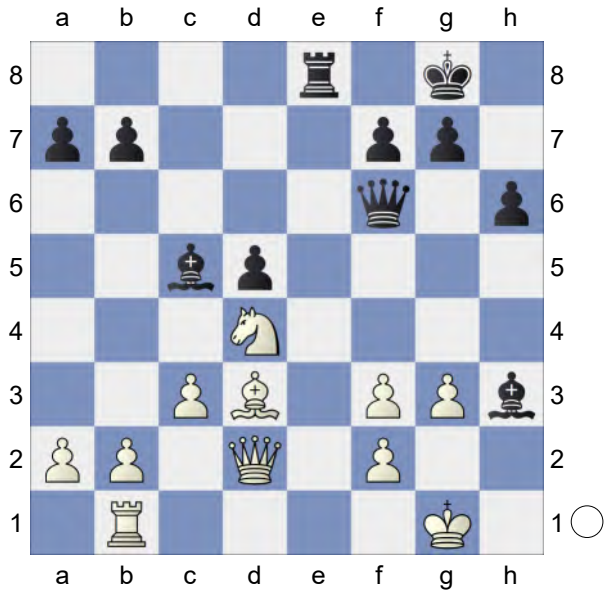


16.0-0 Bh3 17.Re1 Bc5 Logical, and strong. **18.Nd4 Rae8 19.Qd2 Qf6 20.Rxe8**

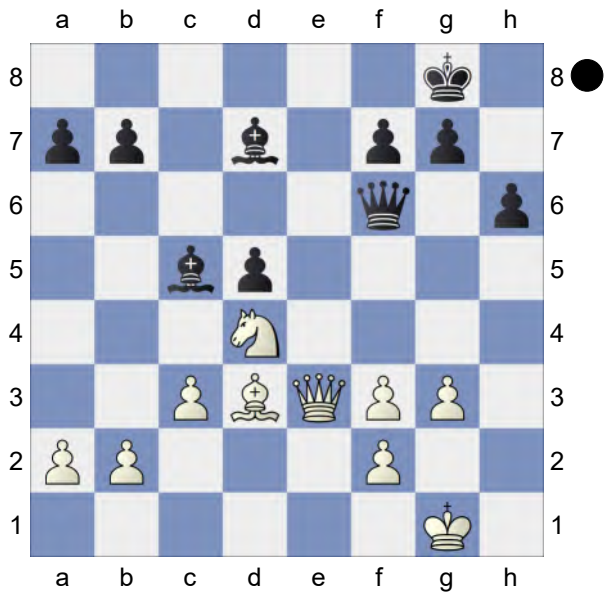
[After something like 20.f4!? h5 21.Nf3 Bg4 22.Ne5 Be6 23.Bc2 White would have been risking at least as much as Black. Yu Yangyi prefers to keep matters under control.]

20...Rxe8

(Diagram)



21.Re1 Rxe1+ 22.Qxe1 Bd7 23.Qe3



1/2-1/2

281

□ Wei, Yi

■ Malakhov, Vladimir

World Rapid Championship, Doha (4.24)

[Richard Palliser]

B13

2707

2713

1.d4

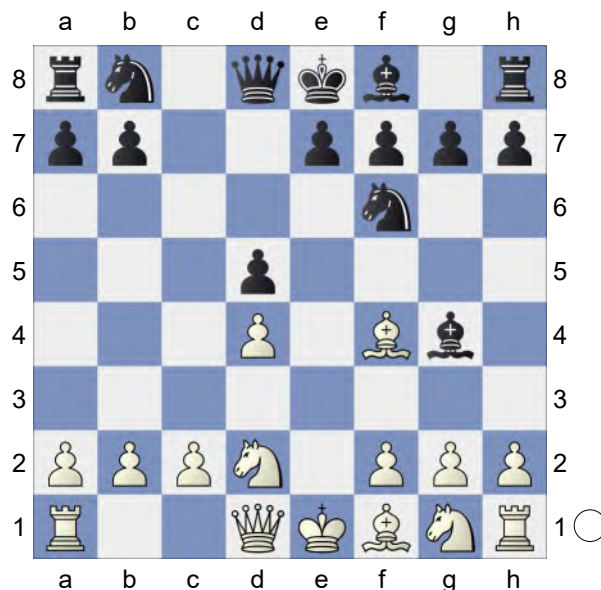
[Yes, this is a d-pawn special, but do please note too the move order 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Bd3 Nc6 5.c3 Nf6 6.Bf4 Bg4 7.Qb3 Qc8 8.Nd2 e6 9.Ngf3 and we're back in our main game here.]

1...d5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.e3 c5

[In the following blitz tournament Wei Yi also had to face 3...e6 4.Nd2 Bd6 5.Bg3 b6 . This must, of course, be quite respectable for Black, although one might label 6.c3 Bb7 7.Bd3 Nbd7 8.Ngf3 Ne4 as ambitious. In any case, I suspect that Black is OK here, but with 9.Qc2 (9.Qe2 was preferred in Nguyen Ngoc Truong Son-Grandelius, Doha (blitz) 2016, when a6 10.Bc2 f5 11.Nxe4 fxe4 12.Ne5 Bxe5 13.dxe5 would surely have been OK for Black after, say, 0-0 14.f3 Nc5!?, and if 15.b4 d4!) 9...f5 10.c4 0-0 11.cxd5 exd5 12.Rc1 Nxe3?! (12...Rc8 13.Bxd6 Nxd6 14.Ne5 c5 can surely only favour Black) 13.hxg3 g6 14.g4! the young Chinese star had already gained a powerful initiative in Wei Yi-Adly, Doha (blitz) 2016.]

4.Nd2 cxd4 5.exd4 Bg4!?

(Diagram)



This active development of the bishop in this precise position seems to be new for us, but cannot, of course, be terrible. 6.Ngf3 Nc6 7.c3 e6 8.Qb3 Just like in certain, closed-related types of Exchange Caro-Kann, unpinning while hitting b7 must be critical. 8...Qc8

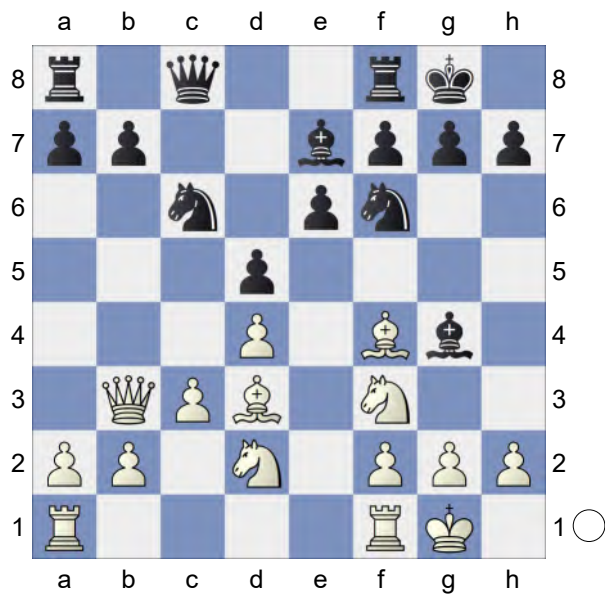
[Prudent, unlike 8...Qd7? 9.Ne5 Qc8 10.f3 Bf5 11.g4 Bg6 12.h4 when Black already finds himself in terrible trouble.]

9.Bd3

[Wei Yi sees no reason to kick Black's bishop so that Ne5 will come with tempo. In another recent game White preferred 9.h3 , but Bf5 10.Be2 Be7 11.0-0 0-0 12.a4 Bd8!? 13.Qa3 Ne4 was all too easy for Black in To-Becskei, Kecskemet 2016.]

9...Be7 Black's main move as we now follow arguably the main line of the Exchange Caro. 10.0-0 0-0

(Diagram)



11.Ne5 Thematic, although just as often White has been known to place a rook on e1. **11...Nxe5**

[This can hardly be terrible, but Black has more often gone 11...Bh5 (the retreat can also be played a move earlier), after which 12.Qc2 Bg6 13.Nxg6 hxg6 14.Nf3 Nh5 15.Be3 Qc7 16.g3 Rac8 17.Qe2 a6 18.Rae1 Rfe8 19.Bc1 Nf6 20.Ng5! Bd6 21.f4 was a model demonstration of how to expand while maintaining control, White going on to win in Browne-Larsen, San Antonio 1972.]

12.Bxe5

[12.dxe5!? Nd7 13.Qc2 is also tempting, but it seems that Black should be OK after h6 14.h3 Bh5, and if 15.g4 Bg6 16.Bxg6 fxg6 17.Bxh6 Nxe5! .]

12...Nd7

[Once again 12...Bh5 would have been sensible, but Malakhov begins to drift.]

13.Bf4 Nb6?!

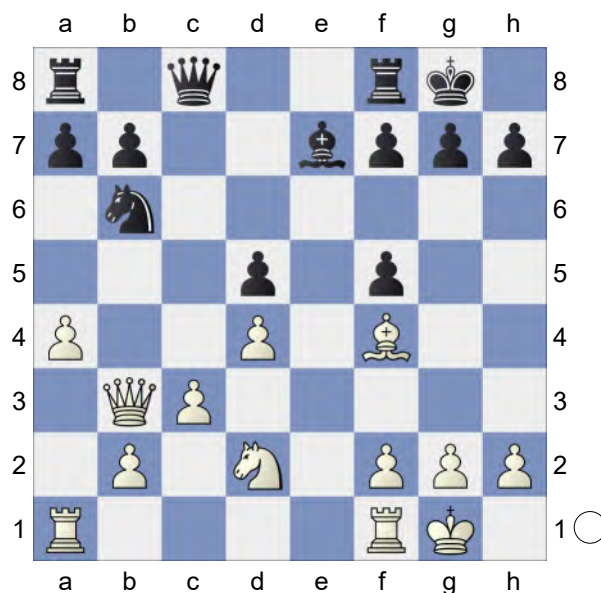
[A strange choice, blocking any minority attack and provoking White's next. At the risk of sounding like a

broken record, I would prefer 13...Bh5, as played in the one previous test of the position I could find, where 14.Rae1 (even here 14.a4!? might be tried) 14...Rd8 15.Re3 Nf8 16.Rh3 Bg6 17.Qc2 Qc6 18.Nf3 was no more than a touch better for White in Znamensky-Nikolaev, St Petersburg 2005.]

14.a4! Bf5?!

[Possibly this was Malakhov's idea before his last, but his knight is a long way from e4. Instead, 14...Nd7 15.a5 Nf6 would have been retrograde, but was quite possibly best.]

15.Bxf5 exf5



16.Rfe1 Already White's pressure is quite something. **16...Qd7**

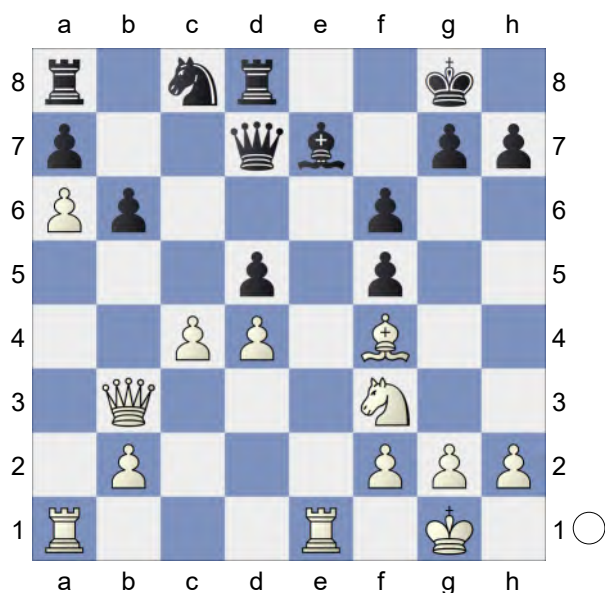
[16...Re8 17.a5 Nc4 18.Nxc4 dxc4 19.Qa4 also looks quite awkward,]

[as does 16...Bf6 17.a5 Nc4 18.Nxc4 dxc4 19.Qa4 Rd8 20.a6! b6 21.Qb5 .]

17.a5 Nc8 18.Nf3 f6 Fairly essential, if also another ugly pawn move. Now White might just double on the e-file, but Wei Yi prefers to seize the initiative. **19.c4!? Rd8?!**

[Black might prefer to go 19...dxc4 20.Qxc4+ Kh8 (20...Rf7! followed by ...Nd6 would, however, be a better defence) 21.Rac1 Bd6 , but then 22.Qd5 Rd8 23.Re6 is a bit awkward. Still, better this than the game.]

20.a6 b6

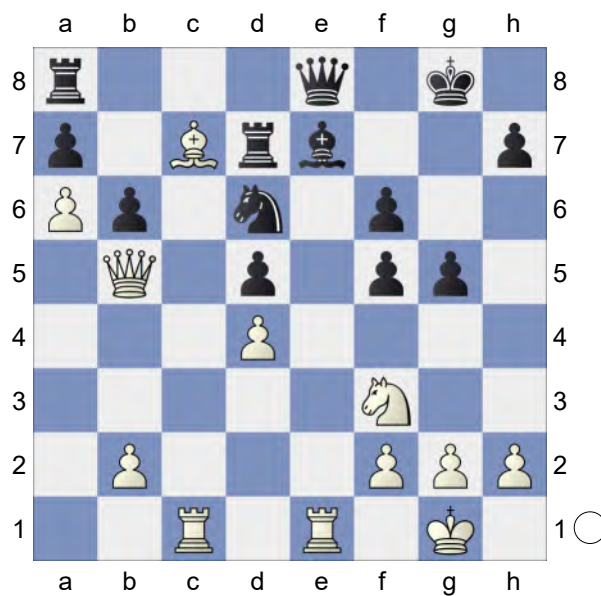


21.c5! Crashing through. Malakhov has been virtually unrecognisable and already must have been contemplating resignation. **21...g5**

[Black's main problem is 21...bxc5 22.Qb7 , and if Nd6 23.Qxd7 Rxd7 24.Rxe7! Rxe7 25.Bxd6 .]

22.c6! There's to be no let up as Wei Yi continues in vigorous vein. **22...Qxc6 23.Rac1 Qe8 24.Bc7 Rd7 25.Qb5** Talk about tying the opponent up in knots. White is about to win serious material. **25...Nd6**

(Diagram)



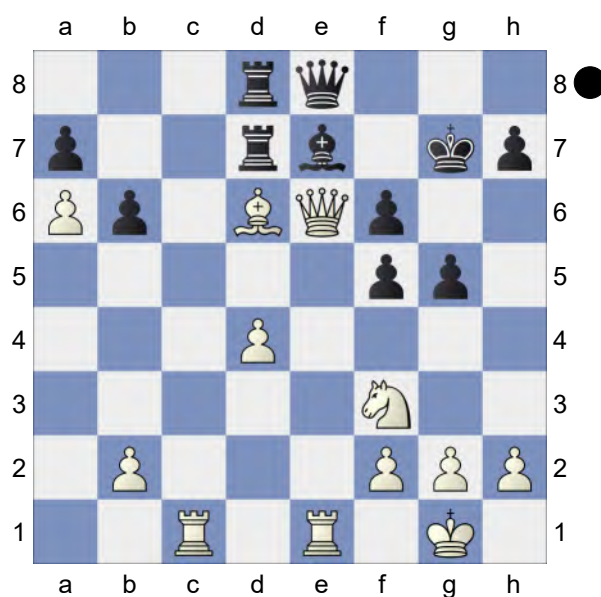
26.Qxd5+ Kg7?

[Scarcely any better would have been 26...Nf7 27.Qxf5 Rc8 28.Bg3 Rxc1 29.Rxc1 Qd8 30.h4 when Black is a pawn down and continues to struggle for a good move.]

27.Bxd6 Rad8

[A piece had gone west in any case, as if 27...Rxd6 28.Rxe7+! Qxe7 29.Qxa8 .]

28.Qe6



1-0

335

□ Inarkiev, Ernesto

■ Wei, Yi

12th matchgame (rapid), Magas (6)

[Richard Palliser]

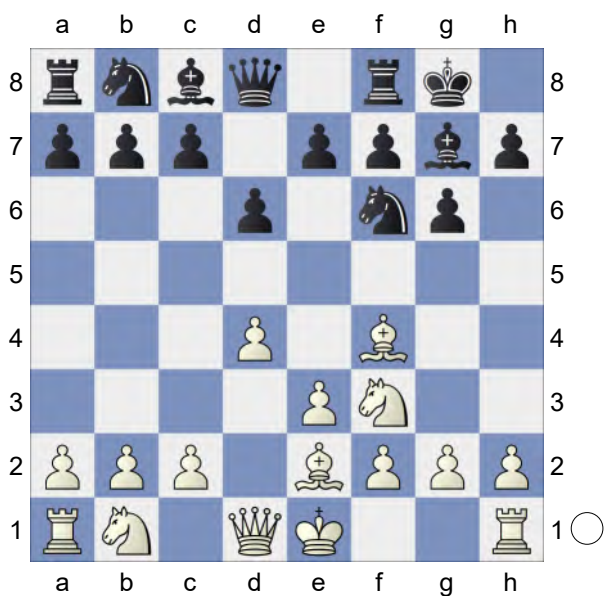
A48

2690

2735

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bf4 Bg7 4.e3
0-0 5.Be2 d6

[A popular choice with King's Indian players. Those who don't mind developing along classical lines may prefer 5...c5 6.0-0 d5 , which is after 7.c3 Nc6 a reversed Catalan, albeit with the bishop outside the pawn chain. White has many moves here, as we've seen over the years, with 8.Ne5 a thematic leap and after Bf5!? 9.Qb3 (9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.Nd2 Qb6 11.Qb3 cxd4 12.cxd4 Nd7! should be fine for Black) 9...Nd7 10.Nxd7 Qxd7 11.dxc5 e5 12.Bg3 d4 Black already enjoyed decent counterplay and had at least enough for his pawn in Agrest-Efimenko, European Club Cup, Porto Carras 2018.]



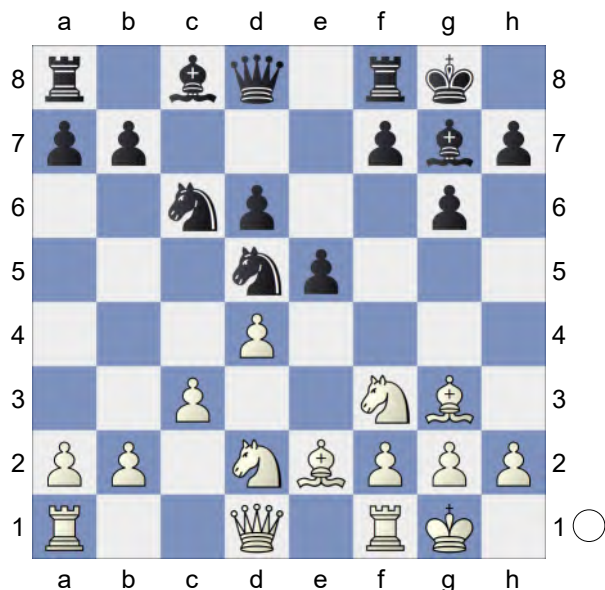
6.0-0 c5 7.c3

[In their earlier fifth game, which was played with a classical time control, Inarkiev had preferred 7.h3 , play continuing along similar lines with cxd4 (7...b6 8.Nbd2 Bb7 9.c3 Nbd7 remains a very flexible set-up for Black we're used to seeing Maxime Vachier-Lagrave countering the London so, but in Vachier-Lagrave-Grischuk, Saint Louis (rapid) 2018, he was on the other side of the board, with 10.a4 a6 11.Bh2 Ne4 12.Nxe4 Bxe4 13.Bd3 Bxd3 14.Qxd3 Qc7 15.Rfd1 Rfc8 16.Qe2 Qb7 17.e4 cxd4 18.cxd4 Rc7 19.e5! giving White any slight pull that was going) 8.exd4 Nc6 9.c3 Nd5 10.Bh2 (possible thanks to White's seventh move, although Black can still hit back in the centre) e5! 11.Na3!? (11.c4 is even more critical, but perhaps asks too much of White's position now in Korneev-Wan Yunguo, Bruges 2018, I suspect that Black should have gone Nde7 , heading for f5 if needed, and if 12.d5 e4!) 11...exd4 (11...Re8 would have been a fairly useful semi-waiting move) 12.Nc4! Nb6 13.Nxd6 dxc3 14.bxc3 Bxc3 15.Rc1 Bb4 16.Bb5 and by this stage White's activity gave him full compensation for the pawn, if no more than that.]

7...cxd4 8.exd4 Nc6 9.Nbd2 Nd5
Here we go again... 10.Bg3 e5!?

[Wei Yi is consistent. We've previously focussed on 10...Bf5 11.Qb3 Nb6 12.d5! - see Dreev-Zvjaginsev, V (2659) World Rapid Ch., Khanty-Mansiysk 2013, in the Archive.]

(Diagram)



11.Nc4

[This central challenge must be fairly critical. Previously, I just noted that 11.Re1 Bf5 (and not 11...exd4 12.Nxd4! Nxd4 13.cxd4) 12.Qb3 Nb6 13.dxe5 dxe5 14.Rad1 Qe7 must be OK for Black.]

11...Re8 12.Qb3!?

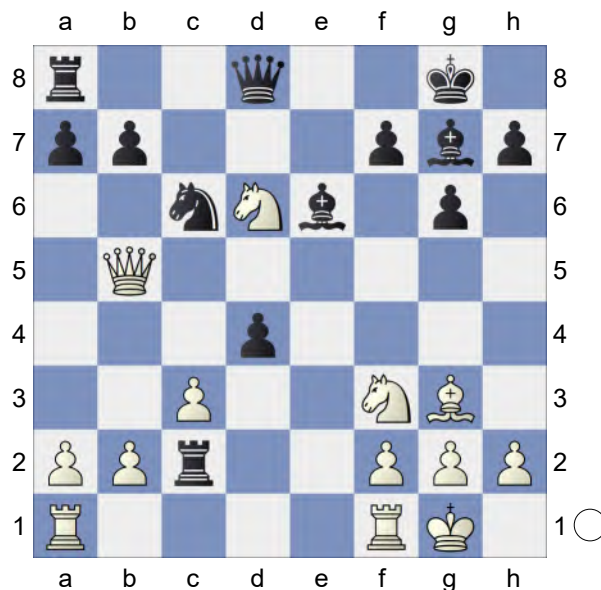
[Very brave, for reasons we'll soon see. In the predecessor game, 12.a4 Nf4 13.Bxf4 exf4 14.Re1 d5 15.Nce5 surely shouldn't have given White anything (Palchun-Iljiushenok, Sochi (rapid) 2017),]

[but maybe now is the moment for 12.Re1!? , with definite chances for an edge as e4?! 13.Nfd2 just seems to leave Black rather overextended.]

12...exd4 13.Nxd6 The point behind White's last, but his bishop is hanging on e2 and queen about to be buffeted around. **13...Rxe2 14.Qxd5 Be6 15.Qb5** At least this hits the rook and, whether or not it was all preparation from Inarkiev (I suspect the latter), it also tries to regain the initiative. **15...Rc2**

[This can't be terrible, but there was also 15...d3!? , angling to swap d3 for

b2 and intending to cause trouble for the white queen after 16.Qxb7 (16.Nxb7?! Qb6 can only favour Black) 16...Bd5 17.Rad1 a6 , when 18.Rxd3 Re7 19.Qxa8 Qxa8 20.Rxd5 Re2 is hard to assess, but most likely roughly level.]



16.Ng5?!

[This may well ask too much of White's position. Instead, 16.Ne1 would angle for a repetition with Rd2 17.Nf3 ,]

[while 16.Qxb7!? dxc3 17.bxc3 Rxc3 18.Ng5! Qb8! 19.Qxb8+ Rxb8 20.Nxe6 fxe6 would most likely have resulted in a drawn ending.]

16...Qb6 17.Qd3

[17.Nxe6 Qxb5 18.Nxb5 was the alternative, but unfortunately for White after fxe6 19.Nc7 Rc8 20.Nxe6 Black has dxc3 , preparing a zwischenzug and obtaining an edge after 21.bxc3 Bxc3 22.Rac1 Rxc1 23.Rxc1 Bf6 .]

17...Qxb2! Wei Yi is fearless as he bags a pawn. **18.Nxe6 fxe6 19.c4?!**

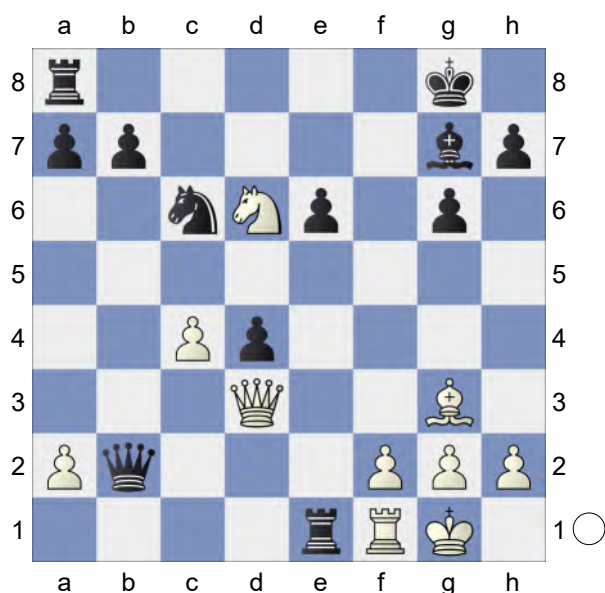
[This feels a bit desperate. 19.Qc4!

would have been more active, when White might yet be OK, in view of Nd8 20.Qa4 , and if Qxc3 (20...Nc6 21.Qc4 repeats) 21.Qe8+ Bf8 22.Ne4 with a dangerous initiative in return for the pawns.]

19...Re2

[19...Rd2! might well have been a touch stronger, preparing to gain a tempo next move with either rook.]

20.Rae1 Rxe1



21.Rxe1 Rf8 22.h4!?

[Perhaps not best, but creating luft and drumming up some play was a much better try than allowing 22.Rxe6? Ne5! . Moreover, by this stage I rather suspect that both players were beginning to run short of time after the early complications.]

22...Ne5 23.Qb3 Qd2?

[Overly ambitious. There was absolutely nothing wrong with 23...Qxb3 24.axb3 Nd3 , and if 25.Rxe6 (or 25.Ra1 b6 26.Rxa7 Nc1) 25...Nc5 , preserving a clear plus.]

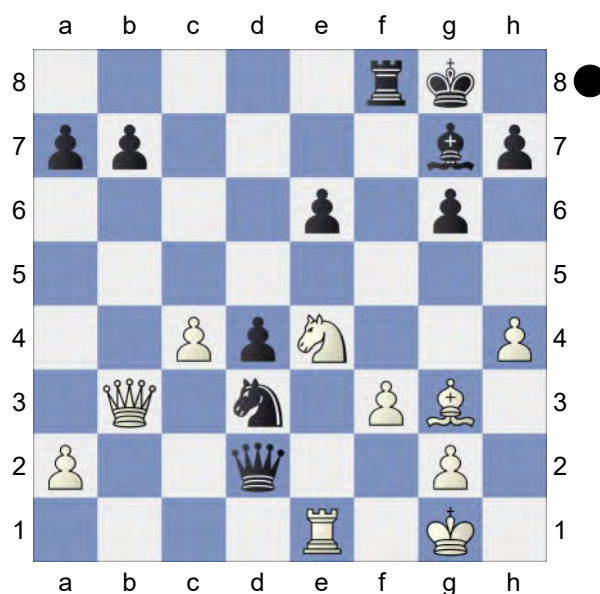
24.f3! It turns out that White didn't have to move his rook and now, as so often

occurs, a second mistake follows hot on the heels of the first. **24...Nd3??**

[24...Qc3! would still have been fine for Black, who regains his piece in the event of 25.Qxc3 dxc3 26.Bxe5 Bxe5 27.Rxe5 Rd8 ,]

[and even 24...Nf7 would have been OK.]

25.Ne4!



Backwards moves are never easy to spot.

1-0

441

□ Wei, Yi

■ Gagare, Shardul

World of U16 12th (9)

[Ris, Robert]

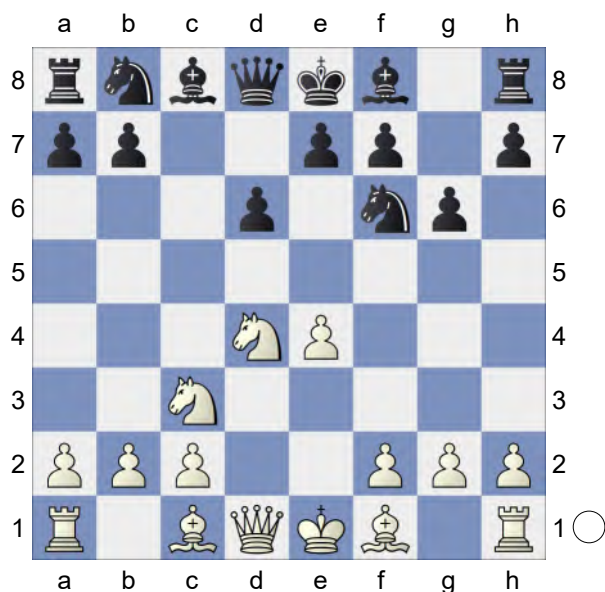
B76

2557

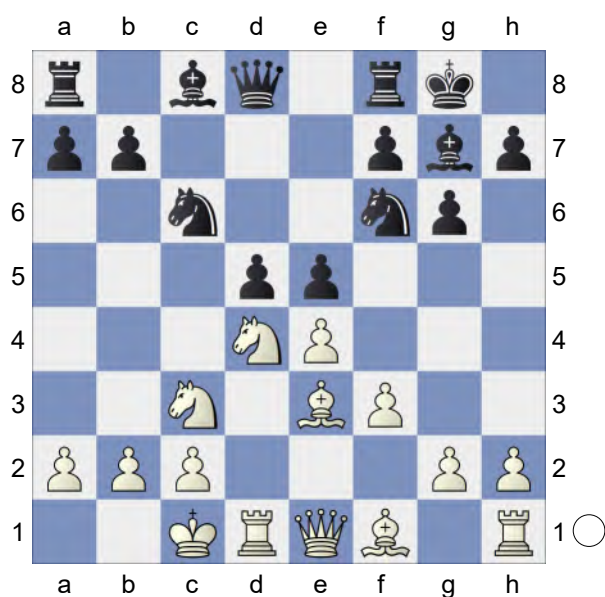
2419

28.07.2013

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 g6

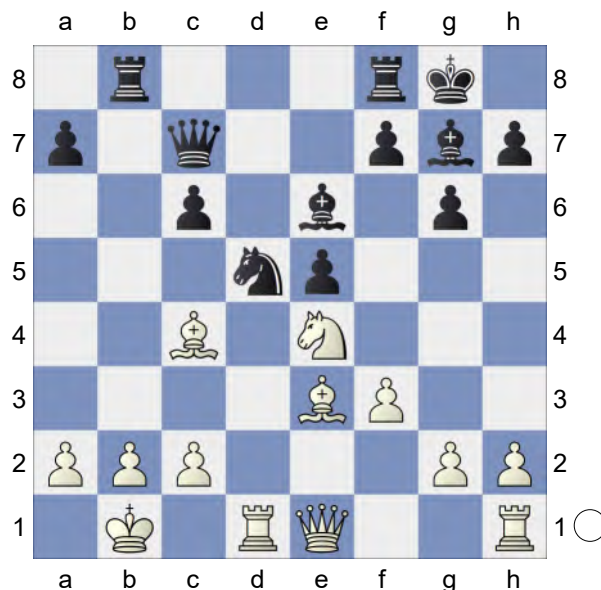


6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Qd2 0-0
9.0-0-0 d5 10.Qe1 e5



11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Bc4
Be6 14.Kb1 Rb8 15.Ne4 Qc7

[15...f5 - Ganguly-Quintiliano Pinto.]



16.Bc5 Rfd8

[16...Rfe8? wins the exchange.]

17.Bd6

wins the

17.g4

[17.Bb3!?]

17...h6

[17...f5? fails to 18.gxf5 gxf5 19.Ng5+-]

[17...a5 18.h4 (18.Bb3 Ra8 19.a4 Nf4 20.Bd6 Qb6 21.Bxe6 Nxe6 22.Qc3± Ivanov, O-Kargin, Elets 2014) 18...h6 19.g5 h5 20.a4 Qb7 21.b3 Ra8 and now in Wei Yi-Yankovsky, Las Vegas 2013 White may have considered 22.Rd3± In my opinion White has a fantastic grip on the position, thanks to Black's weak pawns on a5 and c6. Moreover, the c5-square is well controlled by the bishop and knight and Black is unable to push his kingside majority.]

18.h4

[Since White is unable to play g4-g5, I'm critical of this move and would prefer to play a more useful move. 18.Rg1!?N anticipating ...f7-f5 is

probably better and worth investigating.

A) 18...f5? 19.gxf5 gxf5?
(19...Bxf5 is better, but can never be the idea of 18...f5.) 20.Nf6+ Kh8 21.Nh5+-;

B) 18...Kh7 19.Bb3! f5 20.gxf5 gxf5 21.Bd6 Rxd6 22.Nxd6 Qxd6 23.c4 and White wins the exchange. Black will have some compensation thanks to the powerful centre and his pair of bishops, but I doubt it's sufficient. After all, White's king is safer than Black's.]

[Starting with 18.Bb3 is sensible too.]

18...f5!

[18...Rd7? 19.g5! and White nicely fixes the kingside, as in the game Wei Yi-Yankovsky. h5 20.Bb3 Rbd8 21.Rd3 Nf4 22.Rxd7 Rxd7 23.Be3 Bxb3 24.axb3 Ng2 25.Qf2 Nxe3 26.Qxe3 Qb6 27.Qe2 Qb5? (27...Rd5± There is still some work to be done.) 28.Qxb5 cxb5 29.c4 bxc4 30.bxc4 Rc7 31.c5 Bf8 32.Rd1 Bxc5 33.Rd8+ Bf8 34.Nf6+ Kg7 35.Ne8+ 1-0 Ponomarev-Narva, R Tallinn rapid 2016.]

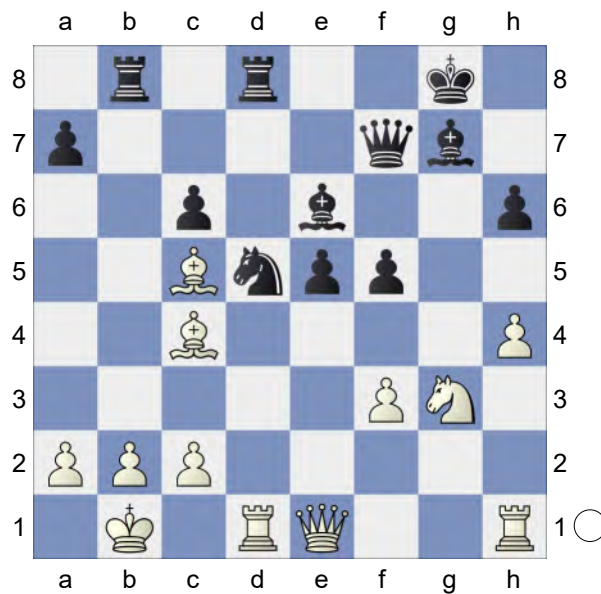
19.gxf5 gxf5 20.Ng3

[The following game nicely illustrates Black's attacking prospects thanks to the b-file, the bishop on g7 and the dynamic pawn centre: 20.Nf2 a5 21.Bb3 a4 22.Bxa4 Rxb2+ 23.Kxb2 e4+ 24.Kc1 Qf4+ 25.Be3 Qd6 26.Bd4 Qa3+ 27.Kb1 Nb4 Adamson-Gelashvili, Las Vegas 2016.]

20...Qf7

[20...Kh7!? makes sense too.]

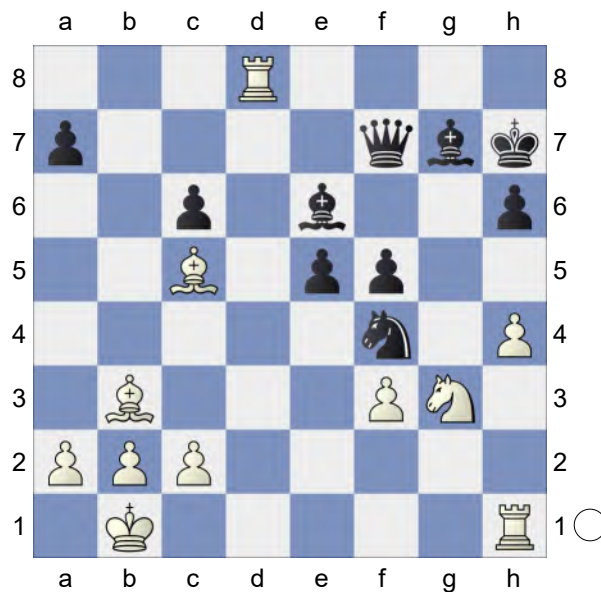
(Diagram)



21.Bb3 Rd7 22.Qa5 Rbd8 23.Rd3 Nf4?

[A shocking blunder. 23...Kh7!? Black's position is compact and difficult to breach.]

24.Qxd8+ Rxd8 25.Rxd8+ Kh7



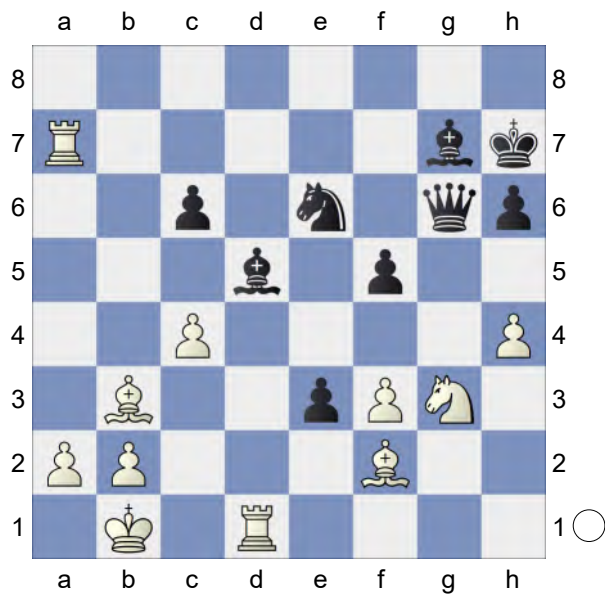
26.Rhd1 Bd5 27.Ra8 Qg6 28.Rxa7 Ne6

[28...Qxg3 29.Rg1+-]

29.Bf2 e4 30.c4?

[30.Bxd5! cxd5 31.Rg1 gives White a decisive advantage.]

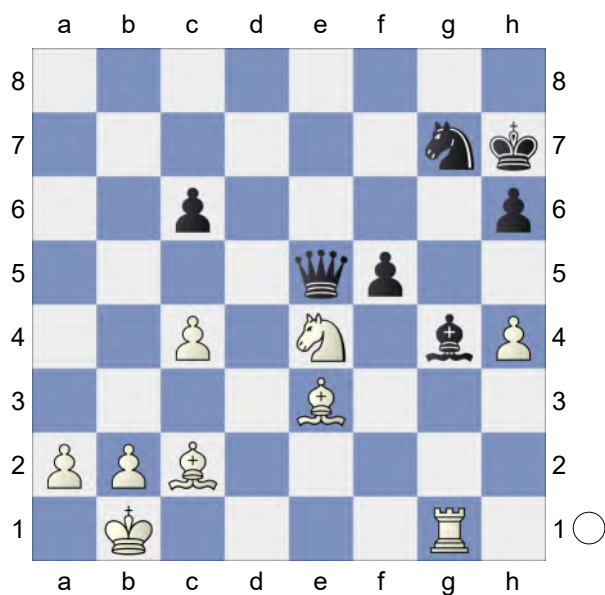
30...e3!



31.Bxe3

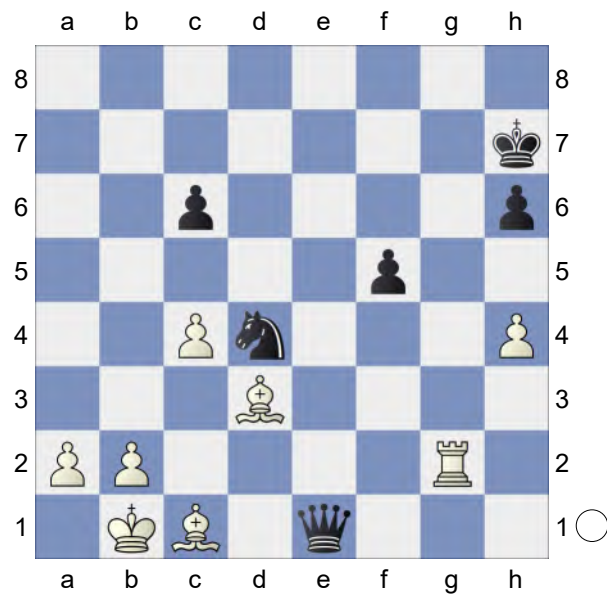
[31.Be1!±]

31...Bxf3! And suddenly it becomes
messy again. **32.Rg1 Qf6 33.Rxg7+
Nxg7 34.Bc2 Bg4 35.Ne4 Qe5**

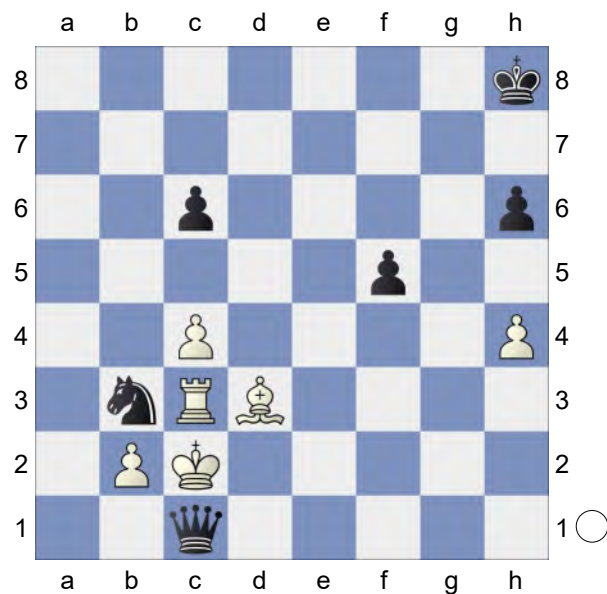


**36.Nf6+ Qxf6 37.Rxg4 Qe5 38.Bc1
Ne6 39.Rg2 Nd4 40.Bd3 Qe1**

(Diagram)

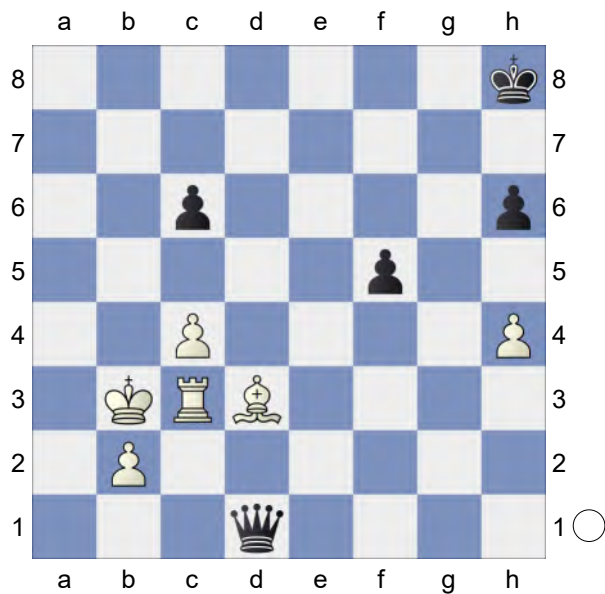


**41.a4 Kh8 42.a5 Nb3 43.Rc2 Qxa5
44.Rc3 Qa1+ 45.Kc2 Qxc1+**

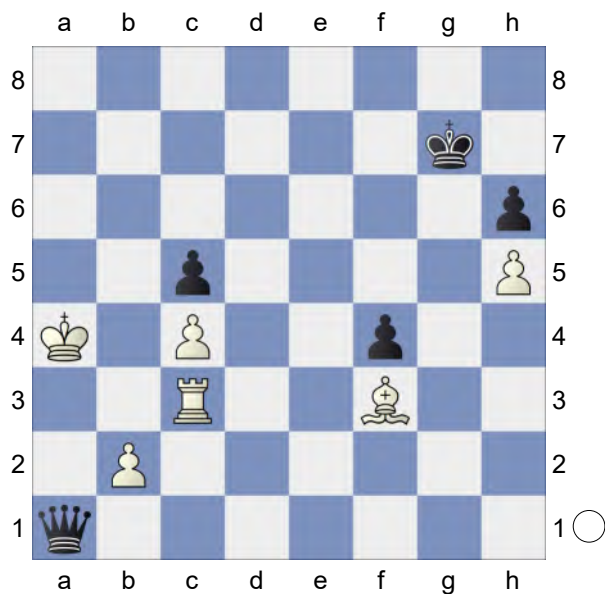


**46.Kxb3 Qd1+ 47.Ka3 Qa1+ 48.Kb3
Qd1+ 49.Ka3 Qa1+ 50.Kb3 Qd1+**

(Diagram)

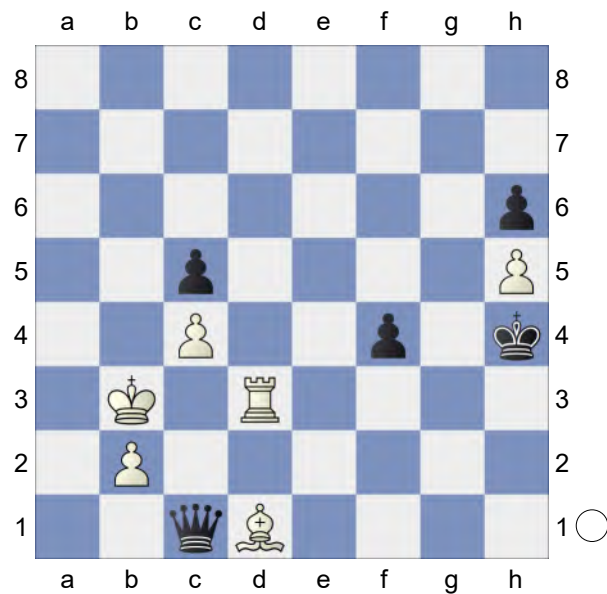


**51.Ka3 f4 52.Be4 c5 53.Bf3 Qe1
54.h5 Kg7 55.Ka4 Qa1+**

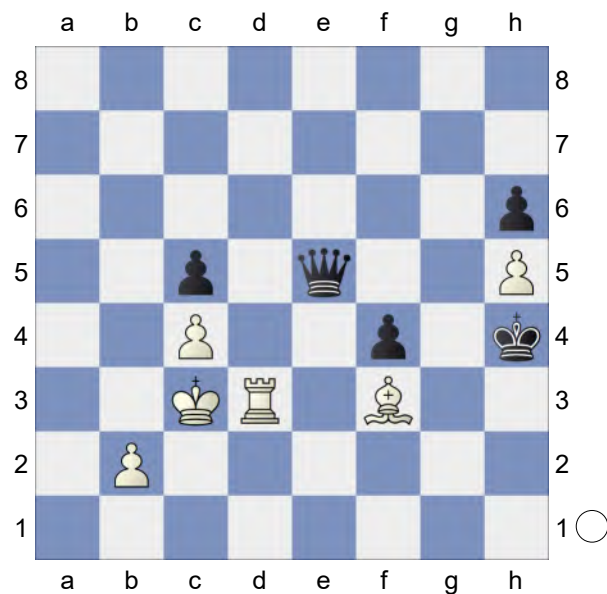


**56.Kb3 Qb1 57.Rc2 Kf6 58.Rd2 Qc1
59.Rd3 Kg5 60.Bd1 Kh4**

(Diagram)

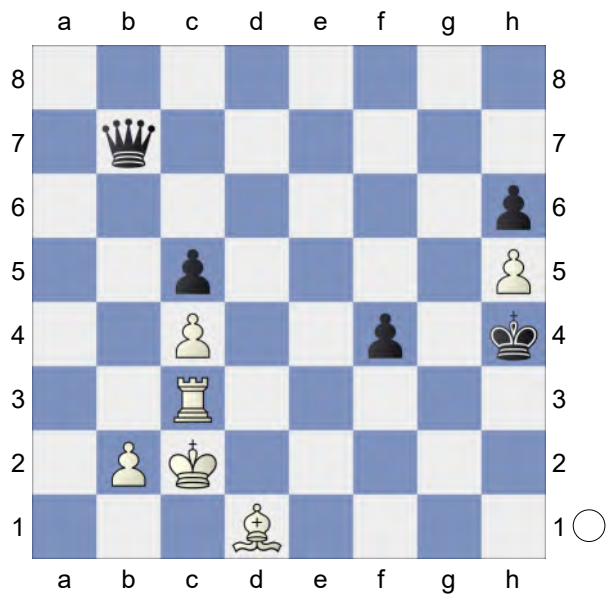


**61.Bf3 Qe1 62.Kc2 Qf2+ 63.Kc3
Qe1+ 64.Kc2 Qe6 65.Kc3 Qe5+**

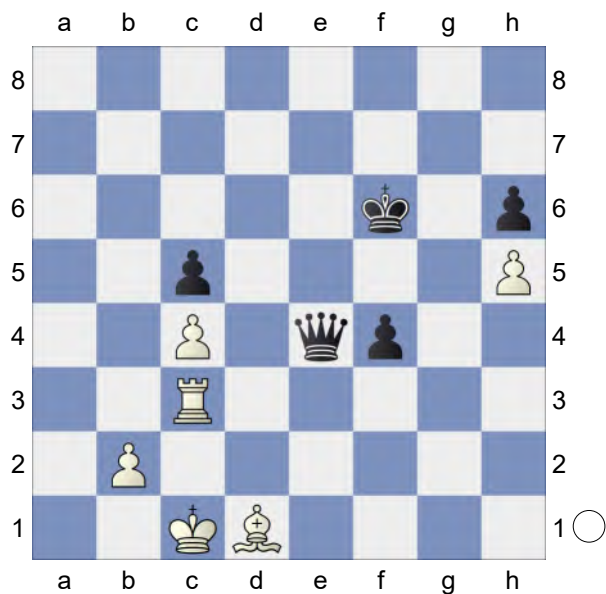


**66.Kc2 Qb8 67.Bd1 Qb4 68.Rc3
Qa4+ 69.Kd2 Qa6 70.Kc2 Qb7**

(Diagram)

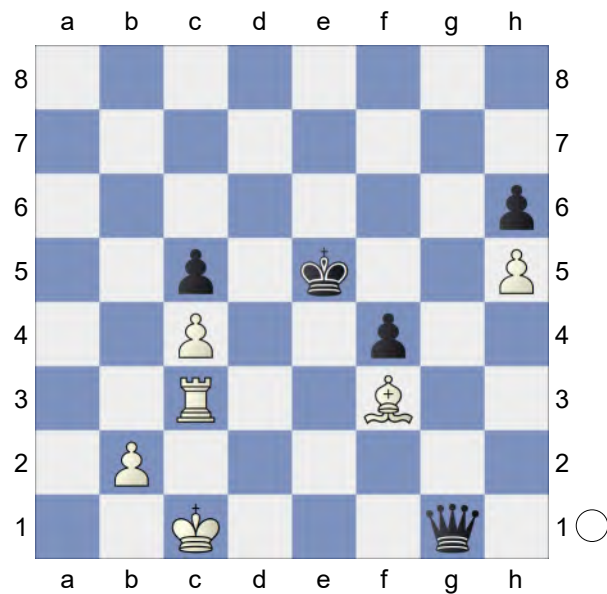


71.Kc1 Qe4 72.Bf3 Qe1+ 73.Bd1 Kg5 74.Kc2 Qe4+ 75.Kc1 Kf6

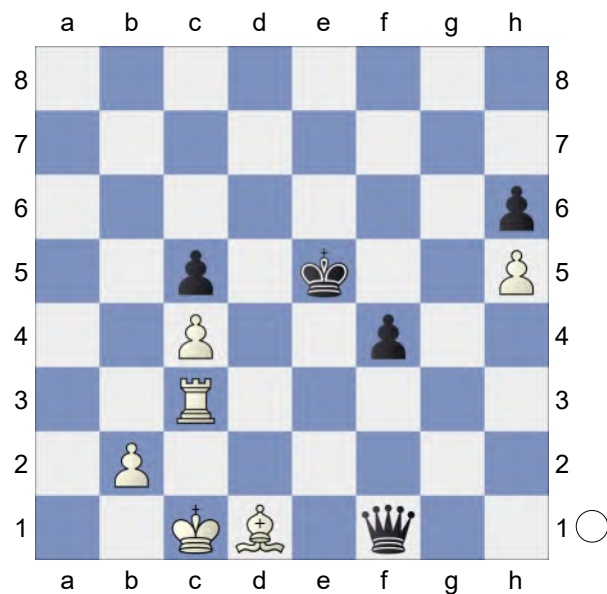


76.Bf3 Qe1+ 77.Kc2 Qf2+ 78.Kc1 Qd4 79.Kc2 Ke5 80.Kc1 Qg1+

(Diagram)

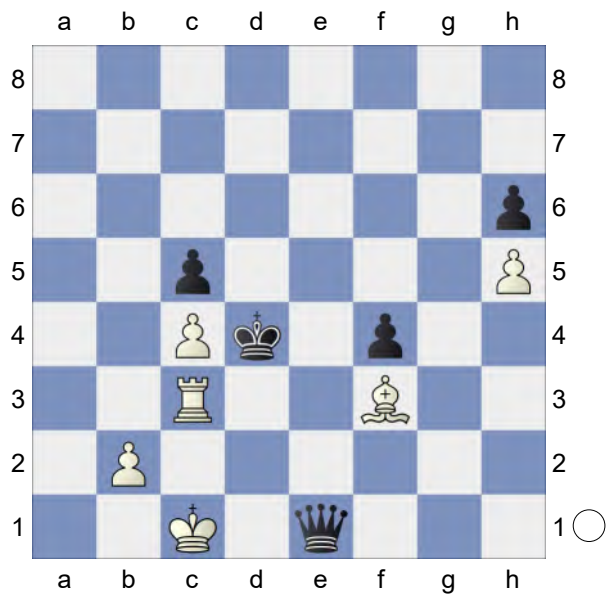


81.Kc2 Qf2+ 82.Kc1 Kd4 83.Bd1 Ke4 84.Bc2+ Ke5 85.Bd1 Qf1

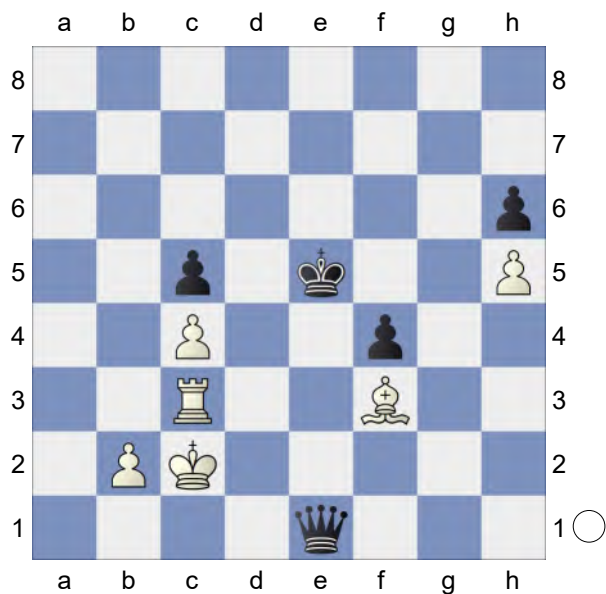


86.Kd2 Kd4 87.Kc2 Ke4 88.Kd2 Qf2+ 89.Kc1 Kd4 90.Bf3 Qe1+

(Diagram)

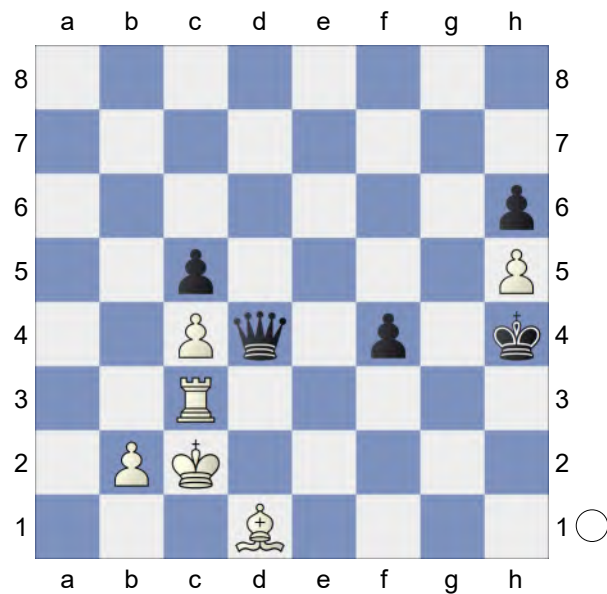


**91.Kc2 Qf1 92.Bd1 Qg2+ 93.Kc1 Qf2
94.Bf3 Qe1+ 95.Kc2 Ke5**

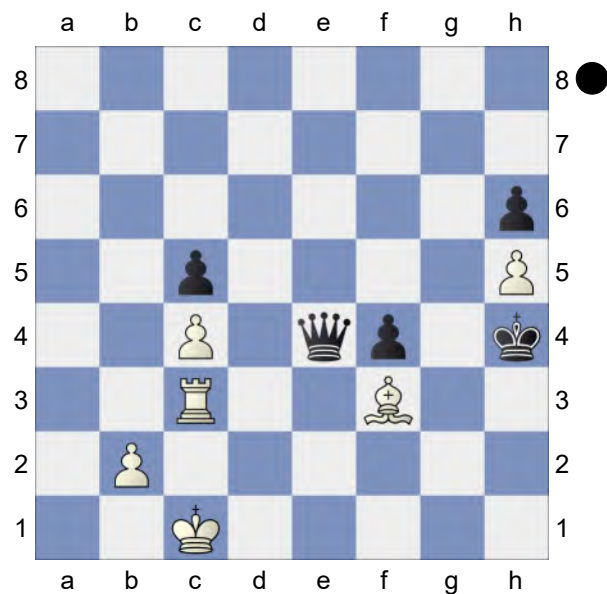


**96.Bd1 Qf2+ 97.Kc1 Qd4 98.Bf3 Kf5
99.Bd1 Kg5 100.Kc2 Kh4**

(Diagram)



**101.Kc1 Qf2 102.Rf3 Qd4 103.Rc3
Qe4 104.Bf3**



$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

205

□ Wei, Yi

■ Yu, Yangyi

Danzhou 6th (4)

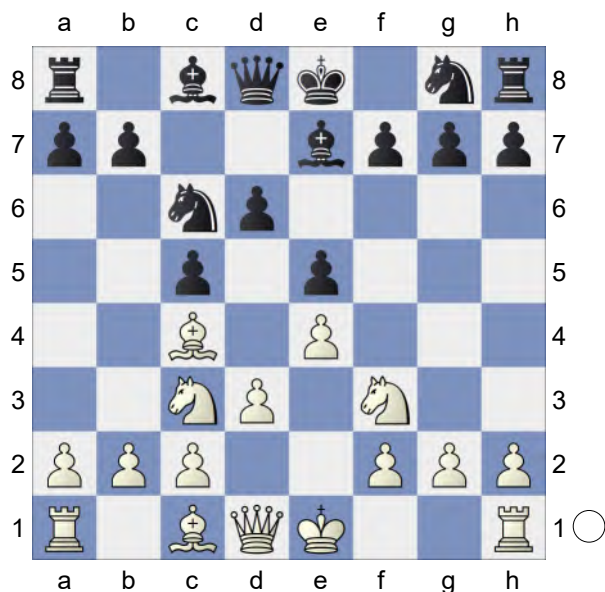
[Ris, Robert]

B30**2724****2736**

05.07.2015

Dave Smerdon: 'There are many exciting things about future world champion Wei Yi, one of which is that he loves playing anti-Sicilians! This game is a good example that Yi can also come up with fresh opening ideas and excellent preparation as well.'

1.e4 Dave Smerdon Dave Smerdon Dave Smerdon Dave Smerdon **1...c5** **2.Nf3** **Nc6** **3.Nc3** **e5** **4.Bc4** **Be7** **5.d3** **d6**



6.0-0 **Nf6** **7.Ng5** **0-0** **8.f4** **Bg4** **9.Qe1**

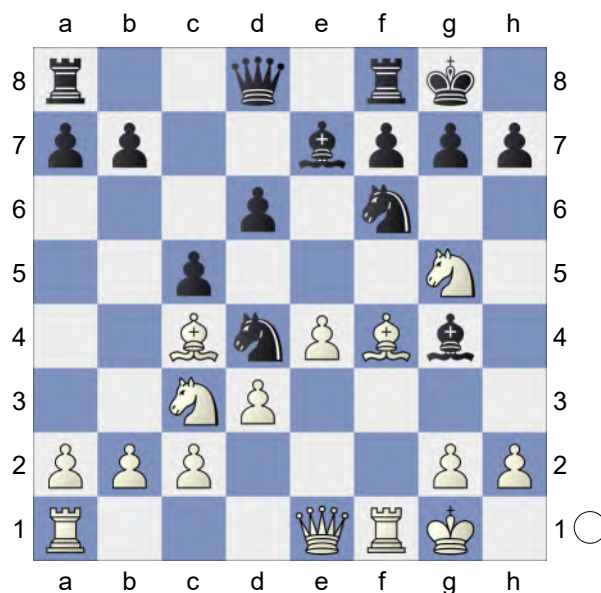
[9.Nf3 has been played here as well, but in that case Black has saved a tempo on ...h7-h6. exf4 10.Bxf4 Nd4]

9...exf4 **10.Bxf4**

[10.Rxf4 Bh5 (10...h6 11.Nf3 g5? 12.Rxg4 Nxg4 13.Nd5 is probably White's idea.; 10...Ne5!?) 11.Nf3 a6 12.a4 Bxf3 13.Rxf3 Nd4 14.Rf2 Ng4 15.Rf4 Ne5 16.Qd1 Bg5 17.Rf2

Bxc1 **18.Qxc1** **Qh4** So-Topalov, Abidjan 2019.]

10...Nd4



11.Qf2

Dave Smerdon: '!? '!' '!' '!' Dave Smerdon: 'A very rare move in over-the-board chess, but it's been played a few times in correspondence. Like, well, everything in correspondence, it should lead to a draw with best play. But I wouldn't much like facing this preparation from the black side of things. Wei has a nice sacrifice in mind, but it should be noted that placing the queen on f2 also introduces another idea: taking on f7 with a view to reaching a favourable rook-and-pawns versus two minor pieces endgame.'

[11.Qh4?! h6 (11...Bh5? 12.Nxh7 Kxh7 13.Nd5+- with a crushing attack for White.) 12.Nxf7 Rxf7 13.Bxf7+ Kxf7 14.Bxh6 Be6! (More ambitious than 14...gxh6 15.Qxg4 Nxc2 16.Rf3 Nxa1 17.Qh5+ Ke6 18.Qf5+ Kf7 19.Qh5+=) 15.Qh5+ Kg8 16.Qg6 Qf8]

[11.e5 dxe5 (11...Nxc2? 12.exf6!) 12.Bxe5 Bh5 and Black is very solid with his kingside well-defended and a

powerful knight on d4. 13.Qg3 (13.Qh4 Bg6; 13.Qd2? was seen in Shirov-Leko, Monte Carlo 2003, when Black has a surprising tactical shot: b5! 14.Nxb5 Nxb5 15.Bxb5 Ng4 16.Bf4 Bxg5 17.Bxg5 Qb8-+) 13...Bg6 14.Qh3 Nxc2 15.Rac1 Nd4 Amonatov-Moiseenko, Belgorod 2010.]

[11.Qd2 is the main continuation, see Sanal-Kuzubov.]

11...h6 Dave Smerdon: 'The most natural and consistent response.'

[However, it's interesting to note that a high-level correspondence player tried something else: 11...Qd7 (Dave Smerdon) and now I can't see what's wrong with 12.e5! (12.Be3 Rac8 13.Rae1 b5 14.Bxf7+ Rxf7 15.Nxf7 Kxf7 16.Bxd4 cxd4 17.Qxd4 Kg8 1/2-1/2 (23) Krzyzanowski, A (2459)-Galkowski, L (2431) ICCF 2004) 12...dxe5 13.Bxe5 with dangerous pressure e.g. h6 14.Nxf7! Rxf7 15.Bxf7+ Kxf7 16.Ne4 Kg8 17.Bxf6 gxf6 18.Nxf6+ Bxf6 19.Qxf6 Qg7 20.Qxg7+ Kxg7 21.Rae1±]

12.Nf3

[12.Nxf7 Dave Smerdon: '!?' '!?' '!?' Dave Smerdon: 'is also possible here, although again, not everyone is comfortable handling the rook in these imbalances. In my experience, the minor pieces generally tend to do better in matches between weaker players, even when objectively the rook and pawns are stronger. But this is just an observation.' Rxf7 13.Bxf7+ Kxf7 isn't dangerous for Black. 14.Be3 Dave Smerdon Kg8 (14...Nc6!? may be stronger: 15.Nd5 Be6 16.Qg3 Bxd5 17.exd5 Nb4! 18.c4

Nc2 19.Rab1 Nxe3 20.Qxe3) 15.Bxd4 cxd4 16.Qxd4 Qa5 1/2-1/2 (60) Ivanovic, Z (2186)-Wagner, M (2114) ICCF 2007]

12...Nxf3+ 13.gxf3 Bh3 14.Bxh6 Dave Smerdon: '!!!' '!!!' '!!!' '!!!' Dave Smerdon: 'This is the big idea - spectacular!'

[14.Kh1 Nh5! 15.Be3 Bh4 16.Qe2 Bxf1 17.Qxf1 Bg3! 18.Qh3 Qh4 19.Qxh4 Bxh4 Vachier Lagrave-Yu, Y Doha 2016.]

[14.Qg3 Nh5 15.Qxh3 Nxf4 16.Qg4 Bg5 17.h4 h5! 18.Qg3 Bh6]

[14.Rfb1 Nh5 15.Be3 Bh4 16.Qe2 Bg5 (16...Kh7 17.f4 f5 18.Qf3 Bg4 19.Qg2 g5 Zherebukh-Salem, Fujairah 2012.) 17.Kh1 Be6 18.Rg1 Bf4 19.Nd5 Evtushenko-Efremov, ICCF email 2015. Bxd5 20.Bxd5 Qf6]

14...Bxf1

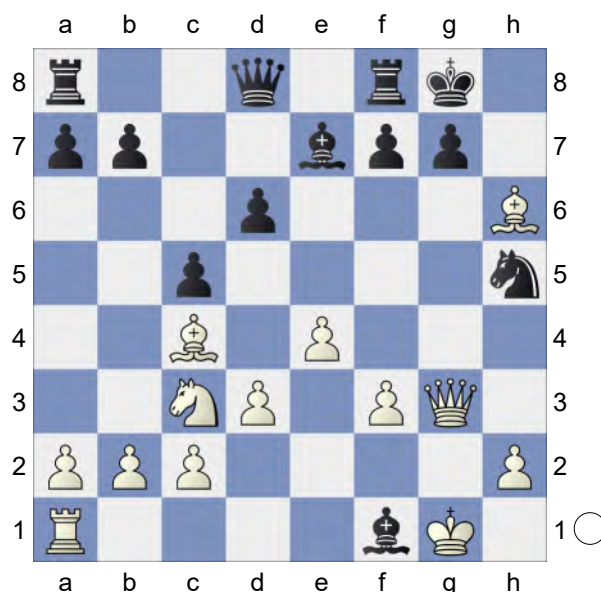
[14...gxh6??

Dave Smerdon

15.Qg3+-]

15.Qg3 Nh5

[15...Ne8 Dave Smerdon 16.Rxf1→]



16.Qg4 Dave Smerdon: 'White only has

a pawn for the rook, but the bishop on f5 is stranded and Black's king is feeling less than secure.' **16...Qc8**

Dave Smerdon: '!' '!' '!' '!'

[16...Kh7 Dave Smerdon 17.Bd2 Nf6 18.Qf5+ g6 19.Qf4±]

[16...Bxd3 Dave Smerdon 17.cxd3 Bf6 18.Kh1!→ also looks dangerous.]

17.Rxf1

[17.Qxh5 Dave Smerdon Qh3! 18.Qg6 Qxh6 19.Qxh6 gxh6 20.Kxf1±]

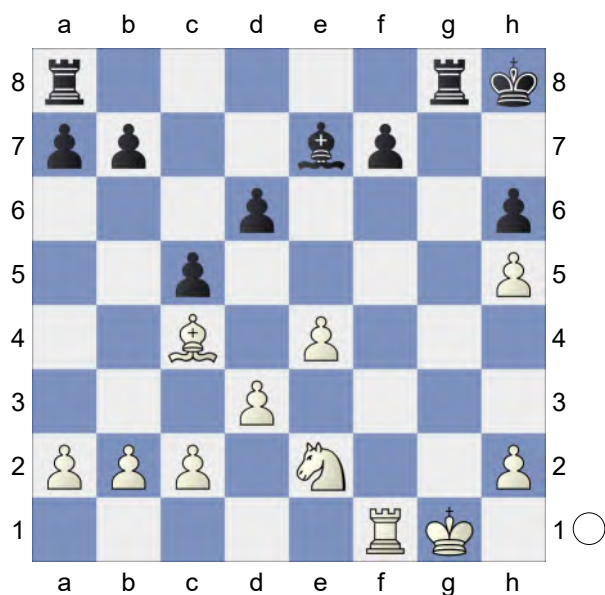
17...Qxg4+ 18.fxg4 gxh6

[18...Ng3 Dave Smerdon 19.Nd5! Bd8 20.hxg3 gxh6 21.Ne3± the f5 and d5 outposts will fit sweetly for White's minor pieces.]

19.gxh5 Dave Smerdon: 'The dust has settled, and the engines announce "0.00". I'm not so sure. White has excellent control over the light squares and great spots for his pieces. I would rather play White for sure.' **19...Kh8 20.Ne2**

Dave Smerdon: 'Again, angling for f5.'

20...Rg8+



21.Kh1 Rg4?!

[A more accurate move is 21...Bh4! Dave Smerdon: 'was really necessary.'

Black needed to stop the knight landing on f5. Still,' when I don't see any advantage for White: 22.Nf4

Dave Smerdon: '!' '!' '!' '!' (22.Rxf7 Raf8!; 22.Bxf7? Raf8±) 22...Raf8 (22...Rg7 Dave Smerdon 23.Ng2 Bg5 24.h4! Be7 25.Ne3! gets the knight there after all.) 23.a4 Bg5 24.Ne2 Bh4 25.Nf4 with dynamic balance as Black isn't able to activate the rooks.]

22.Ng3 Bg5

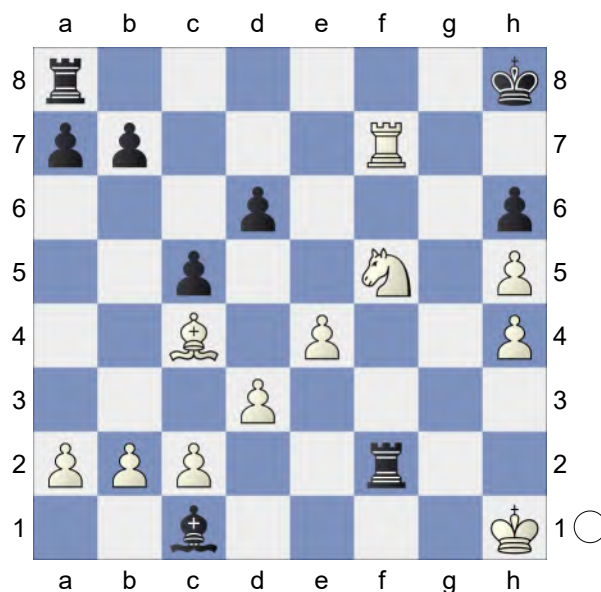
[22...Bh4 23.Nf5±]

[22...Rf8 Dave Smerdon 23.Nf5 Bg5 24.Nxd6 Rh4! 25.Nf5 Rxh5 26.d4! cxd4 27.Be2± White wins back the exchange and can push in this opposite-coloured bishop endgame.]

23.Rxf7± Rf4

[23...Bf4 Dave Smerdon 24.Be6! Rh4 25.Kg2 Bxg3 26.hxg3 Rxh5 27.Rxb7±]

24.Nf5 Rf2 25.h4 Bc1



26.Rxb7 Dave Smerdon: '±' '±' '±' '±' Dave Smerdon: 'Good enough for a big edge, but there was a stronger option.'

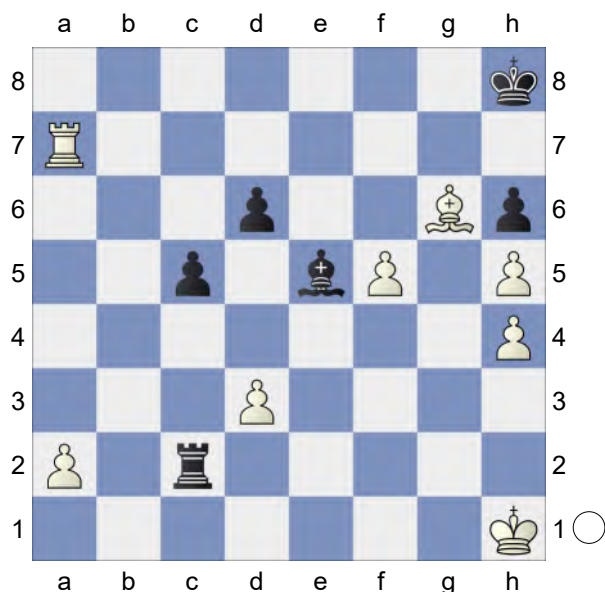
[26.Kg1! (Dave Smerdon) was a nice intermezzo, because the black rook

would rather not move off the f-file:
Rxc2 27.Ne7!!+-]

**26...Rf8 27.Bf7 Rxc2 28.Bg6 Rxf5
29.exf5 Bxb2** Dave Smerdon: 'White
has won back the exchange, but the
opposite coloured bishops give Black
decent drawing chances. Still, we
definitely have to declare Black's
opening a success.' **30.Rxa7**

[It was a tough decision, but it
transpires that the black king is worse
off on g8, so 30.Rh7+ Dave Smerdon
Kg8 31.Rxa7 was better.]

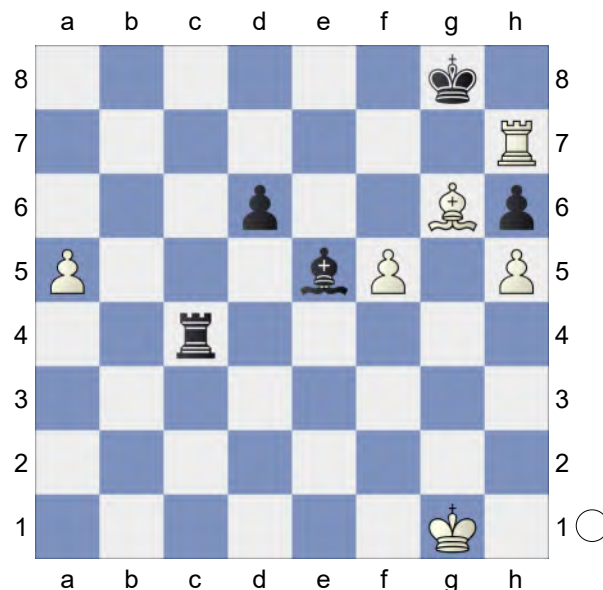
30...Be5



**31.a4 Rh2+ 32.Kg1 Rxh4 33.a5 c4
Dave Smerdon: '!' '!' '!' '!' 34.Rh7+ Kg8
35.dxc4 Rxc4**

[35...Bg7!? (Dave Smerdon) loses,
but it's a little complicated: 36.f6!
Rg4+ (36...Bxf6 37.Rd7+-) 37.Kh1
Bxf6 38.Rd7 Bd4 39.Rxd6 Rg1+
40.Kh2 Be5+ 41.Kxg1 Bxd6
42.Kf2+-]

(Diagram)



36.Rxh6

[The endgame after 36.Bf7+
Dave Smerdon Kxh7 37.Bxc4
is somewhat beyond my pay grade, so
I'm just going to assume these 2700s
worked out it was drawn. However,
it's pretty tricky: Kg7 38.Kf2 Kf6
39.Bd3 Bc3 (39...Kg5 40.Ke3
Kxh5?? 41.a6 Bh2 42.Kf3 Bg1
43.f6+-) 40.a6 Bd4+ 41.Ke2 Ke5
42.Bc2 Bc5 43.Kd2 d5 44.Kc3 Kd6
45.Bd3 Kd7 46.Kb3 Kd6 47.Ka4
Ba7 and I can't see how White makes
progress.]

36...Ra4 37.Rh7 Rxa5 38.Kg2

[38.h6 Dave Smerdon Ra1+ 39.Kg2
Ra2+ 40.Kf3 Rh2 41.Ke4 Rh4+
42.Kd5 Bh8!! (The only safe square
for the bishop!) 43.Ke6 Re4+!
44.Kxd6 Rh4 and again, I can't see
where the progress will come from.]

38...Ra3 39.Re7 Rg3+ 40.Kf2 Rh3

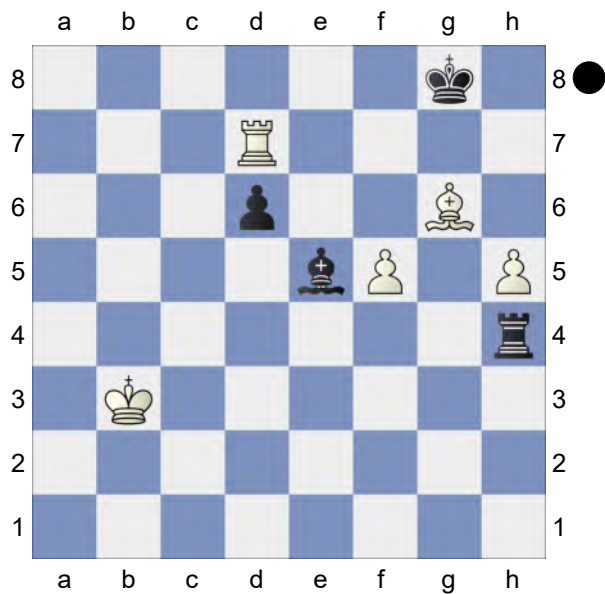
(Diagram)

An 8x8 chessboard with columns labeled a-h and rows labeled 1-8. The board has a blue and white checkered pattern. The pieces are positioned as follows:

Row \ Column	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h
8							♔	
7				♖				
6				♟			♘	
5					♞	♙		♙
4								♜
3		♔						
2								
1								

Chessboard diagram showing a position after White's 10th move. The board has columns labeled a-h and rows 1-8. White pieces are at b3, d7, f5, g6, and h5. Black pieces are at d6, e5, and h4. The king is at h8 and the queen is at b3.

(Diagram)



Dave Smerdon: 'Really excellent defence by Yangyi. Still, this is an exciting new idea in a line in which White hasn't found anything fresh for a while.'

1/2-1/2

203

□ Wei, Yi

■ Yu, Yangyi

Danzhou 6th (4)

[Ris, Robert]

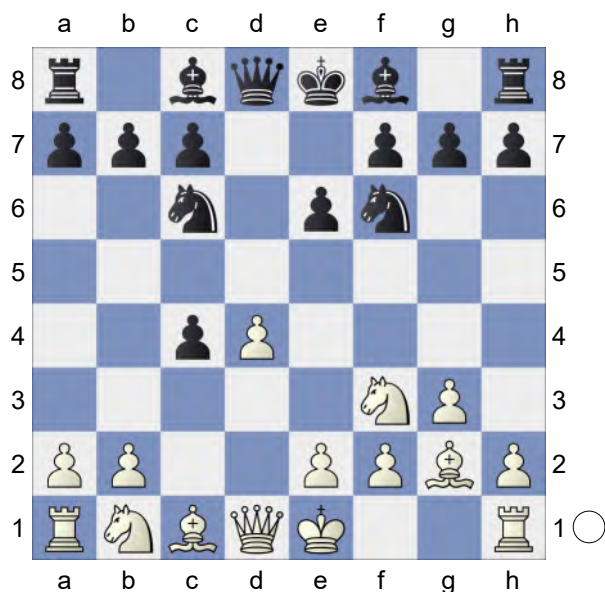
E04

2724

2736

05.07.2015

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.g3 dxc4
5.Bg2 Nc6



6.Qa4 Bb4+ 7.Bd2 Bd6

[7...Nd5]

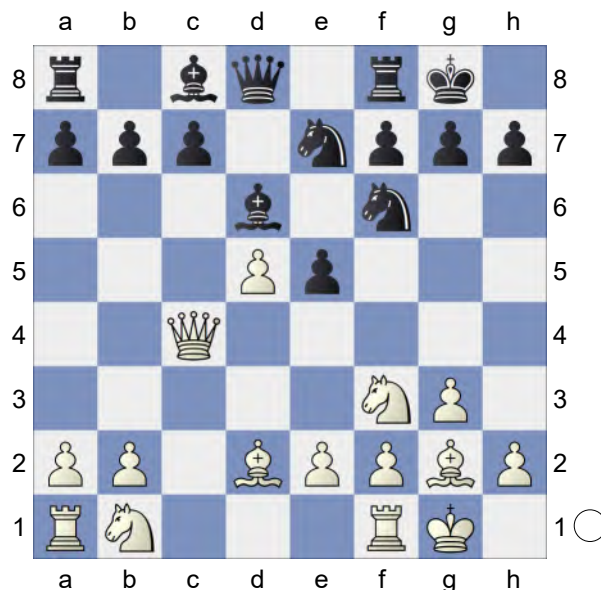
8.0-0 0-0 9.Qxc4 e5 10.d5

[10.Nc3? Nxd4 11.Nxd4 exd4 is probably White's idea. 12.Qxd4!? Bxg3 has been played here as well, but in that case Black has saved a tempo on ...h7-h6.]

[10.dxe5 Nxe5 11.Nxe5 Bxe5 12.Bc3 Qe7]

10...Ne7

(Diagram)



11.Nc3 h6

[11...c6+- with a crushing attack for White. 12.dxc6 Nxc6 13.Rfd1 Be6 and Black is very solid with his kingside well-defended and a powerful knight on d4. 14.Qh4 Be7 15.Be3 Qa5 16.Qa4 Qxa4 Amonatov-Moiseenko, Belgorod 2010. 17.Nxa4 Rfd8 18.Nc3? was seen in Shirov-Leko, Monte Carlo 2003, when Black has a surprising tactical shot: h6! 19.Ne1 Bb4]

[11...Bd7 12.Bg5 Ne8 13.Rac1 h6 14.Bd2+ c6? 15.dxc6! Bxc6 is the main continuation, see Sanal-Kuzubov. 16.Rfd1 Rc8 17.Qb3]

[11...a6 12.Rfd1 (12.a4; 12.Bg5) 12...b5 13.Qb3 b4 14.Na4 Bd7 (14...Qe8 15.Rdc1 Qb5 15.Qc2 Nexd5 16.Nc5 Bb5 17.Bg5]

12.Rfd1

[12.e4 a6 13.b4! c6 14.Rad1 b5 15.Qb3 More ambitious than cxd5 16.exd5 Bf5 17.Rfe1 Ng6 18.h3 Qd7 19.Kh2 Rac8 20.Bf1= e4? 21.Nd4 Nh4]

12...a6 13.Qb3

[13.a4! c6 (13...Bd7 14.h3 Rb8≠
15.a5 Ne8 16.Be3 Qc8 17.Ba7 Ra8
18.Bc5≠ Zhrebukh-Salem, Fujairah
2012. Ng6 19.h4 Nf6 20.Bxd6
isn't dangerous for Black. cxd6?!
21.Qb4 Bh3 22.Bh1 Qd7) 14.dxc6≠
Nxc6 15.Qh4 Bf5 (15...Ng4
16.Qxd8 Rxd8 17.h3 Nf6
Evtushenko-Efremov, ICCF email
2015.) 16.Bxh6 gxh6 17.Qxh6]

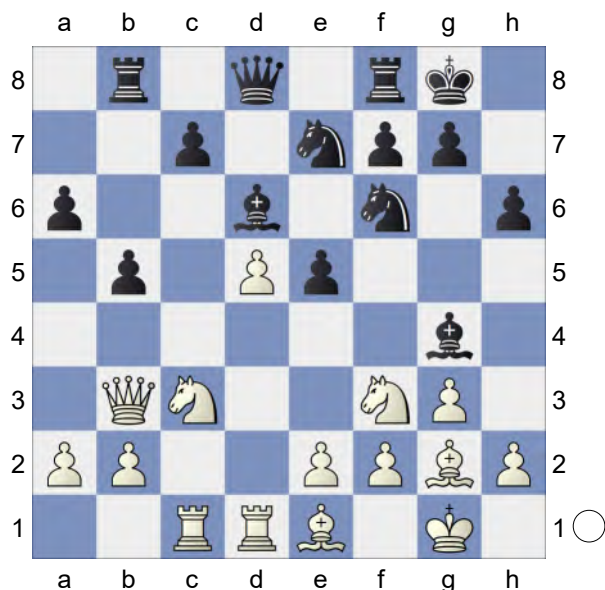
13...Rb8

[13...c6 14.dxc6 Nxc6 15.Be3 Qe7
16.Nd2! Be6 17.Nd5 Bxd5 18.Bxd5≠
Vachier Lagrave-Yu, Y Doha 2016.
Na5 19.Qd3 Rad8 20.Bg2 Ng4
21.Nf1 Bc5]

14.Be1 Bg4

[14...c6≠ 15.dxc6 Nxc6!]

15.Rac1 b5



16.h3 Bh5 17.a3 Qd7 18.Nh4 g5

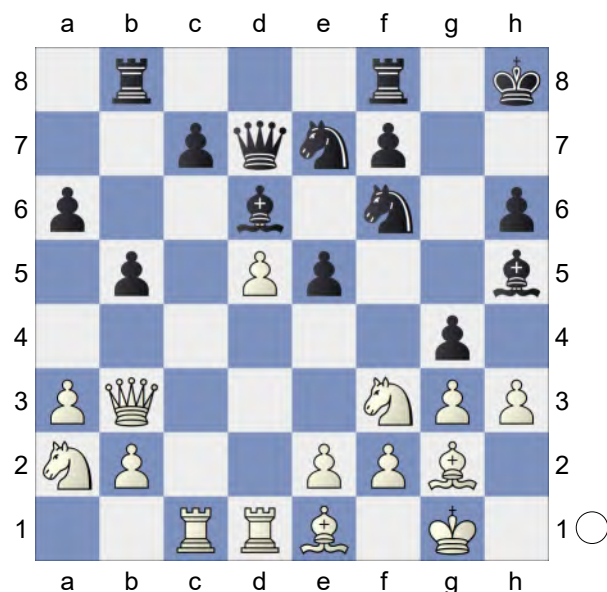
[18...b4 19.axb4 with dynamic
balance as Black isn't able to activate
the rooks. Rxb4 20.Qa2! Rfb8?]

19.Nf3 Kh8

[19...b4 20.axb4 Rxb4 21.Qa2]

20.Na2 g4

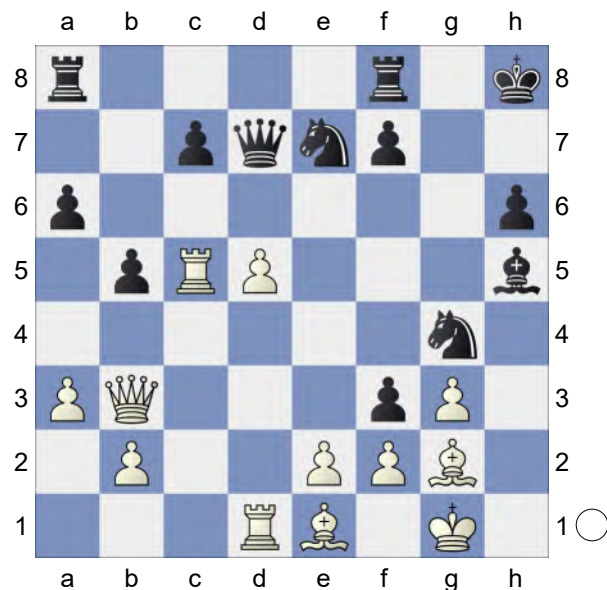
(Diagram)



21.hxg4 Nxg4?! 22.Nb4 Ra8 23.Nd3± e4 24.Nc5 Bxc5

[A more accurate move is 24...Qf5!
when I don't see any advantage for
White: 25.Nh4]

25.Rxc5 exf3



26.exf3

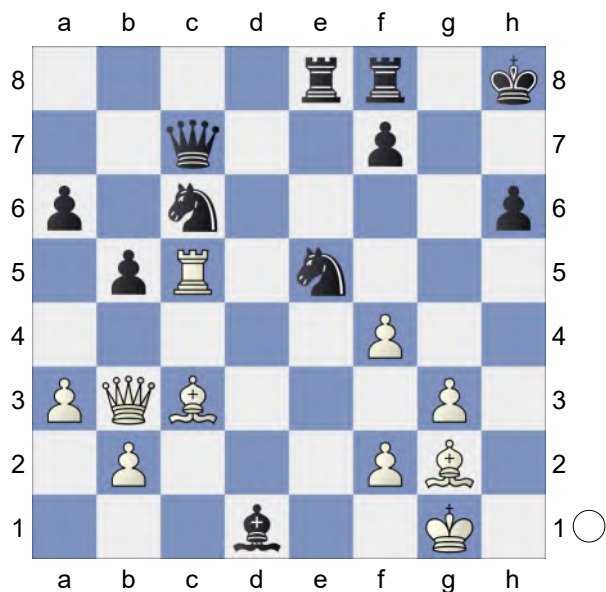
[26.Bxf3 Qd6 27.Bb4 a5 28.Rc6
Qd7 29.Bxe7 Qxe7 30.Qc3+ Kh7
31.Rxc7±]

26...Ne5

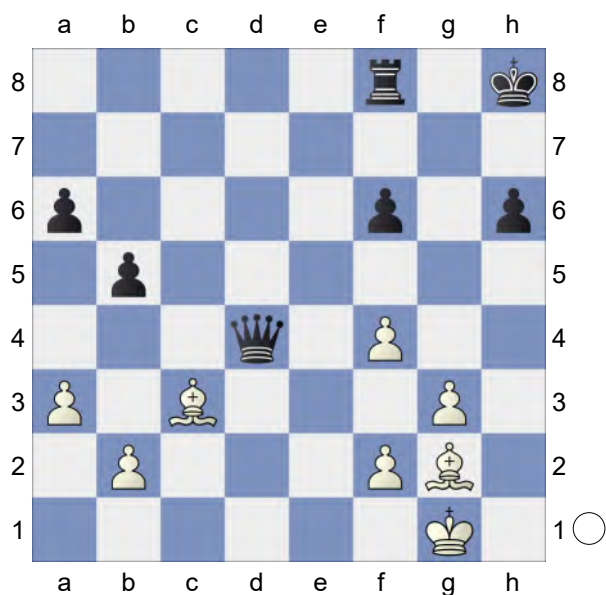
[26...Nf6 27.d6 cxd6 28.Bc3]

27.d6 N7c6

[27...cxd6 28.Rxe5]
28.dxc7 Qxc7 29.Bc3
 [29.g4 Bg6 30.f4]
29...Rae8
 [29...f6 30.Bxe5 fxe5 31.Qe6]
30.f4 Bxd1

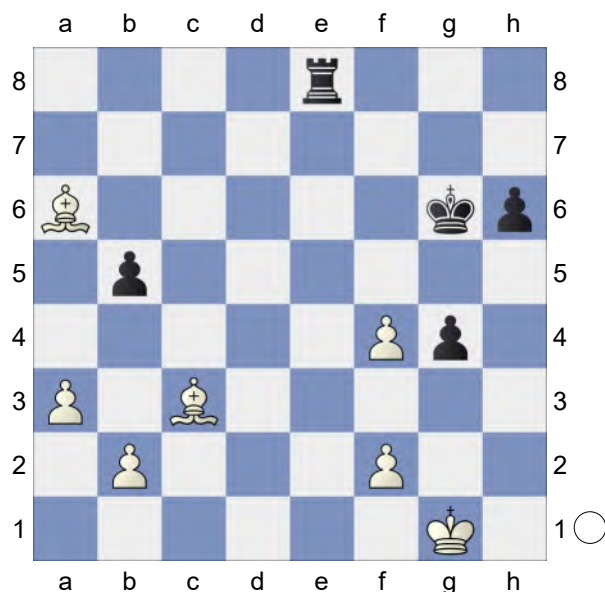


31.Qxd1 Qd8 32.Qh5
 [32.Qxd8 Nxd8 (32...Rxd8
 33.Rxc6) 33.fxe5]
32...Nd4 33.Rxe5
 [33.Rd5]
33...Rxe5 34.Qxe5+ f6 35.Qxd4 Qxd4

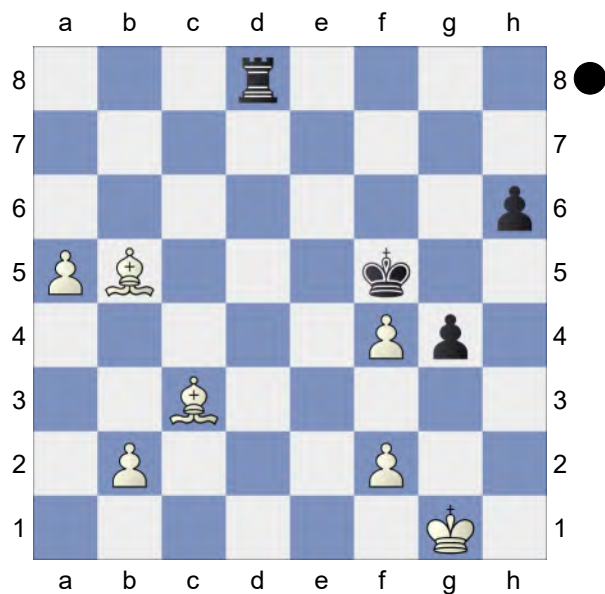


36.Bxd4 Kg7 37.Bc3 Re8 38.g4 Kg6

39.Bb7 f5 40.Bxa6 fxg4



41.Bxb5 Rd8 42.a4 Kf5 43.a5



1/2-1/2

365

□ Yu, Yangyi

■ Wei, Yi

13th Asian Continental 2014 (5.2)

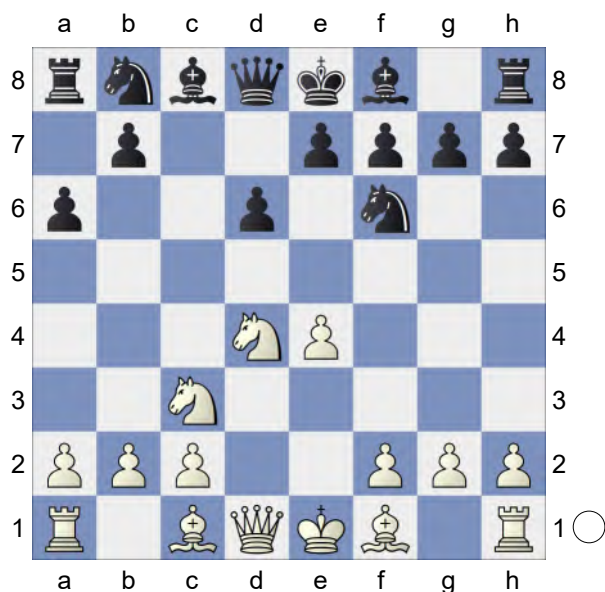
[Roiz, M]

B97

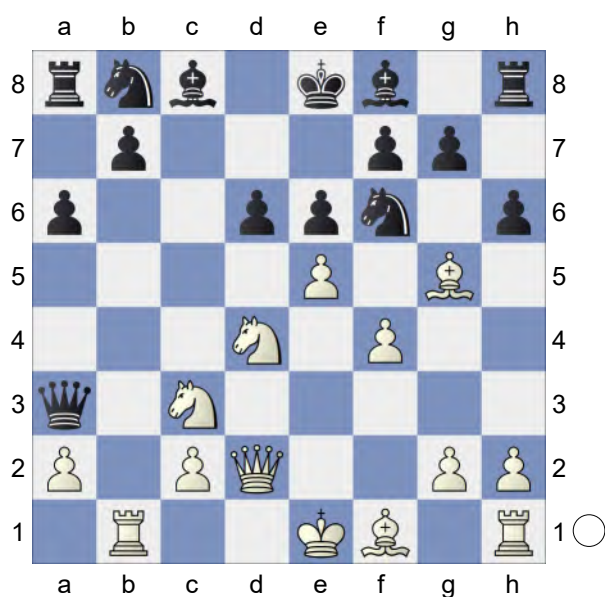
2667

2629

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6



6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Qb6 8.Qd2 Qxb2
9.Rb1 Qa3 10.e5 h6



11.Bh4 dxe5 12.fxe5 A very topical
and sharp position. 12...g5

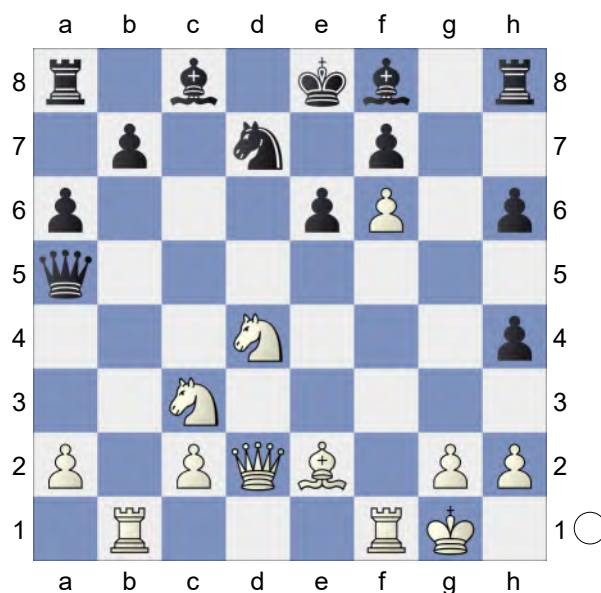
[The alternatives are: 12...Nfd7]

[and 12...Nd5]

13.exf6 gxh4 14.Be2

[Too slow was: 14.Ne4?! Nd7 15.Rd1
Rg8 16.Bd3 h3 0-1 Bok, B (2488)-
Edouard, R (2608)/Antwerp 2011]

14...Qa5 15.0-0 Nd7



16.Kh1 Qg5 17.Rf4 e5 18.Nd5 exd4

This is a key position of the whole line
with 12.... g5. 19.Qxd4! The most
dangerous continuation.

[After 19.Nc7+ Kd8 20.Nxa8 d3!
Black was doing fine in Bromberger, S
(2530) - Areshchenko, A / German
Bundesliga 2010 [Richard Palliser]]

19...Kd8 20.Ne7 This looks critical as
well.

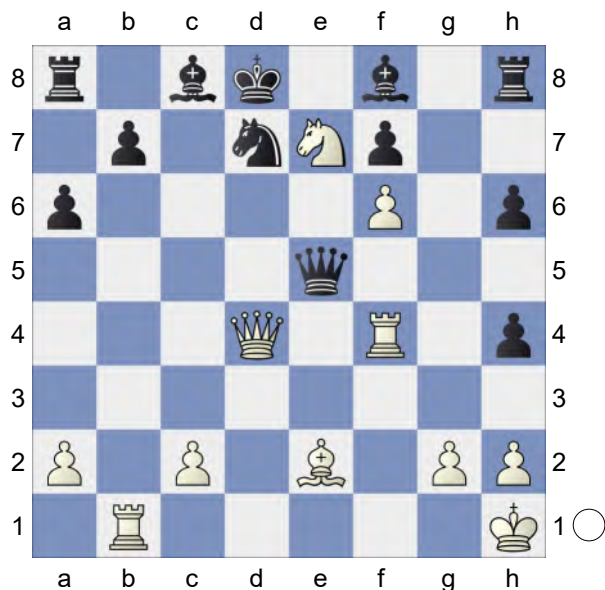
[The alternatives 20.Bg4?]

[and 20.Rd1 were analysed in our
PGN archive as well. You can see my
notes to Duda, J (2563) - Wojtaszek,
R (2713) / ch-Pol 2014 Warsaw [Roiz,
M]]

20...Qe5!

[As I have discovered, 20...Qc5?!
which was seen in 2 preceding games,
gives White an additional dangerous
possibility: 21.Qb2!N keeping an eye

on the rook! (21.Qd2 Bxe7 22.fxe7+ Qxe7 would just transpose to our game.) 21...h3 (21...Qe5 22.Rd4 Qxe2 23.Qb6+ Ke8 24.Nd5 Be7 25.Nc7+ Kf8 26.fxe7+ Qxe7 27.Qa5→) 22.Bf3 h3g2+ 23.Bxg2→ with a strong attack.]



The first precise move. 21.Qd2
Keeping a pin along the d-file is the most natural continuation.

[White had a couple of alternatives at his disposal: 21.Nxc8 Rxc8 22.Rd1 Bd6 23.Qxd6 Qxd6 24.Rxd6 Rxc2 25.Bd1 Re8 (25...Rc6=) 26.h3 Rc6 27.Rxc6 bxc6= Safarli, E (2644)-Kurnosov, I (2649)/ Nakhchivan AZE 2013.]

[21.Qf2!?N Bxe7 (21...h3 22.Rd1 h3g2+ 23.Kg1≡) 22.fxe7+ Qxe7 23.Rd1≡]

21...Bxe7

[Black had no time for: 21...h3? 22.Bf3! h3g2+ 23.Bxg2 and White is just dominating. For instance, Bxe7 24.fxe7+ Qxe7 25.Qa5+ b6 26.Qc3+-]

22.fxe7+ Qxe7 23.Bg4 f5!

A very important defensive resource. It is difficult to find it during a game.

[23...Re8 24.Rc4! f5 (24...b6 25.Rd1→ Kosteniuk, A (2469)-Ju, W (2536)/ Nalchik 2011) 25.Bxf5 Qf7 26.Bxd7 Bxd7 27.Qa5+ Ke7 28.Qc5+ Kd8 29.Qc7+ Ke7 30.Re4+ Kf8 31.Rf4 Bf5 32.Qc5+ Kg8 33.Rxf5±]

[23...b6?! 24.Re1 Qc5 25.Rd4 Ra7 26.Qf4 Rg8 27.h3↑]

24.Rxf5

[It looks like Black is out of danger in other cases: 24.Re1 Qg5 25.Rd1 f3g4 26.Qd4 Rg8 27.Qb6+ Ke8 28.Qe6+ Kd8 29.Rf7 Qb5=]

[24.Bxf5 Rf8 25.Rd1 Qe5! 26.Re1 Qf6 27.Rd1 (27.Ree4 Qa1+ 28.Re1 Qf6=) 27...Qe5=]

[24.Rd1 f3g4 25.Qa5+ Ke8 26.Qh5+ Kd8 27.Qa5+ Ke8 28.Re1 Rh7 29.Qh5+ (29.Rxg4 Nf6 30.Rxe7+ Rxe7 31.Rxh4 Bd7 32.Rxh6 Kf7≠) 29...Kd8 30.Rxe7 Rxe7 31.Qxh4 Ne5 32.Rf8+ Kd7 33.Qxh6 Kc7 34.Qd2 Nc6 35.Qf4+ Kb6 36.Qf2+ Kc7=]

24...Re8! Reminding White of the 1st rank.

[24...b6?! 25.Rd1 Ra7 26.Qf2!→]

[24...Rf8?! 25.Rxf8+ Qxf8 26.Rd1±]

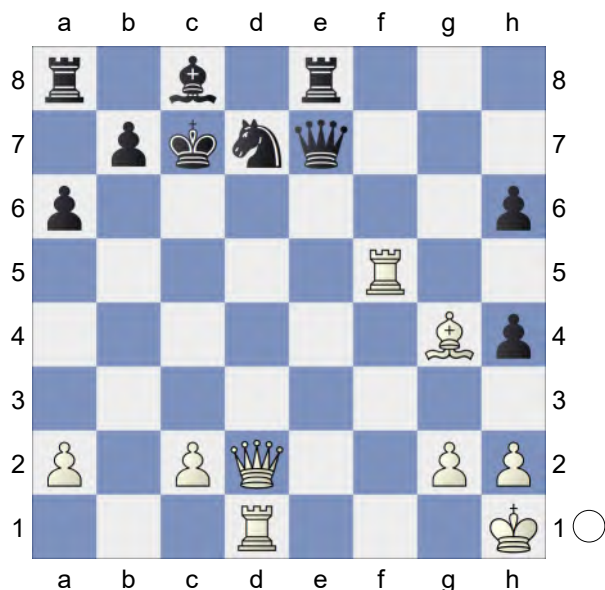
25.Rd1N This novelty doesn't change the evaluation, but requires some accuracy from Black.

[In my opinion, White's future attempts to fight for an opening advantage may be connected with: 25.Rd5 b6 26.Rd1!?N (26.h3 was covered in our PGN archive in Guseinov, G (2607) - Areshchenko, A (2720) / World Teams 2013 [Danny Gormally]) 26...Ra7 27.Qf2 Rb7 28.h3 Rf8 29.Qd4≡ in this position White has full

compensation for a piece.]

25...Kc7!

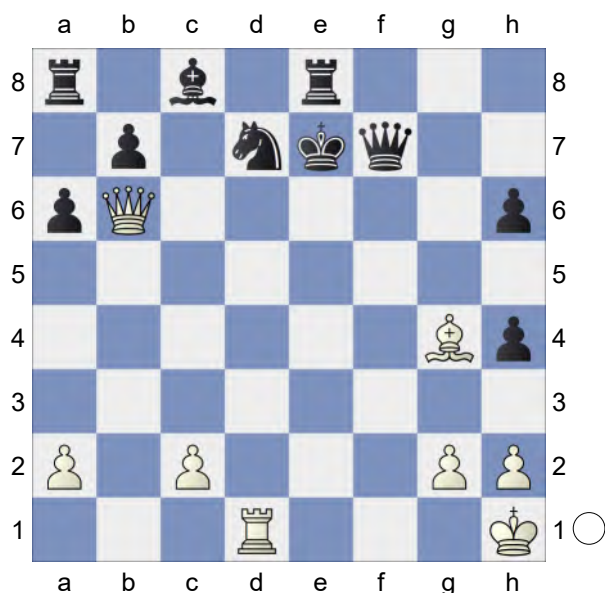
[There is no time for development:
25...b6? 26.Bh5 Rg8 27.Rf7 Qe6
28.Qd4 Rb8 29.Qf4 Rb7 30.h3→]



Black must avoid the pin as soon as possible. **26.Rf7**

[White has no more than a perpetual check after: 26.Bh5 Rf8 27.Qf4+ Kb6 28.Qd4+ Kc7=]

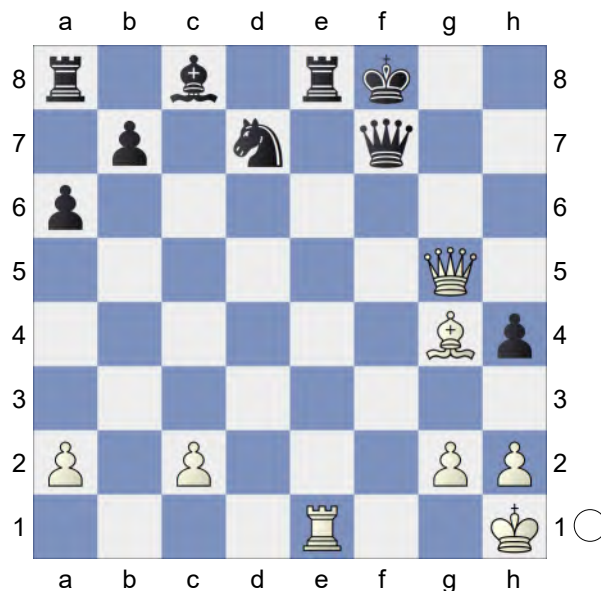
26...Qxf7 27.Qd6+ Kd8 28.Qb6+ Ke7 29.Qd6+ Kd8 30.Qb6+ Ke7



31.Re1+ Of course, White has no reason to accept a draw at this stage of the game - there is no risk. **31...Kf8 32.Qxh6+ Kg8 33.Qg5+** Yu Yangui decides to finish the game immediately.

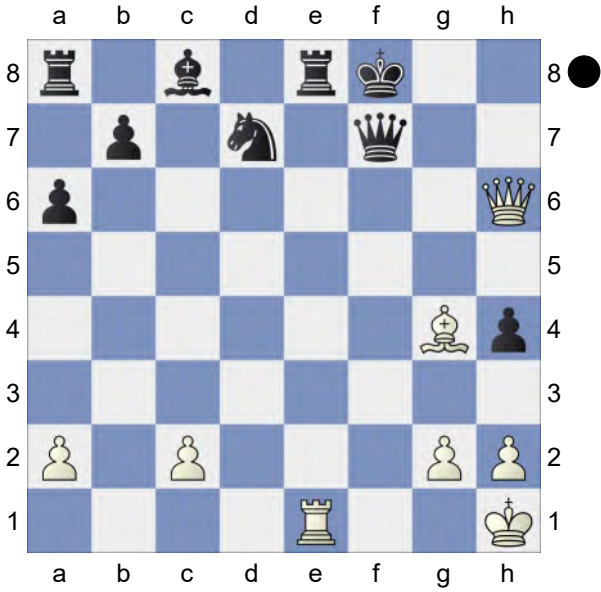
[It seems like White could try to play without any risk after: 33.Rxe8+!? Qxe8 34.Be6+ Qxe6 35.Qxe6+ Kg7 36.Qg4+ Kf7 37.Qh5+ Kg7 38.Qxh4 Nf6 39.Kg1 (39.Qg3+ Kf7 40.Qb3+ Kg6=) 39...Bf5 40.Qf4 but after Kg6! 41.h4 Bg4= Black should be able to set-up a blockade and secure a draw.]

33...Kf8 34.Qh6+ Kg8 35.Qg5+ Kf8



36.Qh6+

(Diagram)



1/2-1/2

352

□ Wei, Yi

■ Sevian, Samuel

77th Tata Steel GpB (6.3)

16.01.2015

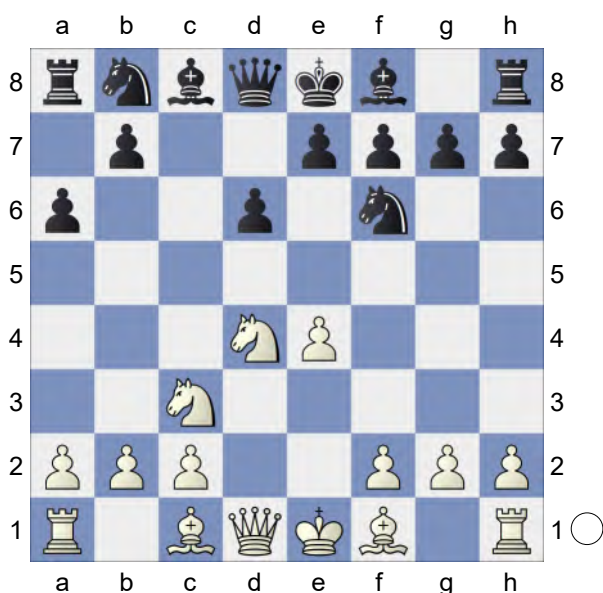
[Roiz, M]

B90

2675

2511

Shankland, Sam: ' This was my favourite of Wei Yi's victories. ' 1.e4 GM Ioannis Papaioannou Shankland, Sam 1...c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6



6.Be3 e5 7.Nf3 Shankland, Sam: '!?'

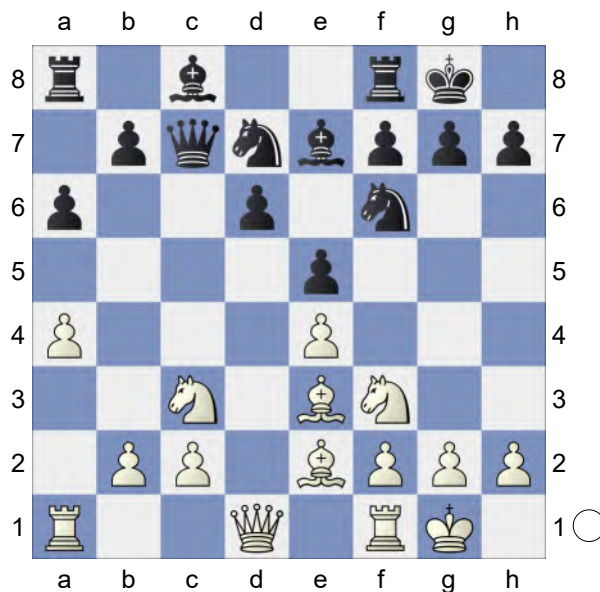
[Possibly the young Chinese star improvised to avoid concrete preparation from a player who almost always opens with 1...e5. 7.Nb3 (Shankland, Sam) had been Wei Yi's choice in all of his previous games.]

7...Qc7 8.a4 Be7 9.Be2 0-0 10.0-0 Nbd7

[10...Be6 was covered in detail in Bok, B (2590) - Gajewski, G (2631) / Fagernes GM Open 2014 [Roiz, M] was covered in detail in Bok, B (2590) - Gajewski, G (2631) / Fagernes GM Open 2014 [Roiz, M] was covered in detail in Bok, B (2590) - Gajewski, G

(2631) / Fagernes GM Open 2014 [Roiz, M]]

[Another popular continuation here is: 10...b6 Shankland, Sam: 'RR' Shankland, Sam: 'Najer, Evgeniy 2643 - Sjogirov, Sanan 2629, Russia 2011 - 112/138' 11.a5 like in Bologan, V (2688) - Naiditsch, A (2685) / Croatian Team Championship 2009 [Richard Palliser] like in Bologan, V (2688) - Naiditsch, A (2685) / Croatian Team Championship 2009 [Richard Palliser] like in Bologan, V (2688) - Naiditsch, A (2685) / Croatian Team Championship 2009 [Richard Palliser] (11.Nd2 was tried in Agopov, M (2445) - Palliser, R (2444) / Finnish League 2011 [Richard Palliser] was tried in Agopov, M (2445) - Palliser, R (2444) / Finnish League 2011 [Richard Palliser] was tried in Agopov, M (2445) - Palliser, R (2444) / Finnish League 2011 [Richard Palliser])]



This continuation is new for our site.

11.Nd2 Shankland, Sam: 'Diagram

[11.a5 Nc5 12.Nd5 Nxd5 13.exd5

square. ' A very ambitious novelty. Wei Yi doesn't mind seizing a lot of space on the k-side at the cost of exposing his king.

[Another decent option was: Another decent option was: Another decent option was: 12.Nc4 Bb7 13.f3

A) 13...Bc6 14.Bf2 b5 15.axb5 axb5 16.Rxa8 Rxa8 17.Ne3± Yu Yangyi -Indjic, A /Kocaeli TUR 2013;

B) 13...Rad8 Shankland,Sam 14.Bf2 d5!? 15.Nxd5 Nxd5 16.exd5 Nf6 (16...Nc5) 17.Bxb6 Bc5+ 18.Bxc5 Qxc5+ 19.Kh1 Nxd5 when he has clear compensation, though White should be at least modestly better after Qe1.;

C) 13...Rfd8 14.Bf2 with a stable edge.]

12...Bb7 This move leads to a rather passive position. This move leads to a rather passive position. Shankland,Sam: 'N'

[The most principled would be: 12...h6 13.h4 GM Ioannis Papaioannou: '!' '!' Shankland,Sam: 'would only serve to weaken Black's kingside. RR Boey, Jozef Martin - Delabie,Jan, corr. 1991'

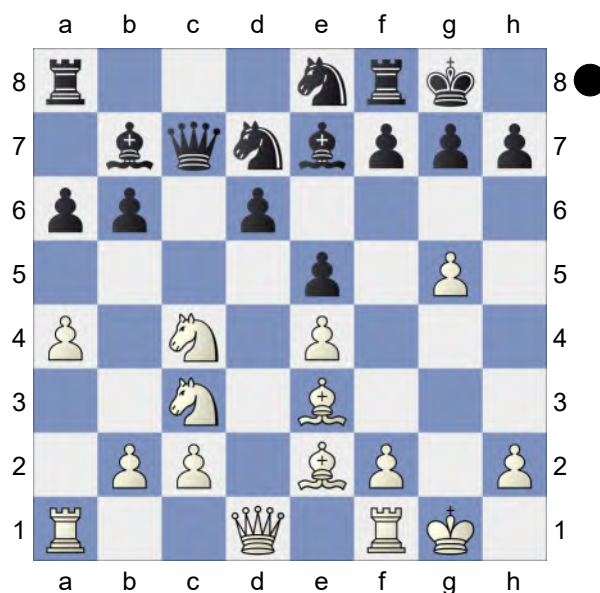
A) 13...Nh7 14.Nd5± Qd8 15.Nxe7+! (15.Nc4!? Bxh4 16.Ndxb6 Nxb6 17.Bxb6 Qf6 18.Qxd6 Be6 19.Qxe5±) 15...Qxe7 16.Nc4 Qxh4 17.Kg2! Nc5 18.Rh1 Qf6 19.f3±;

B) 13...Bb7 14.g5 hxg5 15.hxg5 Nh7 winning a pawn, though (15...Ne8 16.Bc4 g6 17.Qg4±) 16.g6 GM Ioannis Papaioannou: '!' '!' fxg6 17.Bc4+ Kh8 18.Nd5 (18.Qg4!?) 18...Qd8 (18...Bxd5 19.Bxd5 Rac8 20.Bc4 Nc5

21.Qg4±) 19.Kg2↑ gives White a strong initiative.]

[12...Nc5?! 13.g5 Ne8 14.Nd5 Qd8 15.b4! Nd7 16.h4 Bb7 17.Nc4±]

13.g5 Ne8 14.Nc4 GM Ioannis Papaioannou: '!' '!' Shankland,Sam: ' ±' Shankland,Sam: 'Diagram

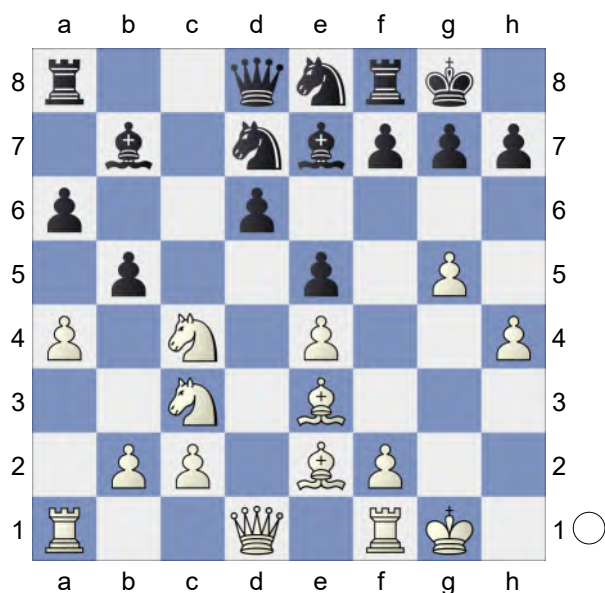


[Now the weakened light squares in Black's position should prove to be his undoing. Note that Nc4 is only available because there is no longer any pressure against the e4 pawn from the knight, which has been pushed all the way back to e8.] ' **14...Qd8 15.h4** GM Ioannis Papaioannou: ' ±?! ' ±?!' Shankland,Sam: '?!' Shankland,Sam: ' This strikes me as careless. '

[Perhaps more accurate was: 15.Qd2! connecting the rooks and restricting Black's active possibilities. For instance, connecting the rooks and restricting Black's active possibilities. For instance, Shankland,Sam: ' ±' Shankland,Sam: ', defending the pawn while keeping the kingside intact and developing a new piece, looks much better to me.' connecting the rooks and restricting Black's active

possibilities. For instance, f6 (15...Nc5 16.f3 Rb8 17.h4±; 15...Rc8 16.h4 Nc5 17.f3±) 16.h4 fxg5 17.hxg5 Nc5 18.Bg4 Nxe4 19.Nxe4 Bxe4 20.Bxb6 Qb8 21.Be3 Qc7 22.Nb6 Rd8 23.c4±]

15...b5!



The best practical chance - otherwise Black would be doomed to passive defence. The best practical chance - otherwise Black would be doomed to passive defence. Shankland, Sam: 'Black correctly looks for direct counterplay, and he is able to at least muddy the waters, but unfortunately his position is still bad. ' The best practical chance - otherwise Black would be doomed to passive defence. **16.axb5 axb5 17.Rxa8?!** This inaccuracy allows Black to activate his queen and disturb White's monarch. This inaccuracy allows Black to activate his queen and disturb White's monarch. This inaccuracy allows Black to activate his queen and disturb White's monarch.

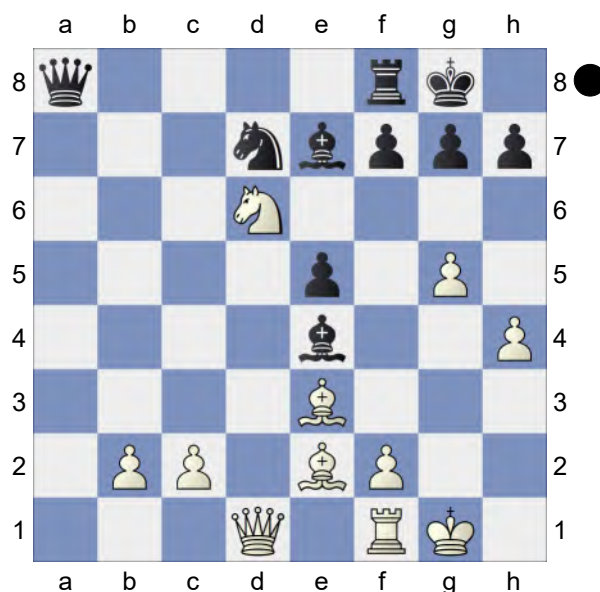
[Correct was 17.Nxb5! now after

A) 17...Bxe4 18.Qd2 Qc8 (18...d5 19.f3! dxc4 20.fxe4 Bc5

21.Bxc5 Nxc5 22.Qd5±) 19.Nc3 Bb7 20.Nd5±;

B) 17...Rxa1 18.Qxa1 Bxe4 White is able to prevent the further activation of Black's forces and fix an edge: White is able to prevent the further activation of Black's forces and fix an edge: White is able to prevent the further activation of Black's forces and fix an edge: 19.Qa4 Bc6 20.Na5 Ba8 21.Na7 Nc5 22.Bxc5 dxc5 23.N5c6 Qc7 24.Nc8 Bxc6 25.Qxc6 Bd8 26.Qxc7 Nxc7 27.Nd6 Ne6 28.Bc4±]

17...Qxa8 18.Nxb5 Bxe4 19.Ncxd6 Nxd6 20.Nxd6 Shankland, Sam: 'Diagram

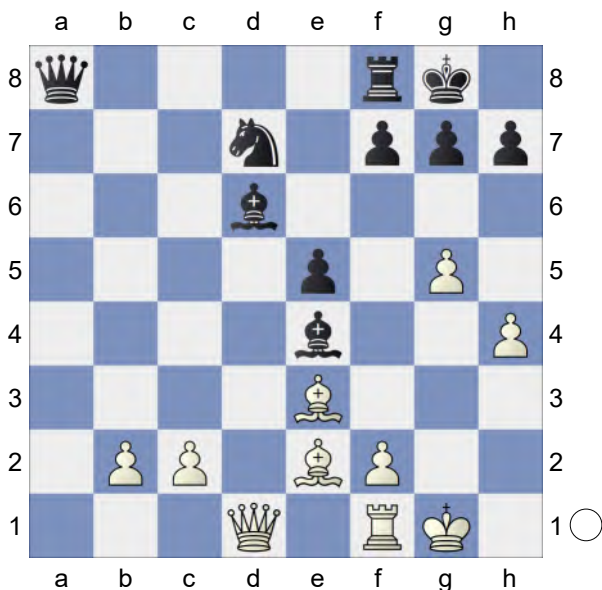


20...Bxd6?

[At the same time. At the same time. Shankland, Sam: 'The computer's suggestion' 20...Rd8! Shankland, Sam: 'is much more resilient. Then after' 21.Nxe4 Qxe4 Shankland, Sam: 'Black's queen proves to be quite a nuisance.'

A) 22.Bd3 Shankland, Sam Qxh4 23.Kg2 (23.Bf5) 23...g6 24.f3;

B) 22.Qd3 Shankland,Sam: '!' Shankland,Sam: 'I prefer this to the computer's 22.Bd3 ' 22...Qxh4 23.Qf5 Shankland,Sam: '(Securing the White kingside)' (23.Rd1 Bxg5 24.Bxg5 Qxg5+ 25.Kf1 g6=) 23...g6 24.Qg4 Qxg4+ 25.Bxg4 Shankland,Sam: ' ±' Shankland, Sam: 'Stockfish insists this position is completely equal, but with two connected passed pawns supported by a bishop pair, I think White can push hard for a victory.' Nc5± gave Black excellent drawing chances due to the reduced material balance. gave Black excellent drawing chances due to the reduced material balance. gave Black excellent drawing chances due to the reduced material balance.]



Unfortunately, Samuel exchanges his important dark-squared bishop. Now White's pawn chain on the k-side is safe.

Unfortunately, Samuel exchanges his important dark-squared bishop. Now White's pawn chain on the k-side is safe.

21.Qxd6 Shankland,Sam: '+-' Shankland, Sam: ' And now it's over. White has two connected passed pawns and Black is unable to make any serious kingside threats. Wei Yi finished in style: '

21...Bf5

[Pointless would be: 21...Rd8 22.c3 Nf8 (22...Bd5 23.Rd1 Be6 24.h5+-; 22...Bf3 23.Bxf3 Qxf3 24.Rd1 Qg4+ 25.Kf1+-) 23.Qxe5 Bf3 24.Bxf3 Qxf3 25.Qg3 and White should be able to convert his material advantage into a full point. and White should be able to convert his material advantage into a full point. and White should be able to convert his material advantage into a full point.]

22.Rd1! Precise play is still required from White, but the position is winning now. Precise play is still required from White, but the position is winning now. Precise play is still required from White, but the position is winning now. **22...Qa4**

[Possibly Samuel has missed: Possibly Samuel has missed: Possibly Samuel has missed: 22...Qe4 23.Qd3!+-]

[Black achieves nothing also with:
22...Be6 23.f3! Rc8 24.c3 e4
25.fxe4 Qxe4 26.Qf4 Qb7 27.Rd2
Re8 28.b4+-]

23.c4 g6

[Hopeless was also: 23...Qc2 24.Qd2 Qb3 25.c5 Nb8 26.Qc3 Qxc3 27.bxc3 Be4 28.f3 Bc6 29.Rd6+-]

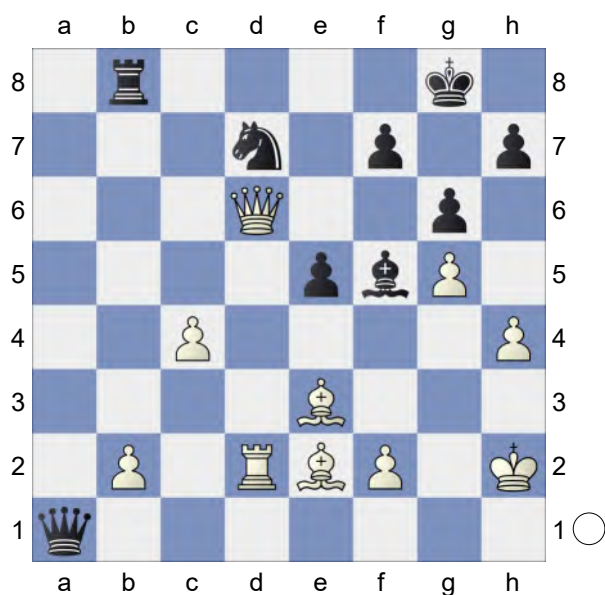
24.Rd2 Covering the 2nd rank wasn't necessary.. Covering the 2nd rank wasn't necessary.. Covering the 2nd rank wasn't necessary..

[More convincing was: 24.b4! Qc2

25.Qd2 Qe4 26.Qd5 Qxh4 27.Qh1+-
liquidating into a winning endgame.]

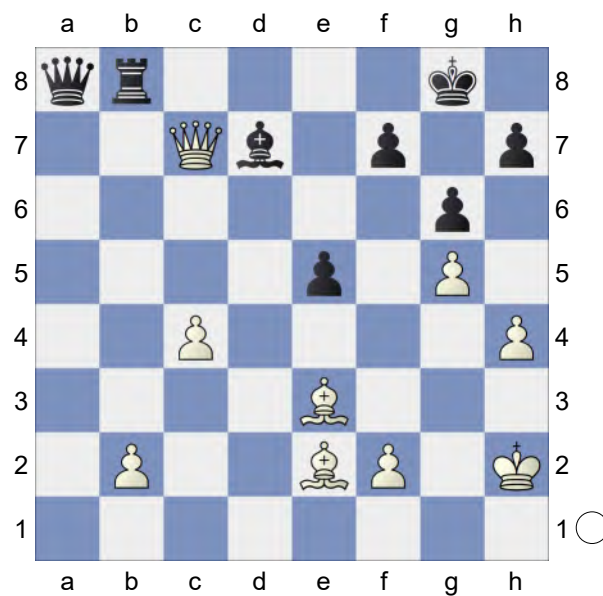
24...Rb8 25.Kh2 Qa1

[Somewhat more stubborn was:
25...Qa8 26.h5! (Less clear is
26.Qd5 Qxd5 27.cxd5 Rb4 28.Kg3
Kf8±) 26...gxh5 (26...Qe4 27.Qxb8+
Nxb8 28.Rd8+ Kg7 29.h6#) 27.Qh6
Qb7 28.Qxh5 Qc7 29.Qf3 Be6
30.Qg3+-]

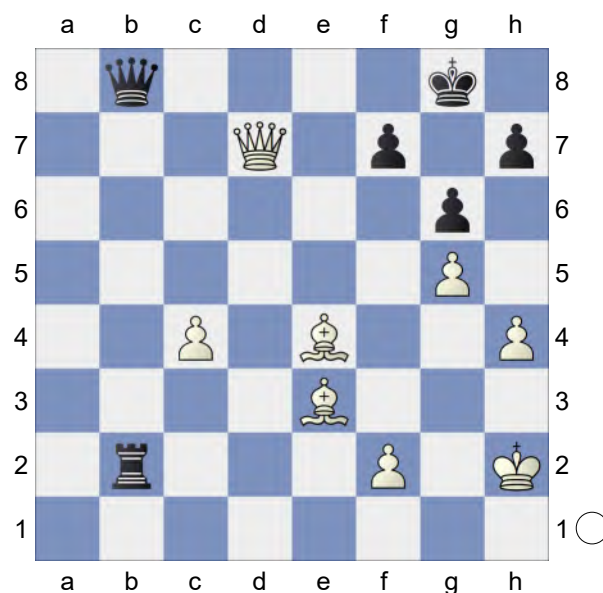


26.Qc7 Now White gets a decisive material advantage, so the rest was just an agony. Now White gets a decisive material advantage, so the rest was just an agony. Now White gets a decisive material advantage, so the rest was just an agony. **26...Qa8 27.Rxd7 Bxd7**
Shankland,Sam: 'Diagram

(Diagram)

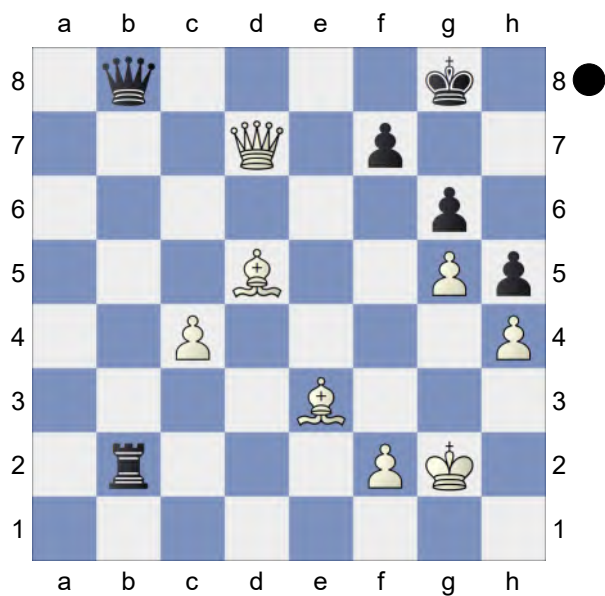


28.Qxd7 Rxb2 29.Bf3 e4 30.Bxe4!
A final touch. **30...Qb8+**
[30...Qxe4 31.Qd8+ Kg7
32.Bd4+-]



31.Kg2 h5 32.Bd5

(Diagram)



Shankland, Sam: ' [And the battle of the world's two youngest GMs ended in favour of the Chinese. I was particularly impressed by how Wei Yi improvised with 7.Nf3 to avoid any preparation and then found a very original and very strong idea with 12.g4!, fighting hard for control of the light squares without worrying about his compromised kingside, after which he very accurately restricted his opponent's counterplay and brought the point home.] '

1-0

406

□ Sethuraman, S P

■ Wei, Yi

IND-CHN Summit 2015 (1.2) 02.03.2015

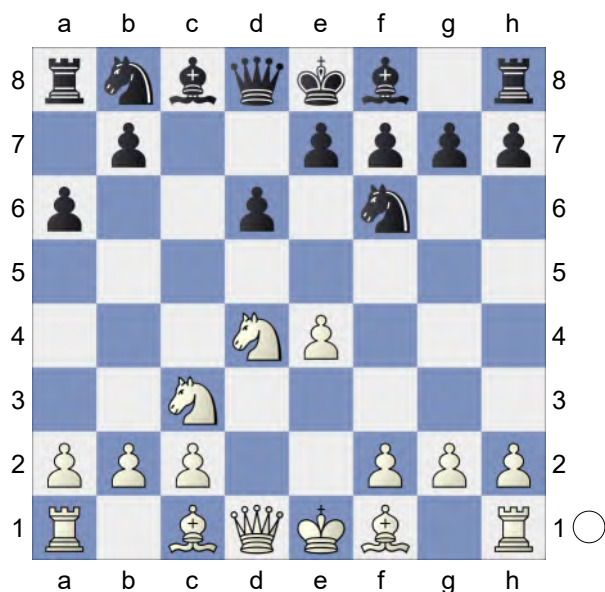
[Roiz, M]

B90

2623

2706

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6



6.h3 e5 7.Nde2 h5 8.g3 b5

A new move for our PGN archive.

[8...Be7 9.Bg2 b5 (9...0-0 10.Be3 Nbd7 11.a4 Qc7? 12.g4!↑

was bad for Black in Ponomarev, R (2711) - Areschenko, A (2655) / 83rd ch-UKR 2014 [Roiz, M] 10.Nd5 Nbd7 11.Nxe7 Qxe7 12.Bg5 Bb7 13.Nc3 Qe6 14.h4 offered White interesting play in Shirov, A (2708) - Palliser, R (2453) / British League (4NCL) 2013 [Richard Palliser]]

9.Nd5 Sethuraman is following Shirov's approach from a previous note, so he occupies the key d5 square immediately. This move was never seen before, but the official novelty comes later.

[Indeed, the premature 9.a4?! b4 10.Nd5 can be strongly met by: Nbd7!

11.Nxb4 (After 11.Bg5 Bb7 12.Bg2 Be7 Black's position is preferable due to the poor placement of Ne2.)

11...Qa5 12.c3 Bb7 13.f3 d5↑]

[Black is also doing well after 9.Bg2 Bb7 10.0-0 Be7 11.a4 b4 12.Nd5 Nxd5 13.exd5 a5 Pancevski, F (2470)-Volokitin, A (2695) / Plovdiv 2012]

9...Nbd7 Now the game transposes into known paths.

[9...Nxd5 10.Qxd5 Ra7 11.Be3 leaves Black with a worse position: Rd7 (11...Rb7 12.Qd2 Nd7 13.Nc3 Nf6 14.0-0-0 Be6 15.f3±) 12.Bg2 Bb7 13.Qd3 d5 (13...Be7 14.Nc3±) 14.exd5 Bxd5 15.Bxd5 Rxd5 16.Qe4 Nc6 17.0-0±]

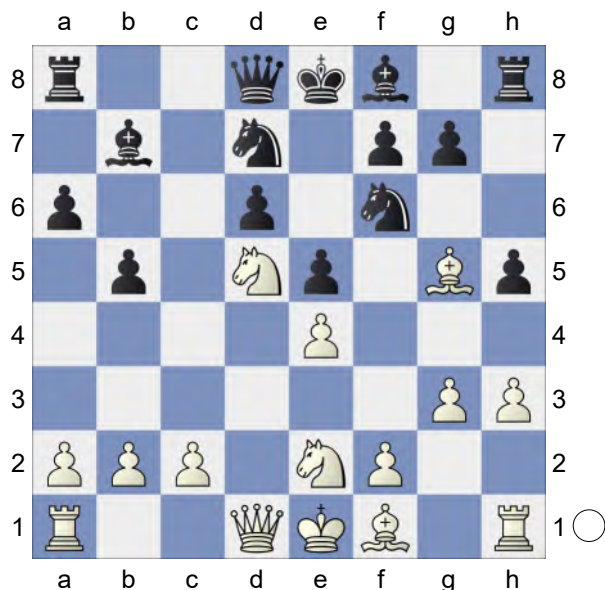
10.Bg5

[It makes sense to start with 10.Nec3!?, since White's Ne2 hardly has other good routes. It looks like in that case Black has some problems to solve. For instance, Bb7 (10...h4 11.Bg5 hxg3 12.fxg3 Be7 13.Nxe7 Qxe7 14.Nd5 Qd8 15.Bg2±) 11.Bg2 Nxd5 12.Nxd5 Nb6 13.Bg5 Qxg5 14.Nxb6 Rb8 15.h4 Qd8 16.Nd5±]

10...Bb7

[10...Be7 most probably would transpose to the text: 11.Nxe7 Qxe7 12.Bg2 Bb7 13.Nc3 Rc8]

(Diagram)



11.Nec3 White doesn't want to lose control over the d5-square.

[11.Bg2 leads to complex play after: Bxd5 12.exd5 Be7 13.0-0 0-0=]

11...Rc8

[11...Be7 12.Nxe7 Qxe7 13.Bg2 Qe6 14.a3 could have transposed to the text (However, White gets an additional attractive option: 14.h4!? 0-0 15.a3 and now, when 15...Rc8 can be strongly met by 16.Bh3, Black is under some pressure.)]

12.Bg2

[After 12.Bxf6 Nxf6 13.a4 b4 14.Nxf6+ gxf6 Black gets sufficient counterplay a-la Sveshnikov: 15.Nd5 f5 16.exf5 (16.Bg2 Rc5 wouldn't change much) 16...Rc5 17.Bg2 Qa8 18.Nb6 Qa7 19.Nd5 Qa8=]

12...Be7 13.Nxe7

[13.Bxf6 Nxf6 14.h4 Rc5=]

13...Qxe7 14.a3 This prophylactic move is a novelty. It makes sense to secure the main protector of Pe4.

[Black is doing well in case of 14.0-0 Qe6 15.Qd2 0-0 16.Rfd1 b4 17.Nd5 Rc4=]

[Deserves serious attention also:

14.h4 Nb6 15.Qd3 as was played in the following Top-level game:

A) Possibly, 15...0-0!? may be an improvement for Black: 16.0-0-0 Rc6 (16...b4 17.Nd5 Nbx d5 18.exd5 Rc5 19.Rd2 Rfc8 20.Kb1±) 17.f4 Rfc8 18.Bh3 Re8 19.Rhf1 Bc8=;

B) 15...Qc7 16.Bh3 Rb8 17.Bxf6 gxf6 18.0-0-0 b4 19.Nd5 Nxd5 20.exd5 Bc8 21.f4± Karjakin, S (2759)-Gelfand, B (2777)/Wijk aan Zee NED 2014]

14...Qe6 15.Qe2

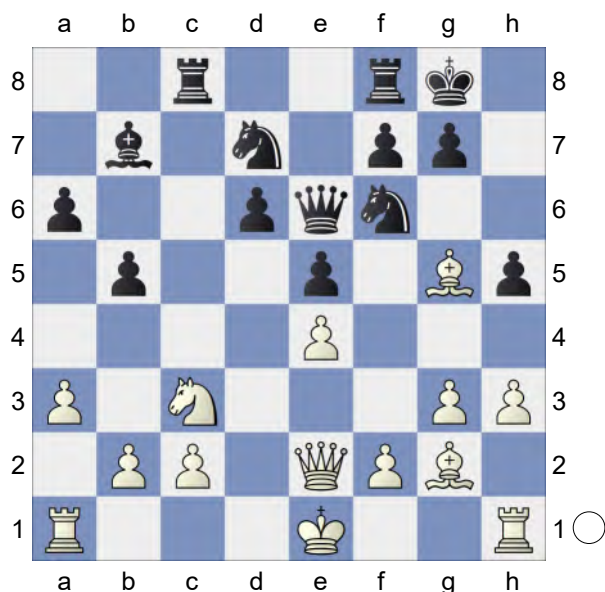
[The careless 15.0-0?! can be strongly met by the thematic sac: Rxc3 16.bxc3 Nxe4=]

15...0-0

[15...d5 doesn't fully solve Black's problems: 16.exd5 Nxd5 17.Qd2! Rc5 (17...Nxc3 18.Bxb7 Rc7 19.Bg2 Na4 20.Qa5! Rc8 21.b3 Nac5 22.0-0±) 18.0-0-0 Nxc3 19.Bxb7 Rc7 20.Bd5 Nxd5 21.Qxd5 Qxd5 22.Rxd5±]

[But worth attention is: 15...Nb6!? 16.h4 Qc4 17.Qxc4 Nxc4 18.Bxf6 gxf6 19.0-0-0 Ke7 20.Nd5+ Bxd5 21.Rxd5 Rc6 with good chances for equality.]

(Diagram)



16.h4! Sethuraman finds a nice way to put some pressure on the Pd6. Now Black urgently has to remove the pieces from the h3-c8 diagonal.

[The prosaic 16.0-0 Nb6 17.Rfd1 Nc4 18.Bc1 Rfd8 led to a roughly equal position.]

16...Rc4 17.Rd1

[17.Bh3!? Qe7 18.a4 Nc5 19.axb5 axb5 20.Bg2 Bc6 21.Nd5 Bxd5 22.exd5±]

17...Nc5 18.Bxf6?! This exchange of the dark-squared bishop definitely makes Black's task easier.

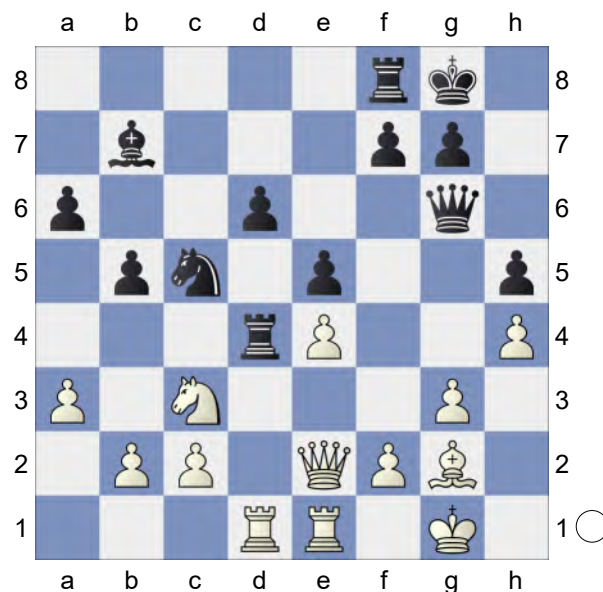
[The only way to pose Black some problems was: 18.f3! this move looks like a concession, but White should be able to consolidate and keep some pressure: Qe7 (18...d5 19.Bxf6 d4 20.Bg5 dxc3 21.b3 Rd4 22.0-0±) 19.0-0 Ne6 20.Be3! (20.Bxf6 Qxf6 21.Rxd6 Nd4 22.Qxc4 Qxd6 23.Qd3 Qc5 24.Kh2 a5±) 20...Qc7 21.Rd2±]

18...Qxf6 19.0-0

[Nothing promised 19.Nd5 Bxd5 20.Rxd5 g6 21.0-0 Na4 22.c3 Nb6 23.Rd3 Qe7 24.Rfd1 Rc6=]

19...Qg6 20.Rfe1 Rd4

[Another good way was: 20...Rc8 21.Nd5 Bxd5 22.Rxd5 Na4 23.c3 Qf6 24.Red1 R4c6=]



21.Rxd4 Inviting the simplifications.

[After 21.Bf3 Qf6 22.b4 (22.Bxh5 Nxe4 23.Rxd4 Nxc3 24.bxc3 exd4=) 22...Ne6 (22...Rc4 23.Qe3 Na4 24.Nxa4 bxa4 25.Bxh5±) 23.Nd5 Qd8 24.Bxh5 Rc4 25.c3 (25.Qd3 g6 26.Bg4 Bxd5 27.Qxd5 Nd4=) 25...Nc7 26.Ne3 Rxc3 27.Qb2 Rc6 Black wins the pawn back and manages to equalize.]

21...exd4 22.Nd5

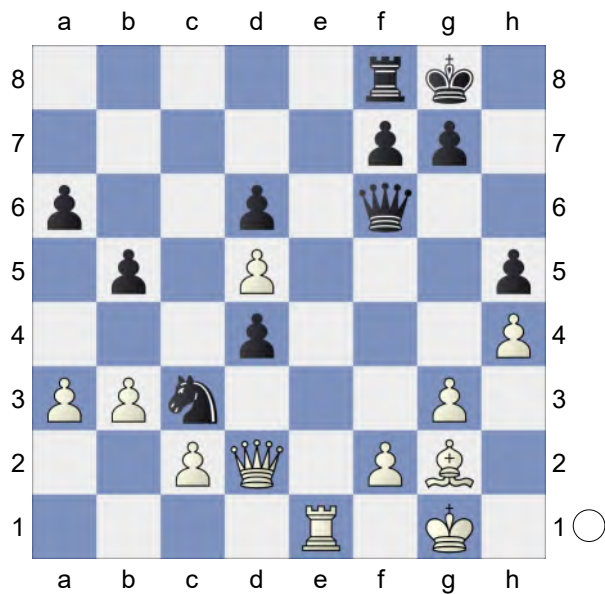
[22.Na2 is too passive and offers Black comfortable play after Re8 23.Qd1 Bxe4 24.Qxd4 Re6=]

22...Bxd5 23.exd5 Na4 24.b3 Now Black's knight gets an excellent square on c3, where it restricts White's heavy pieces.

[More accurate was: 24.Be4 Qh6 25.Qd1 Nxb2 26.Qxd4 Nc4 27.Bd3 Ne5=]

24...Nc3 25.Qd2 Qf6

(Diagram)



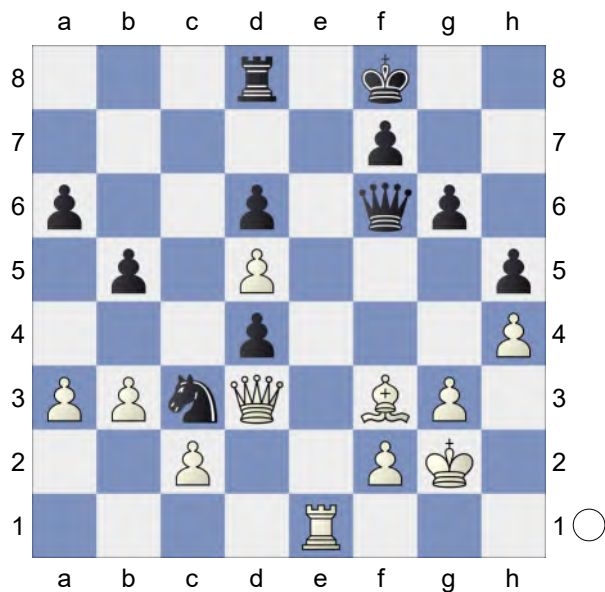
26.Qd3 White can only sit and wait, but Black is unable to make progress either.

26...Rd8

[26...g6 27.Bf3 Kg7 28.Kg2=]

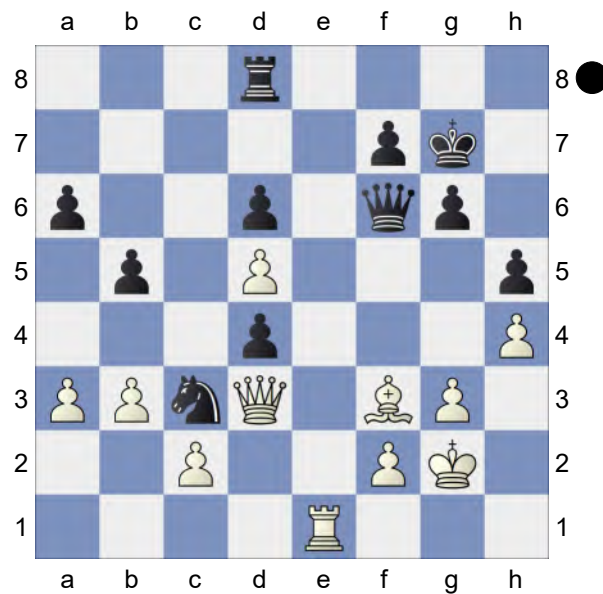
27.Bf3 g6 28.Kg2 Kf8 29.Qd2 Kg7

30.Qd3 Kf8



Black decides to call it a day - the Pd4 is a permanent cause of worry. **31.Qd2 Kg7 32.Qd3**

(Diagram)



1/2-1/2

48

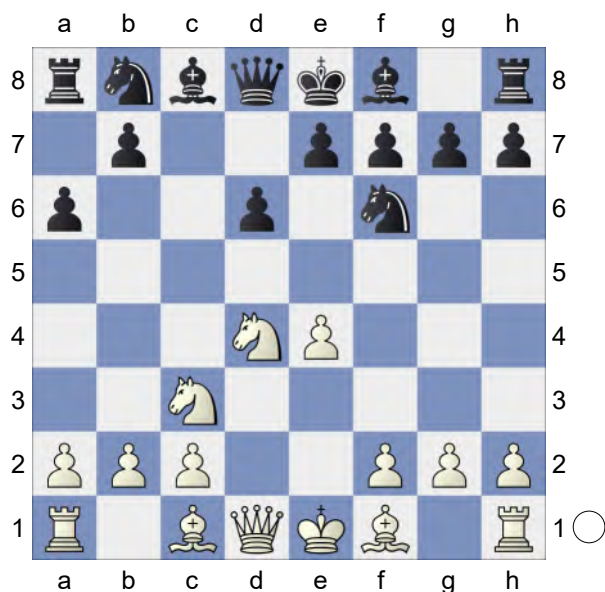
B93

□ Yu, Yangyi

2763

■ Wei, Yi

2721

FIDE World Cup 2019 (3.3) 18.09.2019
[Roiz, M]1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6

6.f4 A well-forgotten line, that was quite popular decades ago. **6...Qc7** As the route of this game proves, delaying the development of the k-side pieces is somewhat risky.

[The most common 6...e5 7.Nf3 Nbd7 8.a4 Be7 9.Bd3 0-0 10.0-0 Nc5 (Or 10...exf4 11.Kh1 Nc5 12.Bxf4 Bg4) 11.Kh1 exf4 12.Bxf4 Bg4 This position was covered in a few old games on our site, and it definitely looks acceptable for Black. Undoubtedly, GM Yu Yangyi also had some ideas in mind in this case.]

7.f5! This strong move is new for our site. White makes it tougher for Black to castle, whereas g2-g4 is following soon.

[7.Be2 e5 8.Nf5 Bxf5 9.exf5 Nc6 Black didn't face real problems in

Ivanchuk, V (2753)-Dominguez Perez, L (2768) Havana CUB 2014 [Roiz, M]]

[Black also reached a flexible setup after 7.a4 g6 8.Nf3 Nbd7 9.Bd3 Bg7 10.0-0 0-0 Dzhumaev, M (2530)-Wojtaszek, R (2734) Kolkata Open 2012 [Richard Palliser]]

7...g6?! GM Wei Yi comes up with a natural novelty, but it was nicely refuted by his strong opponent.

[7...b5 can be well met by 8.g4! (Worse is 8.Bd3 Bb7 9.Qe2 Nbd7 Black was fine in Firman, N - Ghaem Maghami, E Dresden 2007) 8...Bb7 9.Bg2 Nbd7 10.a3↑ Black struggles to develop his dark-squared bishop.]

[The optimal choice might be 7...e5, even though Black's task is still not easy: 8.fxe6 fxe6 9.Be2 (9.g4 is traditionally well met by d5! 10.exd5 Bb4≠ Micottis, D - Livaic, L Tarvisio 2017) 9...Nc6 10.0-0 Be7 11.Nxc6 Qxc6 12.Bh5+ g6 13.Bf3 Black came under some pressure in the correspondence game Gruber, R - Pilgram, K email 2013]

8.g4! d5 GM Wei Yi is trying to change the unfavorable route of the game, but once the position opens White's lead in development should tell.

[After 8...b5 9.Bg2 b4 (9...Bb7 10.0-0 Bg7 11.g5 Nh5 12.Be3±) 10.Nd5 Nxd5 11.exd5 Bg7 12.0-0 Black's position is cramped, and he struggles to develop his knight.]

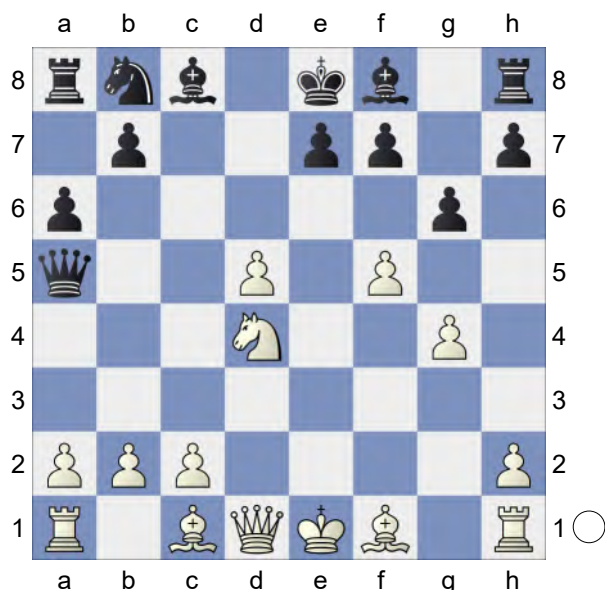
9.Nxd5

[I guess, 9.exd5!? was rejected by Yu Yangyi in view of Qe5+ 10.Be2 Nxg4, and it looks like the Ke1 is unsafe. (10...Nxd5 11.Nxd5 Qxd5 12.Rf1 Bg7 13.Be3 0-0 14.Qd2↑) However, this was also promising for

White: 11.Nf3! Qxf5 12.Qd4 Nf6
13.Qa4+ Bd7 14.Qb3↑ the misplaced
Qf5 is a cause of worries.]

9...Nxd5 10.exd5 Qa5+

[Worse is 10...Qe5+? 11.Ne2! gxf5
12.Bg2 fxg4 13.0-0 Bg7 14.c3 0-0
15.Ng3 , and White has a decisive
attack - Black's king desperately
lacks defenders.]



11.Qd2

[Equally good was 11.c3!? Qxd5
12.Rg1 Bg7 13.Be3 0-0 14.Bg2
Qa5 15.Qf3↑ with strong pressure
along the h1-a8 diagonal.]

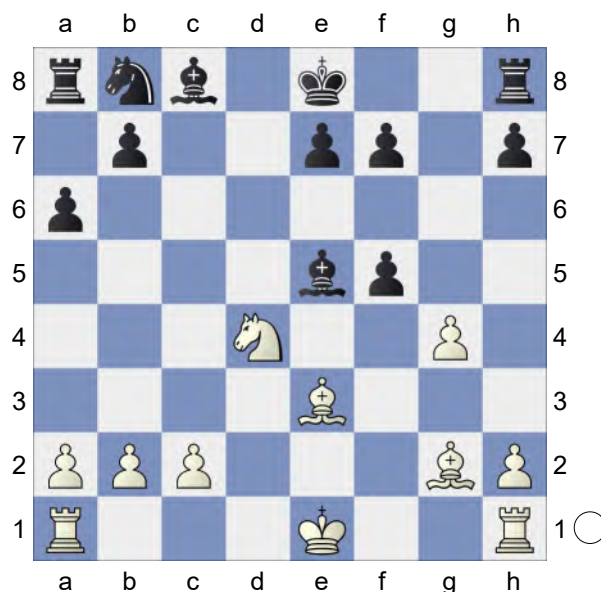
11...Qxd5 12.Bg2 Qe5+ 13.Qe3!
It turns out that White can afford to
exchange queens - the powerful Bg2
would offer him the better prospects for
sure.

[13.Kf2 Bg7 14.c3 Nd7]

13...Bg7 14.Qxe5? However, this is
premature. White overestimates Black's
counterplay along the g-file.

[Much stronger was 14.c3! Nd7
15.0-0 Qxe3+ 16.Bxe3 Ne5 17.h3
Nc4 18.Bg5↑]

14...Bxe5 15.Be3 gxf5!



16.gxf5

[The more ambitious 16.Nxf5 Bxb2
17.Rb1 Bc3+ 18.Ke2 Nc6
wouldn't yield White more than
equality.]

16...Rg8 17.Bf3 Bxd4! GM Wei Yi
correctly gives up his dark-squared
bishop - Black has to complete
development as soon as possible.

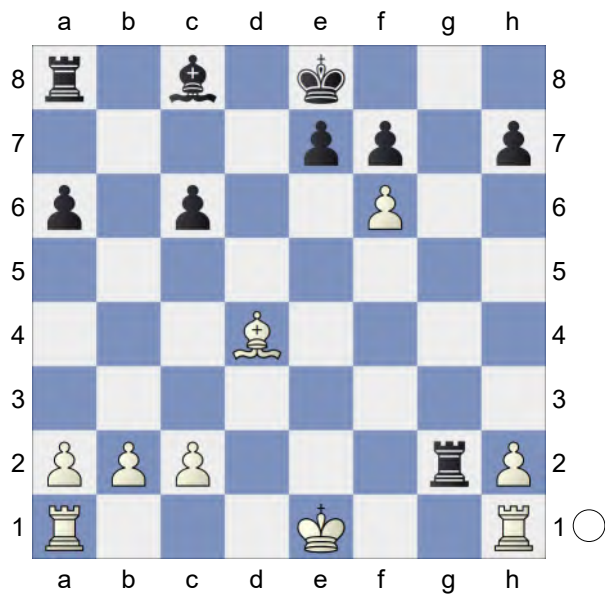
[17...Nd7? 18.0-0-0 Rb8 19.Ne2±]

18.Bxd4 Nc6 19.Bxc6+ This can be
called 'a silent draw offer'. True, White
didn't have any adequate alternatives.

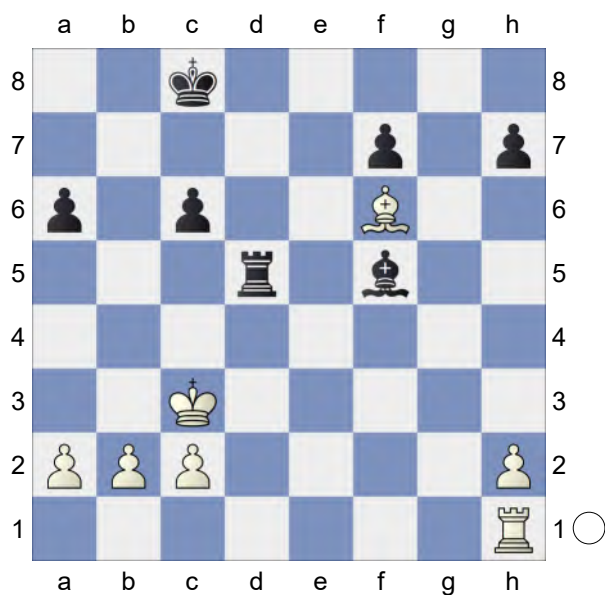
19...bxc6 20.f6 Rg2

[Safe was also 20...Bf5 21.0-0-0 e6
22.Rhg1 0-0-0 23.Rg7 Bg6=]

(Diagram)

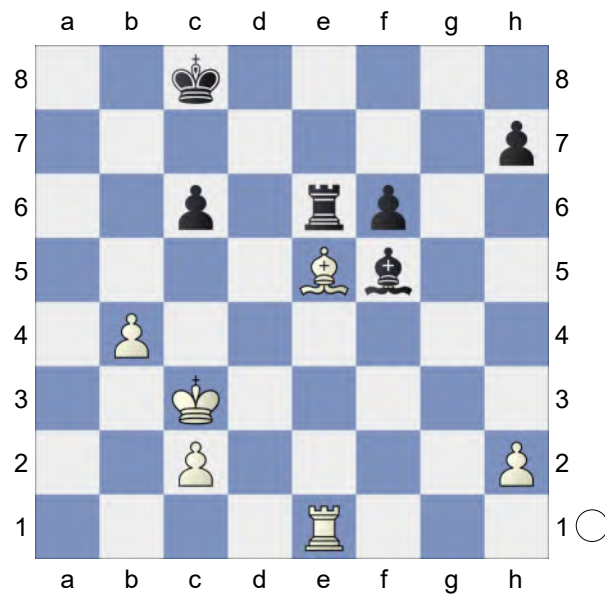


The active Rg2 leaves White nothing better than exchanging it. 21.0-0-0 Bf5
 22.Rd2 Rxd2 23.Kxd2 0-0-0
 There is no intrigue now. 24.Kc3 exf6
 25.Bxf6 Rd5

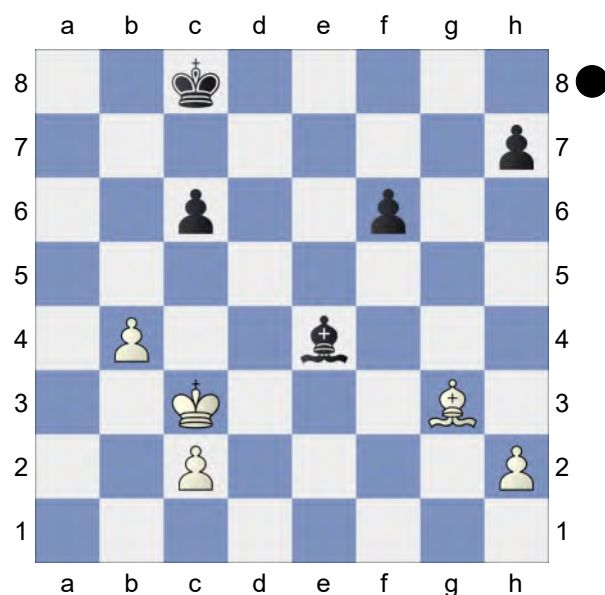


26.b4 a5 Inviting further simplifications.
 27.a3 axb4+ 28.axb4 Rd6 29.Be5
 Re6 30.Re1 f6

(Diagram)



31.Bg3 Rxe1 32.Bxe1 Be4 33.Bg3



1/2-1/2

73

□ Wei,Yi

■ Xu,Yinglun

ch-CHN Rapid 2017 (6.3)

[Roiz,M]

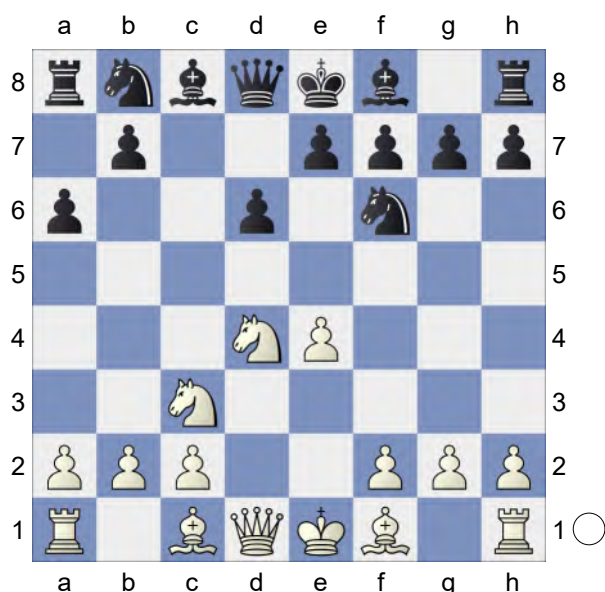
B84

2743

2539

07.12.2017

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6



6.Be3 e6 7.Be2 Be7 8.Qd2 0-0
9.0-0-0 b5 This move was mentioned by me

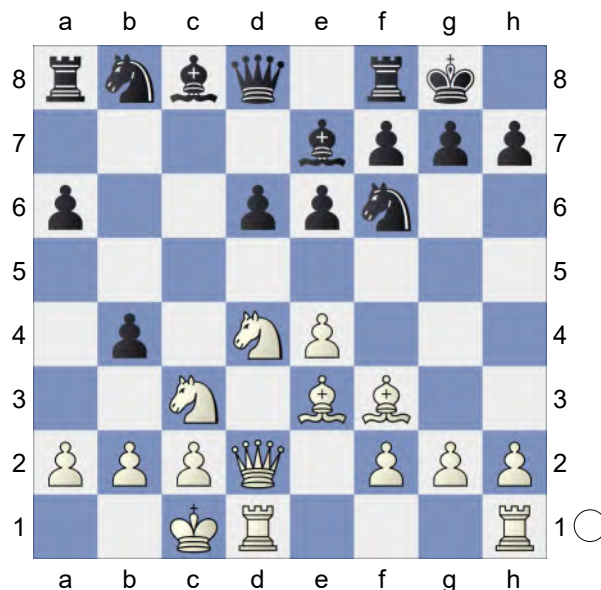
[in the notes to 9...Nc6 Ponomarev,R (2711)-Ivanchuk,V (2726) Lviv UKR 2014 [Roiz,M], where White had excellent attacking prospects, but later came under strong pressure.]

10.Bf3 Absolutely the best.

[10.a3?! Bb7 11.f3 Nbd7 12.g4 Nb6 13.h4 Nfd7 is more than comfortable for Black, was shown in a couple of games.]

10...b4

(Diagram)



11.Nce2 Bb7 12.e5 Nd5 13.Nf4
This novelty may hardly cause Black any problems.

[In my opinion, the previously played 13.exd6 is preferable Qxd6 (Worse is 13...Bxd6?! 14.Nf5! Be5

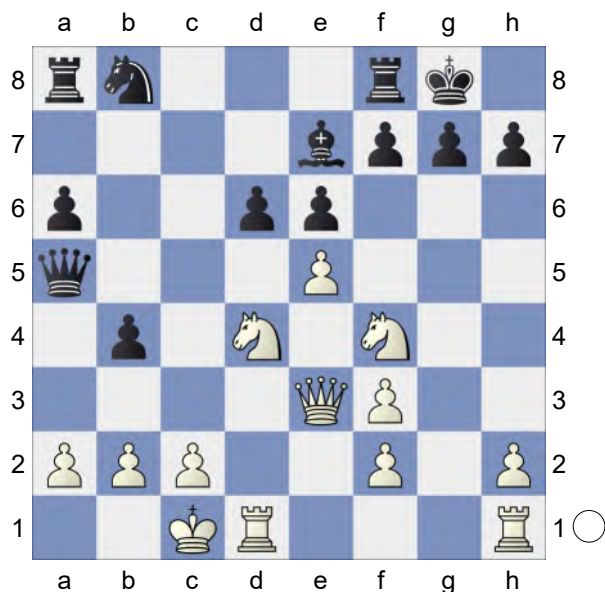
This position was seen in Shevchenko, K - Nayhebaver, M Lviv UKR 2015 Now White should have played 15.Nf4! Nc6 16.Bxd5 exf5 17.Bf3↑, keeping Black under strong pressure.) 14.Nf5 I have to admit, that my previous assessment of 'White is better' isn't correct, even though Black has to play precisely in order to solve his problems: Qc7 15.Bg5 (15.Nxe7+ Qxe7 16.Bg5 f6 17.Bh4 Nc6 18.Bxd5 exd5 19.Qxd5+ Kh8 20.Rhe1 Rad8) 15...exf5 16.Bxd5 Nc6 17.Bxe7 Nxe7 18.Bxb7 Qxb7 leads to an approximately equal position, where Black's active piece play compensates for the structural drawback.]

13...Nxe3 14.Qxe3 Bxf3 15.gxf3?!
An over-optimistic decision! White takes a serious strategic risk, since now his pawn structure is much worse.

[Correct was 15.Qxf3 d5
(Possible is also 15...Ra7!? , provoking 16.Nfxe6 fxe6 17.Qb3 , and after the cold-blooded dxe5 18.Nxe6 Qb6 19.Nxf8+ Kxf8= Black should be fine.) 16.Qg4 Bg5 17.g3 Nd7 18.Rhe1= , maintaining the balance.]

15...Qa5?

[Much stronger was 15...Bg5! 16.Kb1 (Even worse is 16.Rhg1 Bh6 17.Kb1 Nd7 the pinned Nf4 would cause White serious problems.) 16...d5 17.Rhg1 Bh6= , securing the king and putting pressure on White's weaknesses.]



Returning the favor! 16.exd6 Bg5
This move isn't as effective as before, but still not bad!

[However, more precise seems 16...Bf6! 17.Kb1 (In case of 17.Ndxe6 fxe6 18.Qxe6+ Kh8 19.Rd5 Qd8 20.Qg4 Rf7 21.Rh5 h6= White has enough play for a piece, but hardly more.) 17...Qe5 18.Qxe5 Bxe5= Black should be able to regain the pawn and neutralize

the activity of White's pieces.]

17.Rhg1 Bh6 18.Kb1 e5?
Another serious mistake - Black can't afford to delay the development of his q-side pieces for too long.

[The natural 18...Nd7 19.Qe4 (Nothing special also promises 19.Nc6 Qb5 20.Qe4 Nf6 21.Qd4 Qxc6 22.Qxf6 Rfc8 23.Rd2 g6=) 19...Nf6 20.Qb7! enables White to avoid the dangerous pin, but after Qe5! (But not 20...Bxf4! 21.Nxe6! Bh6 22.Nxf8 Rxf8 23.d7 Bf4 24.Qc6 , and the d-pawn should decide the game.) 21.Nfe2 Nd5= Black would obtain decent counterplay.]

19.Nf5 On his turn, White is tempted by a sacrificial approach.

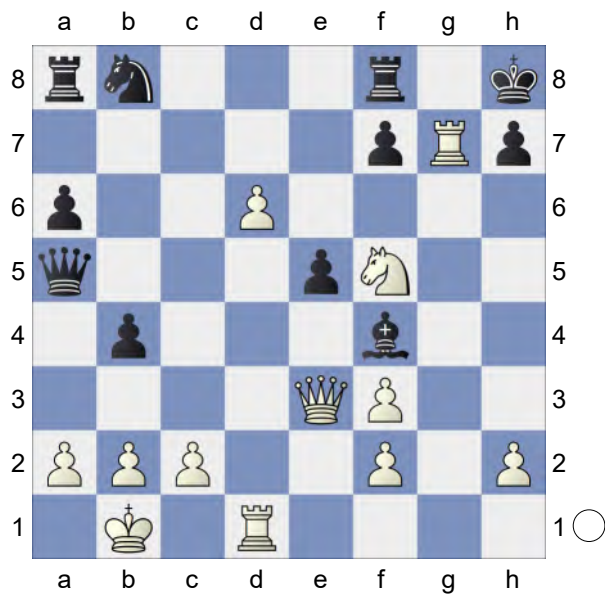
[Better was: 19.Qe4! exd4 20.Qxa8 Bxf4 21.Rxd4 Nd7 22.Qe4 Bxh2 23.Rgd1± , and the strong Pd6 puts Black in a difficult situation.]

19...Bxf4 20.Rxg7+?! Another step in the wrong direction.

[Once again , after 20.Qe4! was very promising: Nd7 21.Nxg7! Kh8 22.Qf5 Qd8 23.Nh5 Bh6 24.Rg4 f6 25.Rxb4↑]

20...Kh8

(Diagram)



21.Qb3 Nc6 Finally Black manages to connect his rooks. **22.Rdg1**

[22.Rxf7 is well met by Nd4! 23.Nxd4 exd4 24.d7 Rxf7 25.Qxf7 Qe5=, and Black is safe.]

22...Qd8? Luckily for GM Wei Yi, his lower-rated opponent doesn't withstand the pressure.

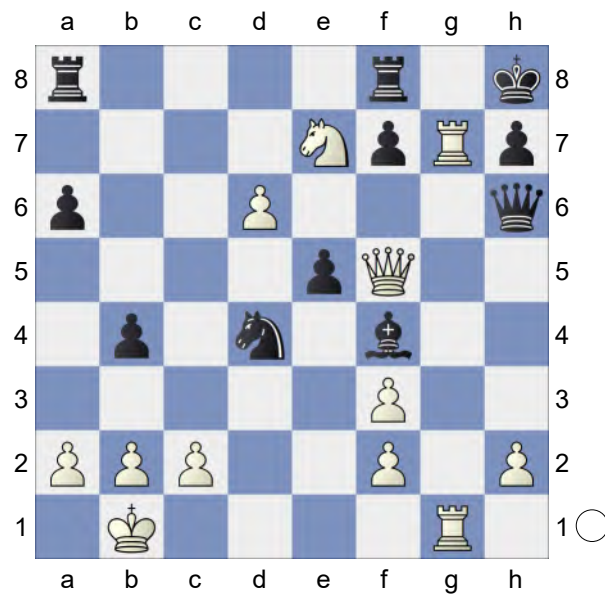
[Instead, after 22...Nd4 23.Nxd4 exd4 24.Qd3 Qh5 25.d7 Rad8 26.Qe4 Bxh2 (Possible is also 26...Be5 27.R7g5 Qxh2 28.Qxe5+ Qxe5 29.Rxe5 Rxd7=) 27.R1g4 Bc7 White would have nothing better than forcing a draw by perpetual: 28.Rh4 Qxh4 29.Qxh4 Kxg7 30.Qg5+=]

23.Qd3 Qf6 24.Ne7 Qh6

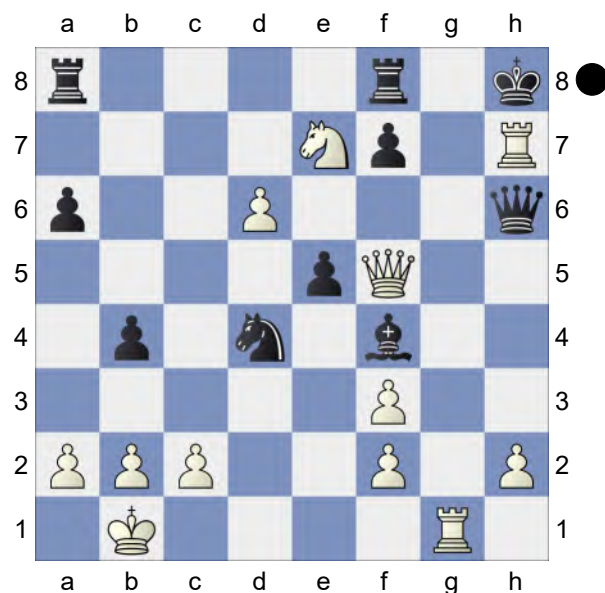
[Or 24...Qxg7 25.Rxg7 Kxg7 26.Nxc6+-]

25.Qf5 Nd4

(Diagram)



26.Rxh7+



A short, but exciting struggle!

1-0

83

□ Wei,Yi

■ Stocek,Jiri

43rd Olympiad 2018 (5.3)

[Roiz,M]

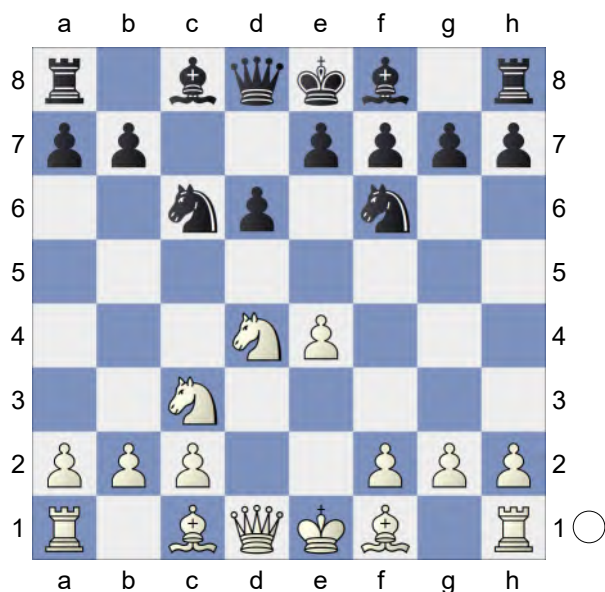
B69

2742

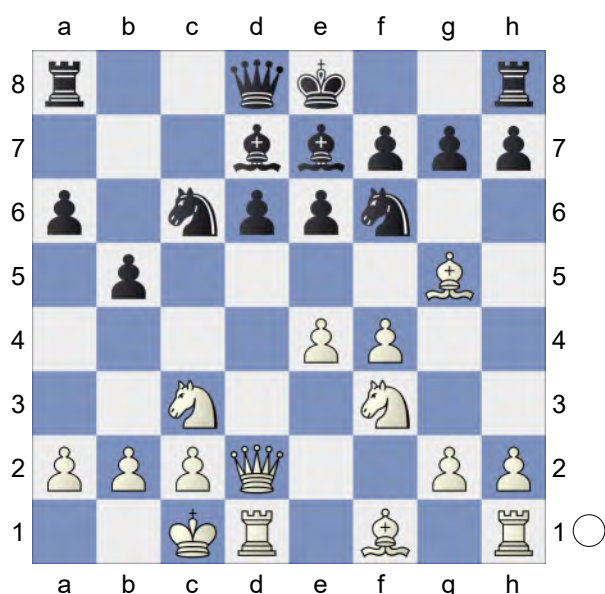
2574

28.09.2018

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 d6 4.d4
cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6



6.Bg5 e6 7.Qd2 a6 8.0-0-0 Be7 9.f4
Bd7 10.Nf3 b5



11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.Kb1 Qb6 13.g3
As the route of this game shows, this

natural move seems somewhat
inaccurate.

[13.f5 0-0-0 14.g3 Kb8 15.fxe6 fxe6
16.Bh3 Na5! was covered in the
previous Update in Pena Gomez,M
(2483)-Demchenko,A (2670)
Pontevedra ESP 2018]

[For some reason, 13.Bd3!?
is really uncommon, though it
definitely contains venom. For
instance,

A) Riskier seems 13...b4 14.Ne2
a5 15.f5 Qc5 16.Nf4 a4 17.Rhe1
The following practical tests prove
that Black suffers from strong
pressure on the Pe6: Ne5
(17...Bd8 18.b3 Qc3 19.Bb5±
Timofeev,A - Alekseenko,K Samara
2015) 18.fxe6 fxe6 19.Be2 0-0
20.Nd4 Qc8 21.Bb5!± Hartman,C -
Schneider,L Stockholm 1987;

B) 13...0-0-0 14.Rhe1 Kb8
15.Nd5! This seems the most
challenging (15.Bf1 Rc8 16.Ne2
Na5 17.Ned4 Nc4 was fine for
Black in Chigaev,M - Lobanov,S St
Petersburg 2014) 15...exd5
16.exd5 Ne5 17.fxe5 fxe5 18.Qh6
Qc5 19.Qh5 Rdf8 20.Bf5
White was better in Timman,J -
Ivanovic,B Bugojno 1984]

13...b4!

[13...0-0-0 14.f5 could have
transposed to the above-mentioned
note, but the text is even more
attractive!]

14.Ne2

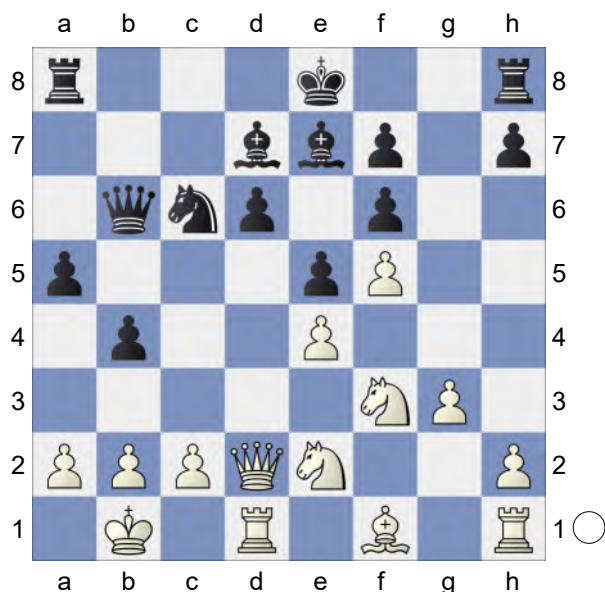
[14.Na4?! Qa5 15.b3 Na7↑]

14...a5 15.f5

[15.Ned4 , as in Kokarev,D - Savitskiy,
S Khanty-Mansiysk RUS 2017 is
hardly more promising, since a4 16.f5
e5 17.Nb5 b3! offers Black sufficient

counterplay, to say the least.]

15...e5



This position occurred in 2 games so far.

16.Nc1 This was still seen in both games, but it looks very passive.

[More in the spirit of the position seems 16.g4!? a4 17.Ng3 Qc5 18.Be2 with very sharp, double-edged play.]

16...Rc8

[Possibly even stronger was 16...Na7!? 17.Qh6 Bc6 18.Bd3 Nb5, and Black seizes the initiative.]

17.Qd5? A very unsuccessful innovation from the young Chinese grandmaster.

[The previously played 17.g4, as in Klovans,J-Kupreichik,V Soviet Union 1972 can be well met by h5! 18.gxh5 (18.g5 fxg5 19.Nxg5 Nd4 $\mp$) 18...a4 19.Rg1 Na5 $\uparrow$]

[However, the energetic 17.Qh6! seems to maintain the balance. For instance, a4 18.Rxd6! Bxd6 19.Qxf6 0-0 20.Qxd6 Qe3 21.Qf6 Qxf3 22.Qg5+ Kh8 23.Qf6+=]

17...Na7 Jiri unlocks the c-file, so White's queen could be attacked soon.

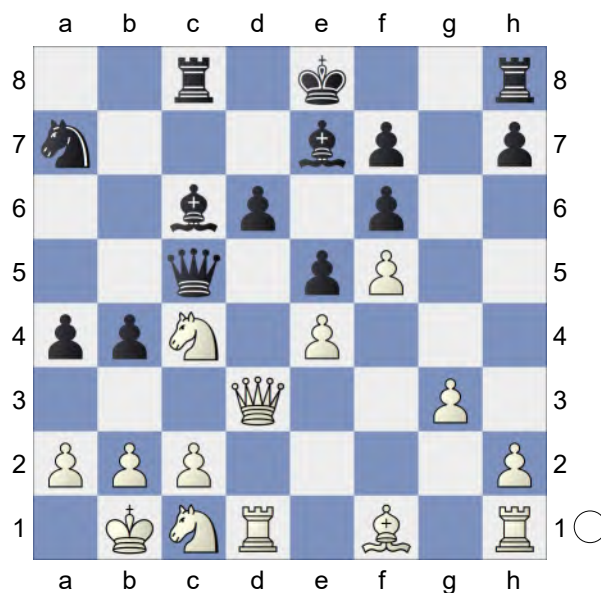
[There was also nothing wrong with

17...a4!? 18.Bb5 (18.Nd2 0-0 19.Nc4 Qa7 20.Nxd6 Rcd8-+) 18...Ra8 19.Bc4 0-0 $\mp$]

18.Nd2 A sad necessity. White is forced to fully focus on his defensive task.

[There is no time for a counter-attack: 18.Bc4 0-0 19.g4 Bb5 20.Nd2 Qa6 21.Bxb5 Nxb5, and White can hardly withstand the pressure on the q-side.]

18...Bc6 19.Qd3 a4 GM Stoczek's play is very natural and strong. 20.Nc4 Qc5



21.Qf3? Alas, after this move White loses almost without a fight.

[The only way to put-up resistance was 21.Ne3 Nb5 22.Nd5 Bxd5 (Black hardly achieves more with 22...Nd4 23.Ne2 Bxd5 24.exd5 Qxc2+ 25.Qxc2 Nxc2 26.Rc1 b3 27.Nc3, and White's pieces are getting into play.) 23.Qxb5+ Bc6 24.Qxc5 dxc5 25.Bg2 $\mp$]

21...Nb5 22.Qe3

[22.Ne3 is nicely refuted by Na3+! 23.bxa3 bxa3 24.Nc4 Qb4+ 25.Ka1 Bxe4-+]

22...Nd4 Of course, Black should avoid exchanging the queens. **23.Bd3**

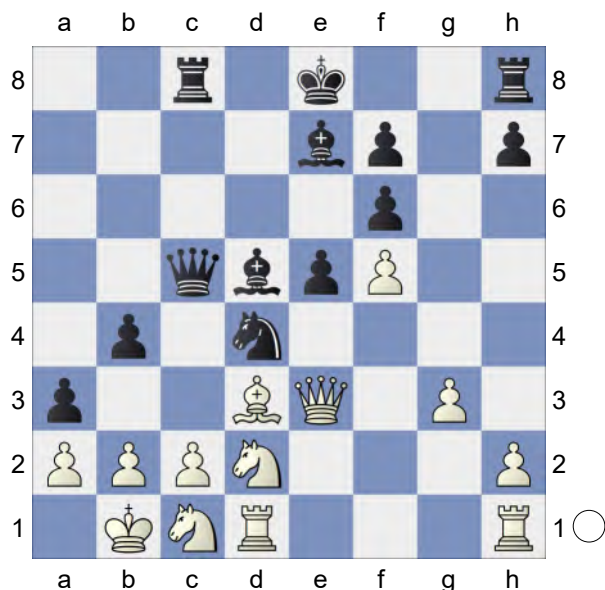
[23.b3 Nb5 24.Qxc5 Nc3+ 25.Ka1

dx5 26.Re1 Bxe4-+]

23...d5 Now almost all of Black's pieces join the attack. **24.Nd2**

[Equally bad was 24.exd5 Bxd5 25.b3 Nb5-+]

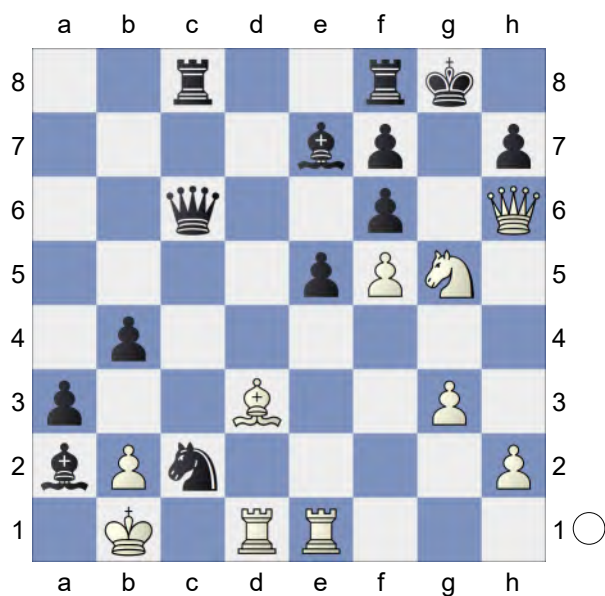
24...a3 25.exd5 Bxd5



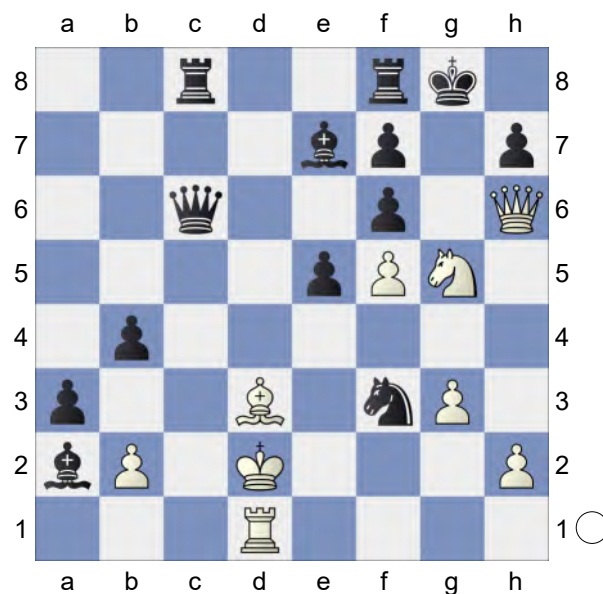
26.Ne4 Qc6 27.Nb3 0-0 28.Rhe1

[Or 28.Nxd4 exd4 29.Qxd4 axb2-+ , and the king is helpless.]

28...Nxc2 The rest has little chess value. What a disappointing defeat for such a talented young Grandmaster! **29.Qh6 Bxb3 30.Ng5 Bxa2+**



31.Kc1 Nxe1+ 32.Kd2 Nf3+



0-1

270

□ Wei,Yi

■ Lu Shanglei

ch-CHN Rapid 2016 (6.2)

[Roiz,M]

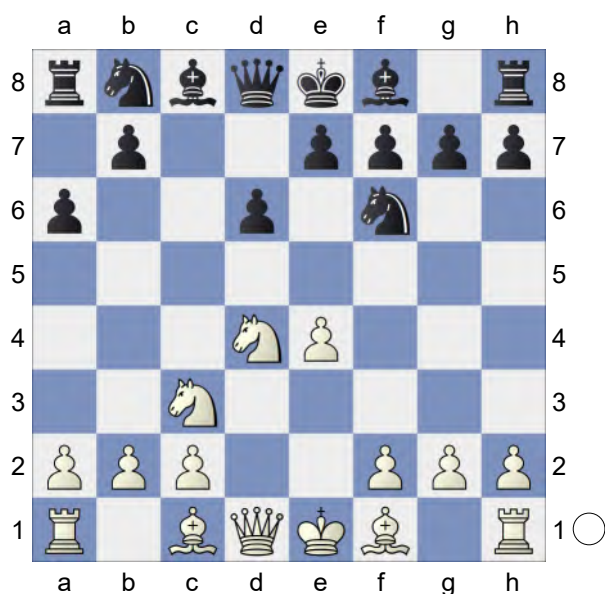
B97

2709

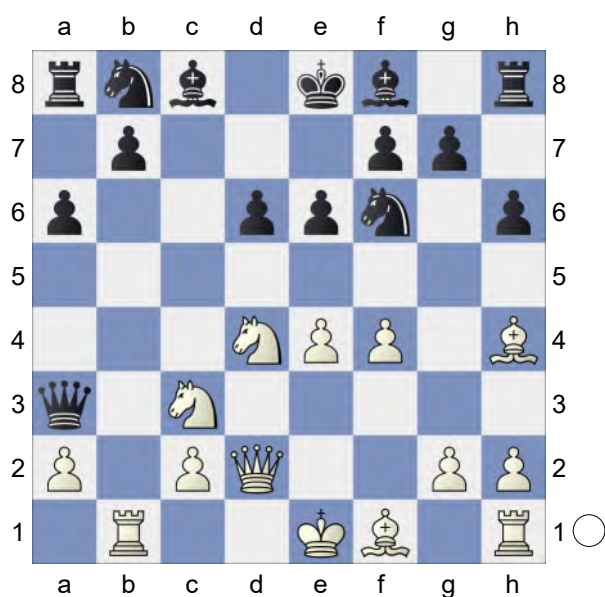
2607

25.08.2016

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6

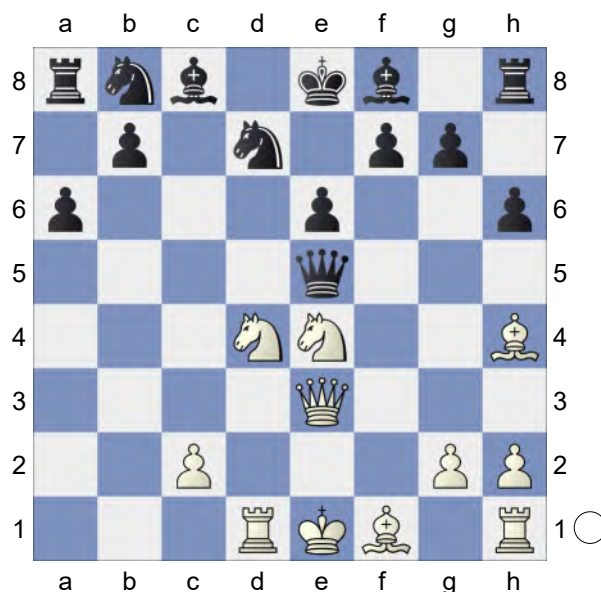


6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 h6 8.Bh4 Qb6 9.Qd2
Qxb2 10.Rb1 Qa3



11.e5 The most aggressive. 11...dxe5
12.fxe5 Nfd7 13.Ne4 Qxa2 14.Rd1

Qd5 15.Qe3 Qxe5



16.Be2 Bc5 17.Bg3 Qd5!?

A new move for our PGN Archive. It was successfully employed by MVL a few months ago in his victorious tournament in Dortmund. The main idea behind this move is to provoke the c2-c4 advance, when the pawn would lock White's minor pieces.

[17...Bxd4 is much more popular. It was seen in all the games on this site so far. 18.Rxd4 Qa5+ 19.Rd2 0-0 No doubt, this line was analysed in detail by GM Wei Yi - 5 years ago he had to defend the Black side! 20.Bd6 and now Black is at a crossroads:

A) 20...Rd8 Black has 3 extra pawns after this move, but his lack of development makes his position extremely risky: Another dangerous continuation was successfully employed by great Sicilian expert GM Negi:

A1) 21.Qg3

A1a) 21...Qf5 22.Be5 Qg6 23.Qh4 Nc6 led Vishy to a victory in Motylev,A (2647)-Anand,V (2779) Wijk aan Zee

2007 [TonyK] , but had White played 24.Bh5! Qf5 25.Bxg7! Kxg7 (25...Nc5 26.Nxc5 Kxg7 as was played in Vorobiov,E (2575)-Askarov,M (2516) Serpukhov 2007, isn't a real improvement: 27.Rf1! Qe5+ 28.Ne4 Qa1+ 29.Rd1 Rxd1+ 30.Bxd1 Bd7 31.Rf6+-) 26.Rf1+- the attack would be unstoppable!;

A1b) 21...Nc6 22.Bc7 Qb4 23.Nd6 Tilicheev,V (2361)-Wei, Y (2286) Moscow 2011;

A2) 21.g4!? It turns out that White can afford to keep the king in the centre and open-up the g-file: 21...Nc6 22.g5 hxg5 23.Rg1

A2a) The real test of Negi's idea would be: 23...f6! 24.h4 (24.Nxg5 leads only to a draw: Nc5 25.Nf7 Kxf7 26.Rxg7+ Kxg7 27.Qg3+ Kh8 28.Qh4+ Kg8=) 24...Nf8 25.c3 Ng6 26.hxg5 f5 27.Bh5 f4 28.Qf3 Qf5= This line definitely requires further practical tests.;

A2b) 23...Nf6 24.Rxg5 Qa1+ 25.Rd1 Qxd1+ 26.Bxd1 Nxe4 27.Qxe4 Rxd6 28.h4↑ Negi,P (2615)-Huschenbeth,N (2459) Chotowa 2010;

B) Definitely inferior is: 20...Re8?! 21.0-0 f5 22.Qg3 Nc6 23.Qg6 Qd8 Black was able achieve a draw Shirov,A (2720)-Ftacnik,L (2582) Germany 2007 [Richard Palliser] , but had Alexei played 24.Rd3! the game would be over soon. For instance, Re7 25.Rg3 fxe4

26.Bxe7 Qxe7 27.Bh5+-;

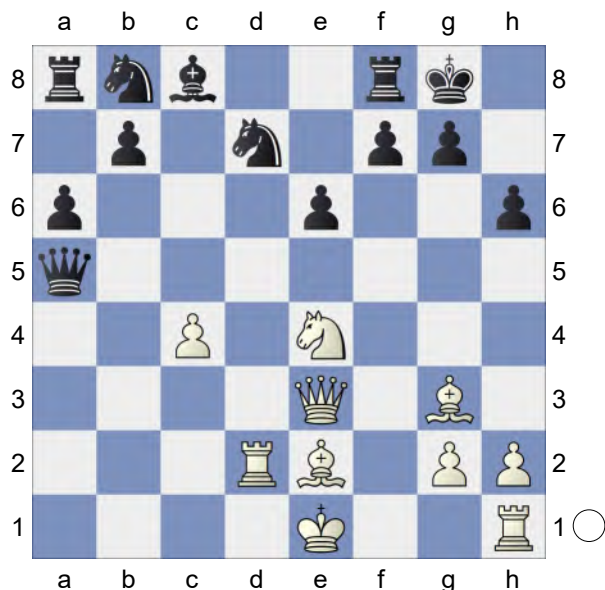
C) 20...Nc6 This way of handling the position seems most natural - Black has a big material advantage, so there is no reason for any greediness. However, Black's position is still not to everyone's taste! 21.0-0 You can find a few commented games on our site, the latest example is Magem Badals,J (2564)-Alsina Leal,D (2523) Barcelona 2009 [Richard Palliser]]

18.c4

[18.Bf3 can hardly pose Black any problems: 0-0 19.Qc3 (19.Nf6+? Nxf6 20.Bxd5 Bb4+ 21.Kf1 exd5=) 19...Bb6! It's important to avoid an exchange of the dark-squared bishop (19...e5?! 20.Nb3 Bd4 21.Nxd4 exd4 22.Rxd4 Qe6 23.Rd6↑ 1-0 (44) Eryomenko,V (2512)-Malimonenko,V (2222) Azov 2010) 20.Nf6+ Nxf6 21.Bxd5 exd5 22.0-0 Nc6 Losing a queen is not an issue here! 23.Qb2 (After 23.Rxf6 Nxd4 24.Rxd4 gxf6 25.Bf2 Bxd4 26.Bxd4 Kh7 27.Be3 Re8 White has nothing better than forcing a perpetual: 28.Qxf6 Rxe3 29.Qxf7+ Kh8 30.Qf8+=) 23...Nxd4 24.Qxb6 Ne2+ 25.Kh1 Nxg3+ 26.hxg3 Be6 27.Qxb7 a5 In my opinion, in the arising unbalanced position Black should be out of risk.]

18...Bxd4 19.Rxd4 Qa5+ 20.Rd2 0-0

(Diagram)



21.Bd6 f5! This is the point! Now, when the c4-square isn't vacant for the bishop, Black feels free to touch the f-pawn!

22.Bxf8 Nxf8 23.Nd6 Nbd7!

24.Kf2 A novelty. White's long-term compensation is based on his better piece coordination, and Black has to play precisely in order to solve the problem of the Bc8.

[The above-mentioned game of GM Vachier Lagrave saw: 24.g4 fxg4 (The immediate 24...Qe5!? is also perfectly playable for Black, as was proved by Wei Yi: 25.Qxe5 Nxe5 26.gxf5 exf5 27.0-0 g6 28.Rb1 Be6 Yu,Y (2667)-Wei,Y (2629) China 2014) 25.Bxg4 Qa1+ 26.Rd1 Qe5 and now White committed a blunder: 27.Rd3? (Of course, he had to play 27.Kf2 Qxe3+ 28.Kxe3 Ne5 29.Be2 with approximate equality.) 27...Nc5+ Najer,E (2687)-Vachier Lagrave,M (2798) Dortmund GER 2016]

[Black should also be fine after 24.0-0 Qc5 25.Qxc5 Nxc5 26.Rb1 Rb8 27.Bf3 g5 28.Rdb2 Nfd7 29.Bxb7 Bxb7 30.Nxb7 Ne4=]

24...Nc5 Now the d7-square is vacant for the bishop.

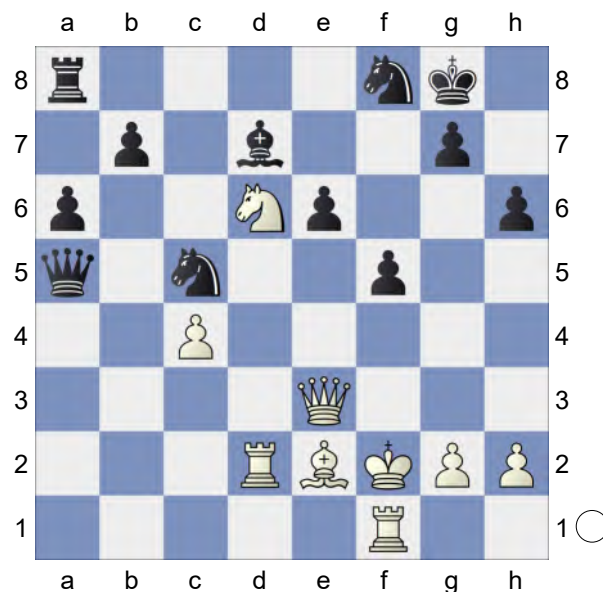
[An attempt to simplify matters by means of 24...Qc5?! 25.Rhd1 Qxe3+ 26.Kxe3 Nc5 puts Black under some pressure after 27.Bf3 Rb8 28.Rb1±]

[Also deserving of serious attention: 24...Nf6!? 25.Rb1 e5 26.Rdd1 e4± with excellent attacking prospects.]

25.Rf1?! White is playing too slowly, so Black gets enough time to consolidate.

[Much more to the point was: 25.Bf3 Rb8 26.Rb1 (26.g4 fxg4 27.Bxg4 Bd7 28.Rf1±) 26...e5 27.Kg1 f4 28.Qe2 Be6 29.Bd5± with complex, double-edged play.]

25...Bd7



26.Kg1

[After 26.Bf3!? Bc6 27.Bxc6 bxc6 28.Kg1 Ncd7 29.Rb1 Black is better, but the activity of his pieces offers White good drawing chances.]

26...Bc6 27.g4 Obviously White's chances are now connected solely with counterplay on the k-side. **27...Ne4!** It makes sense to liquidate White's most active piece. **28.Nxe4 fxe4!**

[Inaccurate would be: 28...Bxe4?!

29.gxf5 exf5 30.Bf3 Re8 (30...Bxf3 31.Rxf3) 31.Rd4 Qc5 32.Bxe4 fxe4 33.Re1=]

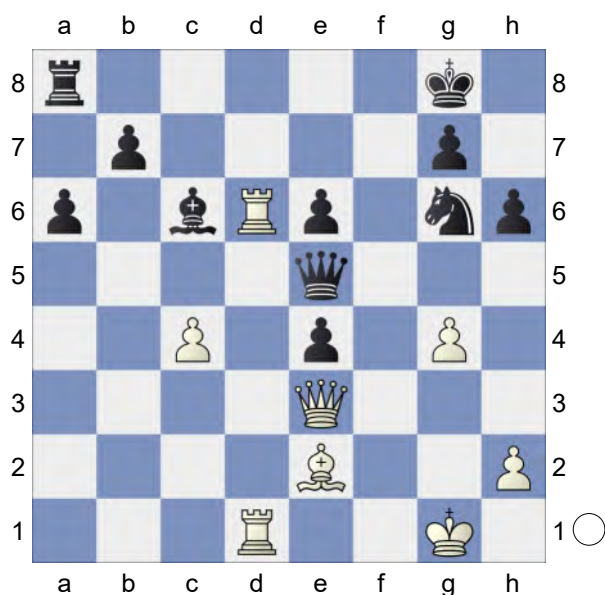
29.Rd6? Only this move is inviting serious trouble.

[Th correct 29.g5! Qxg5+ 30.Qxg5 hxg5 31.Bg4 a5 32.Ra2 a4 33.Rfa1 would allow White to mobilize all his forces, so a draw seems the most probable result - Black's pawns are too weak.]

29...Qe5! As usual, the centralization of the queen is very effective. **30.Rfd1**

[30.Qd4 Qg5 31.Qd2 e3 32.Qd4 a5-+]

30...Ng6



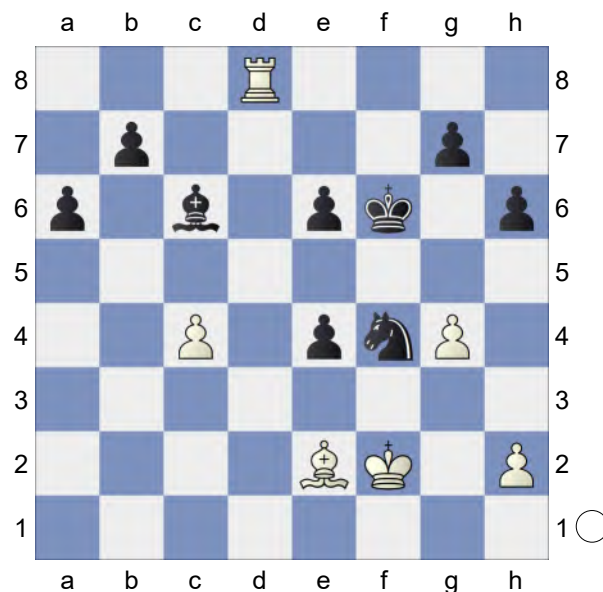
Now the vulnerability of White's monarch starts to tell. **31.Qd4 Qxd4+?** A serious inaccuracy.

[Black could have got a better version of the endgame by means of: 31...Kf7! 32.Qxe5 Nxe5 33.Rd8 Rxd8 34.Rxd8 Ke7 35.Rd1 (35.Ra8 e3 36.c5 Nd7-+) 35...e3 36.Kf1 g5-+]

32.R6xd4 Nf4 33.Rd8+ Rxd8 34.Rxd8+ Kf7 35.Kf2 Kf6?!

[Much better was: 35...Ke7! 36.Rd1 (White has no time to grab a pawn:

36.Rg8 g5 37.Rh8 a5 38.Rxh6 a4-+) 36...Kf6, heavily limiting White's activity.]



Spoiling the lion's share of his advantage! **36.Bf1**

[36.h4!? would fix the weak Pg7 and prevent Black from advancing the passer: a5 (36...Ke5 37.h5! a5 38.Bf1 a4 39.Ke3=) 37.Ra8 Ke5! (37...a4 38.Ra5=) 38.Rxa5+ Kd4 39.h5]

36...a5 37.Ke3

[37.Ra8!? a4 38.Ra5 g5 39.Ke3 e5 40.c5]

37...g5?! This endgame is extremely complex - that's why both players are making so many mistakes.

[Better was: 37...e5 38.h4 a4 39.Rd2 Ke6 40.Rd8]

38.Rf8+? Returning the favour.

[The precise 38.h4! a4 (38...Ke7 39.Rh8 Ng6 40.Rxh6 Nxh4 41.Rh5 Kf6 42.Rh6+=) 39.h5 would solve all the problems: Ke7 40.Rh8 Kf7 41.Rd8 e5 42.c5=]

38...Ke5?!

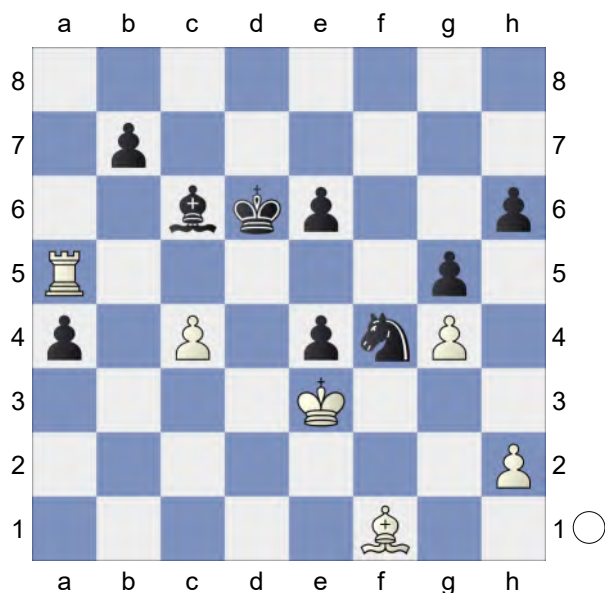
[After 38...Ke7! 39.Ra8 (39.Rh8 a4

40.Rxh6 Kd6! 41.Rh8 Kc5 42.Ra8 e5-+) 39...a4 40.Ra5 Kd6 41.h4 b6 42.Ra6 Kc7 43.hxg5 hxg5 44.Ra7+ Kd6-+ Black's passers would decide the game.]

39.Ra8 a4 40.Ra5+? The last move before crossing the time control turns out to be a decisive mistake.

[Necessary was: 40.Rd8! , restricting the mobility of the king. In this case it would be difficult for Black to make progress. For instance, Kf6 41.h4 Ke7 42.Rd1 e5 43.hxg5 hxg5 44.Rd2+]

40...Kd6



41.h4

[41.Kd4 e5+ 42.Ke3 b6 43.Ra7 Kc5-+]

41...b6 42.Ra7 Kc5 43.h5 Now it's too late!

[43.hxg5 hxg5 44.Rg7 runs into Ng6!! 45.Kd2 (45.Rxg6 a3 46.Rg7 Kb4 47.Ra7 Ba4-+) 45...Nh4 46.Kc3 Nf3-+ and White is helpless.]

43...e5 44.Ra6

[Or 44.Rh7 Ne6! 45.Rxh6 a3-+]

44...Ne6? It's hard to believe, but this move gives White a golden opportunity

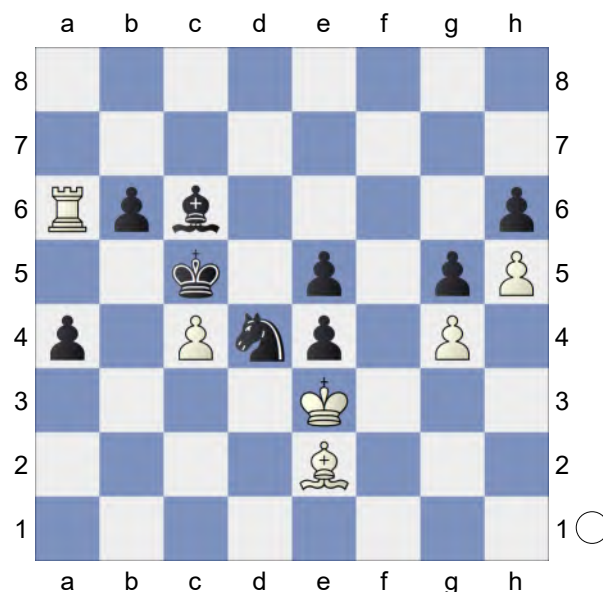
to save the game!

[44...Nd3! would win easily: 45.Bxd3 exd3 46.Kxd3 b5-+]

45.Be2? I guess Wei Yi won't be happy with his play in this game!

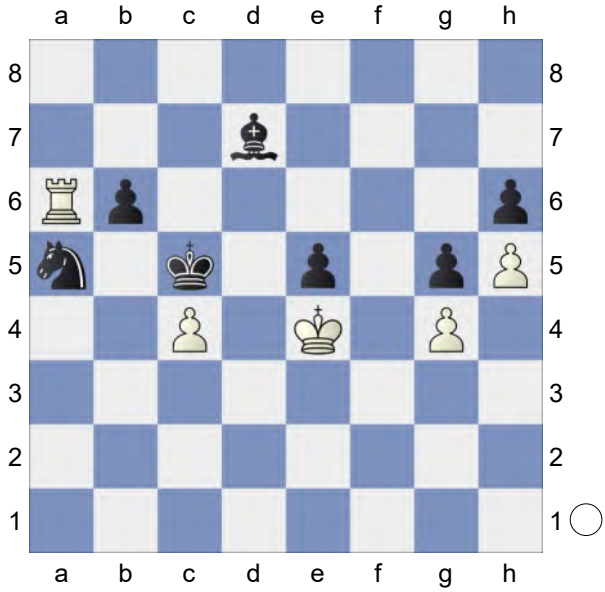
[Had he played 45.Bg2! Lu Shanglei would regret his previous move: Nd4 (After 45...Nc7 46.Ra7 Ne8 47.Bxe4 Bxe4 48.Kxe4 Nd6+ 49.Kd3 a3 50.Rxa3 e4+ 51.Ke2 Nxc4 52.Ra8 Ne5 53.Re8=) 46.Bxe4 Bd7 47.Ra7 Bxg4 48.Rxa4 Bxh5 49.Ra7 Kxc4 50.Rh7=]

45...Nd4



46.Bd1 Nb3 47.Bc2 Na5-+ Finally the a-passer decides the game. 48.Bxa4 Painful. 48...Bxa4 49.Kxe4 Bd7

(Diagram)



0-1

89

□ Wei, Yi

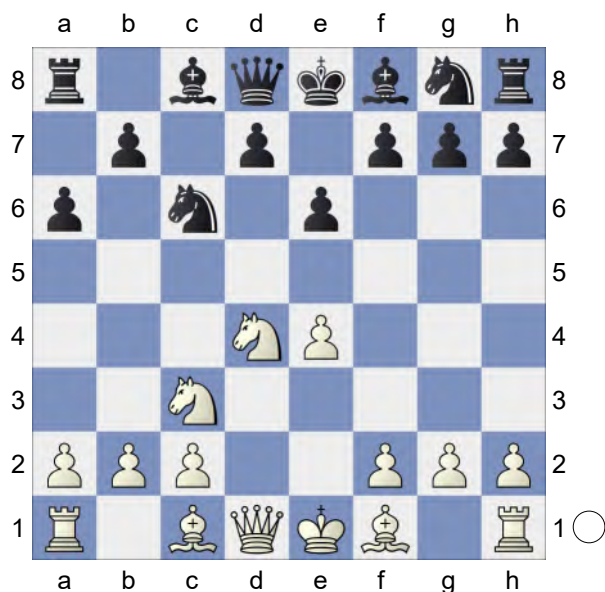
■ Ivanchuk, Vassily

Ivanchuk-Wei Yi m 2017 (6) 26.10.2017
[Roiz, M]

B46

2740

2732

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nc6 5.Nc3 a6

6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.Bd3 Qc7 GM Ivanchuk deviates from the most explored lines. Frankly speaking, this committal move can hardly be considered to be an adequate alternative to the most natural 7...d5.

[The main 7...d5 8.0-0 Nf6 is deeply covered in many games in our PGN Archive.]

8.0-0

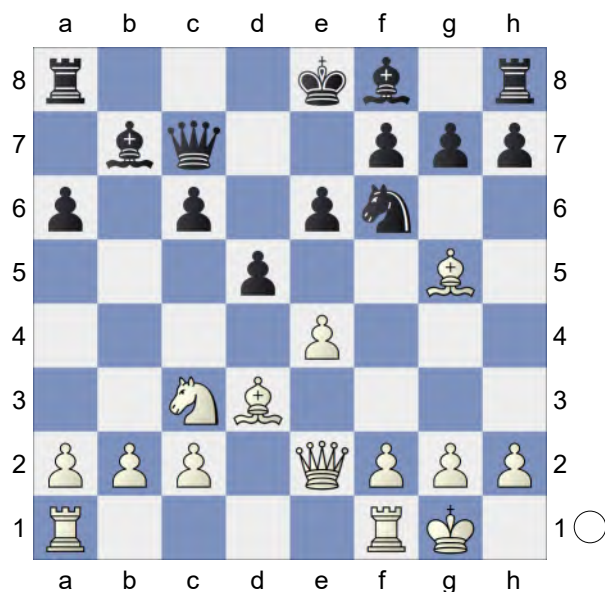
[I was surprised to discover that the natural 8.Qg4!? wasn't played in any game yet. At the same time, it looks like the queen's transfer to g3 offers White a comfortable advantage: d5 (8...Nf6 9.Qg3 d6 This position was actually seen in practice, but via an other move order: 10.0-0 e5 11.Bc4 Be6 12.Bxe6 fxe6 13.f4↑

Sadzikowski, D - Kruszyński, W (Katowice POL 2017) 9.Qg3 Qxg3 10.hxg3 Nf6 11.f3±]

8...Nf6 9.Qe2 d5 A new move for our PGN Archive.

[The dubious 9...Bd6?! was played in Kasparov, G (2838)-Movsesian, S (2631) Prague CZE 2001 [Fed]]

10.Bg5 Bb7



11.f4

[11.Rae1!?

A) The more ambitious 11...Bb4 doesn't seem to fully solve the problems: 12.e5 (Less promising is 12.a3 Bxc3 13.bxc3 Nxe4 14.Bxe4 dxe4 15.Qxe4 0-0= Swiercz, D - Rublevsky, S Berlin GER 2015) 12...Nd7 13.f4 Nc5 This position was reached in Fernandes, A - Lobron, E Thessaloniki 1984 White should have played 14.a3! Nxd3 15.Qxd3 Bc5+ 16.Kh1± , achieving a definite advantage.;

B) 11...Be7 12.f4! (Weaker is 12.e5 h6 13.Bh4 Ng8 14.Bxe7 Nxe7 15.b3 c5= Hirneise, J - Strunski, A Willingen 2008) 12...h6

This position was seen in Heymann, U - Meissner, C Germany 1995 Now White should have maintained the tension: 13.Bh4N 0-0 14.e5 Ne8 15.Bxe7 Qxe7 16.Nd1±]

11...h6

[Hardly better is 11...Be7 , as played in a Classical game a long time ago: 12.e5 Nd7 13.Bxe7 Kxe7 14.Rae1! (14.Na4 c5 15.c4 d4 16.Be4 Bxe4 17.Qxe4 g6= Spassky, B-Petrosian, T Palma de Mallorca 1969) 14...g6 15.Qg4 Qb6+ 16.Kh1 Qb4 17.Ne2↑]

12.Bh4 Be7 13.Bg3 A novelty. Even though White's idea was fully justified in the game, it is not the most dangerous move.

[The obvious alternative - 13.e5 Nd7 14.Bxe7 Kxe7 leads to an original position, where Black's king is stuck in the centre. However, it wouldn't be easy for White to gain access to the Ke7. For instance, 15.Rae1 g6 16.b3 c5 17.Nd1 Nb6 18.Ne3 d4 19.Ng4 Nd5± Inarkiev, E - Bocharov, D Apatity RUS 2011]

[However, somewhat more natural seems to be 13.Rae1!? , transposing to Heymann, U - Meissner, C from the above-mentioned note.]

13...0-0 Vassily completes development. There is nothing wrong with this move,

[but a more convincing way of solving his problems was: 13...Qb6+! 14.Kh1 (14.Bf2 Qxb2 15.Nxd5 cxd5 16.Rab1 Qa3 17.Rxb7 dxe4 18.Bxe4 Nxe4 19.Qxe4 0-0 20.f5 Bc5=) 14...Qxb2 15.Nxd5 (15.Rab1 Qxc3 16.Rxb7 dxe4 17.Bxe4 0-0 18.Rxe7 Qb4 19.Bxc6 Qxe7 20.Bxa8 Rxa8=) 15...cxd5 16.Rab1 Qc3 17.e5 Ne4 18.Rxb7 (18.Bxe4 dxe4 19.Rxb7 Qc6 20.Rfb1 Bd8=)

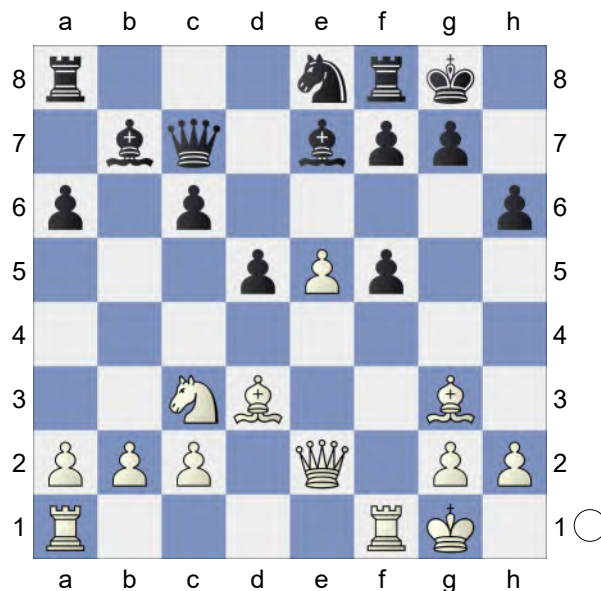
18...Qc6 19.Rb3 0-0 20.c4 Nxc3+ 21.hxc3 dxc4 22.Bxc4 g6=]

14.e5 Ne8 After this retreat Black's setup loses its harmony.

[The natural 14...Nd7? runs into 15.f5 , and White's attack is crushing.]

[However, safer was 14...Nh7! , intending to meet 15.f5 (White also gets nothing special after 15.Qg4 Kh8 16.f5 exf5 17.Qxf5 Ng5 18.h4 Bc8 19.Qf2 Ne6±) 15...exf5 16.Bxf5 with Ng5! , and Black manages to consolidate: 17.e6 Bd6 18.Bxd6 Qxd6 19.exf7+ Rxf7 20.Bd3 Raf8=]

15.f5 exf5



16.Bxf5 Qb6+?! Only this decision invites serious trouble.

[Despite some inaccuracies, Vassily's position would be acceptable had he played 16...a5! This cold-blooded move would enable Black to simplify matters: 17.e6 (17.Rf3 Ba6 18.Qf2 Qa7=) 17...Ba6 18.exf7+ Rxf7 19.Qxa6 Rxa6 20.Bxc7 Nxc7 21.Na4 c5=]

17.Kh1 g6 18.Bd7 Rd8? Black cannot afford to waste a tempo in such a position.

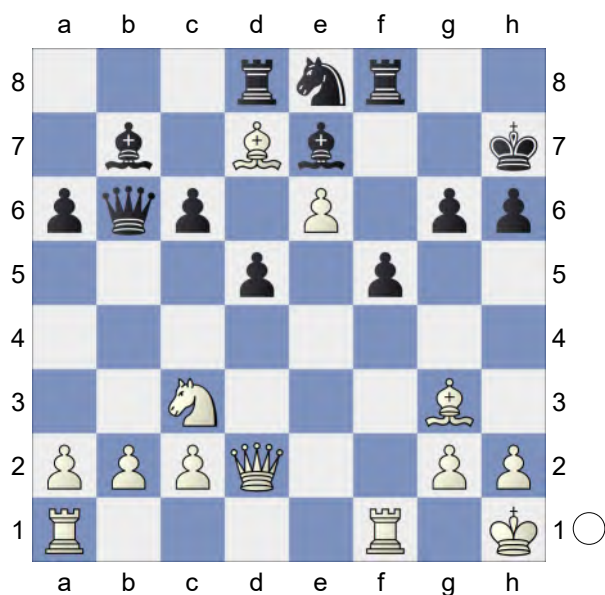
[Instead, Vassily should have either played 18...Kh7 19.e6 (19.Rae1 Qd8 20.Bxe8 Qxe8 21.Na4 a5 22.Qe3 Ba6 23.Rf3 Bc8±) 19...f5 20.Bf2 Qc7 (20...d4 21.Qe5 c5 22.Na4 Qc7 23.Qxc7 Nxc7 24.c3±) 21.Na4 c5 22.b4 cxb4 23.Bb6 Qb8 24.Bd4↑ White's initiative is rather dangerous, but the game goes on.]

[Or 18...d4!? 19.e6 f5 20.Na4 Qb5 21.Qd2 g5 (21...Qxa4? 22.Qxh6 Rf6 23.Be5 Bf8 24.Qg5+-) 22.Qxd4 f4 23.Bf2 f3 24.gxf3 Rf4 25.Nc3 Qf5 26.Qd3 c5± - White is still much better, but Black manages to develop definite counterplay on the k-side.]

19.e6 f5 20.Qd2

[Good enough was also 20.Bf2 d4 (20...Qxb2 21.Qd2 Bg5 22.Be3 Bf6 23.e7 Bxe7 24.Rab1+-) 21.Qd2! c5 22.Na4 Qd6 23.Bg3 f4 (23...Qd5 24.Nb6 Qe4 25.Rae1 Qg4 26.Qxh6+-) 24.Bxf4 Qd5 25.Qe2 Ng7 26.Nb6 Qh5 27.Qxh5 gxh5 28.Bxh6+-]

20...Kh7



21.Bf2 Qa5

[In case of 21...Qc7 22.Na4 Rxd7 23.exd7 Qxd7 24.Rae1 Rf7 25.Bd4+- His full control of the dark squares offers White a winning position.]

22.Be3 h5

[After 22...Nf6 23.Bxh6 Nxd7 24.exd7 Rf7 25.Rf3 Rxd7 26.Rh3 Kg8 27.Re1 Qd8 28.Na4+- White's pieces are dominating the board.]

23.Qf2?

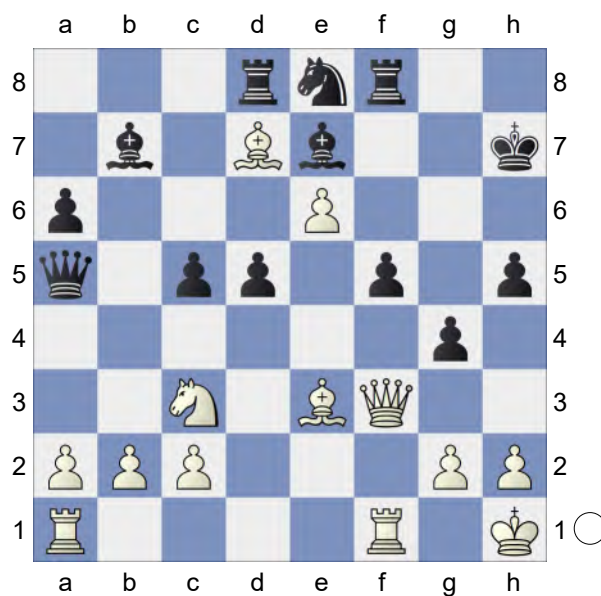
[Much stronger was 23.b4! Bxb4 24.Rab1 Bxc3 (24...Bc8 25.Qf2 Be7 26.Bb6 Qxc3 27.Bxd8 Bxd8 28.Bxc8+-) 25.e7 Nd6 26.Qd3 Qc7 27.exd8Q Rxd8 28.Bxf5!+-, and Black's position is collapsing.]

23...c5? Vassily returns the favour.

[The correct 23...Nf6! 24.Bb6 Qb4 25.Bxd8 Rxd8 26.Ne2 Ng4 27.Qd4 Qxd4 28.Nxd4 c5± would leave White with only a tiny advantage in this endgame.]

24.Qf4 g5 25.Qf3 g4

[25...Ng7 26.Nxd5 f4 27.Bf2 c4 28.Rfd1+-]



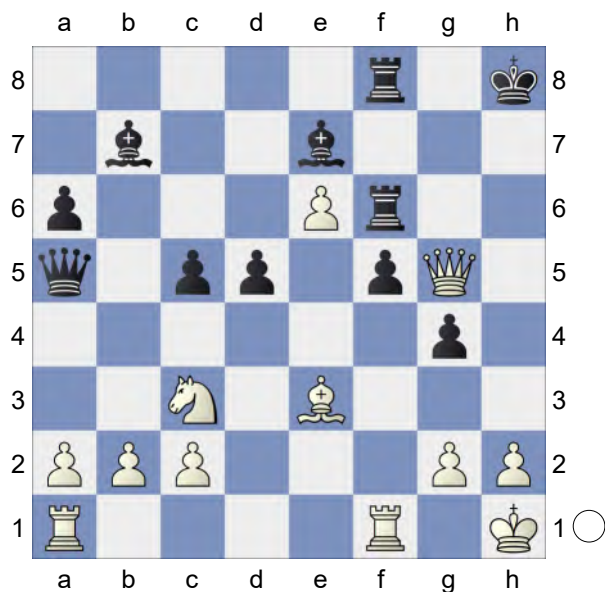
26.Qf4+- The king is too exposed now.

26...Rf6

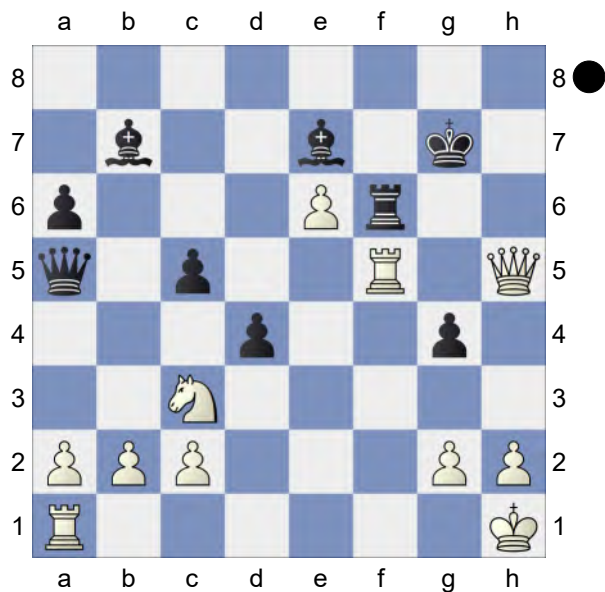
[26...Ng7 27.Qh6+ Kg8 28.Bg5+-]

27.Bxe8 Rxe8 28.Qg5 The rest is just unnecessary. **28...Ref8 29.Qxh5+ Kg7**

30.Qg5+ Kh8



31.Qh5+ Kg7 32.Bg5 d4 33.Bxf6+ Rxf6 34.Rxf5



1-0

152

□ Wei, Yi

■ Grischuk, Alexander

Lindores Abbey Prelim rapid (11.1)

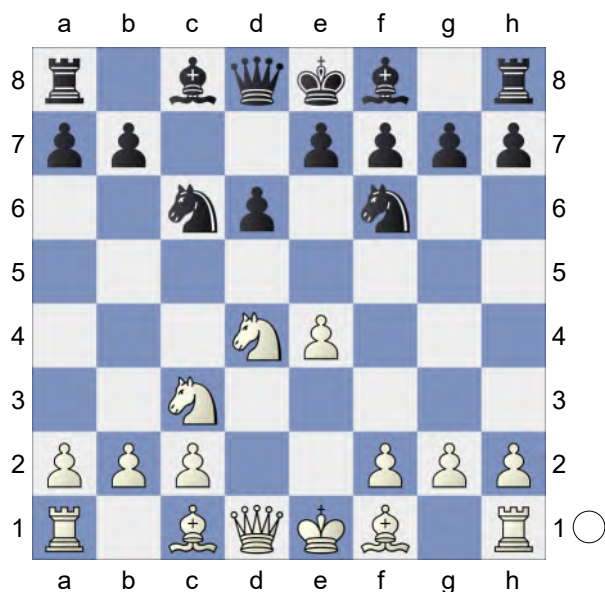
[Roiz, M]

B66

2732

2777

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6



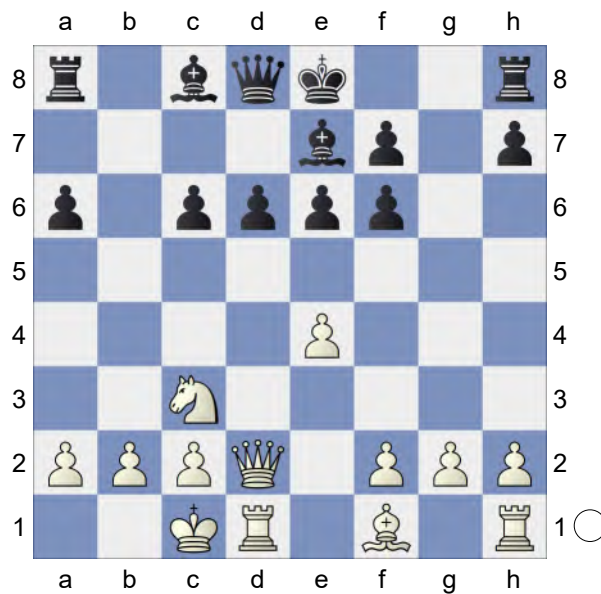
6.Bg5 e6 7.Qd2 a6 8.Nxc6

A relatively rare move.

[GM Wei Yi decides to avoid entering the well-explored theoretical position that arises after 8.0-0-0 Bd7 9.f4 b5]

8...bxc6 9.0-0-0 Be7 10.Bxf6 gxf6

(Diagram)



11.Bc4 White intends to put his bishop on b3 in order to safeguard his king.

11...Bb7! Alexander illustrates his deep preparation and improves

[over 11...Rb8 12.Bb3 Qb6 13.f4 c5 14.Qe2 Black had no counterplay and was soon crushed in Hovhannisyan, R (2591)-Gara, T (2326) Doha QAT 2014 [Roiz, M]]

12.Bb3 White has to make this move sooner or later.

[12.f4 Qc7 13.Rhe1 d5 14.Bb3 0-0-0 15.exd5 cxd5 16.Qd4 f5 was fine for Black in Pintor, S - Lillo Castany, V Pontevedra 2019]

12...Qc7 13.f4 A novelty. The standard plan in such positions is to attack the Pe6 with f4-f5, but in this case it doesn't seem effective.

[In my opinion, the best approach is prophylactic: 13.Rhe1!? 0-0-0 14.Qe3 Kb8 15.Kb1 Qa5 (Worth attention is 15...Rhe8!? , insisting on ...d6-d5.) 16.h4 h5 17.Re2 f5 18.g3 fxe4 19.Nxe4 Qc7 20.Ng5 White's position looked more active in Rashitov, D - Gabrielian, A ICCF email 2017]

13...0-0-0 14.Rhf1

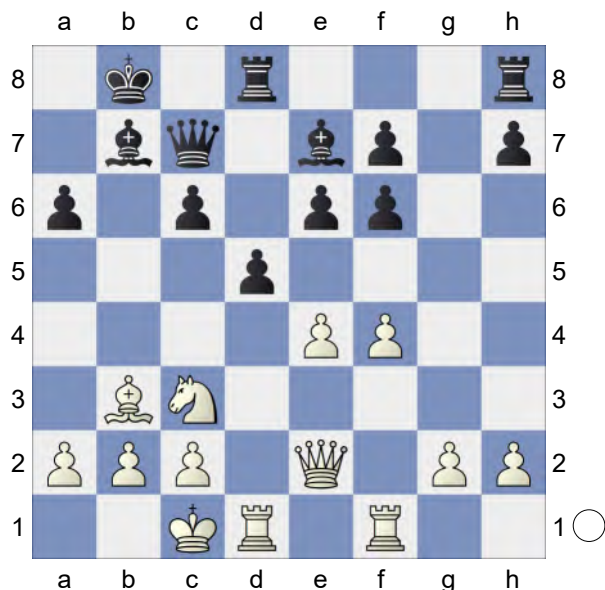
[14.f5 d5 15.fxe6 fxe6 16.exd5 cxd5 17.Rhe1 Bd6 18.Kb1 Be5⇒

The central pawns are somewhat vulnerable, but the strong bishop pair compensates this.]

14...d5 Black has fully consolidated, so it's time to initiate play in the centre.

15.Qe2 Kb8

[Worth attention is also 15...h5!? 16.f5 h4 17.Kb1 Kb8 , and Black's chances are by no means worse.]

**16.a3 h5**

[Even the committal 16...f5 17.exf5 exf5!? was a considerable options as after 18.Qh5 d4 19.Ne2 c5 Black manages to activate his bishop and expand in the centre.]

17.Kb1

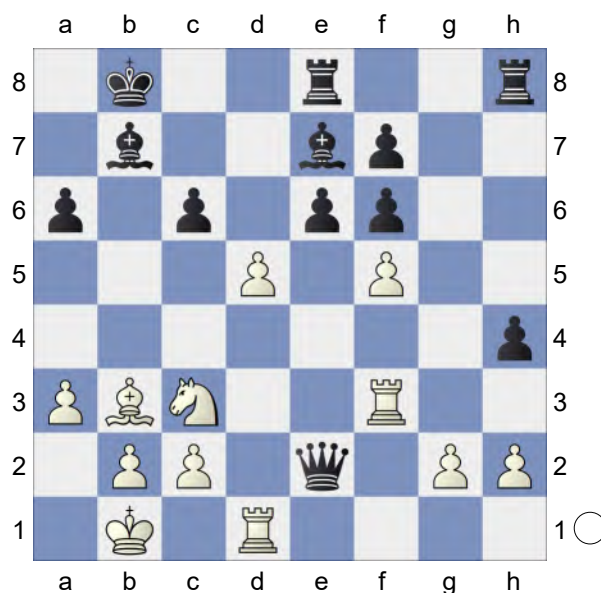
[It made sense to fix the weak Ph5: 17.h4!? Bd6 18.g3 Rhg8 19.Rf3 A complex strategic struggle is ahead.]

17...h4 18.f5 A consistent continuation. Unfortunately for White, Black's dark-squared bishop is becoming active now.

18...Rde8 19.Rf3 Qe5 20.exd5?!

The first step in the wrong direction - in the endgame Black's chances are clearly better.

[Instead, the cold-blooded 20.Qf1 Reg8 21.h3 would have kept an approximate balance.]

20...Qxe2

21.Nxe2 exd5! Alexander makes a good choice. Now White is doomed to passive defence.

[After 21...cxd5 22.fxe6 fxe6 23.Nd4 e5 24.Nf5⇒ White's previous play would be justified.]

22.c4

[Better was 22.Ba4 Bc5 23.Nd4 Bxd4 24.Rxd4 Re1+ 25.Ka2 c5 26.Rdf4 Kc7 , though White's position is very passive here.]

22...d4! This tactical resource increases Black's positional advantage. **23.Ba4 c5**

24.Rb3

[After 24.Bxe8 Bxf3 25.gxf3 Rxe8 26.h3 Bd6 27.Nc3 Re3 28.Ne4 Kc7-+ The d4-passer should decide the game.]

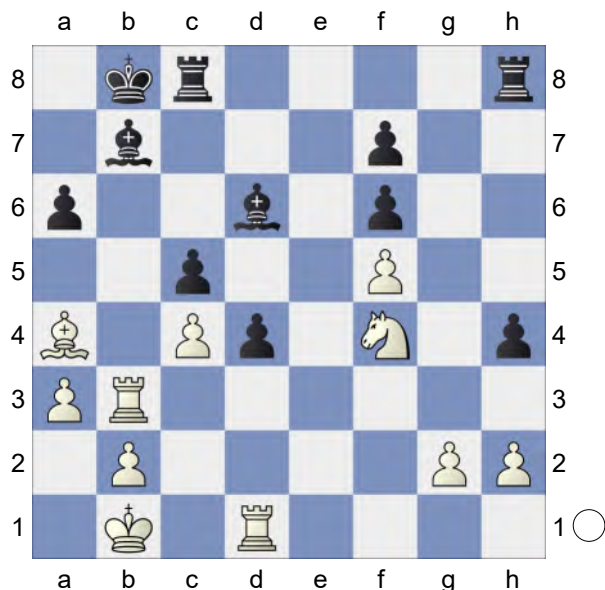
24...Rc8 The only, but sufficient move.

25.Nf4

[25.Nf4 Bd6 26.Nd5 Ka7 27.Rh3

could have led to the same.]

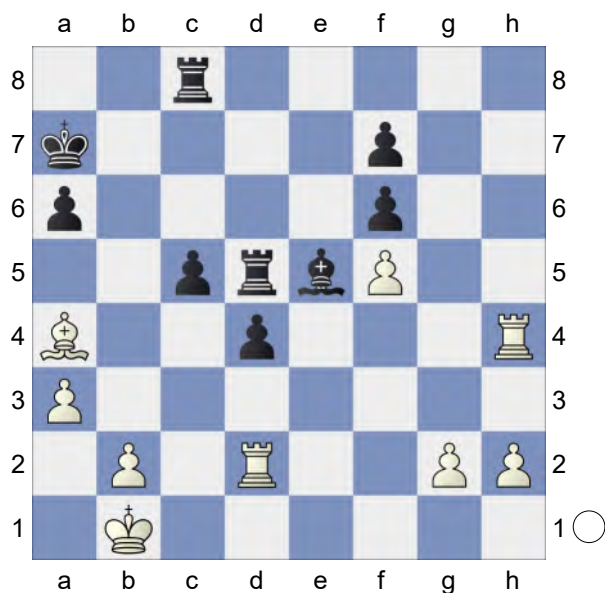
25...Bd6



26.Nd5 Ka7 27.Rh3 Alas, there is no better square for this rook. **27...Be5 28.Rd2 Rhd8** Alexander reasonably decides to give up the Ph4.

[Deserving of attention is also 28...Rcd8!?]

29.Rxh4 Bxd5 30.cxd5 Rxd5



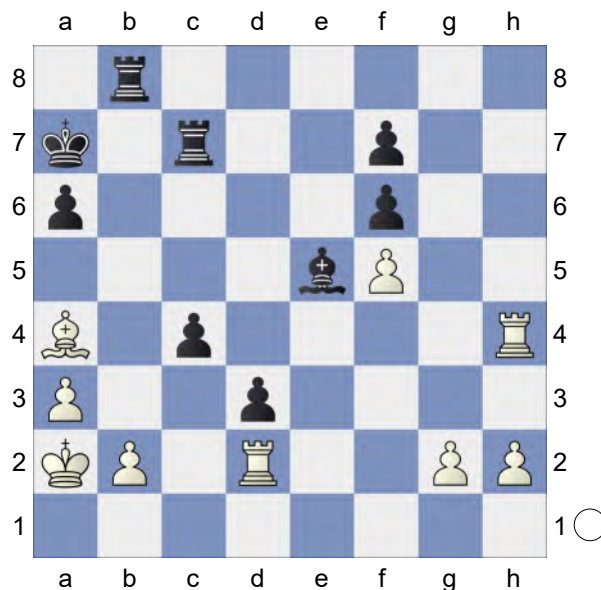
31.Rh7? This impulsive decision is a decisive mistake - the rook is out of play now.

[31.Re4 c4 32.h4 d3 33.h5 Ra5

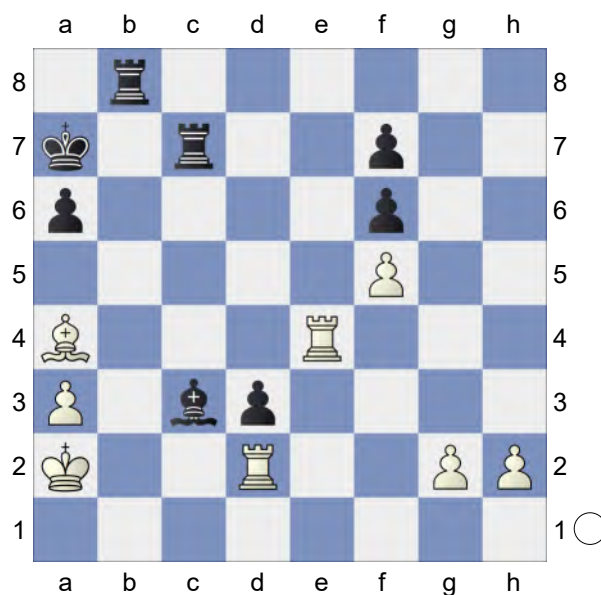
34.Bd1 Rb5-+]

[Perhaps the most stubborn was 31.b3 Kb6 32.Rc2 d3 33.Rc1+ , and White manages to temporarily set-up a blockade.]

31...Rc7 32.Be8 Rd8! A simple refutation of Wei Yi's idea. Now the bishop has to go back. **33.Ba4 c4 34.Ka2 d3** Black just dominates the entire board. **35.Rh4 Rb8**



36.Re4 c3 37.bxc3 Bxc3



0-1

157

□ Wei,Yi

■ Giri,Anish

PRO League KO 2020 (4.1) 26.09.2020
[Roiz,M]

B90

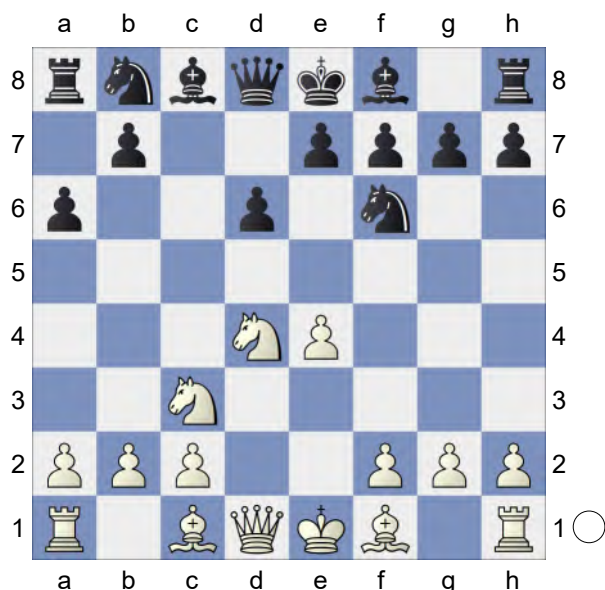
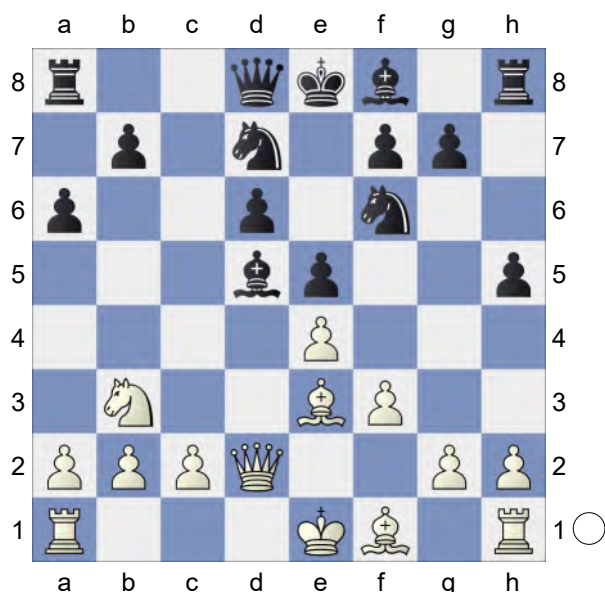
2732

2763

1.e4 GM Ioannis Papaioannou 1...c5

2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6

5.Nc3 a6

6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.f3 h5 9.Qd2
Nbd7 10.Nd5 Bxd5

11.exd5 g6 12.0-0-0 Bg7 Anish is

consistent in his opening repertoire.
Anish is consistent in his opening repertoire.

[12...Nb6 is much more common, but White always has a decent compensation after he loses the Pd5. is much more common, but White always has a decent compensation after he loses the Pd5.]

13.Be2

[13.Kb1 Dominguez Perez,L (2758)-Giri,A (2769) Moscow RUS 2019 [Roiz,M] Dominguez Perez,L (2758)-Giri,A (2769) Moscow RUS 2019 [Roiz,M]]

13...b5!? This new continuation was tested in dozens of corr. games. The top players are usually equipped with many fresh ideas that were often demonstrated in corr. games. GM Ioannis Papaioannou: 'I don't like playing Nb6 - Nxd5 as White always has enough space.' This new continuation was tested in dozens of corr. games. The top players are usually equipped with many fresh ideas that were often demonstrated in corr. games.

[13...0-0 , as in Leko,P (2690)-Vachier-Lagrave,M (2780) Batumi GEO 2018 [Roiz,M], looks dangerous for Black, even though at the end MVL was victorious. , as in Leko,P (2690)-Vachier-Lagrave,M (2780) Batumi GEO 2018 [Roiz,M], looks dangerous for Black, even though at the end MVL was victorious.]

[13...Qc7 is also possible.]

14.Na5 GM Wei Yi naturally moves his knight towards the exposed c6-spot.

[14.Kb1 Nb6 15.Na5 0-0 16.Nc6 Qc7 17.Bxb6 Qxb6 GM Ioannis Papaioannou: ' ↑! ' ↑! ' GM Ioannis Papaioannou: 'Black's typical plan would be Re8 and e4.' 18.Bd3 (18.h3

Rfe8 19.Rhe1 Rac8 20.Bf1 Nxd5 21.Qxd5 Rxc6) 18...Kh7 (18...Rfe8 19.Be4 Kh7 20.Rhe1 a5) 19.g4 led to sharp play in Walther, E-Schlenther, M IECC email 2014. I am pretty sure, that Black is doing well in this position. led to sharp play in Walther, E-Schlenther, M IECC email 2014. I am pretty sure, that Black is doing well in this position.]

[In the endgame that arises after 14.Rhe1 0-0 15.Qa5 e4 16.Qxd8 Rfxd8 Popescu, I - Ledford, S ICCF email 2016, the activity of Black's pieces fully compensates White's bishop pair. Popescu, I - Ledford, S ICCF email 2016, the activity of Black's pieces fully compensates White's bishop pair.]

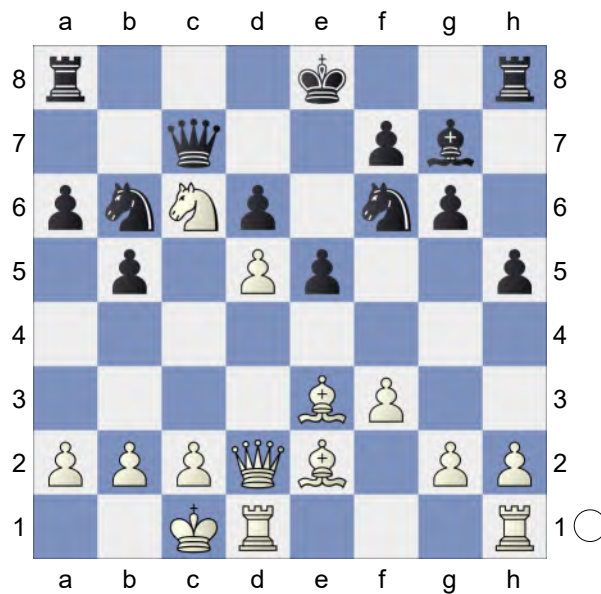
14...Nb6 As usual, Black's counterplay is based on attacking the Pd5. **15.Nc6** The most consistent choice. GM Ioannis Papaioannou: 'The Knight on c6 is not contributing at all.'

[The aggressive 15.g4 hxg4 16.fxg4 Nbx d5 hardly offers White more than equality, as he has nothing better than 17.Nb7 Qd7 18.g5 Qxb7 19.gxf6 Nxf6 20.Qxd6 Rc8 21.Qxe5+ Kf8 Black's king is out of danger. Black's king is out of danger.]

[The quieter 15.Kb1 might invite major simplifications: Nbx d5 16.Bg5 0-0 17.Qxd5 Nxd5 18.Bxd8 Nf4 19.Be7 Rfe8 20.Bxd6 Nxe2 The chances were mutual in Almeida, R - Latour, G LSS email 2010 The chances were mutual in Almeida, R - Latour, G LSS email 2010]

15...Qc7

(Diagram)



16.Bxb6 This is practically forced - White has to maintain the strong Nc6.

16...Qxb6 17.Kb1

[Pointless was 17.Qb4 Qc7 18.Kb1 0-0, and the Qb4 is rather useless.]

17...a5 Anish comes up with a natural, but slightly risky idea. GM Ioannis Papaioannou: '!? ' !?'

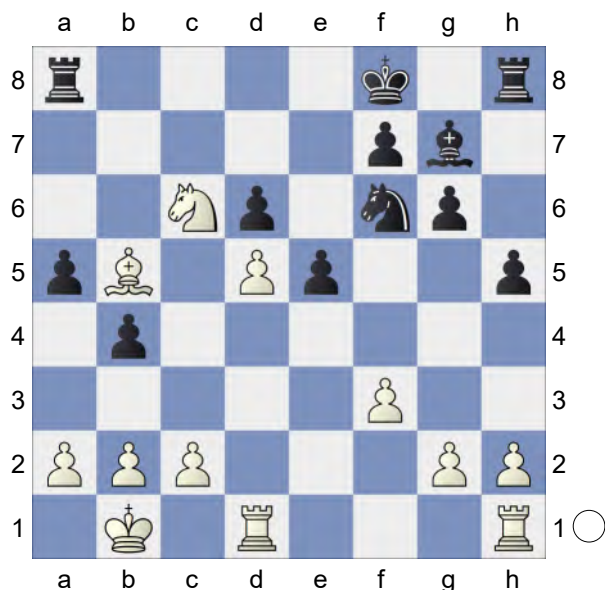
[The only correspondence game saw The only correspondence game saw 17...Qc5!? 18.Rhe1 Kf8 19.Bd3 Bh6 Black didn't have any problems in Bokar, J - Delizia, C ICCF email 2019 Black didn't have any problems in Bokar, J - Delizia, C ICCF email 2019]

18.Qd3?! White chooses a somewhat timid plan and soon finds himself in an unpleasant endgame. White chooses a somewhat timid plan and soon finds himself in an unpleasant endgame.

[The only way to challenge Anish's innovation was 18.c3! 0-0 19.Rhf1, intending to attack the Pb5 on the next move. Then play might continue: Rfe8 20.Qd3 b4 21.cxb4 axb4 22.Qb3 e4 23.Qxb4 I prefer White's chances in this position, though Black has plenty of counterplay. I prefer

White's chances in this position, though Black has plenty of counterplay.]

18...b4 19.Qb5 GM Ioannis Papaioannou: '?!' '?!' 19...Qxb5 20.Bxb5 Kf8



The Rh8 is locked for a while, but White is unable to take advantage of his better development. Wei Yi's main issue here is he lacks a constructive plan. GM Ioannis Papaioannou: ' ♖!!' ' ♖!!' The Rh8 is locked for a while, but White is unable to take advantage of his better development. Wei Yi's main issue here is he lacks a constructive plan. **21.h4?! The Ph4 is a clear target for Black's pieces from now on. The Ph4 is a clear target for Black's pieces from now on.**

[The better idea was 21.Rhe1 h4 22.Re3 Rh5 23.a3 , trying to develop a counter-attack on the q-side, though Black's position is preferable here. , trying to develop a counter-attack on the q-side, though Black's position is preferable here.]

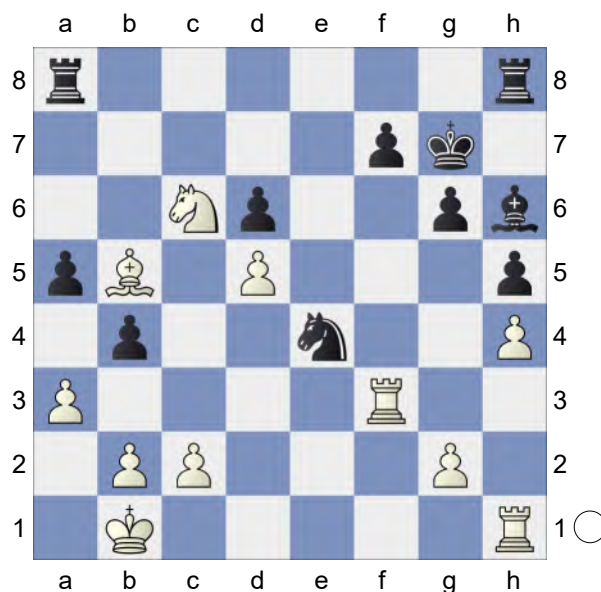
21...Bh6 22.Rd3 Kg7 GM Ioannis Papaioannou: 'Black is better. White's minor pieces are misplaced.' 23.a3

Now this is too late! 23...e4

[Stronger was 23...bxa3! GM Ioannis Papaioannou: '!!!' '!!!' 24.Rxa3 (24.bxa3 e4 ♗) 24...Nxd5 25.Rd3 (25.Rxa5 Rxa5 26.Nxa5 Ne3 27.g3 Nf5-+) 25...Ne3 ♗]

24.Rb3 exf3 25.Rxf3 Ne4!

[Of course, not 25...Nxd5? 26.Bc4 Nf4 27.Rhf1±]

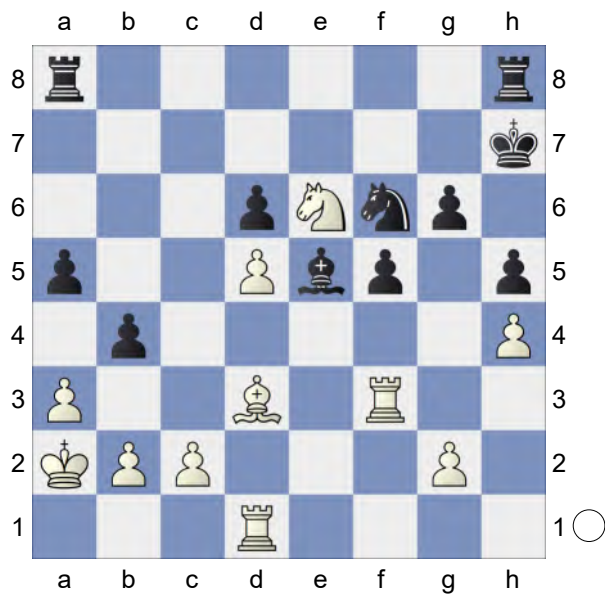


A well-timed knight centralization that enables Anish to maintain some initiative. A well-timed knight centralization that enables Anish to maintain some initiative. **26.Ka2 f5** White is doomed to passive defence. **27.Rd1 Kh7 28.Nd4** This knight transfer turns out to be ineffective.

[Possibly the best defensive approach was Possibly the best defensive approach was 28.a4!? Bg7 29.Re3 Bf6 30.g3 , and at least the Ra8 is tied to defending the pawn. , and at least the Ra8 is tied to defending the pawn.]

28...Bg7 29.Ne6 Be5 30.Bd3 Nf6!

(Diagram)



GM Giri's piece play looks impressive.
31.Bb5 Rhb8 32.a4 Ra7 This is the point! Black feels free to move his rooks now. This is the point! Black feels free to move his rooks now. **33.Bc6?!** The bishop is actually out of play now. The bishop is actually out of play now.

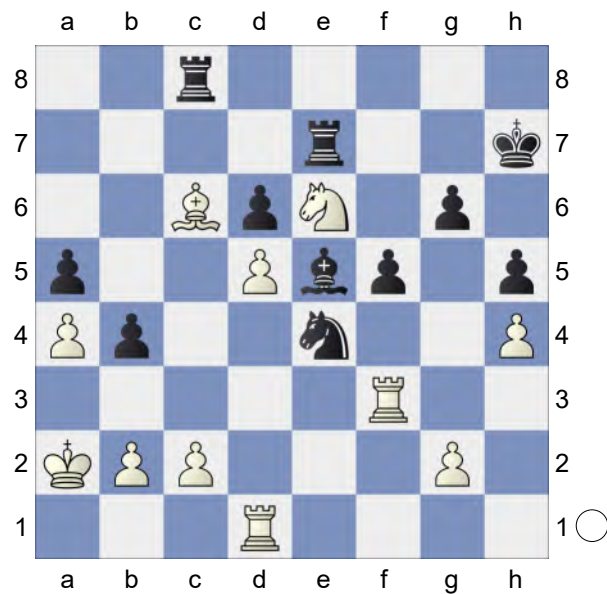
[More to the point was 33.Ng5+! Kh6 34.Re3 Ng4 35.Re2 $\bar{f}$]

33...Ne4! 34.Bb5? A decisive mistake.

[After 34.Re1 Kh6 35.Re2 Rc8 36.Kb3 Re7 $\bar{f}$ White can hardly maintain the material balance for very long, but it was the lesser evil. White can hardly maintain the material balance for very long, but it was the lesser evil.]

34...Rc8 35.Bc6 Re7!

(Diagram)



36.Ng5+

[Or 36.Nf4 Bxf4 37.Rxf4 Kg7 38.Rff1 Kf6 39.Rde1 Rcc7-+ Black has a decisive positional advantage. Black has a decisive positional advantage.]

36...Nxg5 37.hxg5 Bg7 38.Rd2

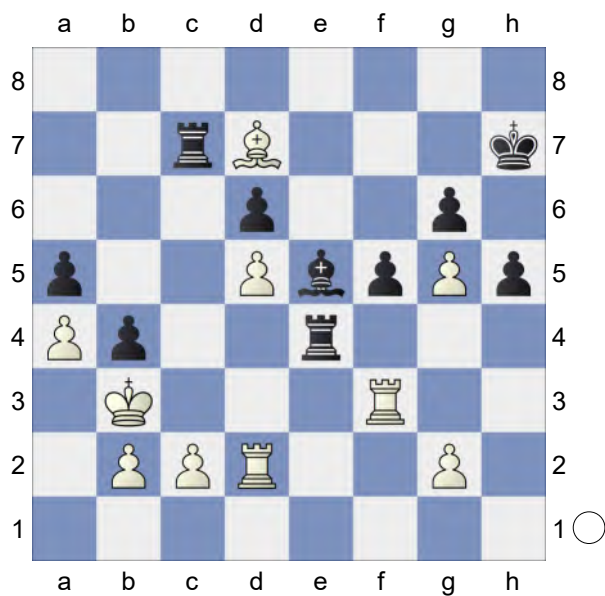
[The most stubborn was The most stubborn was 38.Kb3 Re2 39.g3 Be5 40.Rdd3 Kg7 41.Rfe3 Rg2, though even then Black should be able to exploit the weak pawns on g3 and g5. , though even then Black should be able to exploit the weak pawns on g3 and g5.]

38...Re4 39.Kb3 Be5 40.Bd7

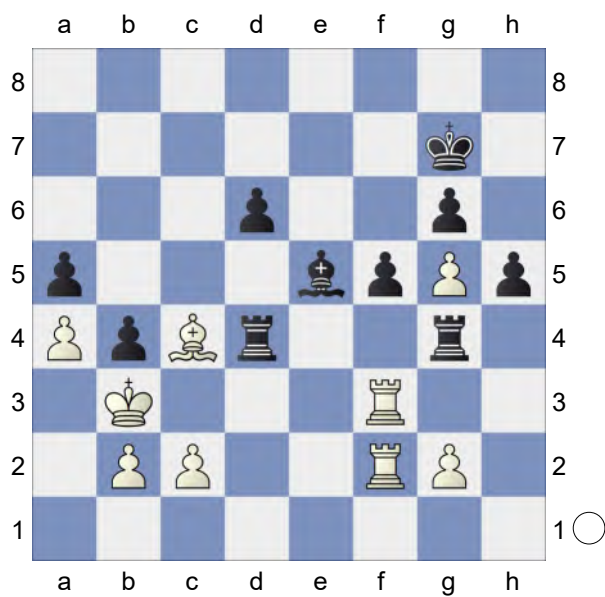
[40.Rff2 Rg4 is equally bad.]

40...Rc7

(Diagram)



41.Bc6 Kg7 White is helpless, so Anish isn't in a rush. **42.Bb5 Rc5 43.Bd3 Rxd5** White's pawns start to fall. **44.Rdf2 Rg4 45.Bc4 Rdd4**



0-1

439

□ Santos Ruiz, Miguel

■ Wei, Yi

FIDE World Cup 2019 (1.1) 10.09.2019

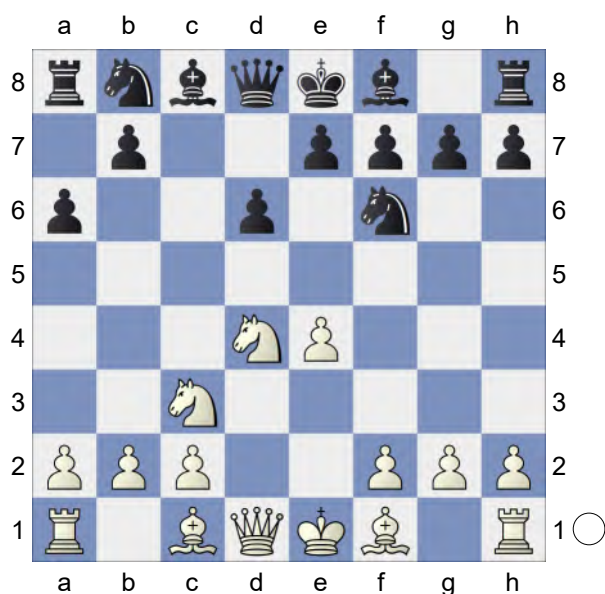
[Roiz, M]

B90

2560

2721

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6



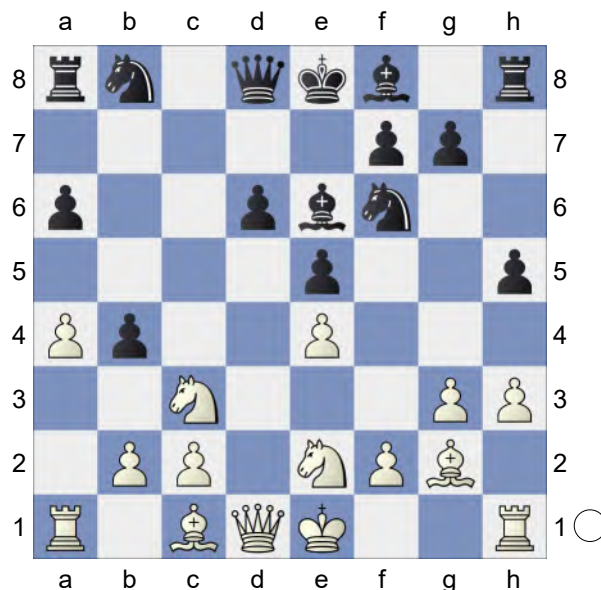
6.h3 e5 7.Nde2 h5 8.g3 Be6 9.Bg2
b5 Quite an ambitious way of handling
the position. Black delays the
development of his k-side pieces in order
to quickly expand on the opposite side.
10.a4!? This natural response is new to
our site.

[The fresh 10.Bd2 was recently
covered in Fedoseev, V (2671)-
Matlakov, M (2710) Izhevsk RUS 2019
[Roiz, M]]

[The usual 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.a4 b4
12.Nd5 Nxd5 13.exd5 Bf5
led to double-edged play in Tari, A
(2599)-Xiong, J (2634) Wijk aan Zee
NED 2018 [Roiz, M]]

10...b4

(Diagram)



11.Nd5 Nxd5 Black can hardly avoid
swapping knights.

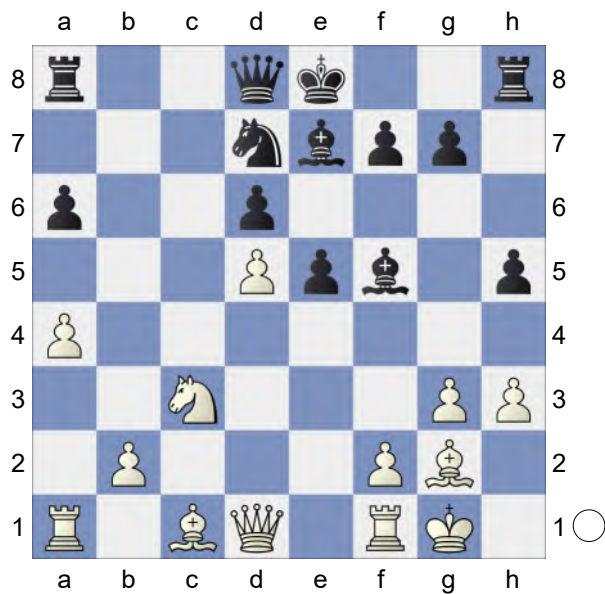
[In case of 11...a5 12.0-0 Nxd5
13.exd5 Bf5 14.c3 Qd7 15.Kh2 Na6
16.Be3± White gets the upper hand
on the q-side.]

12.exd5 Bf5 13.c3 bxc3 14.Nxc3 Be7
[14...Nd7 15.0-0 Nf6 16.a5 Be7
17.Bg5 0-0 18.Bxf6 Bxf6 19.Qxh5
doesn't offer Black sufficient
compensation for a pawn.]

15.0-0 Nd7

[over 15...h4 16.g4 Bg6 17.Be4
Bxe4 18.Nxe4 Nd7 19.b4
White had a clear positional
advantage in Xiong, J -Robson, R Saint
Louis 2017]

(Diagram)



A novelty. This is a definite improvement
16.a5 h4

[The quieter alternative was 16...Rb8 17.Ra3 Nf6 18.Qe2 Qc8 19.Kh2 0-0 20.Be3 In this complex position White's chances seem preferable, but it's definitely double-edged.]

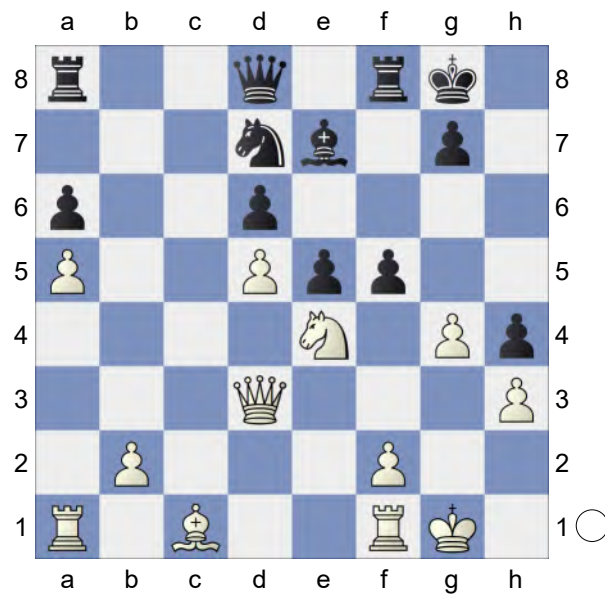
17.g4 Bh7 18.Be4! An excellent positional decision - the control of the e4-spot overcomes the vulnerability of White's king. **18...Bxe4 19.Nxe4 0-0 20.Qd3**

[Deserving of serious attention is 20.Be3!? Nf6 21.Bb6 Qd7 22.Nxf6+ Bxf6 23.Rc1 Bg5 24.Rc6 f5 25.gxf5 Qxf5 26.Qg4± White manages to liquidate into a somewhat better endgame.]

20...f5?

[Correct was 20...Nf6! 21.Nc3 Nh7 22.Kh1 Bg5 23.Ne4 Bxc1 24.Rfxc1 Ng5± with mutual chances.]

(Diagram)



GM Wei, Yi aims to complicate matters, but this is too risky. **21.gxf5 Qe8**

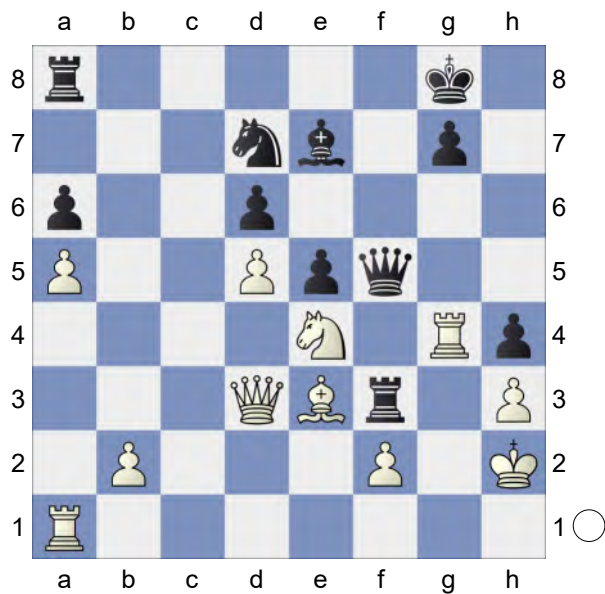
[The natural 21...Rxf5 runs into 22.Nxd6! e4 23.Qxe4 Re5 24.Qg6+-]

22.Be3 Rxf5?!

[Better was 22...Qf7 23.Kh2 Qxf5 24.Rg1 Nf6 25.Nxf6+ Rxf6 26.Qxf5 Rxf5 27.Rg4±, though even then White's superiority is undeniable.]

23.Kh2! It turns out that Black's king is much more exposed! **23...Qf7 24.Rg1 Rf3 25.Rg4!** Miguel consistently increases the pressure along the g-file. It looks like Black's position should soon collapse. **25...Qf5**

(Diagram)



26.Rag1?! This natural move spoils the major part of White's advantage.

[Stronger was 26.b4! Nf6 27.Nxf6+ Bxf6 28.Qe4 Qxe4 29.Rxe4 Rf5 30.Rc1 with a decisive positional advantage.]

26...Nf6! 27.Nxf6+

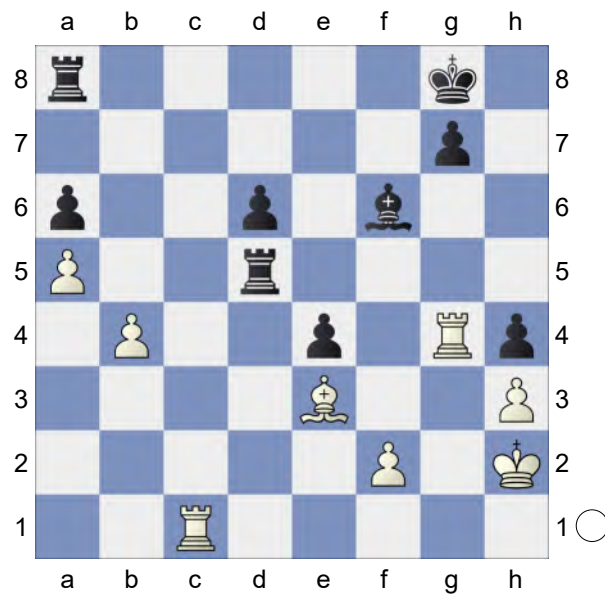
[Of course, not 27.Rxg7+? Kh8 28.Ng5 Rxh3+ 29.Nxh3 Qxd3 30.Rxe7 Qf5, and Black is out of danger.]

27...Bxf6 28.Qxf5 Rxf5 29.Rc1?! Another step in a wrong direction.

[Much better was 29.b4! e4 30.Rd1 Re8 31.b5 axb5 32.a6±, and the a-passer puts Black in big trouble.]

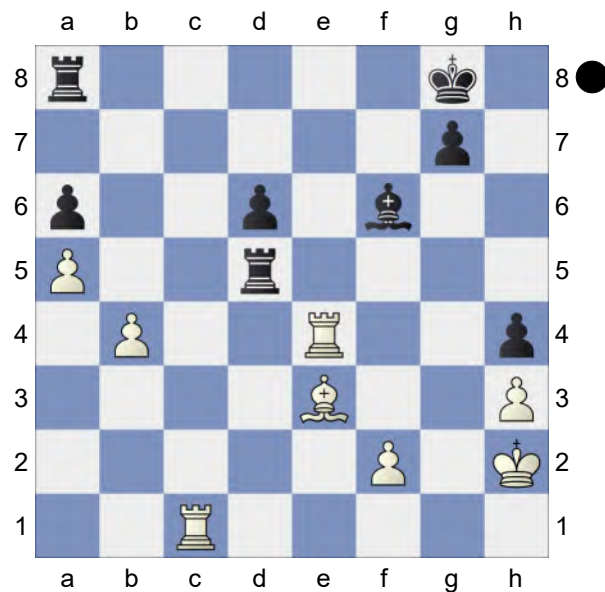
29...e4! Black manages to activate all of his pieces. 30.b4 Rxd5

(Diagram)



31.Rxe4

[For instance, 31.Rxe4 Rd3! 32.Bb6 Kf7 33.Kg2 Kg6 34.Rf4 Bg5 35.Rg4 Kf5, and it's very difficult to make any progress here.]



This move was preceded by a draw offer. This decision was somewhat premature, though Black's problems are almost solved.

1/2-1/2

99

□ Wei,Yi

■ Deac,Bogdan Daniel

Medias King blitz 11th (7)

[Rosen,Eric]

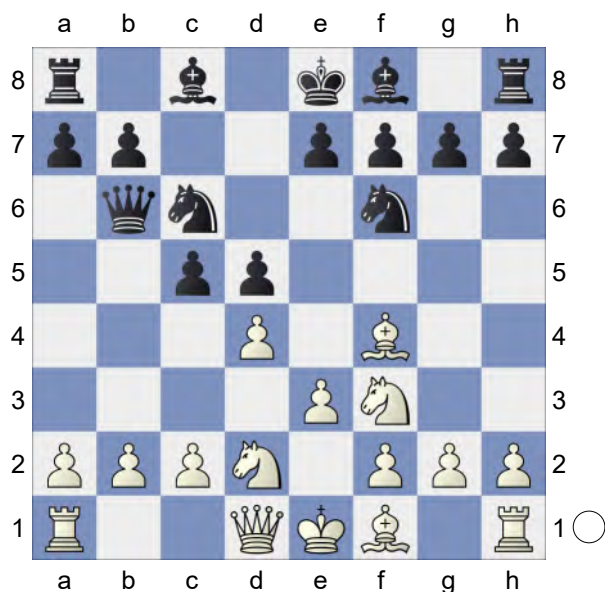
D00

2739

2566

28.11.2017

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 d5 3.e3 c5 4.Nd2
Nc6 5.Ngf3 Qb6



6.dxc5 Qxb2

[6...Qxc5 7.a3!? Nh5? 8.Nb3 Qb6
9.Qxd5±]

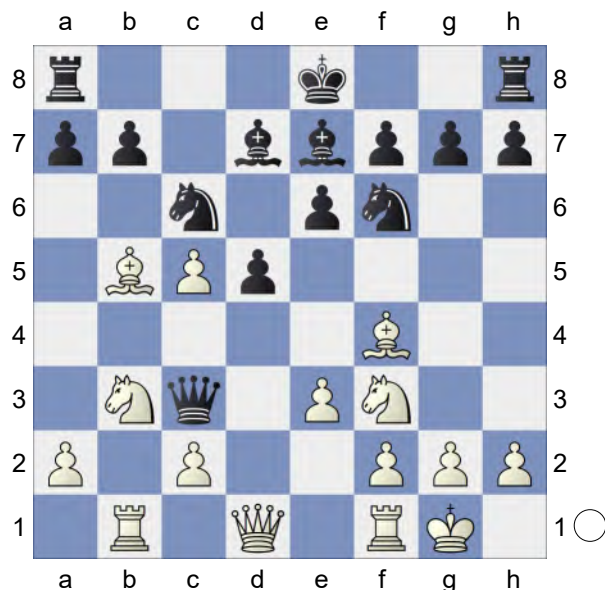
7.Rb1 Qc3

[7...Qxa2 8.Bb5±]

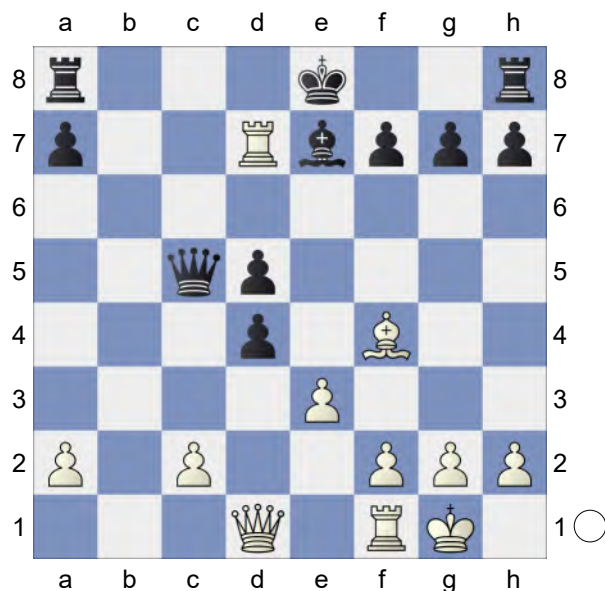
8.Bb5 e6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Nb3 Bd7

[10...0-0 11.Qd3 Ne4 12.Bxc6 bxc6
13.Ne5 Bf6 14.Nxc6 Bd7 15.Nca5
Rfc8 16.Nb7 e5 17.Bg3 Rc7 18.Nd6
Qxd3 19.cxd3 Nxc5 20.Rfc1 Ne6
21.Rxc7 Nxc7 22.Na5 Na6 23.Nab7
Rb8 24.Rb3 Bc6 25.h3 h5 26.h4
Kf8 27.Kh2 Kg8 28.f3 Kh7 29.Na5
Ba4 30.Ra3 Be8 31.Nxe8 Rxe8
32.Nc6 Nc5 33.Nxe5 Rxe5 34.d4
Re6 35.dxc5 a6 36.Rd3 Kg6 37.Bf2
Re5 38.Kh3 Be7 39.c6 Bd6 40.Bg3
Re6 41.c7 1-0 (41) Korobov,A (2652)-
Bluebaum,M (2640) Wijk aan Zee

2018]

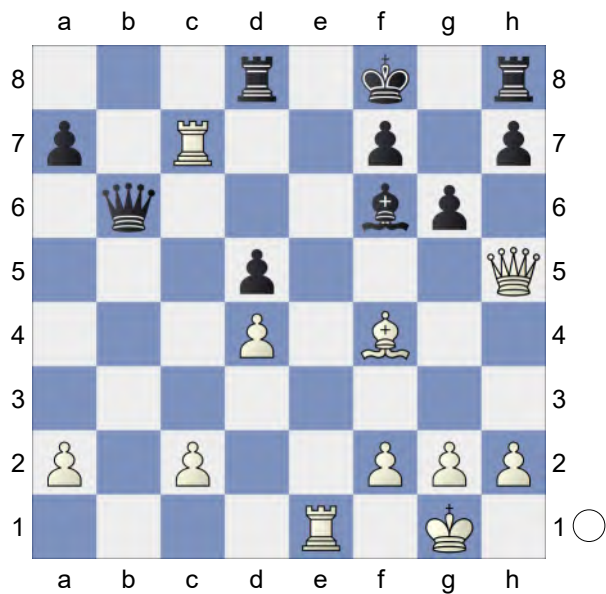


11.Nfd4 Nxd4 12.Nxd4 Qxc5
13.Bxd7+ Nxd7 14.Rxb7 e5 15.Rxd7
exd4

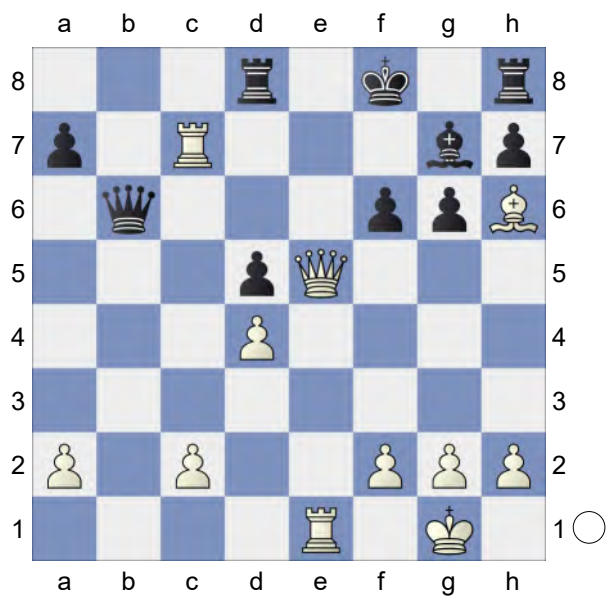


16.Rc7 Qb6 17.exd4 Kf8 18.Qf3 Rd8
19.Re1 Bf6 20.Qh5 g6

(Diagram)



21.Bh6+ Bg7 22.Qe5!! f6



1-0

63

□ **Wei, Yi**

■ **Sambuev, Bator**

FIDE World Cup (1.2)

[Sagar, Shah]

C19

2748

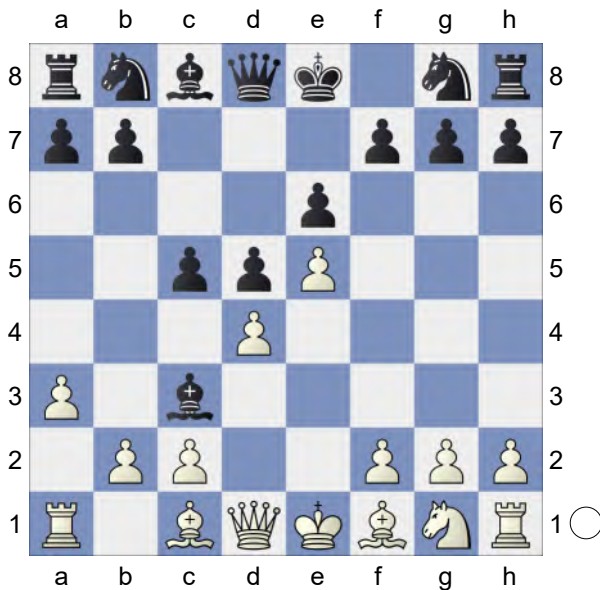
2529

04.09.2017

$$(90\text{min}+30\text{sec})/40+(30\text{min}+30\text{sec})$$

1.e4 0 e6 6 2.d4 0 d5 5 3.Nc3 1 Bb4

23 4.e5 14 c5 8 5.a3 21 Bxc3+ 15



6.bxc3 8 Ne7 3

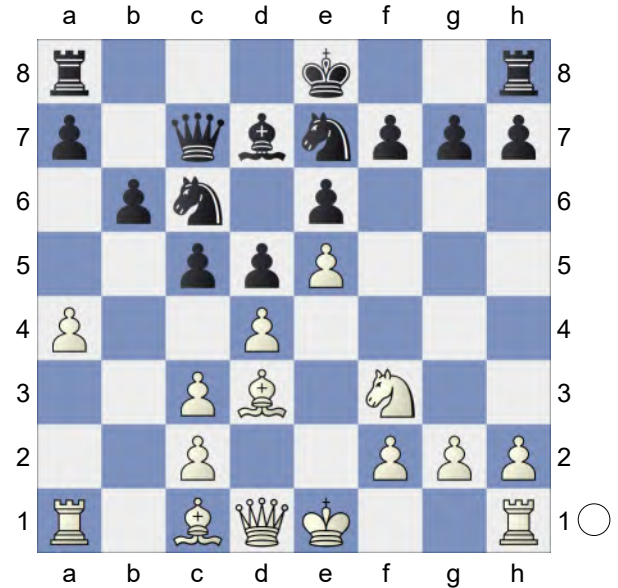
[6...Qc7 7.a4]

7.a4 55 **Qc7** 3:32 **8.Nf3** 1:46 **b6** 5:04

9.Bb5+ 15 Bd7 1:08 10.Bd3 25 Nbc6

54

(Diagram)



11.0-0 **54** **h6** **4:45** John Watson: 'is the order in this month's game Pavlides-Pichot.' John Watson: 'is the order'Sagar,Shah: 'John Watson: 'is the order in this month's game Pavlides-Pichot.'" in this month's game Pavlides-Pichot.' John Watson: 'is the order in this month's game Pavlides-Pichot.'

12.Re1 9:13 0-0 1:26 13.h4 11:41
 John Watson: 'One idea here might be h5 and then the sacrifice Bxh6 followed by Qd2.'
 John Watson: 'One idea here might be h5 and then the sacrifice Bxh6 followed by Qd2.'
 "One idea here might be h5 and then the sacrifice Bxh6 followed by Qd2."
 Sagar,Shah: 'John Watson: 'One idea here might be h5 and then the sacrifice Bxh6 followed by Qd2.'
 "'

[13.Bf4 is the move played in Pavlides-Pichot. is the move played in Pavlides-Pichot. John Watson: 'is the move played in Pavlides-Pichot. Sagar,Shah: 'is the move played in Pavlides-Pichot.']

13...c4 2:12

[Not bad, but I don't like to close the queenside without space on the

kingside. I'd recommend Not bad, but I don't like to close the queenside without space on the kingside. I'd recommend John Watson: 'Not bad, but I don't like to close the queenside without space on the kingside. I'd recommend Sagar,Shah: 'Not bad, but I don't like to close the queenside without space on the kingside. I'd recommend" 13...f5 14.exf6 (14.Ba3 Na5 , now that the bishop isn't aimed at the kingside) 14...Rxf6 , contesting both sides of the board. , contesting both sides of the board. John Watson: ', contesting both sides of the board. Sagar,Shah: ', contesting both sides of the board."]

[The only game in the Archives with this traditional line went The only game in the Archives with this traditional line went John Watson: 'The only game in the Archives with this traditional line went Sagar,Shah: 'The only game in the Archives with this traditional line went" 13...Na5!? I'll include some of my notes to the early moves: "Moving away from the kingside is dangerous, and in the Winawer, c4 tends to be a less influential outpost for a knight than one might think. I'll include some of my notes to the early moves: "Moving away from the kingside is dangerous, and in the Winawer, c4 tends to be a less influential outpost for a knight than one might think. John Watson: 'I'll include some of my notes to the early moves: "Moving away from the kingside is dangerous, and in the Winawer, c4 tends to be a less influential outpost for a knight than one might think. Sagar,Shah: 'I'll include some of my notes to the early

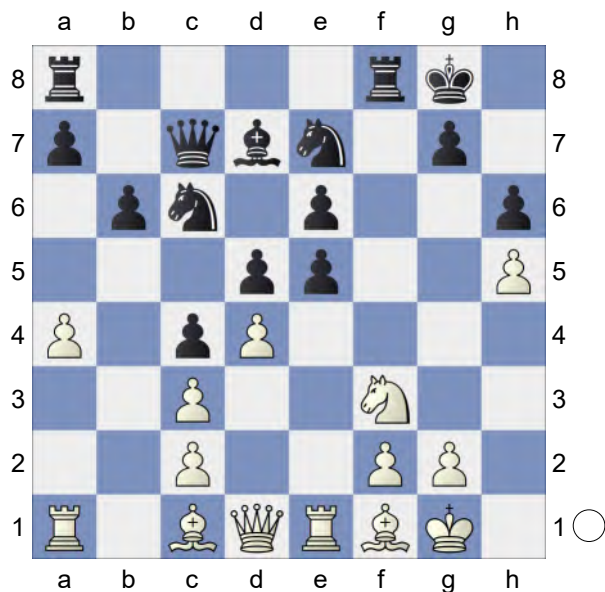
moves: "Moving away from the kingside is dangerous, and in the Winawer, c4 tends to be a less influential outpost for a knight than one might think." 14.Nh2!? (14.Bf4 intending Qc1 and Bxh6. The immediate; 14.Bxh6!? gxh6 15.Qd2 Kg7 16.Qf4 forces Black has to play Ng8!) 14...cxd4? Too slow. (14...c4! is Rybka's preference. After 15.Bf1 , neither side's pieces are inspiringly placed, but I prefer White's chances. , neither side's pieces are inspiringly placed, but I prefer White's chances. John Watson: ', neither side's pieces are inspiringly placed, but I prefer White's chances. Sagar,Shah: ', neither side's pieces are inspiringly placed, but I prefer White's chances.") 15.cxd4 Logical, to support Re3-g3 but Logical, to support Re3-g3 but John Watson: 'Logical, to support Re3-g3 but Sagar,Shah: 'Logical, to support Re3-g3 but'' (15.Ng4! is even more powerful) 15...Nf5 16.Ng4 and White was already winning in Vovk,Y (2539)-Bobula,M (2393), Kosice 2010."]

14.Bf1 35 f6 45

[14...a5!? intending ...b5 or ...Na7 is interesting: 15.Ba3 (15.Nh2!?) 15...Qd8 16.h5 Na7 17.g4 b5 18.Bc5±]

15.h5 9:28 fxe5 7:43

(Diagram)

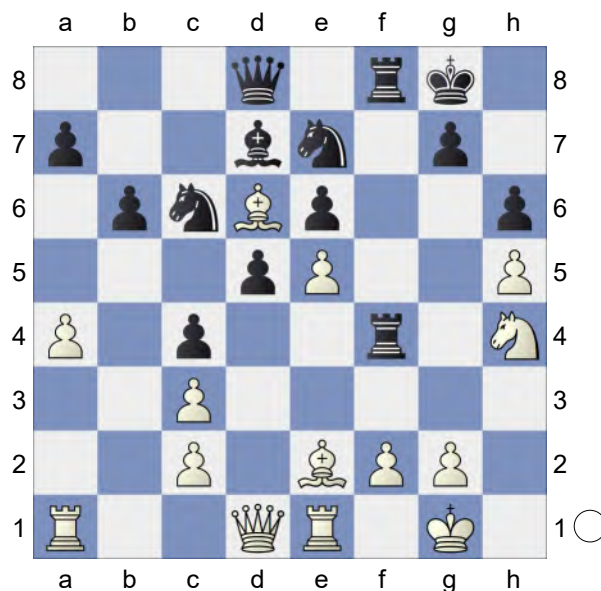


16.dxe5 13:11 Rf7 2:05 17.Ba3 1:25 Raf8 46 18.Bd6 27 Qd8 19

'Sagar,Shah: 'Sambuev's play has been natural and he is already threatening to sacrifice an exchange on f3. Sambuev's play has been natural and he is already threatening to sacrifice an exchange on f3. John Watson: 'Sagar Shah: 'Sambuev's play has been natural and he is already threatening to sacrifice an exchange on f3. Sambuev's play has been natural and he is already threatening to sacrifice an exchange on f3. John Watson: 'Sagar Shah: 'Sambuev's play has been natural and he is already threatening to sacrifice an exchange on f3. John Watson: 'Sagar Shah: 'Sambuev's play has been natural and he is already threatening to sacrifice an exchange on f3. John Watson: 'Sagar Shah: 'Sambuev's play has been natural and he is already threatening to sacrifice an exchange on f3.' **19.Be2 2:47 Rf5 7:19** 'Sagar,Shah: 'The h5-pawn is hanging now. The h5-pawn is hanging now. John Watson: 'Sagar Shah: 'The h5-pawn is hanging now.''' The h5-pawn is hanging now. The h5-pawn is hanging now. John Watson: 'Sagar Shah: 'The h5-pawn is hanging now.' **20.Nh4 4:24 Rf4 39**

[20...Rxf2 John Watson: 'Taking the

pawn was a good idea.' Taking the pawn was a good idea. **21.Bf3 R2xf3!** John Watson: 'Perhaps Sambuev didn't like the resulting positions.' Perhaps Sambuev didn't like the resulting positions. **22.Nxf3 Rf4=]**

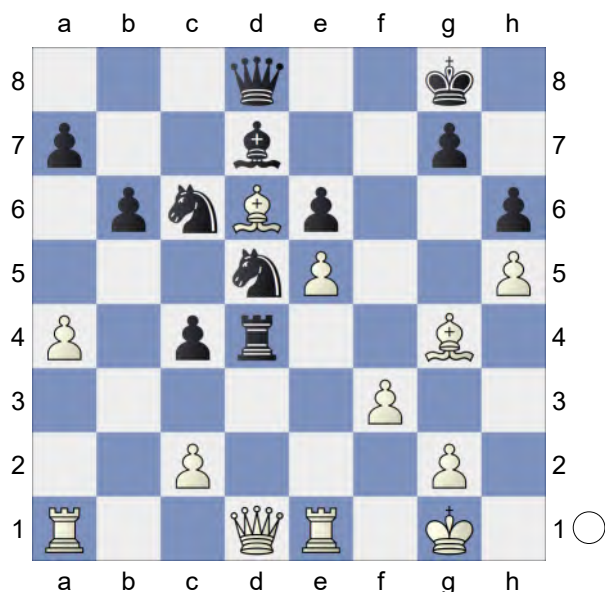


21.Bg4 28 R8f7 5:44

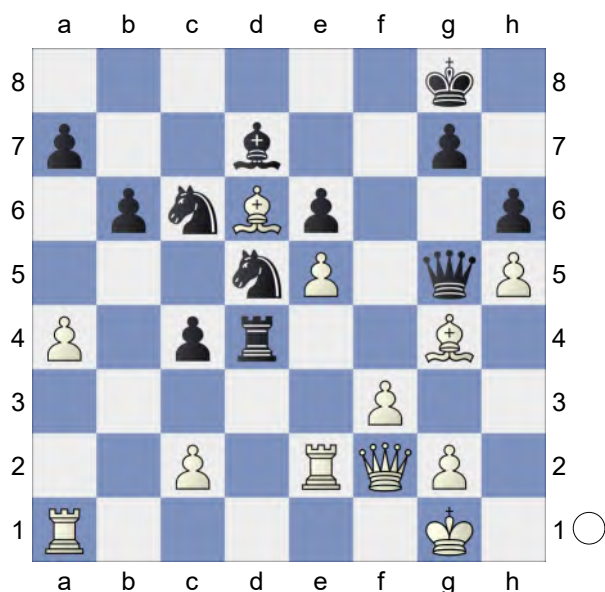
[21...Rxf2 22.Nf3 Rf4!?∞]

22.f3± 1:46 John Watson: 'Sagar Shah: '±' John Watson: 'Sagar Shah: '±' Sagar, Shah: '±' Sagar,Shah: 'John Watson: 'Sagar Shah: '±' White is now spoiled for choice. White is now spoiled for choice. John Watson: 'Sagar Shah: 'White is now spoiled for choice.''' White is now spoiled for choice. White is now spoiled for choice. John Watson: 'Sagar Shah: 'White is now spoiled for choice.' **22...d4 4:25 23.Ng6! 4:48** John Watson: 'Sagar Shah: '!' John Watson: 'Sagar Shah: '!' Sagar,Shah: '!' Sagar,Shah: 'John Watson: 'Sagar Shah: '!' **23...Nd5 2:35 24.Nxf4 6 Rxf4 43 25.cxd4 4:22 Rxd4 43**

(Diagram)



26.Qe2 7:56 Qg5 4:26 27.Qf2 2:16
Rd2 11:10 28.Re2 10 Rd4 9 29.Ree1
6:24 Rd2 9 30.Re2 7 Rd4 4



31.Qe1 6:44 g6! 3:39 John Watson:
 'Sagar Shah: '!' John Watson: 'Sagar
 Shah: '!' Sagar,Shah: '!' Sagar,Shah:
 'John Watson: 'Sagar Shah: '!' A very
 nice move by Bator, trying to get in the
 move h6-h5. A very nice move by Bator,
 trying to get in the move h6-h5. John
 Watson: 'Sagar Shah: 'A very nice move
 by Bator, trying to get in the move h6-h5.
 '"" A very nice move by Bator, trying to

get in the move h6-h5. A very nice move
 by Bator, trying to get in the move h6-h5.
 John Watson: 'Sagar Shah: 'A very nice
 move by Bator, trying to get in the move
 h6-h5." **32.Re4?! 4:24** John Watson:
 'Sagar Shah: '?!' John Watson: 'Sagar
 Shah: '?!' Sagar,Shah: '?!' Sagar,Shah:
 'John Watson: 'Sagar Shah: '?!'""

[32.hxg6 h5 33.Bh3 Nf4∞]

[32.Kh1! John Watson: 'A
 prophylactic move taking away the
 king from the g-file.' A prophylactic
 move taking away the king from the g-
 file. gxf5 33.Bh3 Nf4 John Watson:
 'No more a double attack because of
 White's last move.' No more a double
 attack because of White's last move.

34.Re4 Rxe4 35.Qxe4 Qg3
 (35...Kh8 36.Rd1±) 36.Rg1±]

32...gxh5 3:19 33.Bh3 6 Rd2 5:35
34.Kh1 4:47 Rxc2 1:38 35.f4?! 2:23
 John Watson: 'Sagar Shah: '?!' John
 Watson: 'Sagar Shah: '?!' Sagar,Shah:
 '?!' Sagar,Shah: 'John Watson: 'Sagar
 Shah: '?!'""

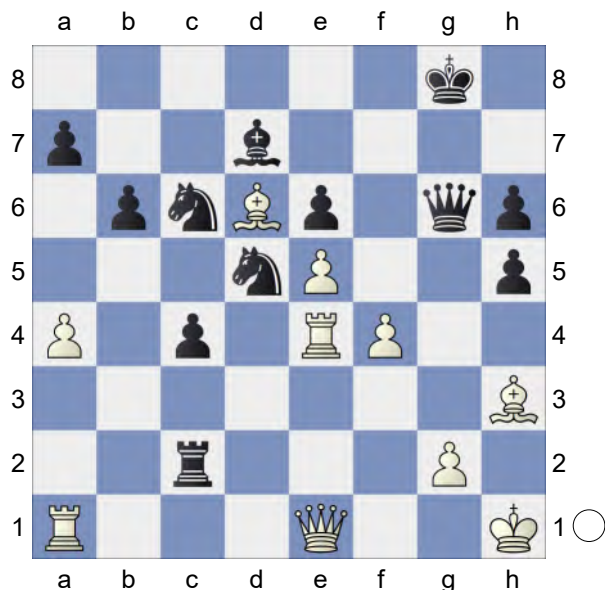
[35.Ba3 c3 36.Bc1 Qg6 37.Qd1
 Rf2]

[35.Qd1 Rd2 36.Qe1 (36.Qg1 c3)
 36...c3⌘]

35...Qg6 3:55

[35...Nxf4! 36.Qe3 Nxf3 37.Qxf3]

(Diagram)



36.f5! 30 John Watson: 'Sagar Shah: '!' John Watson: 'Sagar Shah: '!' Sagar, Shah: '!' Sagar, Shah: 'John Watson: 'Sagar Shah: '!' A beautiful idea! A beautiful idea! John Watson: 'Sagar Shah: 'A beautiful idea!'" A beautiful idea! A beautiful idea! John Watson: 'Sagar Shah: 'A beautiful idea!'" **36...exf5** 13 'Sagar,Shah: 'The queen's path to the e4-rook is now blocked. The queen's path to the e4-rook is now blocked. John Watson: 'Sagar Shah: 'The queen's path to the e4-rook is now blocked.'" The queen's path to the e4-rook is now blocked. The queen's path to the e4-rook is now blocked. John Watson: 'Sagar Shah: 'The queen's path to the e4-rook is now blocked.'" **37.Qd1!** 17 John Watson: 'Sagar Shah: '!' John Watson: 'Sagar Shah: '!' Sagar,Shah: 'John Watson: 'Sagar Shah: '!''" **37...fxe4** 6:12 **38.Qxd5+** 35 **Kg7** 1:33

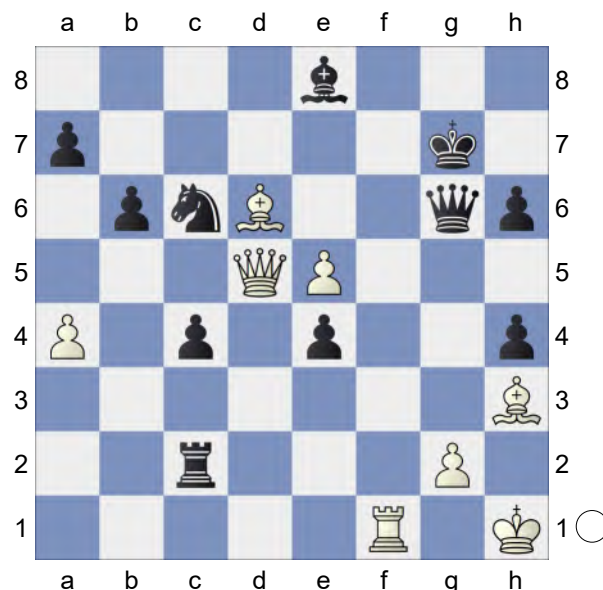
[38...Kh7 39.Rg1 Bxh3 40.gxh3 Qe8 41.Qxe4+]

39.Rg1 2:39

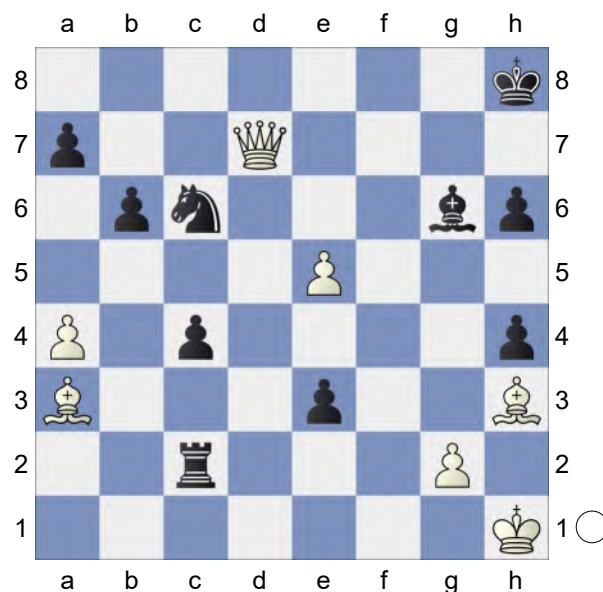
[39.Bf8+ John Watson: 'would have done justice to the move 36.f5:' would

have done justice to the move 36.f5: Kxf8 40.Rf1+ Bf5 41.Rxf5+ Qxf5 42.Bxf5+-]

39...Be8 3:17 **40.Rf1** 0 h4 6:21

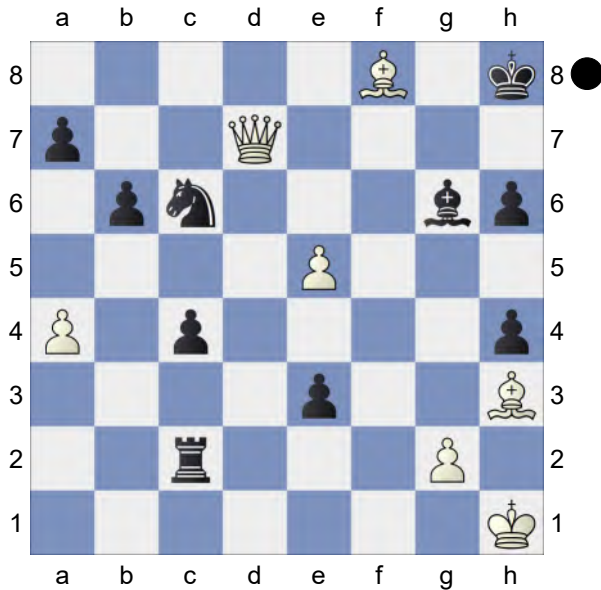


41.Bf8+ 3:35 **Kh8** 9 **42.Ba3** 2 **Kg7** 1:55 **43.Rf6** 14 **e3** 10:04 **44.Rxg6+** 19 **Bxg6** 8 **45.Qd7+** 26 **Kh8** 10



46.Bf8 10

(Diagram)



'Sagar,Shah: 'Wei Yi remains alive in the World Cup 2017 with this win. Wei Yi remains alive in the World Cup 2017 with this win. John Watson: 'Sagar Shah: 'Wei Yi remains alive in the World Cup 2017 with this win.''' Wei Yi remains alive in the World Cup 2017 with this win. Wei Yi remains alive in the World Cup 2017 with this win. John Watson: 'Sagar Shah: 'Wei Yi remains alive in the World Cup 2017 with this win. "

1-0

360

□ Wei, Yi

■ Potkin, Vladimir

Tata Steel-B 77th (2)

[Sagar, Shah]

C11

2675

2608

11.01.2015

Van de Oudeweetering, Arthur: 'China comes to town – The art of Donner || If during the past month tournament play was dominated by one country, I would definitely say it was China. After Yu Yangyi's victory in Qatar where he beat Giri and Kramnik, Tata Steel saw Ding Liren share second place in The Masters behind the world champ, as well as Wei Yi dominating the Challengers event with 10½ out of 13, edging out David Navara. Wei Yi proceeded to break the 2700 barrier at a record age – the boy is only fifteen – in Gibraltar, where Hou Yifan (also coming straight from Wijk aan Zee) saw her rating pass Judit Polgar's and thus the women's world champion now also occupies the number one position on the world list. (By the way, Nakamura scored a clear and convincing win here, Howell came clear second.) || Meanwhile the traditional Hastings tournament saw Zhao Jun reign supreme with out 8 of 9, while Ni Hua took the Australian open (10½ out of 11) and Zhao Xue the New Zealand Open (the 122nd, that certainly seems to be a traditional one too) with 8 out of 9. || The Rilton Cup got a Scandinavian winner – Norway's second player Hammer; however, they did not see any visitors from the far East except for shogi legend Yoshiharu Habu; something to do with the climate perhaps? || As a Dutchman I was warned at an early stage that China was a

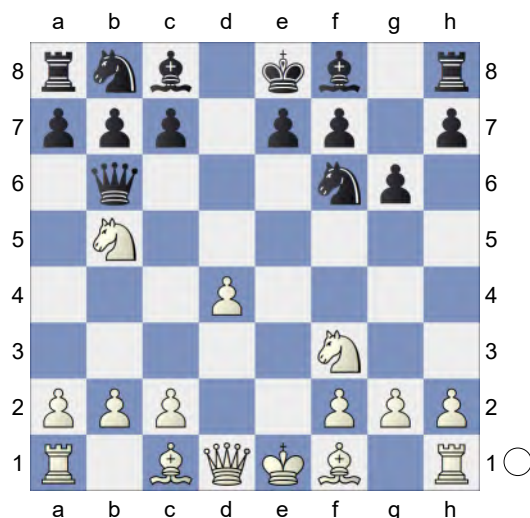
chess power-to-be. Two small incidents in the 1970s gave a clue. In 1975 Euwe as FIDE president went to China and played two exhibition games against the national Chinese champion Qi Jingxuan. This was just after an eight-year period from 1966 to 1974 during the Cultural Revolution when chess was forbidden in China. This will certainly have hampered the development of chess in China, though Euwe stated that the Chinese sure knew how to play chess. Another reason for the late rise of chess in China is that Xiang Qi has always been considered to be the superior form of chess in that nation, and has therefore been more popular. || Anyway, Euwe was quickly overrun in the first game, but managed to win the second one with White, and for a moment putting aside the promotional objectives that led him to visit China. I'm sure Jan Hein Donner approved of Euwe's handling of the a-pawn in this game, reminding him of his own game against Velimirovic, Havana 1971, which induced him to write a magnificent ode to his "dear pawn on a5" (The King) after his final move of the game (see PGN). || Three years later in 1978 China already made a debut at the Olympiad, with the same Qi Jingxuan on the first board. He was beaten by Timman when China met the Netherlands in the eighth round, but the match was drawn 2-2, as on third board the same Donner famously lost against Liu Wenzhe - in only 20 moves after a surprising opening, which was finished off with a nice queen sac. `r2qnr2/pp3kbQ/2npb1p1/2pN1pP1/4P3/8/PPP1BP2/R1B1K1NR w KQ - 0 16 16. Qxg6!` This also was to become the first game in Liu Wenzhe's book "The

Chinese School of Chess." The introduction indicates that Donner's fear after the game had come true: He had become Kiezeritsky for the Chinese chessplayers. In his analysis Liu Wenzhe makes an interesting observation, which can be transferred to other contemporary openings. After 1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4. Be2 Bg7 5.g4, h6 Liu played 6.h3, which tempted Donner to castle after 6...c5 7.d5, but here after 7...0-0 Liu continued with 8. h4! Liu Wenzhe writes: "...he thought that since I hadn't dared to push my h-pawn two squares, he had forced me to give up the plan of attacking on the kingside altogether... Donner had made a fatal mistake, above all a psychological one... he drew the wrong conclusion from 6.h3." || These days the early thrust g2-g4 has become much more common, and I have to admit that in the Semi-Slav after 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Qc2 Bd6 7.g4 h6 my first thought of 8.h3 is: This must be harmless. || In general Donner's sense of danger let him down on numerous occasions, which made him an inconsistent player who produced more miniature losses than other grandmasters. Already in 1971 Tim Krabbé compiled a collection of these <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chesscollection?cid=1011932> || By the way, Liu Wenzhe's win against Donner was not the first Chinese victory against a grandmaster, as some sources claim. Already in the first round of the same Olympiad the Chinese team had surprisingly won against the Icelandic team, with Qi Jingxuan beating GM Sigurjonsson. Eventually the Chinese team occupied a creditable 20th spot,

with their second reserve Zhang Weida even winning the board prize with 6½ out of 8. Not long after China would usually place in the top 10 at the Olympiads. For instance 1990 saw the next generation finishing sixth in Novi Sad with Xu Jun, Ye Rongguang and Ye Jiangchuan on the top boards. The latter was to become the first Chinese player to cross the 2600 border and a longtime well-known representative of Chinese chess in international tournaments. And we all know what he achieved as a coach in Tromsø last year! || It would obviously go too far to describe the progress of Chinese chess (also notably Chinese women's chess!) from 1975 in detail, but I would like to point out that it was Liu Wenzhe himself who was really the first one to beat a grandmaster as early as in 1965. In one of the friendly matches between China and the USSR he beat Nikolai Krogius in a game which he analyzes extensively in his book. Promptly Krogius also lost the very next game in that match, against Zhang Donglu. Psychology in chess... || In 1994 I myself had to opportunity to cross swords with Ye Rongguang, who had become China's first grandmaster in 1990. Like Donner I also got knocked down by a queen sacrifice. It was in Amsterdam in the second round of the Donner Memorial (weird coincidence): q2r2k1/pb2bp1p/4pnp1/1B2BP2/Pp1N4/1P2P1Q1/6PP/5RK1 b - - 0 23 23...Nh5 24.fxe6! Rxd4 25.Qf2 1-0 || But now let us return to 2015 and watch the young Chinese boy who people are whispering will become the next threat to Carlsen. Here he takes on Vladimir Potkin, the European champion from 2011. This is round two, so everything was still to play

for in the Tata Challengers.' **1.e4**
Arsovic, Goran 1...e6

[Let's take the opportunity of White's first move to point out another remarkable Chinese victory. 1...d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 g6 6.Nb5 Qb6 Diagram



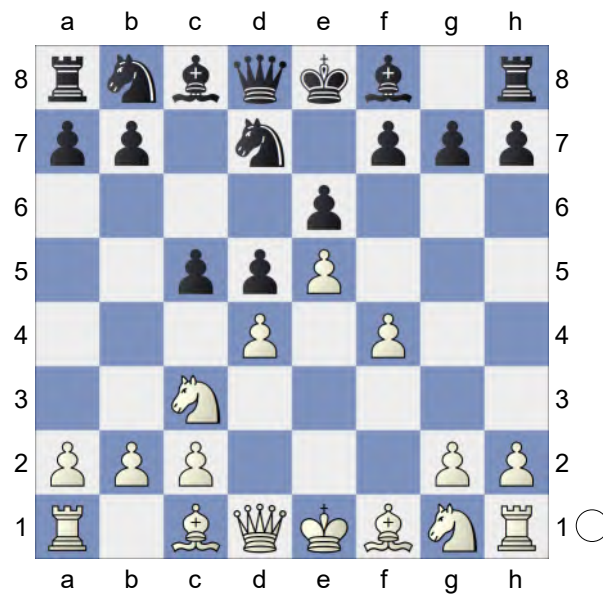
Here White started an impressive maneuver: 7.Na3 c6 8.Nc4 Qc7 9.Nce5 . Four consecutive knight moves to obtain a superfluous knight! Yet White's spatial advantage scored him a convincing win in Zhao Jun-Vakhidov, Hastings 2015. What's more Sutovsky followed the example in Gibraltar which also resulted in a very attractive victory against Spraggett. Bg7 10.Bc4 0-0 11.0-0 Nd5 12.Bb3 e6 13.c4 Nf6 14.h3 c5 15.Bf4 and White proceeded to win rather easily.]

2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5

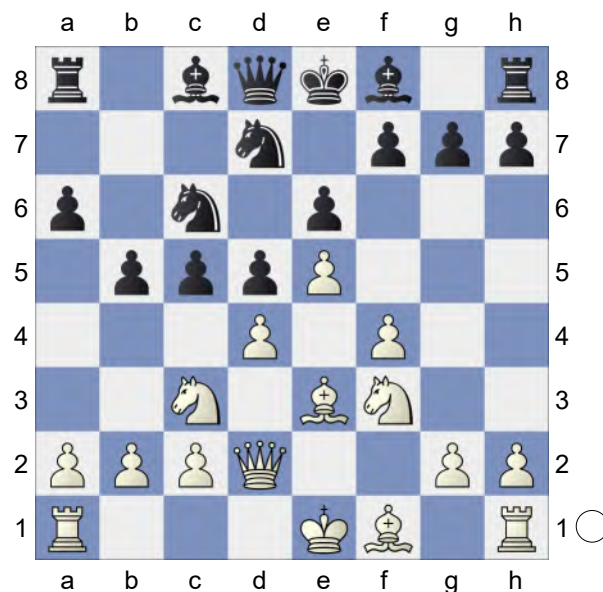
[In the last round of the tournament Potkin did not fare well against Van Kampen either after 4.Bg5 .]

4...Nfd7 5.f4 c5

(Diagram)



6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be3 a6 8.Qd2 b5
Van de Oudeweetering, Arthur: 'Diagram



9.Bd3

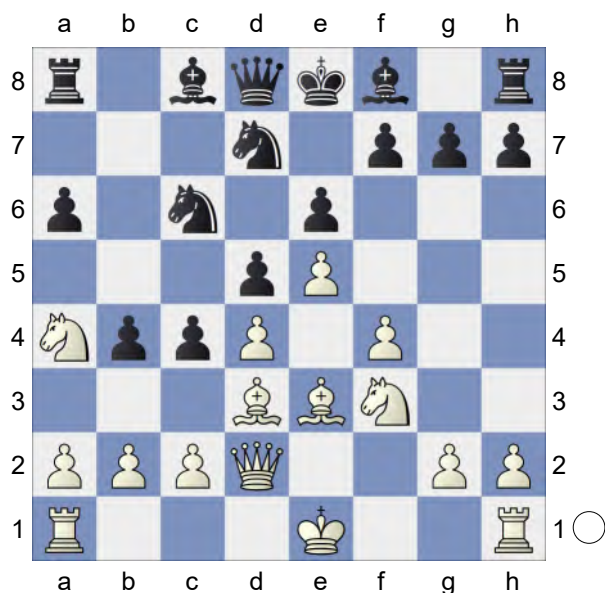
[9.dxc5 is by far the main move in the position. is by far the main move in the position. Bxc5 10.Bd3 Qb6 11.Bf2 b4 12.Na4 Bxf2+ 13.Qxf2 Qxf2+ 14.Kxf2 a5 15.Rac1 Bb7 (15...Rb8 Eliseev-Ponkratev, Moscow Open 2015) 16.c4 Ne7 17.cxd5 Bxd5 18.Bb5 Rb8 19.Nd4 Kd8 20.Rhd1 Nb6 21.Nc5 1-0 against Bajarani, Al Ain classic 2014.]

[9.a3 was Vallejo's choice against Ponkratov in the last round of the Moscow open this month. Qa5 10.Be2 b4 11.Nd1 bxa3 12.Qxa5 Nxa5 13.dxc5 . The exchange of queens did not stop him from winning quickly. Personally I find these miniatures without queens quite pleasing, as they expose a false feeling of safety.]

9...b4 10.Na4

[10.Nd1 (Arsovic,Goran) - 89/259 Qb6 (10...c4 11.Be2) 11.Qf2 a5 12.0-0 Ba6 13.Bxa6 Rxa6 14.c3]

10...c4



11.Be2 c3 Van de Oudeweetering, Arthur: 'Opening up the queenside before he gets run down on the kingside, without counterplay on the other side. All this has been seen before.' **12.Qd1**

[12.bxc3 Qa5!]

12...cxb2 13.Nxb2 Be7

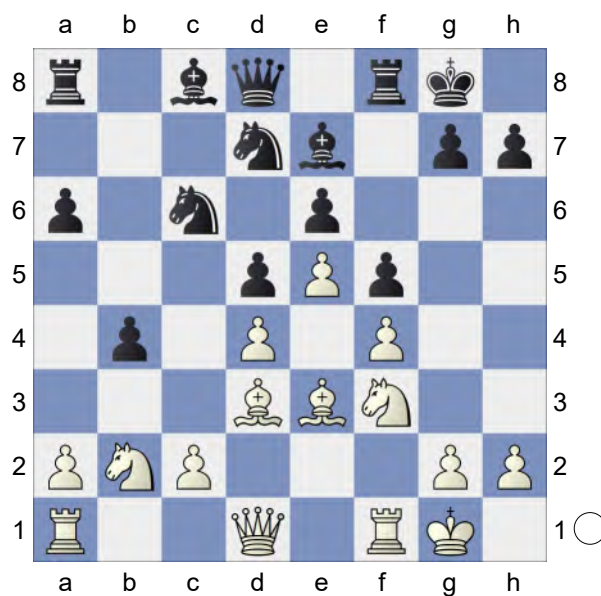
Van de Oudeweetering, Arthur: 'It seems the Chinese players have an exceptionally friendly team spirit. This is not only something which people witnessed at the last Olympiad, but also something Bu Xiangzhi noted 12 years

ago in an interview with Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam. In this position Wei Yi might have gained some insights from Wang Hao who played this position twice with Black in 2010.' **14.0-0 0-0** Van de Oudeweetering, Arthur: 'This is how Wang Hao played against Motylev, but one month later against Nakamura he decided it wise to delay castling with' The players are following the game Motylev - Wang Hao of 2010 and Svetushkin-Arizm endi of 2014. The players are following the game Motylev - Wang Hao of 2010 and Svetushkin-Arizm endi of 2014.

[14...Nb6 (actually he played Nb6 first and then Be7). After 15.Bd3 Bd7 16.Ng5 g6 17.Rf3 he quickly initiated play on the queenside with Na5 . Potkin had planned another method of play to stop White's attacking pawns on the kingside.]

15.Bd3 f5 Arsovic,Goran: 'N' 'N' Arsovic, Goran: 'N' 'N' Van de Oudeweetering, Arthur: 'Definitely blocking White's f-pawn! Diagram

[15...a5 Arsovic,Goran]



How should White follow up now?'

16.g4!? Arsovic, Goran: '!' '!' Arsovic,

Goran: '!' '!' Van de Oudeweetering,

Arthur: '!' Van de Oudeweetering, Arthur:

'Of course in itself this is a standard

method to undermine Black's broad

central pawn structure and

simultaneously open up the g-file

against the black king's position. The

surprising factor here is that it can

simply be taken. Still this has also been

seen in practice before. A direct

attacking move, this was also to the

liking of Efim Geller in his game against

Holm, Nimzowitsch Memorial 1960. And

what should we think of this more

modern example: r1b1kn1r/p1q1b1pp/

1pn1p3/3pPp2/NPpP1P2/2P1BNP1/

P5BP/ 1R1Q1RK1 w kq - 0 15 where

Edouard played his g-pawn in two moves

to g4 (like Liu Wenzhe's h2-h3 and then

h3-h4) and went on to beat Michiels

convincingly in Antwerp 2011. Finally, it

is easily imaginable that Wei Yi had

come across this position: r1bqk2r/

b2n2pp/p1n1p3/1p1pPp2/1P3P2/

P1NB1N2/2PB2PP/R2QK2R w KQkq f6

0 12 from the game Liu Wenzhe-Vaisser,

Belgrade 1988, where 12.g4! was played.

' Arsovic, Goran: '!' A bold attacking

move by the Chinese player. A bold

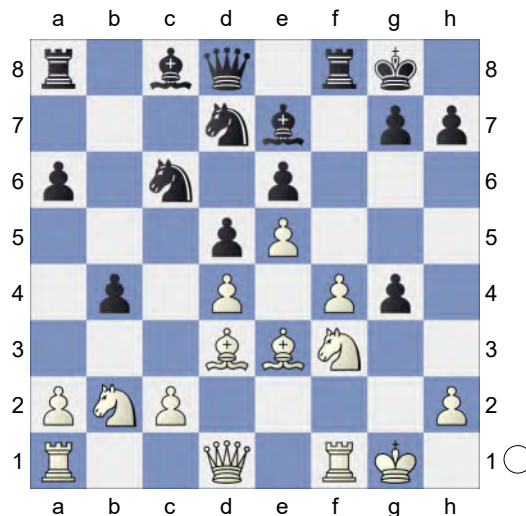
attacking move by the Chinese player.

16...a5

[16...fxg4 Van de Oudeweetering,

Arthur: 'Diagram

(Diagram)



is of course an alternative. Instead the knight should just retreat, not letting Black exchange a piece and leaving Black's clutch of pieces as it is. For instance' Van de Oudeweetering, Arthur: 'Then after the seemingly active'

A) 17.Nd2 Arsovic, Goran Qe8 18.Qxg4↑;

B) 17.Ne1 a5 (17...h5!? 18.Bg6 Rf5 is another typical French idea:

an exchange sacrifice for the light

squares. For example, you can

check Dvoretsky for this in a game

Martin Gonzales-Dolmatov,

Barcelona 1983.) 18.Qxg4 Rf7

19.Nf3 , and White will gradually

move more pieces to the kingside.;

C) 17.Ng5 Bxg5

Van de Oudeweetering, Arthur:

'With' 18.fxg5 (18.Qxg4

might seem a nice option,

connecting the rooks and also

threatening to win back the piece by

taking on e6 and c6. However Black

can reply Ndx e5 19.dxe5 Bh6

and White's attack seems too

slow.) 18...Rxf1+

Van de Oudeweetering, Arthur: 'The

attempt to speed things up with'

19.Kxf1 Van de Oudeweetering, Arthur: 'would allow typical French counterthreats like' (19.Qxf1 Arsovic,Goran Arsovic,Goran Van de Oudeweetering,Arthur: 'White can slowly win back the g4-pawn, yet Black will have the time to build a defense with g7-g6 and Ne7-f5.' Ne7 20.Qf4 g6[∞])

C1) 19...Qf8+ Arsovic,Goran
20.Kg1 Nxd4 21.Bxd4 Qf4
22.Bf2 (22.Be2 Nxe5 .)
22...Nxe5[∞];

C2) 19...Nxd4!? 20.Bxd4
Qxg5[∞]]

[16...g6 Arsovic,Goran 17.gxf5 gxf5
18.Kh1 Kh8 19.Rg1↑]

17.gxf5 exf5 18.Qe2

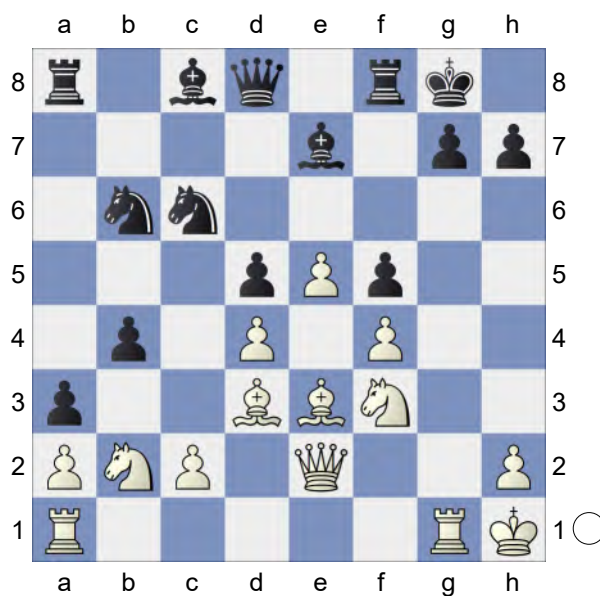
Van de Oudeweetering,Arthur: 'Stopping Black's bishop from going to a6. Black now has too many pieces struggling for the right squares.' **18...Nb6** Van de Oudeweetering,Arthur: 'Preventing White's Nb2 in order to reach a4. In general around here my engine shows the tendency for White to initiate play on the queenside. Wei Yi's approach seems the more humanly sensible one.'

[18...Qe8 19.Na4 Nd8 20.Kh1]

19.Kh1 a4 20.Rg1

Van de Oudeweetering,Arthur: 'Here it seems White can set up an attack without worrying about his offside knight on b2. It probably does serve some defensive purpose on the queenside, delaying Black's play there, but it does not seem a pretty piece. Here I was reminded of the game Caruana-Topalov from the recent Sinquefeld Cup where Fabiano sacrificed a piece and carried out a decisive onslaught on Black's king position, where he had an offside knight on a4 which just remained there for

almost 20 moves up to the end of the game! How about that? Luckily for me in the Tata Masters Aronian did confirm my dogmatism regarding offside pieces by confidently and elegantly punishing Jobava for a stranded knight on b4: r2qnrk1/3p1pb1/1p4pp/pPpP4/1nP5/7P/1P2NPP1/RBBQ1RK1 w - - 0 17 17.Ra3! Nd6 18. Rg3 Nxc4 19.Nf4, and Black lasted only five more moves. On an earlier occasion I have quoted Donner on such a knight on b4 (and you will not find it in The King), but it is just too fitting here not to repeat again: "...Black has reached his goal and the knight is now on the strong b4-square. Of course he might as well have moved it to h9 or back to the hotel, where it would in no way have been less off-side. With an extra piece on the kingside the attack is now likely to succeed," referring to his game against Hartoch, Dutch championship 1981. In the present game however Black's counterplay on the queenside soon only led to the exchange of White's awkward-looking b2-knight, which apparently was in the right defensive place after all.' **20...a3**



21.Nd1 Na4 Arsovic,Goran: '?' '?'

[21...Be6 Arsovic,Goran 22.Rg3 Nc4 23.Qg2 Rf7 24.Bf2 N6a5 25.Ne3 Nxe3 26.Bxe3 Nc4 27.Bf2 Qd7 28.h4±]

22.Rg3

[Again the engine diverts his attention to the queenside with moves like 22.Bb5]

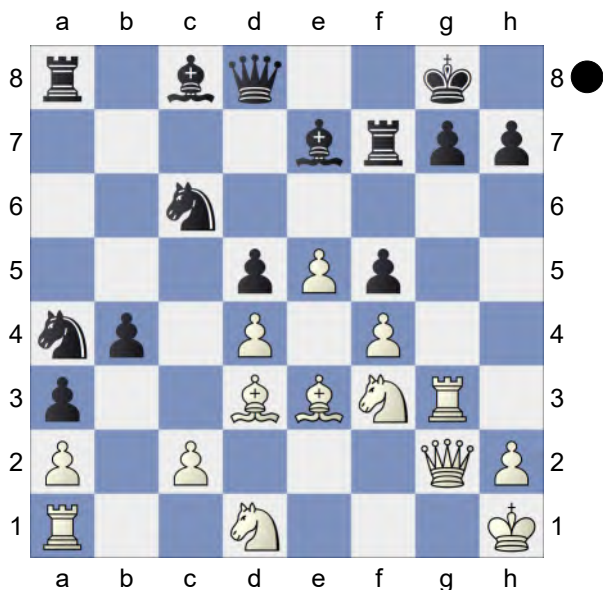
[or 22.Rb1 . Apparently no human ever told the engines they should double or triple their major pieces on the open file.]

22...Rf7

[22...Be6 was better. was better.]

23.Qg2 Arsovic,Goran: '?' '?' Arsovic, Goran: '?' '?' Van de Oudeweetering, Arthur: 'Diagram

[23.Rb1 Arsovic, Goran Nb6 (23...Be6?! 24.Bd2 g6 25.Qg2 Rg7 26.Ne3 Qd7 27.h4±) 24.Bd2 Nc4 25.Ne3 Nxe3 26.Qxe3±]



Not exactly as Alekhine taught us – the queen should be behind both rooks. But for the moment that is just impossible.'

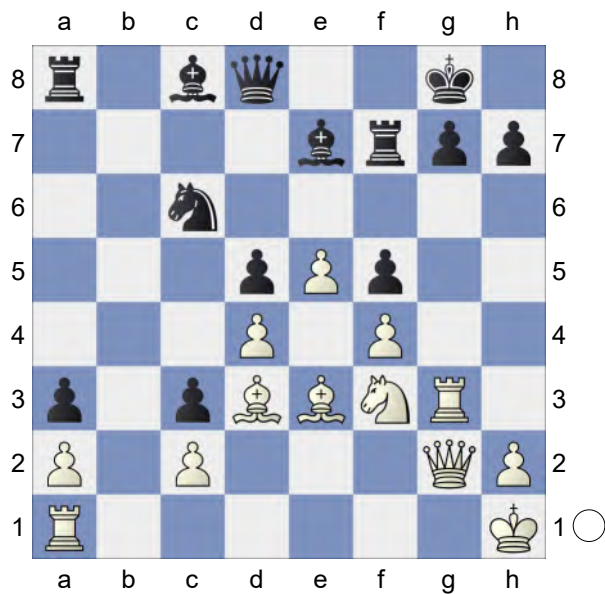
23...Nc3? Van de Oudeweetering, Arthur: 'With everything

said about the defensive purposes of the d1-knight, this does make it easy on White. If you asked me, "playing white, which piece would you like to trade in the current position?" the e3-bishop would make a good candidate, but the d1-knight would win by a large margin.' The knight on d1 is not such a great piece. It makes no sense to go out of the way and exchange it. But it is not so easy to suggest an improvement for Black. White has a simple plan of Nf2 followed by Rag1, Nh3 and putting a knight on g5. The knight on d1 is not such a great piece. It makes no sense to go out of the way and exchange it. But it is not so easy to suggest an improvement for Black. White has a simple plan of Nf2 followed by Rag1, Nh3 and putting a knight on g5.

[23...Be6 24.Nf2 Nc3 (24...Qd7 25.Rg1 Bd8 26.Bb5 Ra7 27.Bxa4 Rxa4 28.Nd3↑) 25.Rg1 Qf8 26.Nh3! Ne4 27.Bxe4 fxe4 28.Nfg5 Bxh3 29.Qxh3+-]
[23...Qd7 24.Nf2 Nd8 25.Rg1→]
[23...Na5 Arsovic,Goran 24.e6 Bxe6 25.Ne5 Qe8 26.Nxf7 (26.Bd2 Nb2) 26...Qxf7±]

24.Nxc3 bxc3 Van de Oudeweetering, Arthur: 'Diagram

(Diagram)



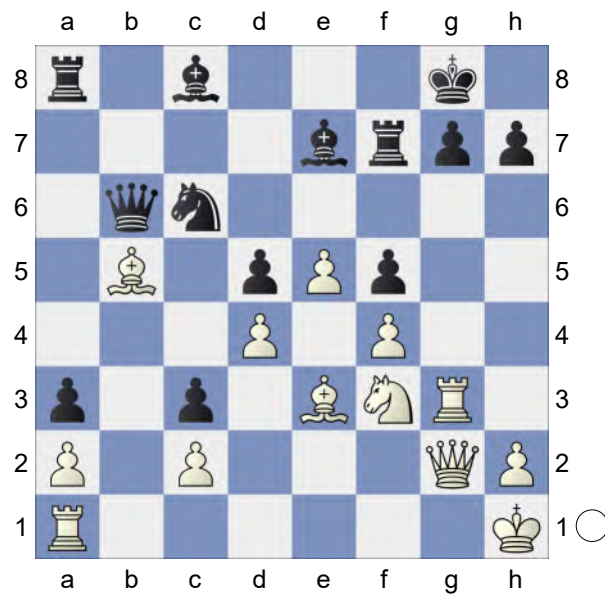
' **25.Bb5** Arsovic,Goran: '!' '!' Arsovic, Goran: '!' '!' Van de Oudeweetering, Arthur: '!' Van de Oudeweetering,Arthur: 'What's this? Switching to the queenside anyway? Well, sort of, but in the concrete variations the bishop will be attacking from e8! Very nice indeed.'

[25.Rg1 Qf8 26.Bb5 Nd8 (26...Bd7 27.Bxc6 Bxc6 28.e6+-) 27.Be8! A very nice deflecting move. A very nice deflecting move. Ne6 (27...Qxe8 28.Rxg7+ Kh8 29.Rg8+ Qxg8 30.Qxg8#) 28.Bxf7+ Qxf7 29.Ng5 Nxg5 30.fxg5 g6 (30...f4 31.g6 hxg6 32.Rxg6+-) 31.Rb1±]

25...Qb6

[25...Nb4 26.Rg1 Bf8 (26...Qf8 27.Be8; 26...g6 27.Rxg6+ hxg6 28.Qxg6+ Kh8 29.Qxf7) 27.Ng5 Rb7 (27...Rfa7 28.Nxh7 Kxh7) 28.Rh3+-]
[25...Bb7 26.e6]

(Diagram)



26.Rg1 Arsovic,Goran: '!' '!' **26...Bf8**
27.Rh3! Van de Oudeweetering,Arthur: 'White now has just too many points attacking the black king. Evidently this gives rise to some favorable tactics.'

[27.Ng5 was also strong. was also strong. Qxb5 (27...Rd7 28.e6) 28.Nxf7 Kxf7 29.Rxg7+ Bxg7 (29...Ke8 Arsovic,Goran 30.Rxh7+-) 30.Qxg7+ Ke8 31.Bf2!+- Qe2 (31...Ra7 Arsovic,Goran 32.Qh8+ Kd7 33.Qxh7+ Ne7 34.Bh4+-) 32.Qg8+ Kd7 33.Rg7+ Ne7 34.Qxd5+-]

27...g6

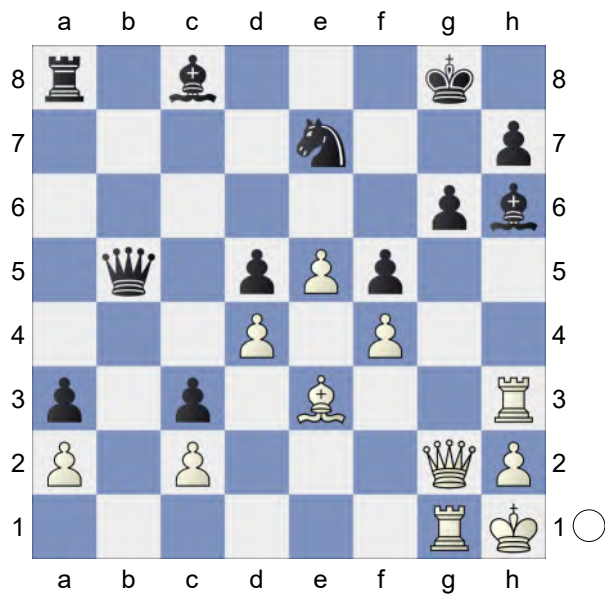
[27...Raa7 Arsovic,Goran 28.Rxh7! Kxh7 29.Qg6+ Kg8 30.Ng5+-]
[27...Nd8 28.Be8 Rb7 29.Rxh7 Kxh7 30.Bg6+ Kg8 31.Qh3]

28.Ng5 Arsovic,Goran: '+-' '+-' 28...Qxb5

[28...Raa7 Arsovic,Goran 29.Rxh7 Rxh7 30.Nxh7 Rxh7 31.Qxd5+-]

29.Nxf7 Ne7 30.Nh6+ Bxh6

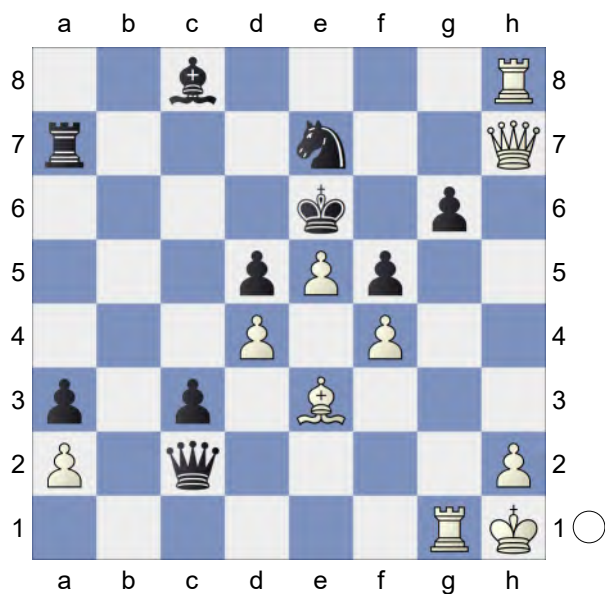
[30...Kh8 Arsovic,Goran 31.Qg5 Qe8 32.Qf6+ Bg7 33.Nf7+ Kg8 34.Nd6+-]



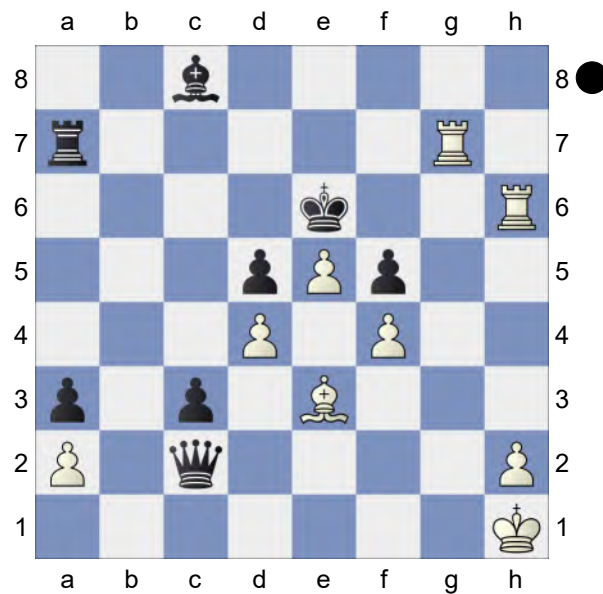
31.Rxh6 Ra7 32.Qh3 Qe2

[32...Nc6 33.Rgxg6+ hxg6 34.Rh8+ Kf7 35.Qh7+ Ke6 36.Qxg6+ Kd7 37.Qd6#]

33.Rxh7 Qxc2 34.Rh8+ Kf7 35.Qh7+ Ke6



36.Rxg6+ Van de Oudeweetering,Arthur: 'Potkin resigned.' Van de Oudeweetering,Arthur: 'leads to a clean mate after' A beautiful attacking game by Wei Yi. A beautiful attacking game by Wei Yi. **36...Kd7 37.Qxe7+ Kxe7 38.Rg7+ Ke6 39.Rh6# . Diagram**



Liu Wenzhe passed away in 2011. Will there be a Chinese school of chess as he envisioned? In any case, considering his age Wei Yi is clearly the most promising among the Chinese top players, seemingly progressing even faster than Carlsen at the same age. If you look at the FIDE rating list of the Chinese top 100 you may feel that further down the list there is still some work to do in China, as the strength of the ratings rapidly decreases. But who knows? Perhaps there is also a much broader national rating list, with even more players like Wei Yi in the make? I guess the Masters Bulletin will need a reporter in the Far East to learn more about this. Meanwhile we will just enjoy the great games of the Chinese players known to us. 1-0 (39) Wei,Y (2675)-Potkin,V (2608) Wijk aan Zee 2015 CBM 165 [Sagar,Shah]

1-0

353

□ Wei,Yi

■ Gunina,Valentina

Tata Steel-B 77th (4)

[Sagar,Shah]

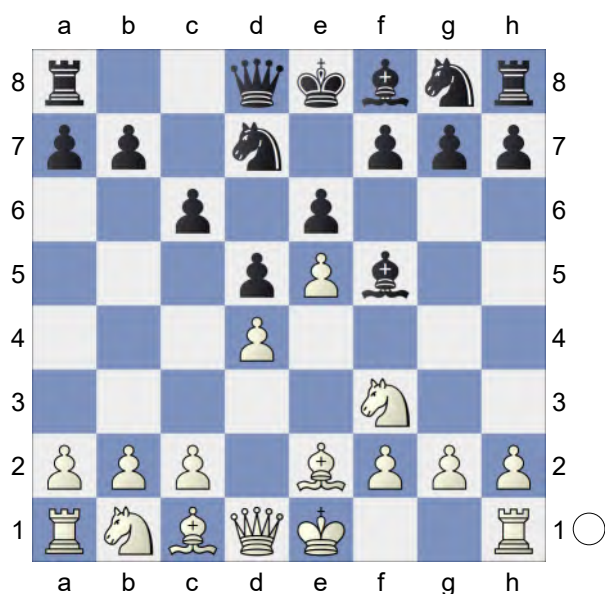
B12

2675

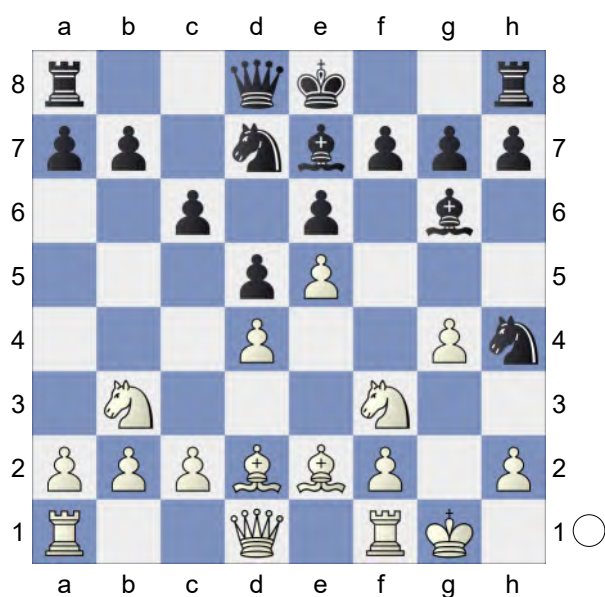
2538

13.01.2015

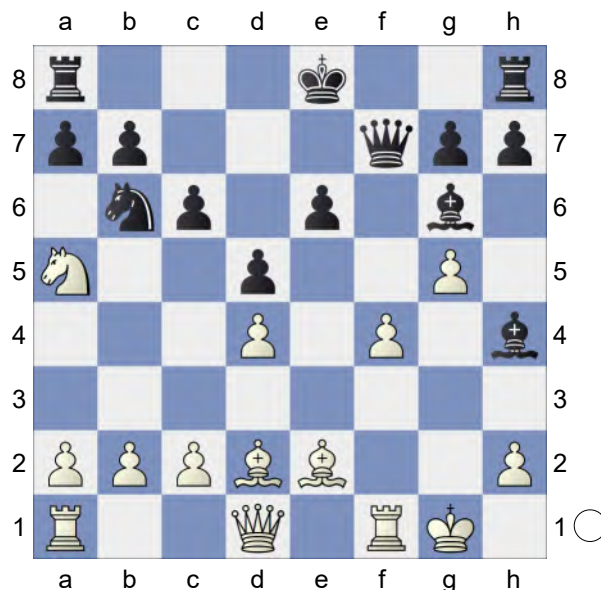
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nf3 e6
5.Be2 Nd7



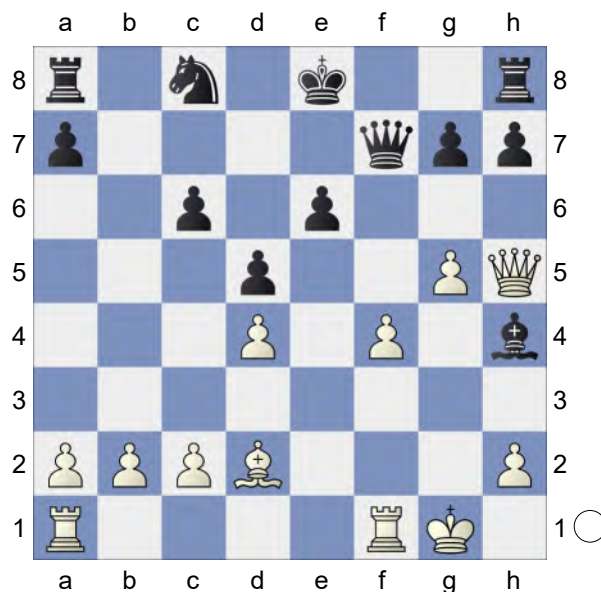
6.0-0 Bg6 7.Nbd2 Nh6 8.Nb3 Nf5
9.Bd2 Be7 10.g4 Nh4



11.Nxh4 Bxh4 12.f4 f5 13.exf6 Qxf6
14.g5 Qf7 15.Na5 Nb6



16.Bd3 Bh5 17.Nxb7 Nc8 18.Be2
Bxe2 19.Qxe2 Qxb7 20.Qh5+ Qf7



21.Qxh4 Nd6 It might seem unusual that I start my annotation from move 22 onwards but all of these moves have been seen in the game between Khalifman-Sjugirov, European Championship 2013. 22.Qh3N The first new move of the game. Kalifman had preferred Bb4. How do we assess this position? It's an imbalanced position and an excellent one for us to take into consideration the various

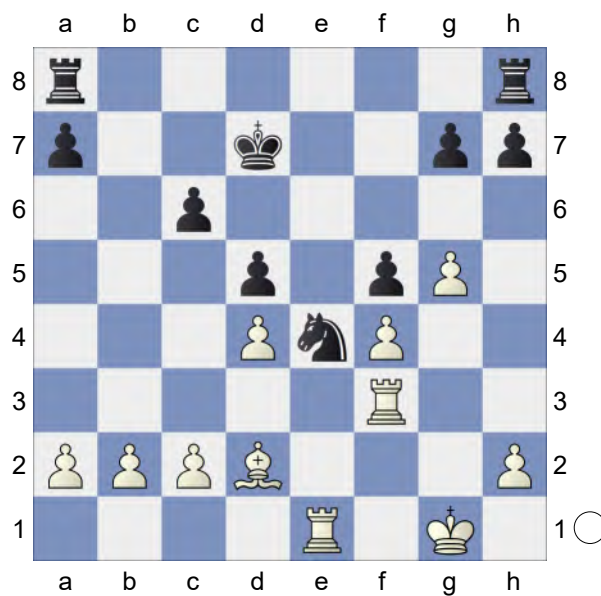
factors which go into correctly assessing the position. Materially White is a solid pawn up. But positionally there are a few trumps in Black's favour. His knight is excellently posted on d4 and has two wonderfully squares as outposts, f5 and e4. At the same time after 0-0 the rook of f8 stands quite well and also the rook on b8 will stand on the half open file. According to me Black has decent compensation. The debate is of course whether it is sufficient or not. Let's have a look. **22...Qf5!?** I find this move interesting. Black is even ready to go into a pawn down endgame on the basis of a superior minor piece.

[22...0-0? 23.Bb4!±]

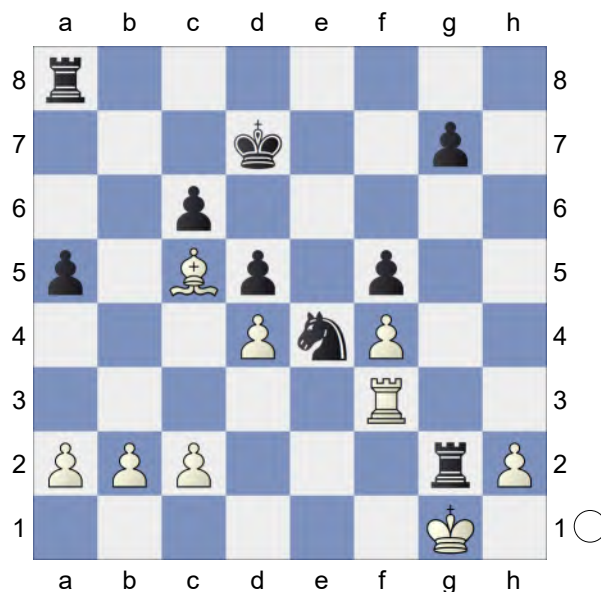
[22...Rb8! 23.Rae1 Ne4 24.Qa3 h6 (24...Nxd2 25.Qd6+-; 24...Qe7 25.Qxe7+ Kxe7 26.Bc1 a5 could be another way to play.) 25.Rxe4! (25.gxh6 Qg6+! 26.Kh1 Qxh6→) 25...dxe4 26.Qd6 Rd8 27.Qxc6+ Qd7 28.Qxe4 hgx5 (28...Qxd4+ 29.Qxd4 Rxd4 30.Bc3±) 29.Qg6+ Qf7 30.Qxf7+ Kxf7 31.fxg5+ Kg6= And the game should be equal.]

23.Qxf5 exf5 24.Rf3 Kd7 25.Re1 Ne4

(Diagram)



26.Bb4 a5 27.Bc5 h6! 28.gxh6 Rxh6 29.Re2 Rg6+ 30.Rg2 Rxc2+

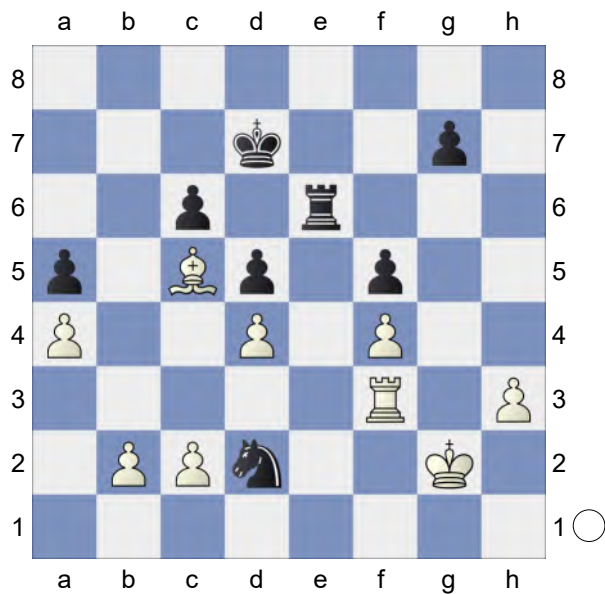


31.Kxg2 Re8 32.a4 Re6

[32...Nxc5 33.dxc5 Re2+ 34.Rf2 Re3= is a drawish endgame.]

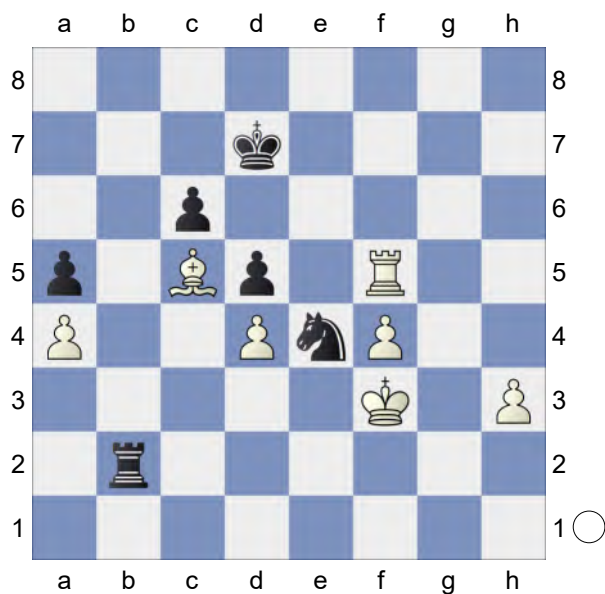
33.h3 Nd2 34.Rf2 Ne4 35.Rf3 Nd2

(Diagram)



36.Rg3 g5!? 37.Rxg5 Re2+ 38.Kg3 Ne4+ 39.Kf3 Rxc2 40.Rxf5 Rxb2

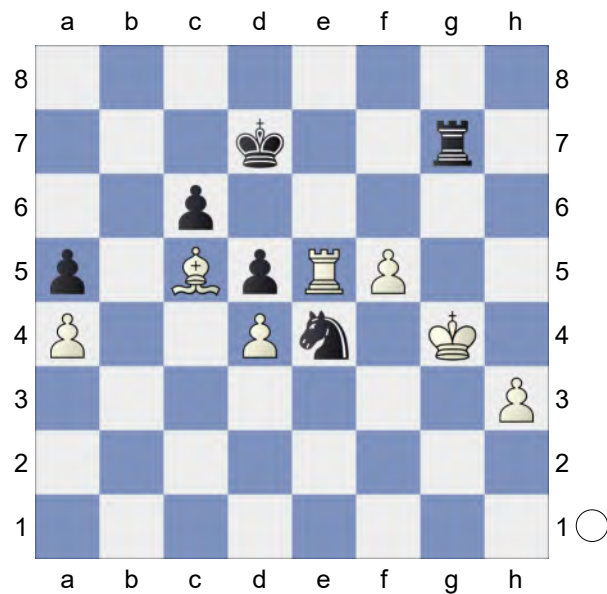
[40...Rf2+ 41.Ke3 (41.Kg4 Rg2+ 42.Kh4 Rxb2) 41...Rxb2 might be more accurate as later the king cannot go to g4.]



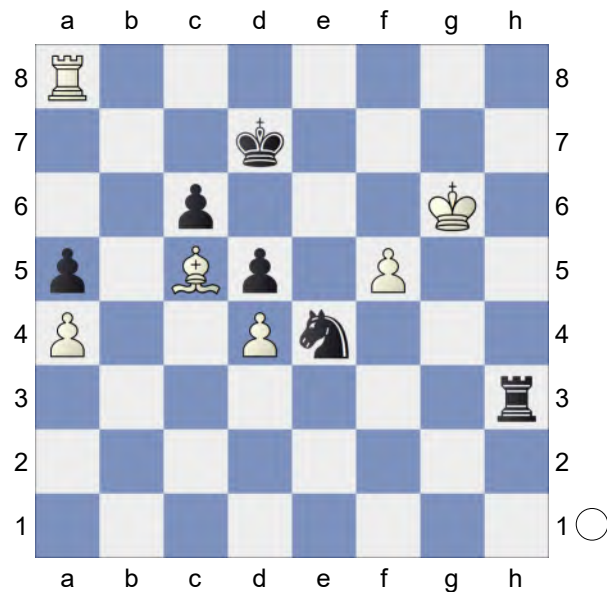
41.Re5 Rb3+ 42.Kg4 Rg3+ 43.Kh4 Rg7?

[43...Rc3! It was imperative to remain active.]

44.f5 Rh7+ 45.Kg4 Rg7+
(Diagram)

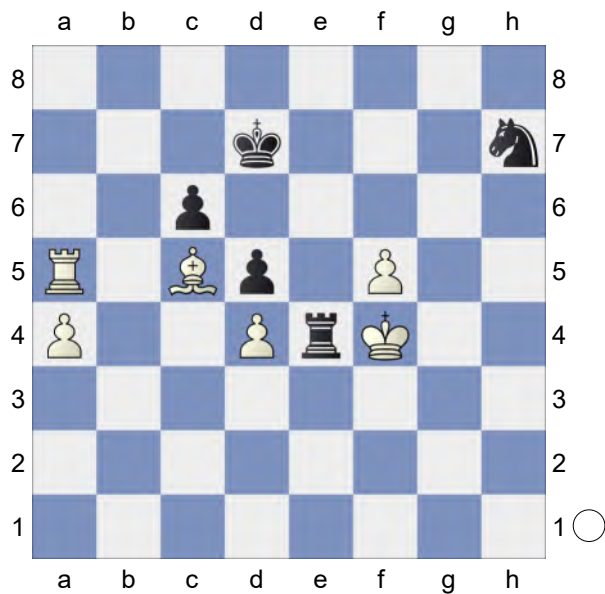


46.Kh5 Rh7+ 47.Kg6 Rxh3 48.Re7+ Kd8 49.Ra7 Ke8 50.Ra8+ Kd7

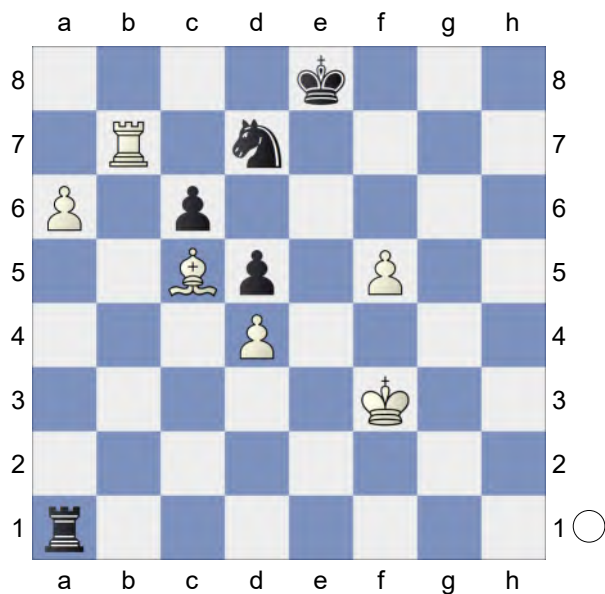


51.Rxa5 Rg3+ 52.Kf7 Ng5+ 53.Kf6 Nh7+ 54.Ke5 White is just winning now.
The a-pawn will prove to be too strong.
54...Re3+ 55.Kf4 Re4+

(Diagram)

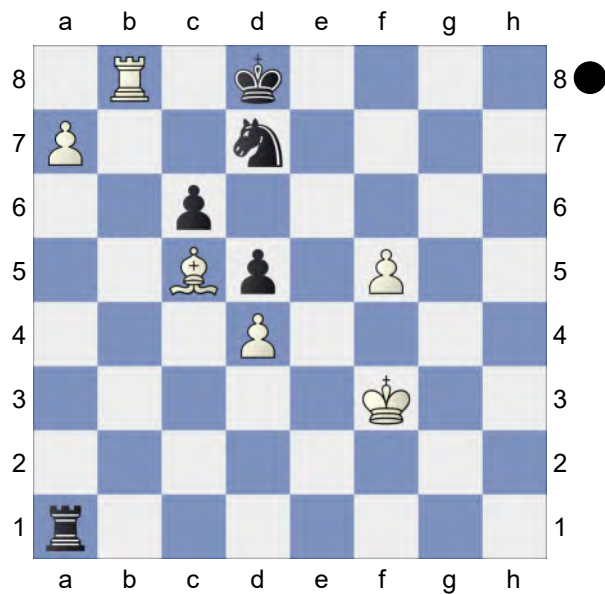


**56.Kf3 Nf6 57.Ra7+ Ke8 58.a5 Nd7
59.a6 Re1 60.Rb7 Ra1**



61.a7 Kd8 62.Rb8+

(Diagram)



Gunina assessed the opening position correctly. Black has enough compensation to hold the balance. She even showed it till move 40 by making perfect moves. But imperceptibly everything started going downhill for her and finally Wei Yi's a-pawn gave him the full point.

1-0

202

□ Wei,Yi

■ Bu,Xiangzhi

Danzhou 6th (9)

[Sagar,Shah]

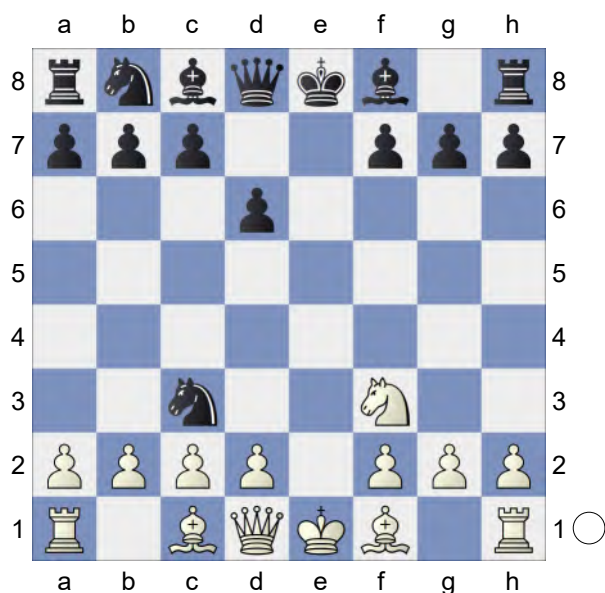
C42

2724

2695

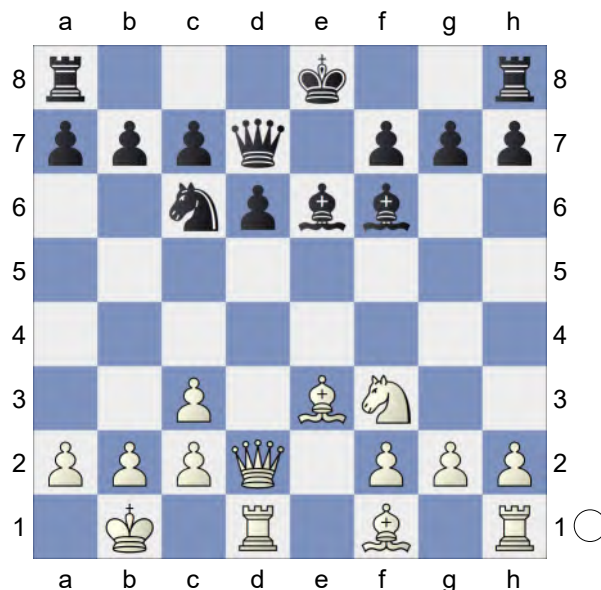
11.07.2015

After his win against Batista Bruzon in round two, everyone felt that Wei Yi would do exceptionally well in the tournament. He did not live up to the expectations scoring just +1 in the event. However, his last round battle against Bu Xiangzhi is worthy of close inspection not only because Wei Yi was completely winning but this game shows the other side of the 16-year-old Chinese grandmaster. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Nc3 Nxc3



6.dxc3 Be7 7.Be3 Nc6 8.Qd2 Be6
9.0-0-0 Qd7 10.Kb1 Bf6

(Diagram)



11.h3 h5!? Stopping White's expansion with g4. 12.Nd4 Bxd4!?

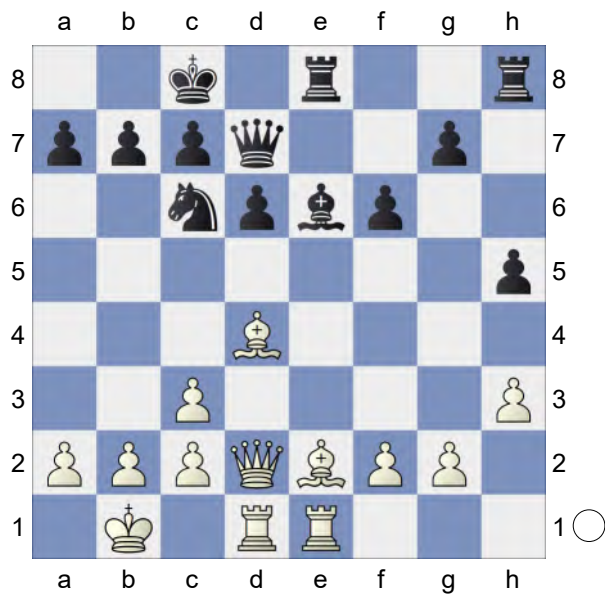
[12...Nxd4 looks more natural but after 13.Bxd4 The bishop on f6 feels uncomfortable because it cannot really move off the diagonal. Bxd4 14.Qxd4± The centrally posted queen is very powerful and gives White a small edge.]

13.Bxd4

[13.cxd4 d5 14.Bf4± was another valid option.]

13...f6 Black would not like to take on d4 and centralize the white queen but in that process he will leave White with a bishop pair. 14.Be2 0-0-0 15.Rhe1 Rde8

(Diagram)



16.Be3± White is slightly better as he has the bishop pair. His plan includes, retaining the bishops and slowly but surely advancing his queenside pawns. Look how Wei Yi achieves this. **16...Bf7**

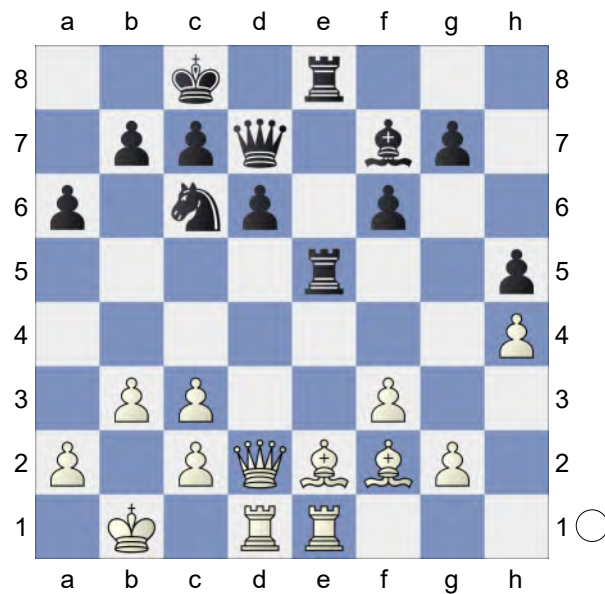
17.b3 Re7 18.f3 Rhe8

[18...h4 19.Bf2 g5 is possible but later f4 break would be pretty strong.]

19.Bf2 a6 20.h4 Re5

[20...Ne5 is a good square for the knight as it cannot be kicked off with f4, it will jump into g4. But White will just improve with Kb2, a4 etc and Black will not be able to do much.]

(Diagram)



21.Bf1 Rd5

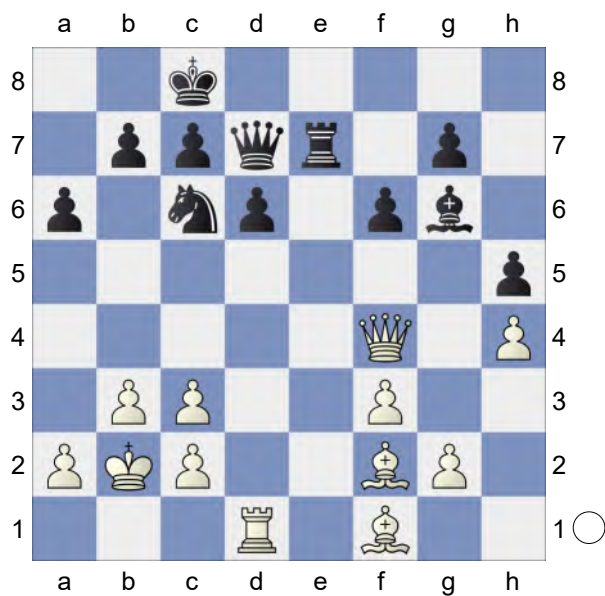
[21...Rxe1 22.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 23.Qxe1 Qf5 could have been a better way to play. In the game, White is able to retain one of his rooks and that puts additional pressure on Black.]

22.Qf4

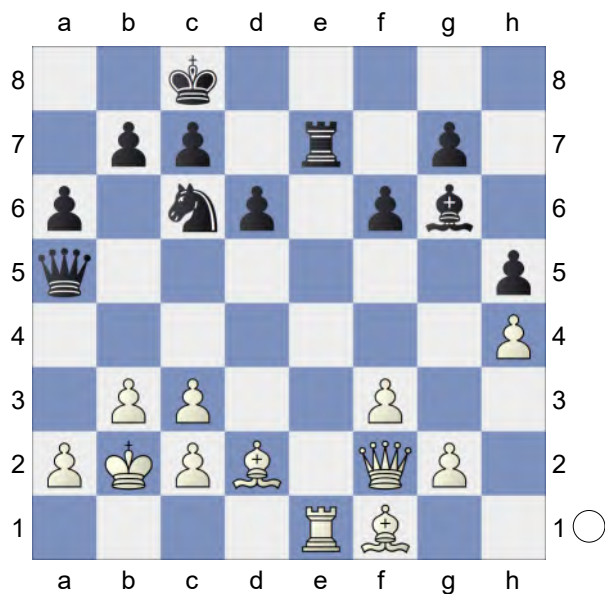
[22.Rxe8+ Qxe8 23.Bd4! is a strong move because the rook on d5 is completely misplaced. Nxd4 24.cxd4 c5 25.c3 cxd4 26.cxd4±]

22...Rxe1 23.Rxe1 Re5 24.Rd1 Bg6 25.Kb2! improving the position of the king. **25...Re7**

(Diagram)

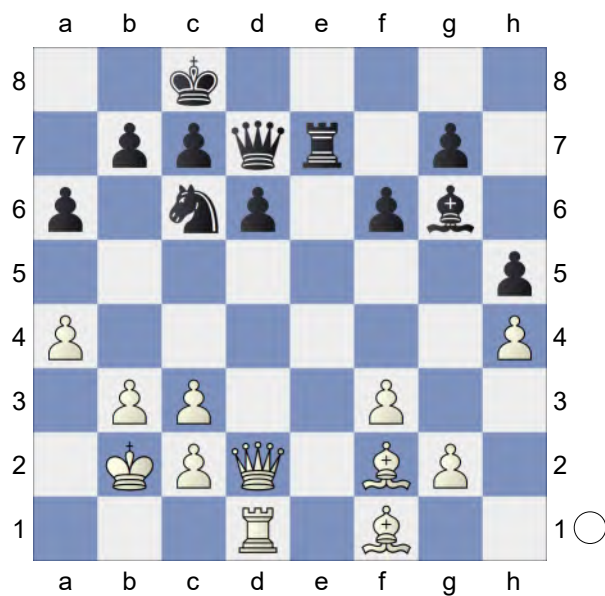


26.Qd2 Re8 27.Be1 Re7 28.Qf2 Qe6
29.Bd2 Qe5 30.Re1 Qa5



31.Be3 Qe5 32.a4! The queenside
 pawn offensive begins. **32...Kd7 33.Qd2**
Kc8 34.Bf2 Qf5 35.Rd1 Qd7

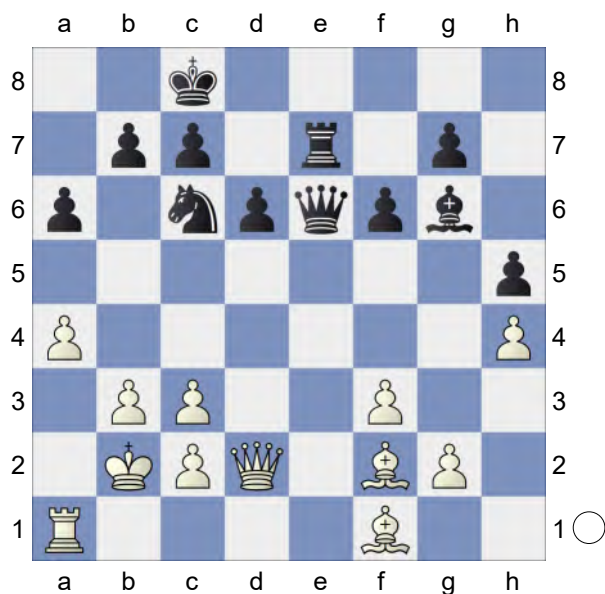
(Diagram)



36.Be1 Qe6 37.Bf2 Qd7 38.Ra1!

An excellent move White now plans to
 activate his rook along the fourth rank
 with a5 and Ra4. Though objectively it
 might not be the best idea yet it makes
 some progress in the position and
 forces Black to take some concrete
 measures. **38...Qe6 39.Bc4 Qd7**
40.Bf1 You can see how Wei Yi patiently
 repeats the position many times in the
 game. This is always a good idea when
 you are pressing in the position as it
 sometimes frustrates your opponent and
 makes him commit some hasty decision.
40...Qe6

(Diagram)



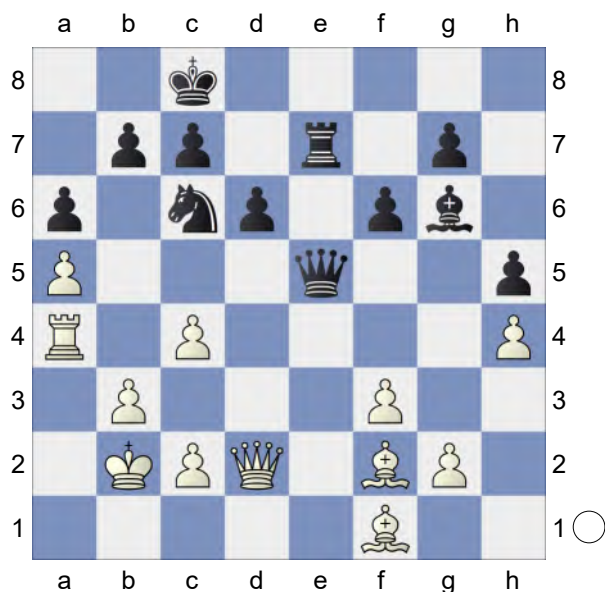
41.a5 Qe5 42.Bc4 Qf5

[42...Nxa5? 43.Re1 Nxc4+
44.bxc4+-]

43.Ra4 Qd7

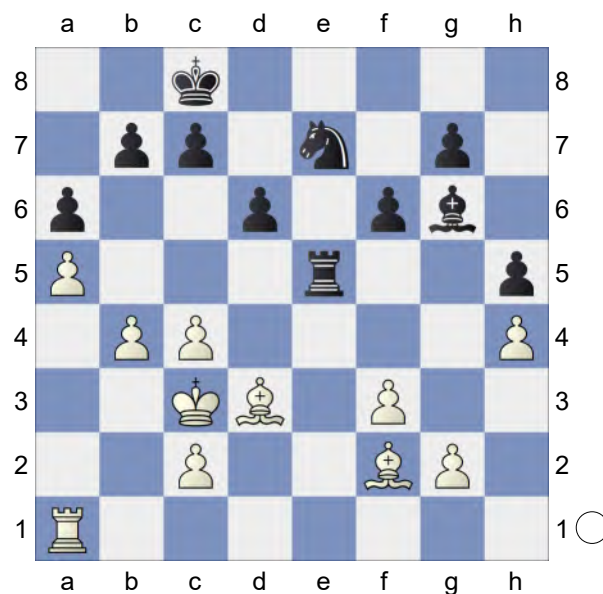
[43...Nxa5 44.Bd3±]

44.Bf1 Qe6 45.c4 Qe5+



46.Qc3 Qxc3+ 47.Kxc3 The queens are exchanged and in a way it becomes easier to push the queenside pawns now. **47...Re5 48.b4 Ne7 49.Ra1** The well placed bishops and rook along with the king and the queenside pawn storm give White excellent chances.

49...Nf5 50.Bd3 Ne7



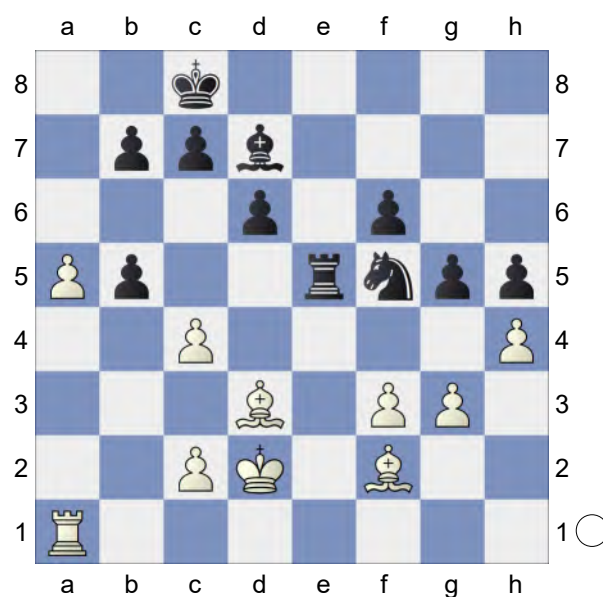
51.Bf1 Once again you see the repetition in action. **51...Nf5 52.Kd2 Be8 53.Bd3 Bd7 54.b5 g5** Finally Black decides something must be done but it is already quite late.

[54...axb5 55.f4 Re7 56.cxb5±]

55.g3 A patient move.

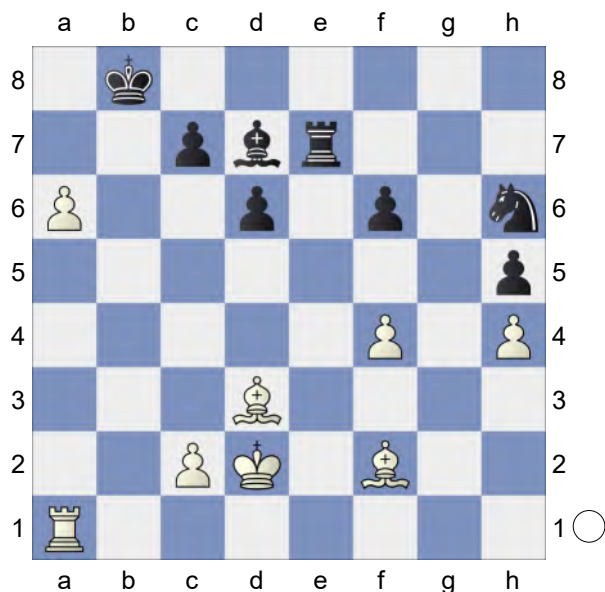
[Wei Yi didn't want to spice up the matters with 55.bxa6 bxa6 56.c5!?±]

55...axb5

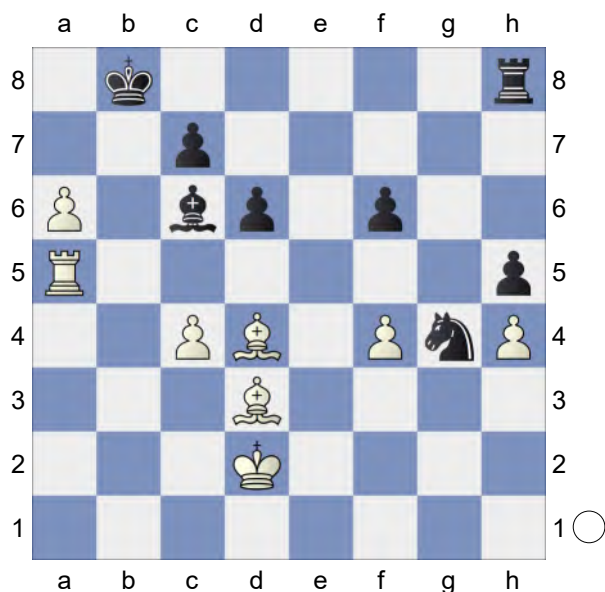


56.f4 gxf4 57.gxf4 Re7 58.cxb5 Nh6 **59.a6** With patience and level headed

play Wei Yi has been able to crown his strategy by creating an outside passer. He now has a completely winning position. **59...bxa6 60.bxa6 Kb8**



61.Bd4 Ng4 62.Be2 Bc6 preventing Bf3. 63.Ra5 Rh7 64.Bd3 Rh6 65.c4 Rh8

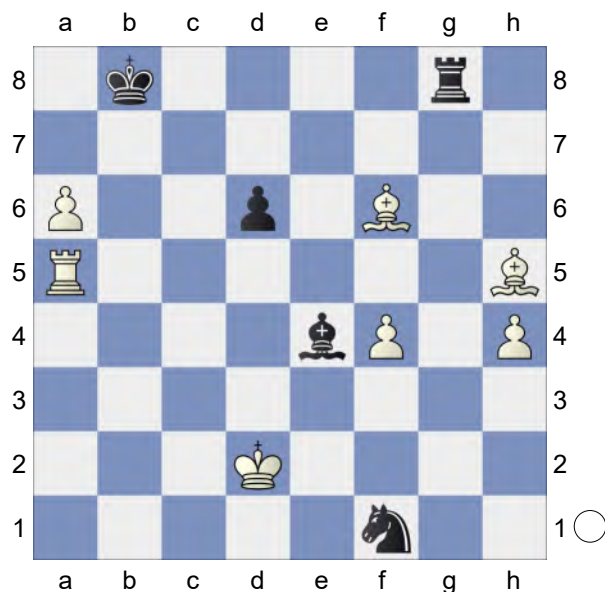


66.Bg6 The positional advantages will now be converted into a material plus.

66...Rg8 67.Bxh5

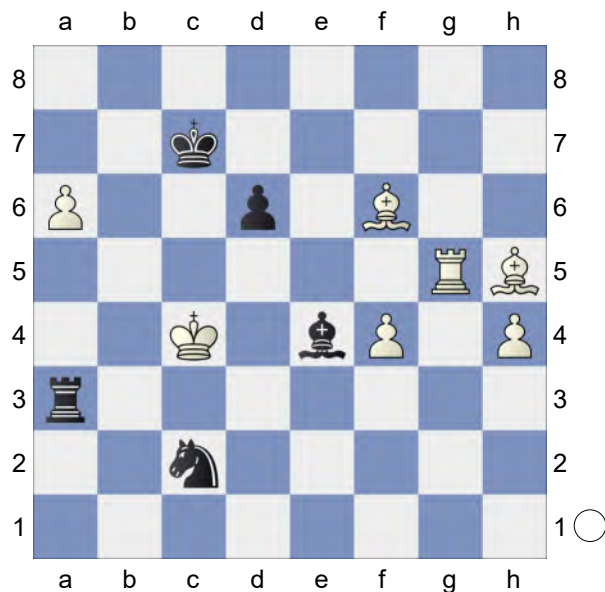
[67.Rxh5 was maybe even better as the bishop was taboo thanks to back rank mate.]

67...Be4 68.c5 Nh2 69.cxd6 cxd6 70.Bxf6 White is two pawns up and it should all be over within a few moves now **70...Nf1+**



71.Kc3 Rg3+ 72.Kb4 Ne3 73.Rb5+ [73.Rg5! Nd5+ 74.Kc4 Nxf6 75.Rxg3 Nxh5 76.Rg5 Nxf4 77.Rg4 d5+ 78.Kc5+- followed by Kb6 and it's all over.]

73...Kc7 74.Rg5 Nc2+ 75.Kc4 Ra3



76.Rg7+ Kb6 77.Bd4+ Ka5

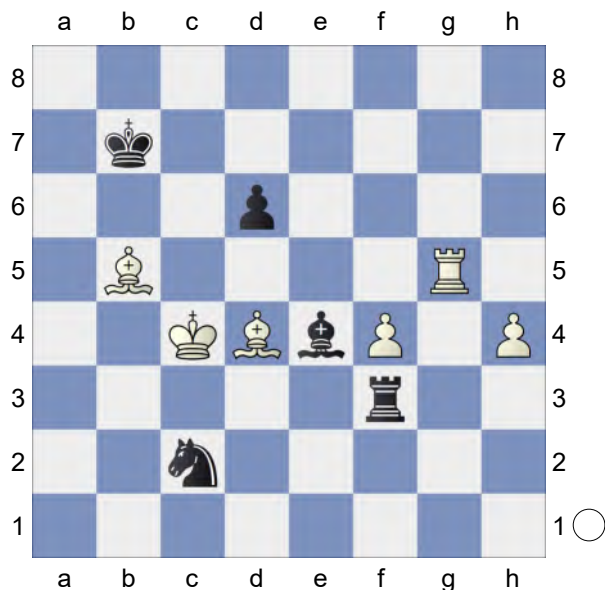
[77...Kxa6 78.Ra7#]

78.Be8? A bad mistake by Wei Yi which

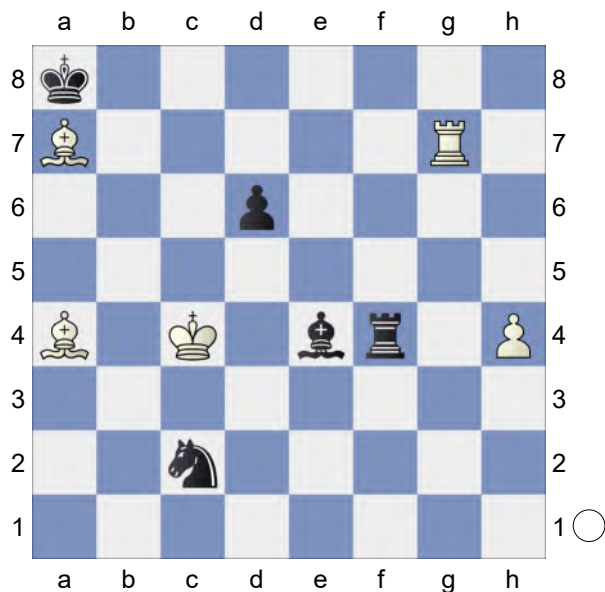
throws away almost all the advantage.

[78.a7! Ra4+ 79.Kc3 Rxd4
(79...Nxd4 80.a8Q+ Bxa8 81.Ra7+
Kb5 82.Rxa4 Kxa4 83.Kxd4+-)
80.Bg6!+- A difficult move to see from
far. The bishop on e4 is over loaded
and White wins the game.]

78...Rf3 79.Rg5+ Kxa6 80.Bb5+ Kb7



**81.Rg7+ Kb8 82.Rg8+ Kb7 83.Rg7+
Kb8 84.Ba7+ Ka8 85.Ba4 Rxf4**



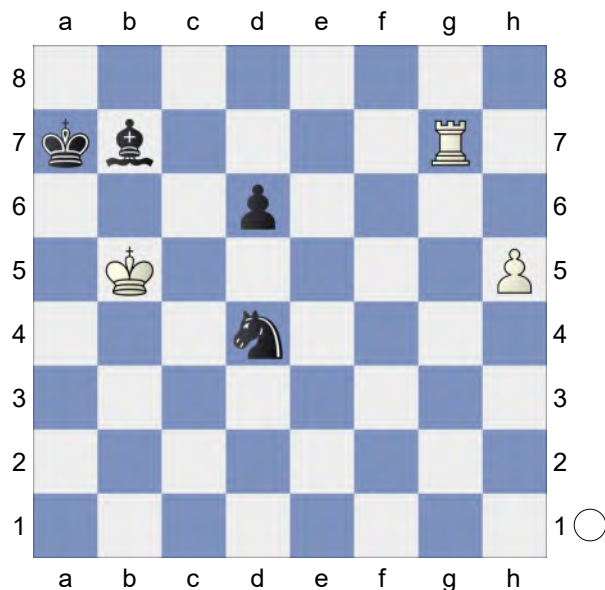
86.Kb5 Bb7?

[86...Rxf4 87.Kb6 Rh8±]

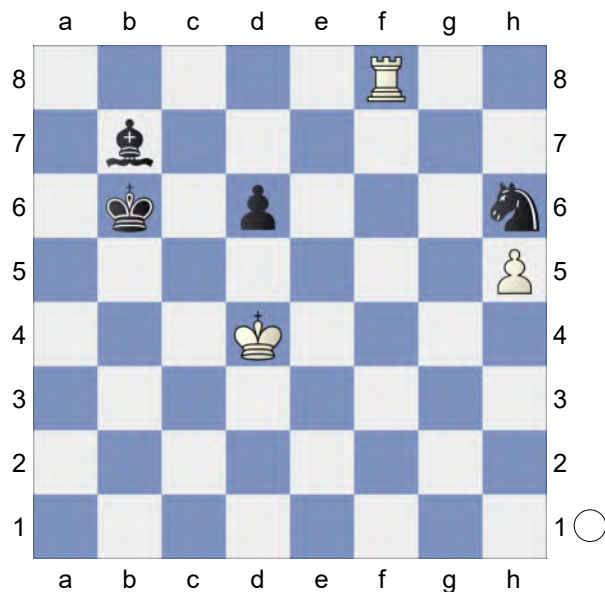
87.Kb6

[87.Bg1!! The only available square
for the bishop but good enough to win.
Na3+ 88.Kb6 Rb4+ 89.Ka5 Rxf4
90.Rg8+-]

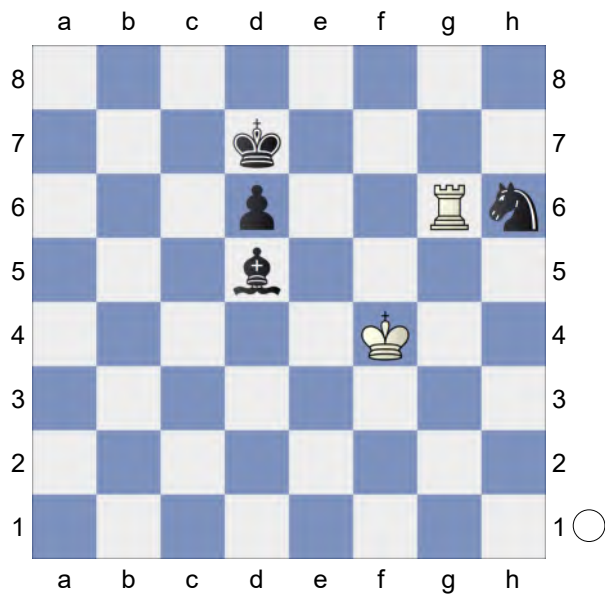
**87...Rb4+ 88.Bb5 Rxb5+! 89.Kxb5
Kxa7** Black has overcome the worst and
now defends the position without any
difficulties. **90.h5 Nd4+**



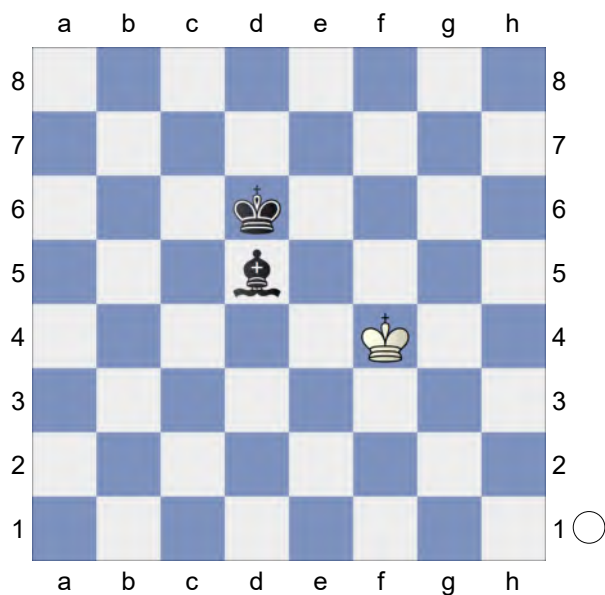
**91.Kc4 Nf5 92.Rf7 Nh6 93.Rf6 Ng8
94.Rf8 Nh6 95.Kd4 Kb6**



**96.Ke3 Bd5 97.Kf4 Nf7 98.Rg8 Kc6
99.Rg6 Kd7 100.h6 Nxh6**
(Diagram)



101.Rxh6 Kc6 102.Rxd6+ Kxd6



A sad end to the game for Wei Yi but an experienced chess player will surely be in awe of his technique as well as patience. It was a great technical effort to milk that small advantage against a strong player like Bu Xiangzhi.

$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

209

□ Wei, Yi

■ Bu, Xiangzhi

Danzhou 6th (9)

[Sagar, Shah]

C34

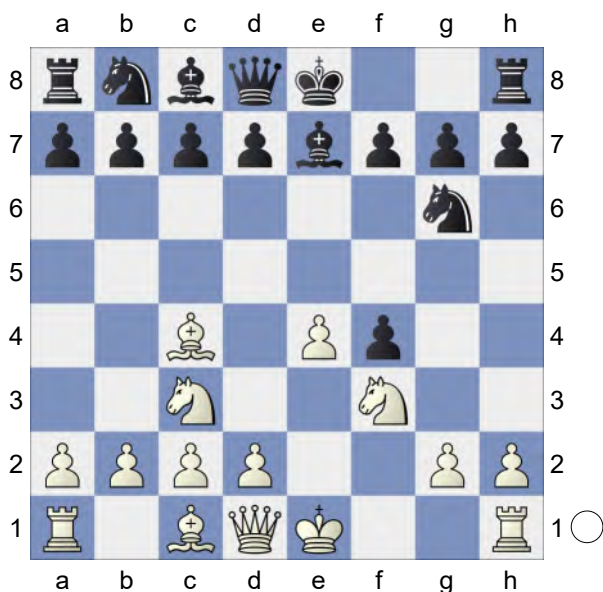
2724

2695

11.07.2015

After his win against Batista Bruzon in round two, everyone felt that Wei Yi would do exceptionally well in the tournament. He did not live up to the expectations scoring just +1 in the event. However, his last round battle against Bu Xiangzhi is worthy of close inspection not only because Wei Yi was completely winning but this game shows the other side of the 16-year-old Chinese grandmaster. 1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Bc4 Ne7 4.Nc3 Ng6 5.Nf3 Be7

[5...Nc6 6.d4! Bb4 7.Bd2 d6 8.a3 Ba5 9.Nd5]



6.0-0

[6.d4 c6+- 7.Ne5 Nxe5 8.dxe5± b5! 9.Bb3 a5 10.a3 a4!+- A difficult move to see from far. The bishop on e4 is over loaded and White wins the

game. 11.Ba2 d6 12.Bxf4 dxe5 13.Bxe5 Qxd1+ 14.Rxd1 f6+- 15.Bf4]

6...c6

[6...0-0 7.d4 White is two pawns up and it should all be over within a few moves now

A) 7...d6 8.Ne2 Bg4 9.Bxf4 (9.Nxf4) 9...Nxf4 10.Nxf4 Bg5 (10...Nd7!! The only available square for the bishop but good enough to win. 11.Qd3 Nb6 12.Bb3) 11.Qd2 Nd7 12.Nxg5 Qxg5 13.Qd3 Nf6 14.h3 Bd7 15.Nd5 Nxd5 16.Bxd5 c6 17.Bb3 Rae8 18.Rae1 Be6 A sad end to the game for Wei Yi but an experienced chess player will surely be in awe of his technique as well as patience. It was a great technical effort to milk that small advantage against a strong player like Bu Xiangzhi.;

B) 7...c6 8.Bb3 (8.Ne2 d5) 8...a5 9.Kh1 (9.a4 d6 10.Ne2 Be6 11.c3 Qb6 12.Bc2 Bc4 13.Bd3? Bb3 14.Qe1 Ne5 15.Bb1! Bc4 16.Kh1 Black has overcome the worst and now defends the position without any difficulties. Qa6) 9...d6 10.Ne1 b5 11.a4 b4 12.Ne2 Be6 13.c3 Bxb3 14.Qxb3 d5 15.exd5? A bad mistake by Wei Yi which throws away almost all the advantage. Qxd5 16.Qc2 bxc3 17.bxc3 Qc4 18.Qd3 Qxd3 19.Nxd3]

7.d4 d6

[7...d5 8.exd5 b5 9.Bb3 b4 preventing Bf3. 10.Ne2 (10.d6 Qxd6 11.Ne4) 10...cxd5 11.Nxf4 Nxf4 12.Bxf4 0-0 13.Ne5 The positional advantages will now be converted into

a material plus.]

[7...0-0 8.Ne2 d5]

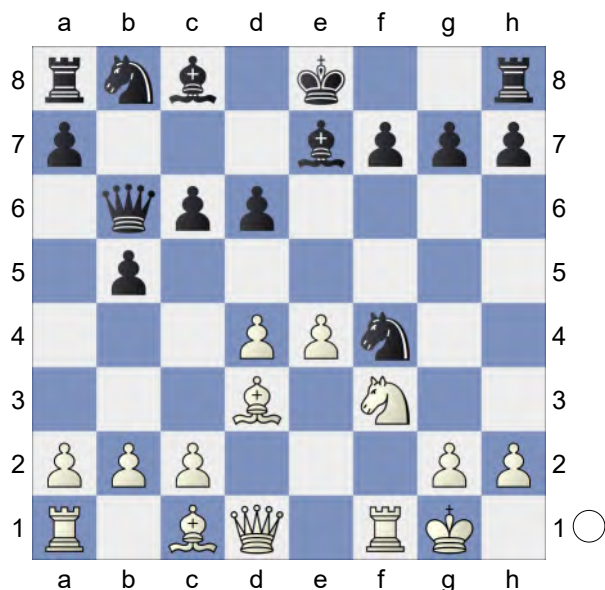
8.Ne2 b5

[8...d5 9.exd5 cxd5 10.Bd3 Nc6 11.Nxf4 Nxf4 Finally Black decides something must be done but it is already quite late. 12.Bxf4 A patient move. Qb6 (12...0-0 13.c3) 13.Rf2 Bg4 (13...Qxb2 14.c4 With patience and level headed play Wei Yi has been able to crown his strategy by creating an outside passer. He now has a completely winning position.) 14.c3 0-0 15.Qc2]

9.Bd3

[9.Bb3 Once again you see the repetition in action.]

9...Qb6 10.Nxf4 Nxf4



11.Bxf4 0-0!? Stopping White's expansion with g4. 12.c3 Bg4!? 13.a4

[13.Qc2 h6 (13...Nd7 14.e5) 14.Qf2 Nd7 The well placed bishops and rook along with the king and the queenside pawn storm give White excellent chances. 15.Qg3]

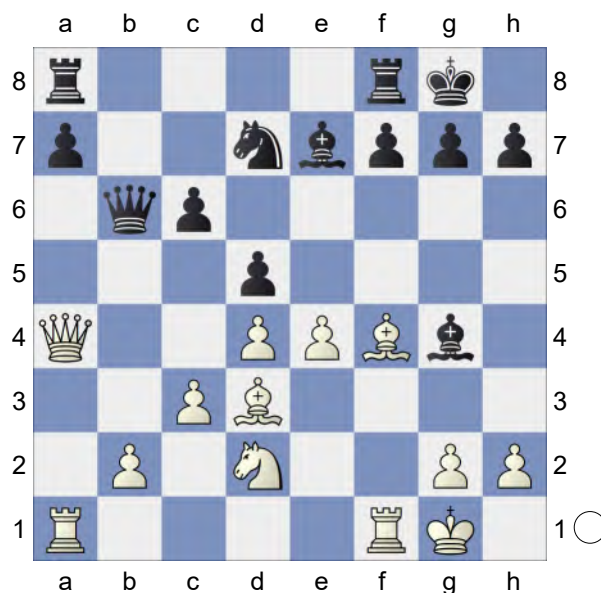
13...bxa4 Black would not like to take on d4 and centralize the white queen but in that process he will leave White with a

bishop pair.

[13...b4 14.a5 Qb7 15.Qb3 c5 16.dxc5 dxc5 17.Ne5 Be6 18.Bc4 The queens are exchanged and in a way it becomes easier to push the queenside pawns now.]

14.Qxa4 Nd7 15.Nd2 d5

[15...Be6 16.Nc4 You can see how Wei Yi patiently repeats the position many times in the game. This is always a good idea when you are pressing in the position as it sometimes frustrates your opponent and makes him commit some hasty decision. Qc7 17.Qa3 Rfb8 18.Rf2]



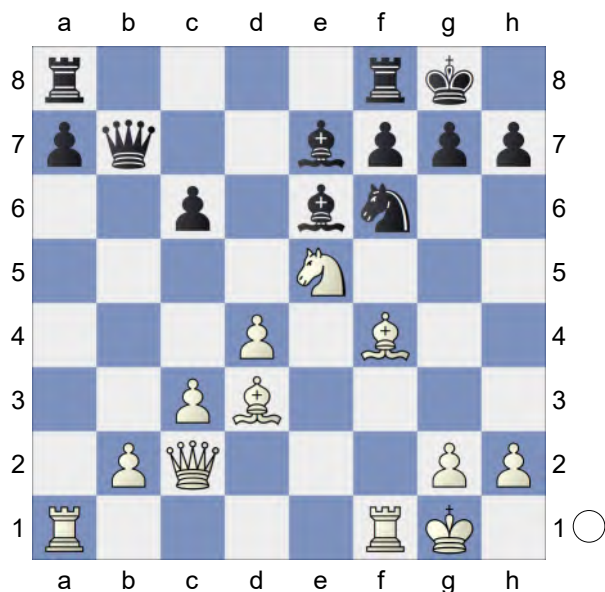
16.Qc2± White is slightly better as he has the bishop pair. His plan includes, retaining the bishops and slowly but surely advancing his queenside pawns. Look how Wei Yi achieves this. 16...dxe4 17.Bxe4 Nf6 18.Nc4 Qb5 19.Bd3

[19.Ne5 Nxe4! An excellent move White now plans to activate his rook along the fourth rank with a5 and Ra4. Though objectively it might not be the best idea yet it makes some progress

in the position and forces Black to take some concrete measures.

20.Qxe4 Be6]

19...Be6 20.Ne5 Qb7



21.b4 Bd5 22.Bf5 h6

[22...Rfd8 23.Qe2 h6 24.c4]

23.Qd3 Rfe8

[23...Nh5 24.Be3 Nf6 25.c4!

The queenside pawn offensive begins.]

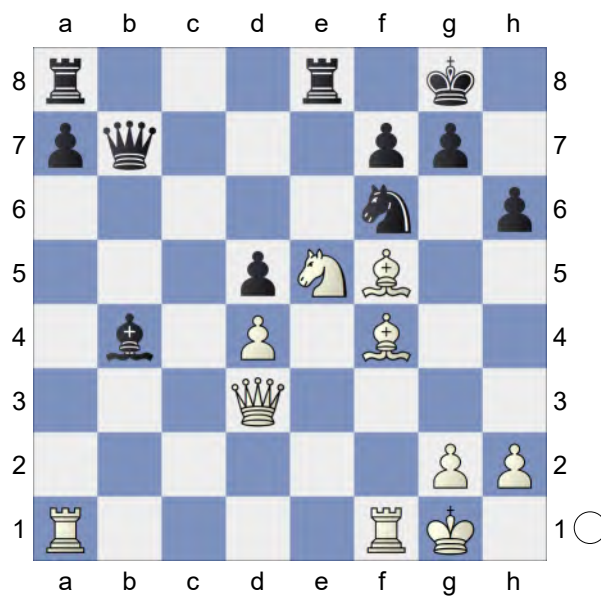
[23...Qb6 24.c4 Be6 25.Bxe6 fxe6 26.c5]

24.c4 Bxb4

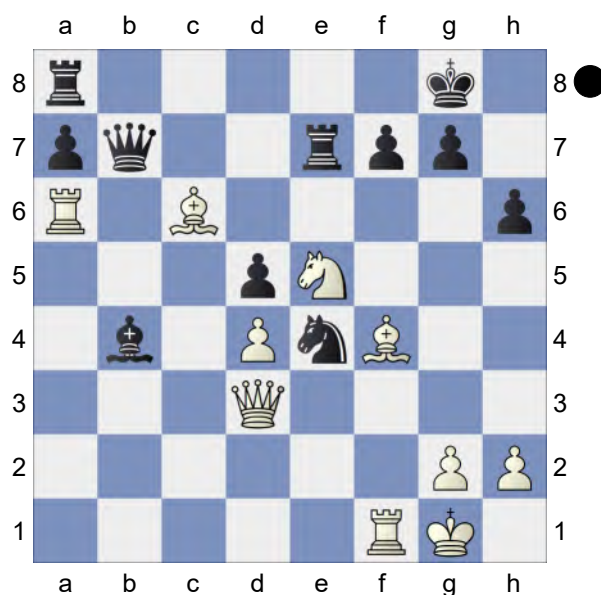
[24...Be6 25.Bxe6 fxe6 26.Bxh6]

25.cxd5! improving the position of the king. 25...cxd5

(Diagram)



26.Ra6 Ne4 27.Bd7 Re7 28.Bc6



1/2-1/2

206

□ Wei, Yi

■ Bruzon Batista, Lazaro

Danzhou 6th (2)

[Sagar, Shah]

B85

2724

2669

03.07.2015

Sokolov, Ivan: 'Wei Yi (b. 1999) is youngest of the four dragons and has a very sharp eye for tactics!' Doe, John: 'Gy, Pap: 'An immortal game was played by the 16-year old Chinese talent, Wei Yi! He crushes his Cuban opponent with some beautiful and shocking sacrifices.' There is something about the way this Chinese kid plays. He doesn't just beat his opponents, but he crushes them. And his combinations are so crisp that you are left with this simple question in your head - "How does he do it against the best in the world?" Have a look at this game against Bruzon Batista which many say is the "Modern day immortal game."

1.e4

Paunovic, Tomislav

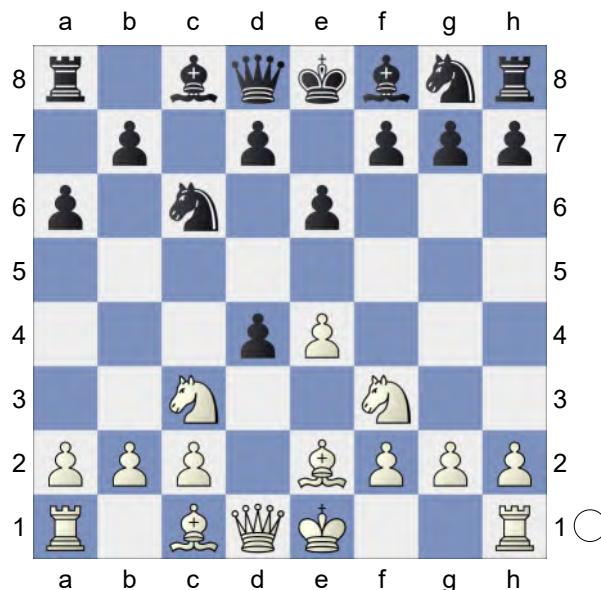
Paunovic, Tomislav Sokolov, Ivan Paunovic, Tomislav 1...c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.Nc3

Doe, John: 'Gy, Pap: 'White

chooses this unusual move order before playing the main 3.d4 to avoid some theoretical lines." 3...a6 4.Be2 Nc6 Doe, John: 'Gy, Pap: 'Black is ready to play Nd4 in case of 5.0-0, therefore there is no time to waste on opening the center."

5.d4 cxd4

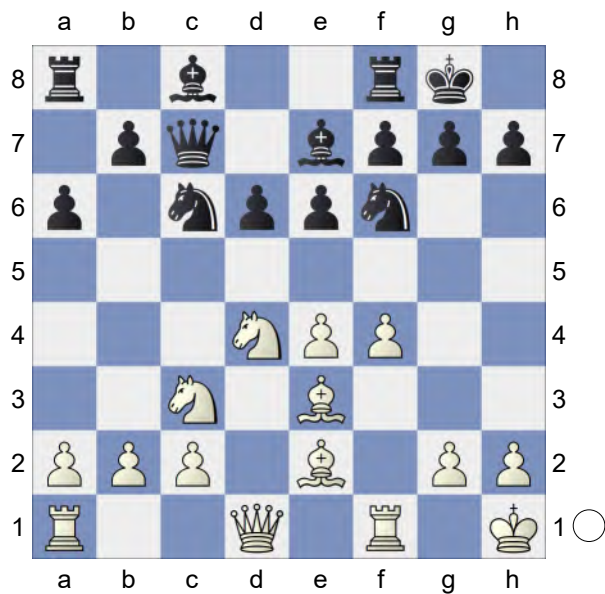
(Diagram)



6.Nxd4 Qc7 Doe, John: 'Gy, Pap: 'We have transposed now to the Sicilian Taimanov variation and soon it turns to the Sheveningen variation...' The game has now transposed into a Sicilian Taimanov. 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Be3 Be7 This move transposes into the Sicilian Scheveningen. An opening which has a rich history and always leads to interesting positions.

[8...Bb4 Pure Taimanov players prefer this move. 9.Na4 Be7 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Nb6 Rb8 12.Nxc8 Qxc8 13.Bd4 c5 14.Be5 Rb6] 9.f4 d6 10.Kh1 0-0

(Diagram)



Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: 'DIAGRAM The starting position of the Sheveningen. The old main line used to be the move 11.Qe1, which happened in the game. After some time the 11.a4 alternative has become the most common line and now in the last years the fashion has come back to the old move thanks to the computers, which found some very interesting ideas for White.' **11.Qe1!?** Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: 'White drops his queen to the kingside to obtain different kind of attacking potentials.' This idea of putting your queen on g3 is common idea in the Scheveningen and thousands of games have been played in the past.

[11.a4]

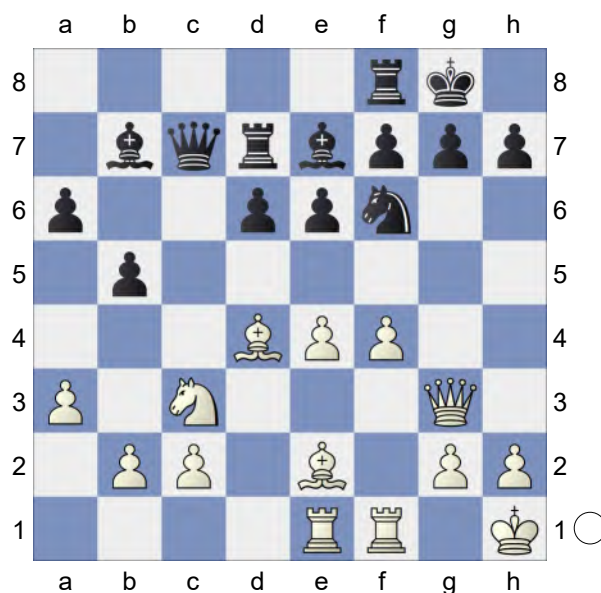
11...Nxd4 12.Bxd4 b5 Doe,John: 'Gy, Pap: 'The point of 11.a4 would have been to prevent this typical idea.'

13.Qg3 Bb7

[13...b4 14.e5 ! is very strong dxe5 15.Bxe5 and the knight is coming to e4!]

14.a3 Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: 'Black has various of options here. The latest development of the theory gives a first sight mysterious plan and Bruzon

follows it..." Usually a move like a3 is a waste of time in the Sicilian. But here it is totally justified as it is important to keep the knight on c3. **14...Rad8 15.Rae1** Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: 'White brings all his pieces to the game.' **15...Rd7**



It might seem funny as to why exactly did Black place his rook on d7. But in doing so, he has vacated the d8-square for his queen. This setup of ♖d7-♔d8 is very effective against e4-e5 break. **16.Bd3 Qd8** Paunovic,Tomislav: '?!' '?!' Paunovic,Tomislav: '?!' Sokolov,Ivan: '?!' Sokolov,Ivan: 'This move does not have a good reputation.' Doe,John: '?!' '?!' '?!' Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: '?' Gy,Pap: 'A sideline. Black leaves from the e5 dxe5 Bxe5 tempo. DIAGRAM"

[16...Re8 Sokolov,Ivan: ', in order to be able to answer' Doe,John: 'Gy, Pap: 'preparing for a counterplay with e5, however the new idea of the computer" is the main move. 17.Qh3 (Sokolov,Ivan) with (17.e5 dxe5 18.Bxe5 Qd8 19.f5 Bd6; 17.a4 ! seems to create some difficulties for Black. Both players were

definitely familiar with the new ideas and Bruzon decided to deviate from this line.) 17...e5 , is considered the main line here. Doe,John: '!']

17.Qh3 Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: '!' Using the fact, that the queen has gone from c7, when Black could solve his problems with e5 (in the 16...Re8 line)! White has created the threat of e5 dxe5 fxe5 Rxd4 exf6 and Black faces problems on h7 square. Therefore he must ensure the safety of his h7 pawn." **17...g6**

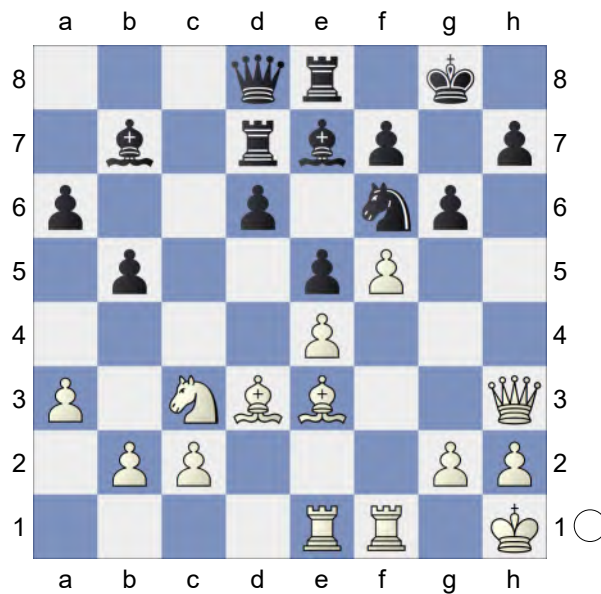
[17...h6 is computer's move but as Scheveningen experts already know, this is a very dangerous for Black and any sacrifice later on h6 would be almost decisive. 18.Re3→]

[17...Re8 18.e5]

18.f5! Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: '!' Gy,Pap: '!' The standard drawback of the g6 move. White opens the f-file now. With the pawn on g7 this move is usually not dangerous because of the central break with e5 Be3 and d5, but now Bh6 or Bg5 are much stronger." A strong attacking move. Something has gone horribly wrong for Bruzon right out of the opening. **18...e5 19.Be3 Re8** Sokolov,Ivan: '?!' Sokolov,Ivan: 'Diagram

[19...Nh5 (Paunovic,Tomislav) - 105/(67) 20.Bh6 Sokolov,Ivan Re8 21.a4 as in Kamsky,Gata 2725 - Stellwagen, Daniel 2612, Wijk aan Zee 2009 - 105/(67) (21.Nd5 Bxd5 22.exd5±)]

(Diagram)



' Doe,John: '?!' '?!' '?!' Doe,John: 'Gy, Pap: 'We are still following some games, but here comes the novelty. Despite all this could be known from practical games, I believe that Wei Yi finds all the forthcoming brilliant ideas over the board...It is not a home preparation." Little did Bruzon know that leaving the f7-point undefended would lead to a beautiful combination. **20.fxg6** Sokolov,Ivan: '!' Sokolov,Ivan: 'White goes for a straightforward solution.' **20...hxg6**

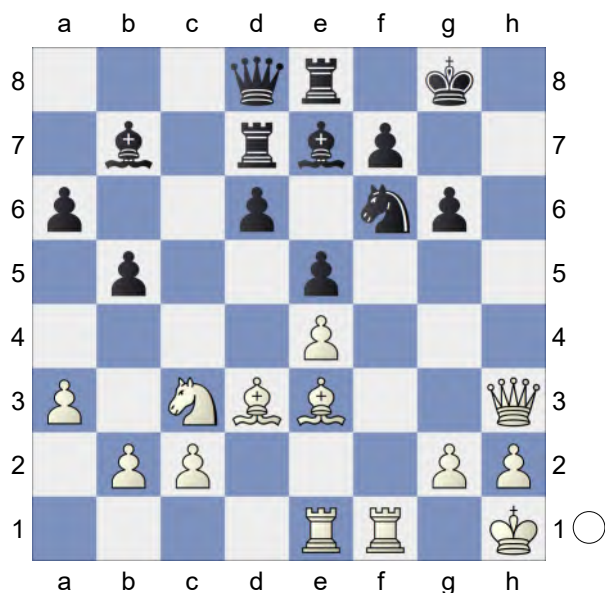
[Δ20...fxg6 Paunovic,Tomislav

A) 21.Nd5?! Nxd5 22.Rf7 (22.exd5 Bxd5 23.Rd1±) 22...Nf6 (22...Kxf7? 23.Qxh7+ - 20...hg6) 23.Qe6 Kh8 24.Rf1 (24.Bg5 Nh5±; 24.Bh6 Bf8 25.Qxe8 Qxe8 26.Rxf8+ Qxf8 27.Bxf8 Nxe4!±) 24...Nh5 25.Rxh7+ Kxh7 26.Rf7+ Ng7 27.Qh3+ Kg8 28.Rxg7+ Kxg7 29.Qh6+ Kf6 30.Qh4+ Kf7 31.Qh7+ Ke6 32.Qh3+! Kf7=;

B) 21.Qe6+ Kh8 22.Rf3 Bc8 23.Ref1 Rb7 24.Qf7 Rf8 25.Qa2±;

C) 21.a4! b4 22.Nd5 (22.Na2!?)

22...Nxd5 23.exd5± ↑↑ Sokolov, Ivan: '↑']



Doe, John: 'Gy, Pap: 'DIAGRAM''
21.Nd5!?N Paunovic, Tomislav: 'N!' 'N!' Paunovic, Tomislav: 'N!' Sokolov, Ivan: 'N!' Doe, John: '!' '!' '!' Doe, John: 'Paunovic, Tomislav: 'N!' Gy, Pap: 'N!?' Gy, Pap: '!' Wei Yi starts the firework with this move! He has no retreat after this sacrifice, otherwise he is just losing material. He obviously could not calculate all the lines until the end - as it is impossible - , but he had to have the intuition, that he has enough resources to finish the attack after the black king goes towards the center." A novelty and a very strong move by Wei Yi.

[21.Bb6 Paunovic, Tomislav Paunovic, Tomislav Sokolov, Ivan: 'RR' Sokolov, Ivan: 'Sredojevic, Ivan 2396 - Rajkovic, Dusan 2474, Vrnjacka Banja 2008']

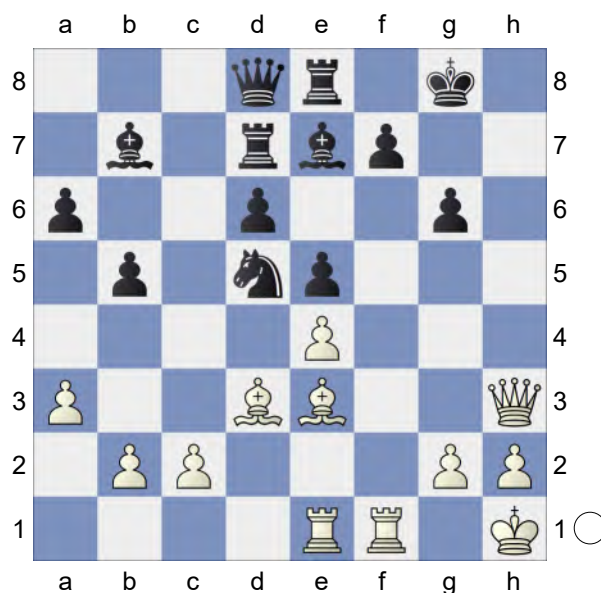
21...Nxd5 Paunovic, Tomislav: '?!' '?!' Paunovic, Tomislav: 'Diagram

[21...Bxd5 is the lesser of the evils but after 22.exd5± Black's position is pretty bad.

A) 22...Nxd5 is much worse. The

bishop on d5 could be a much better defender as it protects the f7. Now the same tactics works quite smoothly 23.Rxf7 ! Kxf7 24.Qh7+ Ke6 25.Bxg6 ! White creates many different mate threats. The most important ones are Qf7 and Bf5 followed by Qg6 mate. Black should try to cover the squares on the f-file with (25.Qxg6+ ? comes to the mind at first to continue the attack with check, but Black is safe after Nf6 !) 25...Rf8 but it does not help in view of 26.Qh3+ ! Kf6 27.Be4 +□- and Black has no defense against the mates. Qh6, Rf1 or Qf5-Qg6-Qh7 is a forced mate.;

B) 22...Qc7 Sokolov, Ivan 23.Qg3 Kg7 24.Rf2±]



' Paunovic, Tomislav: '?!' Paunovic, Tomislav: 'Diagram [Diagram] Sokolov, Ivan: 'Diagram [#] This allows a king chase! Paunovic, Tomislav: '?!' Doe, John: '?' '?' '?' Doe, John: 'Paunovic, Tomislav: '?!' Paunovic, Tomislav: 'Diagram [Diagram] Gy, Pap: 'DIAGRAM' It is from this point onwards that Wei Yi's brilliant

combination begins. **22.Rxf7!!** Sokolov,Ivan: '!' Sokolov,Ivan: 'Paunovic, Tomislav: '!' Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: '!! The point of the previous move! White has deflected the knight from f6 in order to start the haunt of the black king! The only thing which makes the sacrifice easier to execute is the fact, that White always has a draw with perpetual check at his disposal, therefore White can go ahead, calculate the lines when they appear on the board and in the worst case if he does not see anything just make a draw...but of course, the main goal is to mate the black king." The term bolt from the blue looks pretty cliched at this point. I mean Bruzon being a 2669 rated player must have definitely anticipated this move, right? This is a very common pattern of dragging the black king out. What exactly did he have in mind against ♖xf7 is unclear because even a minute's glance is enough to convince that the attack is very strong and at every juncture White has a draw in hand with a perpetual.

[22.exd5? Sokolov,Ivan: 'Paunovic, Tomislav' Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: '?' Bxd5? Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: ' ?' 23.Bf5 Paunovic,Tomislav Rc7! 24.Rd1 Bc4?]

22...Kxf7 Paunovic,Tomislav: '□' '□'

[22...Nf6 Sokolov,Ivan: 'loses to' is met with 23.Qe6! Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: '!' Kh8 24.Bg5+- Doe,John: 'Paunovic,Tomislav: '+-' when Black is absolutely busted. Nh7 (24...Bc8 25.Re3+-) 25.Qxg6]

23.Qh7+ Paunovic,Tomislav: '- 20...hg6'

23...Ke6 Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: 'Here is a moment when White could force a draw with 24.Qh3, but Wei Yi thinks much deeper and continues searching for mate.

"

[23...Kf8 24.Bh6# is easy to calculate.]

[23...Kf6 Sokolov,Ivan: 'Paunovic, Tomislav' Computer thinks that this is the easiest move to refute but I disagree. ♖f1+ is very tempting and it leads to a draw. The correct move here is to take the knight.

A) 24.Rf1+? is incorrect due to Nf4 25.Rxf4+ exf4 26.Bd4+ Ke6= and White has nothing more than a draw at this point. (26...Kg5? Paunovic,Tomislav: '??' '??' Paunovic,Tomislav: '??' Sokolov, Ivan: '??' Doe,John: '??' '??' 27.h4+ Kg4 28.Qxg6+ with mate to follow in short order. Bg5 Paunovic, Tomislav 29.Be2+ Kg3 30.Qh5+-) 27.Qh3+ (27.Qxg6+ Bf6-+) 27...Kf7 28.Qh7+ Ke6= and White has nothing more than a draw at this point.;

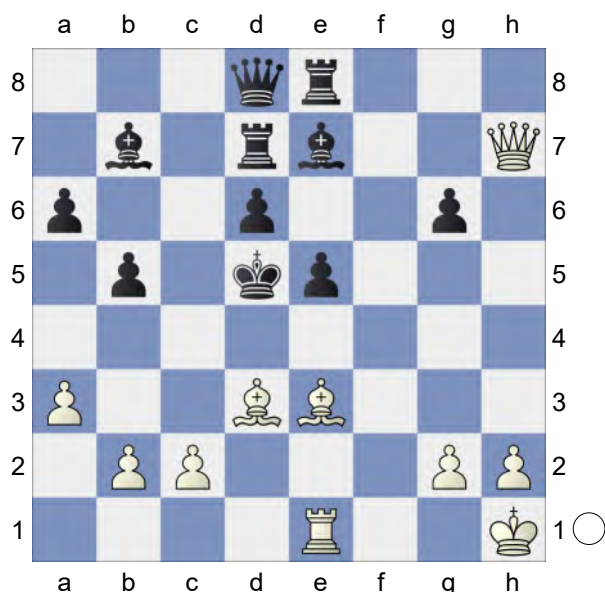
B) 24.exd5! Doe,John: 'Paunovic, Tomislav: '!' Doe,John: 'Paunovic, Tomislav: '!' Gy,Pap: '!' 24...e4 25.Rf1+ Ke5 26.Qxg6 exd3 27.Qf5# (27.Qe6# (Paunovic, Tomislav) #)]

24.exd5+ Sokolov,Ivan: 'Black's king has to go on the run.' Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: '!' White gains back some material and eliminates the knight which could have become an important defender if it returns to f6." **24...Kxd5** Paunovic, Tomislav: '

[24...Bxd5 Sokolov,Ivan: 'loses to' Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: 'is similar to the 21...Bxd5 line. White must be precise with" White has only one way to win at this point.

A) 25.Qxg6+ Sokolov,Ivan: '?' Sokolov,Ivan: 'is only a draw' Doe,

John: '? is not enough again' Bf6
 Sokolov,Ivan: '= ' 26.Bf5+ Ke7
 Doe,John: 'and Black saves himself.
 ' 27.Qh7+ (27.Bg5 Sokolov,Ivan
 Bxg5 28.Qg7+ Bf7 29.Qxg5+ Kf8
 30.Qh6+=) 27...Bf7-+ and the black
 king has been nicely cordoned off.;
B) 25.Bxg6! Paunovic,Tomislav: '+-
 ' '+-' Paunovic,Tomislav: '+-'
 Sokolov,Ivan: '+-' Doe,John:
 'Paunovic,Tomislav: '+-' Gy,Pap: '!"
 25...Rf8 Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: 'allows
 forced mate after'' (25...Bxg2+
 Sokolov,Ivan 26.Kxg2 d5
 Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: 'Black opens a
 free way for his king towards the
 queenside, but he already gave
 back too much material and he
 loses even more after'' 27.Qf7+
 Kd6 28.Qxe8 Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap:
 '+□-' ; 25...Bf6 26.Bf5#) 26.Qh3+
 Kf6 27.Rf1+! Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: '!"
 Kxg6 (27...Kg7 28.Qh7#)
 28.Qh6#]



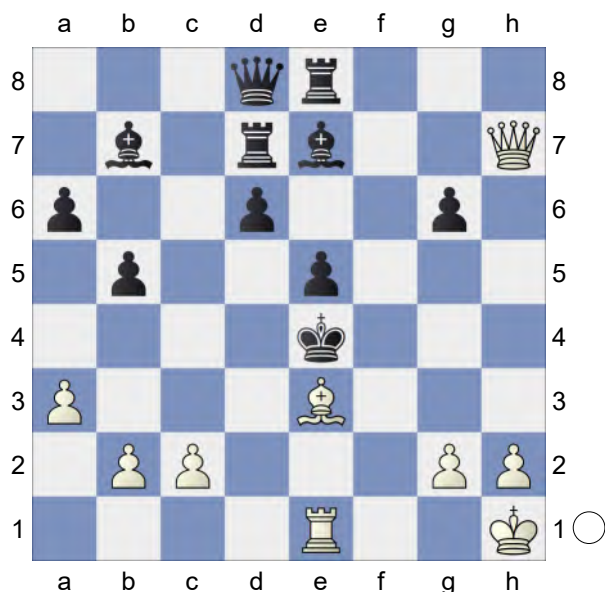
' Paunovic,Tomislav: '{#}' Sokolov,Ivan:
 'Diagram [#]' Doe,John: 'Paunovic,
 Tomislav: '{#}' Gy,Pap: 'Black tries to run

away with his king to c6-c7. DIAGRAM"
 Once again we reach a critical crossroad.
 Black is threatening to run away with
 Kc6-c7. White must stop him at all costs.
25.Be4+!! Paunovic,Tomislav: '!' '!"
 Paunovic,Tomislav: '!' Sokolov,Ivan: '+-!!'
 Sokolov,Ivan: 'This further sacrifice
 keeps the black king in the centre!
 Paunovic,Tomislav: '!' Doe,John:
 'Paunovic,Tomislav: '!' Gy,Pap: '!"
 Another brilliant sacrifice! White
 prevents the hide of the black king to c6-
 c7 and lures it further more to his own
 camp to catch it with his remaining
 pieces." The king is dragged further into
 the center.

[25.Qf7+? Kc6-+]
 [25.c4+ Kc6-+]
 [25.Bc4+ Kc6!-+ (25...bxc4?
 26.Qf7+ Kc6 27.Qxc4#; 25...Kxc4
 26.Qf7+ d5 27.Qf1# is a pretty
 mate.)]

25...Kxe4
 [25...Ke6 Sokolov,Ivan: 'Paunovic,
 Tomislav' 26.Qxg6+ Bf6
A) 27.Bf5+ Ke7 28.Qh7+ Kf8
 29.Bh6+ Bg7 (29...Rg7 30.Bg6)
 30.Qh8+;
B) 27.Qf5+ Ke7 (27...Kf7
 Paunovic,Tomislav 28.Qh7+!)
 28.Qh7+
B1) 28...Kf8 29.Bh6+ Rg7
 (29...Bg7 30.Rf1+-) 30.Bxg7+
 (30.Rf1+- Paunovic,Tomislav)
 30...Bxg7 31.Rf1+-;
B2) 28...Ke6 29.Bf5+ Kd5
 30.Bxd7+- Pawn up with
 opponent's king on d5. Things
 couldn't get better!]
 [25...Kc4 loses quickly to 26.Qf7+ d5
 27.Qf1#]

(Diagram)



Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: 'Black has no choice, he must continue his journey. DIAGRAM" **26.Qf7!!** Paunovic,Tomislav: '[Δ $\text{g1}\#$]' Paunovic,Tomislav: '[Δ $\text{g1}\#$]' Sokolov,Ivan: 'Paunovic, Tomislav: '[Δ Bg1#]' Doe,John: '!' '!' '!' Doe,John: 'Paunovic,Tomislav: '[Δ $\text{g1}\#$]' Gy,Pap: '!!' Gy,Pap: '!! What an amazing follow up! After sacrificing many pieces, White comes up with a silent move! The point is to stop the black king running back the d5-c6-c7 and creates different kind of mate in one threats, such as Qf3 or any bishop move with discovered mate along the g1-a7 diagonal." An extremely difficult move to foresee. Such moves are reminiscent of Tal who used to sacrifice material without care and then make a quiet move taking control of the important squares. Here the d5-square was the most important. Even though a piece and rook down Wei Yi takes control of that square.

[26.c4!! Paunovic,Tomislav: '!' '!' Paunovic,Tomislav: '!' Sokolov,Ivan: '!' Sokolov,Ivan: 'is a computer-like solution:' Doe,John: 'Paunovic,

Tomislav: '!' Gy,Pap: '!! a computer move, which is extremely hard to find over the board. It has the same idea as the game, White prevents the Kd5-c6-c7 defending plan and his has a special hidden point, which can be seen if Black takes on c4. The point if 26. c4 can be seen after" The engine points out this fascinating move which helps to get the c4-square later on also wins.

A) 26...Kd3 Paunovic,Tomislav Paunovic,Tomislav Doe,John: 'Gy, Pap: 'Black tries to gain some benefits of the c4 move and makes an attempt to hide his king. However it is not succesful.'" 27.Qxg6+ Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: '!"

A1) 27...e4 DIAGRAM 28.Qg4 ! White is a rook and a bishop down, but the most important factor is the king on d3, therefore he must focus on creating new and more threatening mate threats in each move... Kxc4 29.Rc1+ Kb3 (29...Kd5 30.Qf5#) 30.Qd1+ Kxb2 31.Rb1+ Kxa3 32.Qb3#;

A2) 27...Kxc4 28.Rc1+ Kd5 29.Rd1+ Kc6 30.Qc2# !;

A3) 27...Be4 Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: 'DIAGRAM" 28.Rd1+ Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: '!' Kc2 29.Qxe4+- Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: 'White sacrifices even his rook and mates with only two of his pieces. The black ones are still in their initial position and they cannot take part in the defense." Kxd1 30.Qd3+ Ke1 31.Qd2+ Kf1 32.Qd1#;

B) 26...bxc4 27.Qxg6+ Kd5 28.Qf7+ Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: '!' Kc6

(28...Ke4 29.Qxc4+ Kf5 30.Rf1+ Paunovic,Tomislav: '+-' '+-' Kg6 31.Qf7#) 29.Qxc4# Doe,John: '! is mate, which would not be so with the black pawn on b5! This is the reason of pushing 26.c4.' Now we see why c4 was such an amazing move!]

[26.Qxg6+ ? is too slow, Black runs away with Kd5 27.Qf7+ Kc6 -□+]

[26.Bb6+ ? Kd5 27.Bxd8 Rxd8 -□+ but Black already got too much material, after he hides his king in the next 2 moves he is already winning.]

26...Bf6 Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: 'Only move!'

[26...Rf8 Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: 'prevents Qf3, but allows all the bishop moves, for instance" 27.Bg1#]

27.Bd2+

[27.Bb6+ Doe,John: '??' Kf5 28.Rf1+ Kg5 29.Be3+ Kh5 Doe,John: '-+' It might seem that ♔h7 would end the game here but unfortunately the rook on d7 wouldn't allow that. In fact Black king is pretty safe on the h5 square.]

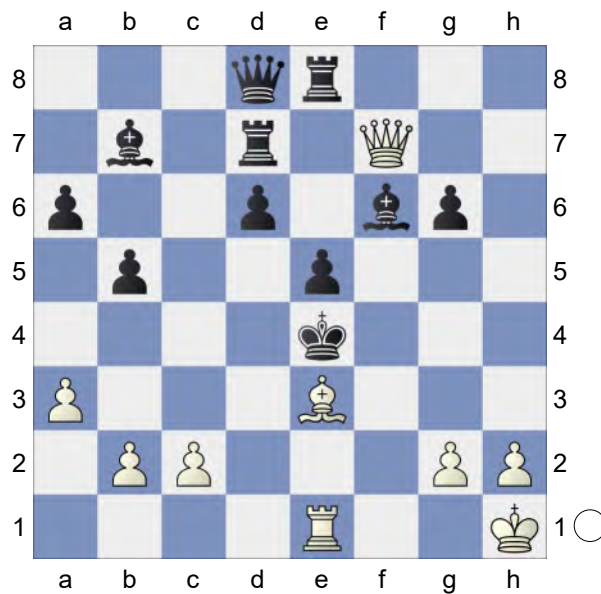
27...Kd4

[27...Kf5 28.Rf1+ Kg4 29.Qxg6+ Bg5 30.h3+ Kg3 31.Be1#]

28.Be3+ No harm in repeating the position to gain some time. But it just shows that things were not so easy for Wei Yi on the board. He had not yet found the exact way to win the game.

28...Ke4 Paunovic,Tomislav: '

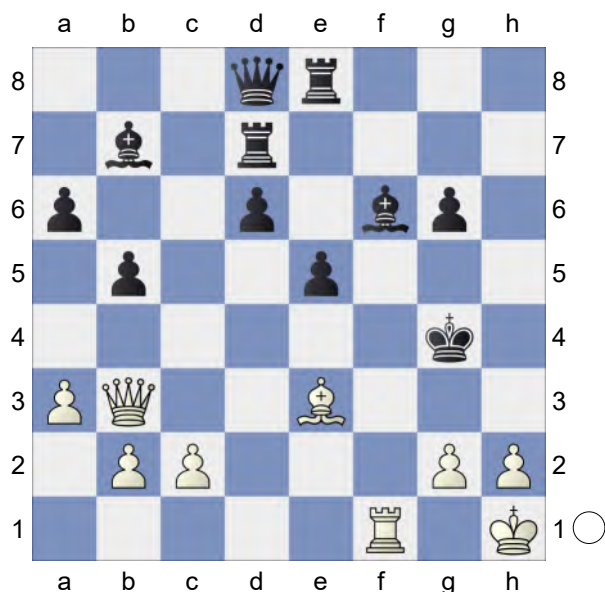
(Diagram)



' Paunovic,Tomislav: '{#}' Sokolov,Ivan: 'Paunovic,Tomislav: '[#]' Doe,John: 'Paunovic,Tomislav: '{#}' Gy,Pap: 'DIAGRAM White again has a draw by perpetual check, but Wei Yi finds a subtle way to play for more!' **29.Qb3!!** Sokolov,Ivan: '!' Sokolov,Ivan: 'Paunovic,Tomislav: '!!' Doe,John: '!' '!' '!' Doe,John: 'Paunovic,Tomislav: '!!' Gy,Pap: '!!' Gy,Pap: '!! Keeping the cold-blooded style. Black has closed the f-file, successfully excluded the queen from the attack, but as it is the longest ranged piece, it can quickly join back to the haunt of the black king. The new mate in one threat is Qd3. Black has only one move to avoid it." Once again fantastic control shown by the young lad. ♔d3 is a mate and something must be done about it.

[29.Qxg6+? Kd5-+ losing control over the d5 square is unforgivable.]

29...Kf5 Paunovic,Tomislav: '□' '□' The only move to avert the mate. **30.Rf1+** Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: '!' Of course, White's only chance is to keep the king outside from the camp and try to catch it while it is running through the board." **30...Kg4**



Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: 'DIAGRAM" What to do next? The black king looks like a ripe juicy target but is there a way to finish him off? **31.Qd3!!** Paunovic,Tomislav: '!' '!' Paunovic,Tomislav: '!' Doe,John: 'Paunovic,Tomislav: '!' Gy,Pap: '!' Gy,Pap: '!' We are already used to this kind of silent moves. Despite the huge material disadvantage, White is not in rush to finish the game, because Black does not have any counterplay, he can only hope for consolidating, but for this he would need much better placed pieces." Isn't this unbelievable? Black has so many pieces but none of them can come to the rescue of their king. But the best part is that Wei Yi found this move which was the only to win in this position.

[31.Bh6? Kh5 32.Qh3+ Bh4+- and White falls short of ammunition.]

[31.Bd2 Kh5 32.Qh3+ Bh4 is similar.]

[31.c4!? Paunovic,Tomislav: '?' Paunovic,Tomislav: '(Δ ♔d1)' Sokolov,Ivan: '?' Sokolov,Ivan: '(Paunovic,Tomislav) (Δ Qd1)' Doe,John: '?' '?' Doe,John: '(Δ ♔d1)' trying to get the

queen into the game from d1 is very interesting but fails due to a brilliant defensive idea. Bxg2+ Paunovic,Tomislav: '!' Sokolov,Ivan: '!' Doe,John: '!' '!' (31...Kh4? Paunovic,Tomislav 32.h3! Qa8 33.Kh2 Bxg2 34.Bd2!+-) 32.Kxg2 Qa8+ 33.Kg1 Qe4= Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: '=' and once the black queen enters the defence, things become very complicated. 34.Rxf6 Paunovic,Tomislav Kh4! (34...Kh5? 35.h3!!+-) 35.Bd2 Qg4+ 36.Kh1 ♖ Qe4+=]

31...Bxg2+ Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: 'Black decides to give back some material and try to bring the queen to the defend along the long diagonal with tempo.' Unable to find anything Bruzon gives up his bishop in desperation.

[31...Rg7 Sokolov,Ivan: 'loses to' Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: 'also loses to' 32.Qe2+ Kh4 Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: 'DIAGRAM" 33.h3 Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: '!! White always creates new concrete threats. Black has to defend against Qd7 now. " Qd7 34.Kh2! Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: '!' Gy,Pap: '!' Another subtle move! Black has only one move to avoid getting mated with g3!" A quiet move threatening a mate in one. Bxg2 Sokolov,Ivan: 'Paunovic,Tomislav' 35.Qxg2 Paunovic,Tomislav: '+-' '+-' Paunovic,Tomislav: '+-' Sokolov,Ivan: '+-' Doe,John: 'Paunovic,Tomislav: '+-' Gy,Pap: 'White does not have a concrete threat, but still Black has no defense. The f6 is hanging followed by mate on g5 and one possible finish of the game could be' Bd8 (35...Rf8 36.Qf2+ Kh5 37.Qf3+ Kh4 38.Rg1) 36.Qf2+ Kh5 37.Qf3+ Kh4 38.Rg1+- Doe,John: '+♖- and Bf2 or Rg4 next wins.']

[31...Kh5 loses to 32.Qe2+ Kh4 33.Rf3 !! Bxf3 34.Qxf3 +□- and Black is unable to defend the mate in one with Qh3!]

32.Kxg2 Qa8+ The queen finally enters the game but it's too late. **33.Kg1** Unfortunately the black queen has no squares in the centre from where she can join in the battle. Now you can understand why ♔d3 was such a fantastic move because the e4 square is controlled and the black queen cannot come on that square. **33...Bg5** Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: 'Bruzon continues defend stubbornly, but it does not help this time!"

[33...e4 34.Qe2+ Kh4 35.Rf4+ Kg5 36.Rxe4+ Kf5 37.Qf3#]

[33...Rg7 34.Rxf6 Rf8 35.Qe2+ Kh4 36.Qf2+]

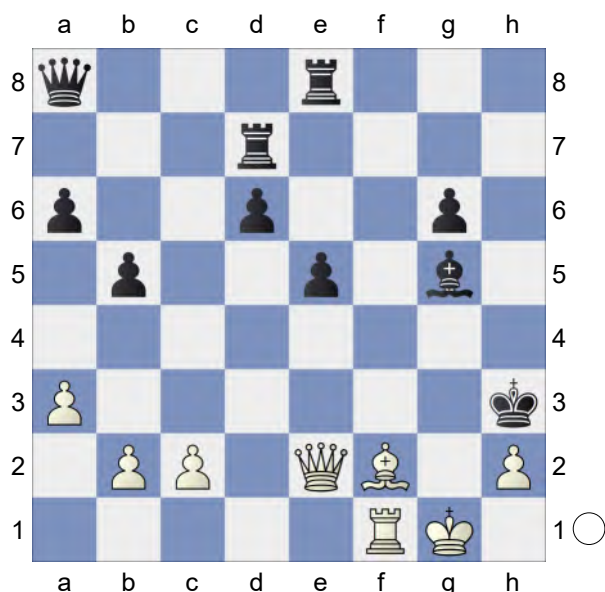
34.Qe2+ Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: '!"

[34.Qxg6 Black holds after Rg8 !]

34...Kh4

[34...Kh3 35.Bxg5+-]

35.Bf2+ Kh3 Sokolov,Ivan: 'Diagram



' Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: 'DIAGRAM" At least Black gets the pleasure of threatening mate in one before going

down! **36.Be1!**

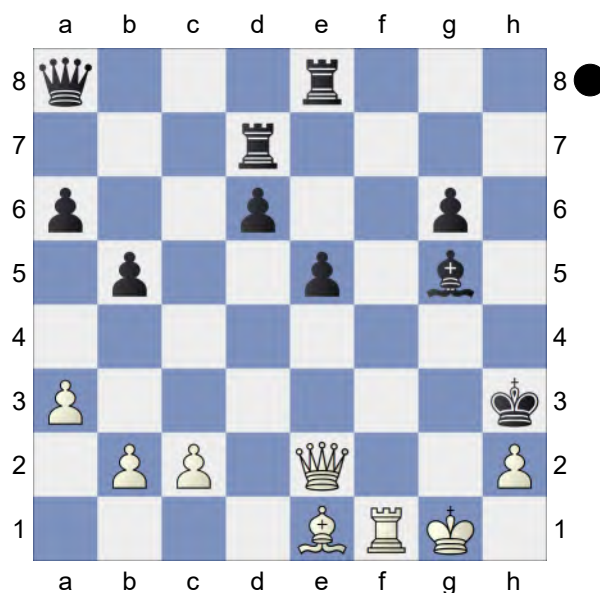
[36.Be1 Sokolov,Ivan: 'The end could be' Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: '!"

A) 36...Qa7+ Paunovic,Tomislav 37.Kh1 Qb7+ (37...Qa8+ 38.Rf3+ Kg4 39.Qg2+ Kh5 40.Rh3+ +□-) 38.Rf3+ Kg4 39.Qg2+ Kh5 40.Rh3+ Sokolov,Ivan: 'Paunovic, Tomislav' (40.Qh3+ Sokolov,Ivan) 40...Bh4 41.Rxh4# #;

B) 36...Rf8 37.Rxf8 Qxf8 38.Qg2# Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: 'What an amazing game by the 16-year old Chinese super talent, Wei Yi!";

C) 36...e4 defends Rf3, but closes the long diagonal 37.Qg2#;

D) 36...Bf4 37.Qd3+ Kg4 38.Qxg6+ Bg5 39.h3+ Kxh3 40.Qf5#]



Doe,John: 'Gy,Pap: '! A final blow and a last subtle move! White opens the f-rank in order to allow his rook joining to the mating attack. Rf3 is the threat!" There is just not way to prevent the mate with ♖f3 on ♔d3. What a mind Wei Yi must have to see all these mating patterns in this king hunt and that too with the clock

ticking by! This game will enter many books and will be played over by many generations of chess enthusiasts.

1-0

201

□ Wei,Yi

■ Bruzon Batista,Lazaro

Danzhou 6th (2)

[Sagar,Shah]

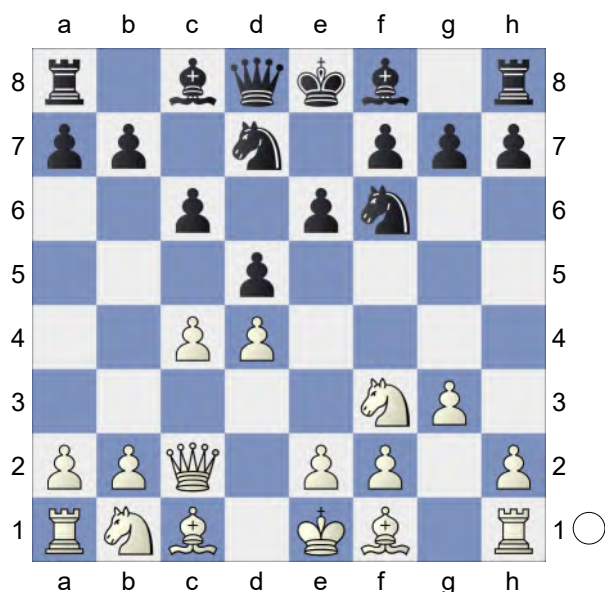
E09

2724

2669

03.07.2015

There is something about the way this Chinese kid plays. He doesn't just beat his opponents, but he crushes them. And his combinations are so crisp that you are left with this simple question in your head - "How does he do it against the best in the world?" Have a look at this game against Bruzon Batista which many say is the "Modern day immortal game." 1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 e6 3.c4 c6 4.Qc2 Nf6 5.g3 Nbd7

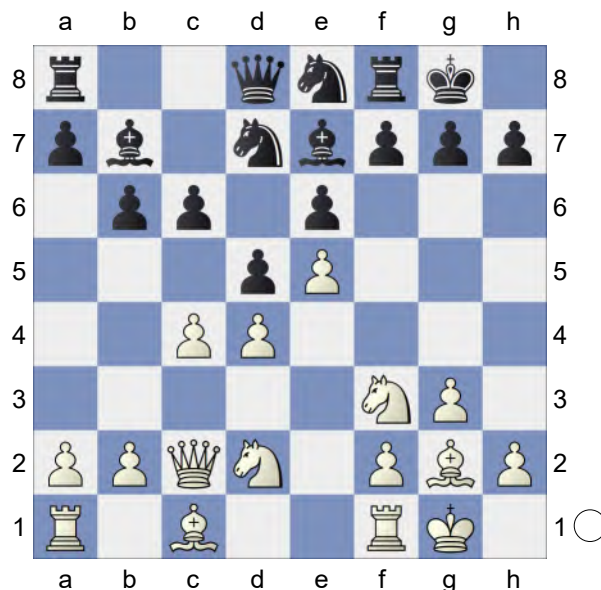


6.Bg2 Be7 The game has now transposed into a Sicilian Taimanov. 7.0-0 0-0 8.Nbd2 b6 This move transposes into the Sicilian Scheveningen. An opening which has a rich history and always leads to interesting positions. 9.e4

[9.b3 Bb7 10.e4 Rc8]

9...Bb7 10.e5 Ne8

(Diagram)



11.cxd5!? This idea of putting your queen on g3 is common idea in the Scheveningen and thousands of games have been played in the past. 11...cxd5 12.Re1 Ba6

[12...Rc8= and White has nothing more than a draw at this point. 13.Qa4 (13.Qd1 Qc7 14.Bf1 Qc2 15.Qxc2 Rxc2 16.Bd3 Rc8) 13...a5 (13...Nc7± 14.Bf1 is the lesser of the evils but after a5± Black's position is pretty bad. 15.Bd3 is computer's move but as Scheveningen experts already know, this is a very dangerous for Black and any sacrifice later on h6 would be almost decisive. Ba6→ 16.Bb1 is the main move. Nb5 Pure Taimanov players prefer this move. 17.Qb3 Nb8 18.Nf1 Rc4 19.Qd3 g6 20.Bh6 Rb4 21.Qd1 Rxb2 22.Bxf8 Qxf8 23.Bd3) 14.Bf1 Nb8= and White has nothing more than a draw at this point. 15.Bd3 Ba6+ 16.Bb1? Nc6 17.Nf1 Bb4 with mate to follow in short order. 18.Bd2 is met with f5! 19.Qd1 Be7+- when Black is absolutely busted. 20.h4?]

13.Nf1 Rc8 14.Qd1 Usually a move like a3 is a waste of time in the Sicilian. But here it is totally justified as it is important to keep the knight on c3.

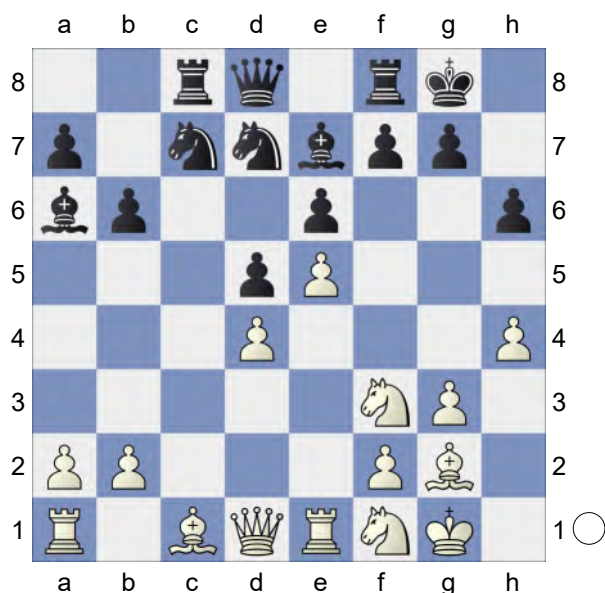
14...Nc7

[14...Nb8 15.h4

A) 15...Qc7 White has only one way to win at this point. 16.Ne3! (16.Ng5 Qc2 17.Qg4 Nc6) 16...Nc6 17.a3 Na5 18.Bf1! (18.h5 h6 19.Bd2 Nc4 20.Nxc4 Bxc4? is incorrect due to) 18...Bxf1 19.Rxf1 Qd7 20.Kg2 Nc7 21.Ng5 f6 22.exf6+- and the black king has been nicely cordoned off. gxf6 23.Nh3 is easy to calculate. Bd6 Computer thinks that this is the easiest move to refute but I disagree. ♖f1+ is very tempting and it leads to a draw. The correct move here is to take the knight. 24.Ng4! Nc6;

B) 15...h6+- 16.h5 Nc6+- 17.a3? b5+- 18.N1d2 b4+- 19.a4 Qb6!+- 20.Nb3? Bc4 21.Be3 Bxb3 22.Qxb3 Na5 23.Qd3 b3 is a pretty mate.]

15.h4 h6

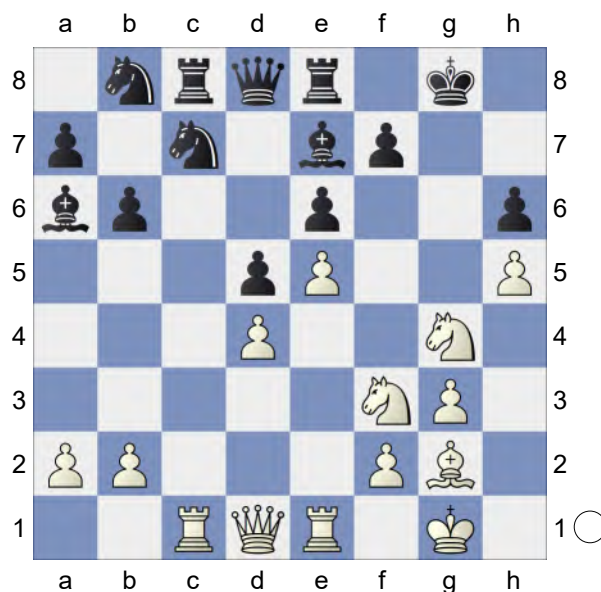


It might seem funny as to why exactly did Black place his rook on d7. But in doing so, he has vacated the d8-square for his queen. This setup of ♖d7-♔d8 is very effective against e4-e5 break. **16.h5 Nb8**

[16...Qe8+- Pawn up with opponent's king on d5. Things couldn't get better! 17.Ne3 Nb8 18.Ng4]

17.Ne3 Nc6 18.Ng4! A strong attacking move. Something has gone horribly wrong for Bruzon right out of the opening. **18...Re8 19.Bxh6 gxf6** Little did Bruzon know that leaving the f7-point undefended would lead to a beautiful combination. **20.Rc1 Nb8**

[20...Nb4 Now we see why c4 was such an amazing move! 21.Qd2 Rf8 (21...Nd3 22.Qxh6 Rf8 23.Rxc7) 22.Qxh6 Ne8 23.Rxc8 Bxc8 24.a3 Nd3 25.Rb1 Ba6 26.Bf1]



21.Qd2!?N A novelty and a very strong move by Wei Yi. **21...Nd7** It is from this point onwards that Wei Yi's brilliant combination begins.

[21...Bg5!! The engine points out this fascinating move which helps to get

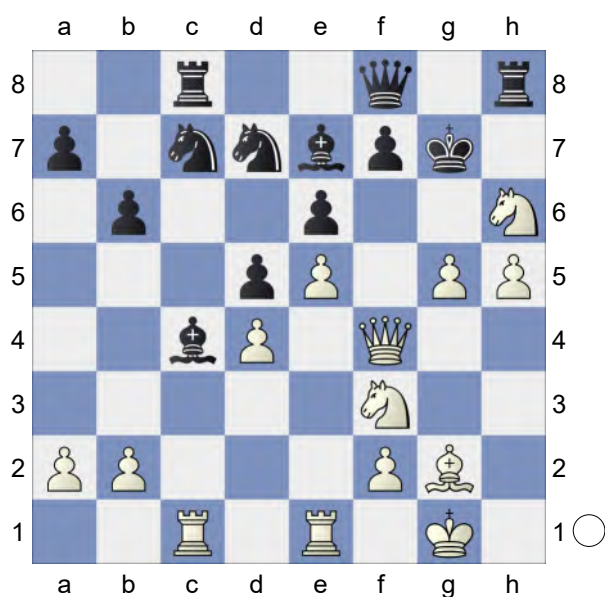
the c4-square later on also wins.

22.Nxg5 hxg5 (22...Qxg5
23.Nxh6+) 23.Nf6+]

22.Nxh6+!! The term bolt from the blue looks pretty cliched at this point. I mean Bruzon being a 2669 rated player must have definitely anticipated this move, right? This is a very common pattern of dragging the black king out. What exactly did he have in mind against ♖xf7 is unclear because even a minute's glance is enough to convince that the attack is very strong and at every juncture White has a draw in hand with a perpetual. **22...Kg7 23.g4 Rh8 24.g5 Qf8**

Once again we reach a critical crossroad. Black is threatening to run away with Kc6-c7. White must stop him at all costs. **25.Qf4!!** The king is dragged further into the center. **25...Bc4**

[25...Rxxh6 26.gxxh6+ Kh8 27.Ng5 It might seem that ♔h7 would end the game here but unfortunately the rook on d7 wouldn't allow that. In fact Black king is pretty safe on the h5 square.]



26.b3!! An extremely difficult move to foresee. Such moves are reminiscent of

Tal who used to sacrifice material without care and then make a quiet move taking control of the important squares. Here the d5-square was the most important. Even though a piece and rook down Wei Yi takes control of that square.

[26.Nd2-+ losing control over the d5 square is unforgivable. Bb5 27.Re3]

26...Bd3 27.Ng4 Kg8

[27...Rxxh5 28.Nf6 Nxf6 is similar. 29.gxf6+!? trying to get the queen into the game from d1 is very interesting but fails due to a brilliant defensive idea. Kh7 30.fxe7 Qxe7 31.Re3 Bf5= and once the black queen enters the defence, things become very complicated. 32.Rec3?]

28.Rc3 No harm in repeating the position to gain some time. But it just shows that things were not so easy for Wei Yi on the board. He had not yet found the exact way to win the game.

[28.Nh6+]

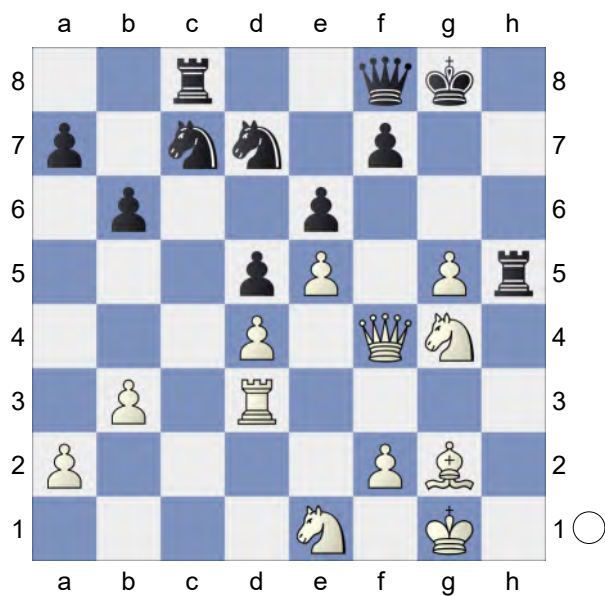
28...Bb4

[28...Bf5 29.Rec1 Ba3 30.Rxc7 Bxc1 31.Qxc1 Rxc7+- 32.Qxc7? Bxg4 33.Qxd7 Rxxh5+- and White falls short of ammunition.]

29.Rxd3!! Once again fantastic control shown by the young lad. ♔d3 is a mate and something must be done about it.

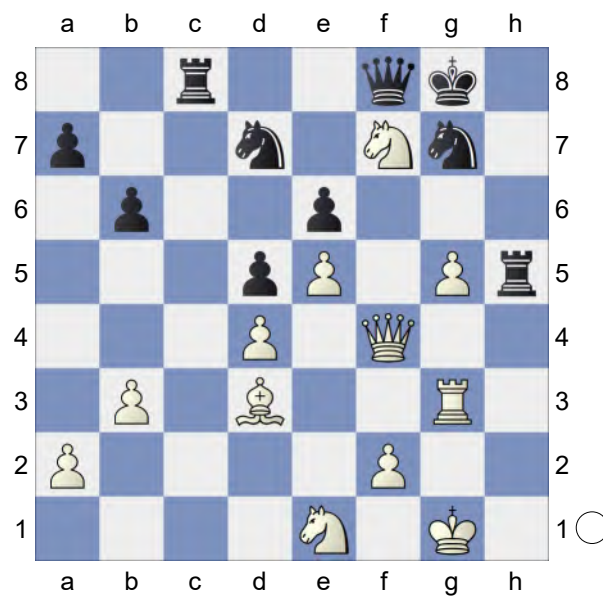
29...Bxe1 The only move to avert the mate. **30.Nxe1 Rxh5**

(Diagram)



What to do next? The black king looks like a ripe juicy target but is there a way to finish him off? **31.Nh6+!!** Isn't this unbelievable? Black has so many pieces but none of them can come to the rescue of their king. But the best part is that Wei Yi found this move which was the only to win in this position. **31...Kh7** Unable to find anything Bruzon gives up his bishop in desperation. **32.Rg3 Ne8** The queen finally enters the game but it's too late. **33.Bf1** Unfortunately the black queen has no squares in the centre from where she can join in the battle. Now you can understand why **Qd3** was such a fantastic move because the e4 square is controlled and the black queen cannot come on that square. **33...Ng7 34.Bd3+ Kh8 35.Nxf7+ Kg8**

(Diagram)



At least Black gets the pleasure of threatening mate in one before going down! **36.Nh6+!** There is just not way to prevent the mate with **Rf3** on **Qd3**. What a mind Wei Yi must have to see all these mating patterns in this king hunt and that too with the clock ticking by! This game will enter many books and will played over by many generations of chess enthusiasts.

[36.Bg6]

36...Kh8 37.Nf7+ Kg8 38.Bg6 Qe7 39.Nh6+ Kh8 40.Qf7

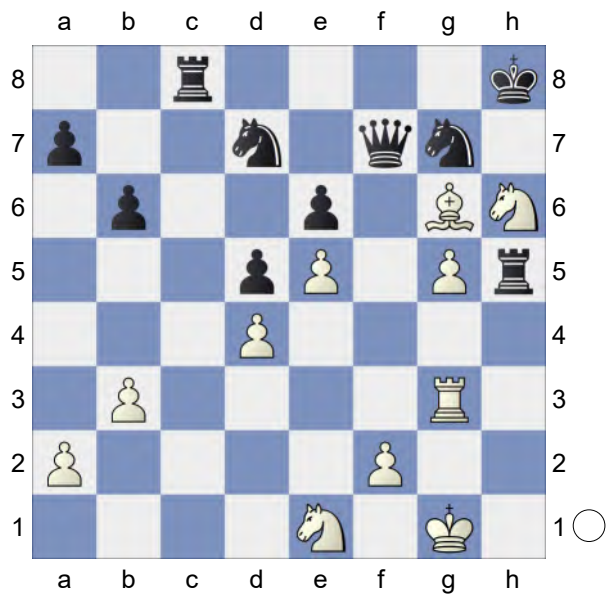
[40.Bxh5 Nxh5 41.Qf7 Qxf7

42.Nxf7+ Kg7 43.Rf3 Rf8 44.Nd6!

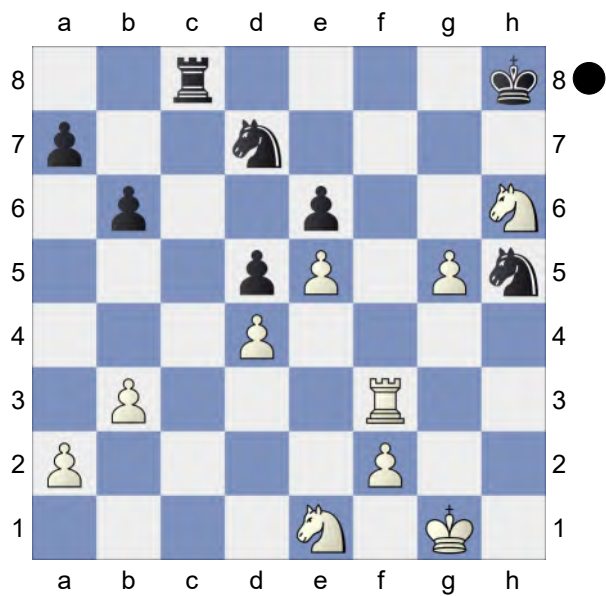
A quiet move threatening a mate in one.]

40...Qxf7

(Diagram)



41.Nxf7+ Kg8+- 42.Nh6+ Kh8
43.Bxh5 Nxe5 44.Rf3



1-0

372

□ Shankland, Samuel L

■ Wei, Yi

Tata Steel-B 77th (1)

[Sagar, Shah]

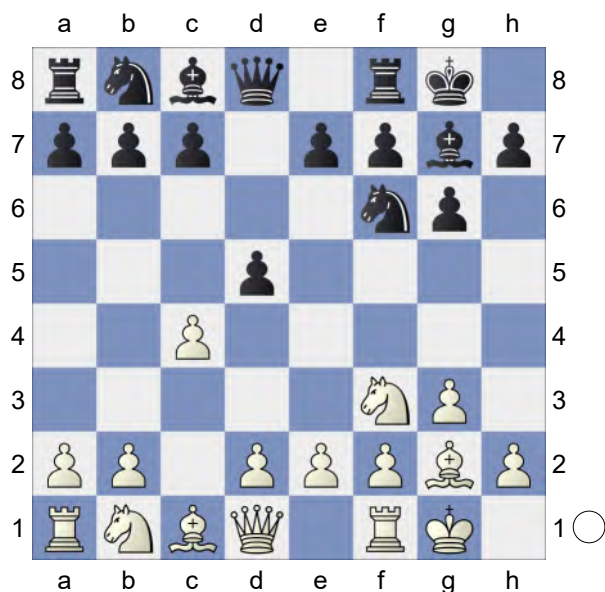
A49

2652

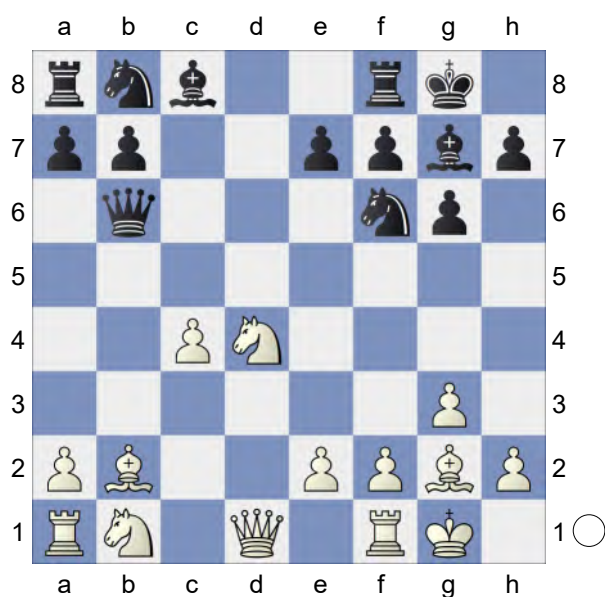
2675

10.01.2015

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2
0-0 5.0-0 d5



6.d4 c6 7.b3 dxc4 8.bxc4 c5 9.Bb2
cxd4 10.Nxd4 Qb6



11.Qc1!? It is surprising that the same
line was employed by Ding Liren against

Fabiano Caruana in the A group of the
Tata Steel. Fabiano beat Ding with the
black pieces and Shankland failed to get
any concrete advantage here. So maybe
this move isn't so good.

[11.Qb3 Nfd7 12.e3 Nc6 13.Nc3
was considered as the main line.]

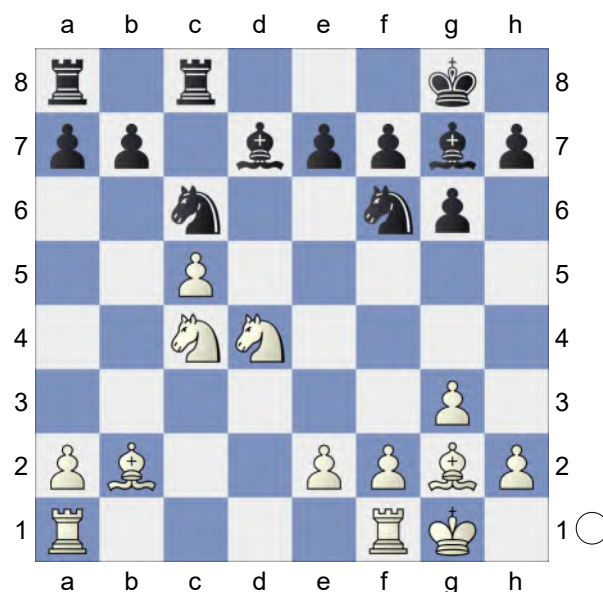
11...Bd7

[11...Nc6 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Nd2 Bf5
was Ding-Caruana.]

12.Nd2 Nc6 13.c5 Qa6

[13...Qc7 14.Nb5 Qc8 15.Ne4 Nxe4
16.Bxe4 Ne5 17.Nd4 Rb8 18.Rb1
Qc7 19.Qc2 Rfc8 20.Rfc1 Qa5
21.Qc3 Qxc3 22.Rxc3 Nc6 23.Nxc6
Bxc6 24.Rc4 b5 0-1 (24) Dizdarevic,
E (2520)-Svidler, P (2690) Bled 2002]

14.Qc4 Qxc4 15.Nxc4 Rfc8

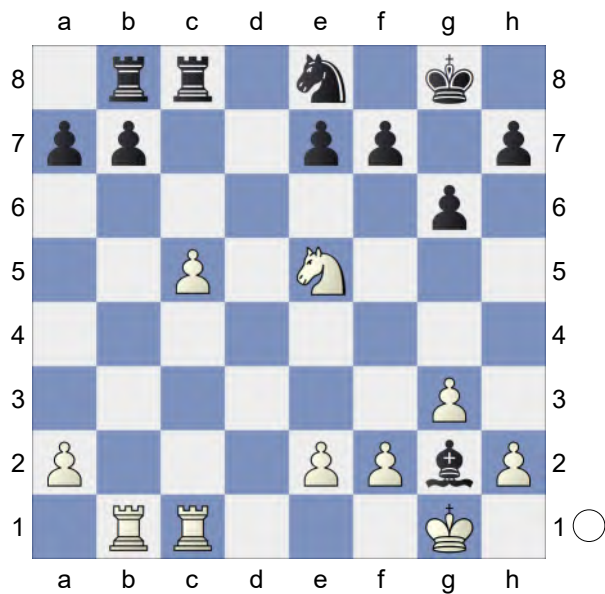


16.Rab1 Rab8 17.Rfc1

[17.Rfd1 was also possible.]

17...Ne8 18.Nxc6 Bxc6 19.Be5 Bxe5
20.Nxe5 Bxg2

(Diagram)



21.Kxg2 Rc7 22.Rb4

[22.c6 b6 23.Rc3 Rbc8 24.Rbc1 Nd6= gives White nothing.]

22...Nf6?!

[22...Rbc8 23.Nd3 b6?! (23...Nf6±) 24.cxb6 Rxc1 25.bxa7! Not an easy move to foresee. (25.b7 Nd6 26.Nxc1 Rb8=) 25...R1c7 26.Rb8 Rxa7 27.Rxc8 Kf8 28.Nc5±]

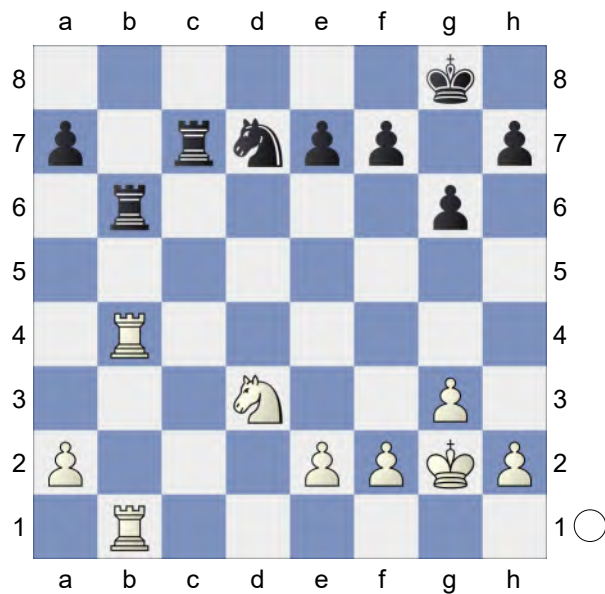
[22...f6 23.Nd3 Kf7 was the best way for Black to play.]

23.Nd3

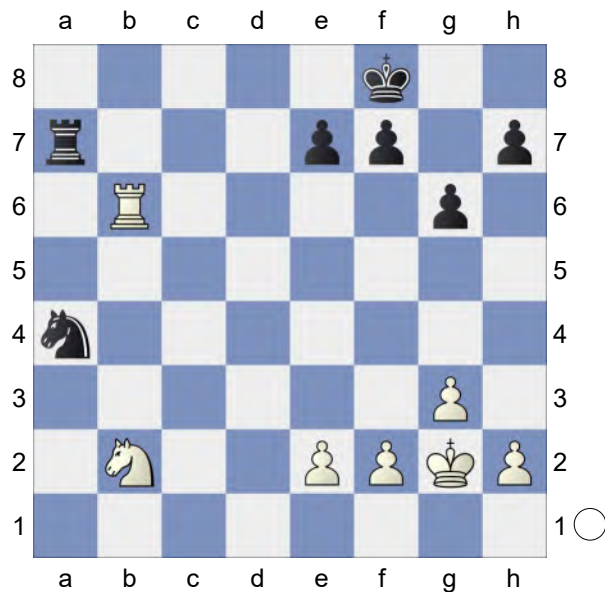
[23.c6!? b6 24.a4 (24.Rd4 Rbc8 25.g4 Ne8 26.Rd7 Kf8=) 24...Rbc8 25.Rf4 Rd8 26.e3 black is under some pressure]

23...Nd7 24.Rcb1 b6 25.cxb6 Rxb6

(Diagram)



26.a4 Kf8 27.Rxb6 axb6 28.Rb4 Ra7 29.Nb2 Nc5 30.Rxb6 Nxa4



Nothing much happened in the game between the two favourites of the group B.

1/2-1/2

463

□ Sambuev,Bator

■ Wei,Yi

FIDE World Cup (1.1)

[Sagar,Shah]

E20

2529

2748

03.09.2017

(90min+30sec)/40+(30min+30sec)

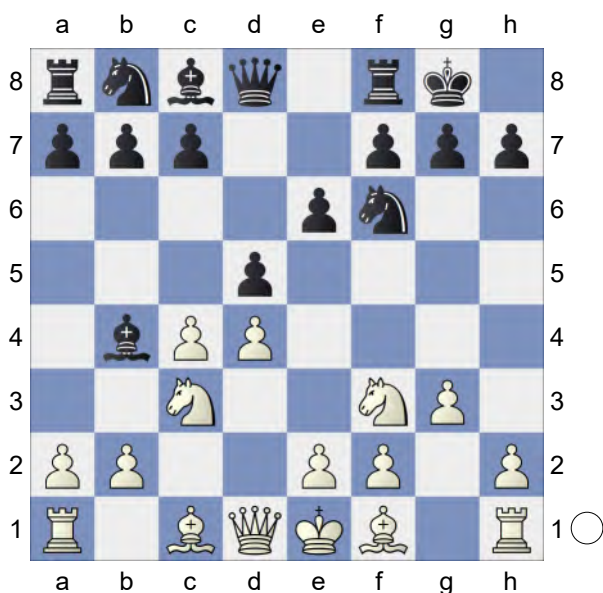
1.Nf3 0 Paunovic,Tomislav Paunovic,
Tomislav

[The Nimzo-Indian move order is 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.g3 0-0 (4...c5 5.Nf3 5 transposes to the Kasparov Variation, which more commonly arises via 4 Nf3 c5 g3) 5.Bg2 d5]

1...Nf6 20 2.c4 0 e6 48 3.Nc3 0 d5 16
4.d4 0 Bb4 4:48 5.g3!? 1:05

An interesting line against the Ragozin,
taking the game into Catalan territory.

5...0-0 1:17



6.Bg2 48 John Emms: 'This line is very similar to the Catalan, but with Black's bishop on b4 rather than e7.' 6...dxc4 26 John Emms: 'This is Black's most popular move here.'

[An alternative is to play solidly, just like in the Closed Catalan, with 6...c6 7.0-0 Nbd7]

7.0-0 11

[In the normal Catalan with an early Nc3, 7.Ne5 is White's main move. With the bishop on b4, however, Nd5 looks like a decent reply by Black.]

7...Nc6 24 8.a3 2:31

[Alternatives include 8.Bg5]

[and 8.e3]

8...Be7 5:54 The most critical.

[I was once preparing this line for White and I remember that if Black took on c3 I would be quite happy with the position. 8...Bxc3 9.bxc3 Rb8 (9...Na5 10.a4) 10.Bg5 b5 11.e4 h6 12.Bh4 e5 (12...g5 13.Nxg5) 13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.dxe5 Qxd1 15.Rfxd1 Nd7 16.f4 Re8 17.e6 fxe6 18.e5 Nxe5 19.Bd8 Nd3 20.Bxc7 1-0 (73) Carlsen,M (2646)-Adams,M (2720) Turin 2006]

9.e4 29 This is a typical Catalan pawn sacrifice. White is not interested in recovering his c4 pawn. Instead he just expands in the centre and looks for a kingside attack. 9...Na5 2:46 John Emms: 'This has turned out to be a real gambit. White isn't going to regain the c4-pawn any time soon, but his strong pawn centre and piece activity provide reasonable compensation.'

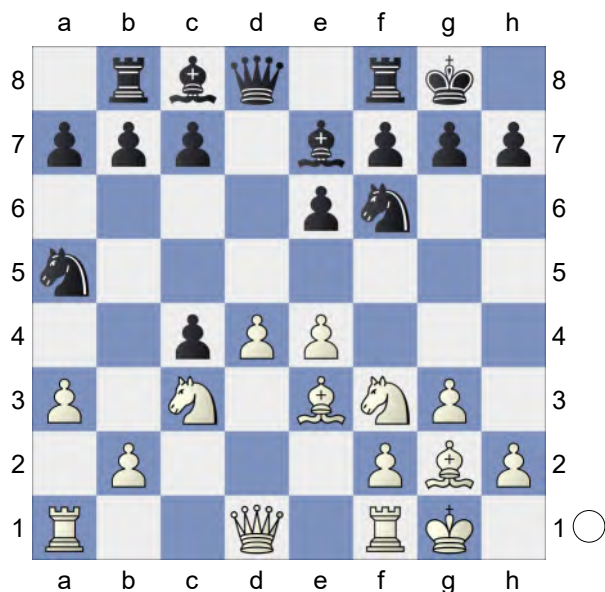
10.Be3 2:49 White doesn't really care about the c4 pawn much. He continues with his development. 10...Rb8 19:43

[10...Ng4 11.Bf4]

[10...Nb3 (Paunovic,Tomislav) - 117/ (179)]

[10...a6 is another way to prepare ... b5. 11.Qc2 (White could play as in our main game with 11.Qe2) 11...b5 12.Ng5 (12.Rad1!?) 12...e5!? (12...g6) 13.Nf3 (13.dxe5 Ng4) 13...exd4 14.Bxd4 Be6 15.Rad1 Nd7 16.Be3 Nb3 17.Nd5 with some

compensation for White, but probably not enough, Feldborg, B-Rasmussen, E/ICCF email 2006.]

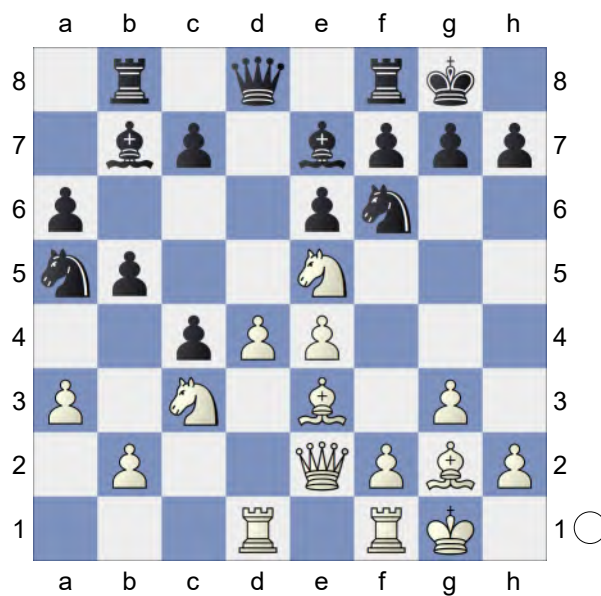


11.Qe2 6:13 b5 2:16 12.Rad1 2:20
Solid central play by Sambuev. He gets all his pieces into the game before doing anything concrete. **12...Bb7 6:31**
John Emms: 'This is the first new move.'

[An earlier game went 12...a6 13.d5 Qe8, Onischuk, A-Karjakin, S/ Baku 2015.]

13.Ne5 7:57 a6 13:59 Paunovic, Tomislav: 'Diagram

(Diagram)



14.g4! 2:09 Paunovic, Tomislav: 'N!?' 'N!?' 'N!?' John Emms: 'Sambuev decides against action with d4-d5, and instead keeps the centre firm and starts to advance on the kingside. This looks like a good practical choice for White. The engines prefer Black, but as the game demonstrates, it's not so easy to defend. Paunovic, Tomislav: 'N!?' This was the move that Sambuev was very proud of. He starts to create some pressure on his opponent with the idea of the pawn storm with g5 followed by f4.

[14.f4 Paunovic, Tomislav]

14...Ne8 5:49 John Emms: 'Black wants to kick the knight away with ...f6, but doesn't get time to do so.'

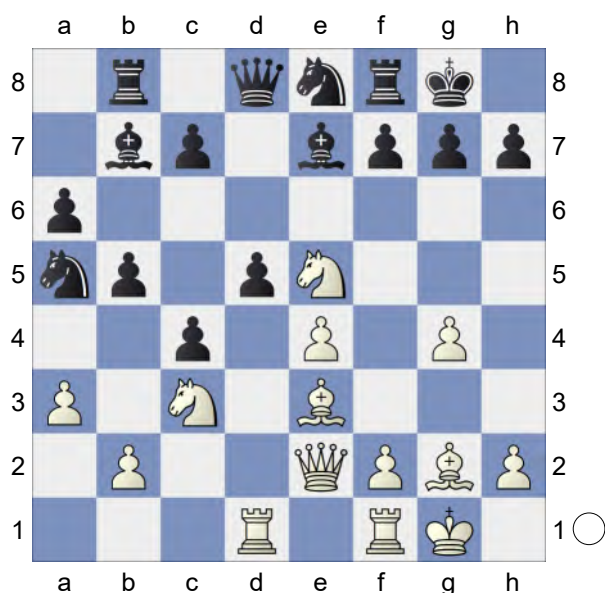
[14...Nd7!? Paunovic, Tomislav: 'Δ' 'Δ' 'Δ' John Emms: 'looks more logical, as it's natural for Black to want to relieve pressure via exchanges. Perhaps Wei Yi was afraid of Paunovic, Tomislav: ' Δ' 15.f4 f6 This was interesting! (15...Nxe5 16.dxe5 Qc8 17.f5 intending f6. This is understandable as it does look quite scary for Black, but Stockfish's calm Rd8 intending 18.f6 Bf8

seems to hold Black's position together.) 16.Nf3 with a complex position. (16.d5?! Nxe5! 17.fxe5 fxe5 18.dxe6 Bd6 $\bar{7}$)]

15.d5 5:17 Paunovic,Tomislav: '!' '!' '!'

15...exd5 2:10

[15...Bd6 16.f4 was also possible. exd5 17.exd5 Qe7 (17...Nf6 18.g5 Nd7 19.Nc6 $\pm$ White has a firm grip on the position.) 18.Nc6 ∞]



16.Nxd5 2:30 Nd6 7:00

[16...Bd6 was a move that had to be considered. 17.f4 Bxd5 18.exd5 Qe7 19.Qd2 Nb3 20.Qc3 with a complicated position.]

17.g5!? 8:48 Once again a powerful move. The idea is to continue with f4.

[17.f4 f6 18.Nf3 intending e5 is another option for White.]

17...Bxd5 15:42 John Emms: '?'

[John Emms: 'Black should go ahead and grab the pawn on g5. After' 17...Bxg5!? John Emms: '!' John Emms: 'Paunovic,Tomislav: '!'?' 18.Bxg5 Qxg5 19.Nd7 Rbe8 20.Nxf8 (20.f4 Paunovic,Tomislav Qf5 John Emms: '!' John Emms: 'Black is

very much alive.' 21.exf5 Rxe2 22.Bf3 ∞) 20...Bxd5 ∞ 21.f4 Qf5! 22.exf5 Rxe2 23.Rxd5 Kxf8 24.Rc5 Re7 ∞ Black has good compensation for the sacrificed exchange.]

18.Rxd5 1:10 c6 45

[18...Qe8!? Paunovic,Tomislav 19.f4 $\uparrow$]

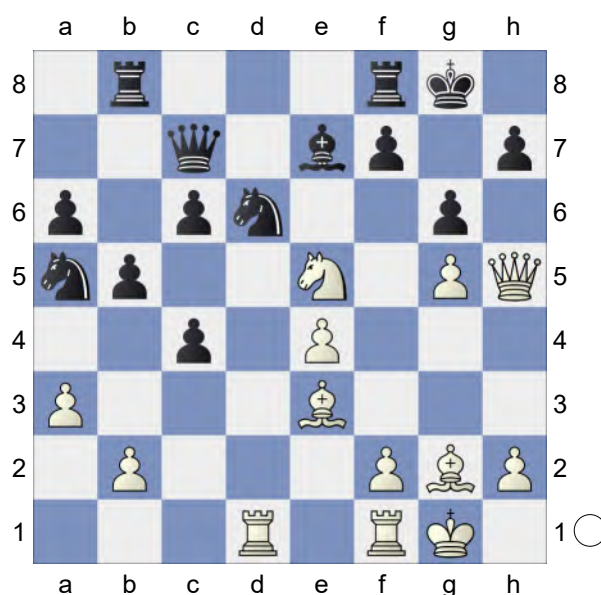
19.Rdd1 $\pm$ 1:45 The position has settled down and White is better because Black's pieces are awkwardly placed.

19...Qc7 8

[Taking the pawn with 19...Bxg5 doesn't look that good as after 20.Bc5 Be7 21.Bh3 Threatening $\odot$ d7. Rb7 22.Bb4 c5 23.Bxc5 $\pm$ White's piece activity plus bishop pair will give him a good advantage.]

20.Qh5 3:46 Paunovic,Tomislav: ' $\pm$ ' ' $\pm$ ' ' $\pm$ ' John Emms: ' $\pm$!' John Emms: 'Black is now staring down a very nasty attack on the kingside, and there's no counterplay either. Paunovic,Tomislav: ' $\pm$ '' **20...g6? 3:49**

[20...Rbd8!? 21.Ng4 Paunovic,Tomislav: ' $\pm$ ' ' $\pm$ ' ' $\pm$ ' John Emms: ' $\pm$ ' Nb3 22.f4 c3 ∞]



John Emms: 'Paunovic,Tomislav: '?' It's very rare that Wei Yi makes such huge errors in sharp positions. But if he does, it is usually when he is defending rather than attacking! **21.Qh6 7:50** Paunovic, Tomislav: ' ±'±'±' **21...Nxe4? 1:31** John Emms: 'This loses, but it was already a very difficult position for Black to defend.' Snatching the pawn is bad as White has an intermediate move.

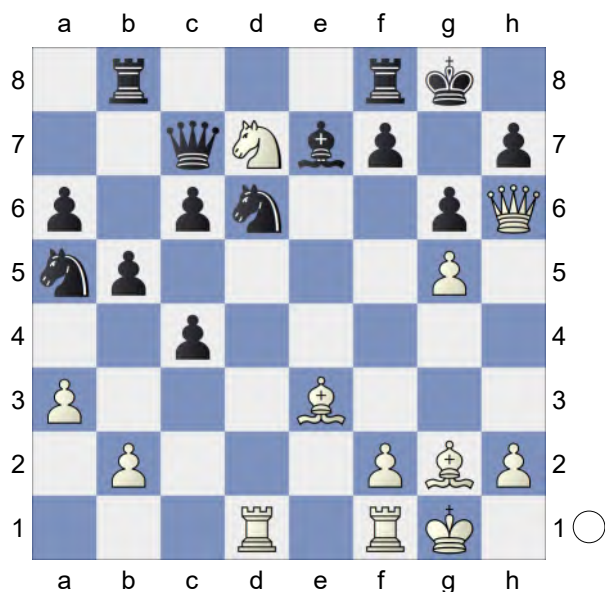
[21...Rfd8 was a better option to bring his bishop to f8 for the king's safety but White still holds all the trumps.

22.Bf4 Bf8 23.Qh3 (23.Qh4+- (Paunovic,Tomislav) Δ Ng4) 23...Bg7 24.Ng4+-]

[21...Nab7 Paunovic,Tomislav]

22.Nd7! 1:48 Paunovic,Tomislav: '+-' '+-' '+-' Full credit to Sambuev for finding flaws in his opponent's calculation.

22...Nd6 45 Paunovic,Tomislav: 'Diagram



' Paunovic,Tomislav: 'Diagram [#]'

23.Bh3 45 Paunovic,Tomislav: '! '!' '!

John Emms: '! John Emms: 'Perhaps Wei Yi missed this. White's knight on d7 is worth much more than a rook!' The knight has been stopped from coming to

f5. Now ♖f6+ is a big threat.

[23.Nf6+ Bxf6 24.gxf6 Nf5+]

23...Rfd8 18

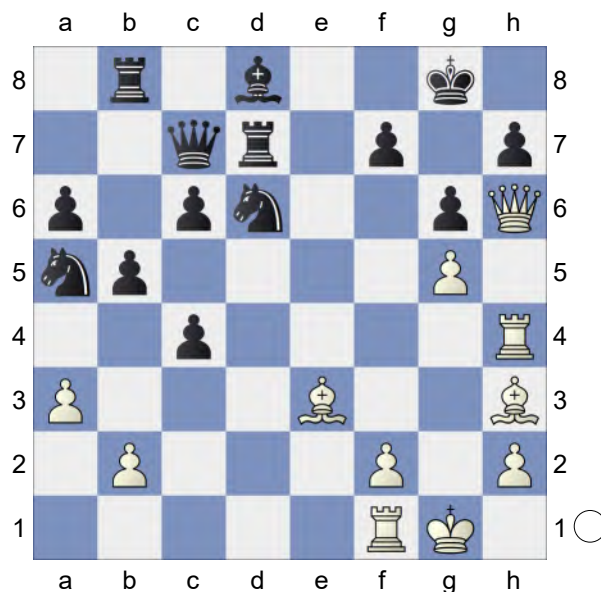
[23...Rbd8 Paunovic,Tomislav 24.Nf6+ Bxf6 25.gxf6 Ne8 26.Bg5]

John Emms: 'For example,' **24.Rd4! 58**

John Emms: 'There's no good defence to the threat of Rh4.' The idea is just ♖h4 and there is no good way to stop it. Wei Yi had had enough. Sambuev was very close to eliminating Wei Yi in this event. In the end he wasn't able to but he gave the Chinese phenomenon a very tough fight.

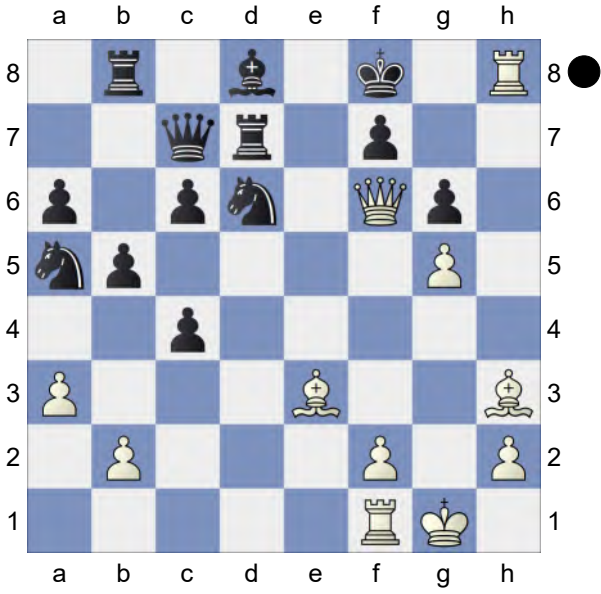
[24.Nf6+ Bxf6 25.gxf6 Ne8 Black is somehow clinging on.]

24...Rxd7 25.Rh4 Bd8



26.Qxh7+ Kf8 27.Qh8+ Ke7 28.Qf6+ Kf8 29.Rh8#

(Diagram)



1-0

485

□ Dale,Ari

■ Wei,Yi

Tata Steel-B 77th (3)

[Sagar,Shah]

E14

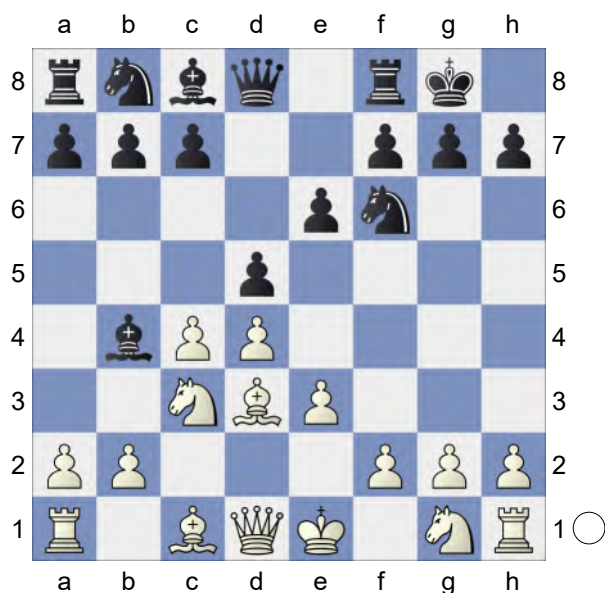
2291

2675

12.01.2015

Wei Yi is known for scoring wins against lower rated players. With a rating of 2675, he has been able to consistently get better of 2550-2600 opponents. Today he faced Ari Dale who is rated just 2291. It would be safe to assume that the Chinese player who was nearly 400 points above his opponent would have an easy day but it was not to be. Ari Dale played a fantastic game filled with aggression and resourcefulness.

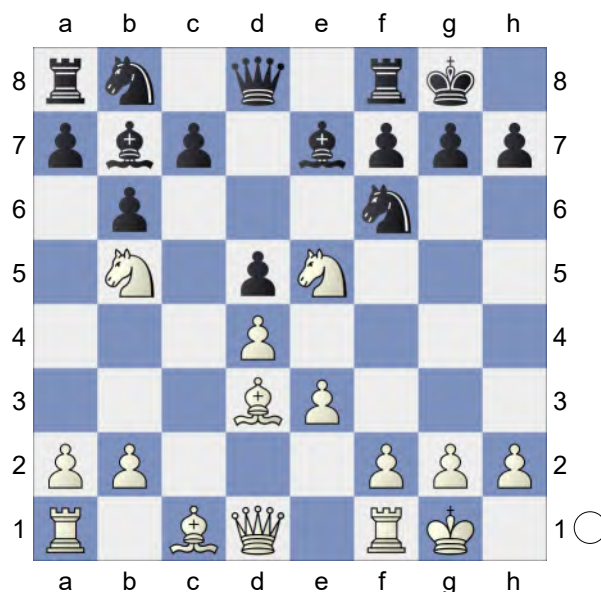
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd3 d5

**6.Nf3 b6**

[6...c5 is the main line but the move b6 leads to less direct and much more complicated play.]

7.0-0 Bb7 8.cxd5 exd5 9.Ne5 Bd6 10.Nb5

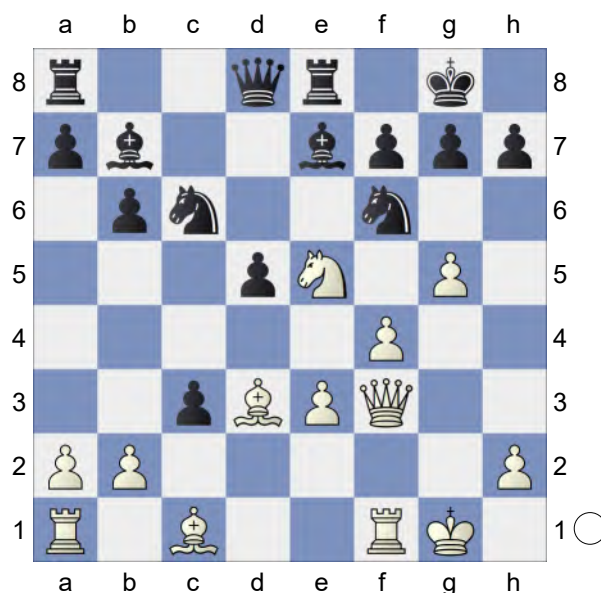
[10.f4 c5 11.Qf3 Nc6 12.Qh3 g6 13.Kh1 is one of the main lines.]

10...Be7**11.f4 c5 12.Nc3 Nc6 13.Qf3 Re8N**

[13...cxd4 14.Nxc6 Bxc6 15.exd4 Qd7 looks very logical. White has no traces of an attack and Black should be more than ok.]

14.g4 This is too ambitious but Black has to be accurate in order to keep the advantage. **14...cxd4 15.g5!? dxc3**

[15...Ne4 16.Nxe4 dxe4 17.Qxe4±]
 [15...Nd7? 16.Bxh7+! Kxh7 17.Qh5+-]



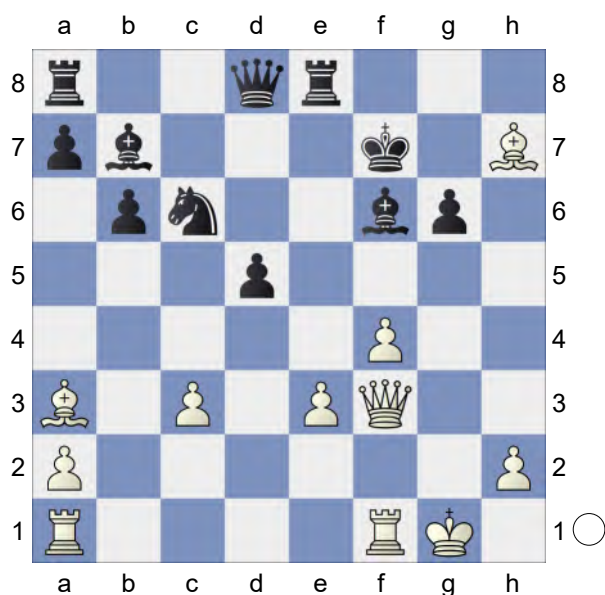
16.gxf6 Bxf6 17.Bxh7+! When you say A you have to say B. **17...Kf8**

[17...Kxh7 18.Qh5+ Kg8 19.Qxf7+ Kh7 20.Qh5+= is an instant draw. (20.Rf3 Nxe5-+)]

18.bxc3 Ba3 is the threat now. Black has a few good ways to meet it. **18...g6!?** the most logical move making a luft for the king on g7.

[18...Qd6 19.a4 Nxe5 20.fxe5 Qxe5 21.Ba3+ Re7♣]

19.Ba3+ Kg7 20.Nxf7! Ari Dale knows that the only way to keep the fire going is to throw more wood into it. Will he run out of wood or will his opponent get burnt? **20...Kxf7**



21.Qg4 Ne7 The only way to defend g6.

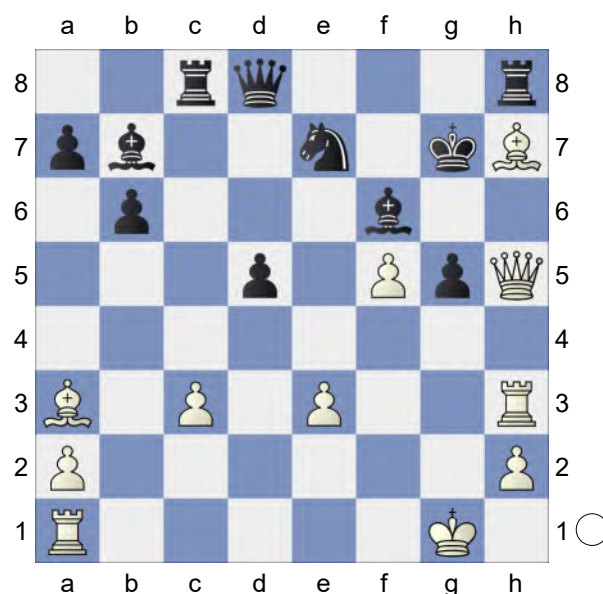
[21...Kg7 22.Qxg6+ Kh8 23.Qh6 Bg7 24.Qh5+-]

22.f5! g5

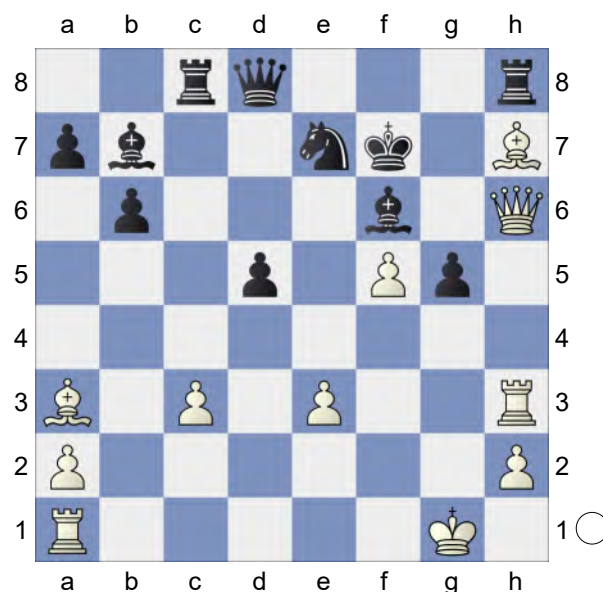
[22...Kg7 23.Bxg6 Rh8! An extremely difficult move to make. 24.Bh7+ Kf8 25.Qg6 Rxh7 26.Qxh7 Qc7♣]

23.Qh5+ Kg7 24.Rf3! Once again the only move. White needs to defend his bishop against Rh8. **24...Rh8 25.Rh3** now there is no way to prevent the draw

with Qh6+ **25...Rc8**



26.Qh6+ Kf7 27.Bg6+ Kg8 28.Bh7+ Kf7 29.Bg6+ Kg8 30.Bh7+ Kf7



Not the best opening play by Ari but his middlegame play was imaginative and fearless.

1/2-1/2

484

□ Dale,Ari

■ Wei,Yi

Tata Steel-B 77th (3)

[Sagar,Shah]

B24

2291

2675

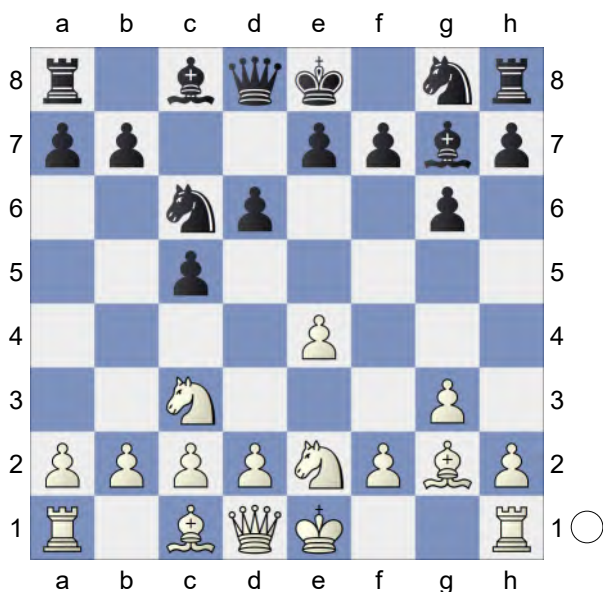
12.01.2015

Wei Yi is known for scoring wins against lower rated players. With a rating of 2675, he has been able to consistently get better of 2550-2600 opponents. Today he faced Ari Dale who is rated just 2291. It would be safe to assume that the Chinese player who was nearly 400 points above his opponent would have an easy day but it was not to be. Ari Dale played a fantastic game filled with aggression and resourcefulness.

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nge2 d6 4.g3

[4.d4]

4...g6 5.Bg2 Bg7



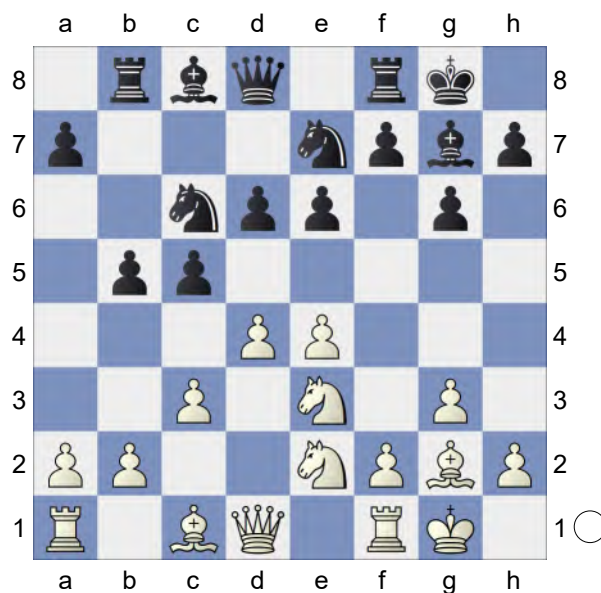
6.0-0 Rb8 7.Nd5

[7.d3 b5 8.f4 e6 9.f5 b4 10.fxe6 fxe6 11.e5 Nxe5 12.Ne4 Nf6 13.Bg5 0-0 14.d4 Ned7 15.Bh3 Qe7 16.Nf4 Nb6 17.dxc5 e5 18.Nxf6+ Bxf6 19.Nd5 Nxd5 20.Qxd5+ Kg7 21.cxd6 Qb7 22.Bxf6+ Rxf6

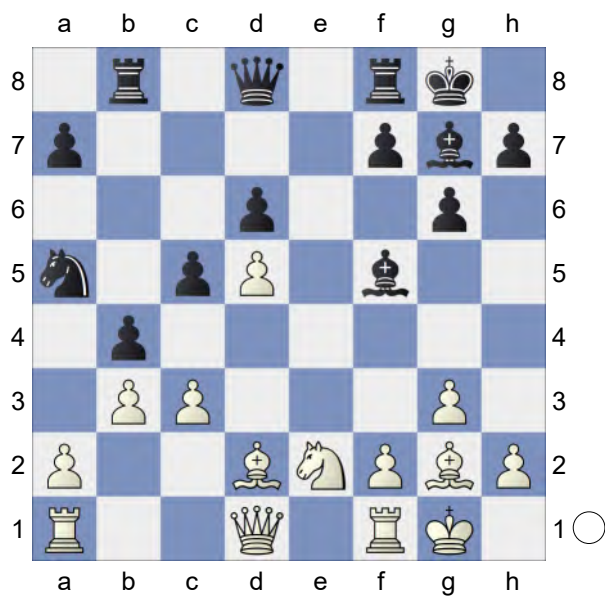
23.Qxb7+ Bxb7 24.Rxf6 Kxf6 25.Rf1+ Kg7 26.Be6 Rf8 27.d7 Rd8 28.Rf7+ Kh8 29.Re7 Bc6 30.Kf2 a6 31.c4 Rf8+ 32.Ke3 Rd8 33.b3]

7...e6 8.Ne3 Nge7 9.c3 0-0 10.d4 b5

[10...cxd4 11.cxd4 d5 12.e5 f5 13.h4+- Qb6 14.Nc2 Bd7 15.b3 a5 16.Bg5 h6 17.Be3 Nb4 18.Na3 Rbc8 19.Qd2 Kh7= is an instant draw. 20.Nc3 Rc7-+ 21.Na4 Bxa4 22.bxa4 Rfc8± 23.Qb2? Qc6! 24.Nb5 Qc2+- 25.Rfb1 Qxb2 26.Rxb2 Rc2 27.Rab1 looks very logical. White has no traces of an attack and Black should be more than ok. Rxb2 28.Rxb2 Rc2 29.Rxc2 Nxc2 30.Nc7 Nb4 is one of the main lines. 31.a3 is the main line but the move b6 leads to less direct and much more complicated play. Nc2 32.Nxe6 Nxa3 33.Nc7 Nc4 34.Bxd5 Nxe3 35.fxe3 b6 36.Bb7 Kg8 37.Kf1 Kf7 38.Ke2 h5 39.Kd3 Bh6 40.d5]



11.d5 Na5 12.b3 b4 13.Bd2 exd5N 14.exd5 This is too ambitious but Black has to be accurate in order to keep the advantage. 14...Nf5 15.Nxf5!? Bxf5



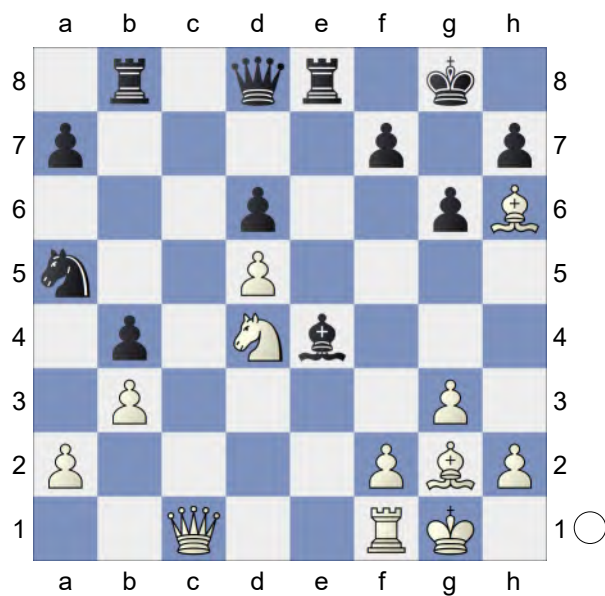
16.cxb4 cxb4

[16...Bxa1 17.Qxa1]

17.Rc1! When you say A you have to say B. **17...Bb2 18.Bh6** Ba3 is the threat now. Black has a few good ways to meet it. **18...Re8!?** the most logical move making a luft for the king on g7. **19.Nd4 Bxc1 20.Qxc1!** Ari Dale knows that the only way to keep the fire going is to throw more wood into it. Will he run out of wood or will his opponent get burnt? **20...Be4**

[20...Bd7 21.Qb2]

(Diagram)



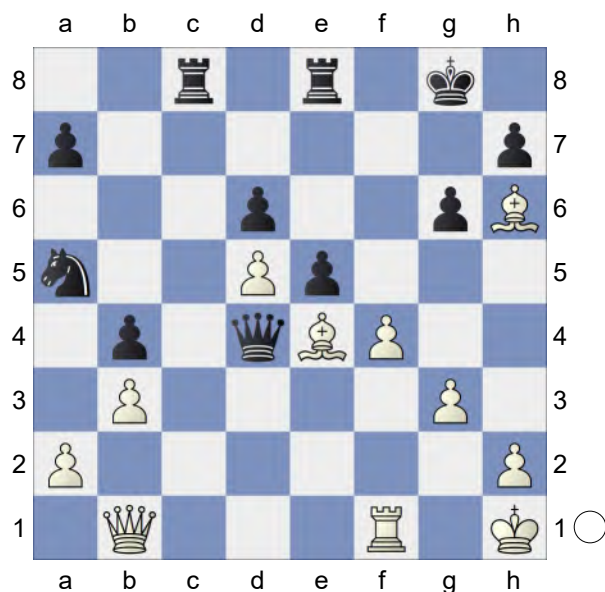
21.Ne6 fxe6 The only way to defend g6.

22.Bxe4! e5 23.f4 Qb6+ 24.Kh1!

Once again the only move. White needs to defend his bishop against Rh8.

24...Rbc8 25.Qb1 now there is no way

to prevent the draw with Qh6+ **25...Qd4**



26.f5 Rf8 27.f6 Kf7 28.Bxf8

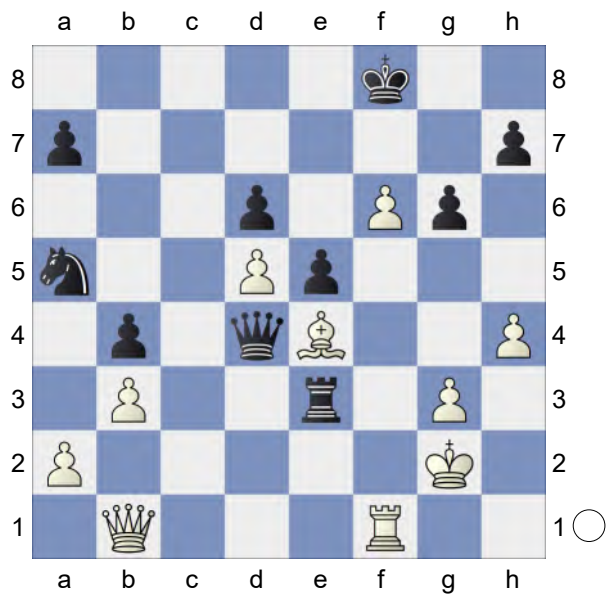
[28.h4]

28...Kxf8 29.h4

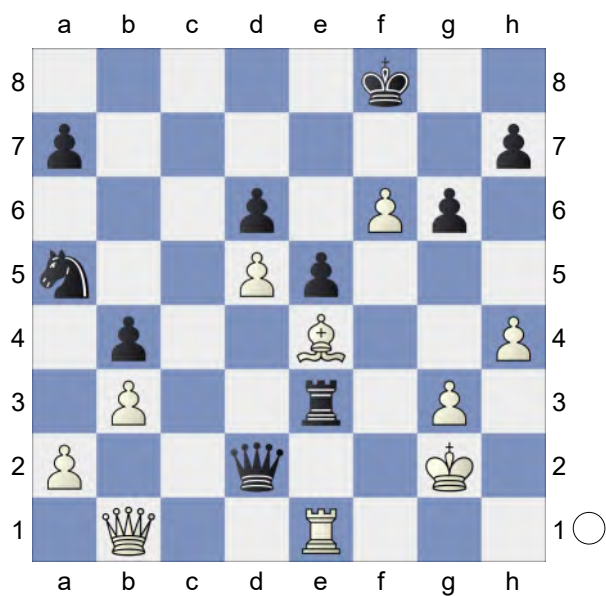
[29.Rd1! An extremely difficult move to make. Qe3]

29...Rc3 30.Kg2 Re3

(Diagram)



Not the best opening play by Ari but his middlegame play was imaginative and fearless. **31.Re1 Qd2+**



$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

162

□ Wei, Yi

■ Bromberger, Stefan

Qatar Masters op (6)

[Sagar, Shah/CB Website]

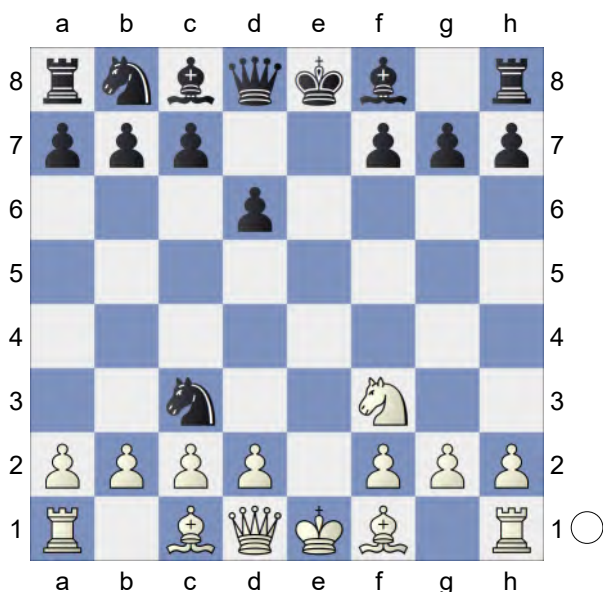
C42

2730

2521

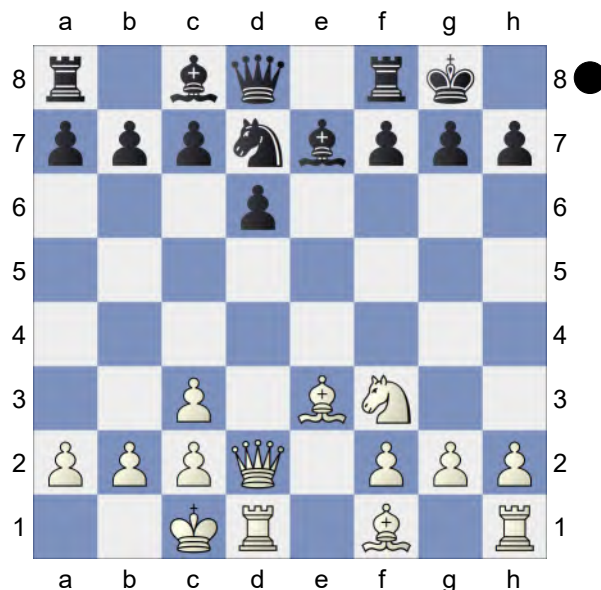
26.12.2015

Tadic, Branko: 'Wei Yi didn't have a good result in the Qatar Masters Open, but he played an interesting textbook game.' **1.e4** Tadic, Branko Tadic, Branko Tadic, Branko Sagar Shah/CB Website **1...e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Nc3 Nxc3**



6.dxc3 Be7 7.Be3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nd7 9.0-0-0 Tadic, Branko: '

(Diagram)



' **9...c6** Tadic, Branko: 'Quite a new move in this topical line of the Petrov.' **10.c4** Tadic, Branko: '!'

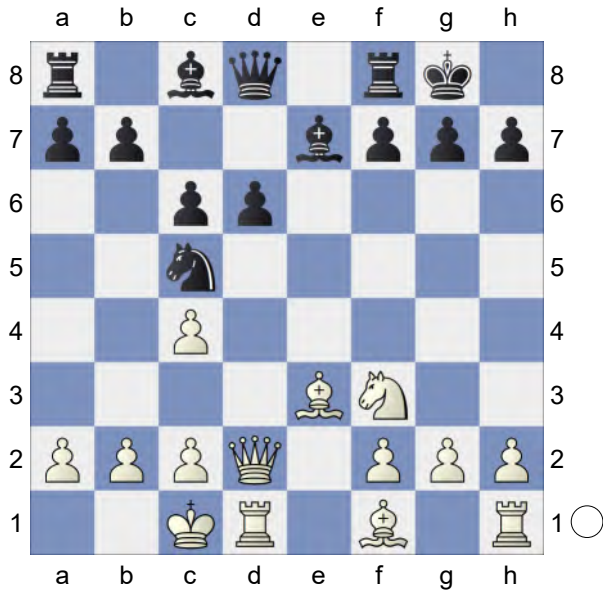
[10.h4 Tadic, Branko d5 11.Bd3 Nc5 12.Bxc5 Bxc5 13.Rde1 Qf6 Black has no problem. Carlsen-Ivanchuk rapid, Berlin 2015]

[10.Kb1 Tadic, Branko d5 11.c4 Nb6 12.cxd5 Nxd5 Black just needs to play a few precise move to equalize completely. Vachier-Lagrave - Giri 2015]

10...Nc5

[10...Re8 Tadic, Branko 11.Bd3 Ne5 12.Nxe5 dxe5 13.Qe2 is slightly better for White. Kryvoruchko-Kuzubov, Ukrainian Championship December 2015]

(Diagram)



11.Bxc5 Tadic,Branko: '!?' '!?' '!?'

11...dxc5 **12.Qf4** Tadic,Branko: 'N' 'N'

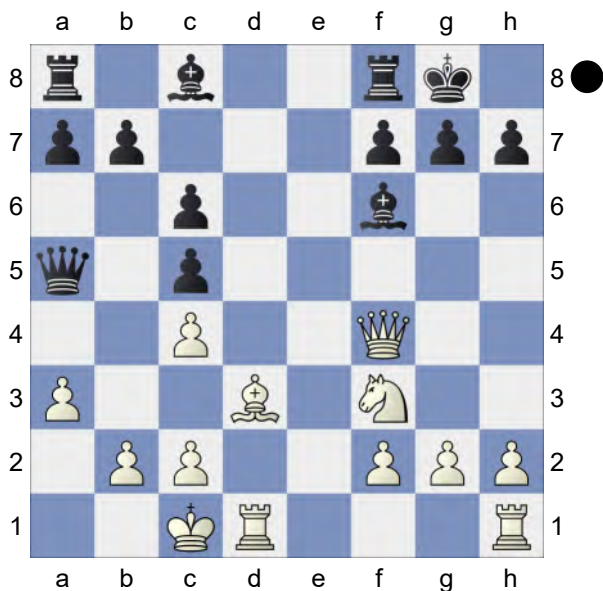
'N' Tadic,Branko: 'At first it doesn't seem very promising, but the white pieces are well placed to attack the king.'

[12.Bd3 Tadic,Branko]

12...Qa5 13.Bd3 Bf6

[13...Qxa2? Tadic,Branko 14.Qe4+-]

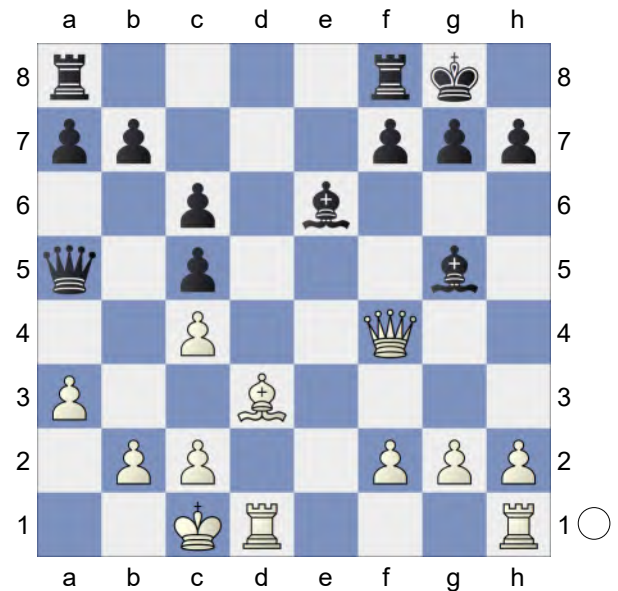
14.a3 Tadic,Branko: '



14...Be6

[14...b5 (Tadic,Branko) is a possible alternative to get some play on the queenside. 15.cxb5 Be6 ! 16.Ng5

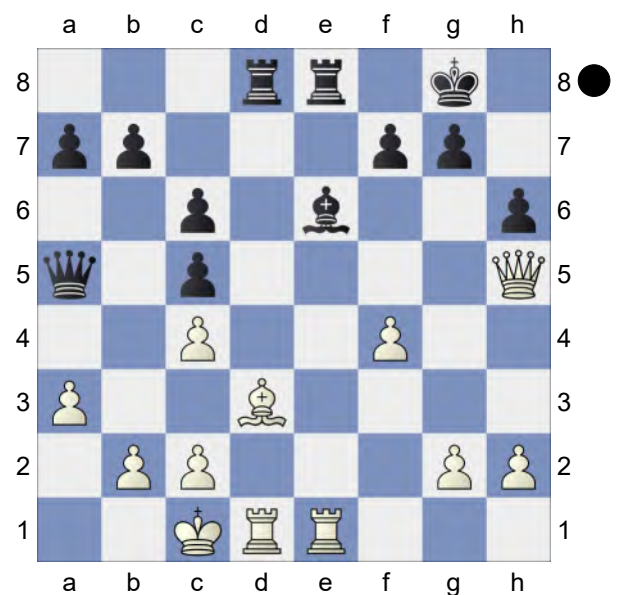
Bxg5 17.Qxg5 c4 18.Be4 c3 !
19.Bxc6 Rac8 with a wild game.]
15.Ng5 Tadic,Branko: " 15...Bxg5



16.Qxg5 Tadic,Branko: '± The white bishop is clearly stronger than his counterpart.' **16...Rad8 17.Rhe1**

[17.f4 (Tadic,Branko) !? Bc8 18.Qh5 also looks logical. The h1 rook might not necessarily develop on to e1.]

17...Rfe8 18.f4 h6 19.Qh5
Tadic,Branko: '

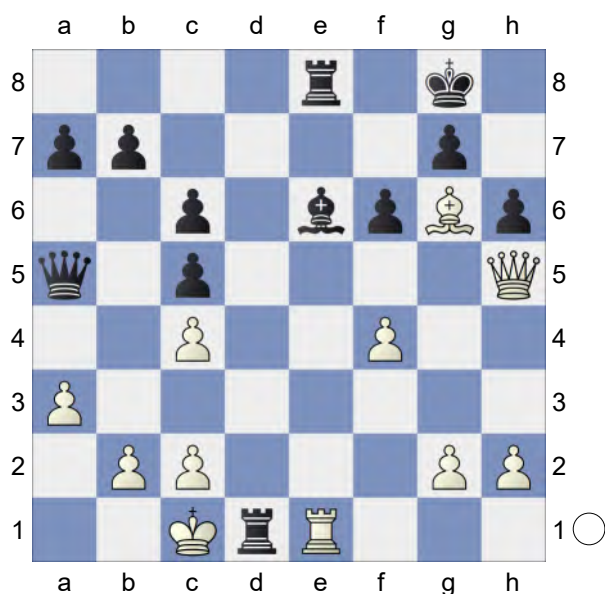


' **19...f6** Tadic,Branko: '?' '?' '?' Tadic,
Branko: '?' This move opens the light

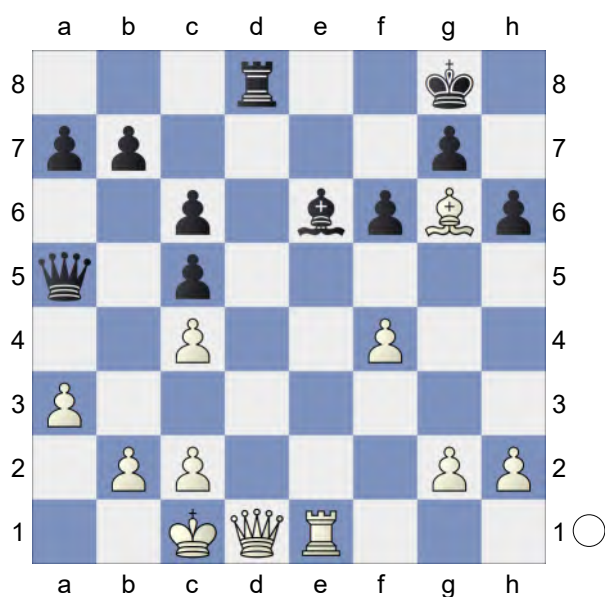
squares around the king and permits a beautiful combination. Much more solid was 19...Bc8, trying to exchange some pieces.'

[19...Bc8 Tadic,Branko 20.Qh4 Qc7 21.f5 f6 22.h3 Rxe1 23.Rxe1 Kf8 24.Qf2 b6 25.Qe3 Qd6 26.g4 Bd7=]

20.Bg6 Tadic,Branko: '!' **20...Rxd1+**



21.Qxd1 Tadic,Branko: '!' **21...Rd8**
Tadic,Branko: 'Diagram



' Tadic,Branko: 'Diagram [#]' Wei Yi had not been having a great tournament in

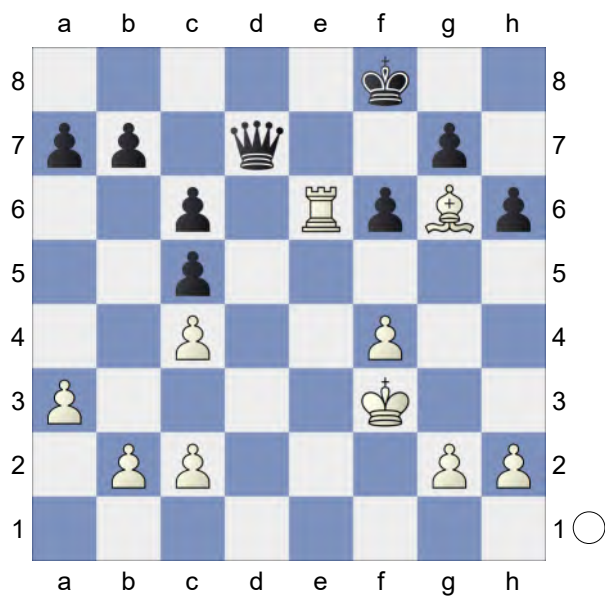
Doha, but in this round he showed some nice tactical brilliance. Here ♔e2 was also good for a clear advantage for White, but the Chinese prodigy goes for the queen sacrifice. Wei Yi had not been having a great tournament in Doha, but in this round he showed some nice tactical brilliance. Here ♔e2 was also good for a clear advantage for White, but the Chinese prodigy goes for the queen sacrifice. **22.Rxe6** Tadic,Branko: '!!' '!!' '!!'

[22.Qe2 Tadic,Branko Bf7 23.Bxf7+ Kxf7 24.Qe7+ Kg8 25.Re2±]

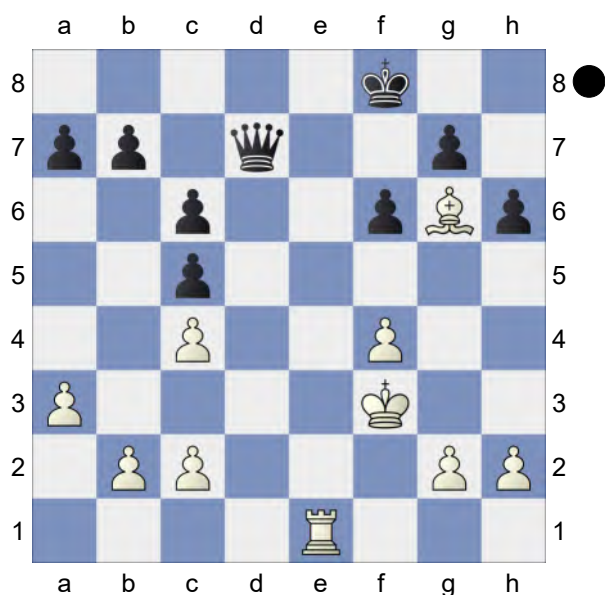
22...Rxd1+ 23.Kxd1 The funny thing about this position is that the black king can never escape the mating net and hence the queen will always be tied down. At the right moment when the white king will be in the perfect position, White should play ♔e8+ and make the transition to a winning pawn endgame. The funny thing about this position is that the black king can never escape the mating net and hence the queen will always be tied down. At the right moment when the white king will be in the perfect position, White should play ♔e8+ and make the transition to a winning pawn endgame. **23...Qd8+** Tadic,Branko: 'is the only way not to be mated immediately.' **24.Ke2 Kf8** Tadic,Branko: 'The end of the combination. Black's king is in a mating net, White needs to improve his position and transpose to a pawn endgame at the right moment.' **25.Kf3 Qd7**

[25...Qd1+ 26.Kg3 Qd8 27.Re1 is similar to the game. is similar to the game.]

(Diagram)



26.Re1 Tadic,Branko: '



' **26...Qd8**

[26...f5 (Tadic,Branko) is the other defensive idea. White wins with the following plan: 27.h3 Qc8 28.g4 fxg4+ 29.hxg4 Qd7 30.Kg3 Qd8 31.Re2 Qd7 32.Kh4 Qd8+ 33.Kh5 Qd7 34.f5 Qd8 35.Re8+ Qxe8 36.Bxe8 Kxe8 37.Kg6 Kf8 38.f6 +□-]

[26...b5 (Tadic,Branko) loses immediately: 27.cxb5 cxb5 28.Re8+ Qxe8 29.Bxe8 Kxe8 30.Ke4 +□-]

27.Kg4 Qd7+ 28.Kh5 Qd8
Tadic,Branko: 'Black still cannot try anything on the queenside because it would weaken the c5 pawn with an immediate loss, for example:'

[28...b5 Tadic,Branko 29.cxb5 cxb5 30.Re8+ Qxe8 31.Bxe8 Kxe8 32.Kg6 Kf8 33.b3 Kg8 34.c4 b4 35.a4 Kf8 36.g4 Kg8 37.g5 and after some exchanges White collects the c5 pawn.]

29.a4 Tadic,Branko: 'Preparing for a deadly zugzwang.' Improving the position to the maximum. Improving the position to the maximum.

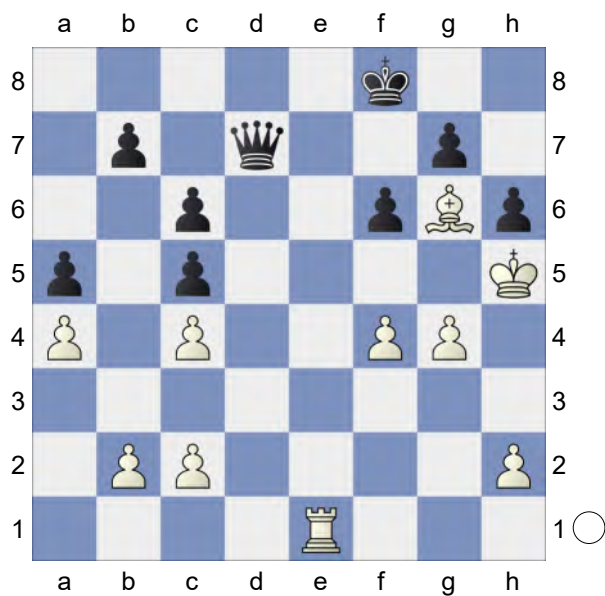
[29.Re8+ Just for curiosity's sake, the pawn ending even now is winning. Just for curiosity's sake, the pawn ending even now is winning. Qxe8 30.Bxe8 Kxe8 31.Kg6 Kf8 32.Kh7 Kf7 33.h4 is also winning as after b5 34.b3 b4 35.a4 a5

A) 36.g4 f5! (36...h5! Tadic,Branko 37.gxh5 f5 38.h6 g6 39.Kh8 Kf8=) 37.g5 h5=;

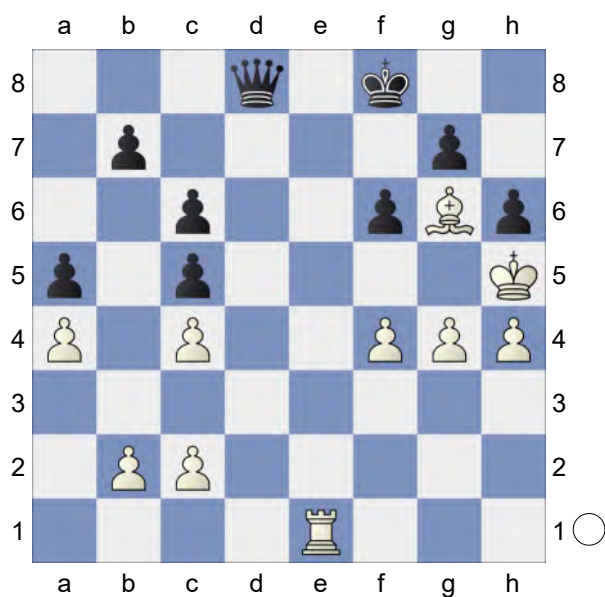
B) 36.g3! Kf8 37.g4 Kf7 38.g5+- wins as in the game. wins as in the game.]

29...a5? 30.g4 Qd7

(Diagram)

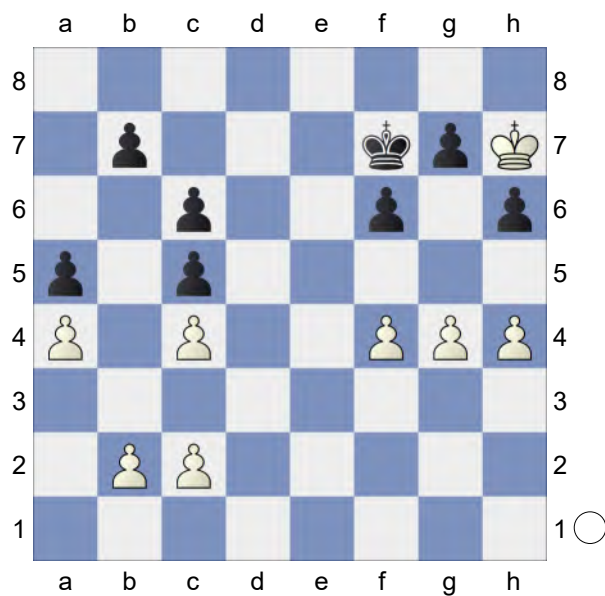


31.h4 Qd8 Tadic,Branko: '



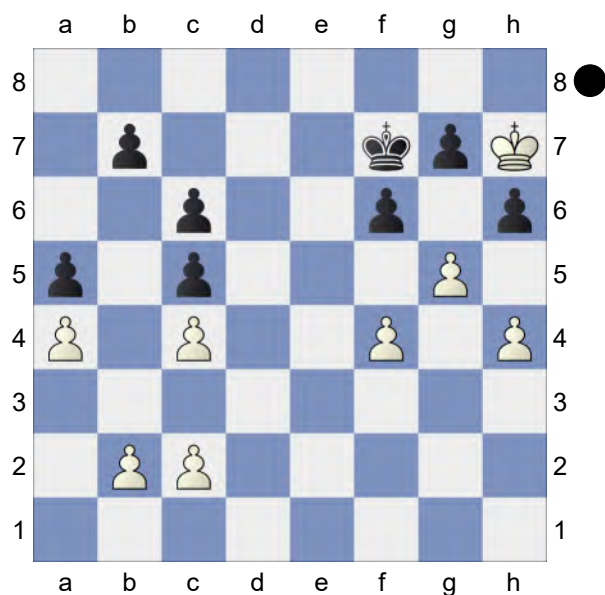
' **32.Re8+!** Tadic,Branko: 'The easiest move! The pawn endgame is very easily winning now.' 32...Qxe8 33.Bxe8 Kxe8 34.Kg6 Kf8 35.Kh7 Kf7

(Diagram)



36.g5!

[36.g5 hxg5 37.hxg5 fxg5 38.fxg5 Kf8 39.g6+- A nice game for Wei Yi but quite an easy calculation compared to the brilliant ones that he has shown in the past. A nice game for Wei Yi but quite an easy calculation compared to the brilliant ones that he has shown in the past.]



1-0

471

□ Wei, Yi

■ Vachier Lagrave, Maxime

Reykjavik op (8)

[Sam Collins]

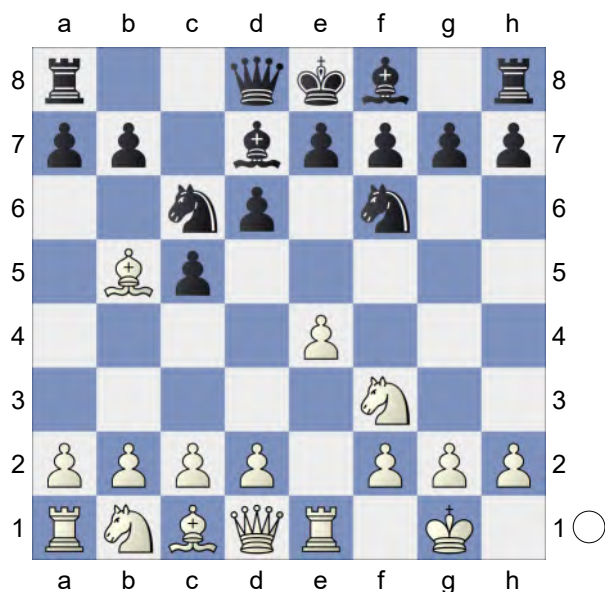
B51

2501

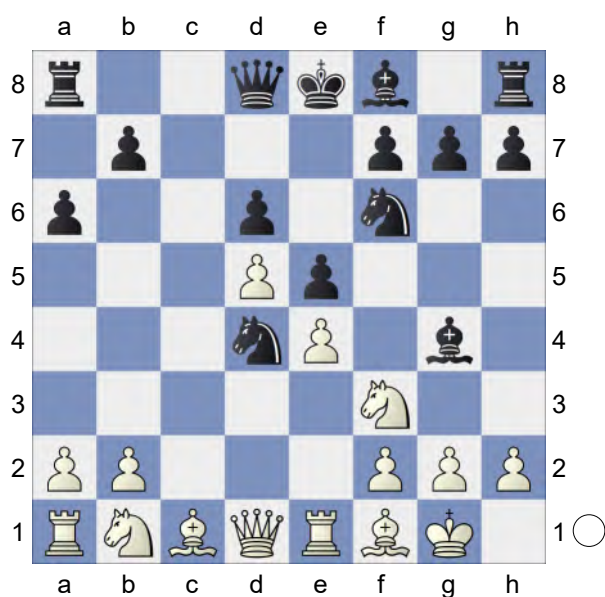
2715

25.02.2013

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 d6 4.0-0
Bd7 5.Re1 Nf6



6.c3 a6 7.Bf1 Bg4 8.d4 cxd4 9.cxd4
e5 10.d5 Nd4



11.Be3 Nxf3+ 12.gxf3 Bd7 13.a4
Nh5!? A novelty, aiming for very

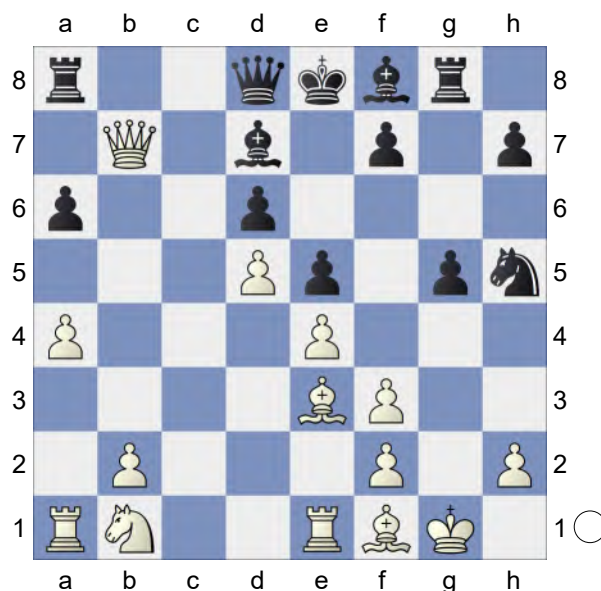
aggressive play on the kingside.

[13...Be7 has been played in all games which reached this position and was covered in the Archives in my notes to B.Yildiz (2333) - A.Muzychuk (2598), Kazan 2012 (0-1 in 35).]

14.Qb3 g5 This is the real novelty.

[14...Be7 would return to similar positions to those arising after 13...Be7.]

15.Qxb7 Rg8



16.Nd2 g4 Black's compensation looks plainly insufficient with a computer running in the background, but I could see how such a try might have good results in practice. Wei defends coolly.
17.fxg4 Rb8 Throwing another pawn into the mix.

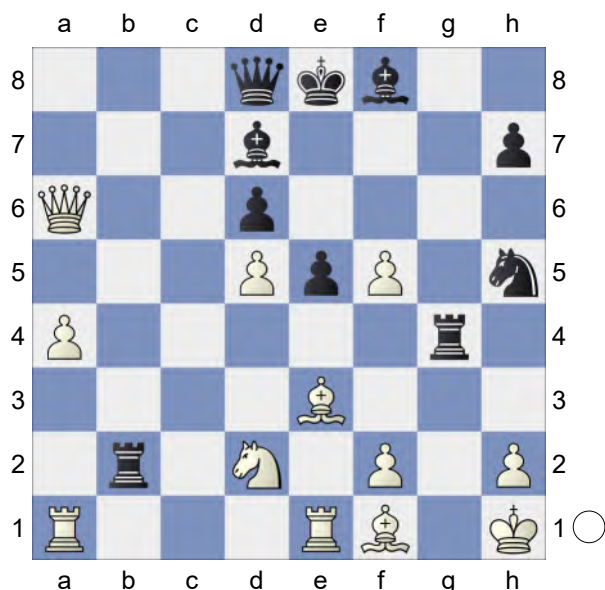
[After 17...Rxc4+ 18.Kh1 Black has problems developing his kingside initiative, based on his lagging development and destroyed queenside. In addition, White has several pieces which are well placed for defence. Nothing looks convincing for Black here, for instance Nf4 19.Rac1 Bxa4 20.Bxa6 and the position simplifies to White's

advantage after Rb8 (20...Bd7
 21.Rc7 Rxa6 22.Rxd7 Qxd7
 23.Qxa6+-) 21.Qxb8! Qxb8
 22.Rc8+]

18.Qxa6 Rxc4+ 19.Kh1 f5 Insufficient,
 but nothing seems to work.

[Moves like 19...Nf4 run into 20.Bb5!
 when White's attack is stronger, in
 addition to his material plus.]

20.exf5 Rxb2



21.Be2!

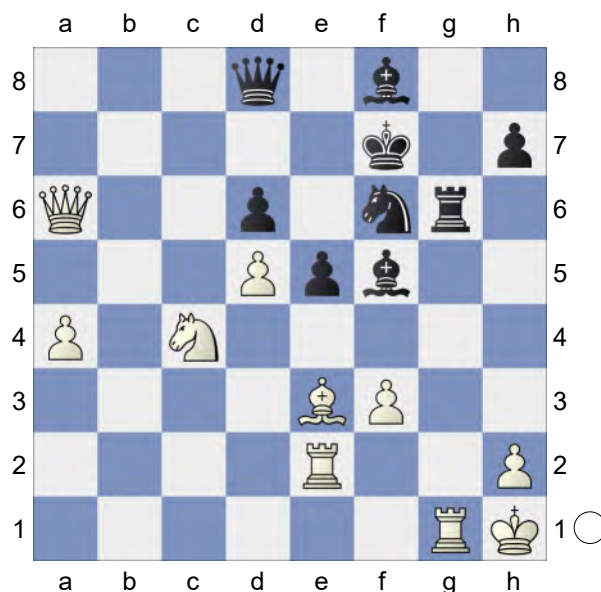
[21.Bb5+- was still good enough, but
 Wei's move is more targeted.]

21...Nf6 22.Nc4!

[Of course there's no need to get
 involved with 22.Bxc4 Nxc4]

22...Rxe2 23.Rxe2 Winning the
 exchange, but leaving Black's pieces
 much more awkwardly placed than in the
 note to White's 22nd. **23...Bxf5 24.f3**
 Covering important light squares around
 the king. **24...Rg6 25.Rg1** Trading off a
 key attacker. **25...Kf7**

(Diagram)

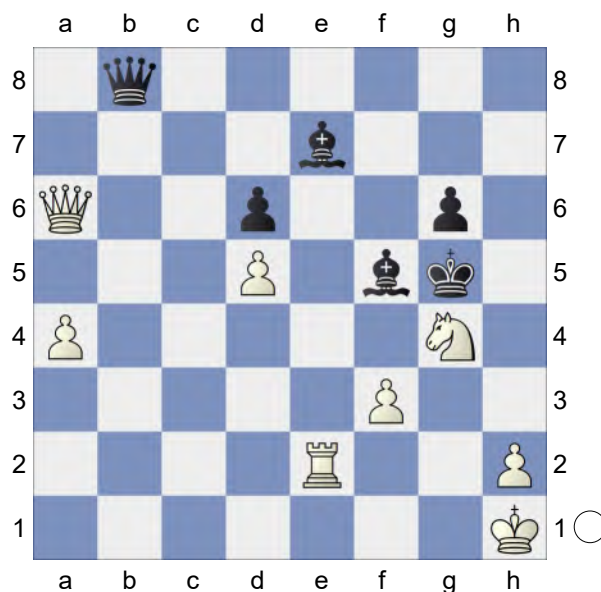


26.Rxc6 hxc6 27.Bg5 Be7 28.Bxf6
 Again using tactics to trade down and
 win material. **28...Kxf6**

[28...Bxf6 29.Nxd6+-]

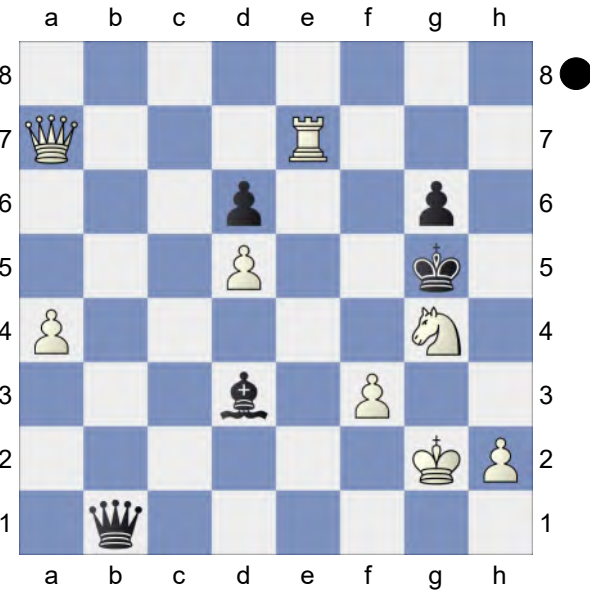
29.Nxe5 Qb8 30.Ng4+ Kg5

[30...Bxc4 31.fxc4 and Black has
 only one check.]



31.Rxe7 Qb1+ 32.Kg2 Bd3 33.Qa7
 [33.Qxd3 Qxd3 34.Kg3 also mates!]

(Diagram)



A strange game. Vachier Lagrave has superb preparation so I assume his novelty had some analysis behind it, but I just can't see the point.

1-0

537

□ Wei,Yi

■ Ponomariov,Ruslan

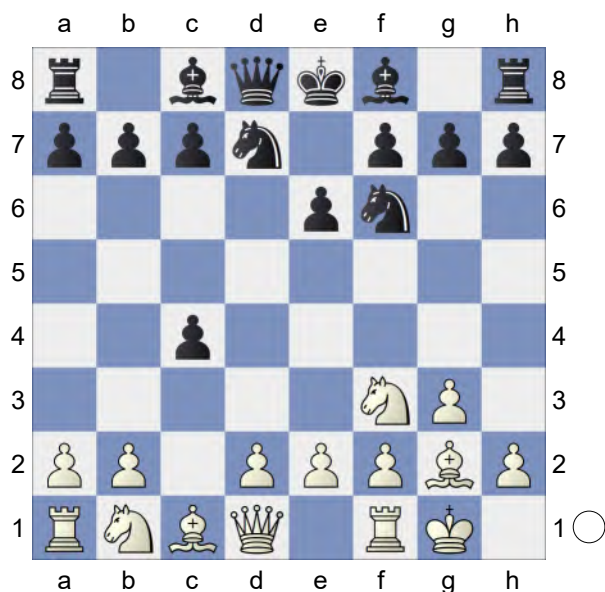
14: Danzhou

[Sam Collins]

A13

2017

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2
dxc4 5.0-0 Nbd7



6.Qc2 Nb6

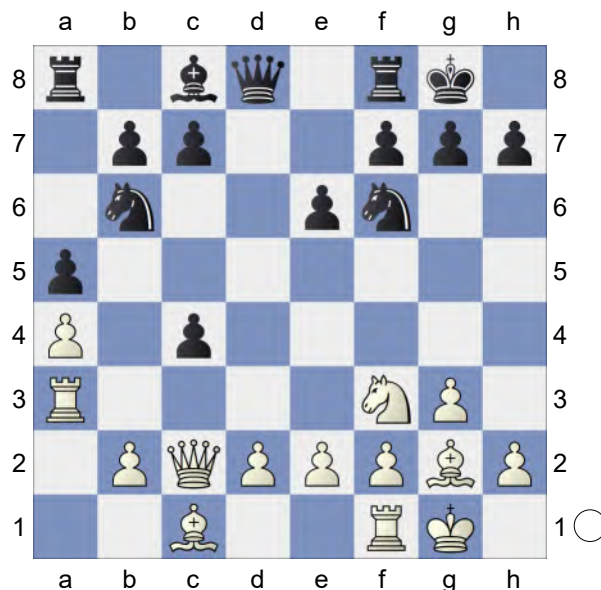
[6...c5 7.Na3 Nd5 8.Nxc4 b5
9.Ne3!± - 132/6]

7.a4

[7.Na3 Bxa3 8.bxa3 Bd7 9.Ne5
Ba4 10.Qc3 Nfd5 11.Qd4 Bb5∞
- 43/14]

7...a5 8.Na3 Bxa3 9.Rxa3 0-0
Tadic,Branko: 'Diagram

(Diagram)



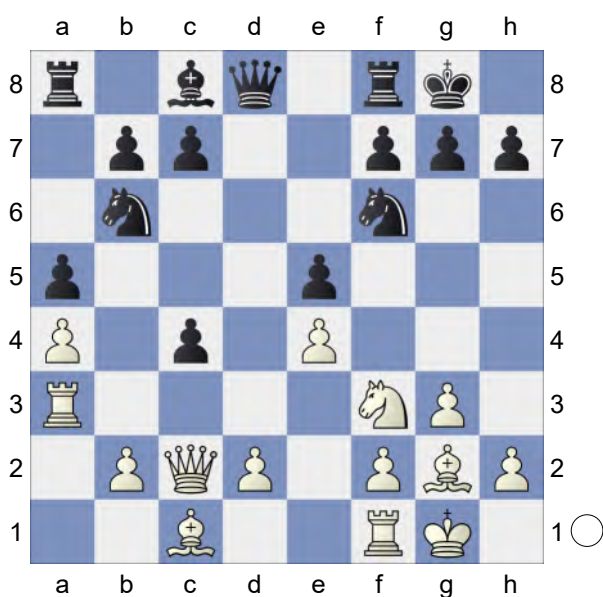
' 10.e4!? I find this game remarkable for how Wei Yi manages to bring his trademark aggression and tactical prowess to a Réti position, and even to an endgame. Tadic,Branko: 'N!?' 'N!?' 'N!?' 'N!?' Tadic,Branko: 'Sam Collins: '!?' Sam Collins: 'I find this game remarkable for how Wei Yi manages to bring his trademark aggression and tactical prowess to a Réti position, and even to an endgame.' I find this game remarkable for how Wei Yi manages to bring his trademark aggression and tactical prowess to a Réti position, and even to an endgame. Tadic,Branko: 'N!?' 'N!?' Tadic,Branko: 'Sam Collins: '!?' Sam Collins: 'I find this game remarkable for how Wei Yi manages to bring his trademark aggression and tactical prowess to a Réti position, and even to an endgame.'

[I suspect that Tadic,Branko: 'Sam Collins: 'I suspect that' 10.d3 is the best move in this position. Tadic,Branko: 'Sam Collins: 'is the best move in this position.' cxd3 11.Rxd3 Nbd5∞]

10...e5!?

[Alternatives are: a) 10...Bd7 11.Ne5 Qe8 (11...c5!?) 12.Nxd7 (12.Nxc4 Bxa4 13.b3 Nxc4 14.Rxa4 Ne5 15.d4 , with excellent compensation, is a reasonable alternative) 12...Qxd7 13.d3 cxd3 14.Rxd3 Qxa4 15.Qxc7 Qb5 16.Rfd1 Rac8 17.Qxb7 Rxc1 18.Rxc1 Qxd3 19.Qxb6 Qd2 was level in P.Arnaudov-J.Schroeder, Germany 2019.]

[b) 10...Qe7 led to a very instructive game after 11.b3! Qb4 12.Ne5 cxb3 (White gets overwhelming compensation after this move, but allowing the recapture on c4 leaves White with a dominating position – two bishops, extra central pawn – at no cost) 13.Rxb3 Qxa4 14.Bb2 Kh8 15.Ra1 Qe8 16.Qxc7 Nbd7 17.Rxa5 Rxa5 18.Qxa5 Nxe5 19.Qxe5 Taking with the bishop was even stronger, but in either case White retained an overwhelming advantage in M.Marin-M.Luch, Roquetas de Mar 2019.]



An interesting attempt to free his game immediately by temporarily returning the

extra pawn. Tadic,Branko: 'Sam Collins: 'An interesting attempt to free his game immediately by temporarily returning the extra pawn.' 11.Nxe5

[11.b3!? Tadic,Branko: 'N!?' cxb3 (11...Qe7 12.bxc4 Bg4 13.Rc3 Bxf3 14.Ba3 c5 15.Rxf3 Rad8 16.Rb3±) 12.Rxb3 retains promising positional compensation for the pawn. Nxa4 (12...Re8 13.Bb2 Qd6 14.Rc1±) 13.Nxe5 Qd6 14.Nf3±]

11...Qd4 12.Qc3

[12.Nf3?! Qxe4 13.d3 cxd3 14.Qxc7 Nbd5 15.Qe5 Bf5 16.Re1 Qxe5 17.Rxe5 Be4 (17...Bg6 18.Nh4 Rfc8 19.Bg5 h6 20.Bd2 Rc2 21.Bxd5 Nxd5 22.Rxd5 Rxd2 23.Nxg6 fxc6 24.Rb3=) 18.Bd2 Nb6 19.b3 Rfd8 20.Rxa5 Rac8±]

12...Qxc3

[12...Rd8 is also reasonable.]

13.Rxc3

[13.dxc3 Tadic,Branko: '!'? Re8 14.f4 Nfd7 15.Nxd7 Bxd7=]

13...Be6 QUESTION: Should White defend the a3-pawn? Tadic,Branko: 'Sam Collins: 'QUESTION: Should White defend the a3-pawn? ' 14.d4! ANSWER: No! Wei Yi finds an excellent way to generate compensation, instead of the horribly passive 14 Ra3? Tadic, Branko: 'Sam Collins: '!' Sam Collins: 'ANSWER: No! Wei Yi finds an excellent way to generate compensation, instead of the horribly passive 14 Ra3?'

[14.f4 Tadic,Branko: '!'? '!'? '!'? '!'? Nxa4 15.Rc2 is also interesting but I prefer Wei Yi's central approach. Tadic,Branko: ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' Tadic, Branko: 'Sam Collins: 'is also interesting but I prefer Wei Yi's central approach.' is also interesting but I prefer Wei Yi's central approach.

Tadic,Branko: ' ♠' '♠' Tadic,Branko:
'Sam Collins: 'is also interesting but I
prefer Wei Yi's central approach."]

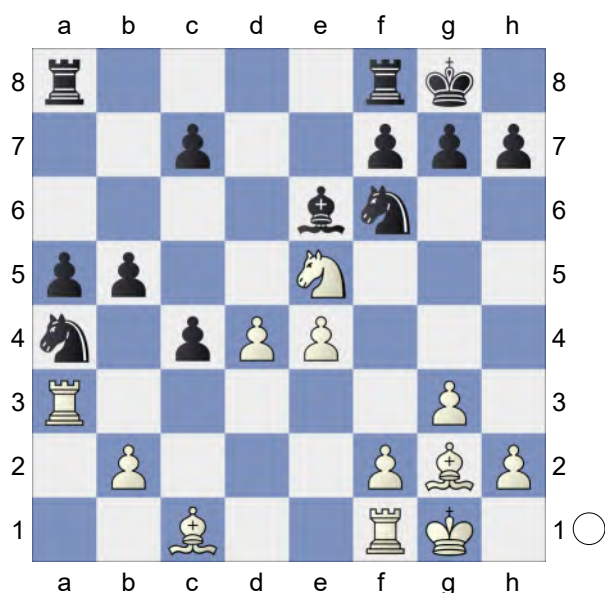
14...Nxa4 Tadic,Branko: "!"

[14...cxd3 15.b3 and the d3-pawn will
fall, with excellent play for White.
Tadic,Branko: '±']

15.Ra3

[15.Rc2 b5 16.Bf4 (16.d5 Bc8
17.Be3) 16...Rfe8 17.Ra1 Nb6
18.f3]

15...b5



16.f4 Nb6 This looks like a typical battle
between Black's extra pawn and White's
central dominance. Standard play might
continue 17 d5 or 17 f5, with unclear
play. However, Wei Yi plays 1 move
which, I suspect, few players would
even consider. Tadic,Branko: 'Sam
Collins: 'This looks like a typical battle
between Black's extra pawn and White's
central dominance. Standard play might
continue 17 d5 or 17 f5, with unclear
play. However, Wei Yi plays 1 move
which, I suspect, few players would
even consider."

[The engine suggests 16...Ng4
, but White retains wonderful

compensation after 17.Nc6 .]

17.g4?! This is an amazing concept
which works wonderfully in the game,
but objectively it's quite dubious. Tadic,
Branko: 'Sam Collins: 'This is an
amazing concept which works
wonderfully in the game, but objectively
it's quite dubious. "

[17.d5 Bc8 18.Be3 Re8 19.Bd4]

[17.Nc6!? Rfe8 18.Bd2 Bd7
(18...a4 19.Nb4!?) 19.e5 Nfd5
20.Nxa5 c6]

17...Nxg4

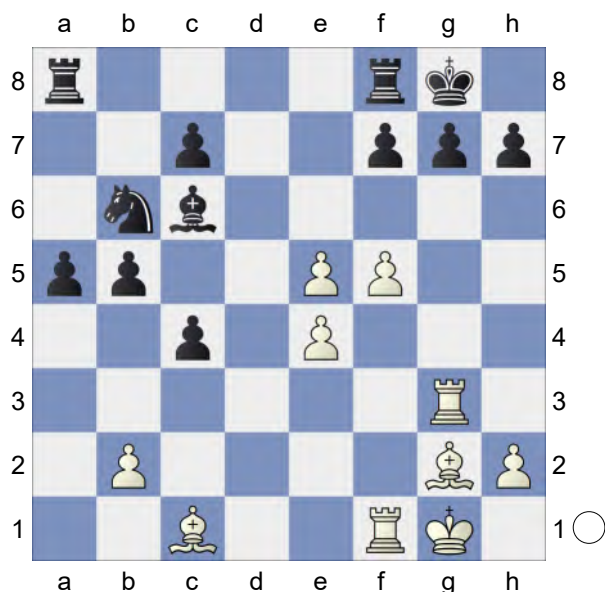
[a] 17...b4 18.Rg3 improves White's
kingside prospects, though the
position remains quite unclear.]

[b] 17...Bxg4 18.f5 leaves the bishop
short of squares, though this might
have been the best choice for Black.
After Be2 19.Re1 Bd3 20.Nxd3 b4!
21.Nxb4 axb4 22.Rg3 the position
remains very difficult to assess.
Normally I would expect that the
bishop pair and powerful mobile
centre would provide more than
enough compensation for a mere
pawn. However, if either white central
pawn advances, it will make squares
available to the black knights.]

18.f5 Nxe5 19.dxe5 Bd7 20.Rg3
Even without queens, White's kingside
initiative looks threatening. Tadic,
Branko: 'Sam Collins: 'Even without
queens, White's kingside initiative looks
threatening. " **20...Bc6?**

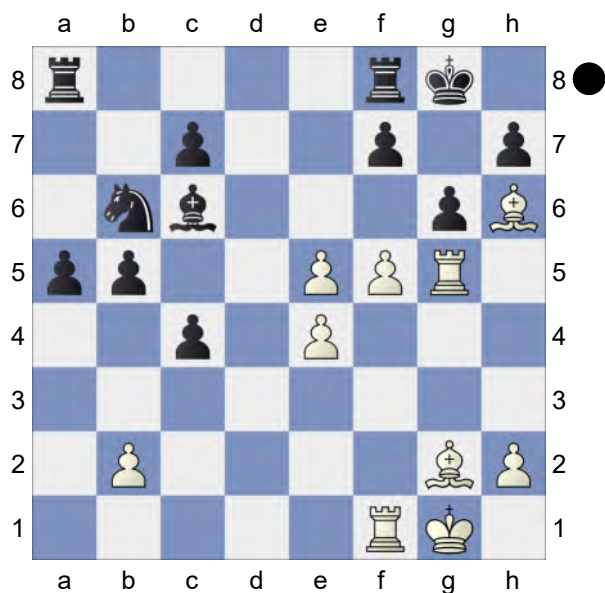
[20...b4 Tadic,Branko: '!' '!' '!' '!' ?
21.Bh6 g6 is a far better version of
the game for Black. Tadic,Branko: ' ♠'
'♠' '♠' '♠' Tadic,Branko: 'Sam Collins:
'is a far better version of the game for
Black.' is a far better version of the
game for Black. Tadic,Branko: ' ♠' '♠'
Tadic,Branko: 'Sam Collins: 'is a far

better version of the game for Black."]



Tadic,Branko: 'Sam Collins: '?' 21.Bh6 g6 22.Rg5? Tadic,Branko: '!' '!' '!' '!' Tadic,Branko: 'Diagram

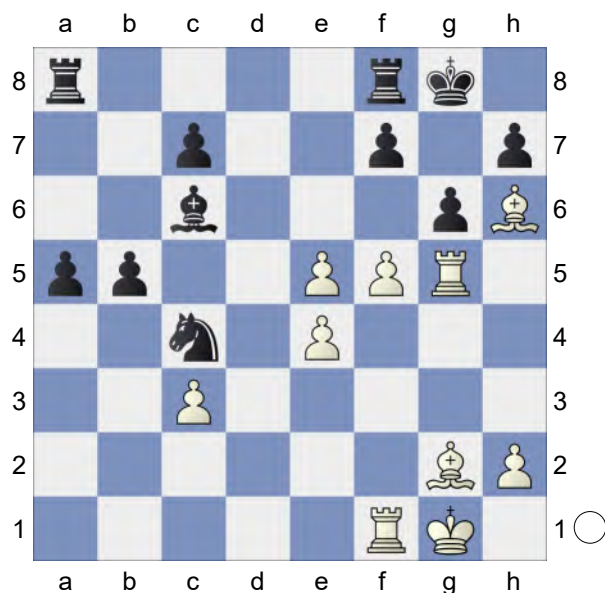
[22.Bh3! Bxe4 23.fxg6 hxg6 24.e6 seems to lead to a draw with best play.]



Sam Collins: '?' Tadic,Branko: '!' '!' '!' Tadic,Branko: 'Diagram [#] Sam Collins: '?' 22...c3?

[22...Na4 and the advantage would

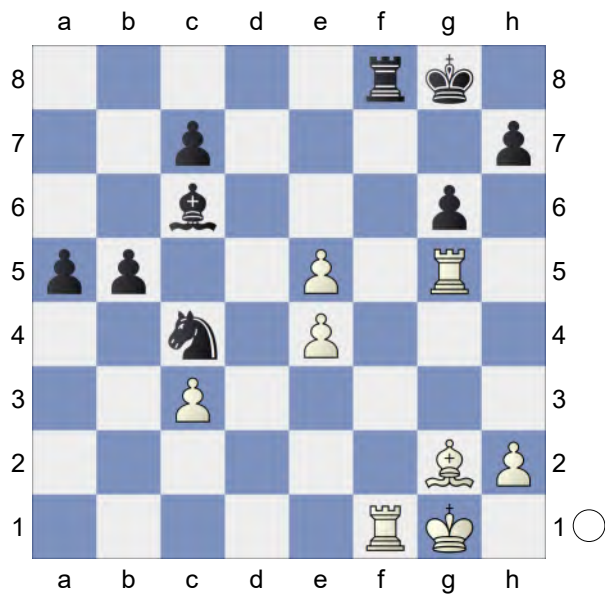
again be with Black. Tadic,Branko: '!' '!' '!' Tadic,Branko: 'Sam Collins: 'and the advantage would again be with Black. Tadic,Branko: '!' '!' Tadic,Branko: 'Sam Collins: 'and the advantage would again be with Black.' 23.Rf2 (23.Bxf8 Rxf8 24.fxg6 fxg6 25.e6 Rxf1+ 26.Bxf1 Kg7) 23...b4 24.Bf1 Nxb2 25.Rxb2 c3 26.Rf2 Bxe4) [22...Rfe8?! 23.e6 fxe6 24.fxg6→] 23.bxc3 Nc4 Tadic,Branko: '?' '?' '?' '?' Tadic,Branko: 'Diagram [23...Nd7 24.Bxf8 Nxf8 25.Kf2±]



' Tadic,Branko: '?' '?' Tadic,Branko: 'Diagram [#] 24.fxg6 Tadic,Branko: '?' '?' '?' '?'

[24.Bxf8 Tadic,Branko: '!' '!' '!' '!' Rxf8 25.e6! , and the advantage would again be with Black. Tadic,Branko: 'Sam Collins: '!' Sam Collins: ', and the advantage would again be with Black.' fxe6 26.fxg6 Rxf1+ 27.Bxf1 hxg6 28.Bxc4 bxc4 29.Rc5+-]

24...fxg6 25.Bxf8 Rxf8 (Diagram)



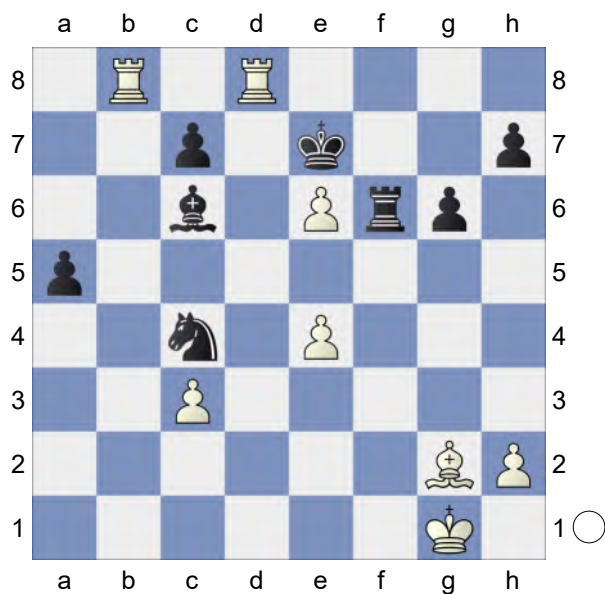
26.e6! Tadic,Branko: 'Sam Collins: '!'

26...Be8 27.Rd1 Rf6 28.Rd8 Kf8

Tadic,Branko: '?!' '?!' '?!' '?!'

[28...Rxe6 29.Rxb5 Nd6 30.Rd5
Nxe4 31.c4±]

29.Rxb5 Ke7 30.Rbb8 Bc6



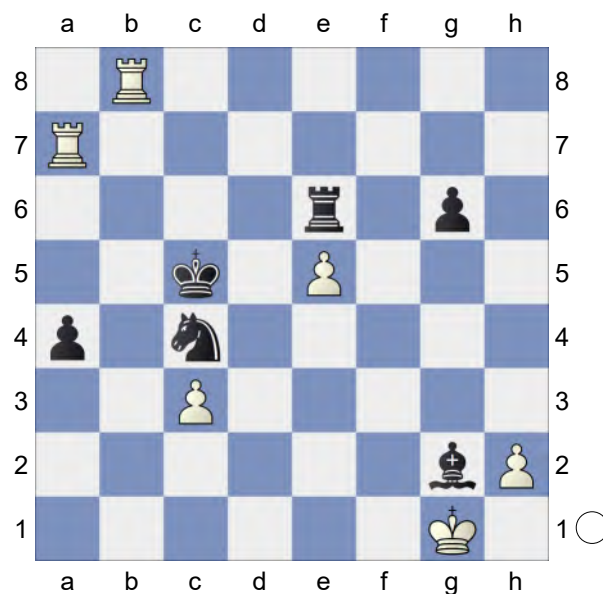
31.Rdc8

Wei Yi has a winning advantage and converts with impressive technique. Tadic,Branko: 'Sam Collins: 'Wei Yi has a winning advantage and converts with impressive technique. '

31...Rxe6 32.Rxc7+ Kd6 33.Rxh7 a4

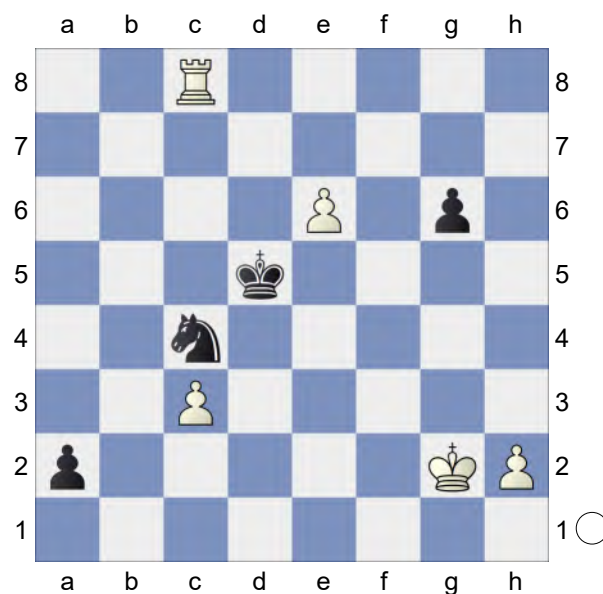
34.Ra7 Kc5 35.e5 Tadic,Branko: '+-!' '+-'

! '+-!' '+-!' 35...Bxg2



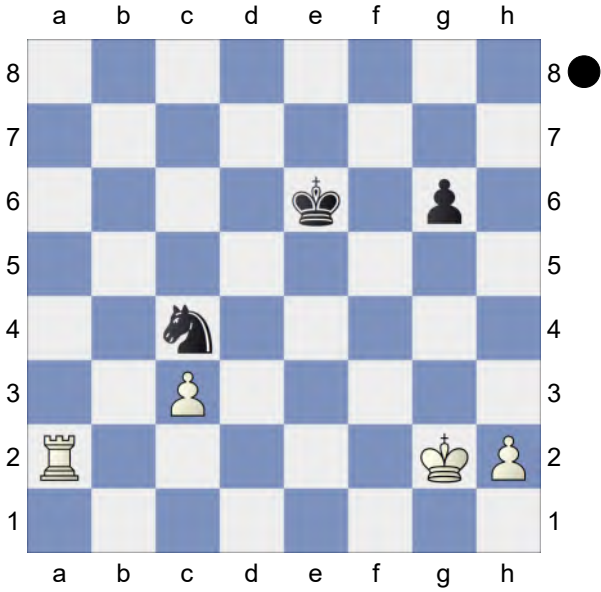
36.Kxg2 a3 37.Rc7+ Rc6 38.Rxc6+

Kxc6 39.Rc8+ Kd5 40.e6 a2



41.Ra8 Kxe6 42.Rxa2+-

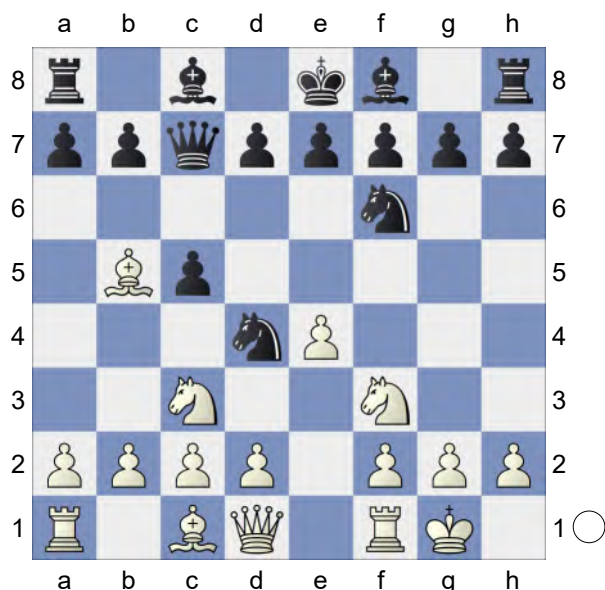
(Diagram)



1-0

117 **B30**
 ☐ Wei,Yi **2735**
 ■ Inarkiev,Ernesto **2690**
 Magas m (2) 13.08.2018
[Sam Collins]

1.e4 Tadic,Branko Tadic,Branko Tadic,Branko: 'Sam Collins' **1...c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Bb5 Qc7 5.0-0 Nd4**



6.Re1 a6 7.Bf1 Ng4 8.g3 Nxf3+ 9.Qxf3 Ne5 10.Qe2 It's easy to say after seeing this game, but this retreat seems the most natural. It's also the most popular. Tadic,Branko: 'Sam Collins: 'It's easy to say after seeing this game, but this retreat seems the most natural. It's also the most popular.' It's easy to say after seeing this game, but this retreat seems the most natural. It's also the most popular. Tadic,Branko: 'Sam Collins: 'It's easy to say after seeing this game, but this retreat seems the most natural. It's also the most popular.'"

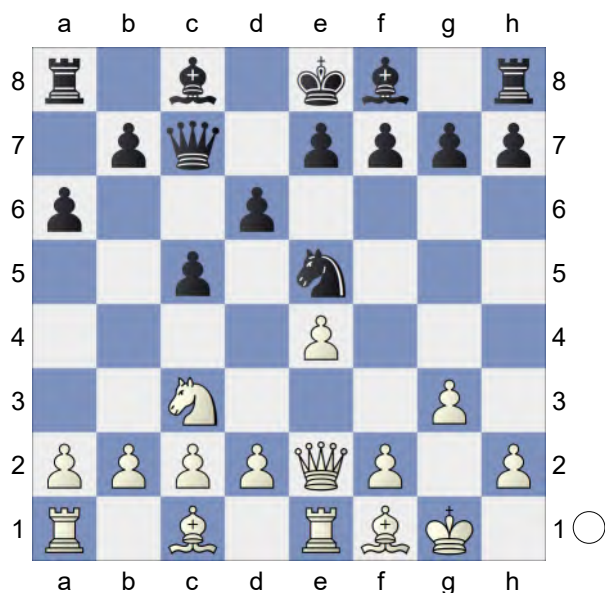
[The alternatives 10.Qd1 and 10.Qe3 are discussed by Richard Palliser in his notes to A. Kovacevic - L.Lenic,

Khanty-Mansiysk Olympiad 2010 (1/2 - 1/2 in 32) . Tadic,Branko: '(Sam Collins) and 10.Qe3 are discussed by Richard Palliser in his notes to A. Kovacevic - L.Lenic, Khanty-Mansiysk Olympiad 2010 (1/2 - 1/2 in 32) .' and 10.Qe3 are discussed by Richard Palliser in his notes to A. Kovacevic - L.Lenic, Khanty-Mansiysk Olympiad 2010 (1/2 - 1/2 in 32) . Tadic,Branko: '(Sam Collins) and 10.Qe3 are discussed by Richard Palliser in his notes to A. Kovacevic - L.Lenic, Khanty-Mansiysk Olympiad 2010 (1/2 - 1/2 in 32) .']

10...d6

[10...e6 has been essayed by Zhigalko with good results. Tadic, Branko: '♠' ♠' Tadic,Branko: '- 111/67 - 111/67 Sam Collins: 'has been essayed by Zhigalko with good results. " Doe,John: ' ♠' 11.Bg2 Tadic,Branko: 'Sam Collins' (11.b3!? Tadic,Branko: 'Sam Collins' d6 12.Bb2 0-1 (35) Efimenko,Z (2708)-Zhigalko,S (2680) Olginka 2011 h5!?!; 11.f4 Tadic,Branko: 'Sam Collins' Nc6 12.d3 d6 13.a4 g6 14.Bg2 Bg7 15.Be3 0-0 16.Qf2 b6 17.g4 with similar play in 1-0 (72) Kosintseva, T (2496) -Muzychuk,A (2560) Khanty-Mansiysk 2014 with similar play in 1-0 (72) Kosintseva,T (2496) -Muzychuk,A (2560) Khanty-Mansiysk 2014) 11...d6 12.d3 Be7 13.f4 (13.Be3 0-0 14.a4 Nc6= 0-1 (46) Harikrishna,P (2726)-Zhigalko,S (2678) Dubai 2014) 13...Nc6 14.Be3 0-0 15.Qf2 (15.Nd1 Rd8 16.c3 d5 1/2-1/2 (23) Velicka,P (2461)-Schlosser,P (2599) Pardubice 2011 1/2-1/2 (23) Velicka,P (2461)-Schlosser,P (2599) Pardubice 2011 17.exd5 exd5 18.d4∞)

15...Rb8 (15...b5 1-0 (53) Pichot,A (2544)-Zhigalko,S (2671) Doha 2016 1-0 (53) Pichot,A (2544)-Zhigalko,S (2671) Doha 2016 16.e5 dxe5 17.Bxc5±) 16.g4 b5 17.Ne2 (17.g5 0-1 (41) Hernandez Carmenates,H (2507) -Azarov,S (2584) Norfolk 2017 0-1 (41) Hernandez Carmenates,H (2507) -Azarov,S (2584) Norfolk 2017 f6 18.gxf6 Bxf6±) 17...b4 18.Ng3 Bh4∞ 0-1 (34) Kasimdzhanov,R (2683)-Zhigalko,S (2641) Riadh 2017 0-1 (34) Kasimdzhanov,R (2683)-Zhigalko,S (2641) Riadh 2017]



11.Nd5 Qd8 12.Bg2 e6

[If Black wants to fianchetto, this seems a better moment to do it. 12...g6 Tadic,Branko: 'Sam Collins' 13.d3 Bg7 14.c3 e6 15.Ne3 Nc6 16.Nc2 Qb6 17.Bf4 e5 18.Bc1 0-0 and now 19.Ne3 would retain an edge, while and now 19.Ne3 would retain an edge, while 19.b4 cxb4 20.Nxb4 Nxb4 21.Rb1 Qc6 was fine for Black in V.Laznicka - A.Morozevich, Pamplona 2006 (0-1 in 62) .]

13.Ne3 g6?! This is too ambitious and

meets with an outstanding response. Tadic,Branko: 'N' 'N' Tadic,Branko: 'Sam Collins: '?!' Sam Collins: 'This is too ambitious and meets with an outstanding response.'

[13...Be7 14.c3 Tadic,Branko: 'Sam Collins' Nc6 15.d3 0-0 16.a3 b5 17.f4= was level in P.Jaracz - D. Hausrath, Belgium 2003 (1-0 in 49). was level in P.Jaracz - D.Hausrath, Belgium 2003 (1-0 in 49).]

14.b4!

[14.f4 Nc6]

14...cxb4

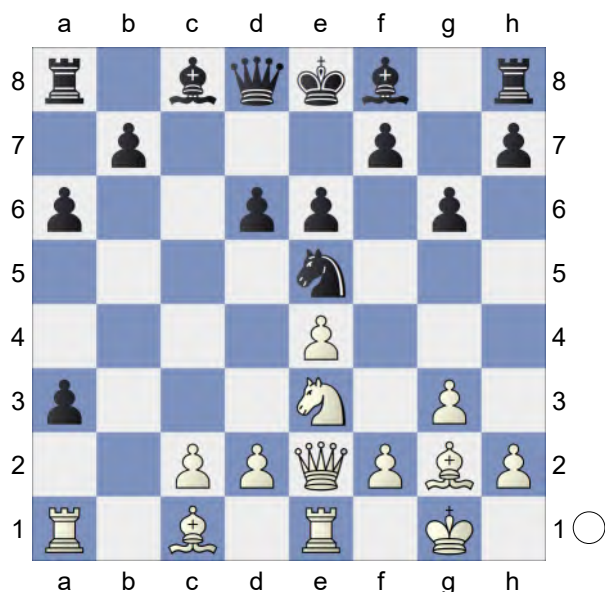
[14...Bg7 15.Rb1 0-0 16.bxc5 dxc5 17.f4 Nc6 18.e5]

15.a3 bxa3?

[15...b3± might have avoided a rout but Black is much worse. Tadic, Branko: '(Sam Collins) might have avoided a rout but Black is much worse.' might have avoided a rout but Black is much worse. Tadic,Branko: '(Sam Collins) might have avoided a rout but Black is much worse.']

[15...Bg7 Tadic,Branko Doe,John: 'Tadic,Branko: ' ♖" 16.axb4 Bd7 (16...Nf3+? Doe,John: 'Tadic,Branko: '?" 17.Qxf3 Bxa1 18.c3+- Doe,John: 'Tadic,Branko: '+-') 17.Rb1↑ (17.d4?! Bb5 18.c4 Nxc4 19.Nxc4 Rc8)]

(Diagram)



This gives White Benko style compensation on the a- and b-files, but with the fluid centre his advantage is almost decisive. Tadic,Branko: 'Sam Collins: '?' Sam Collins: 'This gives White Benko style compensation on the a- and b-files, but with the fluid centre his advantage is almost decisive.' This gives White Benko style compensation on the a- and b-files, but with the fluid centre his advantage is almost decisive. Tadic,Branko: 'Sam Collins: '?' Sam Collins: 'This gives White Benko style compensation on the a- and b-files, but with the fluid centre his advantage is almost decisive.' **16.Bxa3 Be7**

[16...Bg7 17.d4 Nc6 18.c3 0-0 19.Nc4]

17.d4 Nc6 18.Rad1 Qa5 Doe,John: '?' '?'

[18...0-0 19.d5 exd5 20.Nxd5 Re8 21.Nxe7+ Qxe7 22.Bxd6]

19.Nc4 Qc7 Tadic,Branko: 'Diagram

[19...Qb5 20.Rb1]

(Diagram)

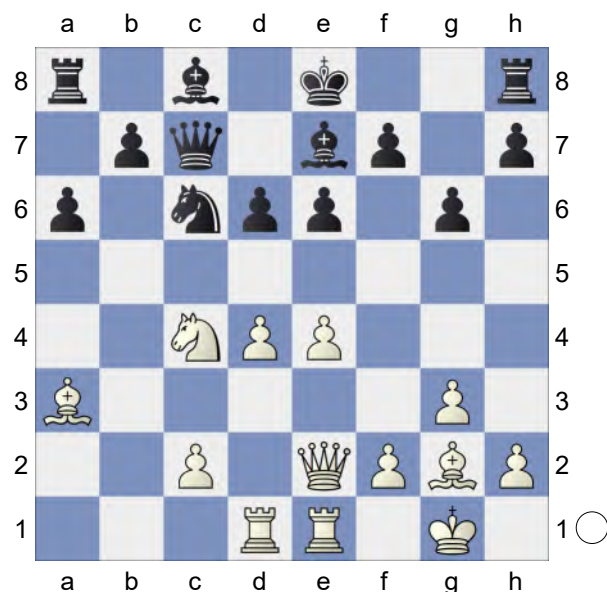
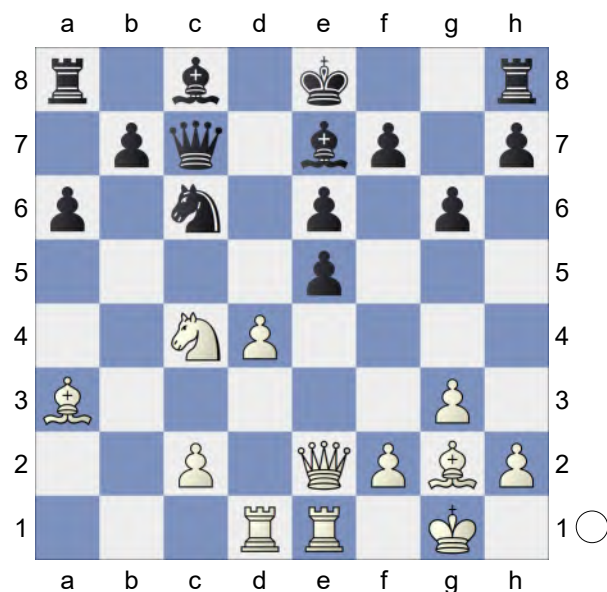


Diagram [#] Doe,John: 'Tadic,Branko: 'Diagram [#]' Tadic,Branko: 'Diagram [#] Diagram [#] **20.e5! dxe5**

[20...d5 Tadic,Branko 21.Bxe7 (21.Nd6+ Bxd6 22.Bxd6 Qd8 23.c4) 21...Qxe7 22.Nd6+ Kf8 23.c4±]



21.Bxc6+ Tadic,Branko: '!' '!' Doe,John: '!' '!'

[21.Bxe7 Nxe7 22.Nxe5 0-0]

21...bxc6

[21...Qxc6 22.Bxe7 Kxe7 23.Nxe5

Qc7 24.d5]

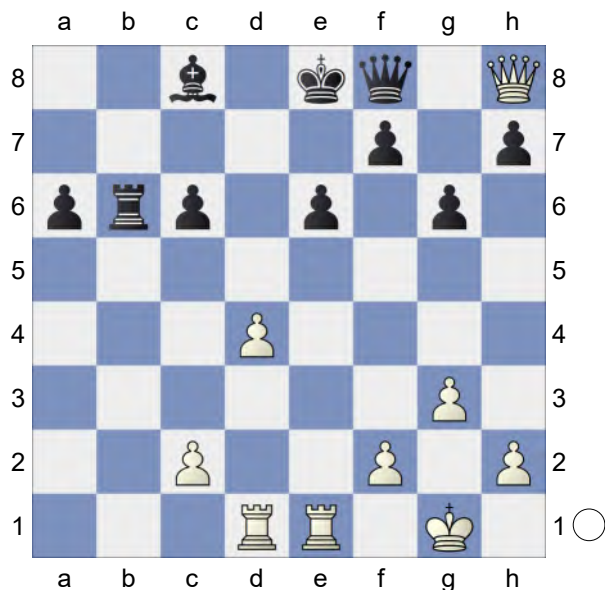
22.Bxe7 Qxe7

[22...Kxe7 Tadic,Branko 23.dxe5+-
Doe,John: 'Tadic,Branko: '+-']

23.Nb6! Any capture on e5 would leave White much better, but this tactical shot ends the game. Tadic,Branko: 'Sam Collins: '!' Sam Collins: 'Any capture on e5 would leave White much better, but this tactical shot ends the game.' Any capture on e5 would leave White much better, but this tactical shot ends the game. Tadic,Branko: 'Sam Collins: '!' Sam Collins: 'Any capture on e5 would leave White much better, but this tactical shot ends the game.'"

[23.Qxe5 0-0]

23...Rb8 24.Qxe5 Forking the rooks. The rest is very unnecessary. Tadic, Branko: '+-' '+-' Tadic,Branko: 'Sam Collins: 'Forking the rooks. The rest is very unnecessary.'" **24...Rxb6 25.Qxh8+ Qf8**

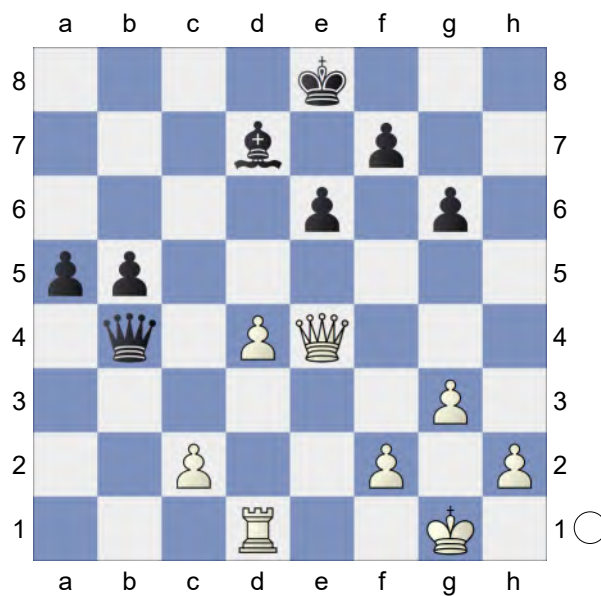


26.Qxh7 Rb5 27.Qh4 Qb4

[27...Qe7 Tadic,Branko 28.Qh8+]

28.Re5 Bd7 29.Qe4 a5 30.Rxb5 cxb5

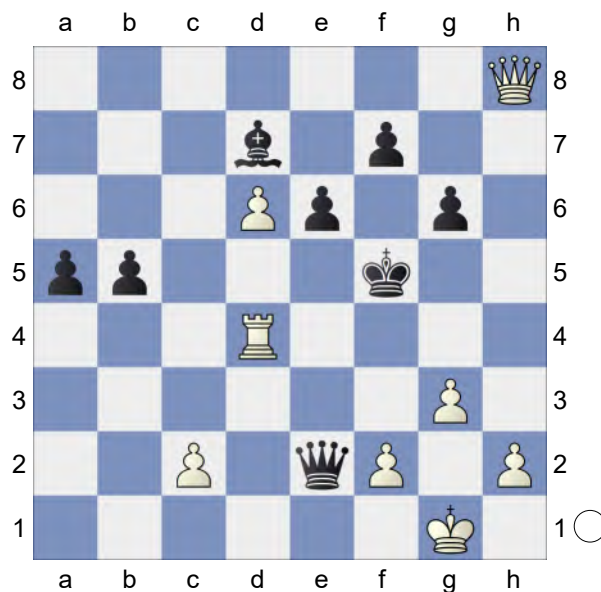
(Diagram)



31.Qa8+ Ke7 32.d5 Qg4

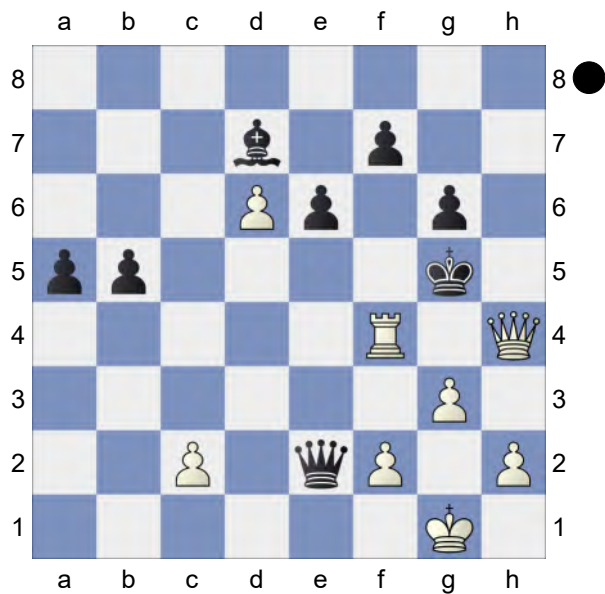
[32...exd5 33.Qxd5]

33.d6+ Kf6 34.Qh8+ Kf5 35.Rd4 Qe2



36.Rf4+ Kg5 37.Qh4#

(Diagram)



1-0 (37) Wei Yi (2735)-Inarkiev,E (2690)

Magas RUS 2018 [Doe,John]

1-0

171

□ Wei,Yi

■ Wang,Hao

CHN-chT Chiva (1.3)

[Schandorff,Lars]

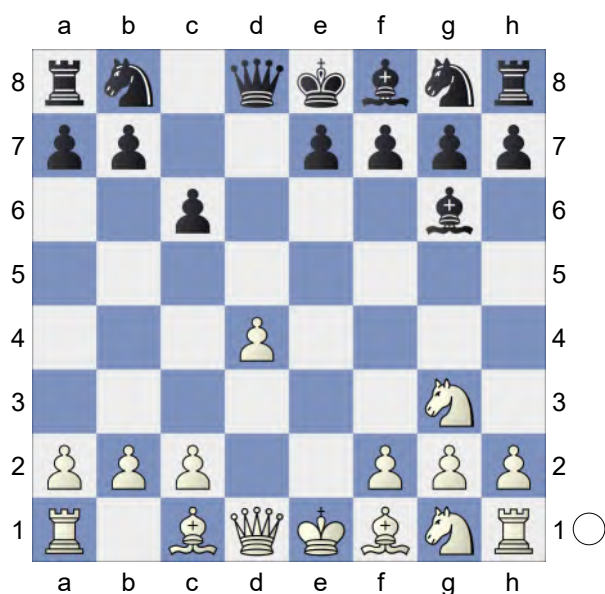
B19

2727

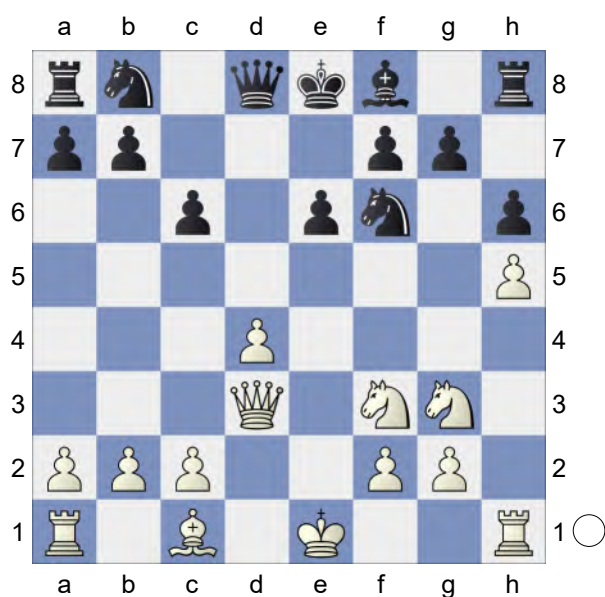
2690

18.04.2017

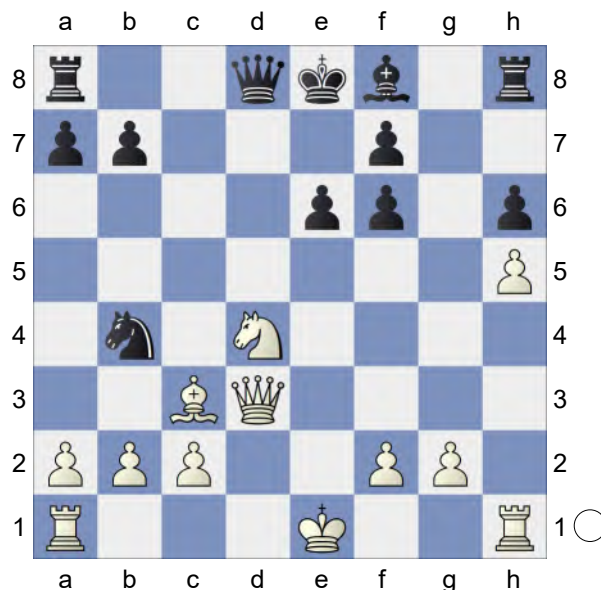
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4
Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6



6.h4 h6 7.Nf3 e6 8.h5 Bh7 9.Bd3
Bxd3 10.Qxd3 Nf6



11.Bd2 c5! 12.Ne4! Nc6 13.Bc3 cxd4
14.Nxd4 Nb4 15.Nxf6+ gxf6



16.Bxb4 Bxb4+ 17.c3 Be7 18.0-0-0
Qb6

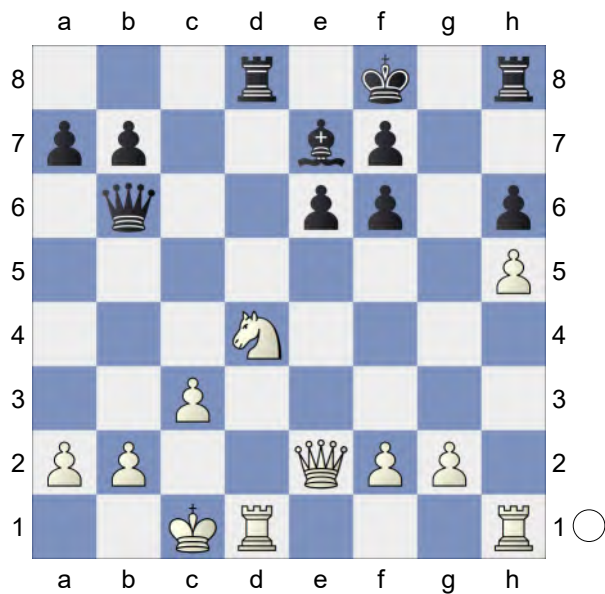
[Maybe 18...Qd5 is better.]

19.Qb5+ Kf8?!

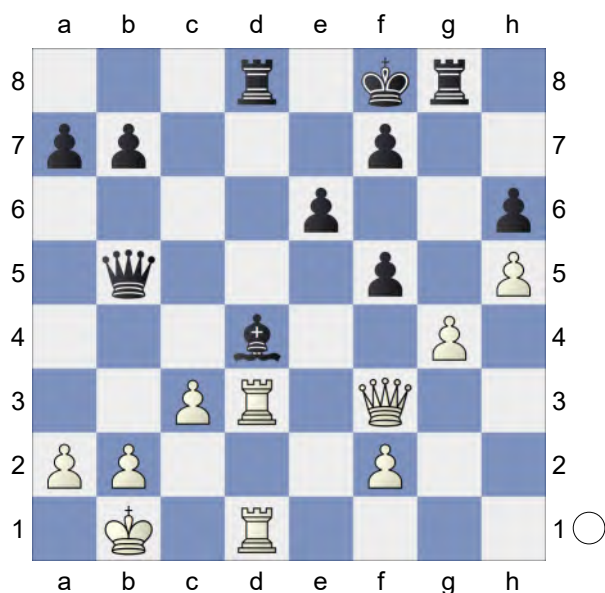
[19...Qxb5 20.Nxb5 Rd8!=
is the computer solution 21.Rxd8+
(21.Nxa7 Rxd1+ 22.Rxd1 Rg8
23.g3 Bc5 24.Nb5 Bxf2 25.Nd6+
Ke7 26.Nxb7 Ra8 27.g4 Rxa2)
21...Bxd8 22.g4 Rg8 23.f3 Rg5!
24.Nd6+ Ke7 25.Nxb7 Bc7 26.b4 f5
27.gxf5 Rxf5 28.Rh3 Bb6 29.a4 a6]

20.Qe2! Now Black has some problems
due to his king. 20...Rd8

(Diagram)

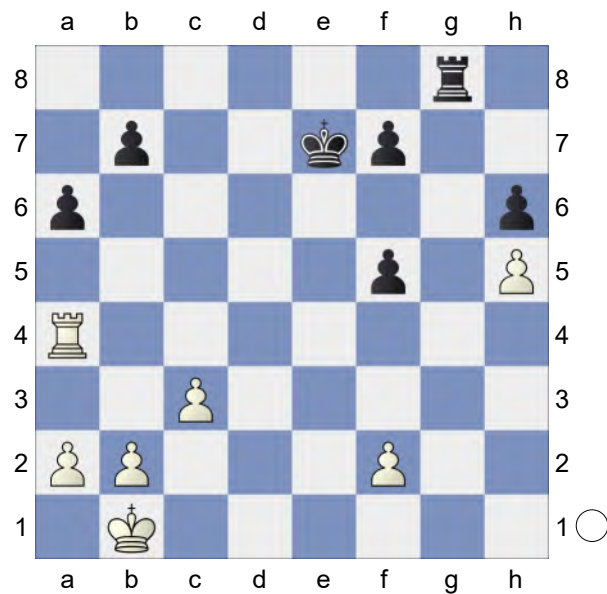


21.Kb1 Rg8 22.g4 Bc5 Black has managed to get out of White's grip. An interesting rook ending arises more or less by force. **23.Rd3 Bxd4 24.Rhd1 Qb5 25.Qf3 f5**

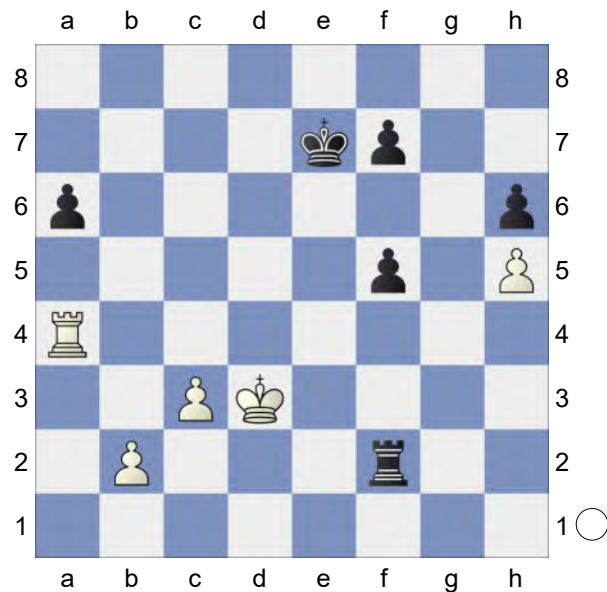


26.gxf5 Qxf5 27.Qxf5 exf5 28.Rxd4 Rxd4 29.Rxd4 Ke7 30.Ra4 a6

(Diagram)



31.Rb4 b5 32.a4! Rg1+ 33.Kc2 bxa4 34.Rxa4 Rg2 35.Kd3 Rxf2

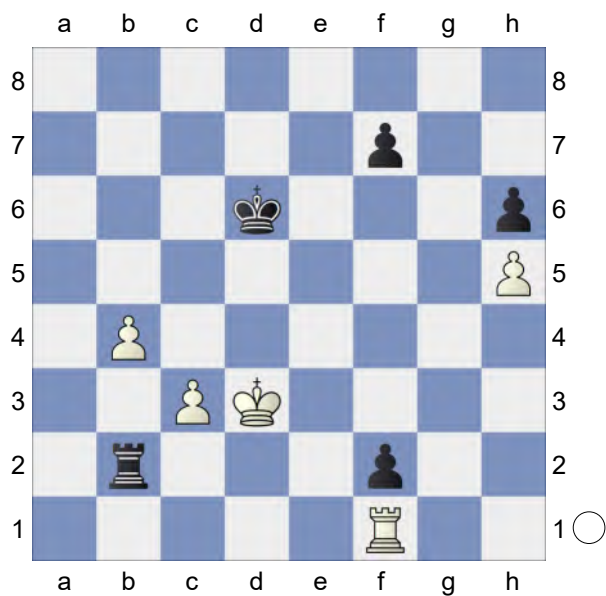


36.b4 f4 37.Rxa6 f3 38.Ra1 Rb2 39.Re1+ Kd6

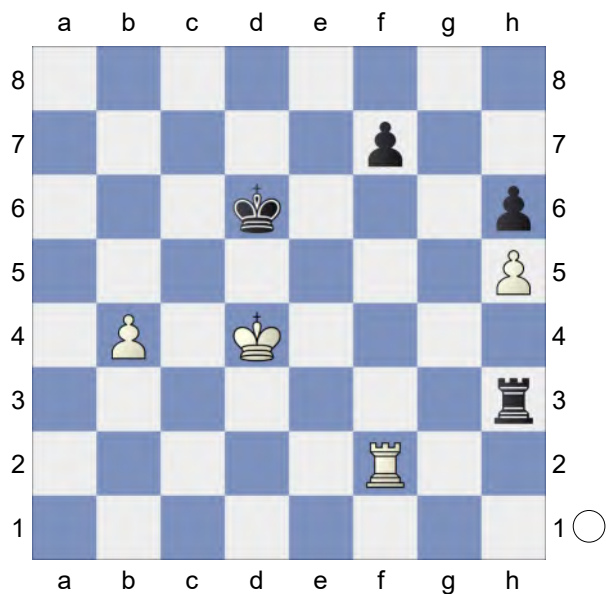
[39...Kd7! 40.Rf1 f2 41.Ke3 Rc2 42.Rxf2 Rxc3+ 43.Kd4 Rh3 44.Rxf7+ Ke6 followed by ...Rhx5 is a draw.]

40.Rf1 f2

(Diagram)

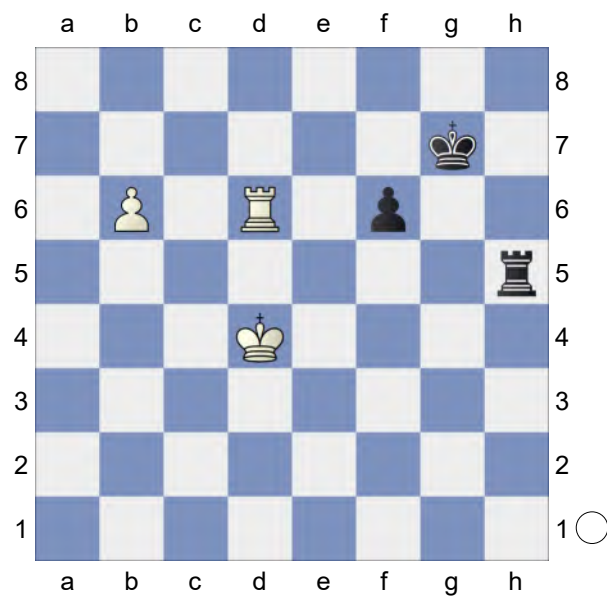


**41.Ke3 Rc2 42.Kd3 Rb2 43.Ke3 Rc2
44.Rxf2 Rxc3+ 45.Kd4 Rh3**

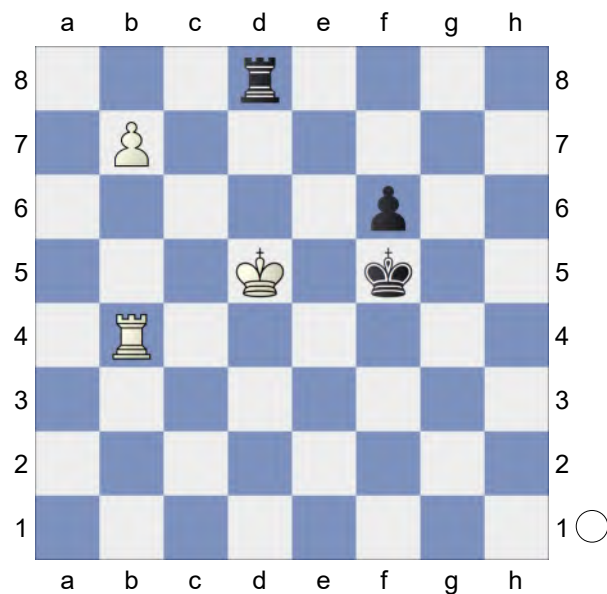


46.Rf6+ That is why the black king
should have been on d7. **46...Ke7**
47.Rxh6 Kf8 48.b5 White is winning.
48...Kg7 49.Rd6 Rxh5 50.b6 f6

(Diagram)



**51.Kc4 Rh8 52.b7 Kg6 53.Rb6 Rb8
54.Kd5 Kf5 55.Rb4 Rd8+**



1-0

273

□ Wei, Yi

■ Tregubov, Pavel V

Wch Blitz Doha (8)

[Schandorff, Lars]

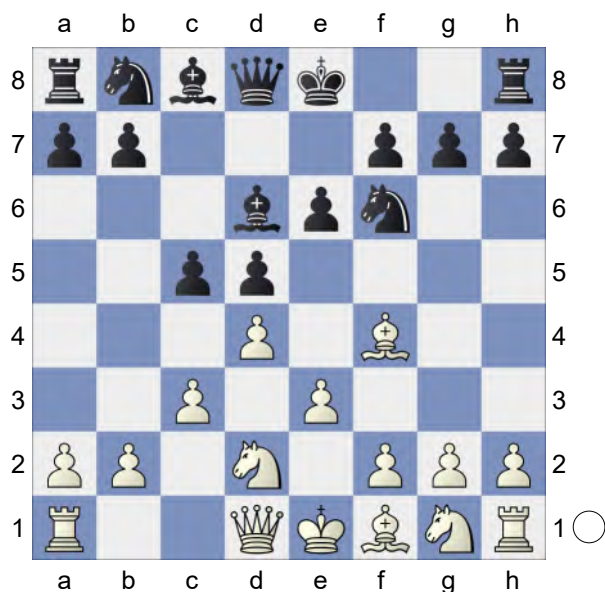
D02

2707

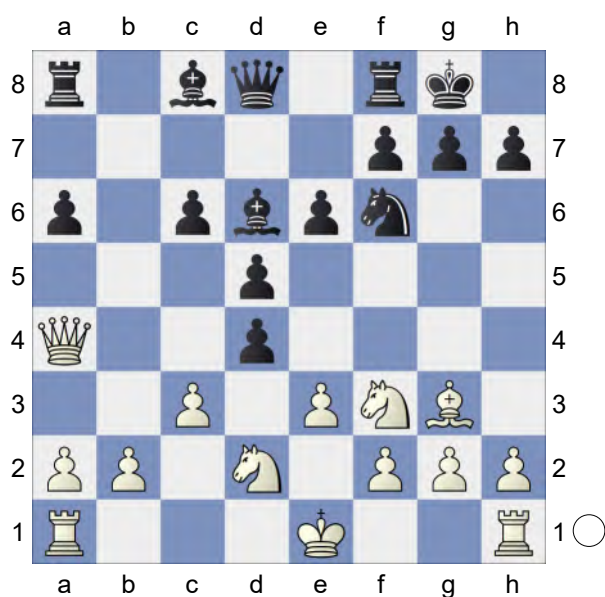
2585

29.12.2016

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 d5 3.e3 e6 4.Nd2 c5
5.c3 Bd6



6.Bg3 Nc6 7.Ngf3 0-0 8.Bb5 a6
9.Bxc6 bxc6 10.Qa4 cxd4



11.cxd4 Rb8 12.Qc2 a5 Black again goes for the active development of his

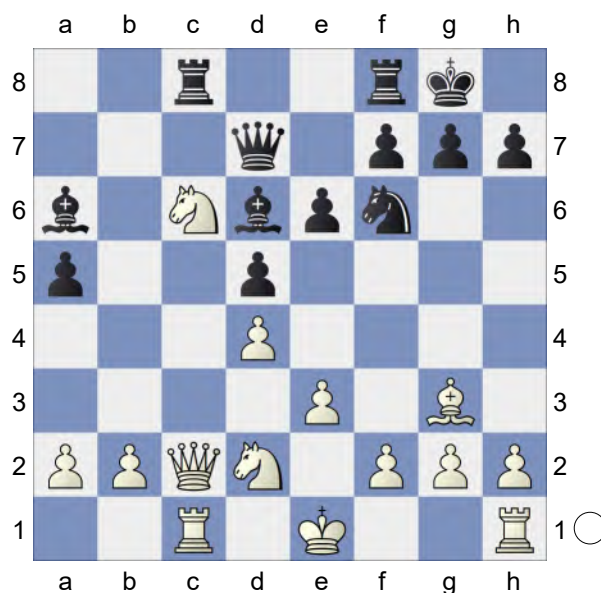
bishop to a6. 13.Ne5 Very direct.

[I like the simple 13.0-0±]

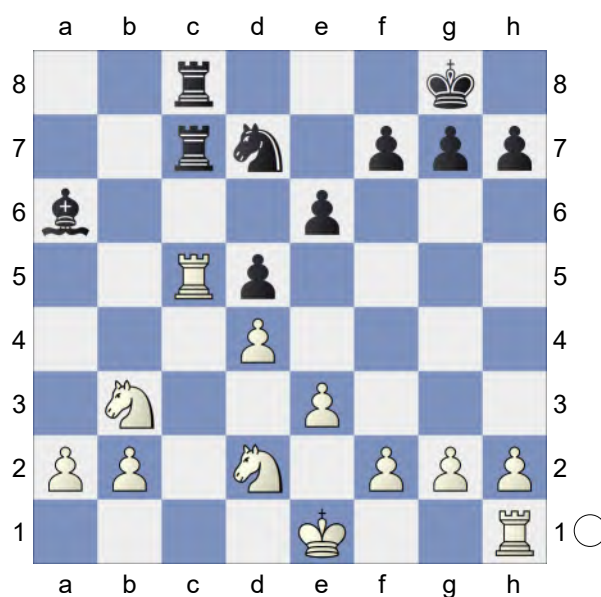
13...Ba6!? It is blitz!

[13...Bb7! 14.0-0 (14.Nxc6?! Bxc6 15.Qxc6 Bxg3 16.hxg3 Rxb2) 14...Nh5 Black looks absolutely fine.]

14.Nxc6 Rc8 15.Rc1 Qd7

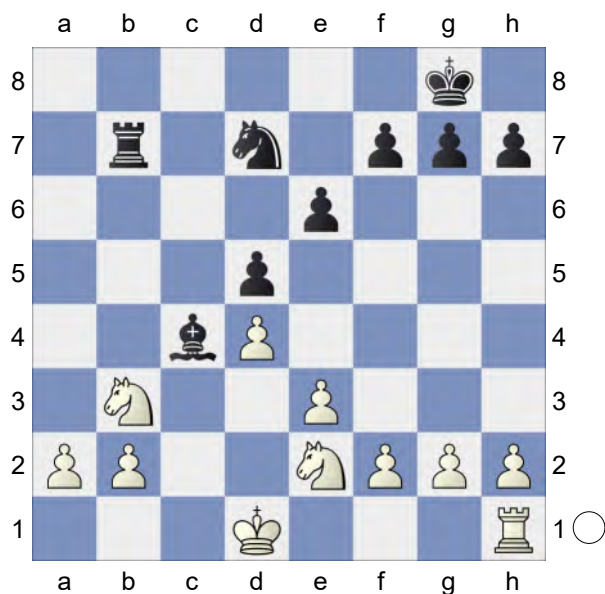


16.Bxd6 Qxd6 17.Qc5! Without the queens Black's compensation vanishes.
17...Qxc5 18.Rxc5 Rc7 19.Nxa5 Rfc8
20.Nab3+- Nd7

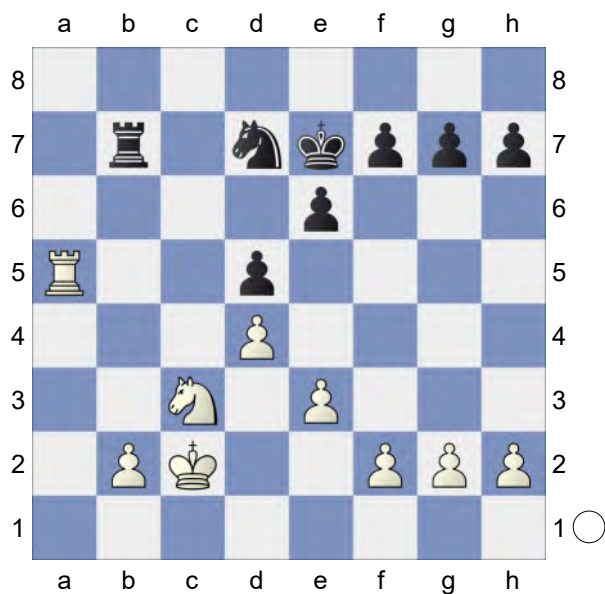


21.Rxc7 Rxc7 22.Kd1 With two pawns more. 22...Bd3 23.Nc1 Ba6 24.Ne2

Rb7 25.Nb3 Bc4

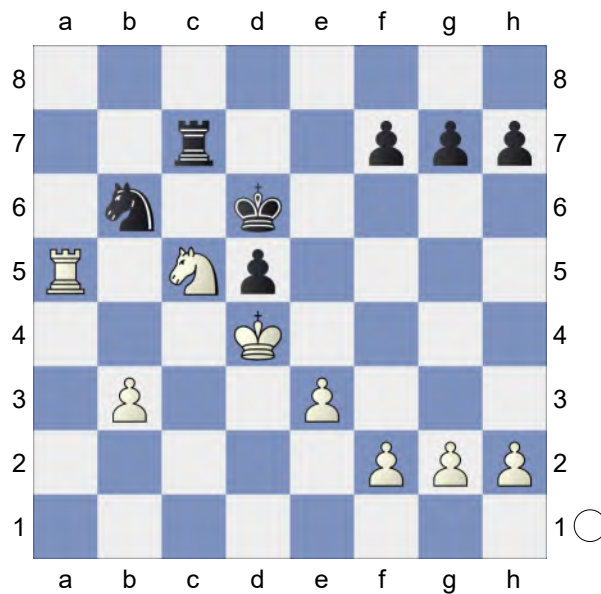


26.Nc3!? A practical decision. White returns one of the extra pawns in exchange for finishing his development.
26...Bxb3+ 27.axb3 Rxb3 28.Kc2 Rb7 29.Ra1 White is a clear pawn up.
29...Kf8 30.Ra5 Ke7

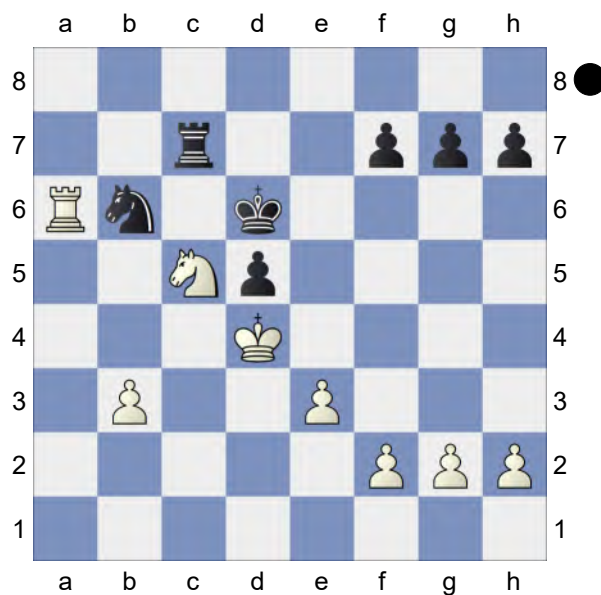


31.Na4 Rc7+ 32.Nc5 Nb6 33.b3 e5 34.Kc3 exd4+ 35.Kxd4 Kd6

(Diagram)



36.Ra6



1-0

123

C11

□ Wei, Yi

2734

■ Vovk, Yuri

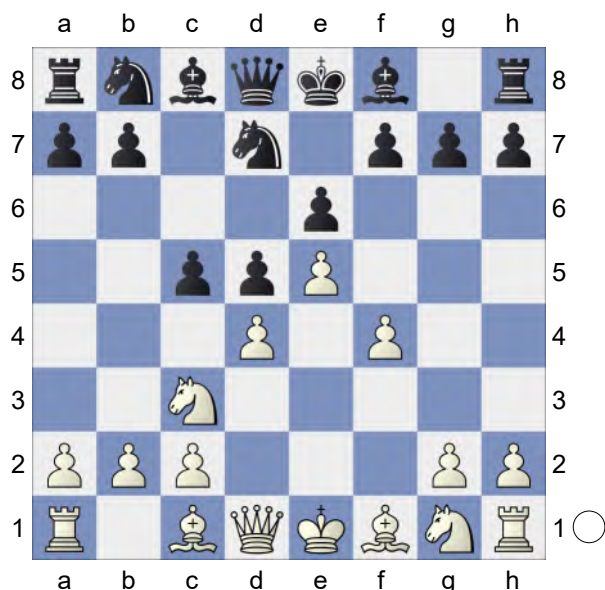
2617

FIDE World Cup (2.5)

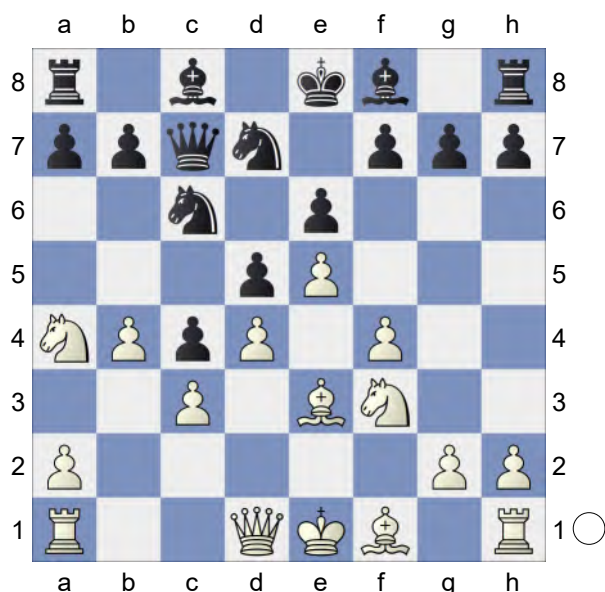
16.09.2015

[Schulz, Andre]

1.e4 John Watson John Watson John
Watson 1...e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6
4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5



6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be3 Qb6 8.Na4 Qa5+
9.c3 c4 10.b4 Qc7

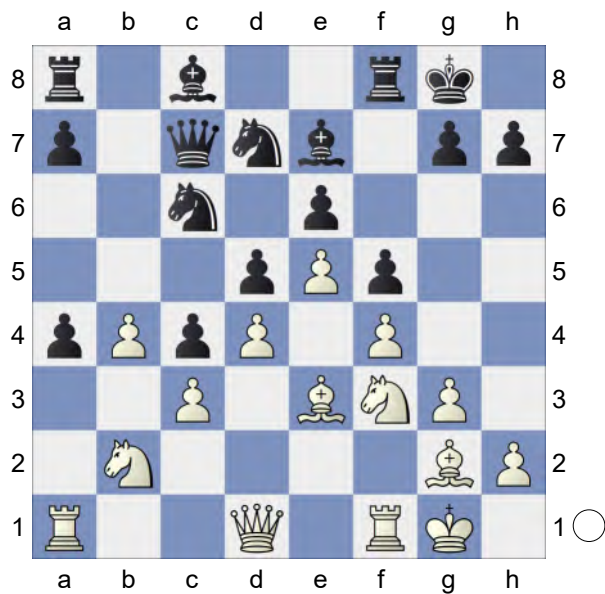


11.g3 Be7 12.Bg2

[In their other World Cup encounter in this line, Wei Yi played 12.Bh3 (John Watson), and Black set up a passive but ultimately effective defence: Nf8 13.0-0 Bd8 14.Qc2 b6 15.Bf2 Ne7 16.Nb2 Nfg6 17.Nd1 Nf5 18.Ne3 Nxe3 19.Bxe3 Bd7 20.Ng5 0-0 21.Bg4 Bxg5 22.fxg5 a5 Black finally gets some activity on the queenside, and it proves to be enough to divert White's attack. Probably Wei Yi could have improved somewhere, but it's not obvious how. 23.a3 Ra7 24.Rab1 axb4 25.axb4 Rfa8 26.Qf2 Be8 27.h4 Ra2 28.Bd2 Ba4 29.h5 Nf8 30.Qf4 Bc2 31.Rbc1 Be4 32.Rf2 Ra1= 33.Qe3 R8a2 34.Rxa1 Rxa1+ 35.Rf1 Ra2 36.Rf2 Qa7 37.Be2 Ra1+ 38.Rf1 Rxf1+ 39.Bxf1 b5 40.Bc1 Nd7 41.Qf2 Kf8 42.g4 g6 43.Qe3 Qa2 44.Qd2 Qa7 45.Kh2 Ke7 46.Kg3 Qa8 47.Be2 Qa7 48.Bf1 Ke8 49.Qf2 Qa4 50.Qd2 Nb8 51.Be2 Nc6 52.Bd1 Qa7 53.Kf4 Ne7 54.Qb2 Kd7 55.Qa3 Qxa3 56.Bxa3 Nc6 57.Bc1 1/2-1/2 Wei, Y (2734)-Vovk, Y (2617), Baku (2.3) 2015.]

12...f5 John Watson: 'A different tack from above. Black grabs some space and deters a direct pawn storm by White.' 13.0-0 0-0 14.Nb2 b5 John Watson: 'Planning ...a5, as above. White prevents this temporarily, but gives Black queenside counterplay nevertheless.' 15.a4 bxa4

(Diagram)



16.Nxa4 Rb8 17.Ng5 John Watson: 'A committal move, but White feels that trying to break with g4 will be too slow, so he goes for immediate attack.'

17...Bxg5 18.fxg5 a5 19.bxa5

[19.Nc5 John Watson Nxc5 20.bxc5 is a safe option with a small edge, and the computer suggests]

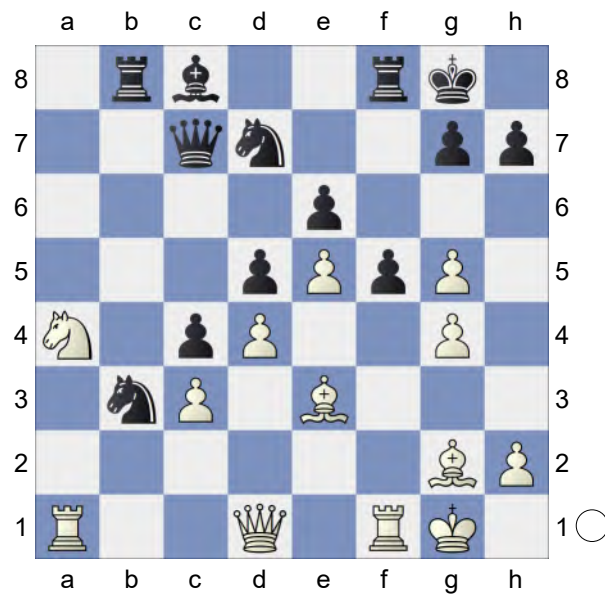
[19.b5!? John Watson Rxb5 20.Bc1 with the idea Ba3, which seems unlikely to yield much.]

19...Nxa5 20.g4 John Watson: '!?' '!?' '!?'

[After 20.Bxd5! John Watson exd5 21.e6, White wins his piece back: Nb3 (21...Nb6?? 22.Bf4; 21...Rb5!± probably improves: 22.Bf4 Qd8 23.exd7 Qxd7 24.Nc5 Qc6) 22.Bf4 Qd8 23.exd7 Bxd7 24.Bxb8 Nxa1 25.Qxa1 Qxb8 26.Nc5 only White can win this.]

20...Nb3

(Diagram)



Weiß bläst nun zum Angriff und gibt eine Qualität auf a1.

21.gxf5

John Watson: '?' '?' '?' John Watson: 'Too ambitious, either tempted by some beautiful lines or perhaps making a key miscalculation somewhere.'

[21.Ra2 f4 22.Bxf4 Ra8=]

21...Nxa1 22.Qxa1

[Perhaps he thought that 22.fxe6 (John Watson) was good, but Rxf1+ 23.Qxf1 Nf8 24.Qxa1 Bxe6 25.Nc5 Bf7! leaves his bishops doing less than hoped for.]

22...Rxf5 John Watson: '!' '!' '!'

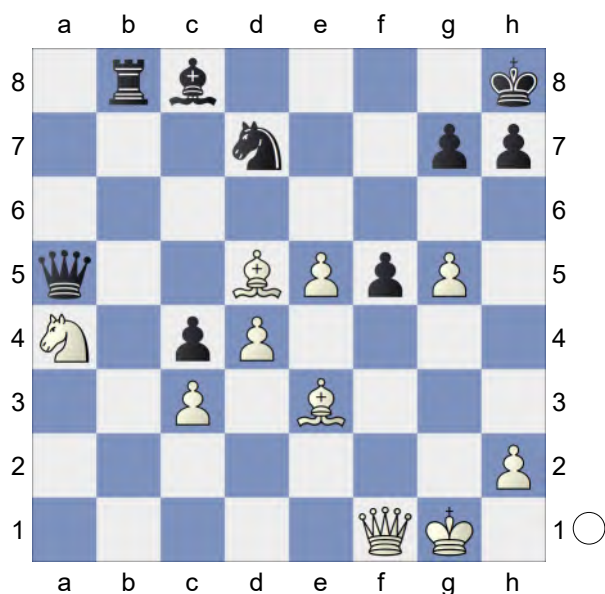
[22...Qc6 John Watson: 'threatens ... Ra8, but Black didn't want to risk' 23.f6 John Watson: '!' '!' '!' Ra8 24.g6∞ John Watson: '!' '!' '!' John Watson: ', when' gxf6 John Watson (24...hxxg6 John Watson 25.Qb1) 25.Qd1 hxxg6 26.Qg4 Kf7 27.Qh3 f5! 28.Qh7+ Ke8 29.Bh6 brings complications, although Black seems to hold.]

23.Rxf5 exf5 24.Bxd5+ Kh8 25.Qf1

[John Watson: 'Perhaps White was counting upon' 25.e6!? John Watson: ', but there might follow' Qd6!]

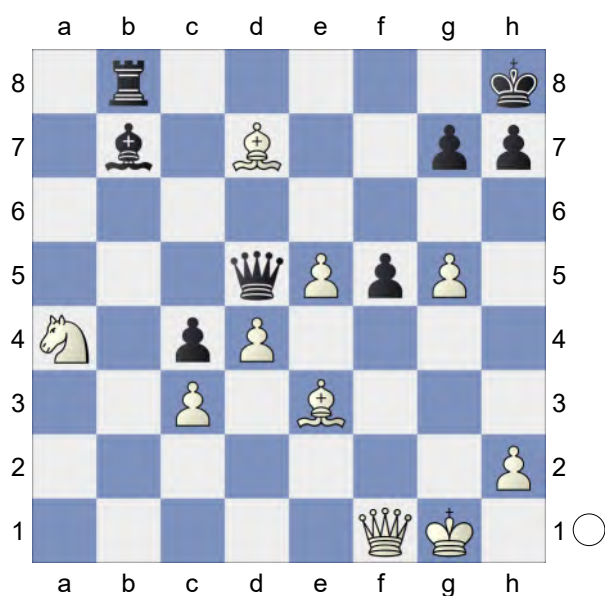
John Watson (or 25...Nf8
John Watson) 26.exd7 Bxd7 27.Bf3
f4! 28.Bd2 Qg6! gives Black too
much attack.]

25...Qa5



26.Bc6 Bb7 John Watson: '!?' '!?' '!?'
[26...Qa6! (John Watson) is still more
convincing.]

27.Bxd7 Qd5



Gegenangriff auf der langen Diagonalen.

28.Bf4 John Watson: '?!' '?!' '?!'

[28.Bxf5 John Watson Rf8!
and ...Rxf5 or ..Qh1+ follows.]

[28.Qh3! John Watson Qxd7 29.Nc5
Qc6 30.Nxb7 Qxb7 31.Qxf5
was the best try, when Qb3
wins c3 and ultimately favors Black
due to White's exposed king.]

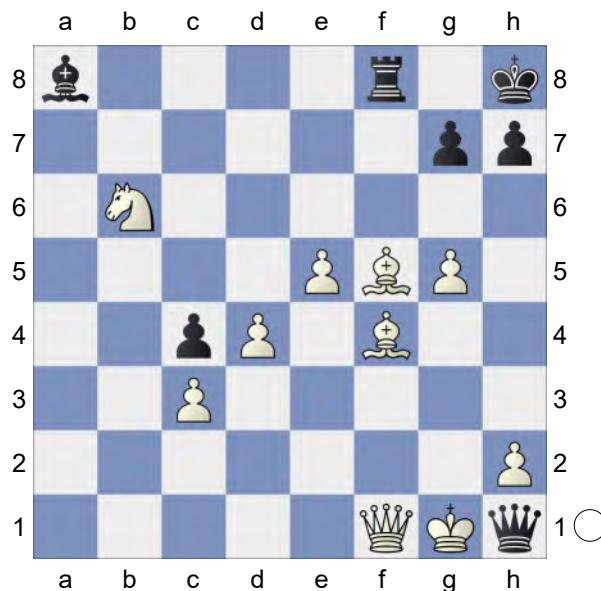
28...Ba8 John Watson: '! '!' '!' Um mit
Tb1 die weiße Dame von g2 abzulenken.

[28...Qxd7? John Watson 29.e6]

29.Bxf5

[29.e6 John Watson Qh1+ 30.Kf2
Qf3+ 31.Kg1 Rb1! finishes matters.]

29...Rf8+ John Watson: 'and White is
lost. the next few moves are forced:' Die
Fesselung auf der f-Linie entscheidet
endgültig. **30.Nb6 Qh1+**



31.Kf2 Qf3+ 32.Kg1 Qxc3
John Watson: '! '!' '!' **33.Bg3**

[33.Nxa8 Rxf5 und der Lf4 ist auch
weg.]

33...Qxd4+ 34.Qf2

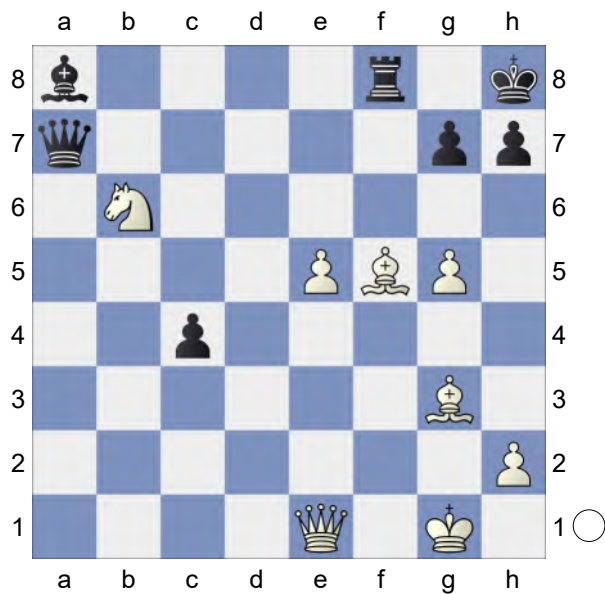
[34.Bf2 John Watson Qxe5 35.Nxa8
Qxf5]

34...Qa1+

[34...Qxf2+ (John Watson) is easier.]

35.Qe1 Qa7

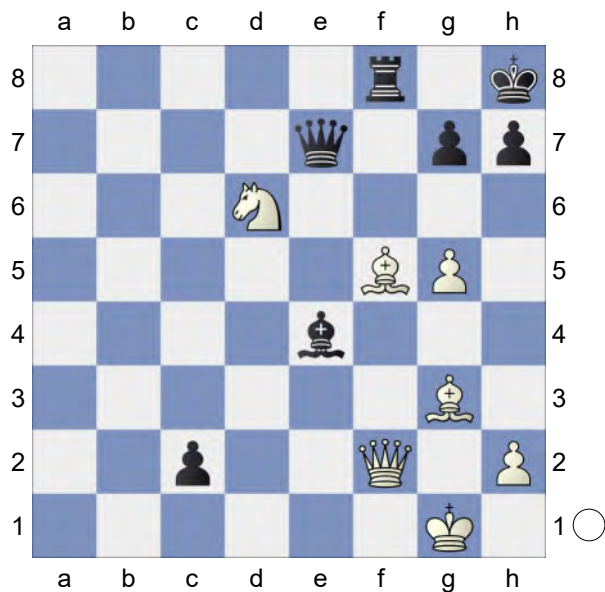
(Diagram)



36.Qf2 c3 37.e6

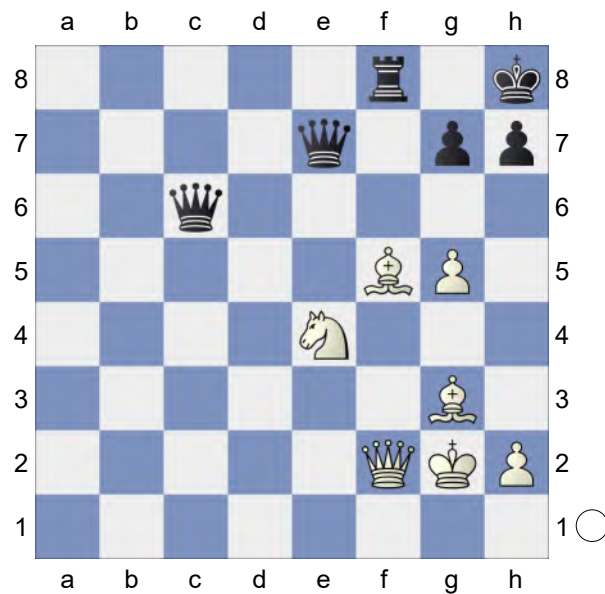
[37.Nxa8 John Watson Qxf2+
38.Bxf2 Rxf5 39.Be3 Rxe5 40.Kf2
c2 41.Bc1 Rd5 will win]

**37...Bc6 38.e7 Qxe7 39.Nc4 Be4
40.Nd6 c2**



**John Watson: '!' '!' '!' 41.Nxe4 c1Q+
42.Kg2 Qc6**

(Diagram)



John Watson: 'A nice performance by
Black.' Nun hat Schwarz wirklich sehr
viele Schwerfiguren. Weiß gab auf.

0-1

207

□ Wei,Yi

■ Lu,Shanglei

Danzhou 6th (6)

[Schulz,Andre]

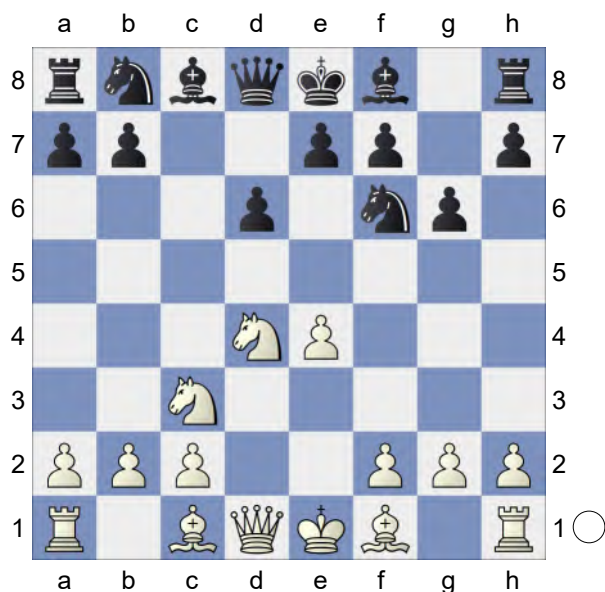
B76

2724

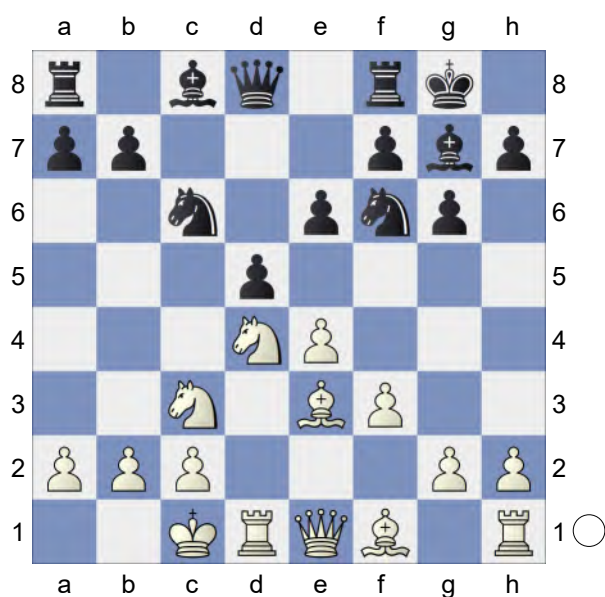
2595

07.07.2015

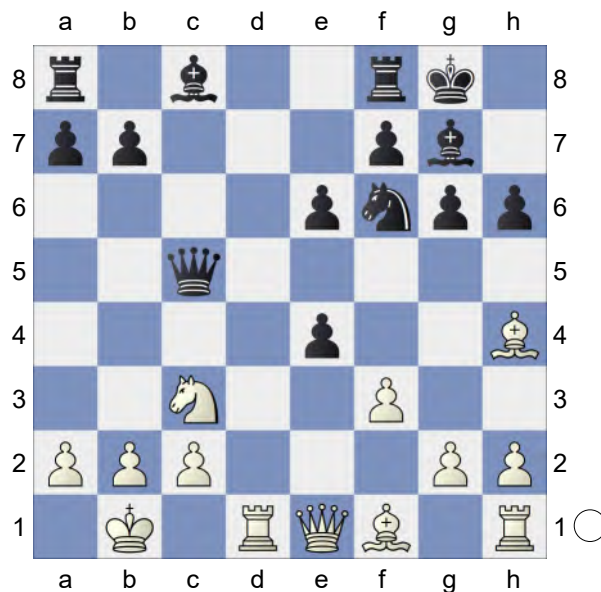
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 g6



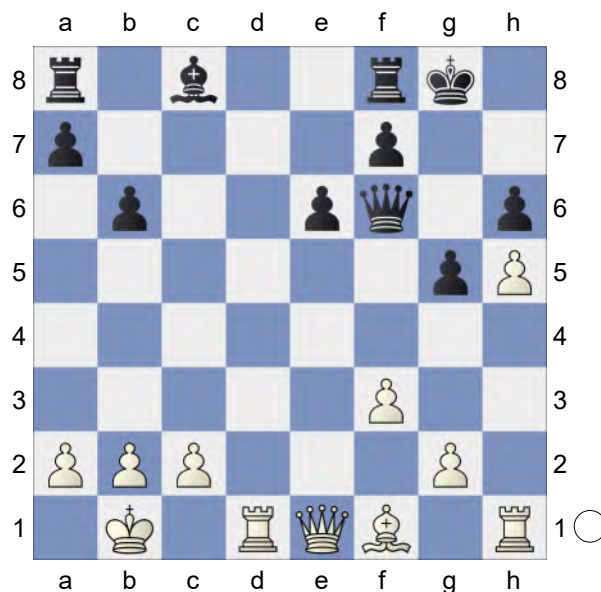
6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Qd2 0-0
9.0-0-0 d5 10.Qe1 e6



11.Kb1 Qe7 12.Bg5 h6 13.Bh4 Nxd4
14.Rxd4 Qc5 15.Rd1 dxe4

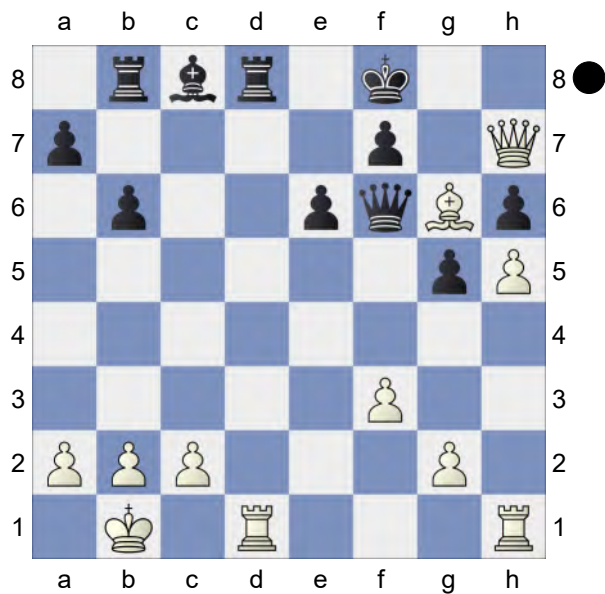


16.Bxf6 Bxf6 17.Nxe4 Qe5 18.Nxf6+
Qxf6 19.h4 b6 20.h5 g5



21.Qe4 Rb8 22.Bd3 Rd8 23.Qh7+
Kf8 24.Bg6

(Diagram)



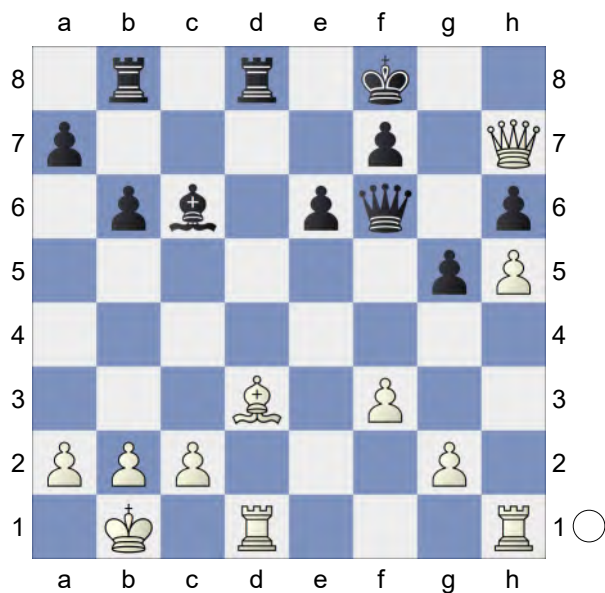
Der weiße Königsangriff geht ins Leere.

24...Bd7 25.Bd3

[25.Qxh6+ Ke7 26.Qh7 Bc6

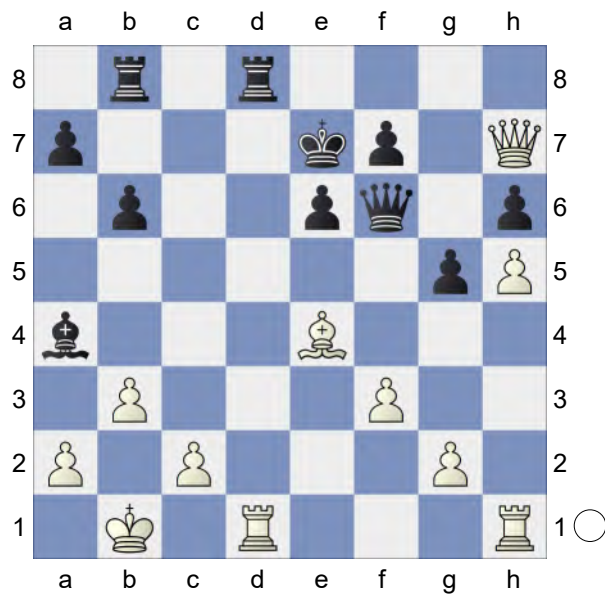
Ist kaum besser.]

25...Bc6



26.Be4 Bb5 27.Bd3 Bc6 28.Be4 Ba4
29.b3 Ke7

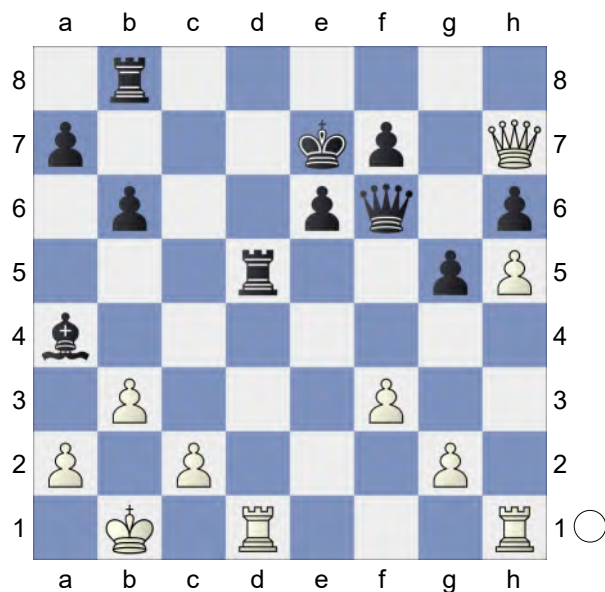
(Diagram)



30.Bd5

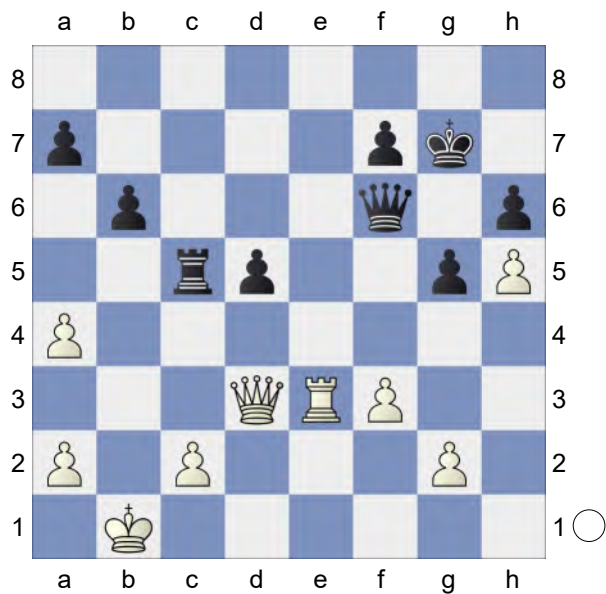
[30.bxa4?? Rh8-+ mit Damenfang.]

30...Rxd5

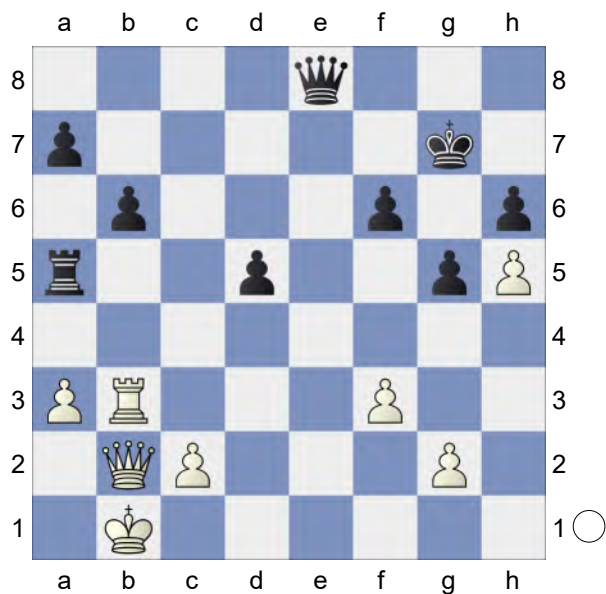


31.Rxd5 exd5 32.bxa4 Rc8 33.Re1+ Kf8
und Schwarz steht gut. 34.Qd3 Rc5 35.Re3 Kg7

(Diagram)

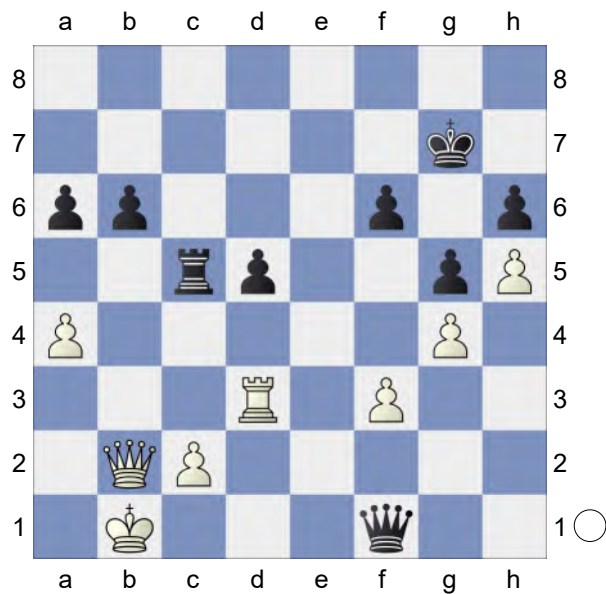


**36.a3 Ra5 37.Qb3 Qd4 38.Rd3 Qxa4
39.Qb2+ f6 40.Rb3 Qe8**

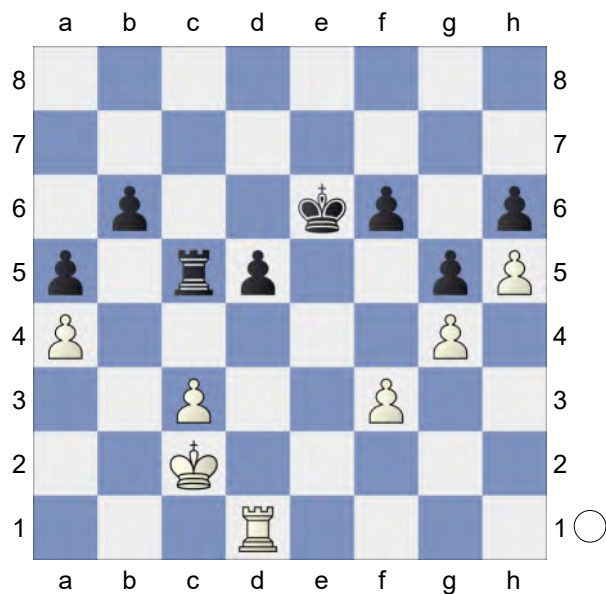


**41.g4 Qe1+ 42.Ka2 Rc5 43.Rd3 Qe2
44.Kb1 a6 45.a4 Qf1+**

(Diagram)

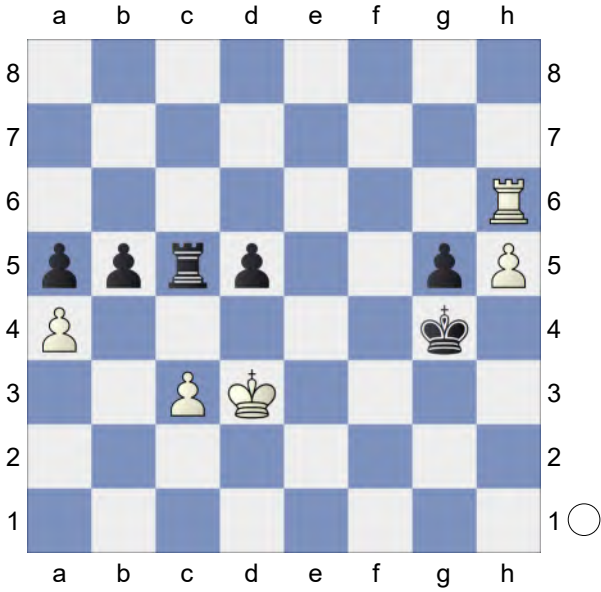


**46.Ka2 Qf2 47.c3 Qxb2+ 48.Kxb2
Kf7 49.Kc2 a5 50.Rd1 Ke6**

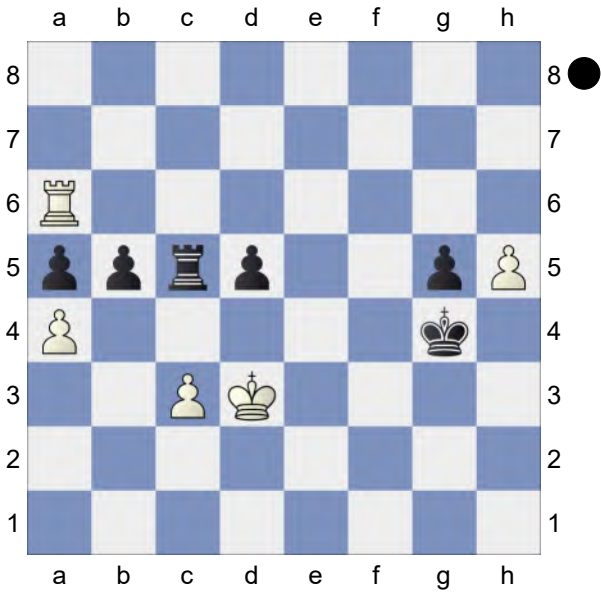


**51.Kd3 Ke5 52.Re1+ Kf4 53.Re6
Kxf3 54.Rxf6+ Kxg4 55.Rxh6 b5**

(Diagram)



56.Ra6



1/2-1/2

326

E11

□ Wei, Yi

2694

■ Anand, Viswanathan

2770

Leon 29th rapid (2.2)

12.06.2016

[Schulz, Andre]

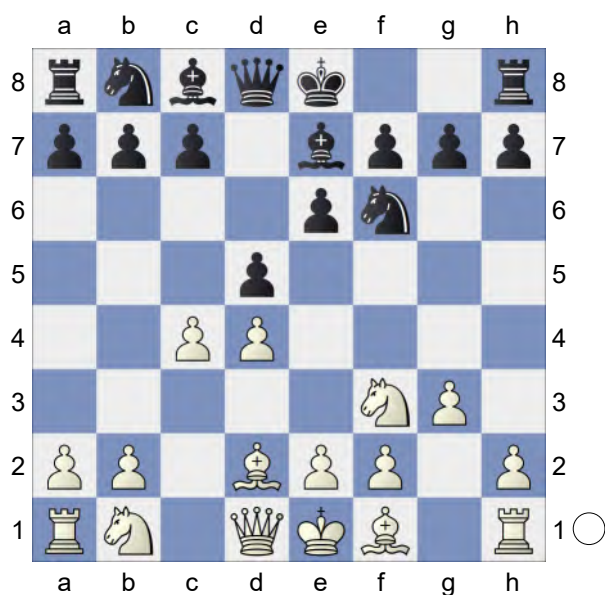
1.d4 Stamenkovic, Zoran Schulz, André

Stamenkovic, Zoran: 'Schulz, Andre

Schulz, Andre: 'Schulz, André' 1...d5

2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3 Bb4+ 5.Bd2

Be7



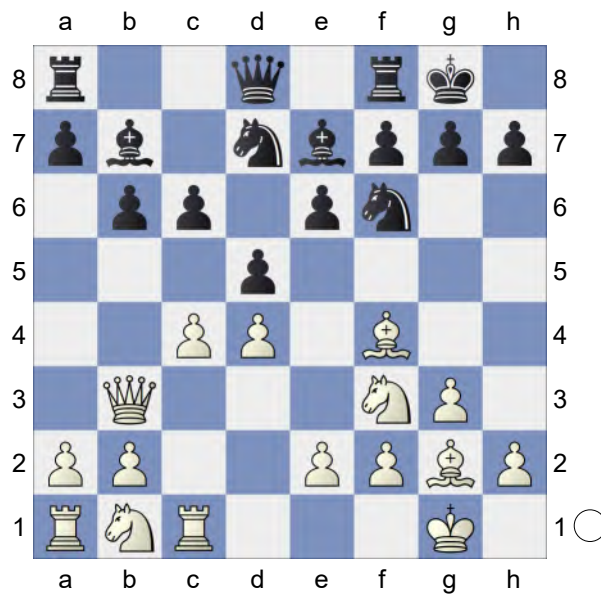
6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0 Nbd7 8.Qb3 c6

9.Rc1 b6

[9...Ne4 (Stamenkovic, Zoran) - 49/
(581)]

10.Bf4 Bb7

(Diagram)



11.cxd5 Nxd5 12.Nc3 c5 13.Nxd5

Bxd5 14.Qa4 Stamenkovic, Zoran: 'N'

[14.Qd3 Stamenkovic, Zoran]

14...cxd4

[14...a5 Stamenkovic, Zoran 15.Qc2

Nf6 16.dxc5 Bxc5 17.Ne5 Bxg2

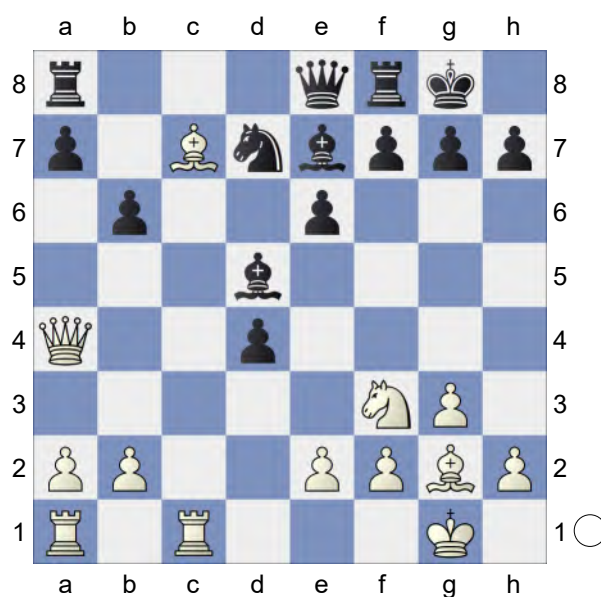
18.Kxg2 Qd5+ 19.f3=]

15.Bc7

[15.Qxd4 Stamenkovic, Zoran Bf6

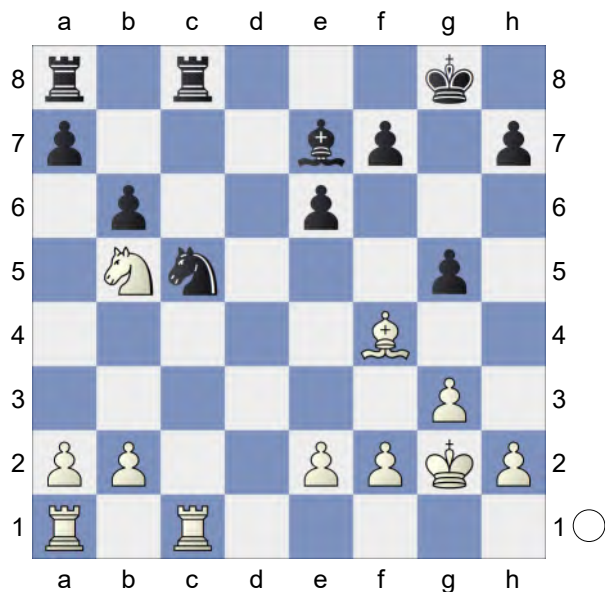
16.Qd2 Nc5=]

15...Qe8



16.Nxd4 Bxg2 17.Kxg2 Nc5 18.Qxe8

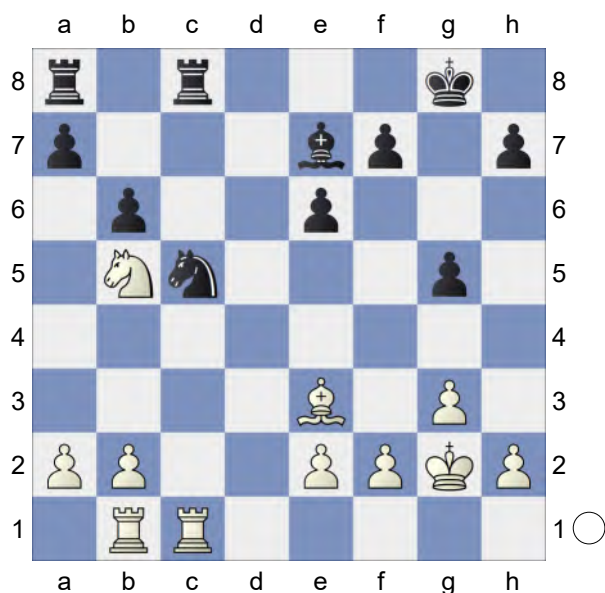
Rfxe8 19.Nb5 Rec8 20.Bf4 g5



21.Be3 Bf6

[21...a6 *Stamenkovic,Zoran* 22.Nd4 Na4 23.Nc6 Bf6 24.Bd4 Kg7=]

22.Rab1 Be7 *Stamenkovic,Zoran: '?!'*
Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Diagram'



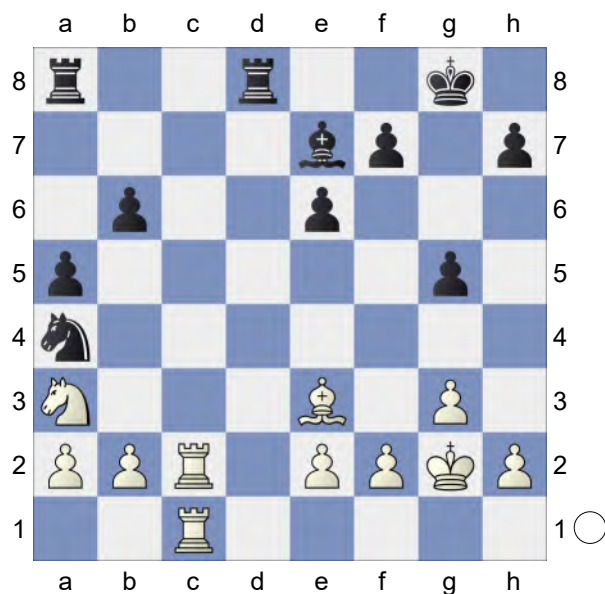
23.Rc2 *Stamenkovic,Zoran: '?!'*

[23.b4! *Stamenkovic,Zoran* Ne4 24.Rxc8+ Rxc8 25.Nxa7

A) 25...Rc2 26.a3 Nd2 (26...Nc3 27.Rc1±; 26...Ra2 27.Bxb6 Rxa3 28.Nc6±) 27.Bxd2 Rxd2 28.Kf1±;

B) 25...Ra8 26.Bxb6 Nc3 27.Rb3 Nd5 28.Nc6±]

23...a5 24.Rbc1 Rd8 25.Na3 Na4



26.Nc4

[26.Rc7 *Stamenkovic,Zoran* Bc5 27.Bxc5 Nxc5 28.Nc4 Rab8 29.Nxb6 (29.Nxa5 Rd2 30.Nc4 Rxe2 31.Kf3 Nd3![∞]) 29...Nb3 30.axb3 Rxb6 31.R1c5 Rd5 (31...h6 32.Rxa5 Rxb3 33.Raa7 Rf8 34.Rab7 Rxb7 35.Rxb7±) 32.Rxd5 exd5 33.Rc5 h6 34.Rxd5 Rxb3 35.Rxa5 Rxb2 36.e3±]

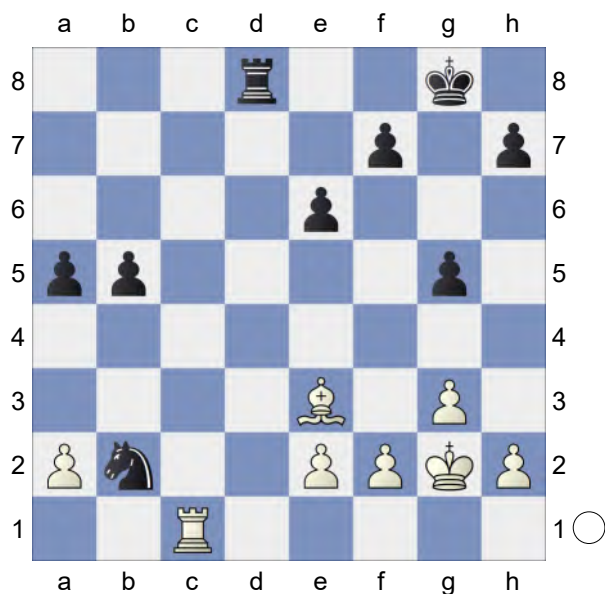
26...b5 27.Ne5 Bf6 28.Nc6 Bxb2

29.Rxb2 *Stamenkovic,Zoran: '?!'*

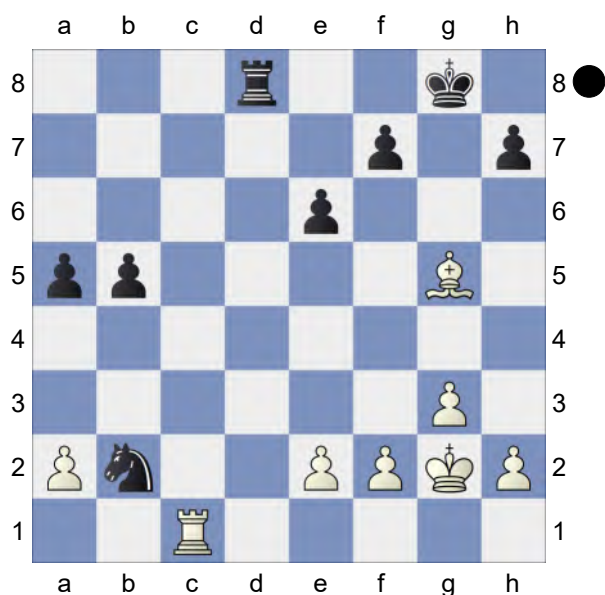
[29.Rb1± *Stamenkovic,Zoran*]

29...Nxb2 30.Nxd8 Rxd8

(Diagram)



31.Bxg5



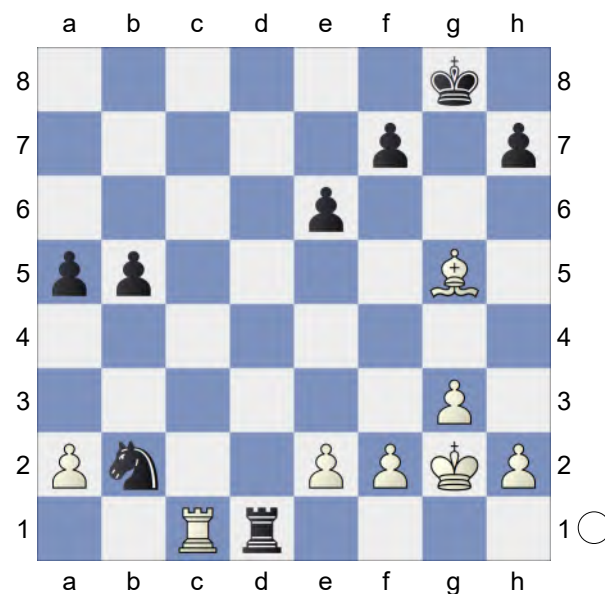
Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Schulz,Andre: '[#]"

31...Rd1? Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Diagram

[31...Rd5 32.Bf6 droht Matt.

Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Schulz,Andre: 'droht Matt.'" Nc4 33.a4±]

(Diagram)



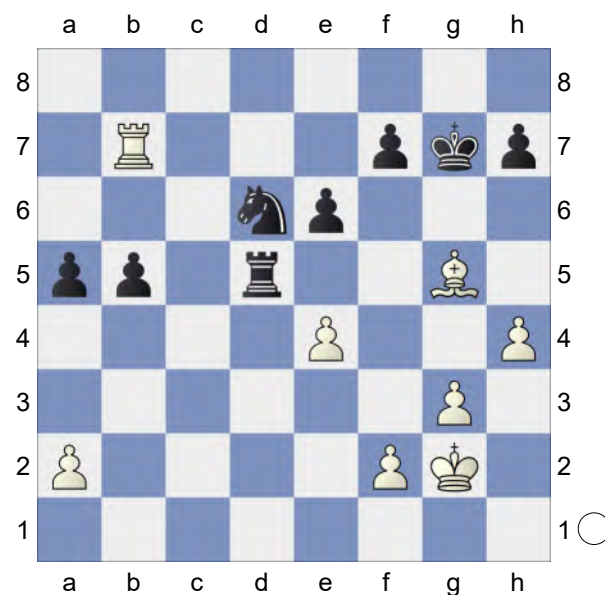
32.Rc7?

[32.Rxd1 Nxd1 33.Bf6+-

Stamenkovic,Zoran: '(Xd1) Schulz, Andre: '+-' fängt den Springer.

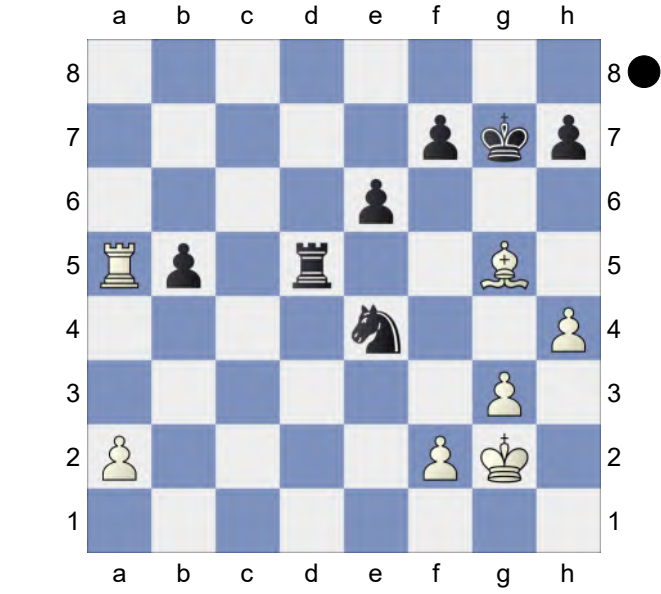
Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Schulz,Andre: 'fängt den Springer.'" b4 Stamenkovic, Zoran 34.Kf1 Nc3 35.Bxc3 bxc3 36.Ke1+-]

32...Kg7= 33.Rb7 Rd5 34.h4 Nc4 35.e4 Nd6



36.Ra7 Nxe4 37.Rxa5

(Diagram)



1/2-1/2

431

□ Potkin, Vladimir

■ Wei, Yi

Moscow Aeroflot op-A 15th_21817_2125..

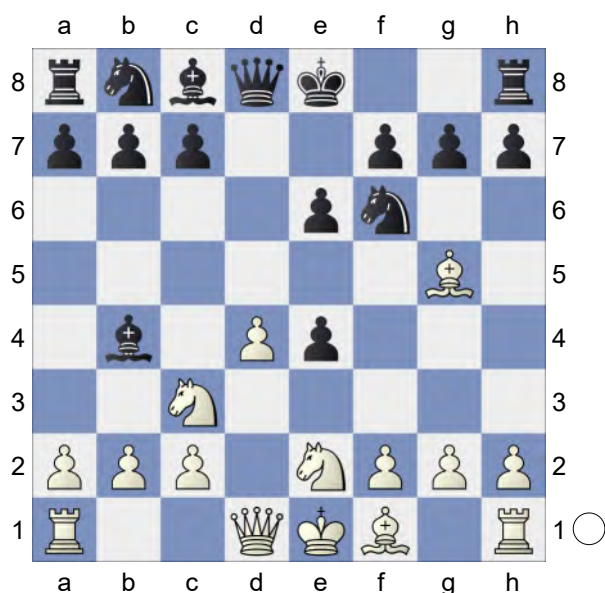
[Schulz, Andre]

C12

2585

2714

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 Um den geplant
weißen Aufmarsch im Zentrum zu
stören. 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Bb4 5.Nge2
dxe4



6.a3 Be7 7.Bxf6 Gibt das
Rochaderecht auf, um die Spannung
aufrechtzuerhalten. 7...Bxf6 8.Nxe4
Bd7 Das sieht alles sehr wild aus, ist
aber noch bekannt.

[8...0-0]

[8...Be7]

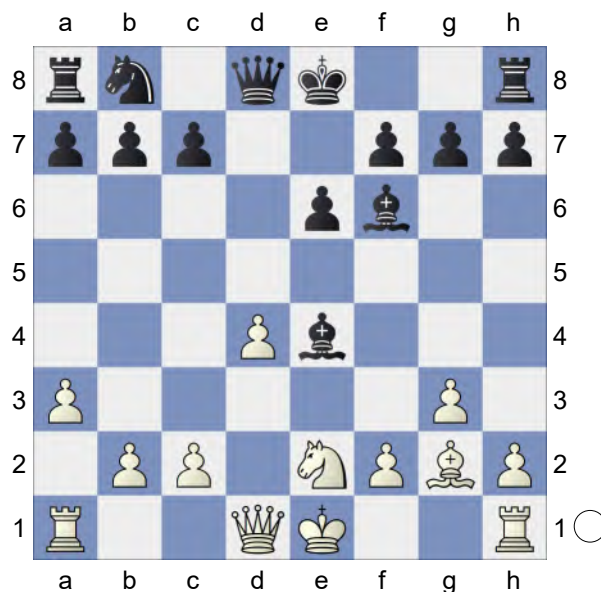
9.g3 Das ist ein neuer Zug.

[9.Qd3 Bc6 10.0-0-0 Bxe4 11.Qxe4
Qd5 12.Qe3 0-0 13.Nc3 Qa5
14.Ne4 Nd7 15.h4]

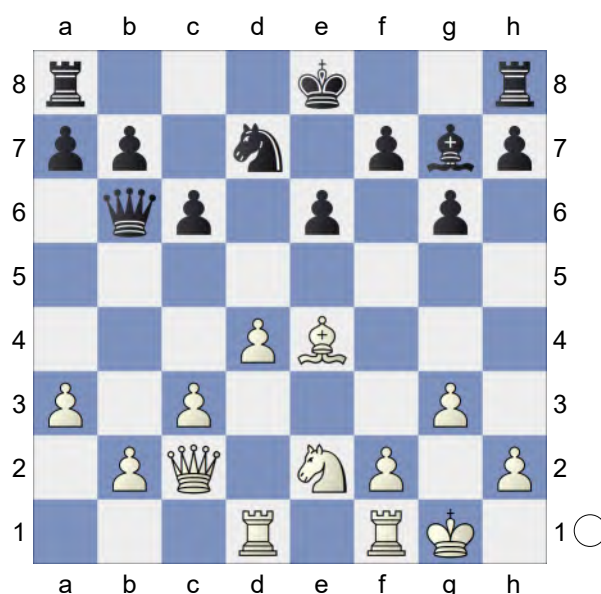
[9.N2g3 Bc6 10.c3 Nd7 11.Be2 0-0
12.0-0 Be7 0-1 (37) Svidler, P (2753)-
Carlsen, M (2881) Flor & Fjaere 2014
13.c4 kam auch einige Male vor. Bxe4
fand wenig Nachfolger: 14.Nxe4 Nf6
15.Nc3 Qd7]

9...Bc6 10.Bg2 Bxe4

[10...Be7 11.0-0 Nd7 12.c4 Bxe4
13.Bxe4 c6 14.Qc2 Nf6 15.Bg2
0-0]



11.Bxe4 c6 Nun wird es aber noch
wilder: 12.c3! Schwarz hat nun zwei
Abzugs-Doppelschachs, die aber beide
zu nichts führen: 12...Nd7 13.Qc2
Qb6?! Der Ld5 ist gefesselt. 14.0-0 g6
15.Rad1 Bg7

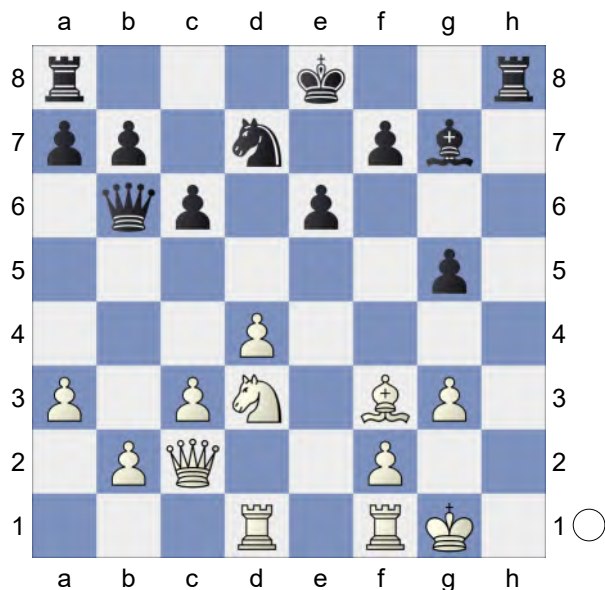


Beide Könige hängen in der Mitte fest.
16.h4 Nf6

[16...0-0 17.h5 Nf6 18.hxg6 hxg6
19.Bf3 Rfe8 20.Nf4 e5]

17.Bf3 h6? 18.Nf4 g5 Es gab keine
Zug mehr, der das Matt deckt und
Materialverlust vermeidet. **19.hxg5**
hxg5 20.Nd3 Nd7

[20...0-0-0 21.Ne5 Qc7 22.b4]



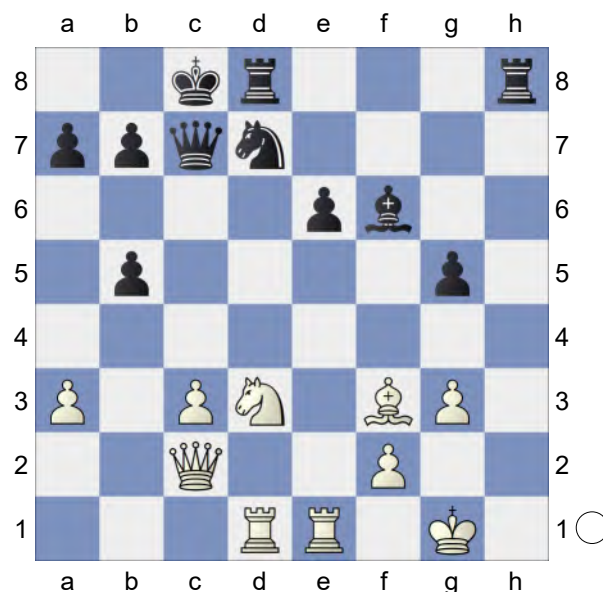
21.b4 Qc7 22.Rfe1 Bf6 23.b5 cxb5
24.d5 0-0-0

[24...e5 25.d6 Qb6 26.Nb4]

[24...Qxc3 25.Qb1 e5 26.Qxb5 Rd8
27.Bg4]

25.dxe6 fxe6

(Diagram)



26.Rxe6+- Anders herum war es besser:
26...Bd4

[26...Rhf8]

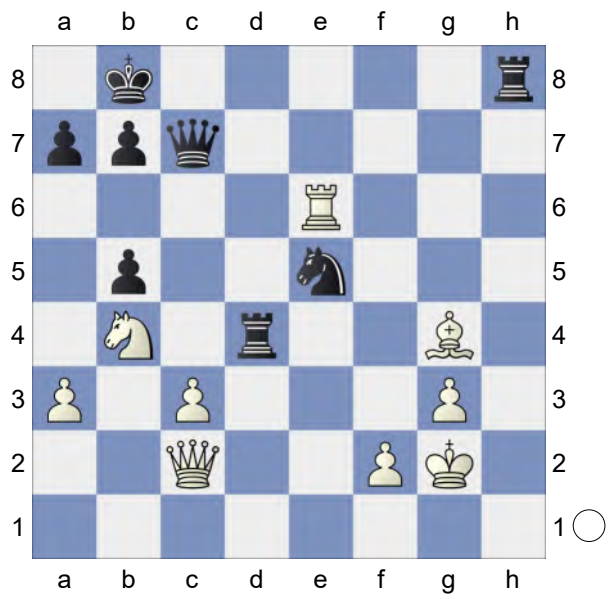
27.Kg2 g4

[27...Nc5 28.Re7 (28.Nxc5 Bxc5!?
29.Qf5 Kb8 30.Rxd8+ Rxd8
31.Re5) 28...Qxe7 29.cxd4]

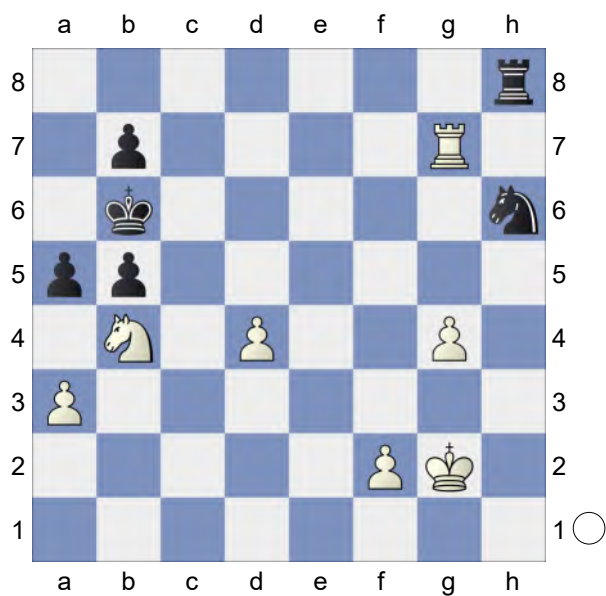
[27...Bb6 28.Nb4 Nc5 29.Ree1
(29.Rxd8+ Rxd8 30.Rg6 Qe5)
29...Rxd1 30.Rxd1 Qh7 (30...Qf7)
31.Qxh7 Rxh7 32.Nd5 1/2-1/2 (15)
Nabaty,T (2590)-Fier,A (2601) Skopje
2015 Bd8]

28.Bxg4 Kb8 29.Nb4 Ne5 30.Rxd4
Nicht schön, aber Schwarz kann noch
kämpfen. **30...Rxd4**

(Diagram)

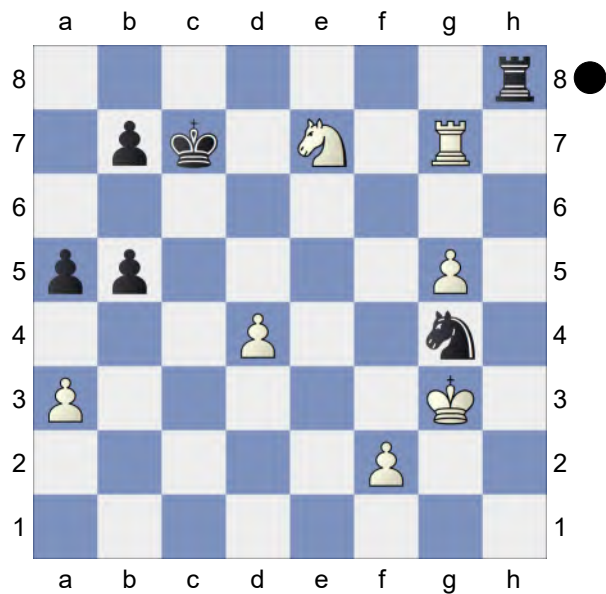


31.cxd4= Nxg4!? 32.Qxc7+ Kxc7 1-0
 33.Rg6!? Nh6± Besser scheint aber
 34.Rg7+ Kb6 35.g4 a5



36.Nd5+ Kc6 37.Ne7+? Kc7 38.g5
 Ng4 39.Kg3?

(Diagram)



39

□ Anand, Viswanathan

■ Wei, Yi

Leon 29th rapid (2.1)

[Schulz, Andre]

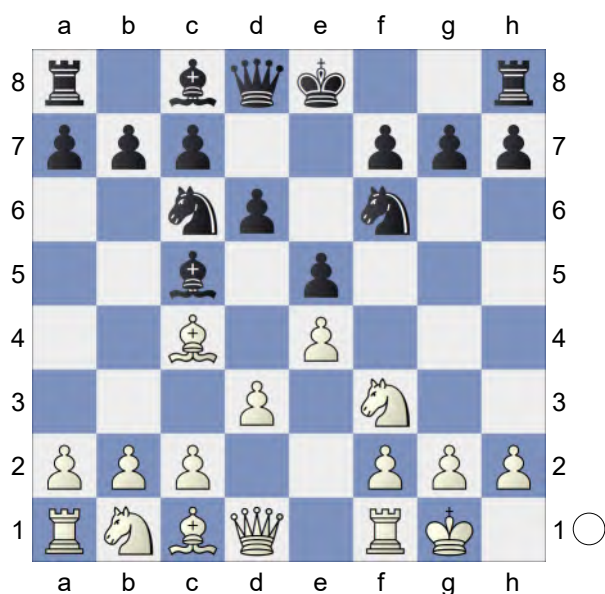
C54

2770

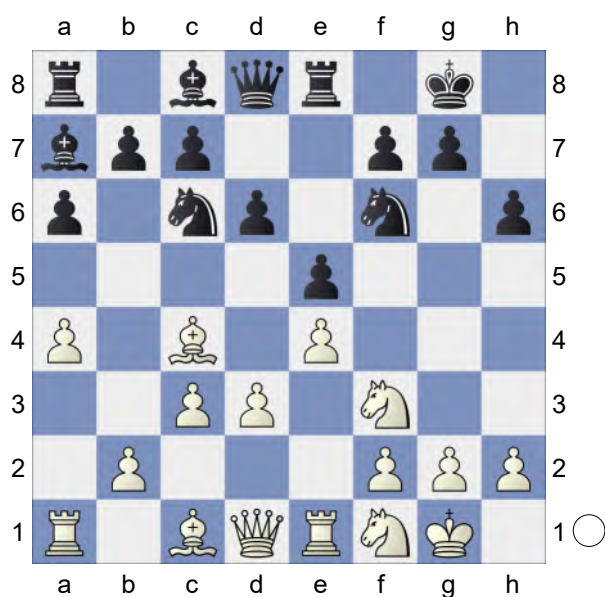
2694

12.06.2016

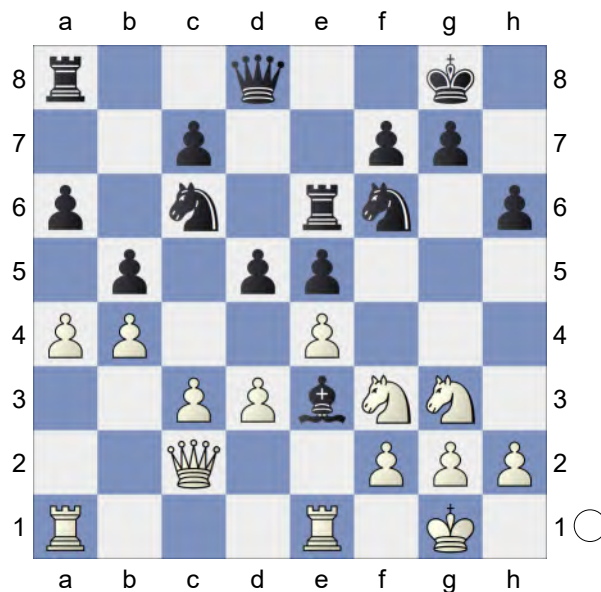
1.e4 Schulz, André 1...e5 2.Nf3 Nc6
3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0 Nf6 5.d3 d6



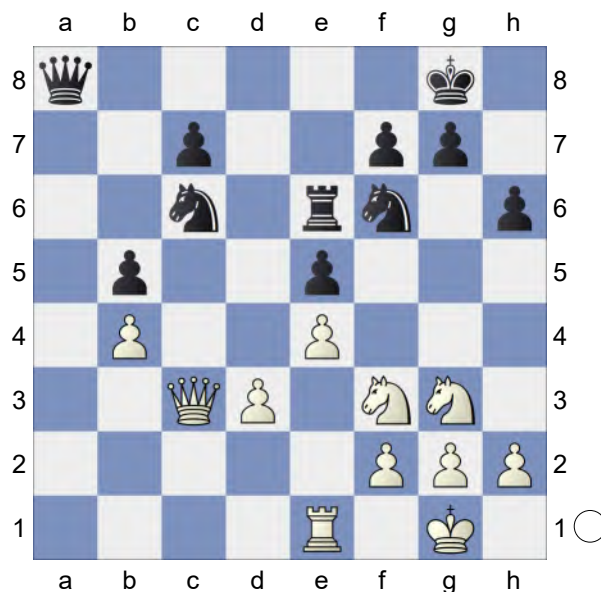
6.c3 a6 7.a4 h6 8.Re1 0-0 9.Nbd2
Re8 10.Nf1 Ba7



11.Ng3 Be6 12.Bxe6 Rxe6 13.b4 d5
14.Qc2 b5 15.Be3 Bxe3



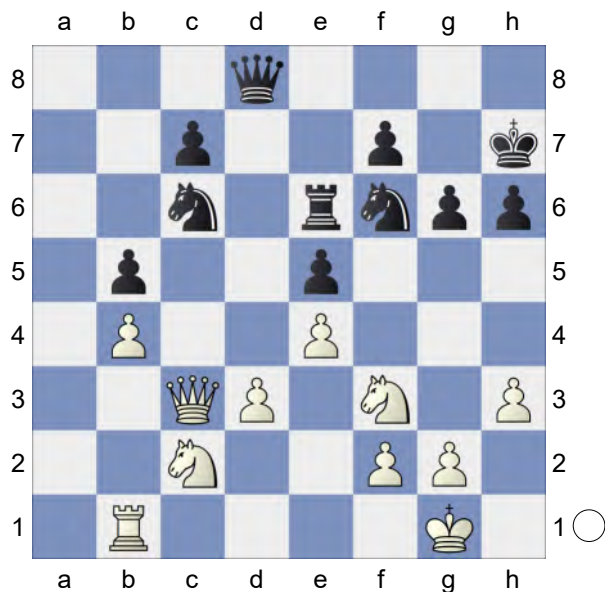
16.Rxe3 d4 17.Ree1 dxc3 18.Qxc3
Qf8 19.axb5 axb5 20.Rxa8 Qxa8



21.Nf5 Qf8 22.Rb1 g6 23.Ne3 Qd6
24.Nc2 Qd8 25.h3 Kh7

[25...Nd7 hätte c5 unter Kontrolle
gehalten.]

(Diagram)

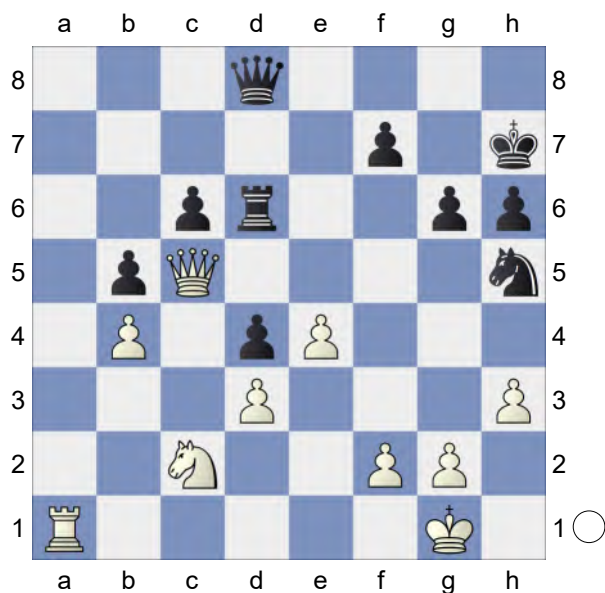


26.Na3 Nd4

[26...Qb8 27.Qc5±]

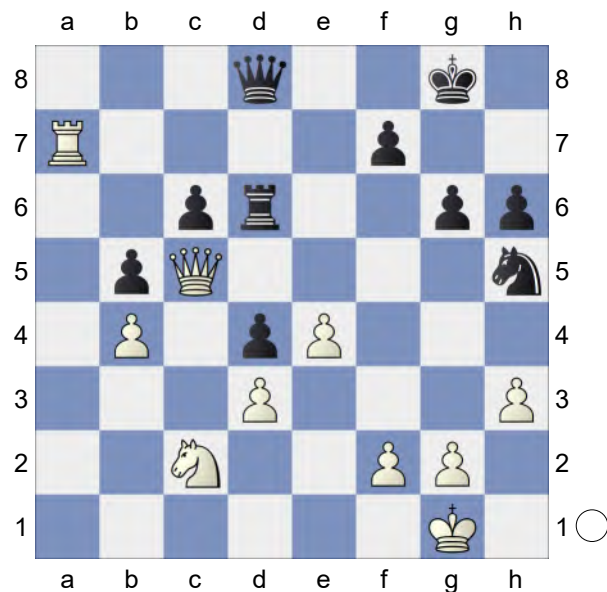
[26...Nh5!? 27.Nxb5 Nf4 28.Qc2 Rf6 29.Ne1 Qd7 mit Gegenspiel für den Minusbauern.]

27.Nxd4 exd4 28.Qc5 c6 29.Nc2±
d4 und c6 sind schwach. Weiß hat nun
deutlichen Vorteil. **29...Rd6 30.Ra1**
Nh5



31.Ra7 Kg8

(Diagram)



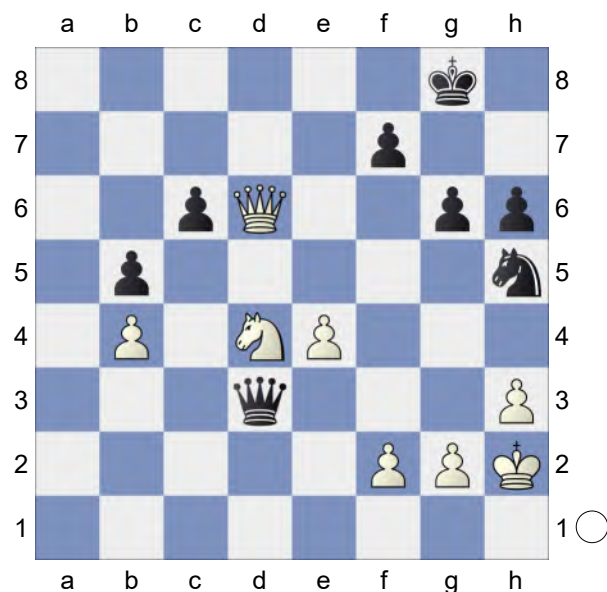
32.Ra8?! Weiß spielt etwas sorglos.

[Richtig war 32.e5! Rd7 33.Rxd7 Qxd7 34.Nxd4+-]

32...Qxa8 33.Qxd6 Qa2 34.Nxd4

[Nach 34.Qxc6 Qb1+ 35.Kh2 Qf1 36.Nxd4 Qxf2 ist die Partie ebenfalls unklar.]

34...Qb1+ 35.Kh2 Qxd3

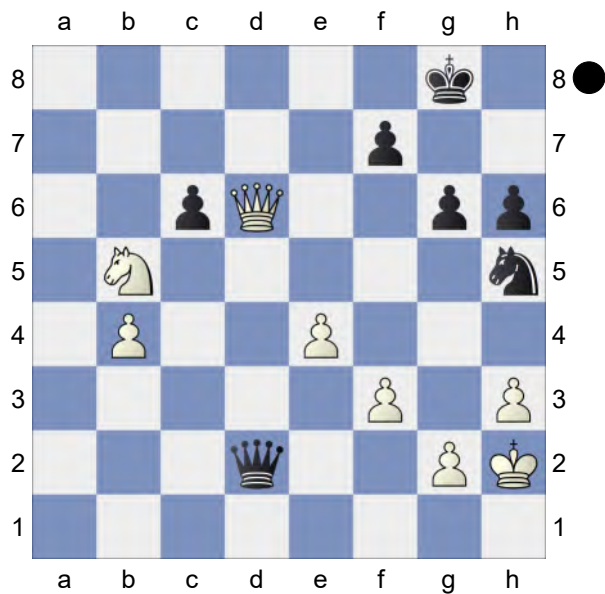


36.f3 Qd2

[36...Kh7!?]

37.Nxb5

(Diagram)



Qg5?

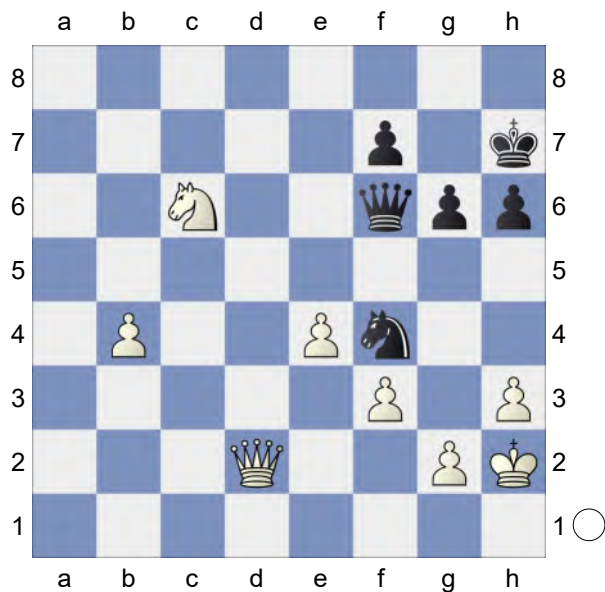
[37...Qf2!? 38.Nd4 (38.Nc3 g5
mit der hässlichen Drohung Sf4.

39.Nd1 Qe1 40.Qxh6 Qg3+ 41.Kg1
Qe1+=) 38...g5≠]

38.Na7 Nf4 39.Qd2 Kh7

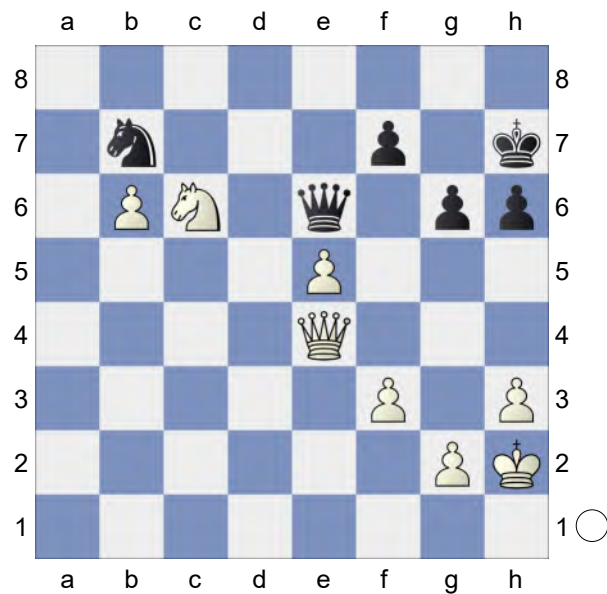
[39...c5]

40.Nxc6+- Qf6

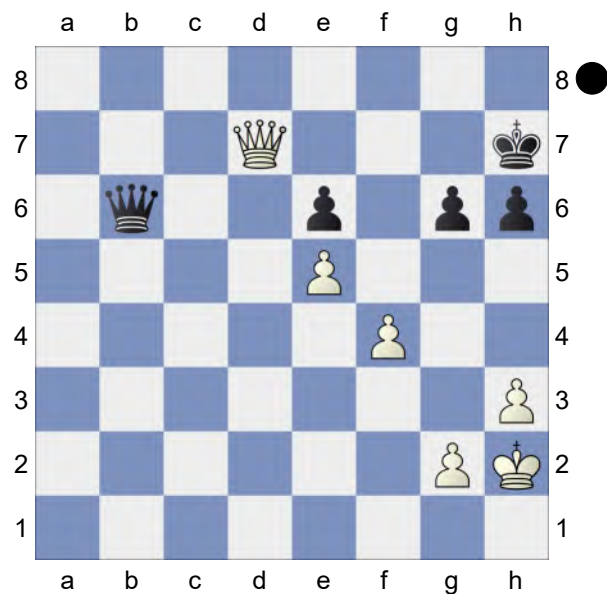


**41.e5 Qf5 42.b5 Ne6 43.b6 Nc5
44.Qb4 Nb7 45.Qe4 Qe6**

(Diagram)



**46.f4 Nc5 47.Nd8 Qxb6 48.Qd5 Ne6
49.Nxe6 fxe6 50.Qd7+**



1-0

40

B78

Anand,Viswanathan

2770

Wei,Yi

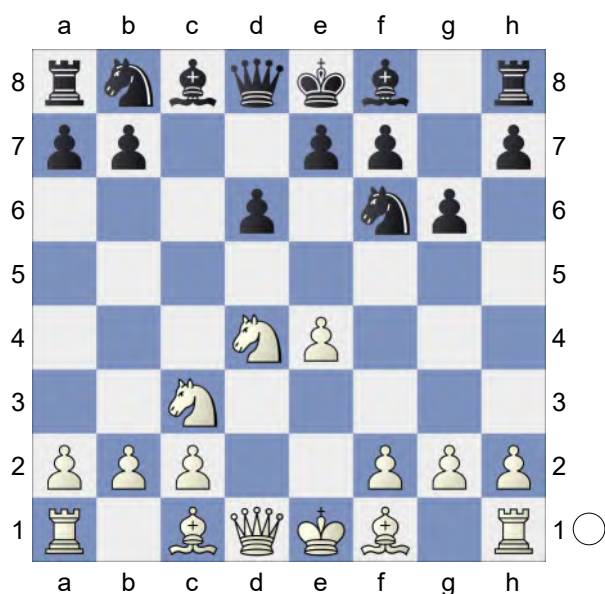
2694

Leon 29th rapid (2.1)

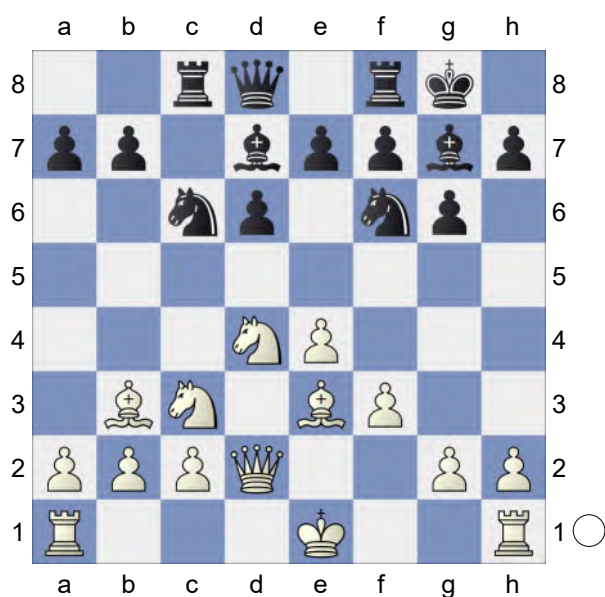
12.06.2016

[Schulz,Andre]

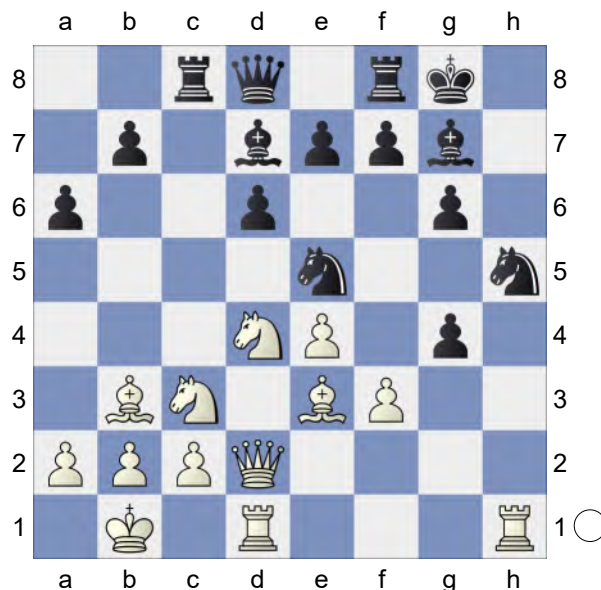
1.e4 Schulz,André 1...c5 2.Nf3 d6
3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6



6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Bc4
Bd7 10.Bb3 Rc8



11.0-0-0 Ne5 12.Kb1 a6 13.h4 h5
14.g4 hxg4 15.h5 Nxh5



16.Rdg1

[16.Bh6]

16...Qa5

[16...Nc4 17.Bxc4 Rxc4 18.fxc4 Nf6
19.Nf5 Bxf5 20.gxf5]

[16...Rxc3 17.bxc3 a5 (17...Qa5
18.f4) 18.Bh6]

[16...Rc5]

17.Bh6 Rxc3 18.Bxg7 Kxg7

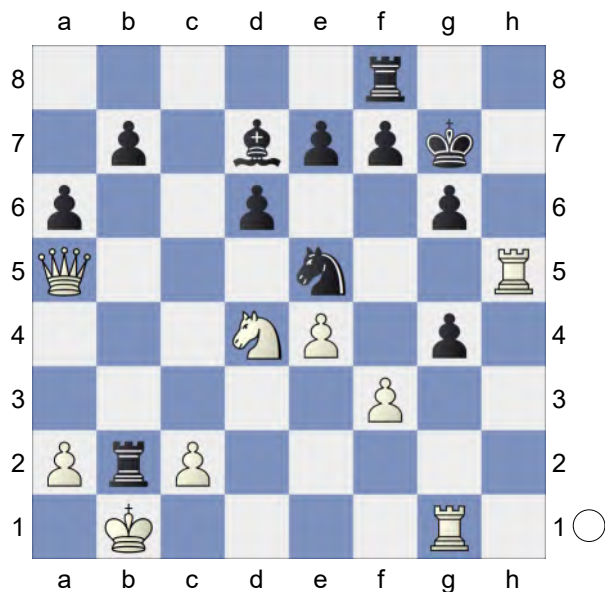
[18...Rxb3 19.Qh6 Rxb2+ 20.Kxb2
Nc4+ 21.Kb1 Qb6+ 22.Kc1 Qb2+
23.Kd1 Qa1+ 24.Ke2 Nf4+ 25.Qxf4]

19.Rxh5 Rxb3 20.Qxa5

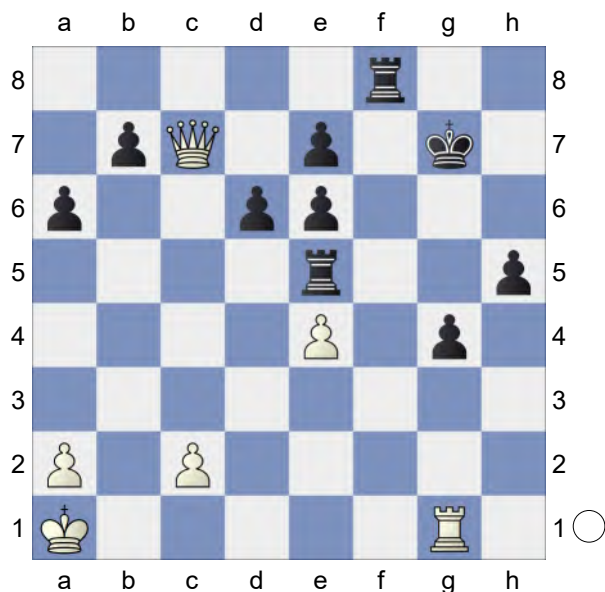
[20.Qh6+ hätte c5 unter Kontrolle
gehalten. Kf6 21.Qg5+ Kg7 22.Nxb3
Qb4 23.Rgh1 Rg8 24.Rh7+ Kf8
25.Qh6+ Ke8 26.Qg7]

20...Rxb2+

(Diagram)



21.Ka1 gxf5 22.f4 Be6 23.Nxe6+ fxe6 24.fxe5 Rb5 25.Qc7 Rxe5

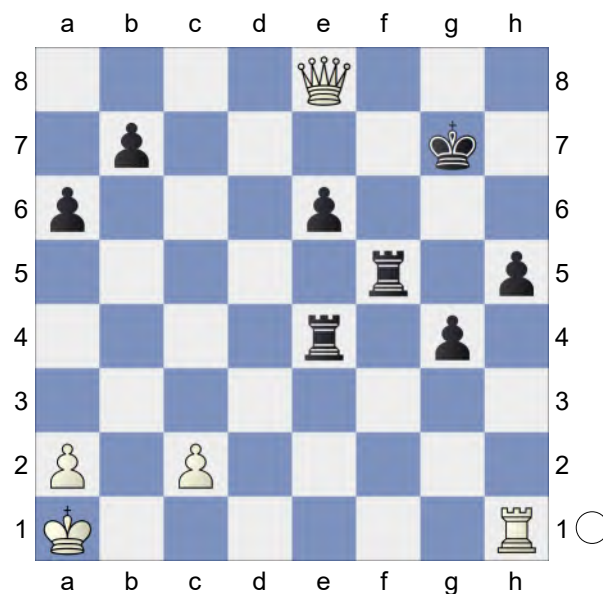


26.Qxe7+ Rf7 27.Qxd6 Rxe4 28.Rh1 Rf5

[28...Kg6 29.Qb8 Re3 ist die Partie ebenfalls unklar. Richtig war 30.Qg8+! Rg7 31.Qe8+ Rf7 32.Rxh5+- (32.Rf1 Ref3 33.Qxe6+ R7f6 mit Gegenspiel für den Minusbauern.) 32...Kxh5 33.Qxf7+± Kg5!? 34.Qxb7 g3]

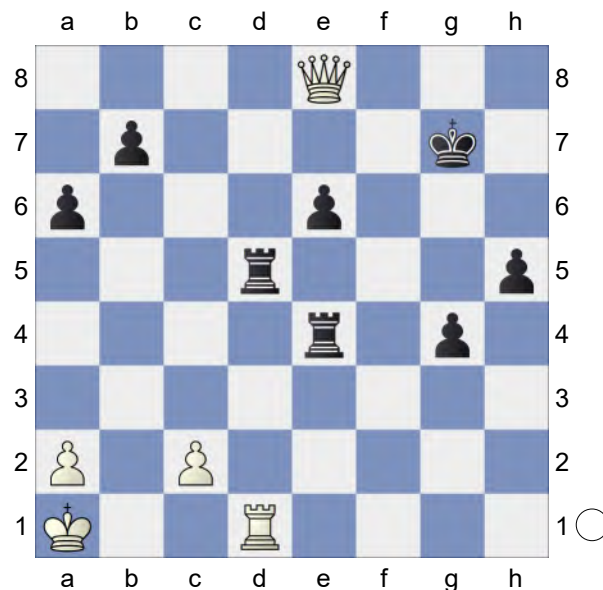
29.Qe7+± d4 und c6 sind schwach. Weiß hat nun deutlichen Vorteil.

29...Kg6 30.Qe8+ Kg7



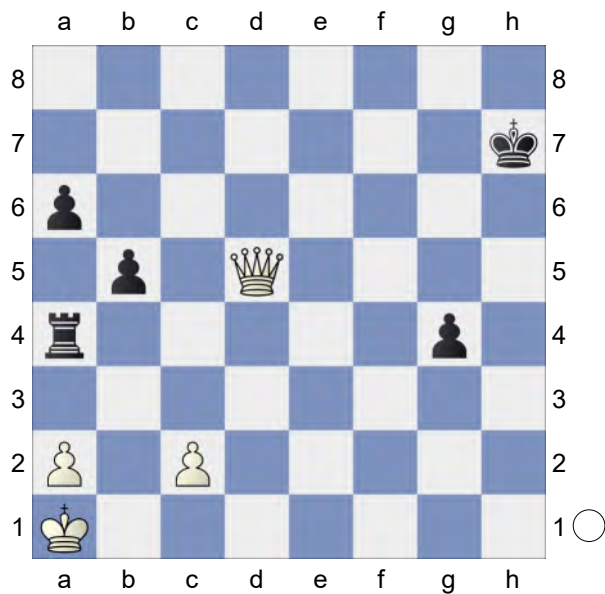
31.Rd1 Rd5

[31...Rf7 32.Rd8!? Kf6 33.Qh8+± Kg5 34.Qg8+ mit der hässlichen Drohung Sf4. Kf6 35.Rd1 Rf4 36.Re1 Rf5 37.Qd8+= Kg6!? Nach 38.Rxe6+ R5f6 39.Re8]

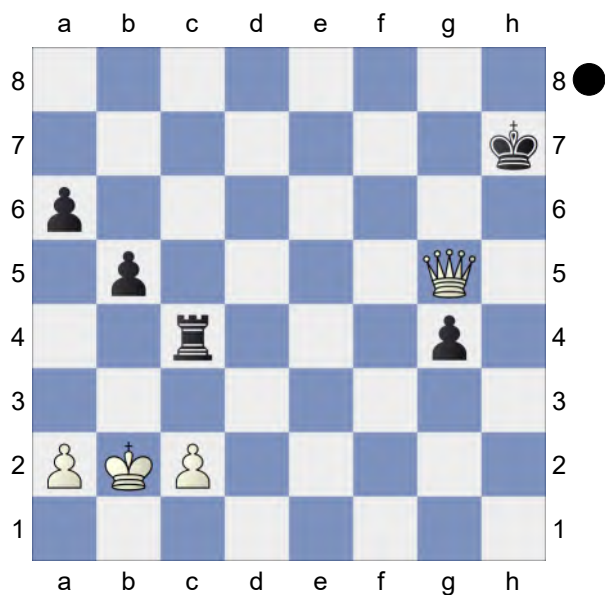


32.Rxd5?! Weiß spielt etwas sorglos. 32...exd5 33.Qxh5 b5 34.Qg5+ Kh7 35.Qxd5 Ra4

(Diagram)

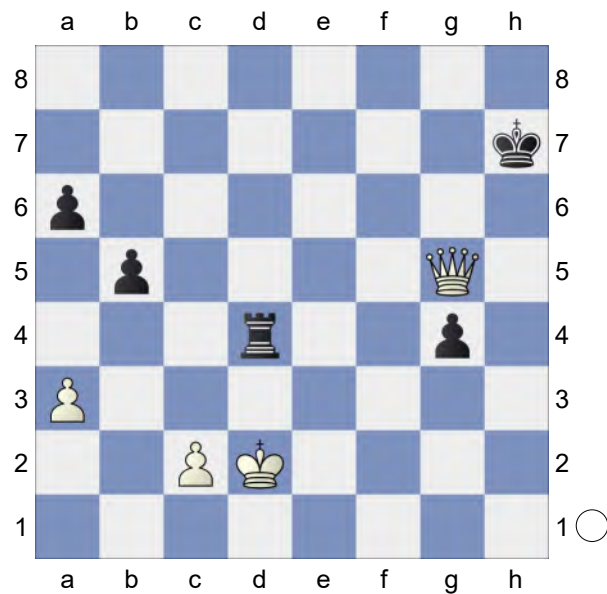


36.Qg5 Rc4 37.Kb2

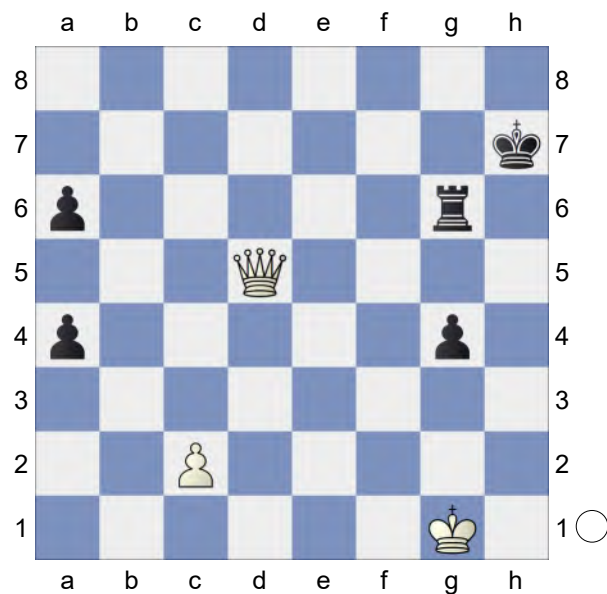


**Rb4+? 38.Kc1 Ra4 39.a3 Rc4
40.Kd2+- Rd4+**

(Diagram)

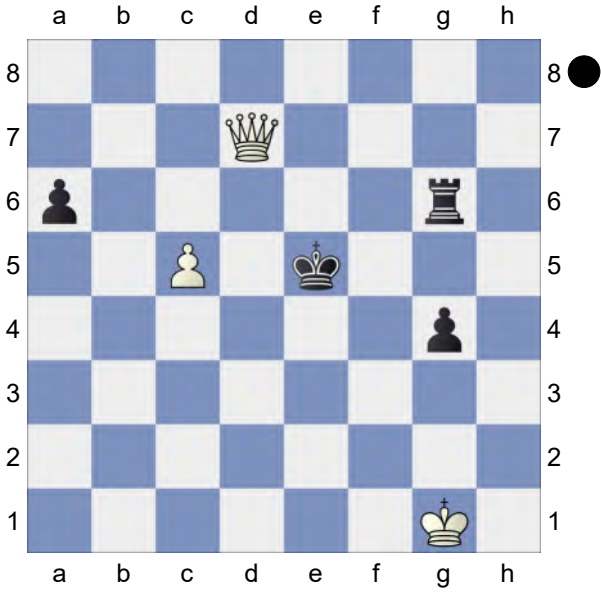


**41.Ke1 Ra4 42.Kf1 Rc4 43.Kg1 Rc6
44.Qd5 Rg6 45.a4 bxa4**



**46.Qd7+ Kh6 47.Qxa4 Kg5 48.c4 Kf5
49.c5 Ke5 50.Qd7**

(Diagram)



1-0

325

□ Wei, Yi

■ Sethuraman, S P

Tashkent 129/144

[Sethuraman, SP]

D45

2694

2647

2016

In the penultimate round, Adhiban had the white pieces against Le Quang, Wei Yi was Black against Kasimdzhanov, followed by Ganguly and myself on the third and fourth boards, half a point behind. Le Quang played a nice positional game to outwit Adhiban and Wei too won in impressive style. Ganguly drew against the rock solid Chinese Wen Yang. On the fourth board I won against the local upcoming grandmaster, Jahonigir Vakhidov, in a well contested game. Now a draw would guarantee me a place in the World Cup, once again thanks to my high number of wins. If you take the last two Asian championships, I drew only three out a total of 18 games, which clearly shows that this is the ideal tiebreak for someone like me who tries so hard to win games. On the other hand, quite a few players were complaining about the unfairness of the tiebreak rule, but then again there is no perfect system, everything has its own flaws. So, a tense final round got underway, which was to end in a totally unexpected way which no one would have thought possible, including yours truly! I was paired against one of the leaders, Wei Yi, with the black pieces, while Le Quang was up against my compatriot Ganguly. In fact both leaders had the white pieces and were obviously ambitious and not about to make short draws. Ganguly too was in a tense situation, as he needed

to win with Black to give him a good chance of qualifying for the World Cup. And now for my crucial last round encounter. In my game, Wei Yi played the aggressive Shabalov system in the Meran, which I countered with a new idea causing my opponent to spend a great deal of time on the clock and land in a difficult position. Meanwhile Ganguly rejected Le Quang's draw offer in a slightly better position. **1.d4** The first surprise. Throughout the whole tournament my opponent had preferred 1. e4 and indeed he can be considered to be a dangerous king's pawn player, especially if you study his breathtaking wins against the Sicilian. However, in his last three or four tournaments he has started to adopt different setups and openings. Nevertheless, taking into account the crucial nature of this round, it came as a surprise to me, and I asked myself "Perhaps he has found

something special against my customary opening repertoire?" **1...d5**

After a couple of minutes thought I decided to stick to my favourite Slav Defence, which had brought me some good wins in the tournament. **2.c4 c6 3.e3** (Probably my opponent wanted to avoid 3.Nc3 dxc4 or 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4, although I have never used such systems in practice.)

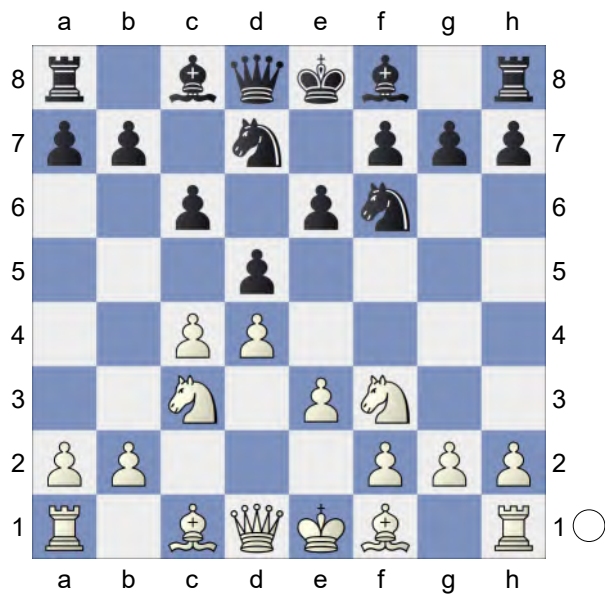
[3.Nc3 dxc4]

[3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 (4.e3 Bg4) 4...dxc4]

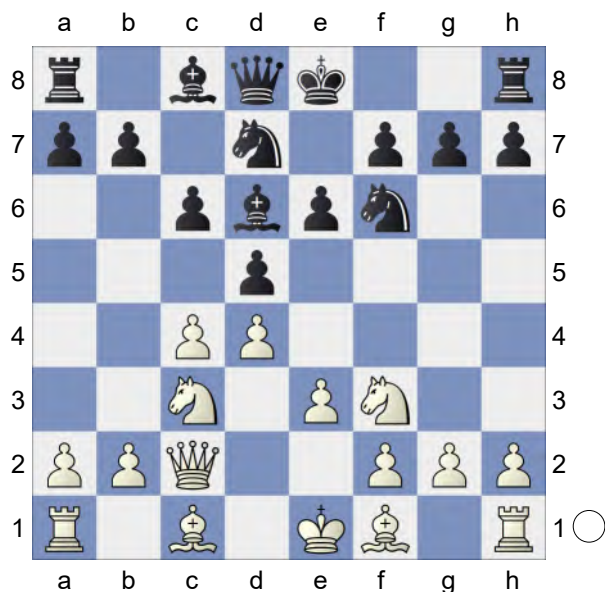
3...Nf6

[With White's particular move order Black also has the option of playing 3...Bf5 . But I didn't want to play it over the board without proper study and preparation.]

4.Nc3 e6 5.Nf3 Nbd7



6.Qc2 Bd6 Now we transpose into the Meran system. Diagram

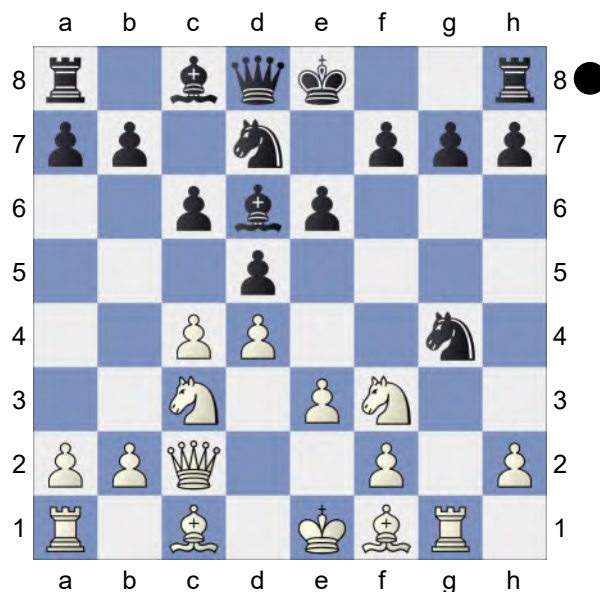


7.g4!? (The second surprise. This move has gone out of fashion over the past few years. I was expecting 7.Bd3 but my opponent, true to himself, was clearly in an aggressive mood which explains his choice of this pawn thrust.) **7...Nxc4!?** (This was the main line in older times but it has become very rare nowadays due to 7...h6. Nevertheless there are lots of resources and unexplored territories in 7...Ng4, which is why I

chose it.)

[7...h6 is the main move leading to a different path]

8.Rg1 Diagram



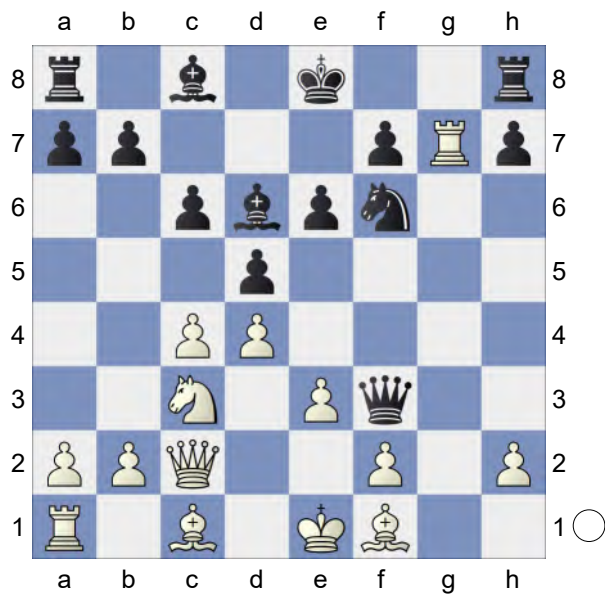
8...Qf6

[8...Nxc4 9.Nxc4 Bxc4 10.Rxc4 Nf8 11.Rg2 Bd6 12.e4 Ng6 13.Bg5 Be7 14.Be3N (RR14.Bxe7 Morozevich, Alexander 2788 - Kramnik, Vladimir 2788, Moscow 2008 - 103/310) 14...dxe4 15.0-0-0 f5∞ Rapport, Richard 2671 - Eljanov, Pavel 2723, Biel 2015]

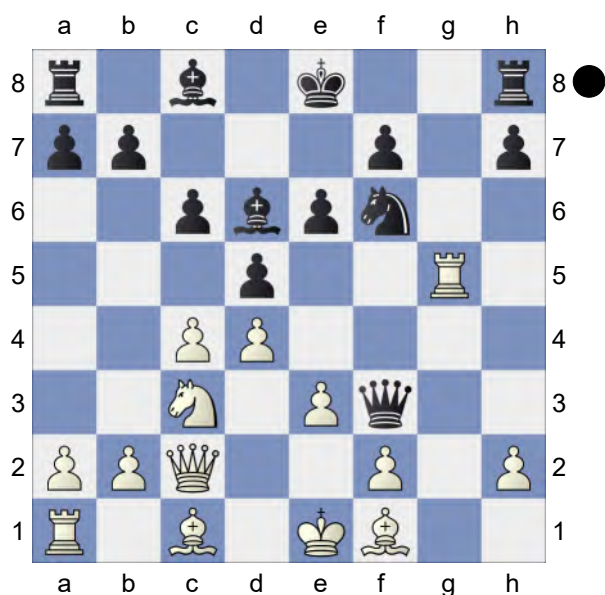
9.Rxc4 Qxf3 10.Rxc7 Nf6

[10...Nf8 11.Rg1]

(Diagram)



11.Rg5 Diagram



11...Qh1 A new direction! In tournament practice - which of course means testing the opening line against computers :) - I had prepared this entire concept one year previously. Luckily enough, I revised it during this tournament, since I had considered the possibility of trying the 7.g4 Meran myself, with the white pieces, a few rounds before and was looking at all kinds of options for Black. And this idea crossed my mind once again! That's the advantage of preparing

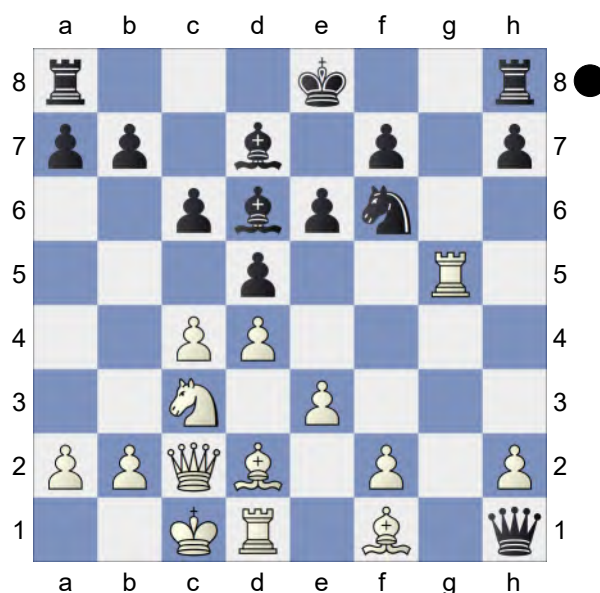
an opening from a general point of view, then you can employ it from both sides of the chessboard rather than sticking to one colour.

[11...Ne4 - 99/300]

12.Bd2 Developing the bishop is quite normal, yet my opponent spent quite a lot of time over his next few moves.

[12.f4 Bb4 13.Rg2 (13.Bd2 Qxh2)
13...Bd7 14.Bd2 0-0-0 15.0-0-0 Rdg8]

12...Bd7 13.0-0-0 Diagram



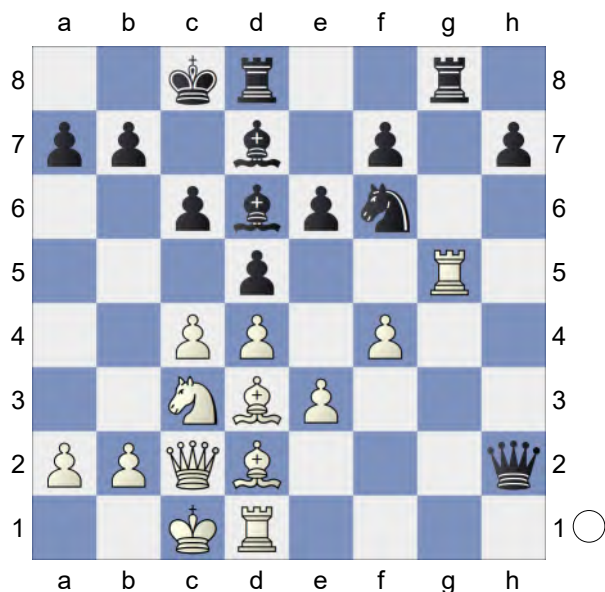
13...Qxh2 When it is on offer, why not grab a pawn? After all, a pawn is a pawn! :) After the 12th move I was on my own, nevertheless I was playing quite quickly in order to put my opponent under pressure. In any event my replies were logical compared to his, since he had to make some crucial decisions in order to pose problems for me before I consolidated my position. **14.f4N** White's main idea is usually to establish the f3-e4 pawn centre, but after this advance he loses control over the e4 square, making Black's life easier.

[14.Rg2 Qh4 15.f3 0-0-0 16.e4 Bf4
(RR16...dxe4 Ingersol,Harry 2392 -

Noble, Mark Frederick 2375, Internet
2009) 17.e5[∞]]

[14.f3]

14...Rg8! 15.Bd3 0-0-0



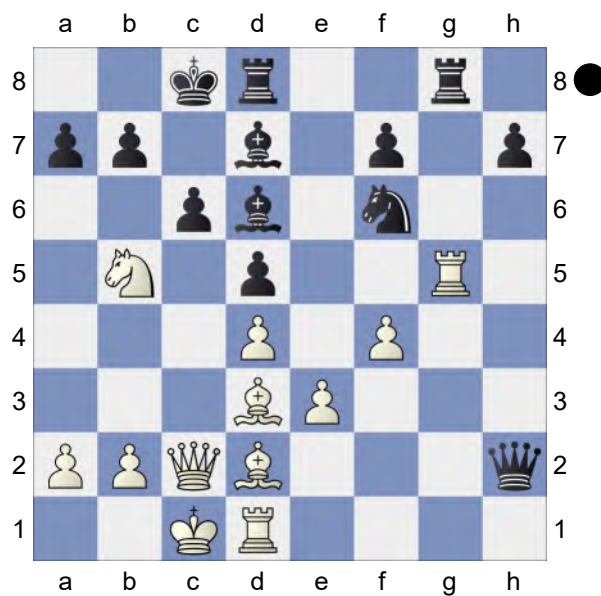
(Up to this point all my moves were very logical and ideal.) **16.cxd5 exd5**

[16...Rxc5 17.fxc5 Nxd5 18.Ne4 Be7 and White does not have enough compensation for the pawn.]

17.Nb5 Diagram

[RR17.Nxd5 Nxd5 (17...Rxc5 18.Nxf6 Rg1 19.Nxd7 Kxd7 20.Qb3 Rxd1+ 21.Kxd1 Kc7 22.Qxf7+ Rd7 23.Qf5[∞]) 18.Rxd5 Bg4 19.Rf1 Kb8 20.Rg5[∞]]

(Diagram)



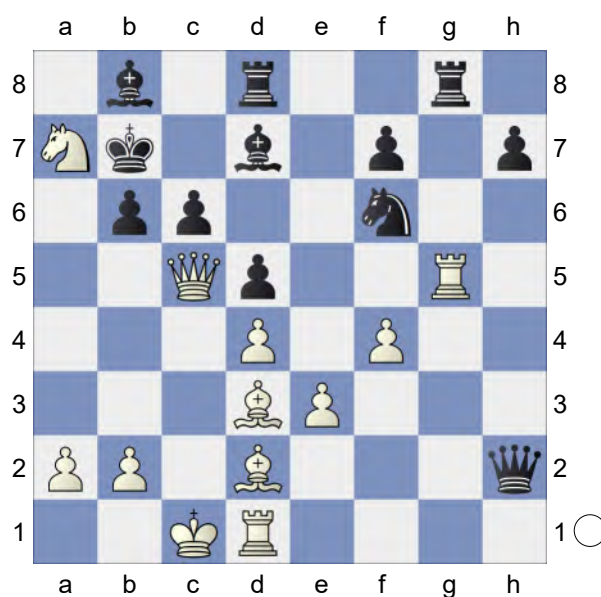
Here I faced a tough choice and made the wrong one, underestimating White's attacking resources. **17...Bb8?!**

[17...Be7! 18.Re5 (18.Nxa7+ Kb8) 18...Kb8! 19.Rxe7 cxb5[∞] was simplest.]

18.Qc5 b6 19.Nxa7+

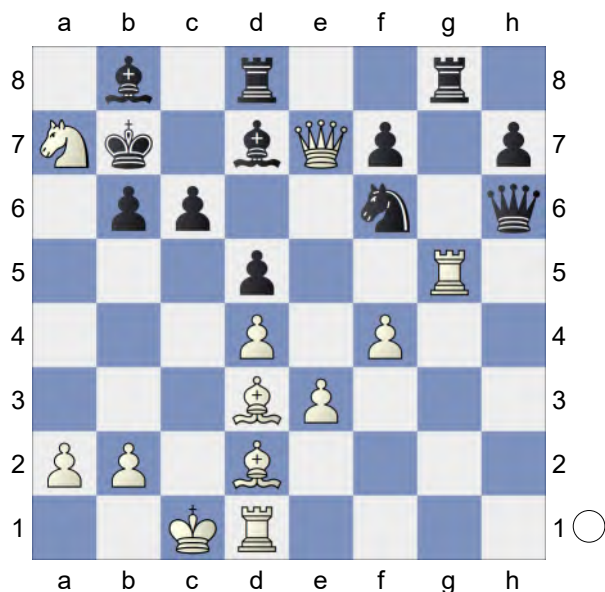
[19.Nd6+ Kc7 20.Qa3 Rxc5 21.Nxf7! Rgg8 22.Qd6+ Kb7 23.Nxd8+ Rxd8 24.Qxf6 Bc7[∞]]

19...Kb7 Diagram



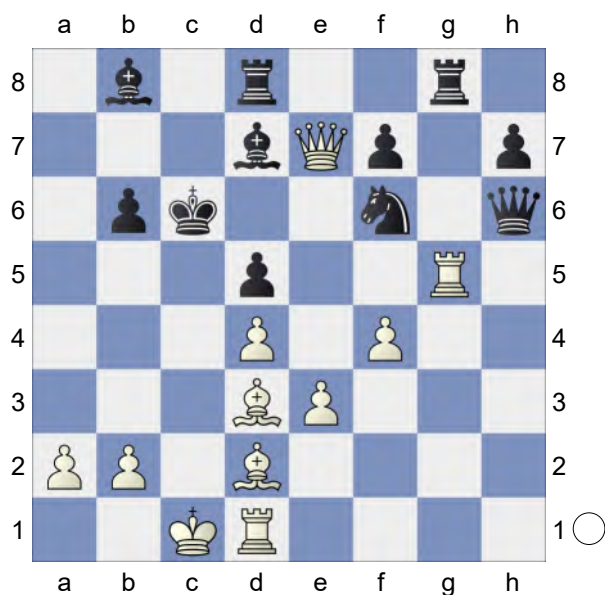
We had reached a very complex position with hanging pieces all over the place.

But I was ahead on time, whilst my opponent was down to five minutes for the next twenty moves. He was clearly under severe pressure. **20.Qe7 Qh6**



21.Nxc6 Kxc6?! Diagram

[21...Rde8 An intermezzo 22.Qa3 Bxc6 23.Qa6+ Kc7 24.Kb1 and it's hard to make a correct evaluation.]



22.Kb1

[White has instead 22.Qa3! but this is not an easy move to see in

time pressure. My opponent's Kb1 looks more natural, as it brings the rook on d1 into play, but the queen move looks very strong because it prevents Black's king going to b7, so leading to a lack of coordination between the black pieces. The variations analysed below are hard to imagine for a human mind, but just to show how full of resources and complications this position really is, I will mention a few mind-blowing variations. Bg4! 23.Rf1!! The only move to fight for an advantage. (23.Re1 Rxc5 24.fxc5 Qxc5 25.e4 Bf4 26.Qa4+ Kb7 27.Qa6+ Kc7 28.Qa7+ Kc6 29.Qa4+=) 23...Ne4 Diagram

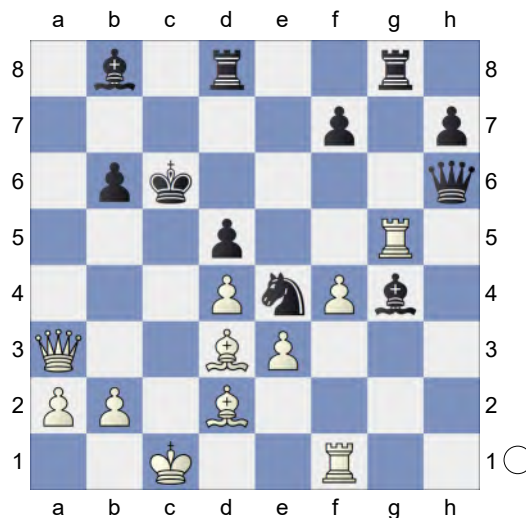
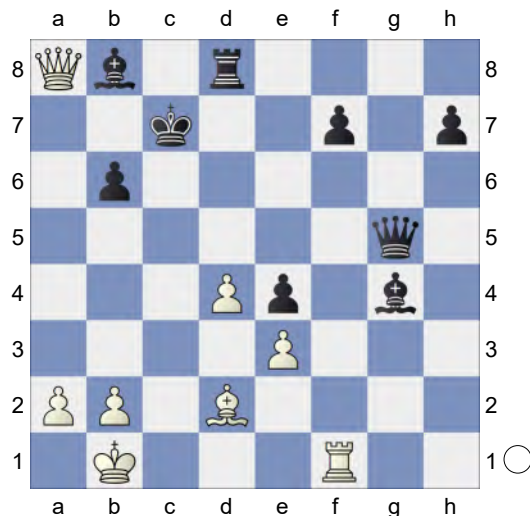


Diagram [#]

A) 24.Bxe4 dxe4 25.Qa8+ Kc7 26.Kb1 Rxc5 27.fxc5 Qxc5 Diagram (27...Qe6 28.Rc1+ Kd7 29.d5 Qg6 30.Bc3 The only move otherwise White stands worse: Qxc5 31.Qc6+ Ke7 32.Bb4+ Bd6 33.Qc7+ Ke8 34.Bxd6 Rc8 35.Qxb6 Qxd5 36.Bc5∞)

(Diagram)



A1) 28.Rxf7+ Bd7 (28...Rd7? 29.Rf1 Rd8 30.Bb4+-) 29.d5 Qg6 30.Bc3 Rc8 creating an escape route for the king. 31.Be5+ (31.Rg7 Qf5 32.Qc6+ Kd8 33.Qxb6+ Ke8 34.Rg8+ Kf7 35.Rg7+ Ke8 36.Rg8+ Kf7 37.Rxc8 Qf1+ 38.Kc2 Qd3+=) 31...Kd8 32.Rf8+ Ke7 33.Rxc8 Bxe5;

A2) 28.Rc1+ Kd7 29.Qc6+ Ke7 30.Bb4+ Bd6 31.Qc7+ Ke8 32.Bxd6 Rc8 33.Bf4! Qd5 34.Qe5+=;

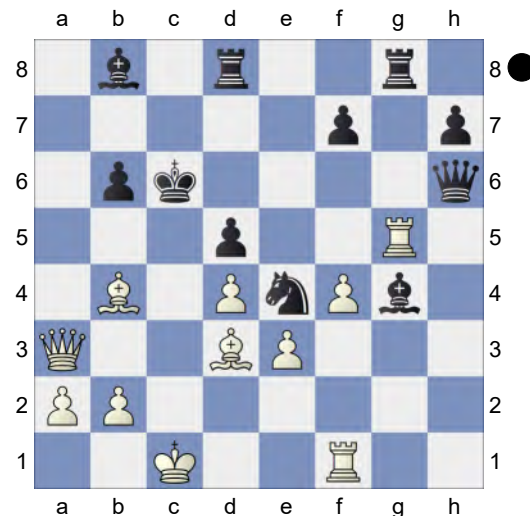
B) 24.Rxd5 Nxd2 25.Qa8+ Kc7;

C) 24.Rxg8 Rxg8 25.Qa8+ Kc7 26.Qxd5 Nxd2 27.Qxf7+ Bd7 28.Kxd2 Rg2+;

D) 24.Qa8+ Kc7 25.Bxe4;

E) 24.Bb4!! Diagram

(Diagram)

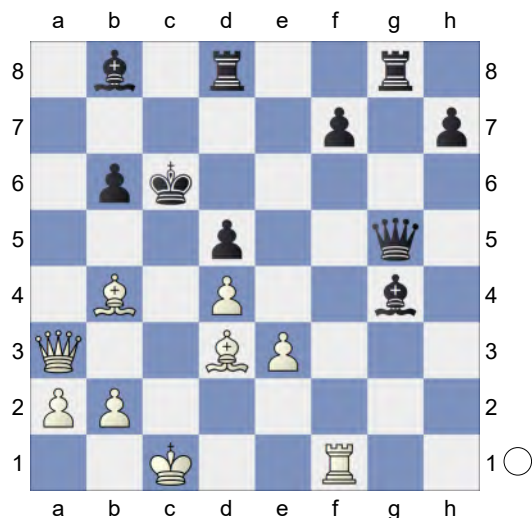


Completely unhuman-like play! However, there is a sound and deep positional idea behind it in that the bishop controls the enemy king's escape square. Now the black king is in great danger of being trapped. If now 24...Nxg5

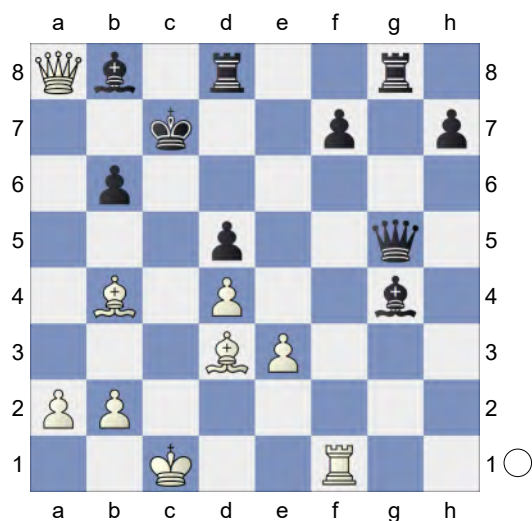
E1) 25.Qa8+ Kc7 26.Kb1 Rc8! (26...Qc6 27.Rc1 Qxc1+ 28.Kxc1 Ne4 29.Ba6 Bc8 30.Bxc8 Kxc8 31.Qc6+ Bc7 32.Qa8+ Bb8=) 27.f5!! (27.Rc1+ Kd8-+; 27.Qxd5 Bd7 28.Ba6 Rge8!! 29.Rc1+ Bc6 30.fxg5 Qg6+) 27...Qc6□ (27...Kd8 28.Qxd5+ Bd6 29.f6+-) 28.Rc1 Qxc1+ 29.Kxc1 Bf3∞;

E2) 25.fxg5 Qxg5 and here White has two options, both of which are promising: Diagram

(Diagram)



26.Kb1! A cool, calm and collected move in a position where he is simply a full rook down! After all this is modern chess. :) (26.Qa8+ Kc7 Diagram



27.Kd2!! Who would see this!! The beauty of computer analysis and still it is not clear, although at the end of the day White should be better: Rc8 28.Rc1+ Kd7 29.Bb5+ Kd8 30.Rxc8+ Bxc8 31.Qxb8±) 26...Kd7! 27.Qa4+ Ke6 28.Qc6+ Bd6 (28...Rd6 29.Bxd6 Bxd6 30.e4 Ke7 31.e5 Bxe5 32.dxe5 Qxe5 33.Qxb6±) 29.e4 f6 Diagram

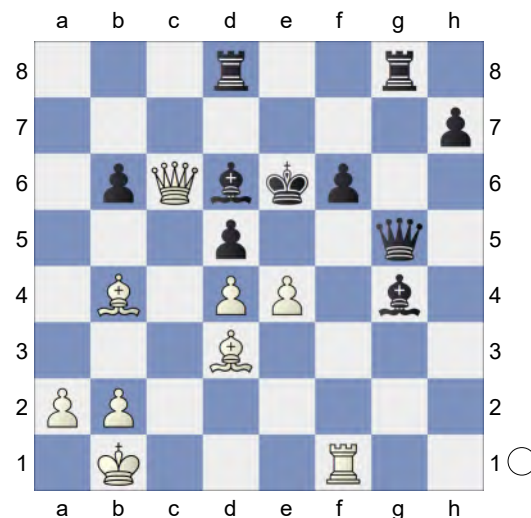


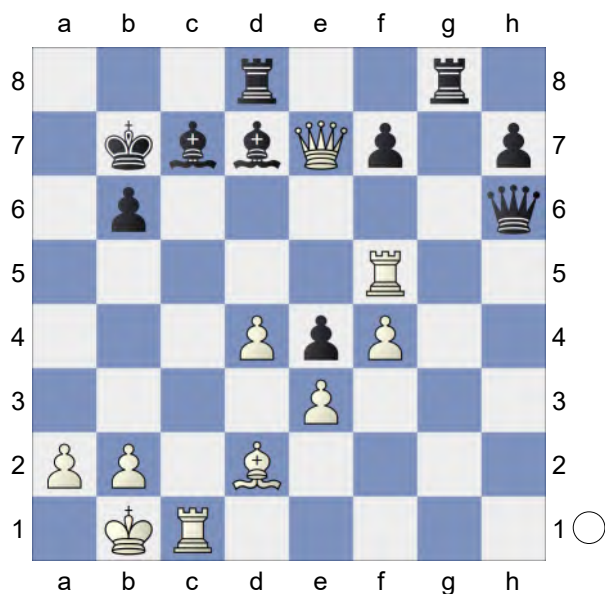
Diagram [#] 30.Ka1!! Mind-blowing prophylaxis whilst conducting an attack (30.e5 fxe5 31.dxe5 Qe3! 32.Bxh7 Kxe5 33.Bc3+ d4 34.Qxb6 Bf3∞; 30.exd5+ Kf7 31.Bxd6 Bd7) 30...Kf7 31.Bxd6 dxe4 32.Bxe4± ↑↑]

22...Kb7 Now everything is under control. The king is safe and my pieces are coming out! 23.Rc1 Bc7 24.Rf5 Ne4 Played instantly, which brought me immediate relief in that there now follows the exchange of one of White's bishops.

[24...Qg6 25.Qxf6 Bxf5 26.Qxf5 Qxf5 27.Bxf5 h5⌘]

25.Bxe4 dxe4

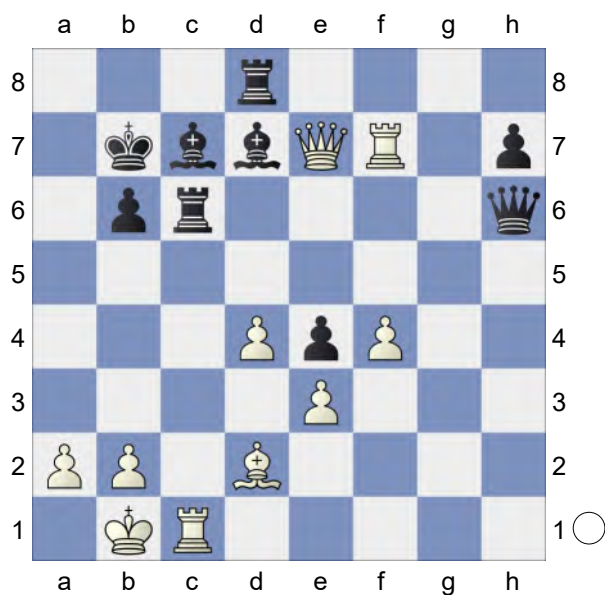
(Diagram)



26.Rf6 Rg6

[Δ26...Qf8 27.Qxe4+ Kb8 28.Qxh7 Qg7+]

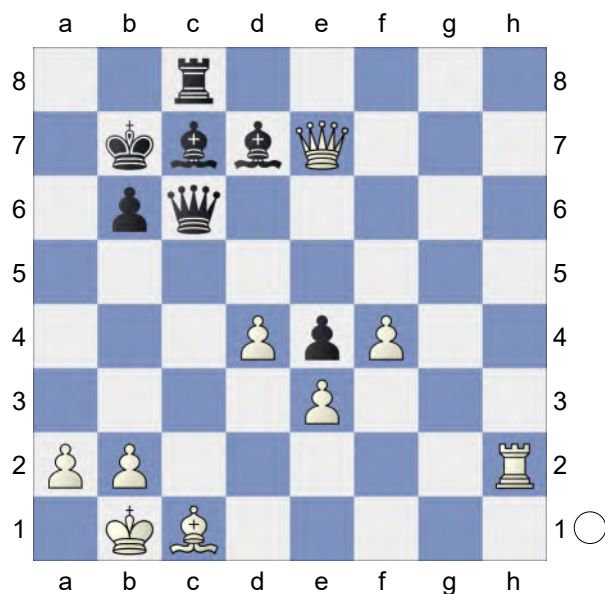
27.Rxf7 Rc6 Diagram



28.Rxh7 A strange decision. Capturing the e4 pawn instead would have made Black's task of converting his advantage more difficult.

[28.Qxe4 Qg6 29.Qxg6 hxc6 30.e4 and it is still not clear how to convert my advantage into a win. Perhaps there is no way!]

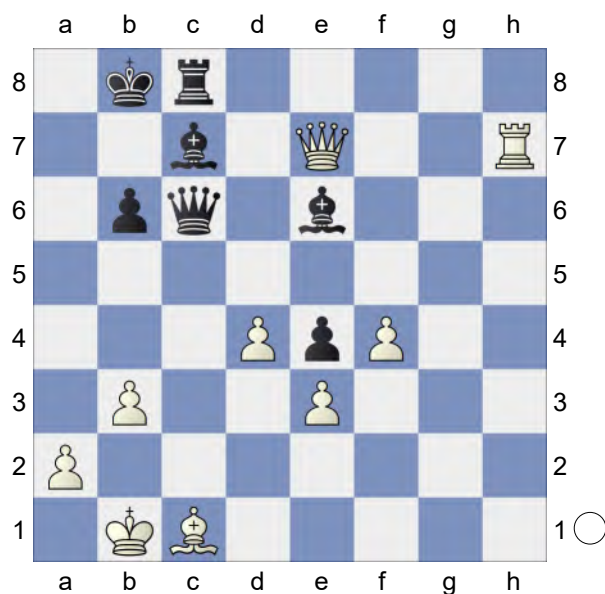
28...Rxc1+ 29.Bxc1 Qc6 30.Rh2 Rc8



31.Rh7 Be6

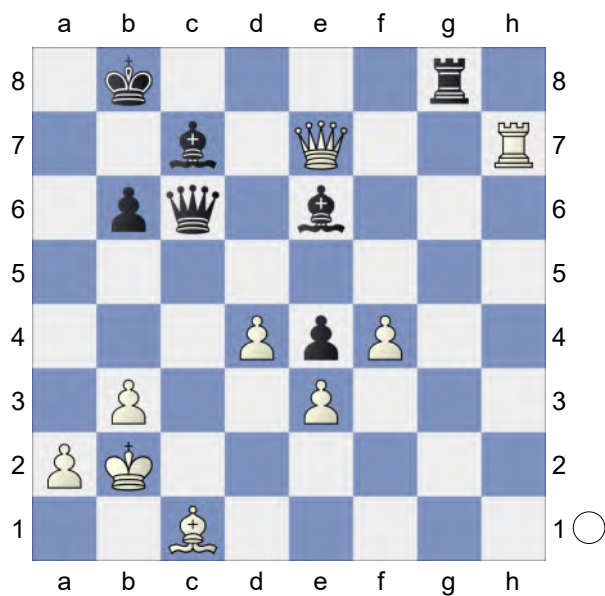
[Δ31...Bg4+ Δ ♔e2-d3 ♜x ♜ Pe2-d3]

32.b3 Kb8 Diagram

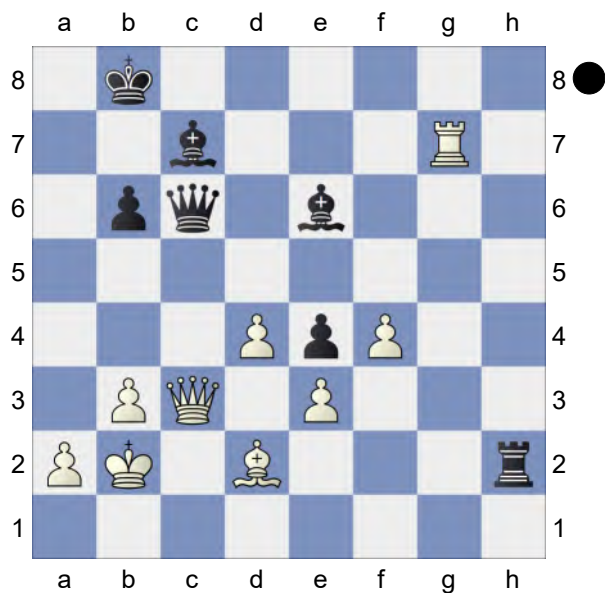


Here I suddenly noticed that I only had three minutes for eight moves, although of course that should be quite sufficient for the present position. Nevertheless I was still a little nervous about converting it without spoiling the nuances of the position. **33.Kb2 Bf5 34.Rf7 Be6 35.Rh7 Rg8**

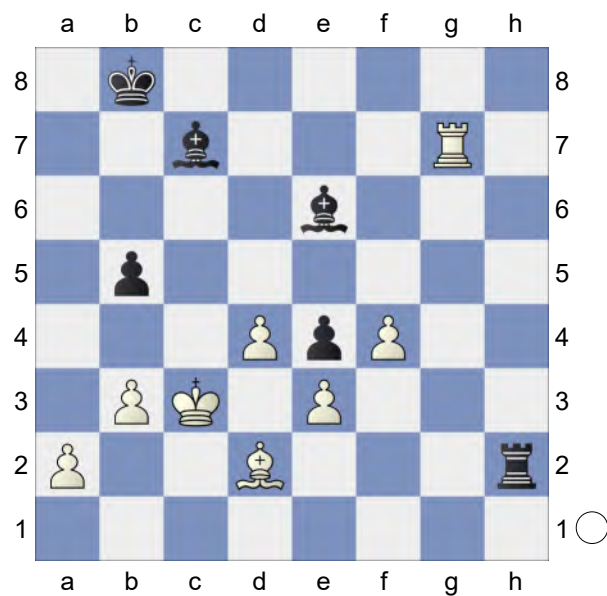
(Diagram)



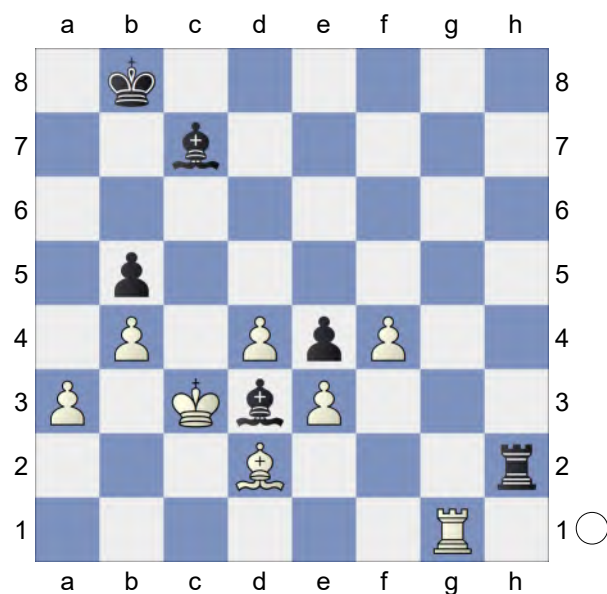
36.Rg7 Re8 So I began to repeat moves a few times in order to get to the 40 move time control. **37.Qb4 Rh8 38.Qc3 Rh2+ 39.Bd2** Diagram



39...Qxc3+ Exchanging queens was a very important decision. I was sure that the endgame would be won for Black because of the strong pawn on e4, as it is established in such a way that it cannot be exchanged. And in fact my intuition proved to be right, even though some might have thought it better to keep queens on the board. **40.Kxc3 b5**

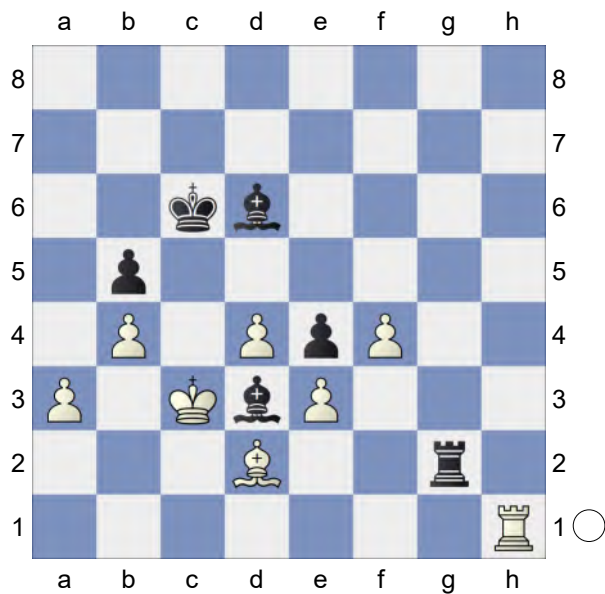


41.a3 Ba5+! Fixing the white pawns. **42.b4 Bc7 43.Rg6 Bd5 44.Rg5 Bc4 45.Rg1 Bd3**

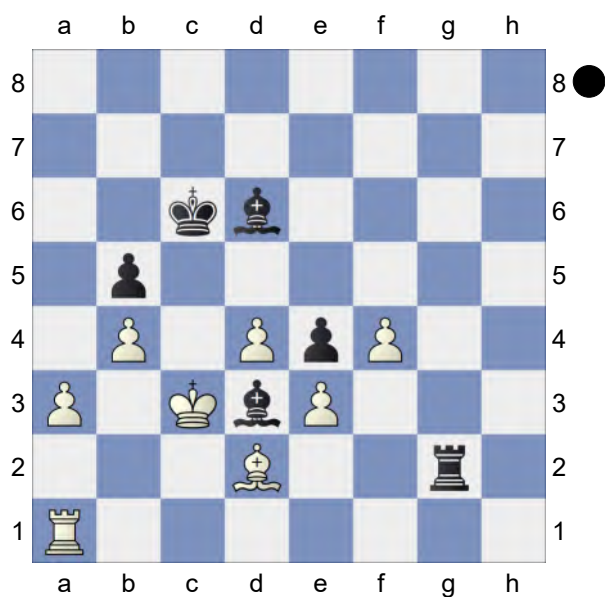


46.Ra1 Bd6 47.Rg1 Kc7 48.Rg7+ Kc6 49.Rg1 Rf2 50.Rh1 Rg2

(Diagram)

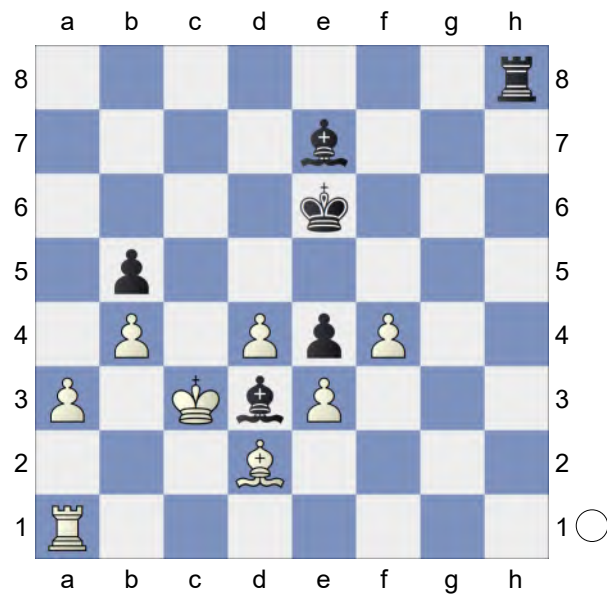


51.Ra1 Diagram

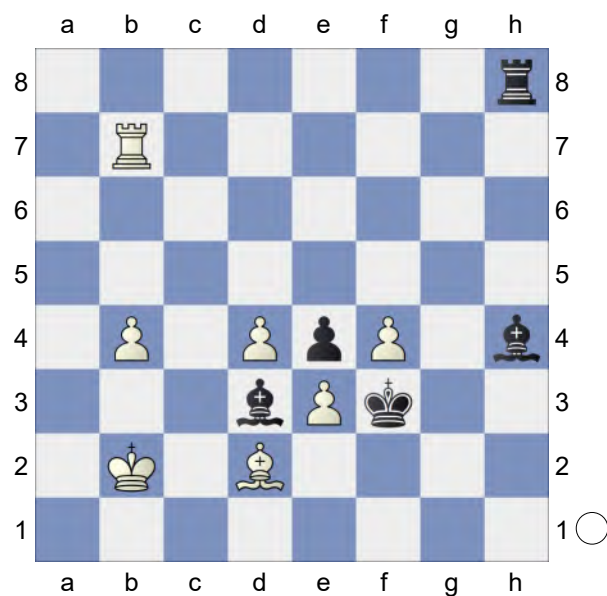


51...Kd5 Now comes a king walk to the other side of the board, targeting the e3 pawn. **52.Rh1 Be7 53.Ra1 Rh2 54.Rg1 Ke6 55.Ra1 Rh8**

(Diagram)

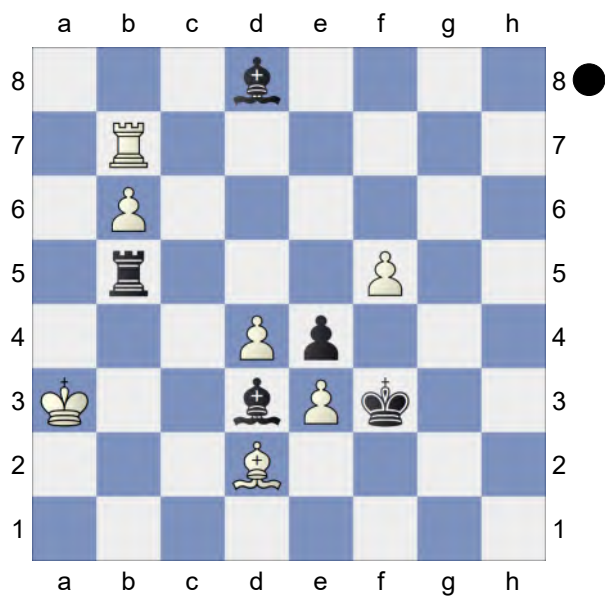


56.Kb2 Kf5 57.a4 bxa4 58.Rxa4 Kg4 59.Ra7 Bh4 60.Rb7 Kf3

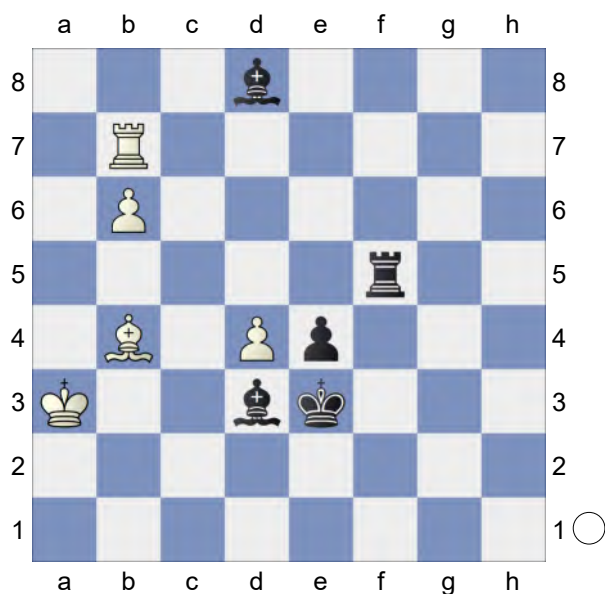


61.b5 Rh5 62.b6 Rb5+ 63.Ka3 Bd8 64.f5 Diagram

(Diagram)



Creating some counterchances but two bishops make a very strong team indeed.
:) 64...Rxf5 65.Bb4 Kxe3

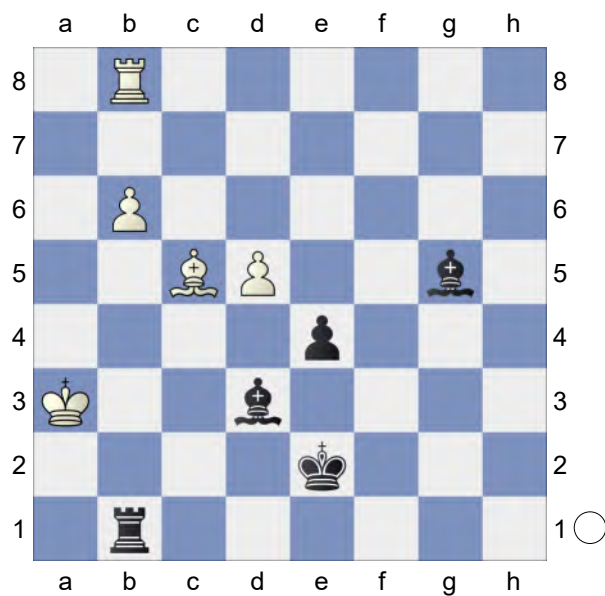


66.Bc5 Rf1 67.Rb8 Ra1+ 68.Kb2 Rb1+ 69.Ka3

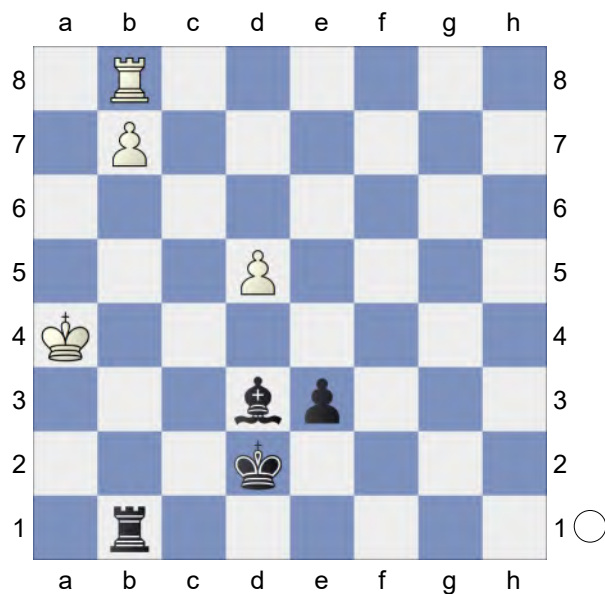
[69.Ka2 Bg5 (69...Bh4 70.b7 Be1-+) 70.b7 Kd2-+]

69...Bg5 70.d5+ Ke2

(Diagram)



71.Bb4 Bc1+ 72.Ka4 Bd2 73.Bxd2 Kxd2 74.b7 e3 Diagram



By this time my compatriot Surya Ganguly had already won a nice game with the black pieces in impressive fashion against the top seed Le Quang, which meant I had won the championship. At first I couldn't believe what had just happened but after resigning the game my opponent immediately congratulated me on my victory in the tournament. I have to say, I was very touched by this sportsmanlike

and gentlemanly gesture! I have to admit I was rather nervous in the final stages of my game as there was so much at stake and I did not want to throw away my chances of victory. As it turned out, by making a series of accurate technical moves I was able to convert my advantage smoothly into a win, by which time Ganguly had also won his game, and to my astonishment it finally hit me: I had now become Asian Champion! In fact it was a double delight for me to know that India had now won both the men's and women's championships. On the other hand, Ganguly was not so fortunate. After winning so impressively in the last round, a little later he received the heartbreaking news that the tiebreak had conspired against him and he had failed to achieve the desired qualification. This really was a pity since he had played wonderful chess throughout the tournament and was one of the few players who had remained undefeated. Chess, like any competitive sport, can be so brutal.

0-1

323

□ Wei, Yi

■ Sethuraman, S P

129/144 Toshkent

[Sethuraman, SP]

D45

2694

2647

2016

In the penultimate round, Adhiban had the white pieces against Le Quang, Wei Yi was Black against Kasimdzhanov, followed by Ganguly and myself on the third and fourth boards, half a point behind. Le Quang played a nice positional game to outwit Adhiban and Wei too won in impressive style. Ganguly drew against the rock solid Chinese Wen Yang. On the fourth board I won against the local upcoming grandmaster, Jahonigir Vakhidov, in a well contested game. Now a draw would guarantee me a place in the World Cup, once again thanks to my high number of wins. If you take the last two Asian championships, I drew only three out of a total of 18 games, which clearly shows that this is the ideal tiebreak for someone like me who tries so hard to win games. On the other hand, quite a few players were complaining about the unfairness of the tiebreak rule, but then again there is no perfect system, everything has its own flaws. So, a tense final round got underway, which was to end in a totally unexpected way which no one would have thought possible, including yours truly! I was paired against one of the leaders, Wei Yi, with the black pieces, while Le Quang was up against my compatriot Ganguly. In fact both leaders had the white pieces and were obviously ambitious and not about to make short draws. Ganguly too was in a tense situation, as he needed

to win with Black to give him a good chance of qualifying for the World Cup. And now for my crucial last round encounter. In my game, Wei Yi played the aggressive Shabalov system in the Meran, which I countered with a new idea causing my opponent to spend a great deal of time on the clock and land in a difficult position. Meanwhile Ganguly rejected Le Quang's draw offer in a slightly better position. **1.d4** The first surprise. Throughout the whole tournament my opponent had preferred 1. e4 and indeed he can be considered to be a dangerous king's pawn player, especially if you study his breathtaking wins against the Sicilian. However, in his last three or four tournaments he has started to adopt different setups and openings. Nevertheless, taking into account the crucial nature of this round, it came as a surprise to me, and I asked myself "Perhaps he has found

something special against my customary opening repertoire?" **1...d5**

After a couple of minutes thought I decided to stick to my favourite Slav Defence, which had brought me some good wins in the tournament. **2.c4 c6 3.e3** (Probably my opponent wanted to avoid 3.Nc3 dxc4 or 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4, although I have never used such systems in practice.)

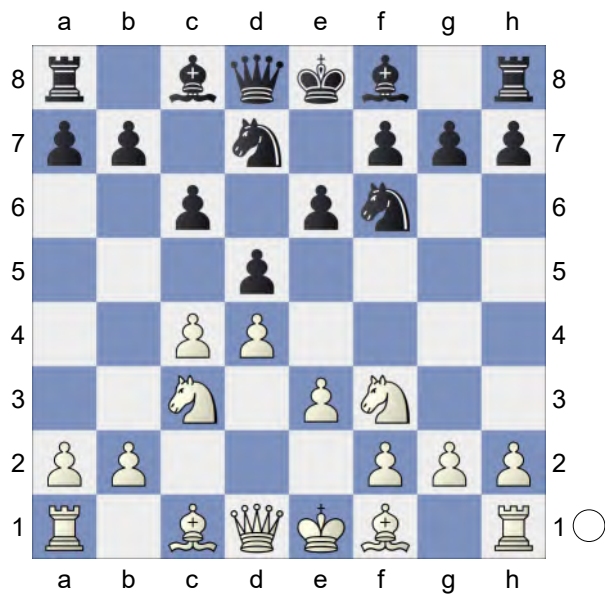
[3.Nc3 dxc4]

[3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 (4.e3 Bg4) 4...dxc4]

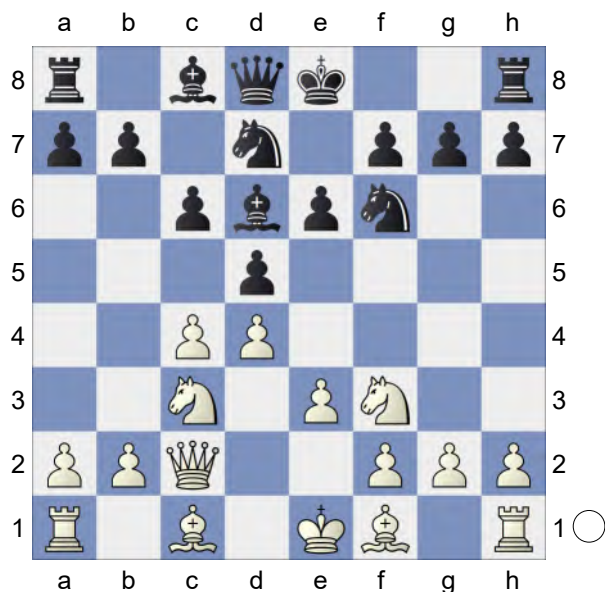
3...Nf6

[With White's particular move order Black also has the option of playing 3...Bf5 . But I didn't want to play it over the board without proper study and preparation.]

4.Nc3 e6 5.Nf3 Nbd7



6.Qc2 Bd6 Now we transpose into the Meran system. Diagram

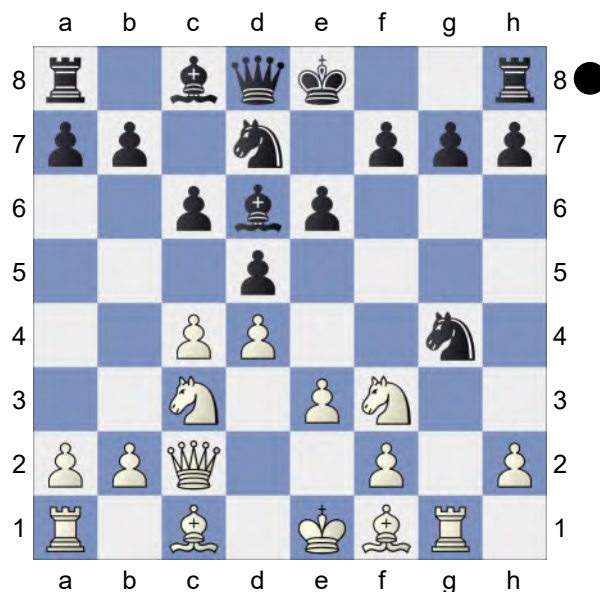


7.g4!? (The second surprise. This move has gone out of fashion over the past few years. I was expecting 7.Bd3 but my opponent, true to himself, was clearly in an aggressive mood which explains his choice of this pawn thrust.) **7...Nxc4!?** (This was the main line in older times but it has become very rare nowadays due to 7...h6. Nevertheless there are lots of resources and unexplored territories in 7...Ng4, which is why I

chose it.)

[7...h6 is the main move leading to a different path]

8.Rg1 Diagram



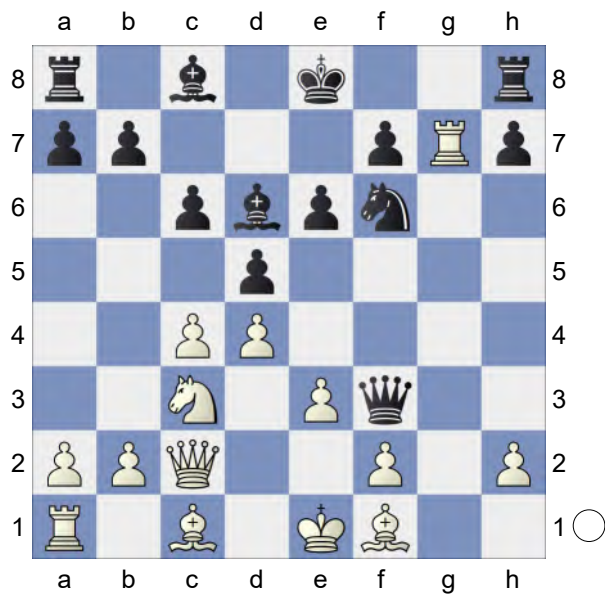
8...Qf6

[8...Nxc4 9.Nxc4 Bxc4 10.Rxc4 Nf8 11.Rg2 Bd6 12.e4 Ng6 13.Bg5 Be7 14.Be3N (RR14.Bxe7 Morozevich, Alexander 2788 - Kramnik, Vladimir 2788, Moscow 2008 - 103/310) 14...dxe4 15.0-0-0 f5∞ Rapport, Richard 2671 - Eljanov, Pavel 2723, Biel 2015]

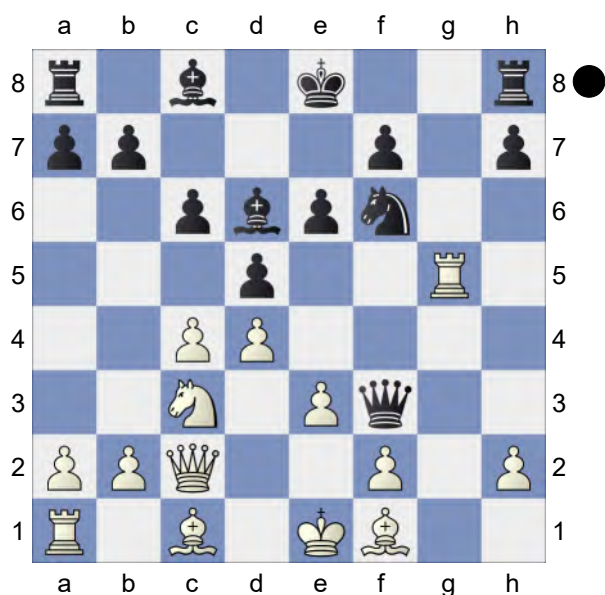
9.Rxc4 Qxf3 10.Rxc7 Nf6

[10...Nf8 11.Rg1]

(Diagram)



11.Rg5 Diagram



11...Qh1 A new direction! In tournament practice - which of course means testing the opening line against computers :) - I had prepared this entire concept one year previously. Luckily enough, I revised it during this tournament, since I had considered the possibility of trying the 7.g4 Meran myself, with the white pieces, a few rounds before and was looking at all kinds of options for Black. And this idea crossed my mind once again! That's the advantage of preparing

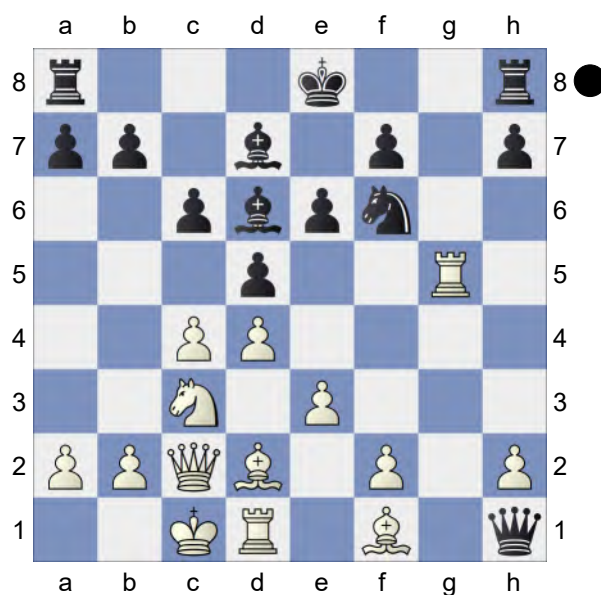
an opening from a general point of view, then you can employ it from both sides of the chessboard rather than sticking to one colour.

[11...Ne4 - 99/300]

12.Bd2 Developing the bishop is quite normal, yet my opponent spent quite a lot of time over his next few moves.

[12.f4 Bb4 13.Rg2 (13.Bd2 Qxh2)
13...Bd7 14.Bd2 0-0-0 15.0-0-0 Rdg8]

12...Bd7 13.0-0-0 Diagram



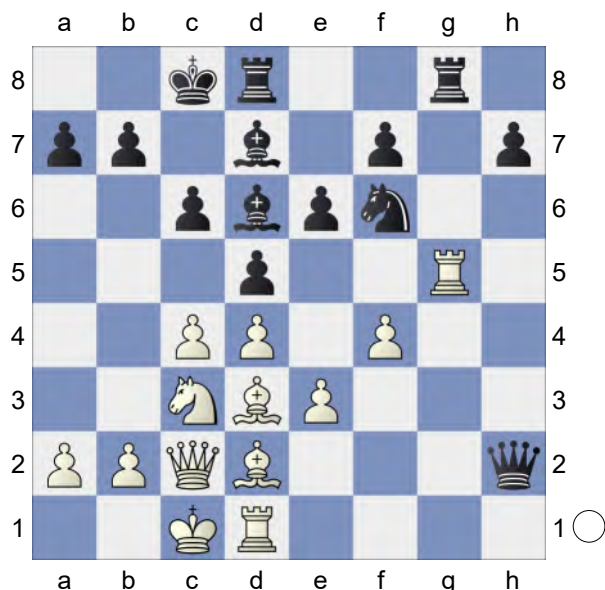
13...Qxh2 When it is on offer, why not grab a pawn? After all, a pawn is a pawn! :) After the 12th move I was on my own, nevertheless I was playing quite quickly in order to put my opponent under pressure. In any event my replies were logical compared to his, since he had to make some crucial decisions in order to pose problems for me before I consolidated my position. **14.f4N** White's main idea is usually to establish the f3-e4 pawn centre, but after this advance he loses control over the e4 square, making Black's life easier.

[14.Rg2 Qh4 15.f3 0-0-0 16.e4 Bf4
(RR16...dxe4 Ingersol,Harry 2392 -

Noble, Mark Frederick 2375, Internet
2009) 17.e5[∞]]

[14.f3]

14...Rg8! 15.Bd3 0-0-0



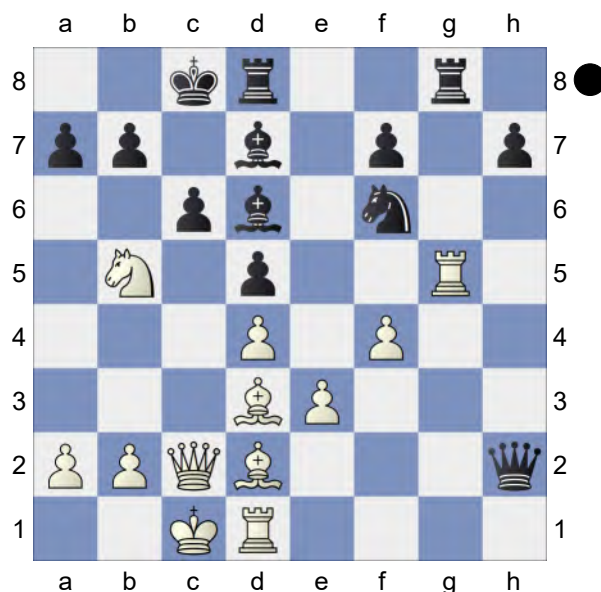
(Up to this point all my moves were very logical and ideal.) 16.cxd5 exd5

[16...Rxc5 17.fxc5 Nxd5 18.Ne4 Be7 and White does not have enough compensation for the pawn.]

17.Nb5 Diagram

[RR17.Nxd5 Nxd5 (17...Rxc5 18.Nxf6 Rg1 19.Nxd7 Kxd7 20.Qb3 Rxd1+ 21.Kxd1 Kc7 22.Qxf7+ Rd7 23.Qf5[∞]) 18.Rxd5 Bg4 19.Rf1 Kb8 20.Rg5[∞]]

(Diagram)



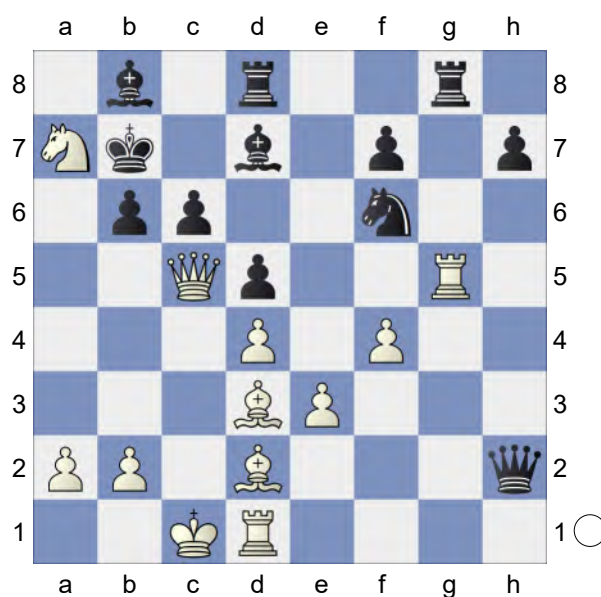
Here I faced a tough choice and made the wrong one, underestimating White's attacking resources. 17...Bb8?!

[17...Be7! 18.Re5 (18.Nxa7+ Kb8) 18...Kb8! 19.Rxe7 cxb5[∞] was simplest.]

18.Qc5 b6 19.Nxa7+

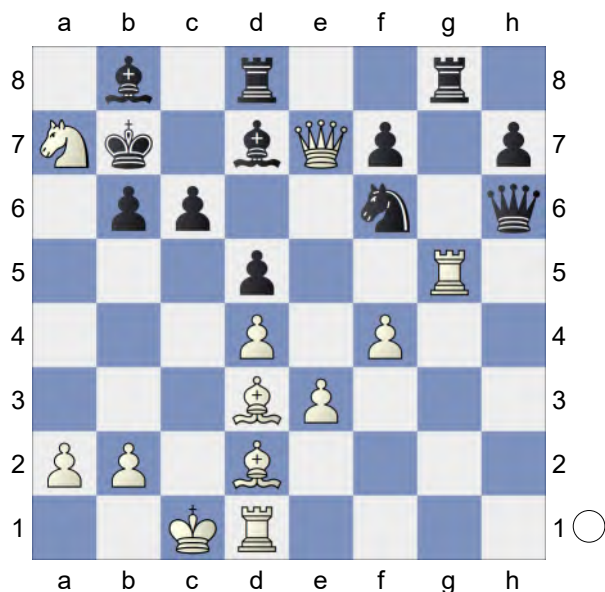
[19.Nd6+ Kc7 20.Qa3 Rxc5 21.Nxf7! Rgg8 22.Qd6+ Kb7 23.Nxd8+ Rxd8 24.Qxf6 Bc7[∞]]

19...Kb7 Diagram



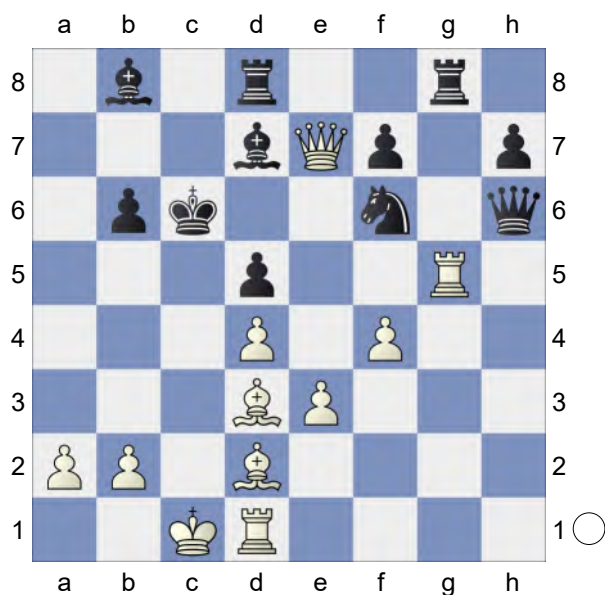
We had reached a very complex position with hanging pieces all over the place.

But I was ahead on time, whilst my opponent was down to five minutes for the next twenty moves. He was clearly under severe pressure. **20.Qe7 Qh6**



21.Nxc6 Kxc6?! Diagram

[21...Rde8 An intermezzo 22.Qa3 Bxc6 23.Qa6+ Kc7 24.Kb1 and it's hard to make a correct evaluation.]



22.Kb1

[White has instead 22.Qa3! but this is not an easy move to see in

time pressure. My opponent's Kb1 looks more natural, as it brings the rook on d1 into play, but the queen move looks very strong because it prevents Black's king going to b7, so leading to a lack of coordination between the black pieces. The variations analysed below are hard to imagine for a human mind, but just to show how full of resources and complications this position really is, I will mention a few mind-blowing variations. Bg4! 23.Rf1!! The only move to fight for an advantage. (23.Re1 Rxc5 24.fxc5 Qxc5 25.e4 Bf4 26.Qa4+ Kb7 27.Qa6+ Kc7 28.Qa7+ Kc6 29.Qa4+=) 23...Ne4 Diagram

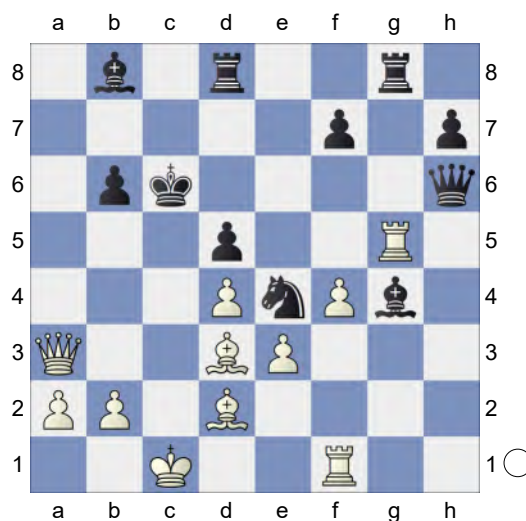
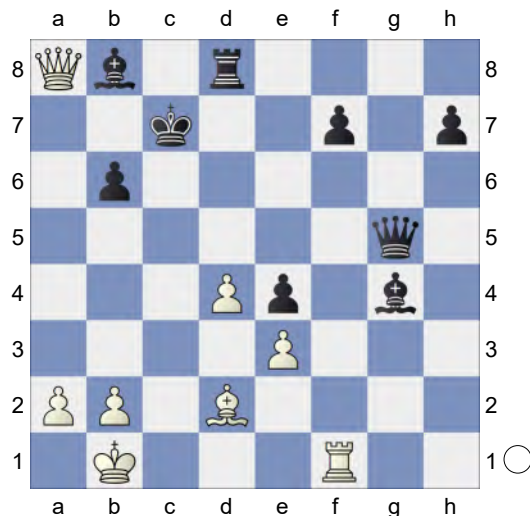


Diagram [#]

A) 24.Bxe4 dxe4 25.Qa8+ Kc7 26.Kb1 Rxc5 27.fxc5 Qxc5 Diagram (27...Qe6 28.Rc1+ Kd7 29.d5 Qg6 30.Bc3 The only move otherwise White stands worse: Qxc5 31.Qc6+ Ke7 32.Bb4+ Bd6 33.Qc7+ Ke8 34.Bxd6 Rc8 35.Qxb6 Qxd5 36.Bc5∞)

(Diagram)



A1) 28.Rxf7+ Bd7 (28...Rd7? 29.Rf1 Rd8 30.Bb4+-) 29.d5 Qg6 30.Bc3 Rc8 creating an escape route for the king. 31.Be5+ (31.Rg7 Qf5 32.Qc6+ Kd8 33.Qxb6+ Ke8 34.Rg8+ Kf7 35.Rg7+ Ke8 36.Rg8+ Kf7 37.Rxc8 Qf1+ 38.Kc2 Qd3+=) 31...Kd8 32.Rf8+ Ke7 33.Rxc8 Bxe5;

A2) 28.Rc1+ Kd7 29.Qc6+ Ke7 30.Bb4+ Bd6 31.Qc7+ Ke8 32.Bxd6 Rc8 33.Bf4! Qd5 34.Qe5+=;

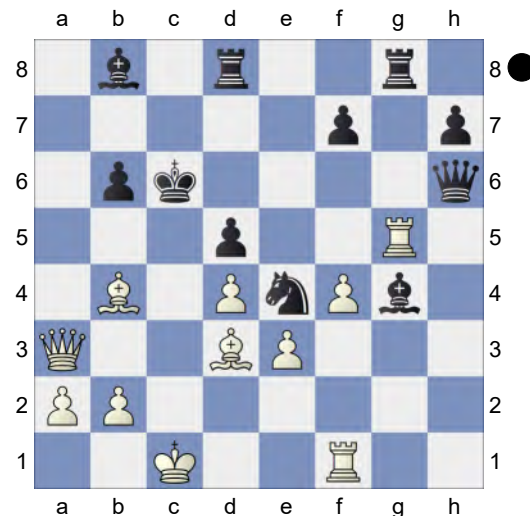
B) 24.Rxd5 Nxd2 25.Qa8+ Kc7;

C) 24.Rxg8 Rxg8 25.Qa8+ Kc7 26.Qxd5 Nxd2 27.Qxf7+ Bd7 28.Kxd2 Rg2+;

D) 24.Qa8+ Kc7 25.Bxe4;

E) 24.Bb4!! Diagram

(Diagram)

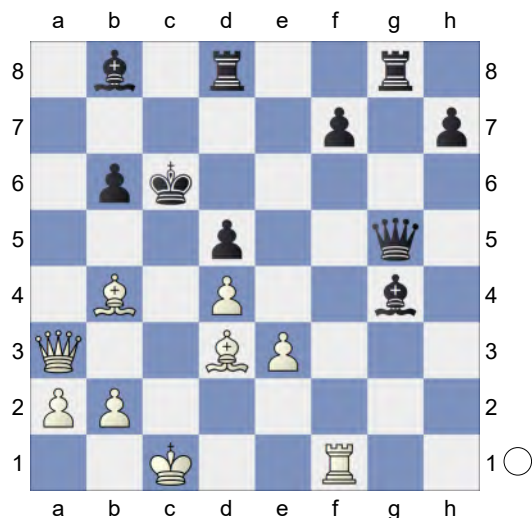


Completely unhuman-like play! However, there is a sound and deep positional idea behind it in that the bishop controls the enemy king's escape square. Now the black king is in great danger of being trapped. If now 24...Nxg5

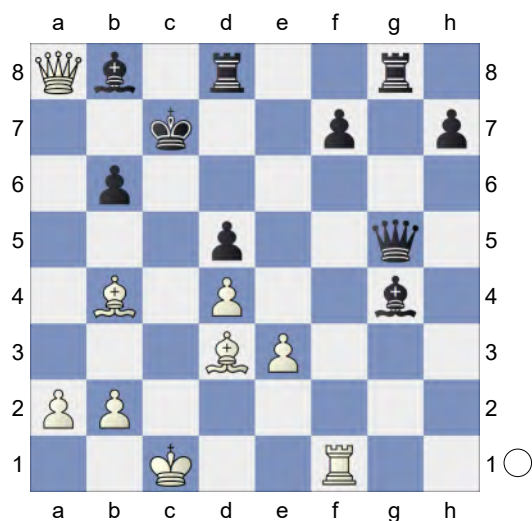
E1) 25.Qa8+ Kc7 26.Kb1 Rc8! (26...Qc6 27.Rc1 Qxc1+ 28.Kxc1 Ne4 29.Ba6 Bc8 30.Bxc8 Kxc8 31.Qc6+ Bc7 32.Qa8+ Bb8=) 27.f5!! (27.Rc1+ Kd8-+; 27.Qxd5 Bd7 28.Ba6 Rge8!! 29.Rc1+ Bc6 30.fxg5 Qg6+) 27...Qc6□ (27...Kd8 28.Qxd5+ Bd6 29.f6+-) 28.Rc1 Qxc1+ 29.Kxc1 Bf3∞;

E2) 25.fxg5 Qxg5 and here White has two options, both of which are promising: Diagram

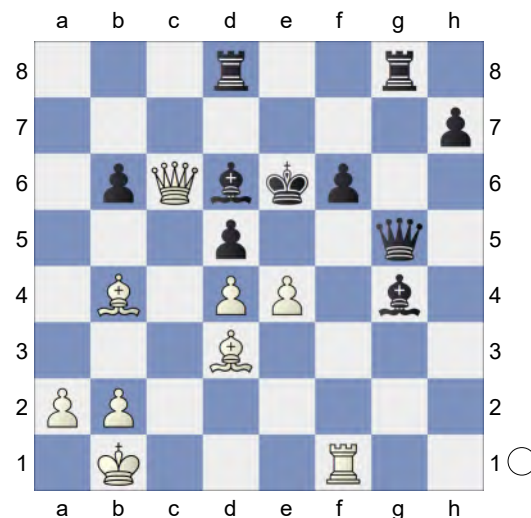
(Diagram)



26.Kb1! A cool, calm and collected move in a position where he is simply a full rook down! After all this is modern chess. :) (26.Qa8+ Kc7
Diagram



27.Kd2!! Who would see this!! The beauty of computer analysis and still it is not clear, although at the end of the day White should be better: Rc8 28.Rc1+ Kd7 29.Bb5+ Kd8 30.Rxc8+ Bxc8 31.Qxb8±) 26...Kd7! 27.Qa4+ Ke6 28.Qc6+ Bd6 (28...Rd6 29.Bxd6 Bxd6 30.e4 Ke7 31.e5 Bxe5 32.dxe5 Qxe5 33.Qxb6±) 29.e4 f6 Diagram



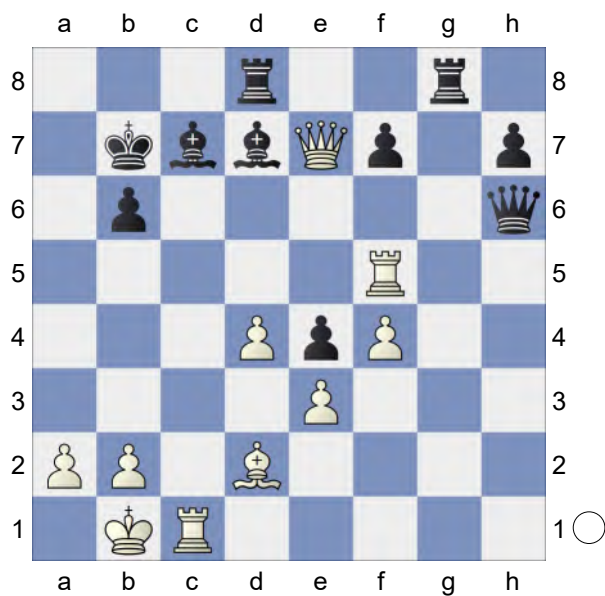
D i a g r a m [#] 30.Ka1!! Mind-blowing prophylaxis whilst conducting an attack (30.e5 fxe5 31.dxe5 Qe3! 32.Bxh7 Kxe5 33.Bc3+ d4 34.Qxb6 Bf3∞; 30.exd5+ Kf7 31.Bxd6 Bd7) 30...Kf7 31.Bxd6 dxe4 32.Bxe4± ↑↑]

22...Kb7 Now everything is under control. The king is safe and my pieces are coming out! **23.Rc1 Bc7 24.Rf5 Ne4** Played instantly, which brought me immediate relief in that there now follows the exchange of one of White's bishops.

[24...Qg6 25.Qxf6 Bxf5 26.Qxf5 Qxf5 27.Bxf5 h5⌘]

25.Bxe4 dxe4

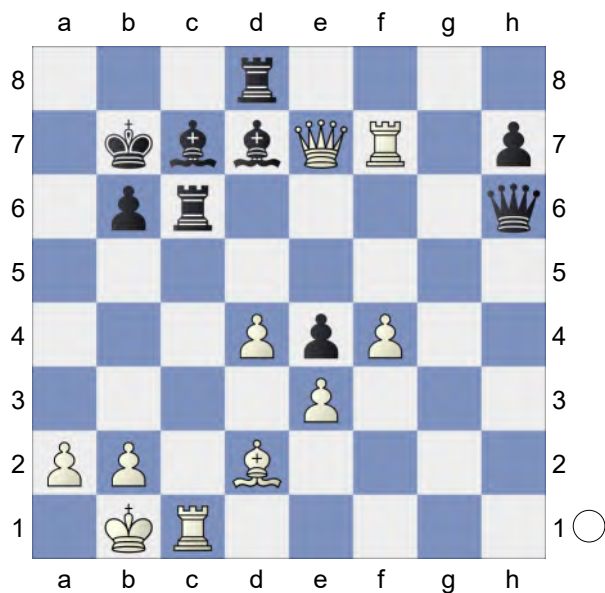
(Diagram)



26.Rf6 Rg6

[Δ26...Qf8 27.Qxe4+ Kb8 28.Qxh7 Qg7+]

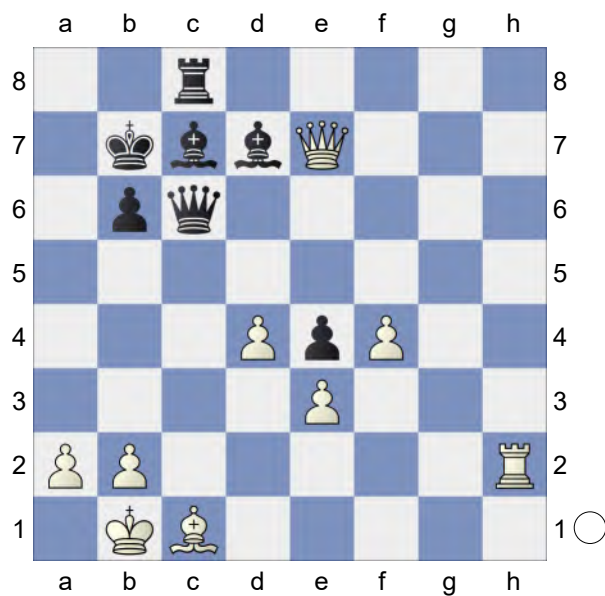
27.Rxf7 Rc6 Diagram



28.Rxh7 A strange decision. Capturing the e4 pawn instead would have made Black's task of converting his advantage more difficult.

[28.Qxe4 Qg6 29.Qxg6 hxc6 30.e4 and it is still not clear how to convert my advantage into a win. Perhaps there is no way!]

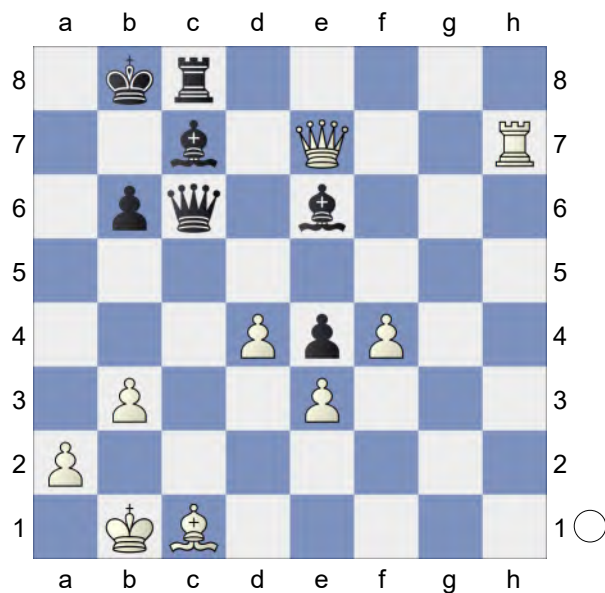
28...Rxc1+ 29.Bxc1 Qc6 30.Rh2 Rc8



31.Rh7 Be6

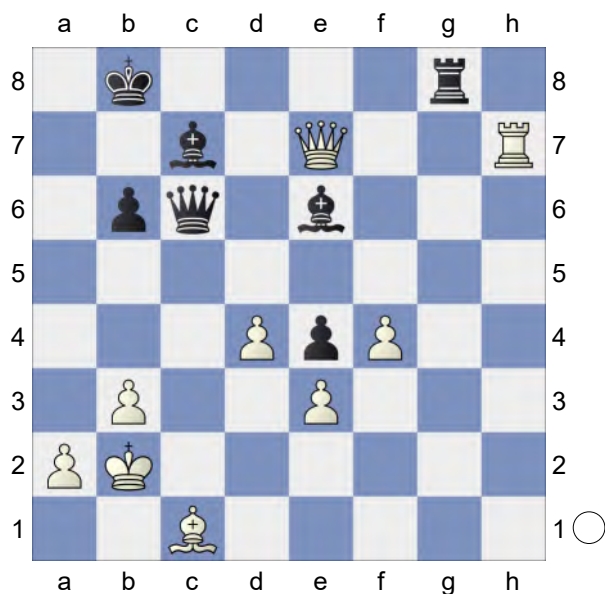
[Δ31...Bg4+ Δ ♔e2-d3 ♜x ♜ Pe2-d3 ♜x ♜ Pe2-d3]

32.b3 Kb8 Diagram

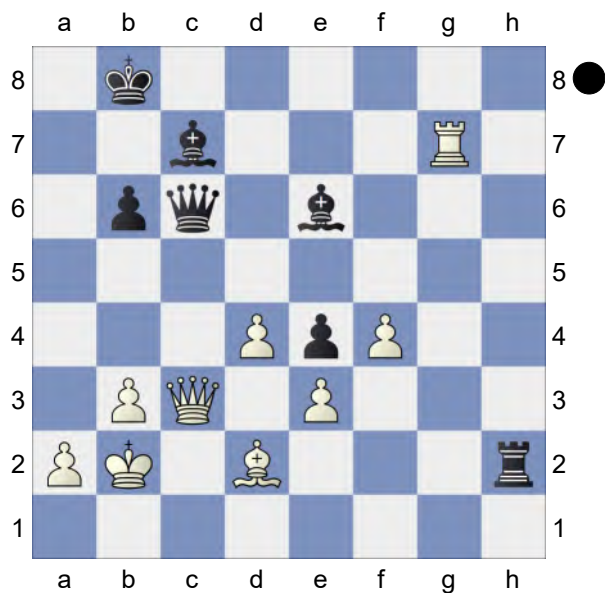


Here I suddenly noticed that I only had three minutes for eight moves, although of course that should be quite sufficient for the present position. Nevertheless I was still a little nervous about converting it without spoiling the nuances of the position. **33.Kb2 Bf5 34.Rf7 Be6 35.Rh7 Rg8**

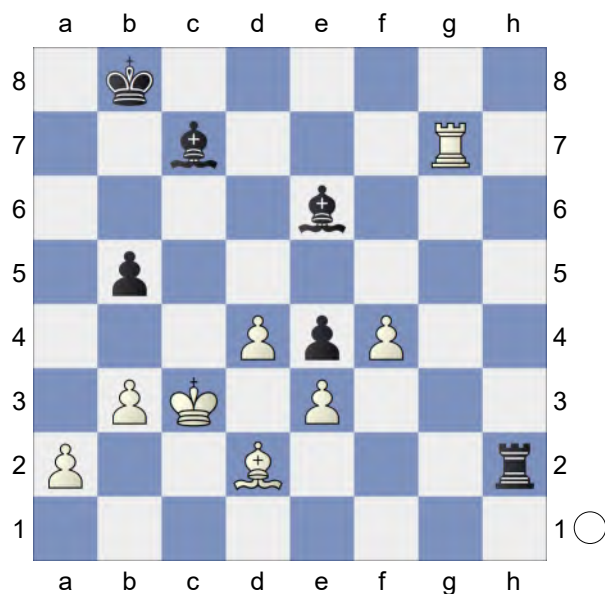
(Diagram)



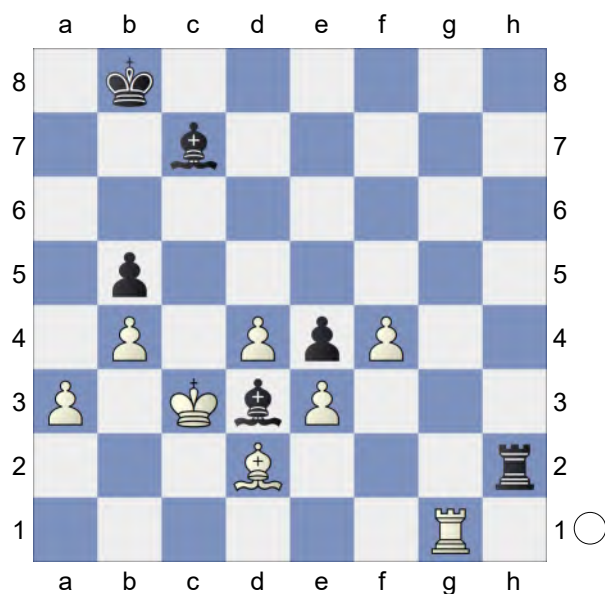
36.Rg7 Re8 So I began to repeat moves a few times in order to get to the 40 move time control. **37.Qb4 Rh8 38.Qc3 Rh2+ 39.Bd2** Diagram



39...Qxc3+ Exchanging queens was a very important decision. I was sure that the endgame would be won for Black because of the strong pawn on e4, as it is established in such a way that it cannot be exchanged. And in fact my intuition proved to be right, even though some might have thought it better to keep queens on the board. **40.Kxc3 b5**

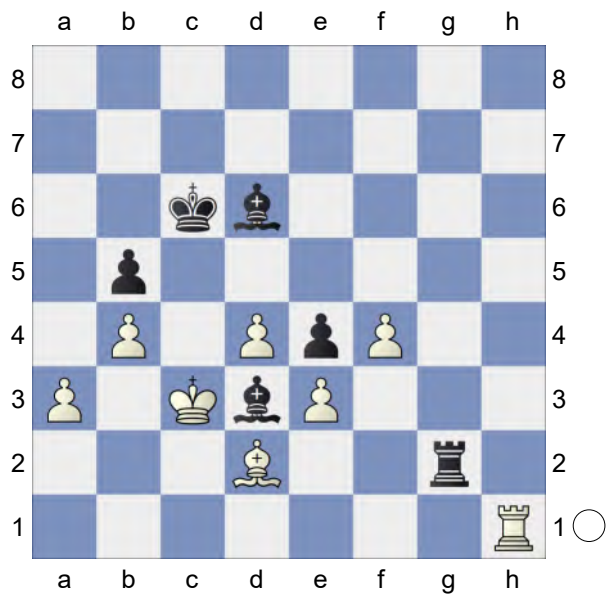


41.a3 Ba5+! Fixing the white pawns. **42.b4 Bc7 43.Rg6 Bd5 44.Rg5 Bc4 45.Rg1 Bd3**

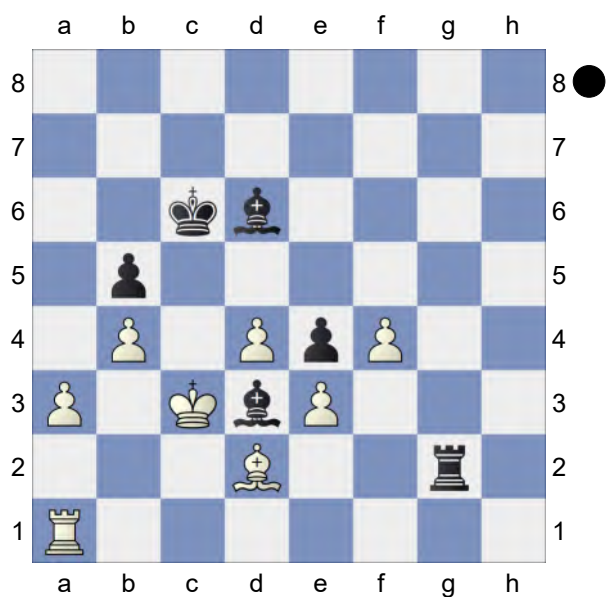


46.Ra1 Bd6 47.Rg1 Kc7 48.Rg7+ Kc6 49.Rg1 Rf2 50.Rh1 Rg2

(Diagram)

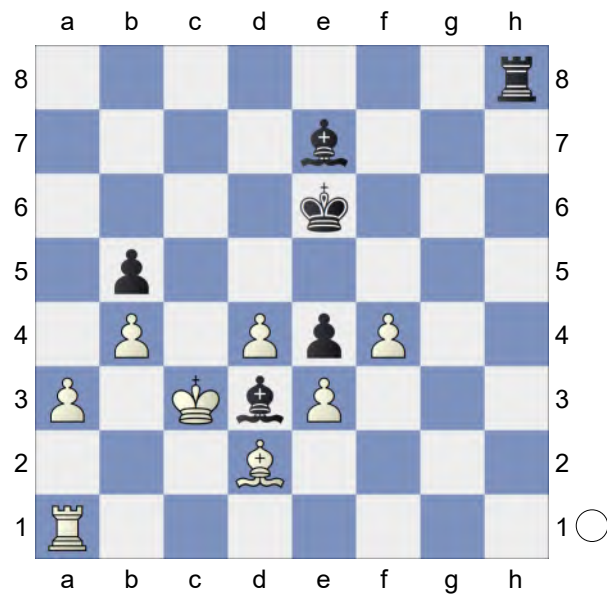


51.Ra1 Diagram

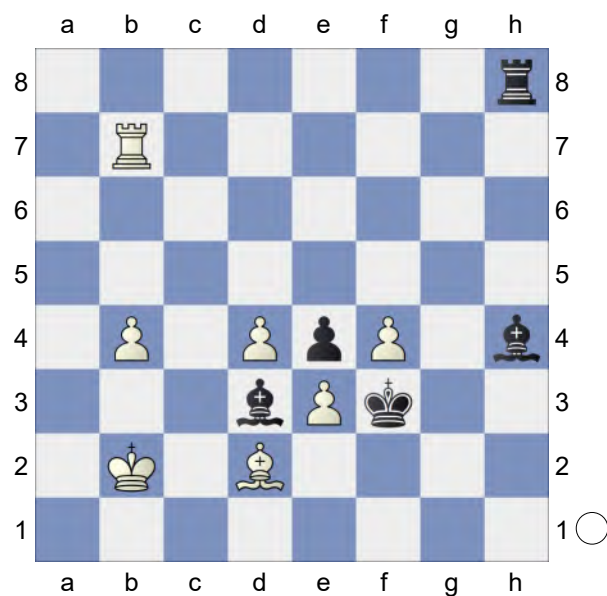


51...Kd5 Now comes a king walk to the other side of the board, targeting the e3 pawn. **52.Rh1 Be7 53.Ra1 Rh2 54.Rg1 Ke6 55.Ra1 Rh8**

(Diagram)

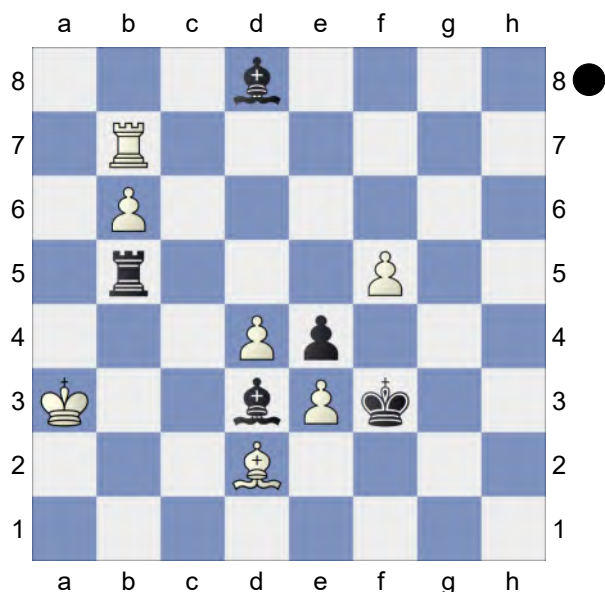


56.Kb2 Kf5 57.a4 bxa4 58.Rxa4 Kg4 59.Ra7 Bh4 60.Rb7 Kf3

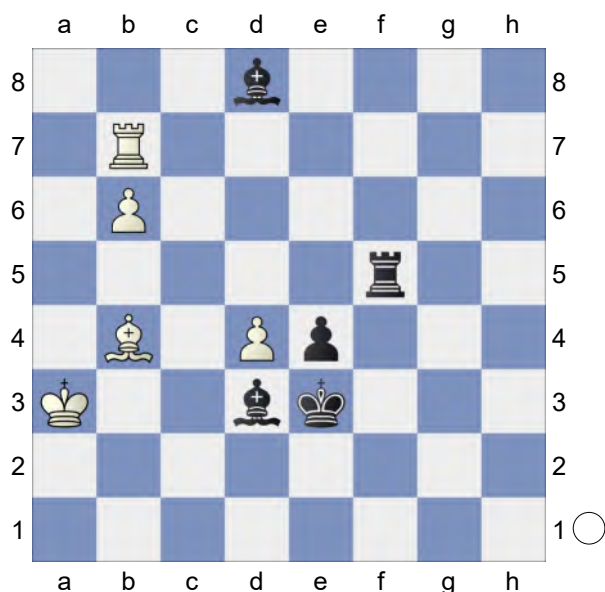


61.b5 Rh5 62.b6 Rb5+ 63.Ka3 Bd8 64.f5 Diagram

(Diagram)



Creating some counterchances but two bishops make a very strong team indeed.
:) 64...Rxf5 65.Bb4 Kxe3

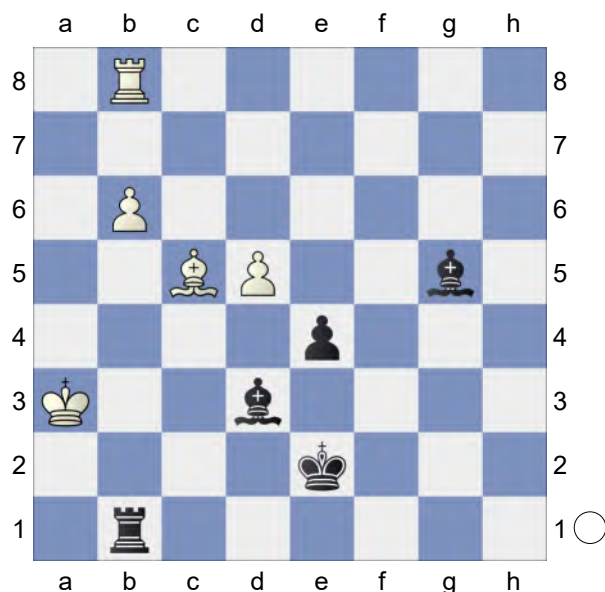


66.Bc5 Rf1 67.Rb8 Ra1+ 68.Kb2 Rb1+ 69.Ka3

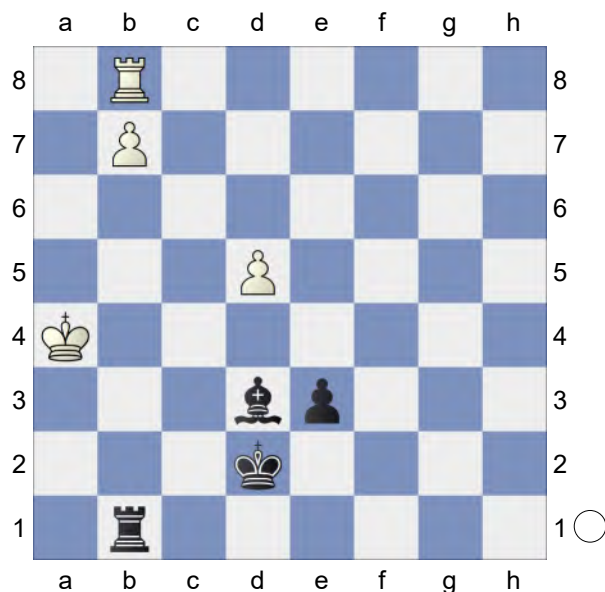
[69.Ka2 Bg5 (69...Bh4 70.b7 Be1-+) 70.b7 Kd2-+]

69...Bg5 70.d5+ Ke2

(Diagram)



71.Bb4 Bc1+ 72.Ka4 Bd2 73.Bxd2 Kxd2 74.b7 e3 Diagram



By this time my compatriot Surya Ganguly had already won a nice game with the black pieces in impressive fashion against the top seed Le Quang, which meant I had won the championship. At first I couldn't believe what had just happened but after resigning the game my opponent immediately congratulated me on my victory in the tournament. I have to say, I was very touched by this sportsmanlike

and gentlemanly gesture! I have to admit I was rather nervous in the final stages of my game as there was so much at stake and I did not want to throw away my chances of victory. As it turned out, by making a series of accurate technical moves I was able to convert my advantage smoothly into a win, by which time Ganguly had also won his game, and to my astonishment it finally hit me: I had now become Asian Champion! In fact it was a double delight for me to know that India had now won both the men's and women's championships. On the other hand, Ganguly was not so fortunate. After winning so impressively in the last round, a little later he received the heartbreaking news that the tiebreak had conspired against him and he had failed to achieve the desired qualification. This really was a pity since he had played wonderful chess throughout the tournament and was one of the few players who had remained undefeated. Chess, like any competitive sport, can be so brutal.

0-1

359

□ Wei,Yi

■ Sevian,Armen

Wijk aan Zee II 123/80

[Shankland,Samuel L]

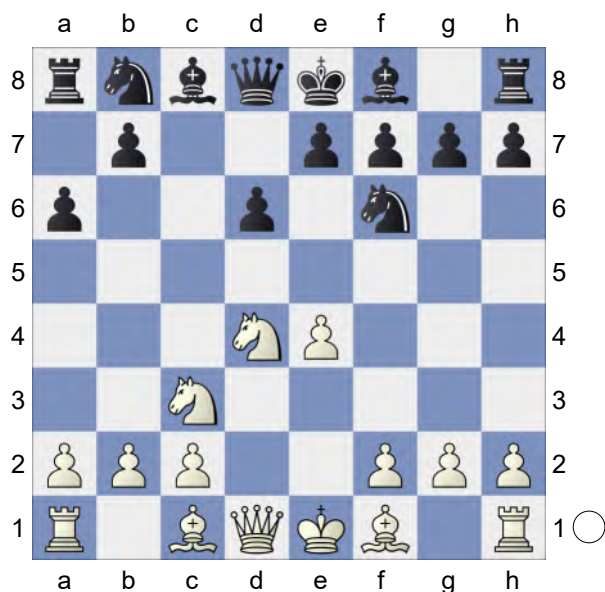
B90

2675

2511

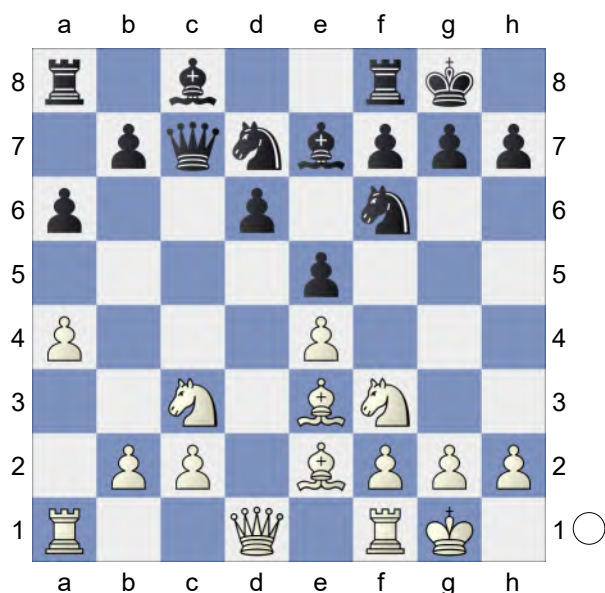
2015

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6



6.Be3 e5 7.Nf3 Qc7 8.a4 Be7 9.Be2
0-0 10.0-0 Nbd7

[10...b6 - 112/138]



11.Nd2 b6?

[11...Nc5]

12.g4!

[12.Nc4 Bb7 13.f3 Rad8 14.Bf2
d5!? 15.Nxd5 Nxd5 16.exd5 Nf6
(16...Nc5) 17.Bxb6 Bc5+ 18.Bxc5
Qxc5+ 19.Kh1 Nxd5 20.Qe1±]

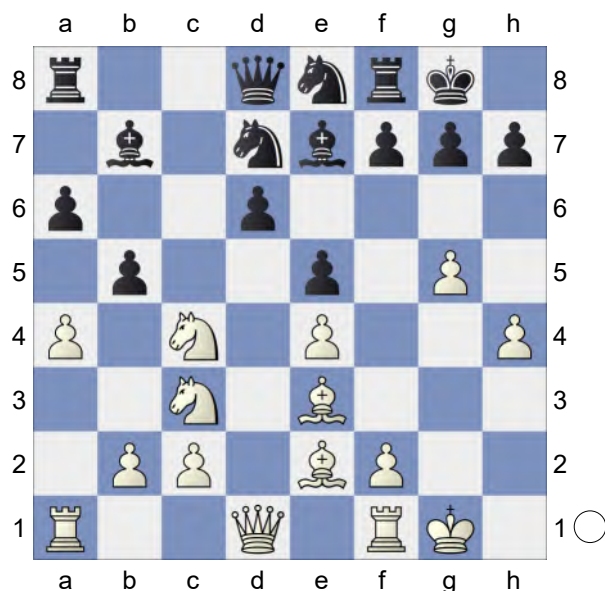
12...Bb7N

[12...h6 13.h4↑]

13.g5 Ne8 14.Nc4± Qd8 15.h4?!

[15.Qd2±]

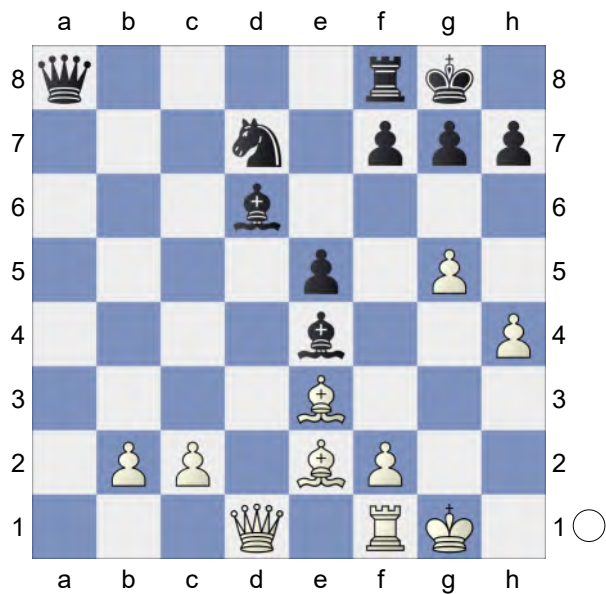
15...b5!



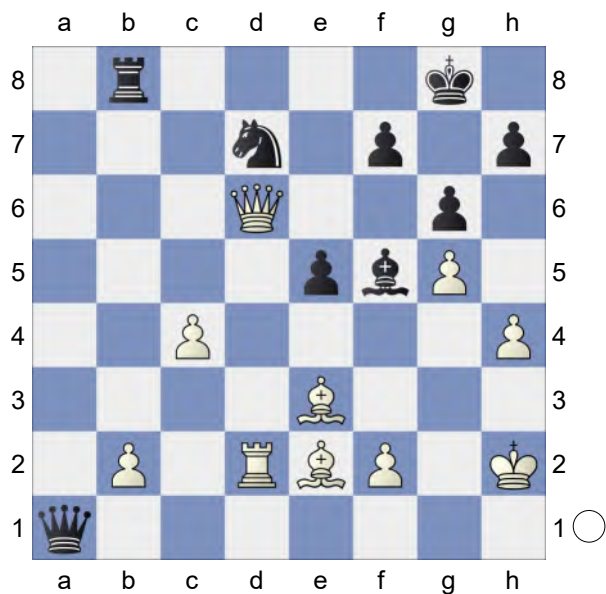
16.axb5 axb5 17.Rxa8 Qxa8 18.Nxb5
Bxe4 19.Ncxd6 Nxd6 20.Nxd6 Bxd6?

[20...Rd8! 21.Nxe4 Qxe4 22.Qd3!
Qxh4 23.Qf5 g6 24.Qg4 Qxg4+
25.Bxg4±]

(Diagram)

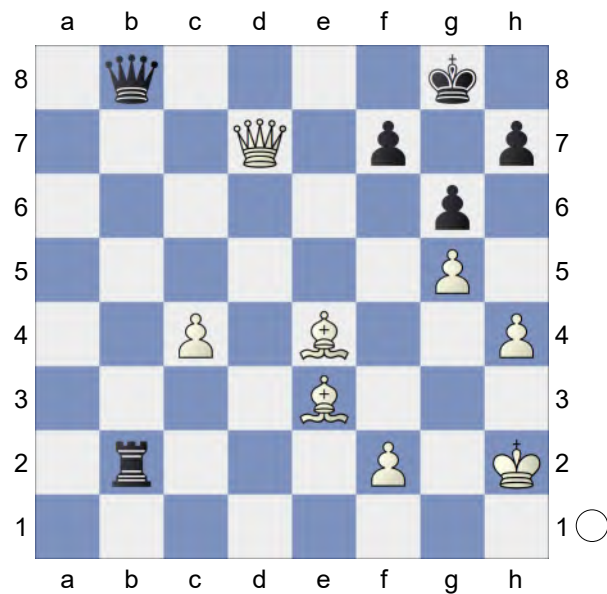


21.Qxd6+- Bf5 22.Rd1 Qa4 23.c4 g6 24.Rd2 Rb8 25.Kh2 Qa1

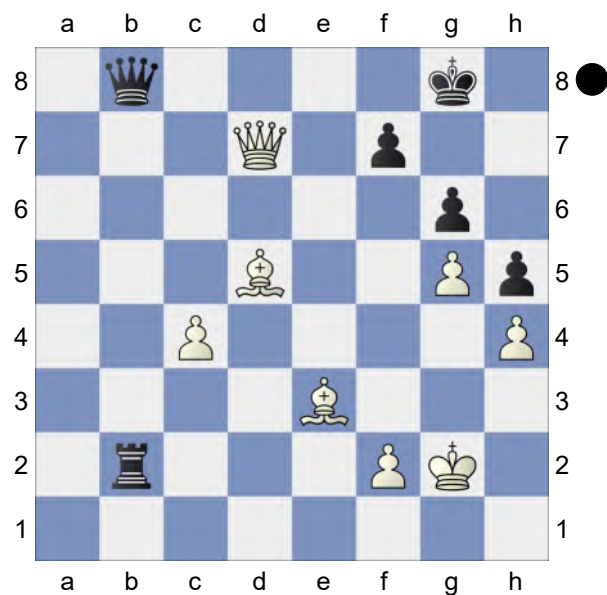


26.Qc7 Qa8 27.Rxd7 Bxd7 28.Qxd7 Rxb2 29.Bf3 e4 30.Bxe4 Qb8+

(Diagram)



31.Kg2 h5 32.Bd5



1-0

350

□ Wei, Yi

■ Sevian, Armen

II 123/80

[Shankland, Samuel L.]

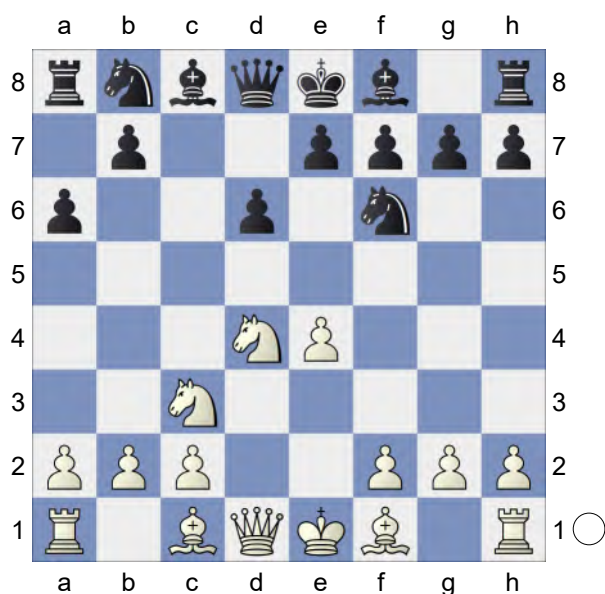
B90

2675

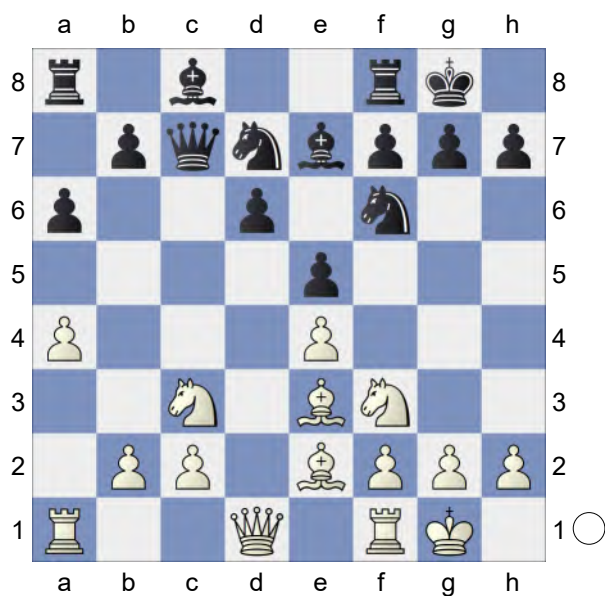
2511

2015

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6



6.Be3 e5 7.Nf3 Qc7 8.a4 Be7 9.Be2
0-0 10.0-0 Nbd7
[10...b6 - 112/138]



11.Nd2 b6?

[11...Nc5]

12.g4!

[12.Nc4 Bb7 13.f3 Rad8 14.Bf2
d5!? 15.Nxd5 Nxd5 16.exd5 Nf6
(16...Nc5) 17.Bxb6 Bc5+ 18.Bxc5
Qxc5+ 19.Kh1 Nxd5 20.Qe1±]

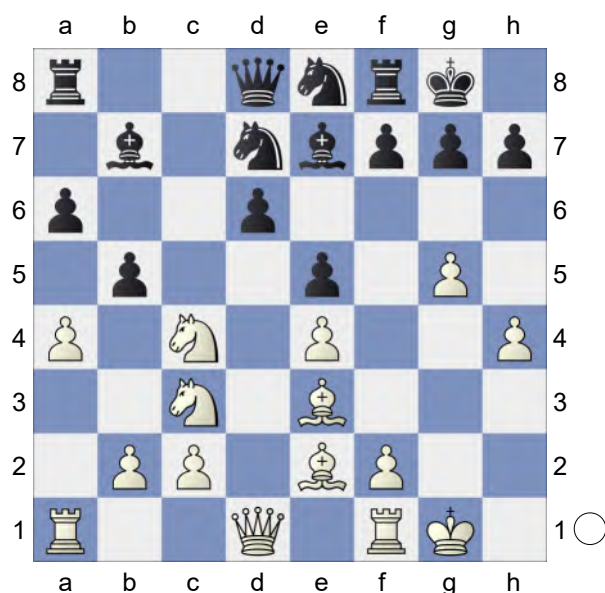
12...Bb7N

[12...h6 13.h4↑]

13.g5 Ne8 14.Nc4± Qd8 15.h4?!

[15.Qd2±]

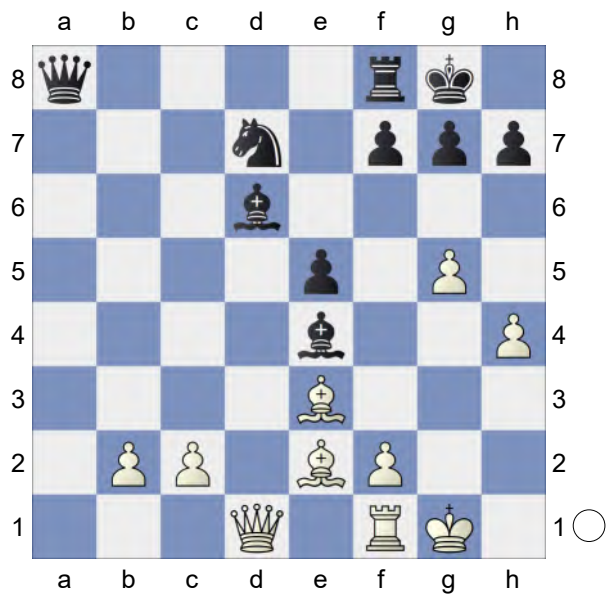
15...b5!



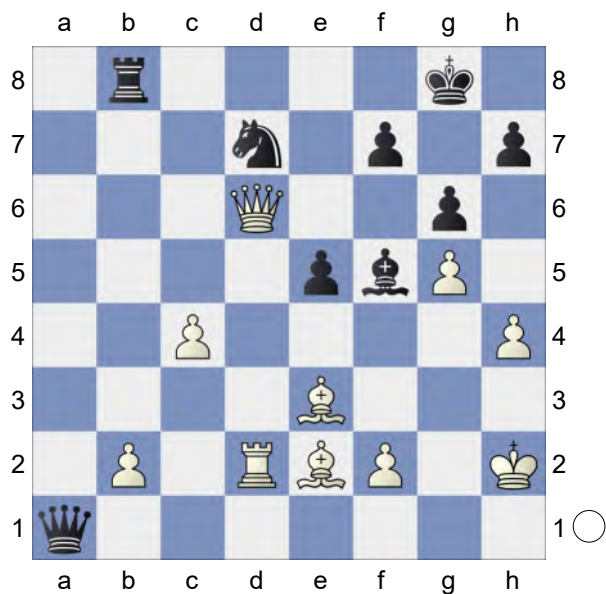
16.axb5 axb5 17.Rxa8 Qxa8 18.Nxb5
Bxe4 19.Ncxd6 Nxd6 20.Nxd6 Bxd6?

[20...Rd8! 21.Nxe4 Qxe4 22.Qd3!
Qxh4 23.Qf5 g6 24.Qg4 Qxg4+
25.Bxg4±]

(Diagram)

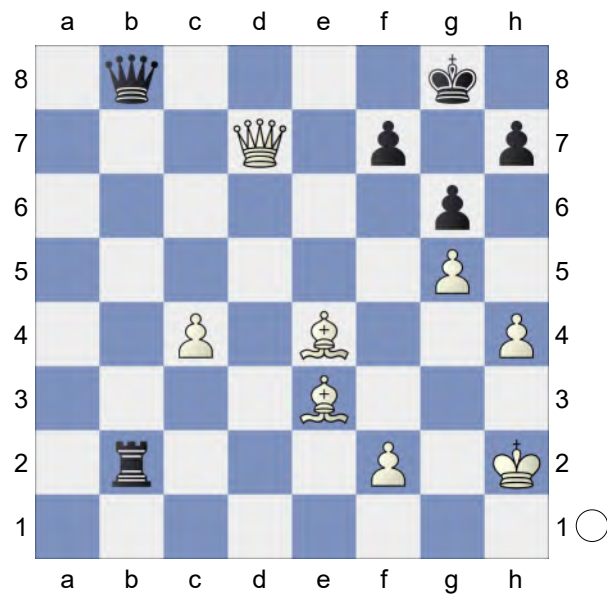


**21.Qxd6+- Bf5 22.Rd1 Qa4 23.c4 g6
24.Rd2 Rb8 25.Kh2 Qa1**

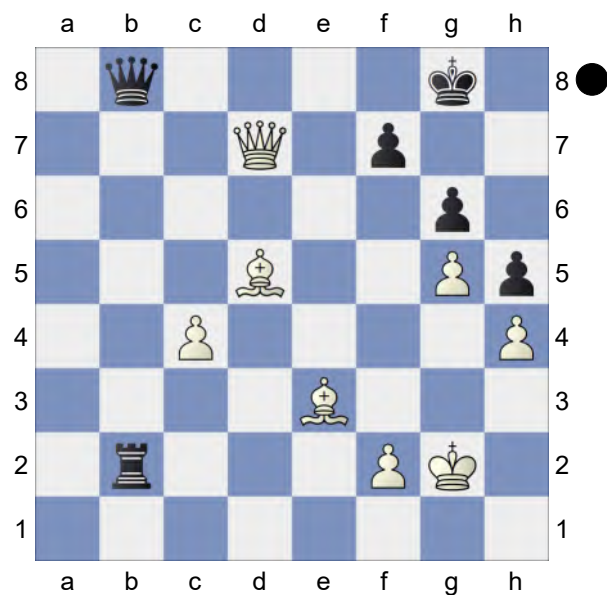


**26.Qc7 Qa8 27.Rxd7 Bxd7 28.Qxd7
Rxb2 29.Bf3 e4 30.Bxe4 Qb8+**

(Diagram)



31.Kg2 h5 32.Bd5



1-0

245

□ Wei,Yi

■ Ding,Liren

(ch) 125/99 Chiva

[Sokolov,Ivan]

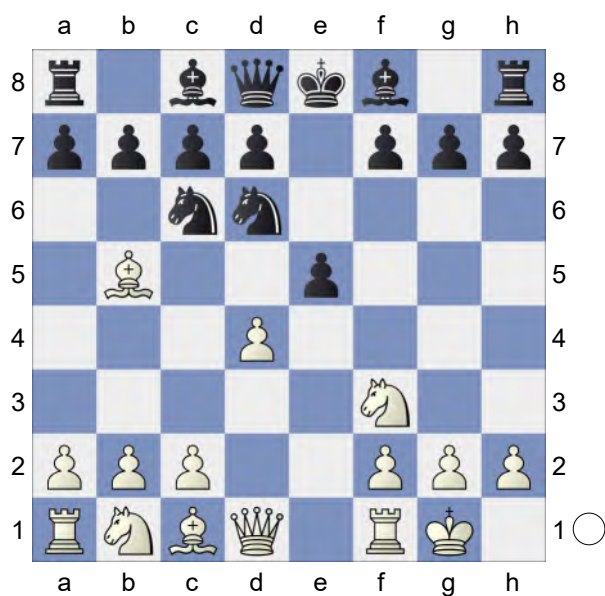
C67

2718

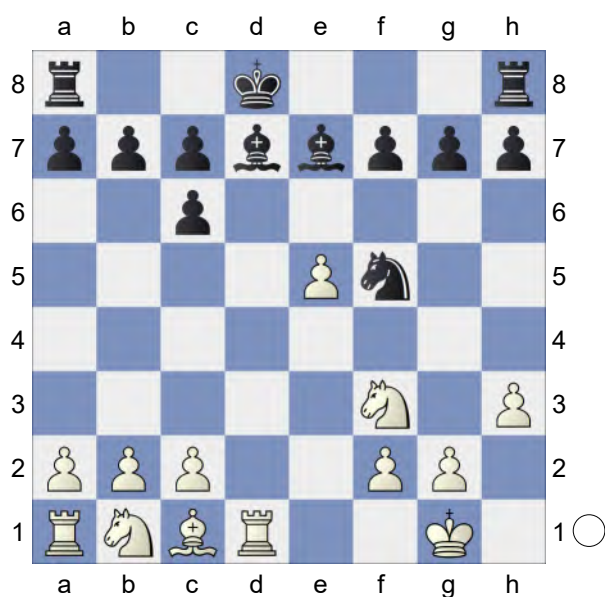
2757

2015

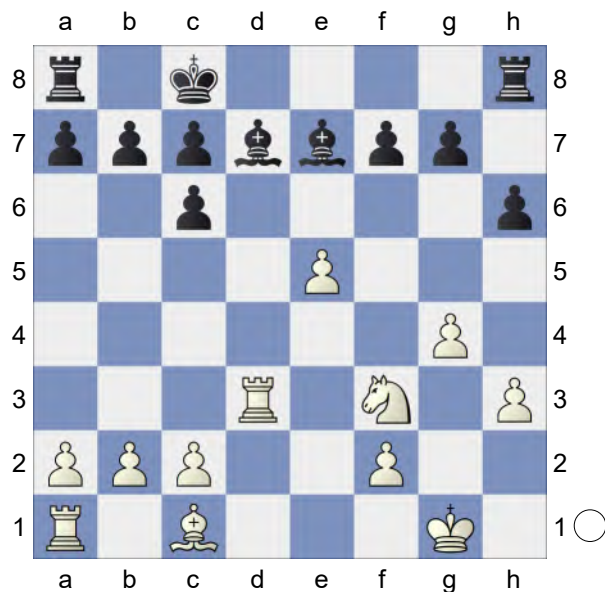
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0
Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6



6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Nf5 8.Qxd8+
Kxd8 9.h3 Bd7 10.Rd1 Be7



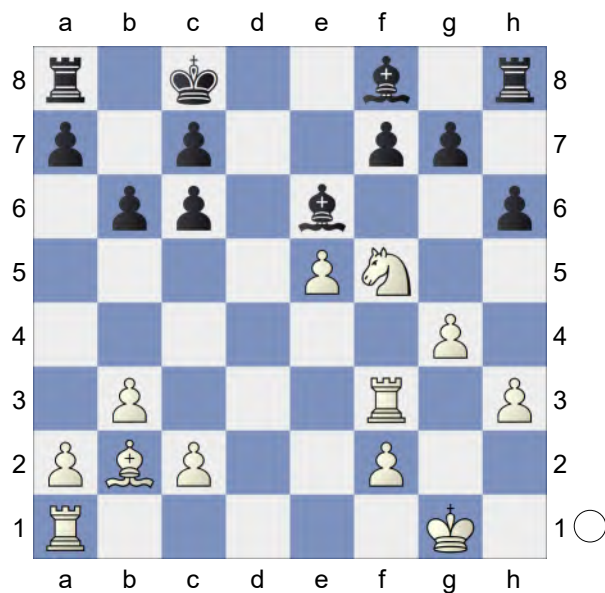
11.g4 Nh4 12.Nxh4 Bxh4 13.Nd2
Kc8 14.Nf3 Be7 15.Rd3 h6



16.Nd4 b6N

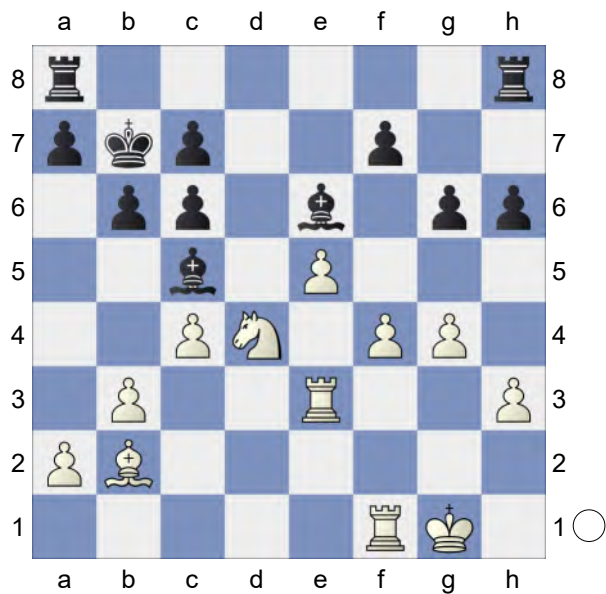
[16...Re8]

17.Rf3 Be8 18.Nf5 Bf8 19.b3 Bd7
20.Bb2 Be6

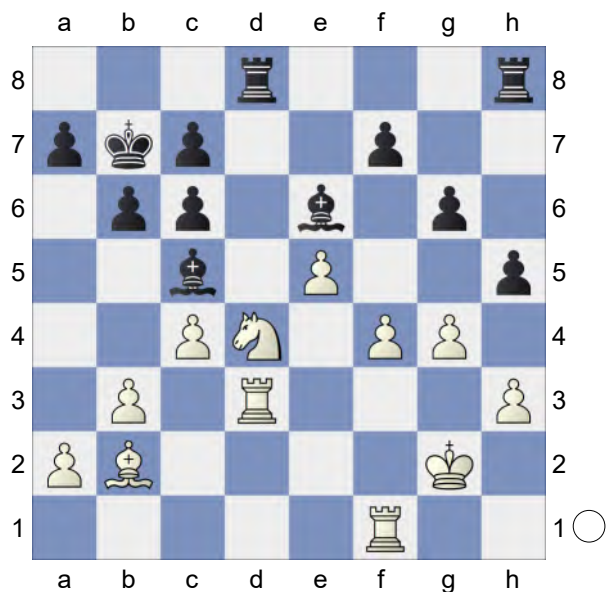


21.Nd4 Bd5 22.Re3 Bc5 23.c4 Be6
24.f4 g6 25.Rf1 Kb7

(Diagram)

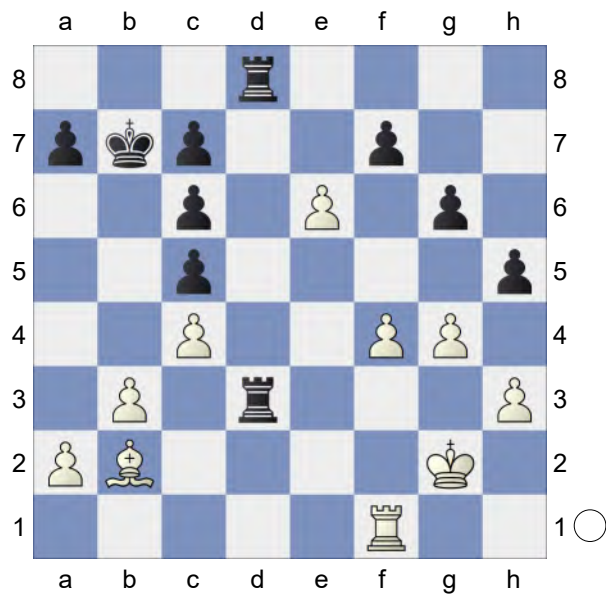


26.Kg2 Rad8 27.Rd3 h5 Diagram
 [27...Bxd4 28.Rxd4 Rdg8!∞]



28.Nxe6! Rxd3 29.Nxc5+ bxc5 30.e6!
Rhd8

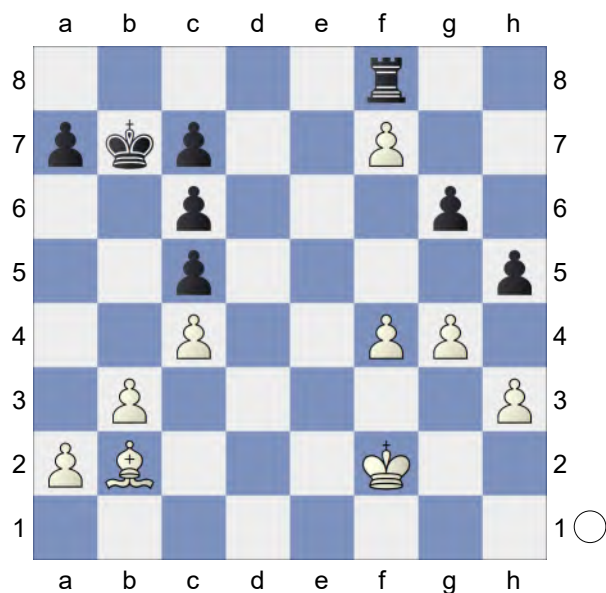
(Diagram)



31.exf7 Rd2+

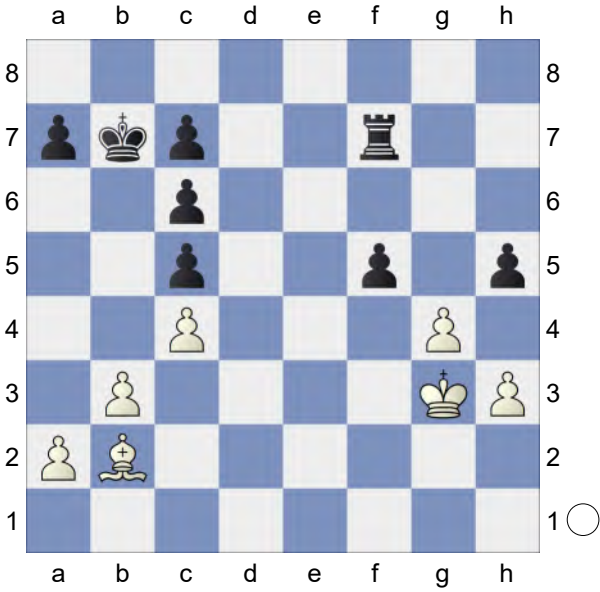
[31...Rf8 32.f5 gxf5 33.Rxf5 hxg4
 34.hxg4 Rd2+ 35.Kh3 Rxb2 36.g5]
 [31...h4 32.Rf3! (32.Bg7 Rg3+
 33.Kf2 Rdd3 34.f8Q Rgf3+=)
 32...Rd2+ (32...R3d7 33.Bf6 Rf8
 34.Bxh4) 33.Rf2 Rxf2+ 34.Kxf2 Rf8
 35.f5+-]

32.Rf2 Rxf2+ 33.Kxf2 Rf8 Diagram

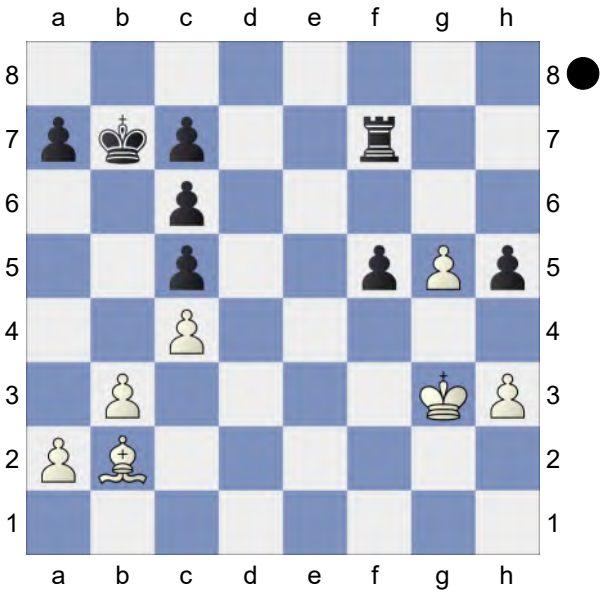


34.f5+- Rxf7 35.Kg3 gxf5

(Diagram)



36.g5



1-0

243

□ Wei,Yi

■ Ding,Liren

(ch) Chiva

[Sokolov,Ivan]

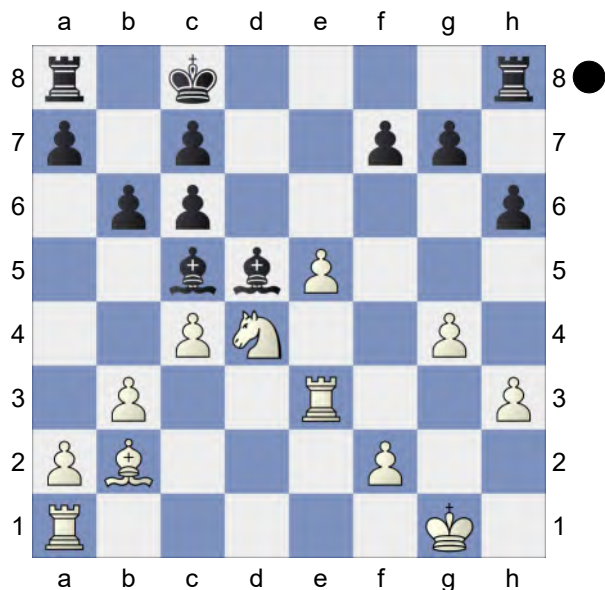
C67

2718

2757

2015

Diagram

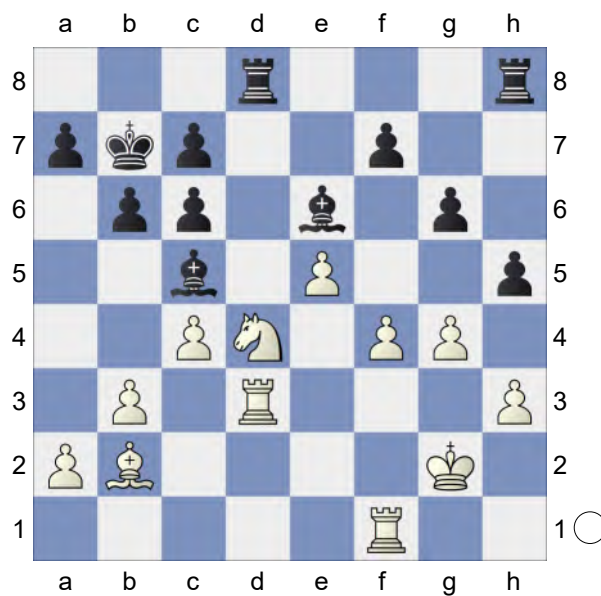


Position after White's 23rd move.

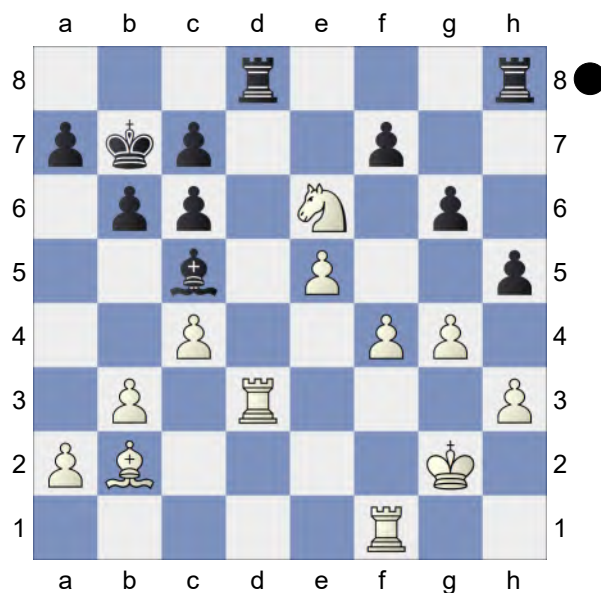
23...Be6 This looks like a good Berlin for Black. With his next few moves Wei Yi sets the stage for a tactical sequence.

24.f4 g6 25.Rf1 Kb7 26.Kg2 Rad8 27.Rd3 h5 Diagram

(Diagram)

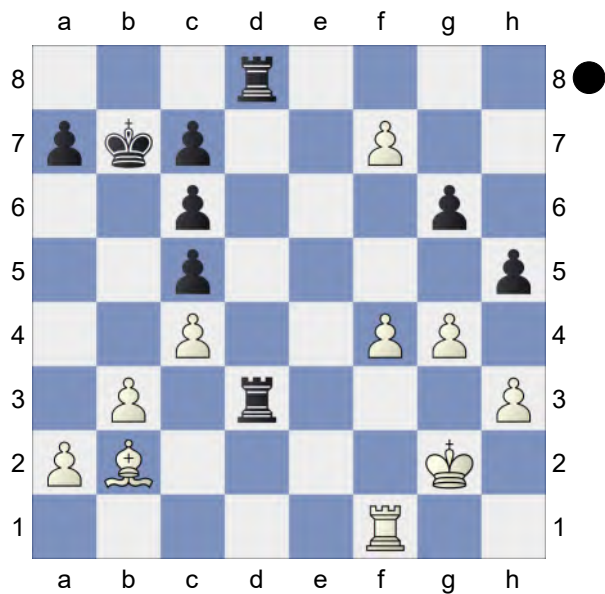


Black has pinned White on the d-file and now is planning to open the h-file and double rooks there, in order to get at the white king. White does not have a "normal" move; if he does not exploit the dynamic potential of his kingside pawns, he gets the worse game. Wei Yi comes up with a tactical solution that he needed to see well ahead of time! **28.Nxe6!**



Rxd3 29.Nxc5+ bxc5 30.e6! Rhd8 31.exf7 Diagram

(Diagram)



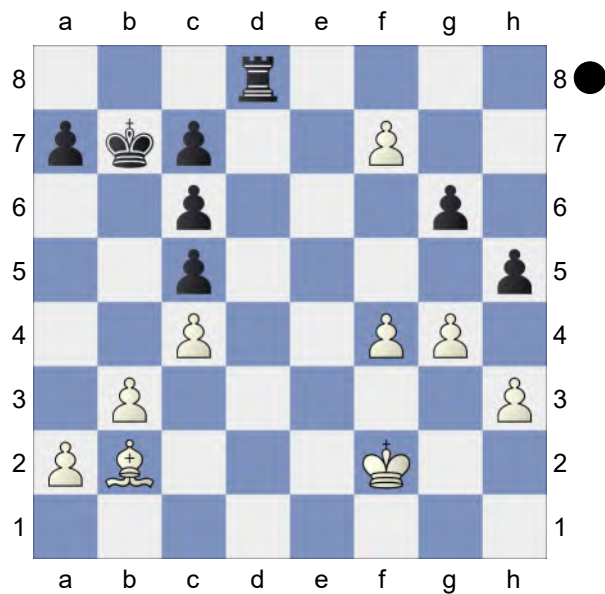
31...Rd2+

[31...Rf8 keeps the rooks on the board; Ding Liren did not like White's free running connected pawns after 32.f5 gxf5 33.Rxf5 hxg4 34.hxg4 Rd2+ 35.Kh3 Rxb2 36.g5]

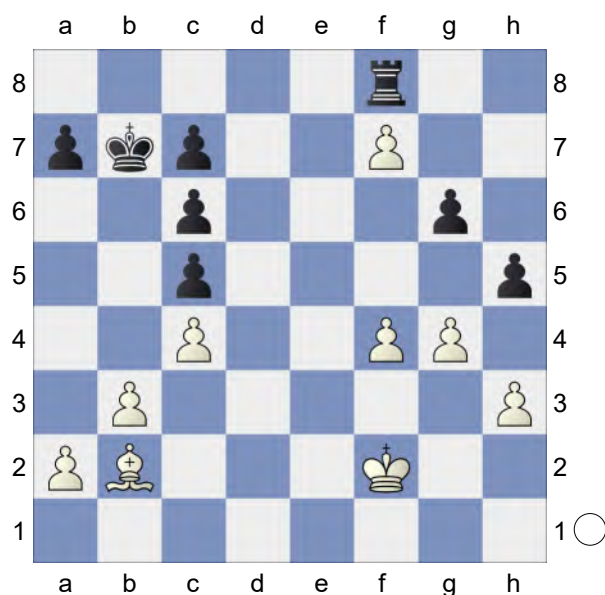
[Attempting a perpetual check motif with 31...h4 also does not work for Black: 32.Rf3! (32.Bg7 Rg3+ 33.Kf2 Rdd3 34.f8Q Rgf3+=) 32...Rd2+ (or 32...R3d7 33.Bf6 Rf8 34.Bxh4) 33.Rf2 Rxf2+ 34.Kxf2 Rf8 35.f5 and White wins in a similar way to the game.]

32.Rf2 Rxf2+ 33.Kxf2

(Diagram)

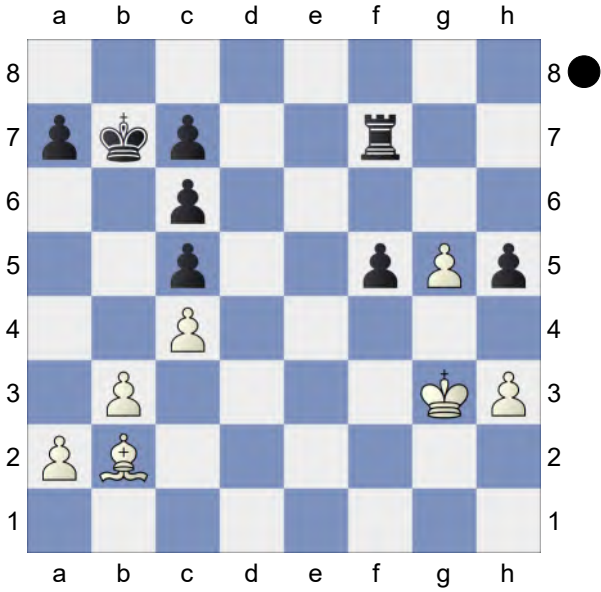


Rf8 Diagram



34.f5!+- Rxf7 35.Kg3 gxf5 36.g5

(Diagram)



1-0

298

□ Wei, Yi

■ So, Wesley

127/(128) Wijk aan Zee

[Stamenkovic, Zoran]

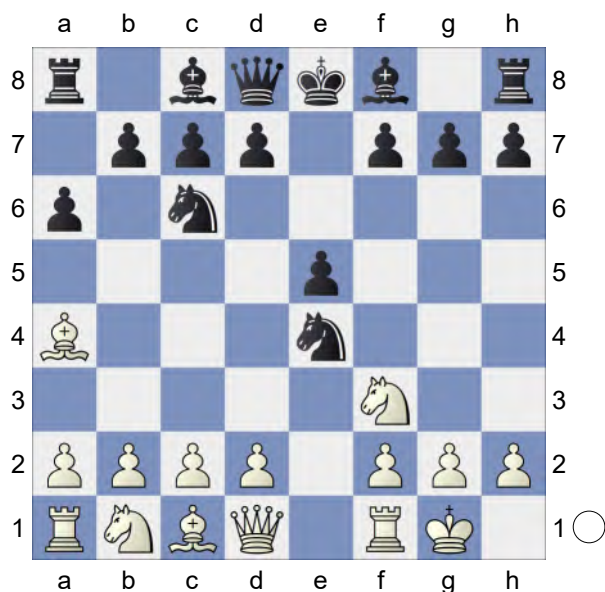
C83

2706

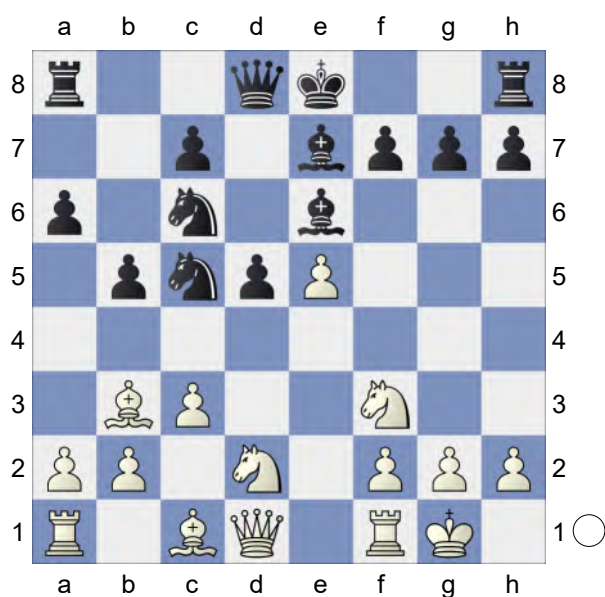
2773

2016

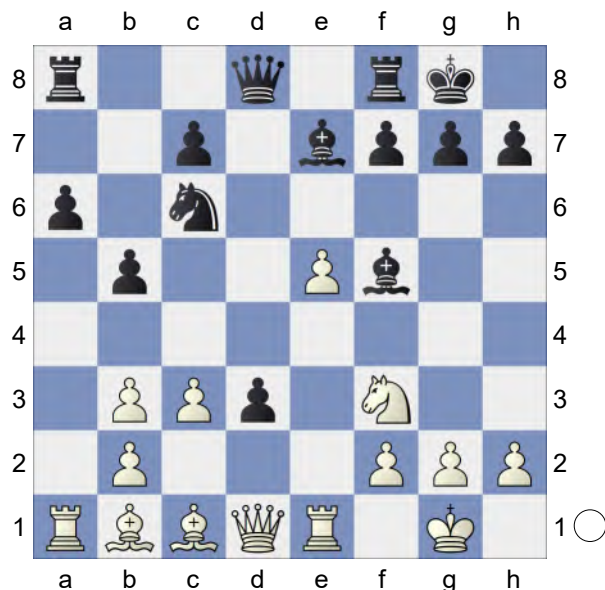
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4
Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6
9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 Be7



11.Bc2 d4 12.Nb3 d3 * 13.Bb1 Nxb3
14.axb3 Bf5 15.Re1 0-0



16.Be3 Qd5 17.Bd4 Rfd8 Mikhalevski,
V: 'Wesley decides to avoid the long
theoretical lines, which ensue in case of
17...d2.'

[The main line is 17...d2
, as in Bruzon Bautista, L (2689)-
Mikhalevski, V (2552)/Washington D.
C. 2013/ [Mikhalevski, V]]

18.Re3 Mikhalevski, V: '!'

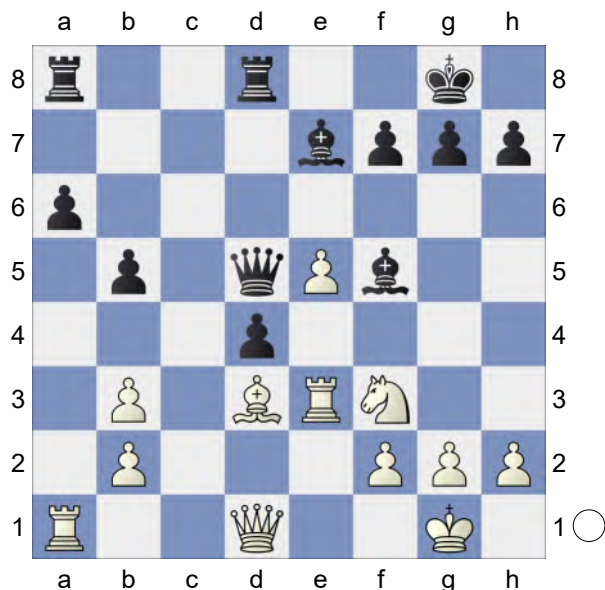
[18.Bxd3 is the main alternative. Here
play may continue Bxd3 19.Qxd3
Qxb3 20.e6!? fxe6 21.Qe4 Qc4
and White was unable to set problems
in a few recent games.]

18...Nxd4 19.cxd4

[19.Nxd4 isn't dangerous either. Bg6
20.b4 c5 (20...a5! looks more
accurate.) 21.bxc5 Bxc5 22.Ba2
Qb7 23.e6 Bxd4 24.cxd4 Rxd4
25.exf7+ Bxf7 26.Bxf7+ Qxf7
27.Rxd3 Rxd3 28.Qxd3 Re8! 29.h3
Qe6= and Black equalised in
Kosteniuk, A (2501)-Koneru, H (2610)/
Beijing 2012.]

19...c5 Mikhalevski, V: '!' 20.Bxd3 cxd4

(Diagram)

**21.Re2**

[21.Bxf5? dxe3 22.Qxd5 Rxd5
23.Be4 Rdd8 24.Bxa8? e2!
25.Nd4 Rxd4 26.Bf3 Rd2 27.Re1
Rxb2 28.g3 Rxb3 ♚ Marin,Mihail]

21...Qe6 Mikhalevski, V: '!' Mikhalevski, V: 'This position has been known for almost 20 years.' **22.Rd2N** Mikhalevski, V: '!' Mikhalevski, V: 'Wey Yi's novelty. White wants to blockade the d-pawn with his rook from where it attacks the d4-pawn and protects his weakness on b3.'

[Mikhalevski, V: 'In two preceding games White tested' 22.h3 Rac8 23.Ne1 Rc6 (23...Bg6!? also looks good.) 24.Qb1 Bxd3 25.Qxd3 h6 26.f4 Qc8 and Black created counterplay connected with the ...Rc1 idea, Svidler, P (2735)-Motylev, A (2651)/Moscow 2004.]

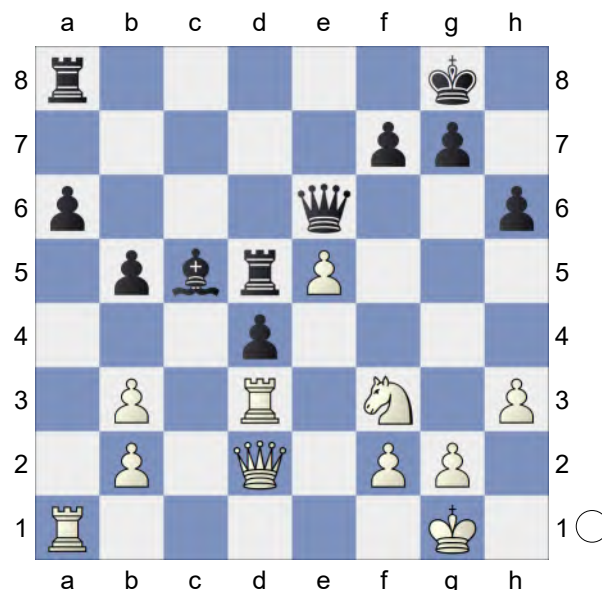
[The attempt to build a blockade on d3 b y m e a n s o f 22.Ne1 c a n b e a n s w e r e d b y Bg4! Black provokes a weakening of the dark squares. 23.f3 Bh5 24.Be4 Rac8 25.Nd3 Bg6 and Black is fine.]

22...Bxd3 23.Rxd3 Bc5 24.Qd2 Mikhalevski, V: 'White is bringing his

queen to f4.' **24...Rd5**

[The immediate 24...h6 also makes sense.]

25.h3 h6

**26.Qf4**

[26.b4!? was worth a try in order to fix the a-pawn on a6.]

26...Re8

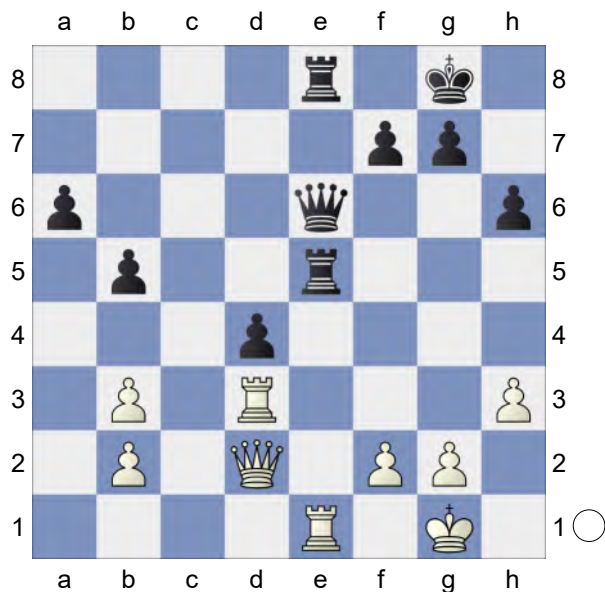
[26...a5! deserved attention, with the idea to secure his a-pawn by means of 27...Bb6 before activating his queen's rook and putting pressure on e5.]

27.Qd2 Mikhalevski, V: '!' Mikhalevski, V: 'White admits that his previous move wasn't necessary.' **27...Ba7** Mikhalevski, V: 'Black is transferring the bishop to b8 in order to put pressure on e5.' **28.Rd1 Bb8** Mikhalevski, V: '!' Mikhalevski, V: 'After an exchange of the e and d-pawns Black will have a marginally better rook endgame thanks to the doubled pawns on the b-file.' **29.Re1** Mikhalevski, V: '!'

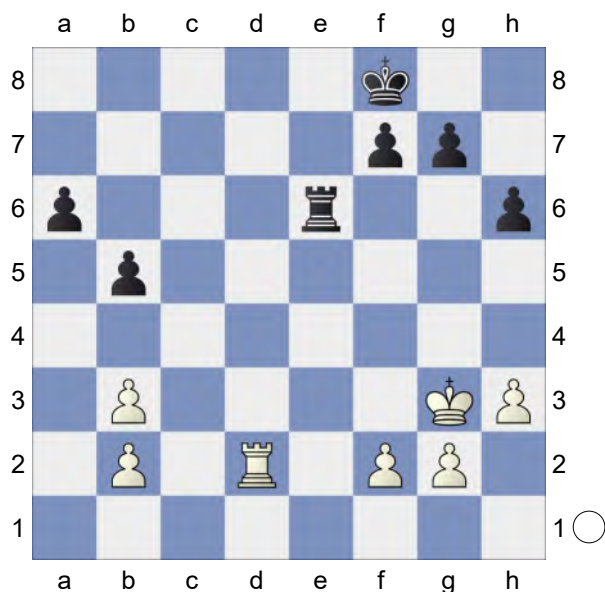
[29.Nxd4?! Qxe5 30.Nf3 (30.g3? Red8-+) 30...Rxd3 31.Qxd3 Qxb2 ♚]

29...Bxe5 30.Nxe5 Rxe5

(Diagram)

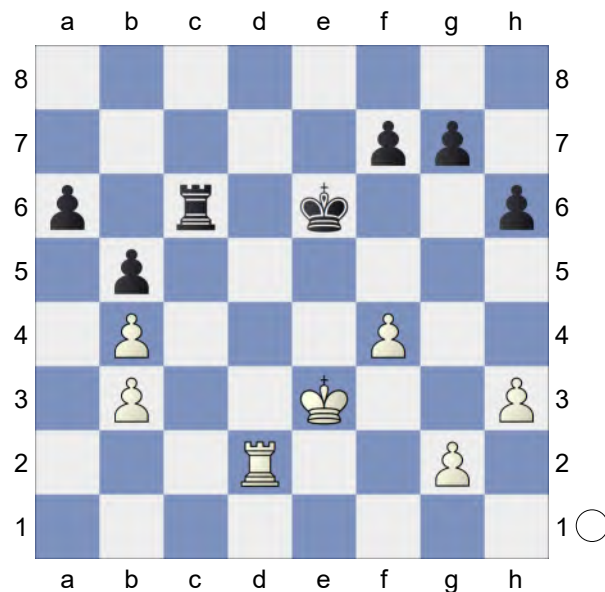


31.Rxe5 Qxe5 32.Rxd4= Qe1+ 33.Kh2! White wants his rook on the second rank. **33...Qxd2 34.Rxd2 Kf8** Black is slightly better in this endgame, but White should be able to hold. **35.Kg3 Re6**

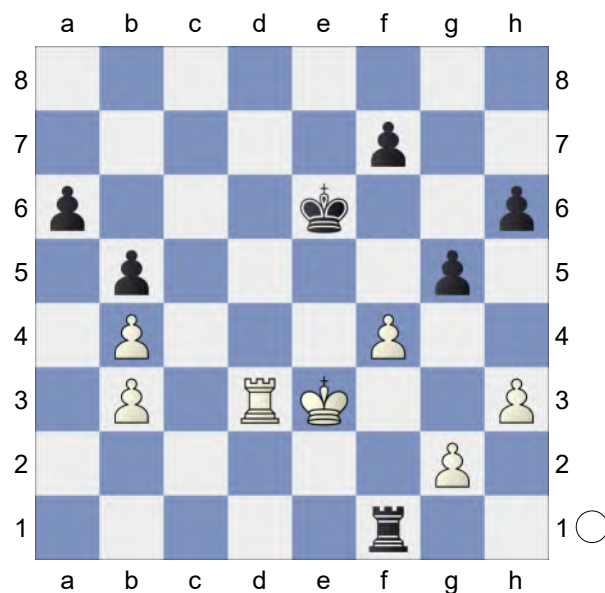


36.Kf3 Ke7 37.b4 Rc6 38.Ke3 Ke6 39.b3 Ke5 [39...g5! with the idea of 40...Ke5 would set White more problems.] **40.f4+ Ke6**

(Diagram)



41.Rd3 [41.Ke4! is more accurate. Now after Rc3 42.Ra2 Rxb3 43.Rxa6+ Ke7 44.Ke5 Rxb4 45.Ra7+ Kf8 46.Ra8+ a draw is inevitable.] **41...Rc2 42.Rd2 Rc3+ 43.Rd3 Rc1 44.Kf3?!** [44.g3!?=] **44...Rf1+ 45.Ke3 g5!**



Now White has to solve some problems. **46.fxg5 hxg5 47.Kd4!** The young Chinese GM understands that he needs to create counterplay. **47...f5 48.Re3+**

[48.g3! Kf6 49.Rc3! was better.]

48...Kf6 49.Re2

[49.Rc3!?]

49...f4 Now the g2-pawn is weak.

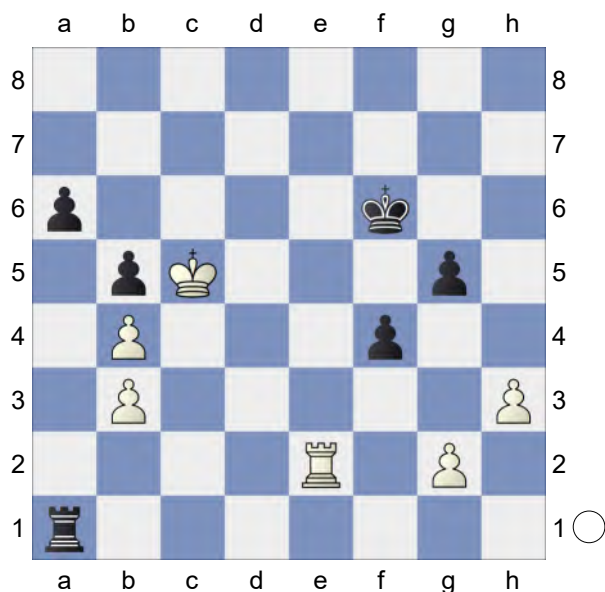
50.Kc5

[50.Ra2!? Kf5! 51.Kc5 Rb1!

52.Rxa6 Rb2 53.Rb6! Rxb2

54.Rxb5 is another logical way to defend.]

50...Ra1!?



51.Rd2?!

[It wasn't easy to realize, but White needed the position after 52.Rd2 with Black to move. 51.Rf2! Kf5 52.Rd2!]

51...Ra3?! This inaccurate move facilitates White's task.

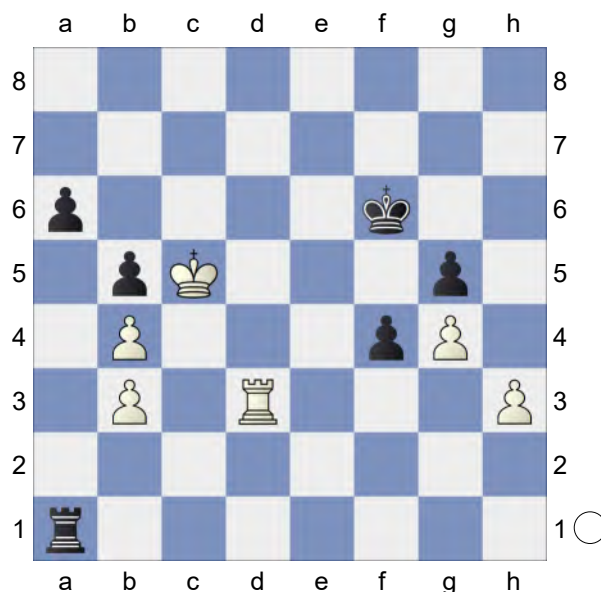
[51...Kf5! was correct. 52.Kd4! (Now after 52.Rd5+ Kg6 53.Rd2 Kh5 White experiences serious problems.)]

52.Rd6+ Kf5 53.Rd5+ Kg6 54.Rd3! Ra1

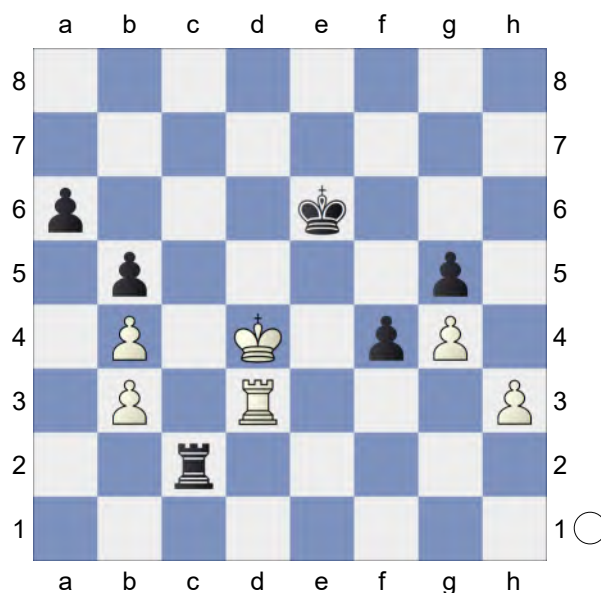
[or 54...Kh5 55.g3! =]

55.g4! Kf6

(Diagram)

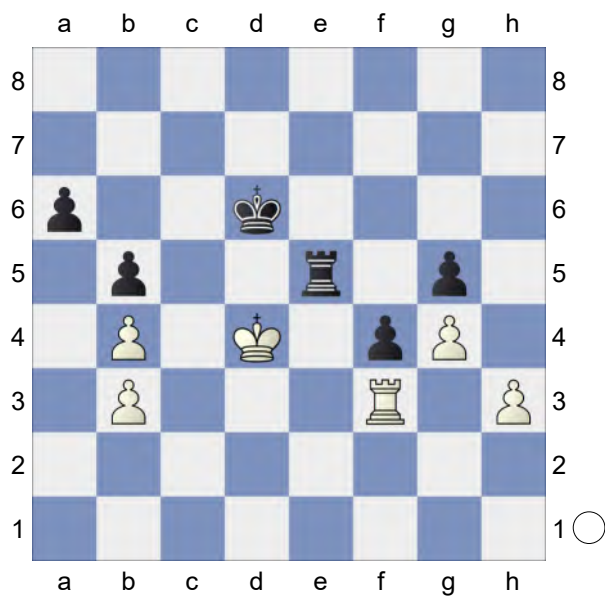


56.Kd4! = Now White just keeps Black's king at bay, while the rook is protecting the weaknesses on b3 and h3. **56...Rc1 57.Ke4 Re1+ 58.Kd4 Rc1 59.Ke4 Ke6 60.Kd4 Rc2**

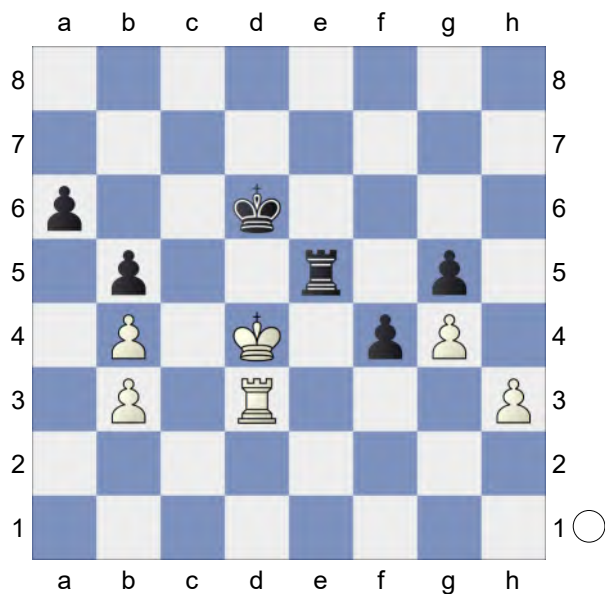


61.Ke4 Re2+ 62.Kd4 Kd6 63.Rf3 Re7 64.Rd3 Re8 65.Rf3 Re5

(Diagram)



**66.Rc3 Re6 67.Rf3 Re8 68.Rd3 Kc6
69.Rf3 Kd6 70.Rd3 Re5**



This game proved that 17...Rfd8 is a good alternative to 17...d2 and also promises equal chances. $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ (70) Wei Yi (2706)-So, W (2773) Wijk aan Zee NED 2016 [Mikhalevski, V] $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

141

□ Wei,Yi

■ Karthikeyan,Murali

Chengdu 132/137

[Stamenkovic,Zoran]

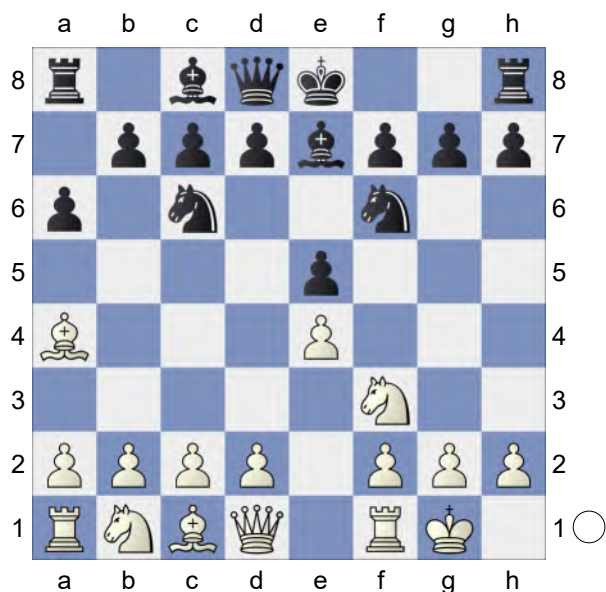
C95

2732

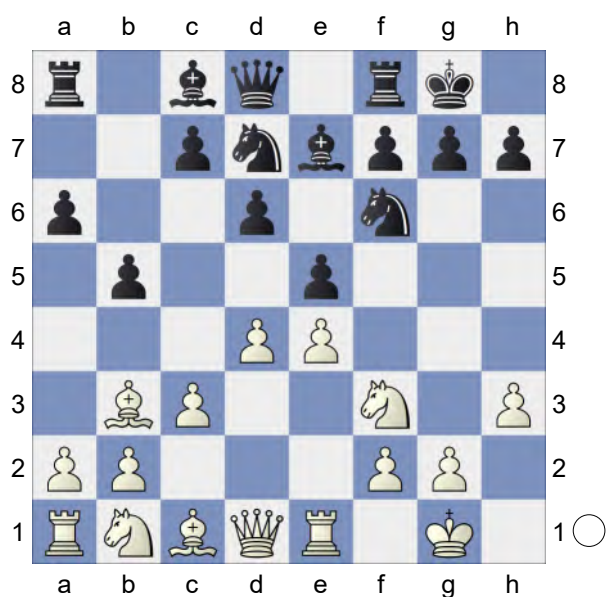
2585

2017

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4
Nf6 5.0-0 Be7



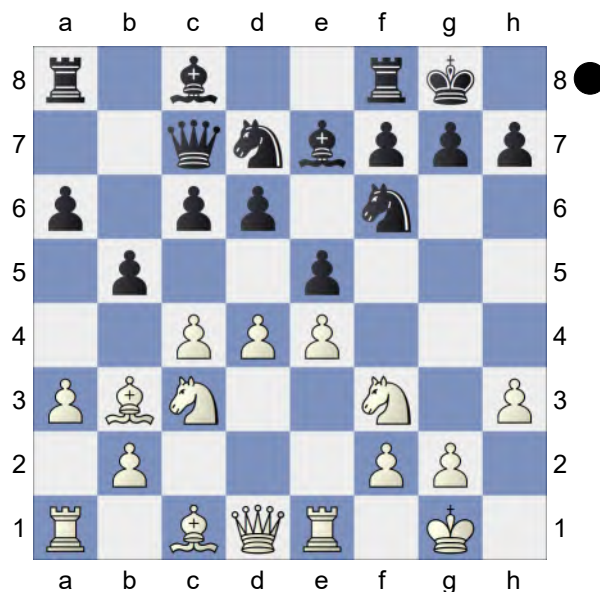
6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3
Nb8 10.d4 Nbd7



11.c4 c6 12.Nc3 Qc7
[12...b4 13.Ne2 Nxe4 14.Qc2 f5

15.c5+ d5 16.Be3 Kh8 17.Nxe5
Nxe5 18.dxe5 Bh4 19.Rf1∞]
[12...Bb7 - 13/324]

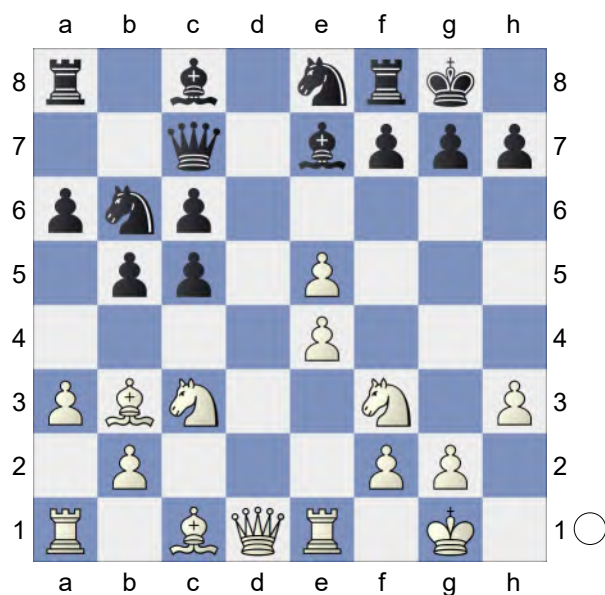
13.a3 Diagram



13...Nb6N

[13...Bb7 14.Bg5 h6 15.Bh4 Rfe8
16.Ba2 bxc4 17.Bxc4 d5 18.dxe5
Nxe4 19.Nxe4 Bxh4 20.Nd6 Rxe5
21.Nxe5 Qxd6 22.Nxd7 Qxd7=]

14.c5 dxc5 15.dxe5 Ne8



16.Ne2 g6

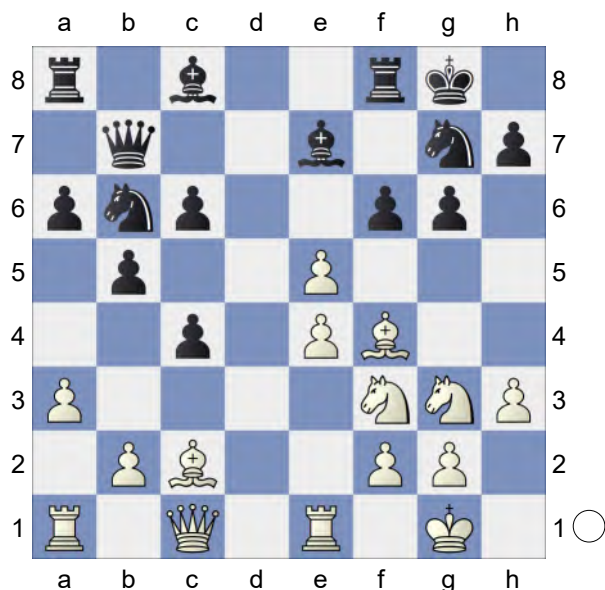
[16...a5 17.Be3 a4 18.Ba2 (18.Bc2
Nc4) 18...c4 19.Ned4∞]

17.Bf4 c4

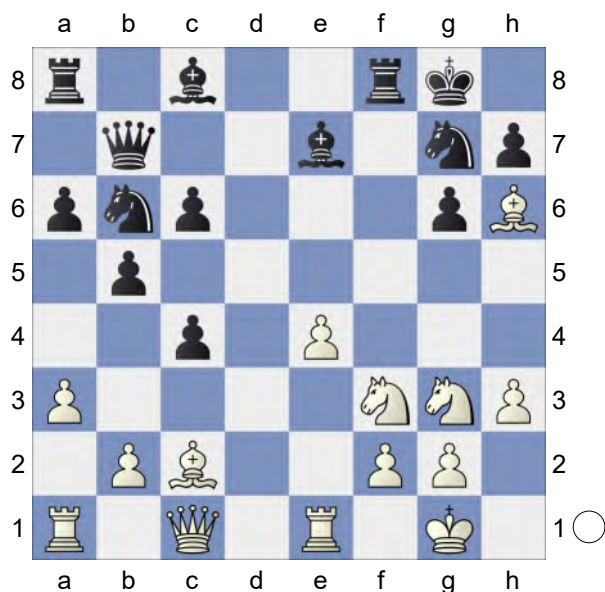
[17...Be6 18.Bxe6 fxe6 19.b3±]

18.Bc2 Qb7 19.Qc1 Ng7 20.Ng3 f6?

[20...Nd7 21.b3 cxb3 22.Bxb3 Nc5
23.Bc2±]



21.exf6 Bxf6 22.Bh6 Be7 Diagram

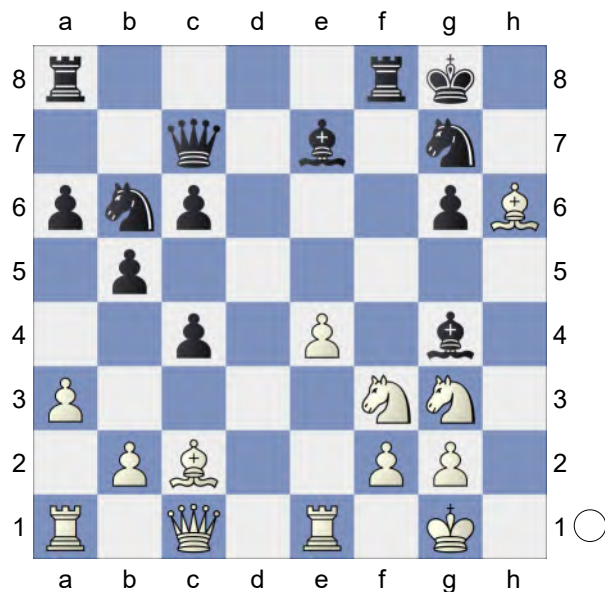


23.h4→ Qc7

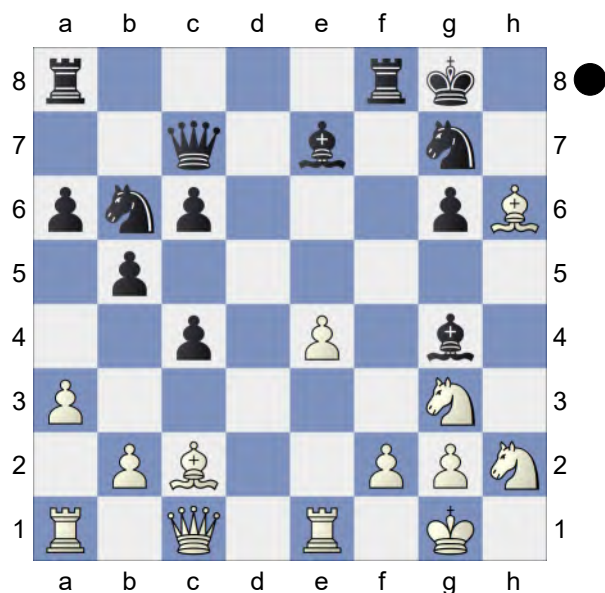
[♞23...Bg4 24.Ne5 Be6 (24...Bh5
25.Nxh5 Nxh5 26.Bxf8 Bxf8±)
25.h5±]

24.h5! Bg4 25.hxg6 hxg6

(Diagram)



26.Nh2 Diagram



26...Rxf2?

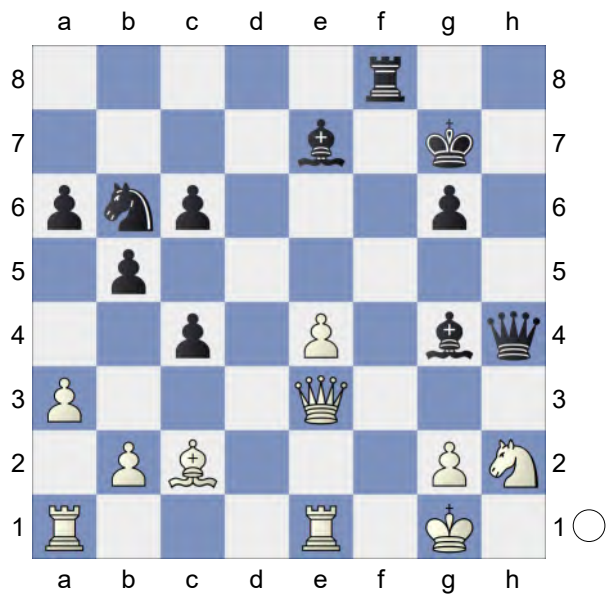
[26...Bc5 27.Be3 Bxe3 28.Qxe3 Rf4
29.a4 Raf8 30.axb5 axb5 31.Ra6
Nd7 32.Ra7 Qc8 33.Nxg4 Rxg4
34.e5+-]

27.Kxf2+-

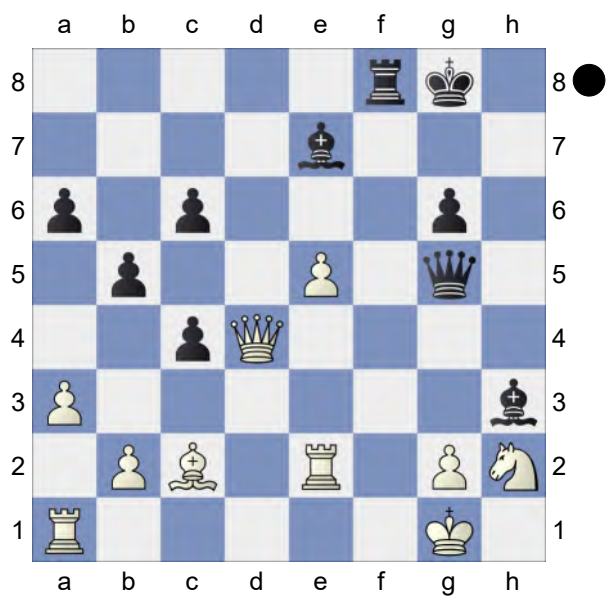
[27.Nxg4 Rxc2 28.Qxc2 Qxg3±]

**27...Rf8+ 28.Kg1 Qxg3 29.Qe3 Qh4
30.Bxg7 Kxg7**

(Diagram)



31.Qxb6 Qg5 32.Qd4+ Kg8 33.e5
 [33.Nxg4? Bc5]
33...Bh3 34.Re2



1-0

324

□ Wei,Yi

■ Anand,Viswanathan

Leon (m/2-rapid) 129/170

[Stamenkovic,Zoran]

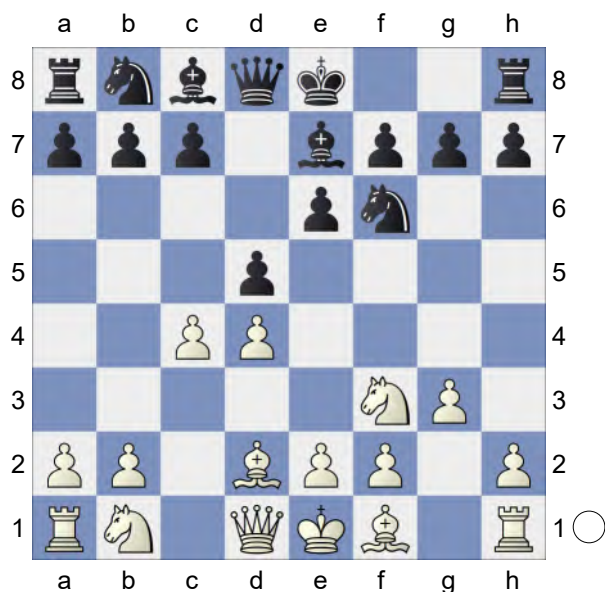
E11

2694

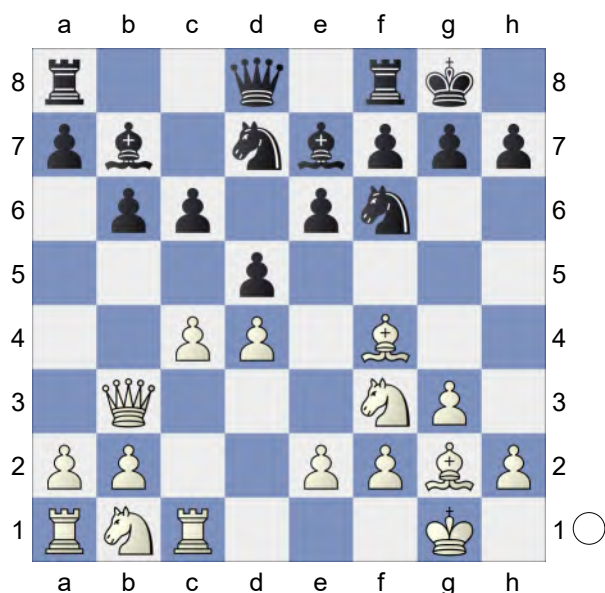
2770

2016

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3
Bb4+ 5.Bd2 Be7



6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0 Nbd7 8.Qb3 c6
9.Rc1 b6
[9...Ne4 - 49/(581)]
10.Bf4 Bb7



11.cxd5 Nxd5 12.Nc3 c5 13.Nxd5
Bxd5 14.Qa4N

[14.Qd3]

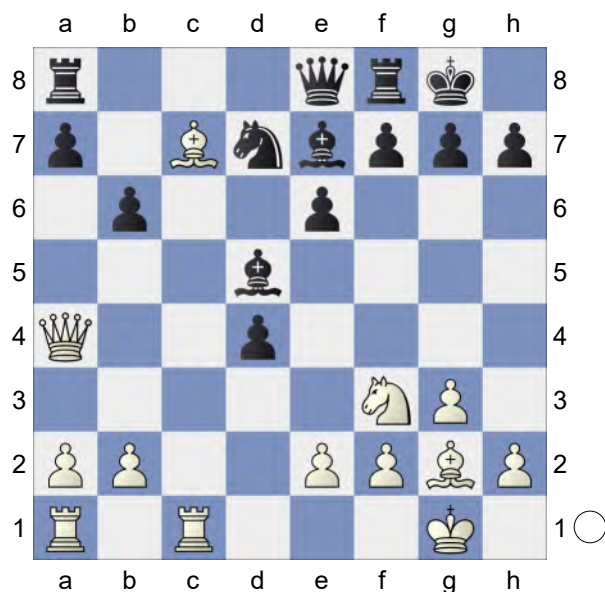
14...cxd4

[14...a5 15.Qc2 Nf6 16.dxc5 Bxc5
17.Ne5 Bxg2 18.Kxg2 Qd5+ 19.f3=]

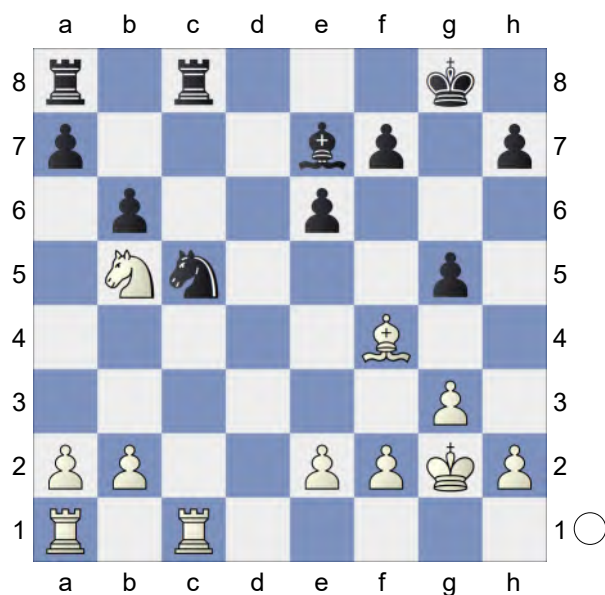
15.Bc7

[15.Qxd4 Bf6 16.Qd2 Nc5=]

15...Qe8



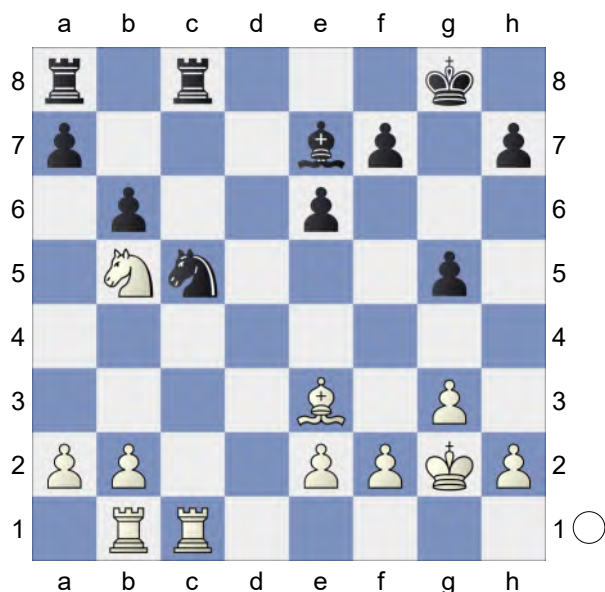
16.Nxd4 Bxg2 17.Kxg2 Nc5 18.Qxe8
Rfxe8 19.Nb5 Rec8 20.Bf4 g5



21.Be3 Bf6

[21...a6 22.Nd4 Na4 23.Nc6 Bf6

24.Bd4 Kg7=]
22.Rab1 Be7?! Diagram



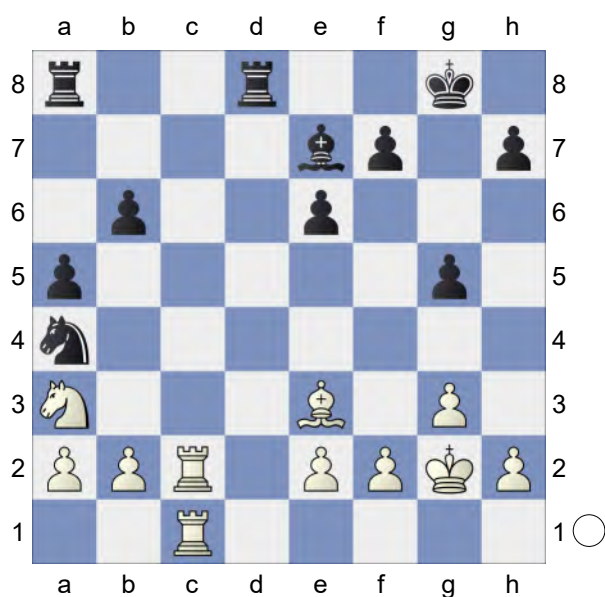
23.Rc2?!

[23.b4! Ne4 24.Rxc8+ Rxc8
 25.Nxa7

A) 25...Rc2 26.a3 Nd2 (26...Nc3
 27.Rc1±; 26...Ra2 27.Bxb6 Rxa3
 28.Nc6±) 27.Bxd2 Rxd2 28.Kf1±;

B) 25...Ra8 26.Bxb6 Nc3 27.Rb3
 Nd5 28.Nc6±]

23...a5 24.Rbc1 Rd8 25.Na3 Na4



26.Nc4

[26.Rc7 Bc5 27.Bxc5 Nxc5 28.Nc4

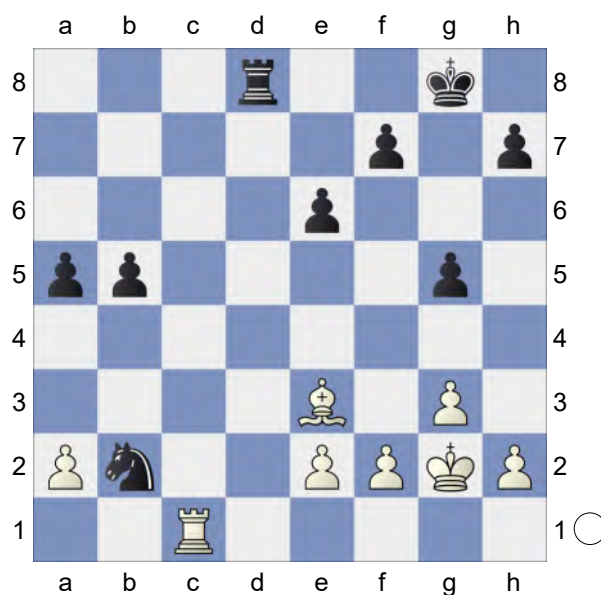
Rab8 29.Nxb6 (29.Nxa5 Rd2
 30.Nc4 Rxe2 31.Kf3 Nd3!∞)
 29...Nb3 30.axb3 Rxb6 31.R1c5
 Rd5 (31...h6 32.Rxa5 Rxb3
 33.Raa7 Rf8 34.Rab7 Rxb7
 35.Rxb7±) 32.Rxd5 exd5 33.Rc5 h6
 34.Rxd5 Rxb3 35.Rxa5 Rxb2
 36.e3±]

26...b5 27.Ne5 Bf6 28.Nc6 Bxb2

29.Rxb2?!

[29.Rb1±]

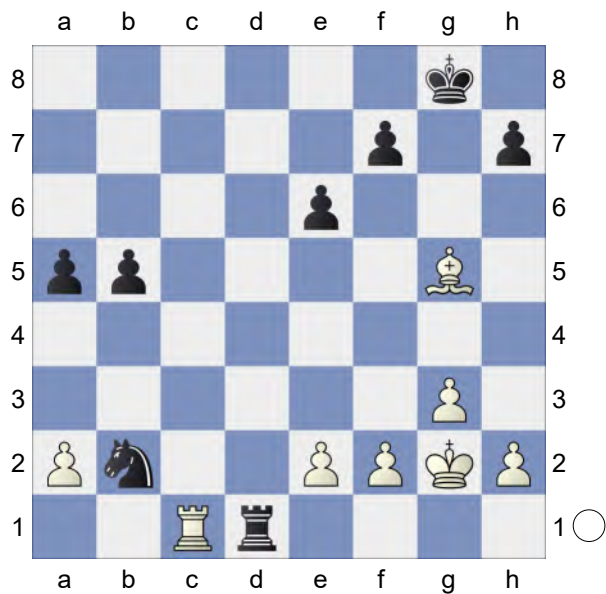
29...Nxb2 30.Nxd8 Rxd8



31.Bxg5 Rd1? Diagram

[31...Rd5 32.Bf6 Nc4 33.a4±]

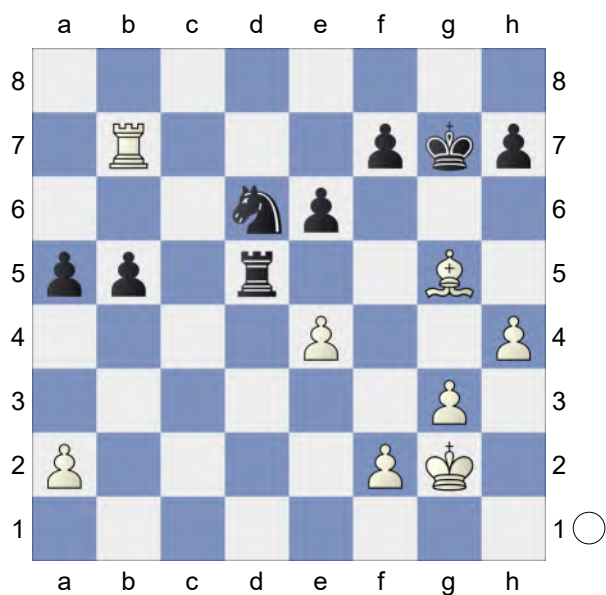
(Diagram)



32.Rc7?

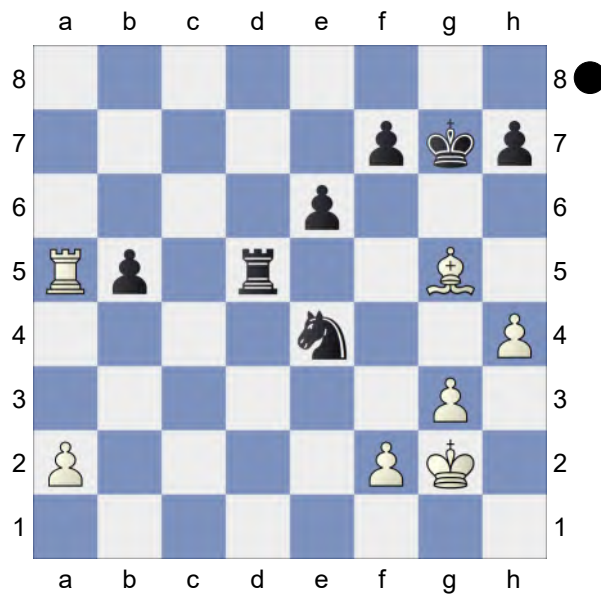
[32.Rxd1 Nxd1 33.Bf6 (X d1) b4
34.Kf1 Nc3 35.Bxc3 bxc3 36.Ke1+-]

**32...Kg7= 33.Rb7 Rd5 34.h4 Nc4
35.e4 Nd6**



36.Ra7 Nxe4 37.Rxa5

(Diagram)



1/2-1/2

38

□ So, Wesley

■ Wei, Yi

129/105 Bilbao

[Stamenkovic, Zoran]

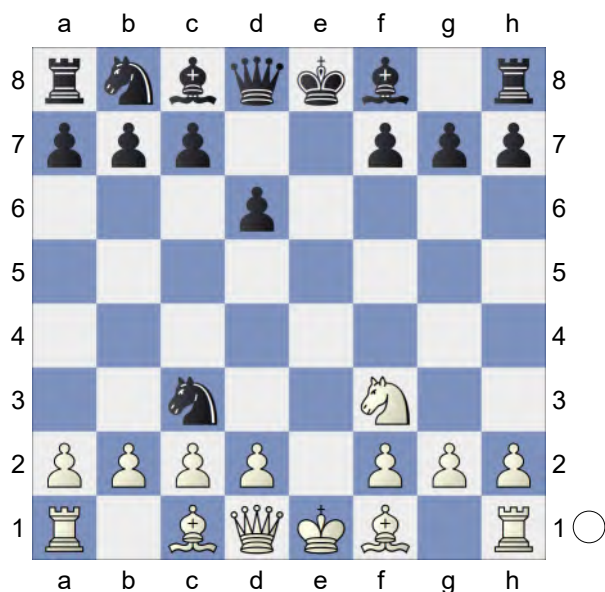
C42

2770

2696

2016

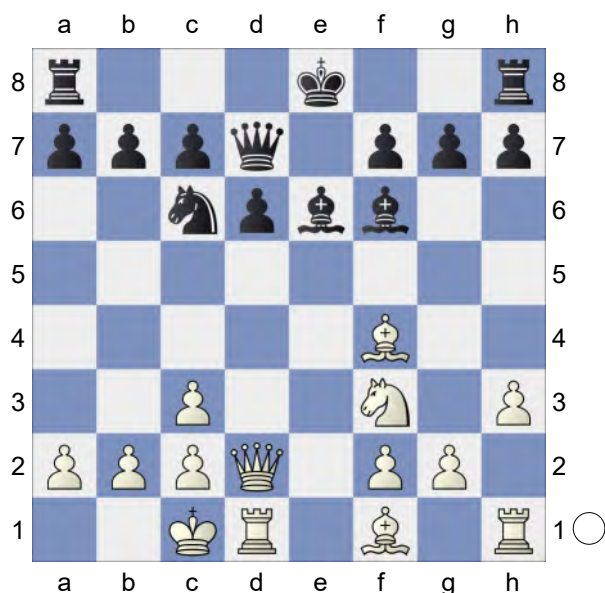
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3
Nxe4 5.Nc3 Nxc3



6.dxc3 Nc6 7.Bf4 Be7 8.Qd2 Be6
9.0-0-0 Qd7 10.h3!?

[10.Kb1 - 104/(229)]

10...Bf6 Diagram

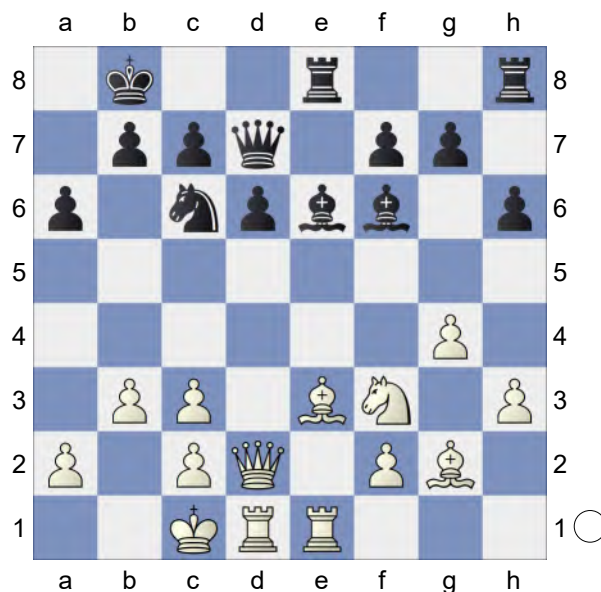


11.g4N

[11.Bg5]

11...h6 12.Bg2 0-0-0 13.b3 Rde8

14.Rhe1 Kb8 15.Be3 a6



16.Ng1 g5?!

[16...h5 17.g5 Bd8∞]

17.Ne2 h5

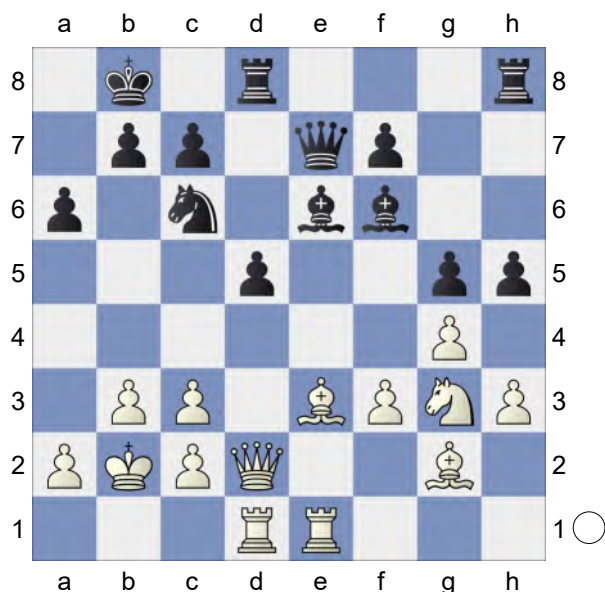
[17...Be5 18.f4 gxf4 19.Nxf4 Bxf4
20.Bxf4 h5 21.gxh5 Rxh5∞]

18.f3 Qe7 19.Ng3 d5 20.Kb2 Rd8?!

Diagram

[20...hxcg4 21.fxcg4 Rd8 22.Qf2±
(22.Nf5!? Bxf5 23.Ba7+ Kxa7
24.Rxe7 Nxe7 25.gxf5 c6±)]

(Diagram)



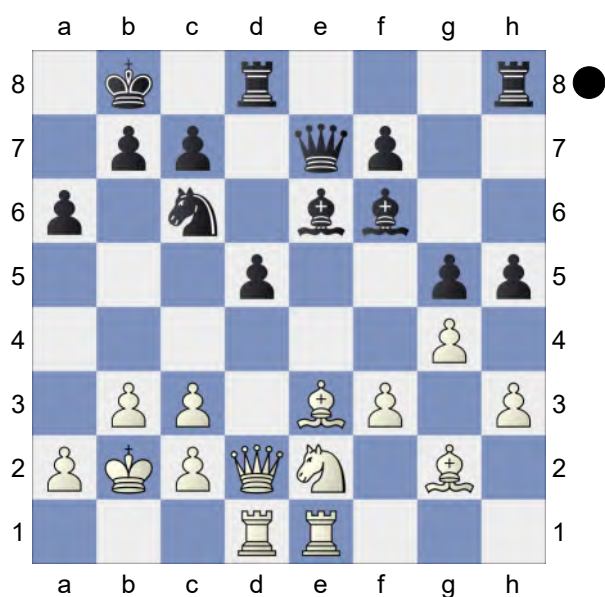
21.Ne2? Diagram

[21.Nxh5! d4 22.cxd4

A) 22...Rxh5 23.gxh5 Nxd4 24.c3±;

B) 22...Bxd4+ 23.Bxd4 Nxd4 24.Qe3 Nb5 (24...Qa3+ 25.Kxa3 Nxc2+ 26.Kb2 Nxe3 27.Rxd8+ Rxd8 28.Rxe3+-) 25.a4±;

C) 22...Nxd4 23.Nxf6 Nb5 24.Qc1 Qxf6+ 25.c3±]



21...Rhe8 22.Nd4 Nxd4 23.cxd4

[23.Bxd4 c5 24.Bxf6 Qxf6 25.gxh5

Rh8 26.Qf2 d4 27.cxd4 Rxd4 28.Rxd4 Qxd4+ 29.Qxd4 cxd4 30.Re5 Rxh5 31.f4 Bxh3 32.Bf3±]

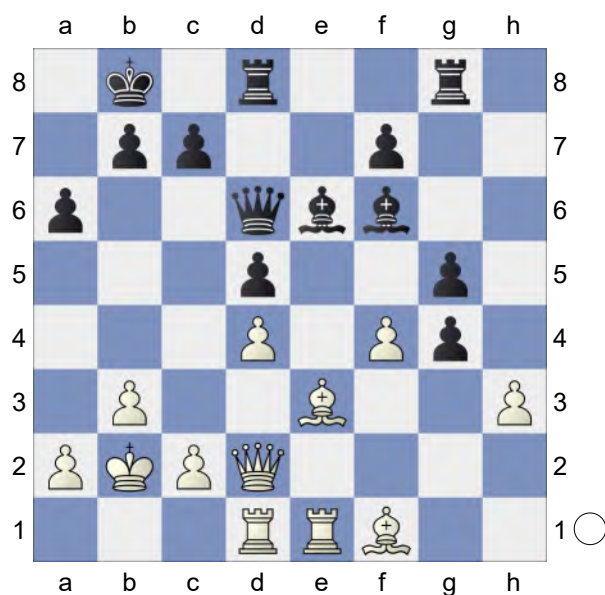
23...Rg8 24.Bf1 Qd6 25.f4?!

[25.gxh5!

A) 25...Qg3 26.Be2 Qh4 (26...Qxh3? 27.Rh1 Qg3 28.Rdg1 Qd6 29.Bxg5±) 27.f4↑;

B) 25...Be7 26.Bd3 Bxh3 27.Rh1 Qd7 28.Rde1±]

25...hxg4

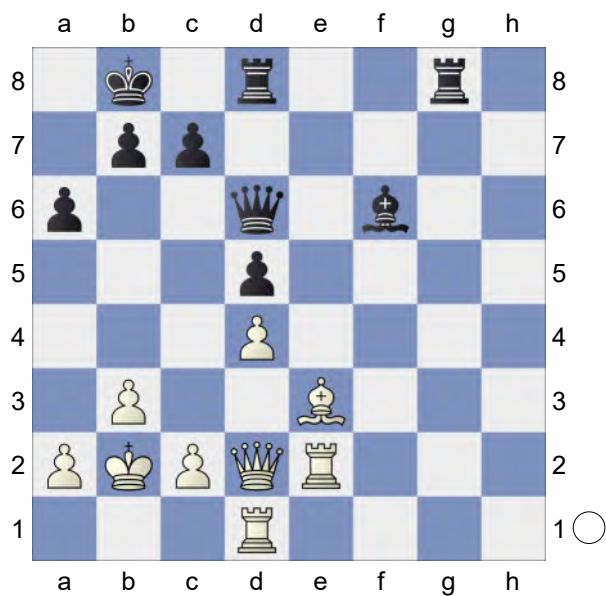


26.fxg5 Be7 27.hxg4 Bxg4 28.Be2 Bxe2 29.Rxe2 f6 30.gxf6

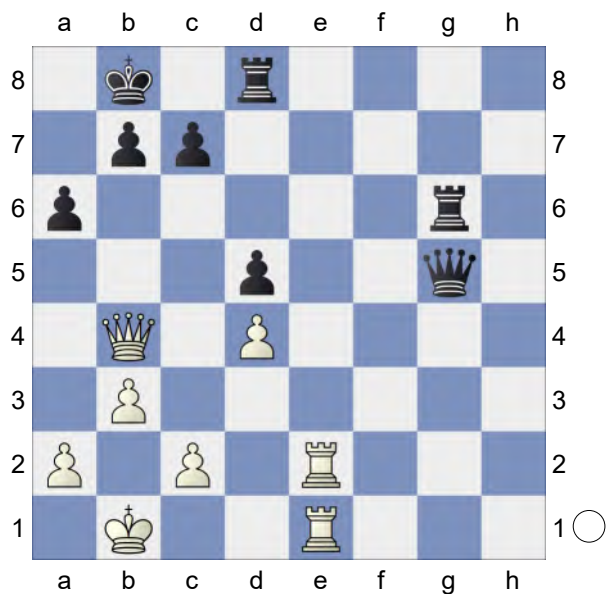
[30.Bf4? Qa3+]

30...Bxf6=

(Diagram)

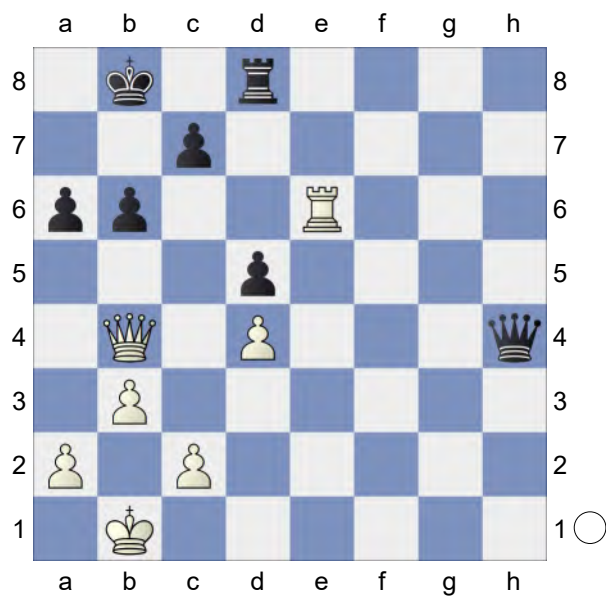


**31.Bf4 Qd7 32.Rde1 Qg7 33.Kb1
Bg5 34.Bxg5 Qxg5 35.Qb4 Rg6**

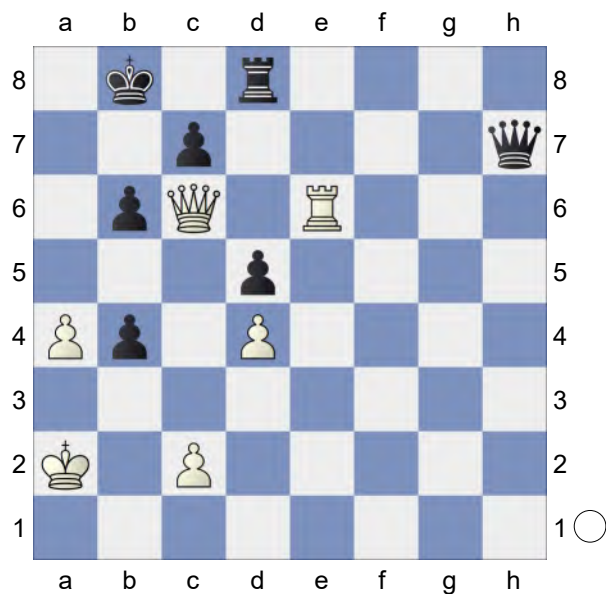


**36.Re5 Qh4 37.Re8 Rgd6 38.R1e7
Rxe8 39.Rxe8+ Rd8 40.Re6 b6**

(Diagram)

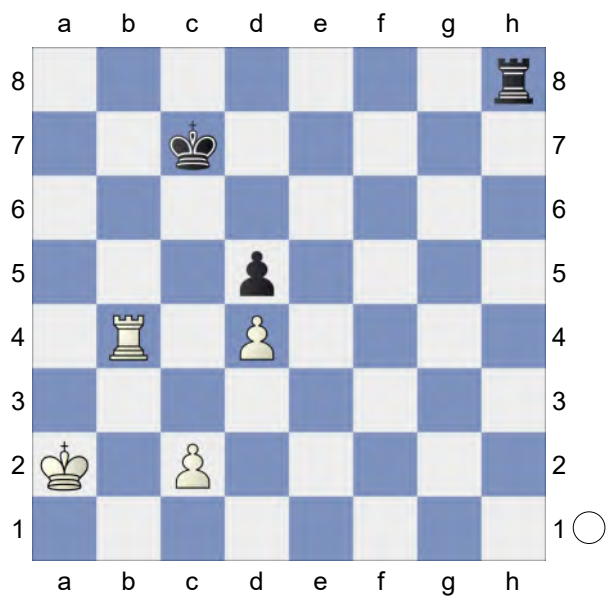


**41.a4 a5 42.Qc3 Rg8 43.Ka2 Qh7
44.Qc6 Rd8 45.b4!? axb4**

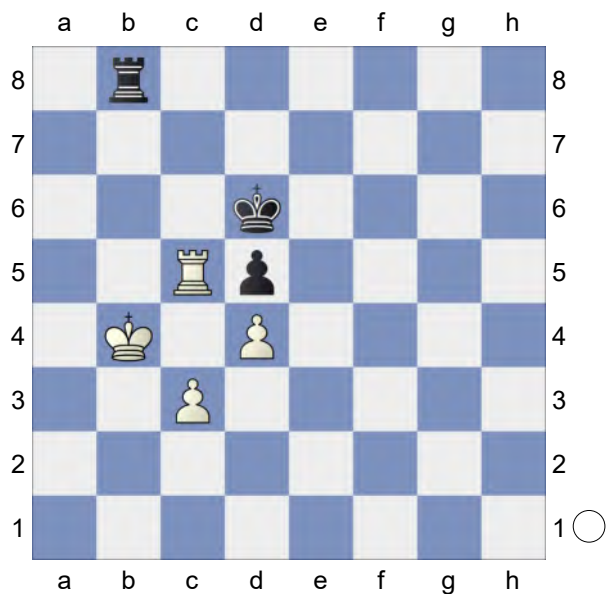


**46.a5 Qd7 47.axb6 Qxc6 48.Rxc6
cxb6 49.Rxb6+ Kc7 50.Rxb4 Rh8**

(Diagram)

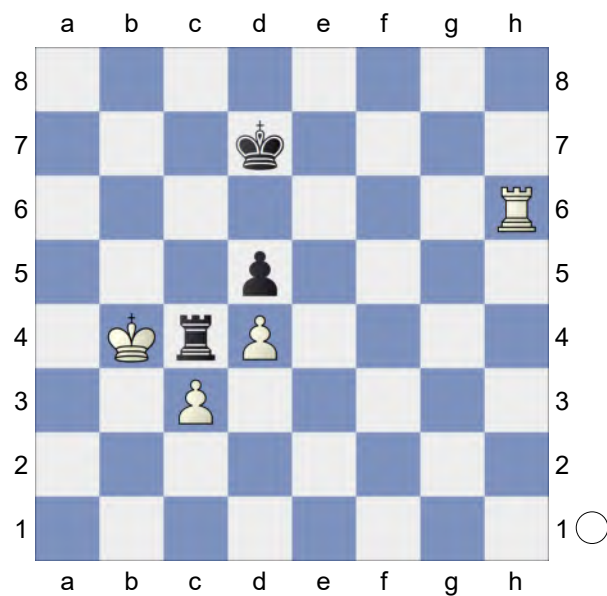


51.Rb5 Kc6 52.Rc5+ Kd6 53.Kb3 Rh4 54.c3 Rh8 55.Kb4 Rb8+

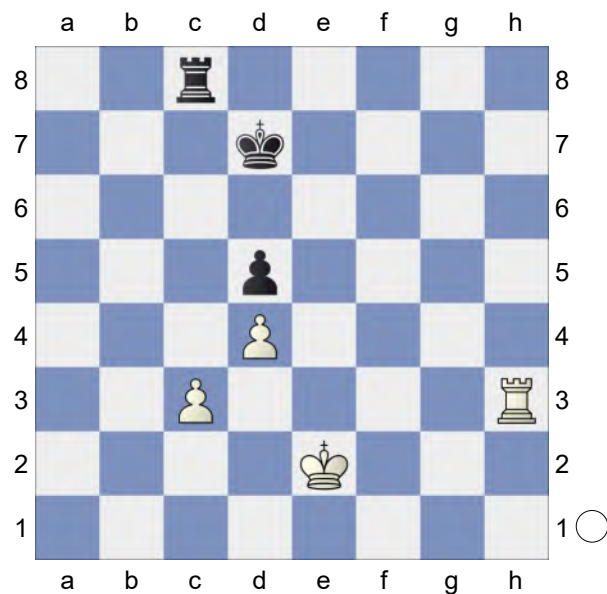


56.Rb5 Rc8 57.Rb6+ Kd7 58.Kb3 Ke7 59.Rh6 Kd7 60.Kb4 Rc4+

(Diagram)

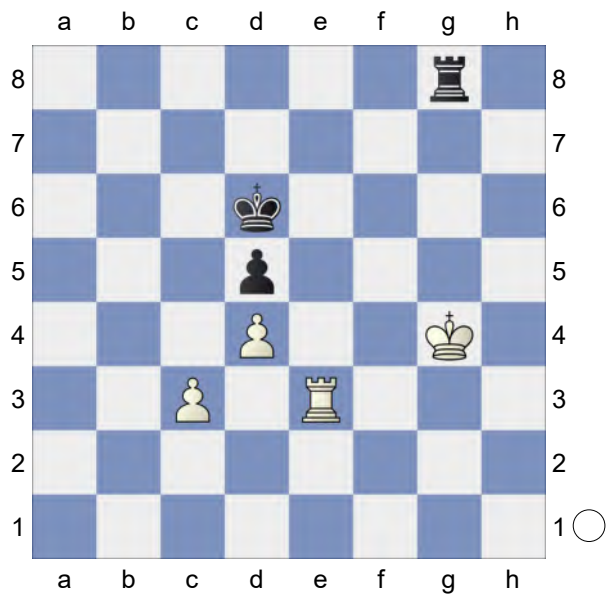


61.Kb3 Rc8 62.Kc2 Rg8 63.Rh3 Kd6 64.Kd3 Rc8 65.Ke2 Kd7

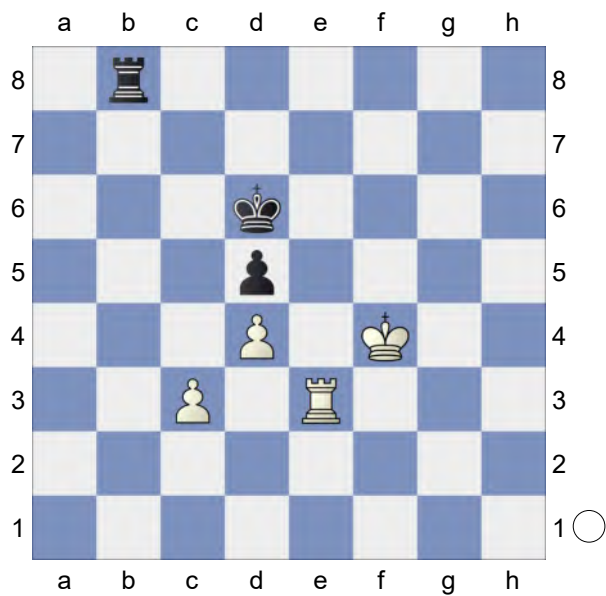


66.Re3 Kd6 67.Kf3 Rf8+ 68.Kg4 Rg8+ 69.Kf5 Rf8+ 70.Kg4 Rg8+

(Diagram)



71.Kf4 Rf8+ 72.Kg4 Rg8+ 73.Kf4 Rb8



1/2-1/2

306

□ Rapport, Richard

■ Wei, Yi

131/109 Wijk aan Zee

[Stamenkovic, Zoran]

C42

2702

2706

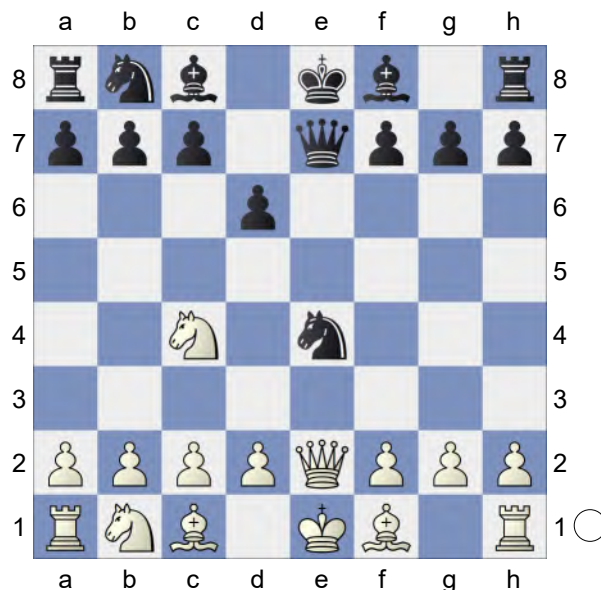
2017

1.e4 GM Mihail Marin Ftacnik, Lubomir Ftacnik, Lubomir Ftacnik, L Ftacnik, Lubomir: 'Stamenkovic, Zoran' GM Mihail Marin Ftacnik, Lubomir Ftacnik, Lubomir Ftacnik, Lubomir Ftacnik, L Ftacnik, Lubomir: 'Stamenkovic, Zoran' Ftacnik, Lubomir GM Mihail Marin Ftacnik, Lubomir Ftacnik, Lubomir Ftacnik, Lubomir Ftacnik, L Ftacnik, Lubomir: 'Stamenkovic, Zoran' **1...e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nc4** GM Mihail Marin: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Grandmaster Rapport, one of the most creative players in the world, loves to skate on the outer fringes of theory. This surprise move is harmless for Black, and the position feels rather lifeless, but just watch what happens in a game where both sides strive to complicate.' **4...Nxe4 5.Qe2**

[An alternative is 5.Nc3 GM Mihail Marin Nxc3 6.bxc3 (after 6.dxc3 d5 7.Ne3 c6 8.Qd4 Be6 9.f4 f6 10.c4 c5 11.Qd3 d4 12.Qe4 Qe7 13.Nd5 Bxd5 14.Qxe7+ Bxe7 15.cxd5 Nd7 16.c4 was S.Sulskis-M.Zulfugarli, Bydgoszcz 1999, and now dxc3 17.bxc3 0-0-0, the ending looks equal) 6...g6! (White was planning d2-d4 and Bd3, taking aim at Black's kingside; this move blunts that plan) 7.d4 Bg7 8.Bd3 0-0 9.0-0 Nd7 10.Qf3 Nb6 11.Ne3 c5! and Black has equalized, Ma.Carlsen-V.Kramnik, Nice (rapid) 2008. This game is annotated in 'The Petroff: Move by

Move'.]

5...Qe7



6.Ne3 Ftacnik, Lubomir: 'Playing against Rapport is not easy for any chessplayer as the Hungarian star loves unusual lines, original positions.' Ftacnik, L: 'Playing against Rapport is not easy for any chessplayer as the Hungarian star loves unusual lines, original positions.' Ftacnik, L: 'Playing against Rapport is not easy for any chessplayer as the Hungarian star loves unusual lines, original positions.' **6...Be6** Ftacnik, Lubomir: 'Black is sensibly deciding not to lose time on pawn moves like ...c6 and rather develop the pieces as quickly as possible.' GM Mihail Marin: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Wei Yi decides to develop.' Ftacnik, L: 'Black is sensibly deciding not to lose time on pawn moves like ...c6 and rather develop the pieces as quickly as possible.' Ftacnik, L: 'Black is sensibly deciding not to lose time on pawn moves like ...c6 and rather develop the pieces as quickly as possible.'

[GM Mihail Marin: 'Instead,' 6...c6 - 44/(373) Ftacnik, Lubomir:

'Stamenkovic,Zoran: '- 44/(373)" 7.c4 Ftacnik,L (7.Nc3 Ftacnik,L Nxc3 8.bxc3 Nd7 9.g3 g6 10.a4 Bg7 11.Ba3 c5 12.Bg2 0-0 13.0-0 Nf6 14.Rfe1 Qc7 15.d4 Rb8 16.Nc4 Be6 17.Ne3 b6 18.h3 Rfe8± 0-1 (59) Stevic,H (2592)-Sakaev,K (2619) Budva 2009; 7.g3 Ftacnik,L g6 8.Bg2 Nf6 9.b3 Bg7 10.Bb2 0-0 11.0-0 Re8 12.c4 Na6 13.Nc3 Be6 14.d3 Rad8 15.Rfe1 Nc7 16.Qd2 d5 17.cxd5 cxd5 18.Ne2± 1-0 (38) Berg, E (2592)-Rozenalis,E (2599) Warsaw 2008) 7...g6

A) 8.d3 Nc5 9.Bd2 Bg7 10.Bc3 f6! (10...Bxc3+ 11.Nxc3) 11.b3?! (11.d4 Ne4 12.Nd2 Nxc3 ½-½ Nevednichy,V (2566)-Saric,A (2472)/Djakovo 2005/) 11...0-0 12.d4 Ne4 13.Bb2 f5 14.Na3 Re8 15.0-0-0 f4 (15...Nxf2 16.Qxf2 Qxe3+ 17.Qxe3 Rxe3 18.d5±) 16.Nec2 Qf8 (16...Bh6!) 17.Re1 Re6 18.Qf3 Ng5 19.Qd1= 0-1 (33) Navara,D (2660)-Rabiega, R (2506) Germany 2006;

B) 8.Nc3 Na6 9.Nc2 GM Mihail Marin: 'was R.Felgaer-D.Fridman, Gibraltar 2010, where Black is fine after' Nf6 (9...Nxc3 GM Mihail Marin 10.dxc3 Nc5 .) 10.d4 Bf5 11.Bg5 0-0-0 12.0-0-0 h6 13.Bh4 g5 14.Bg3 Bg6 15.Qxe7 Bxe7 16.Bd3 Nh5 17.Rhe1 Bf8 18.Bxg6 fxg6 19.d5 Nxc3 20.hxc3 Bg7 21.dxc6 bxc6 22.Re6± ½-½ (43) Felgaer,R (2573)-Fridman,D (2654) Caleta 2010 ½-½ (43) Felgaer,R (2573)-Fridman,D (2654) Caleta 2010 Ftacnik,Lubomir: '½-½ (43) Felgaer,R (2573)-Fridman,D (2654) Caleta 2010']

[6...Nf6 - 72/(298) Ftacnik,Lubomir:

'Stamenkovic,Zoran: '- 72/(298)" 7.b3 Ftacnik,L (7.g3 Ftacnik,L g6 8.Bg2 Bg7 9.0-0 0-0 10.d4 Nc6 11.Qd1 Bd7 12.c4 Rae8 13.Nc3 Qd8 14.h3 ½-½ (14) Heberla,B (2551)-Iljin,A (2508) Pardubice 2006 ½-½ (14) Heberla,B (2551)-Iljin,A (2508) Pardubice 2006 Ftacnik,Lubomir: '½-½ (14) Heberla,B (2551)-Iljin,A (2508) Pardubice 2006') 7...Nc6 8.Bb2 Be6 9.g3 d5 10.Bg2 0-0-0 11.d4 h5 (11...Qd7 12.Nd2 g6 13.h3 Bh6 14.0-0-0 Rhe8 15.Qf3 Bf5 16.b4 Be4 17.Qxf6 Bxe3 18.fxe3 Bxg2 19.Rh2 Re6 20.Qh4 Be4± 1-0 (44) Murey,J (2496)-Harikrishna,P (2568) Pardubice 2002) 12.Nd2 g6 13.0-0-0 Bh6 14.Rhe1 Qb4 15.a3 Qb6 16.Kb1 Rhe8 17.Qd3 Ng4 18.Nxc3 hxc3 19.b4 a5 20.bxa5 Nxa5± 0-1 (41) Berg,E (2610)-Nielsen,P (2680) Helsingor 2009]

7.Nc3

[GM Mihail Marin: 'Others: a)' 7.g3 Ftacnik,L Nc6 8.Bg2 d5 9.0-0 0-0-0 10.c3 GM Mihail Marin: 'was G.Cabrilo-D.Marciano, Sabac 1998. I prefer Black's chances in the opposing wing attacks after' h5!?= Ftacnik,L: '=!?' Ftacnik,Lubomir: '=!?' '=!?' Ftacnik,L: '=!?' Ftacnik,Lubomir: '=!?' '=!?' '=!?' GM Mihail Marin: '!' GM Mihail Marin: '!' Ftacnik,L: '=!?' Ftacnik,Lubomir: '=!?' '=!?' '=!?' '=!?' (10...h5!?=; 10...f5 11.d3 Nf6 12.Nc2 Qd7 13.Bg5 Bd6 14.Nba3 h6 15.Bxf6 gxf6 16.Nb5 f4 17.Rae1 Bf7 18.Nxd6+ Qxd6 19.Qg4+ Kb8 20.Qxf4 Qxf4 21.gxf4 Rhg8= 0-1 (27) Cabrilo,G (2490)-Marciano,D (2485) Sabac 1998) 11.d4 Qd7 12.Re1 Nf6 13.Nd2 h4 14.Nf3 hxc3 15.fxc3 Bh3 16.Bh1 Rh5

17.Ng2 Re8 18.Qd1 Rxe1+ 19.Qxe1
Bd6 20.Nf4 Arribas,M-Wilkie,B/
WchJW U20 1988/EXT 88ch/1-0
(45)]

[GM Mihail Marin: 'b)' 7.d4 Ftacnik,L
d5 (7...g6 GM Mihail Marin 8.g3 d5
9.Bg2 Bg7 10.c3 0-0 11.f3 Nf6
and Black stood at least equal in R.
Blodig-F.Roeder, Tirschenreuth
1982.) 8.Nd2 Nd6 9.g3 Nd7 10.Bg2
Nf6 11.0-0 0-0-0 12.Re1 c6 13.b3
g6 14.c4 Bg7 15.Ba3 Rhe8
16.Nxd5 Nxd5 17.cxd5 cxd5 18.Nf3
Kb8 19.Ne5 Qc7 20.Rac1±
1-0 (30) Kengis,E (2565)-Fassl,E
(2255) Vienna 1994]

7...Nf6 Ftacnik,Lubomir: 'Wei is sensibly
declining to help the opponent with the
opening of the position. The lesser evil
may well be the loss of a tempo with the
knight retreat.' GM Mihail Marin: '!? '!?'
GM Mihail Marin: 'Cyrus Lakdawala:
'Black wants to complicate.'" Ftacnik,L:
'Wei is sensibly declining to help the
opponent with the opening of the
position. The lesser evil may well be the
loss of a tempo with the knight retreat. '
Ftacnik,L: 'Wei is sensibly declining to
help the opponent with the opening of
the position. The lesser evil may well be
the loss of a tempo with the knight
retreat. '

[7...Nxc3 GM Mihail Marin 8.bxc3 g6
is even.]

8.g3N Ftacnik,Lubomir: 'Stamenkovic,
Zoran: 'N'

[8.d4 Ftacnik,Lubomir: 'Stamenkovic,
Zoran' d5=]

[8.g4 Ftacnik,L Nc6 9.g5 Ng4
10.Ned5 Qd7 11.Nb5 0-0-0
12.Ndxc7 Bf5]

8...Nc6 9.Bg2 Qd7 GM Mihail Marin:
'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'With this move Black

unravels his kingside and prepares for
queenside castling."

[9...0-0-0 Ftacnik,L 10.Bxc6 bxc6
11.Qa6+ Kb8 12.Qxc6 d5 13.d4±]

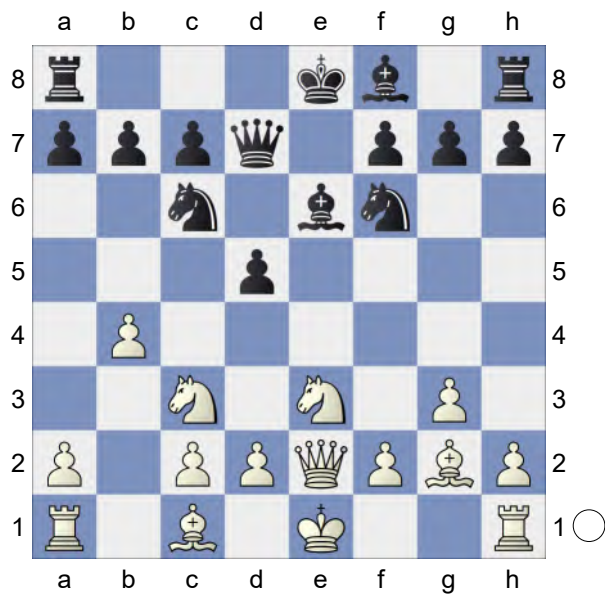
10.b4 Ftacnik,L: '!? 'Ftacnik,Lubomir: '!?'
'!? 'Ftacnik,L: '!? 'Ftacnik,Lubomir: '!?'
'!? '!? 'Ftacnik,Lubomir: 'White is
fighting for the initiative with the help of
this original pawn advance on the
queenside.' GM Mihail Marin: '!' '!' GM
Mihail Marin: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!?'
Cyrus Lakdawala: 'The ever-imaginative
Rapport attempts to discourage
queenside castling with this idea.'
Ftacnik,L: '!? 'Ftacnik,Lubomir: '!? '!?'
'!? '!? 'Ftacnik,Lubomir: 'White is
fighting for the initiative with the help of
this original pawn advance on the
queenside.' GM Mihail Marin: '!' Ftacnik,
L: '!? 'Ftacnik,Lubomir: '!? '!? 'Ftacnik,
L: 'White is fighting for the initiative
with the help of this original pawn
advance on the queenside.' Ftacnik,L:
'White is fighting for the initiative with
the help of this original pawn advance
on the queenside.'

[It looks better than 10.0-0
GM Mihail Marin 0-0-0 11.f4 Bh3
12.d3?! (White should exchange
bishops and follow up with Ncd5), as
in T.Horvath-W.Kastner, Austrian
League 2017, where Black has a
close to winning position after Bxg2
13.Qxg2 d5 (threatening ...d5-d4)
14.Ncd1 h5 . His attack is going
strong, while White's is stillborn.]

10...d5

[10...Nxb4 Ftacnik,L 11.Rb1 d5
12.a3 d4 13.axb4 dxe3 14.fxe3±]

(Diagram)



GM Mihail Marin: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Threatening ...d5-d4.' **11.b5 Nd4** Ftacnik,Lubomir: 'The first really tough decision for the second player as there was nothing wrong with a more restrained retreat 11... ♘e7.' Ftacnik,L: 'The first really tough decision for the second player as there was nothing wrong with a more restrained retreat 11... ♘e7.' Ftacnik,L: 'The first really tough decision for the second player as there was nothing wrong with a more restrained retreat 11... ♘e7.'

[11...Ne7 Ftacnik,L 12.Na4 a6 13.c4 Qd6=]

12.Qd3 c5 13.0-0

[GM Mihail Marin: 'After' 13.bxc6 Ftacnik,L Nxc6 14.Nexd5 Nxd5 15.Nxd5 0-0-0 16.Nf4 Qxd3 17.cxd3 Bf5= GM Mihail Marin: ', chances look balanced.']

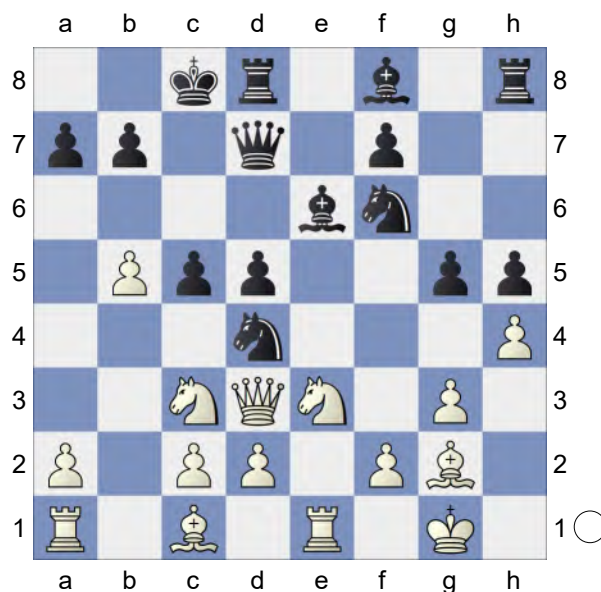
13...0-0-0 14.Re1 h5 GM Mihail Marin: '!' '!' 15.h4 g5?! Diagram

[GM Mihail Marin: 'Objectively, Black's best continuation was' ♖15...Nf5 Ftacnik,Lubomir: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: '♖' Ftacnik,Lubomir: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: '♖' GM Mihail Marin: '!' '!' GM

Mihail Marin: ', aiming to solve the problem of the d5-pawn. White's only way to try to avoid immediate equality is' Ftacnik,Lubomir: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: '♖' GM Mihail Marin: '!' GM Mihail Marin: ', aiming to solve the problem of the d5-pawn. White's only way to try to avoid immediate equality is'

A) 16.Ncxd5 GM Mihail Marin Nxd5 17.Bxd5 , but Black can retrieve the pawn with Nxh4! , leading to unclear play. One important point is that the intermediate 18.Bxe6? does not work due to geometrical reasons: (18.Be4 GM Mihail Marin Qxd3 19.cxd3 f5 20.Bh1 Ng6 21.Nc4 Bf7 is still about equal.) 18...Nf3+ 19.Kf1 Qxe6-+;

B) 16.b6 Ftacnik,L 16...axb6 17.Rb1 Nxe3 18.dxe3 c4 19.Qf1 Bc5=]



Ftacnik,L: '?' Ftacnik,Lubomir: '?' '?' Ftacnik,Lubomir: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: '?!' Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Diagram [#]' Diagram [#] Ftacnik,L: '?' Ftacnik,Lubomir: '?' '?' '?' Ftacnik,Lubomir:

'Stamenkovic,Zoran: '?' Stamenkovic, Zoran: 'Diagram [#]' Ftacnik,Lubomir: 'It is easy to dismiss this courageous idea with the help of a computer and some hindsight. Black is accepting a high degree of risk when a simple knight move was enough to maintain equality.' GM Mihail Marin: 'One of those moves which are hard to evaluate. Wei Yi must have thought that he had done everything right so far and, not seeing any constructive ways of slowly strengthening the position, decided that he could and should start forcing play. Hard to believe he calculated too much (if he had, he would have found the relatively obvious hole); it must have been more of a matter of intuition. Abstractly there are a few problems with his reasoning: 1) White did not do anything wrong either, so there is no reason to think he deserves such radical punishment. White's play was original, of course, but entirely sound. 2) After the introductory moves of the attack, a white knight will jump to d5, making the newly created chronic weakness on f6 and the relative vulnerability of the black king even more relevant.' GM Mihail Marin: 'One of those moves which are hard to evaluate. Wei Yi must have thought that he had done everything right so far and, not seeing any constructive ways of slowly strengthening the position, decided that he could and should start forcing play. Hard to believe he calculated too much (if he had, he would have found the relatively obvious hole); it must have been more of a matter of intuition. Abstractly there are a few problems with his reasoning: 1) White did not do anything wrong either, so there is no

reason to think he deserves such radical punishment. White's play was original, of course, but entirely sound. 2) After the introductory moves of the attack, a white knight will jump to d5, making the newly created chronic weakness on f6 and the relative vulnerability of the black king even more relevant. Cyrus Lakdawala: '?' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'This is a bit too radical.' Diagram [#] Ftacnik,L: '?' Ftacnik,Lubomir: '?' '?' '?' '?' Ftacnik, Lubomir: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: '?' Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Diagram [#]' Ftacnik,Lubomir: 'It is easy to dismiss this courageous idea with the help of a computer and some hindsight. Black is accepting a high degree of risk when a simple knight move was enough to maintain equality.' GM Mihail Marin: 'One of those moves which are hard to evaluate. Wei Yi must have thought that he had done everything right so far and, not seeing any constructive ways of slowly strengthening the position, decided that he could and should start forcing play. Hard to believe he calculated too much (if he had, he would have found the relatively obvious hole); it must have been more of a matter of intuition. Abstractly there are a few problems with his reasoning: 1) White did not do anything wrong either, so there is no reason to think he deserves such radical punishment. White's play was original, of course, but entirely sound. 2) After the introductory moves of the attack, a white knight will jump to d5, making the newly created chronic weakness on f6 and the relative vulnerability of the black king even more relevant.' Diagram [#] Ftacnik,L: '?' Ftacnik,Lubomir: '?' '?' Ftacnik,Lubomir: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: '?' Stamenkovic,

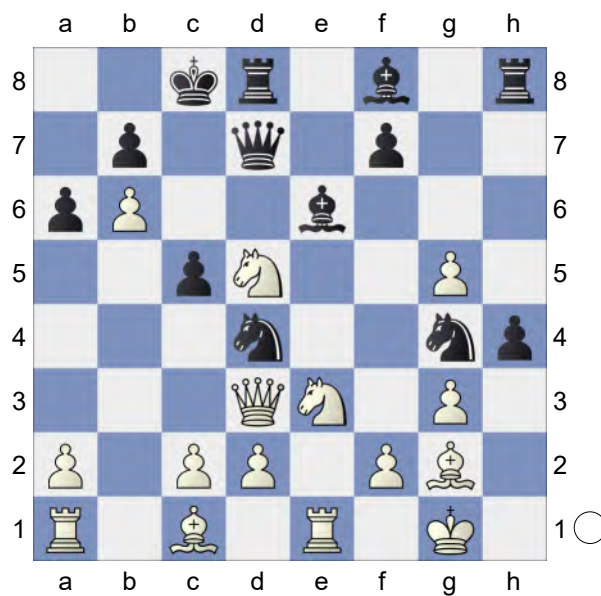
Zoran: 'Diagram [#]' Ftacnik,L: 'It is easy to dismiss this courageous idea with the help of a computer and some hindsight. Black is accepting a high degree of risk when a simple knight move was enough to maintain equality.' Ftacnik,L: 'It is easy to dismiss this courageous idea with the help of a computer and some hindsight. Black is accepting a high degree of risk when a simple knight move was enough to maintain equality.' **16.b6!** Ftacnik,Lubomir: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: '! GM Mihail Marin: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!

[GM Mihail Marin: 'Inserting this is no better nor worse than the immediate' 16.hxg5 Ftacnik,L Ftacnik,L GM Mihail Marin: '. Rapport must have taken Black's last move as an open challenge of honour and felt obliged reacting accordingly with an equally violent move.' Ng4 17.b6±]

16...a6

[GM Mihail Marin: 'If GM Mihail Marin: 'If Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Not' 16...axb6 GM Mihail Marin: '?' '?' GM Mihail Marin: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: ', since' 17.hxg5 Ne4 (17...Ng4 GM Mihail Marin 18.Ncxd5 Black has no time to continue the attack due to the threat Nxb6+. GM Mihail Marin: 'Black has no time to continue the attack due to the threat Nxb6+. Cyrus Lakdawala: 'is completely lost for Black.') 18.Nexd5+- Ftacnik,L: '±' Ftacnik,Lubomir: ' ±' '±' Ftacnik,Lubomir: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: '+-' Ftacnik,L: '±' Ftacnik,Lubomir: ' ±' '±' '±' Ftacnik,Lubomir: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: '+-' Ftacnik,L: ' ±' Ftacnik,Lubomir: ' ±' '±' '±' '±' Ftacnik,Lubomir: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: '+-']

17.hxg5 Ng4 18.Ncxd5 h4 Diagram



Ftacnik,Lubomir: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Diagram [#]' Diagram [#] Ftacnik,Lubomir: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Diagram [#]' GM Mihail Marin: 'Wei Yi must have evaluated this completely chaotic position too optimistically. On the other hand, White's practical problems are mainly connected with identifying Black's real threats.' **19.Nc7?** Ftacnik,Lubomir: 'Rapport was surely happy with his achievements as the position has opened up to his advantage. Unfortunately there was no guarantee that he would solve the tactical part correctly. In two moves the advantage will turn into grief...' GM Mihail Marin: 'Rapport either underestimated Black's answer or already planned (and overestimated) his own next move.' Ftacnik,L: 'Rapport was surely happy with his achievements as the position has opened up to his advantage. Unfortunately there was no guarantee that he would solve the tactical part correctly. In two moves the advantage will turn into grief...' Ftacnik,L: 'Rapport was surely happy with his achievements as the position has opened up to his

advantage. Unfortunately there was no guarantee that he would solve the tactical part correctly. In two moves the advantage will turn into grief...'

[GM Mihail Marin: 'But the simple' GM Mihail Marin: 'But the simple Cyrus Lakdawala: 'After'' 19.Nxg4! GM Mihail Marin: 'would have completely taken the steam out of Black's attack, leaving him with a material deficit and an exposed king.' Bxd5 (GM Mihail Marin: 'Black's attack's unsoundness is revealed after' 19...Bxg4 Ftacnik,L Ftacnik,L GM Mihail Marin: 'when White's strongest is the calm developing move' 20.Bb2 GM Mihail Marin: ', preparing to eliminate Black's most active piece and expose the enemy king. Unfortunately Black cannot consolidate with 20...Bg7 due to 21. Re7. And if' hxg3 21.Bxd4 cxd4 22.Qc4+ Kb8 23.Qc7+ Ka8 24.Nf6+- GM Mihail Marin: ', the hanging g4-bishop and b7-pawn decide.') 20.Nf6 GM Mihail Marin: 'The forced sequence initiated by this move may not be that easy to calculate and asses over the board. This may be the reason why both players underestimated 19.Nxg4!' Bxg2 21.Nxd7 Nf3+ 22.Qxf3 Bxf3 23.Bb2 GM Mihail Marin: 'Not the only good move.' Rh5 24.Nxf8 hxg3 (24...Rxf8 GM Mihail Marin 25.Bf6± White has a material and positional advantage. Black cannot open the h-file without helping White by clearing the f2-square for his king. Black's king is in fact in a far worse situation.) 25.fxg3 Rxf8 26.Re7± (26.Bf6 (GM Mihail Marin) , Black is two pawns down and busted.)]

[Humanly speaking it is not easy to understand that after 19.gxh4? GM Mihail Marin Rxh4 White is completely lost. The immediate threat is ...Ne5 (since the rook takes the e4-square away from the queen) and if 20.Nxg4 Bxd5 the king is desperately weak, for instance 21.Ne5 Bxg2 22.Nxd7 Bf3-+]

19...h3! Ftacnik,Lubomir: 'Stamenkovic, Zoran: '! Ftacnik,Lubomir: 'Stamenkovic, Zoran: '! GM Mihail Marin: 'The same would follow against some other moves, such as 19.Bb2. With a knight on g4 the threat ...h3-h2 is very strong.' GM Mihail Marin: 'The same would follow against some other moves, such as 19.Bb2. With a knight on g4 the threat ...h3-h2 is very strong. Cyrus Lakdawala: 'EXERCISE (critical decision): White has 20 Bxb7+. Does the sacrifice work? If not, then what should he play?' **20.Bxb7+?** GM Mihail Marin: 'The second case of a premature attack, caused by either a Fata Morgana or the same symptom as on move 16: Rapport does not stand the idea of defending and decides to counterattack. But White does not even get a perpetual check with this sacrifice.' GM Mihail Marin: 'The second case of a premature attack, caused by either a Fata Morgana or the same symptom as on move 16: Rapport does not stand the idea of defending and decides to counterattack. But White does not even get a perpetual check with this sacrifice. Cyrus Lakdawala: 'A once recumbent monster attempts to arise. White's attack is insufficiently energized for this to work. Tempting as it looks, the sacrifice is unsound.'

[GM Mihail Marin: 'Once again, White should have exchanged the

[Δ22.Rf1 Ftacnik,L: '!' Ftacnik,
Lubomir: '!' '!' Ftacnik,Lubomir:
'Stamenkovic,Zoran: ' Δ" Ftacnik,L: '!
Ftacnik,Lubomir: '!' '!' '!' Ftacnik,
Lubomir: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: ' Δ"
Ftacnik,L: '!' Ftacnik,Lubomir: '!' '!' '!'
'!' Ftacnik,Lubomir: 'Stamenkovic,
Zoran: ' Δ" Kd6 Ftacnik,L: '!' Ftacnik,
Lubomir: '!' '!' Ftacnik,L: '!' Ftacnik,
Lubomir: '!' '!' '!' Ftacnik,L: '!' Ftacnik,
Lubomir: '!' '!' '!' '!' 23.Qb7 Bg7♣

Ftacnik,Lubomir: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: '♠' 24.Kh1 Ftacnik,L Rb8 25.Qe4 Qc6♠]

[If 22.Qa4+ (GM Mihail Marin) simplest is Kd6 , even though grabbing the b-pawn also works.]

[After 22.b7+ GM Mihail Marin Kxc7 23.Qa5+ Kd6 24.Qb6+ Ke7 25.Nxg4 Qd5 White has no defence to the mating threat on g2, since 26.Ne3 allows h2+ 27.Kf1 , when Black can choose from no less than three mates: Qh1# (27...h1Q#; and 27...h1R# .)]

22...Bxg4 GM Mihail Marin: 'White does not have enough forces to sustain the attack, and what's worse, his king is also in lethal danger. Rapport will force the black monarch to advance to the centre, but this will bring him only platonic consolation.' GM Mihail Marin: 'White does not have enough forces to sustain the attack, and what's worse, his king is also in lethal danger. Rapport will force the black monarch to advance to the centre, but this will bring him only platonic consolation. Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Threatening ...h3-h2+ and ...Nf3+.'

23.b7+ Ftacnik,Lubomir: 'White feels correctly that he can afford to try any idea in a completely lost position.' Ftacnik,L: 'White feels correctly that he can afford to try any idea in a completely lost position.' Ftacnik,L: 'White feels correctly that he can afford to try any idea in a completely lost position.'

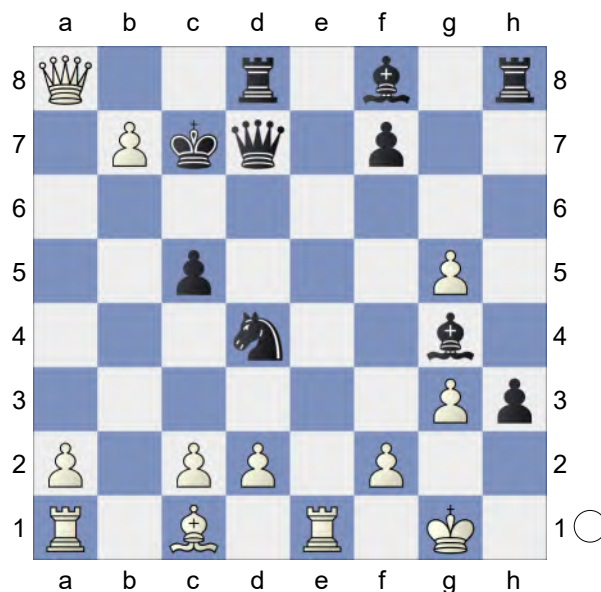
[GM Mihail Marin: 'After' 23.Qa4+ Ftacnik,L Kd6 GM Mihail Marin: 'White's checks run out.' 24.Qxd7+ Kxd7-+]

23...Kxc7-+ Ftacnik,Lubomir: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran: '-+' **24.Qa5+ Kb8** GM Mihail Marin: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'It

isn't a draw. Black is simply repeating moves to gain time." **25.Qa8+**

[25.Rb1? Ftacnik,L h2+ 26.Kg2 Bf3+ 27.Kf1 h1Q#]

25...Kc7



26.Qa5+ GM Mihail Marin: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Rapport is unremitting in his intent to deliver the non-existent checkmate.'" **26...Kd6** Ftacnik,L: '!' Ftacnik,Lubomir: '!' '!' Ftacnik,L: '!' Ftacnik,Lubomir: '!' '!' '!' '!' Ftacnik,Lubomir: 'Wei was forced to admit that the king can not hide at the edge of the board and has to march to the absolute centre of the board.' GM Mihail Marin: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Black correctly doesn't fear a queen check on b6.'" Ftacnik,L: '!' Ftacnik,Lubomir: '!' '!' '!' '!' Ftacnik,Lubomir: 'Wei was forced to admit that the king can not hide at the edge of the board and has to march to the absolute centre of the board.' Ftacnik,L: '!' Ftacnik,Lubomir: '!' '!' Ftacnik,L: 'Wei was forced to admit that the king can not hide at the edge of the board and has to march to the absolute centre of the board. ' Ftacnik,L: 'Wei was forced to admit that

the king can not hide at the edge of the board and has to march to the absolute centre of the board. ' **27.Qb6+ Kd5** GM Mihail Marin: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Even Stephen King might criticize Black's king position as being too scary. And you thought playing Petroff was a dull affair? When Adolf Anderssen and Paul Morphy drove their opponents' kings to d5 on a crowded board, we became accustomed to them forcing a mate. In this instance it is White's king that is in far greater danger while Black's king meanders along, totally immune to the scary threats around."

[GM Mihail Marin: 'This move is even stronger than '27...Nc6 Ftacnik,Lubomir: 'Stamenkovic,Zoran' 28.d3 GM Mihail Marin: '(threatening Bf4+)' (28.d4 h2+ 29.Kg2 h1Q+ 30.Rxh1 Rxh1 31.Bf4+ Ke6 32.Qb3+ Qd5+-) 28...h2+ 29.Kg2 h1Q+ (29...Be6! (GM Mihail Marin) (this shields Black's king and allows a safe haven on e7) 30.Bf4+ Ke7 , after which White is losing, yet can fight on.) 30.Rxh1 Rxh1 31.Kxh1 (31.Bf4+ Ke6+-) 31...Bf3+ 32.Kh2 Bg7-+]

28.Re3

[GM Mihail Marin: 'Pity he did not go for' GM Mihail Marin: 'Pity he did not go for Cyrus Lakdawala: 'b)" 28.c4+ Ftacnik,L Kxc4 GM Mihail Marin: '-+' '-+' GM Mihail Marin: ', when Qb3 does not mate.' GM Mihail Marin: '-+' GM Mihail Marin: ', when Qb3 does not mate.' 29.Kh2 (29.d3+ GM Mihail Marin Kd5 and White's checks run out.) 29...Rb8-+]

[White's "threats" are empty. Everything fails. For example: a)

28.b8Q GM Mihail Marin h2+ 29.Kg2 Bf3+ 30.Kf1 h1Q# .]

[c) 28.Kh2 GM Mihail Marin Nf3+ 29.Kh1 Nxe1 30.c4+ Ke4! 31.b8Q Rxb8 32.Qxb8 Qc6! (threatening awful discoveries on the h1-a8 diagonal 33.f3+ Kxf3 34.d4 (intending Qf4+ and also d4-d5, in case Black's king moves and makes a discovered check) cxd4 35.Kh2 (or 35.Qf4+ Ke2+ 36.Kh2 Qg2#) 35...Bd6! 36.Qxh8 Bxg3+ 37.Kg1 Ke2! and White is helpless to prevent mate.]

28...h2+ GM Mihail Marin: 'Black's turn to attack.' **29.Kh1 Qc6** GM Mihail Marin: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'The practical move;"

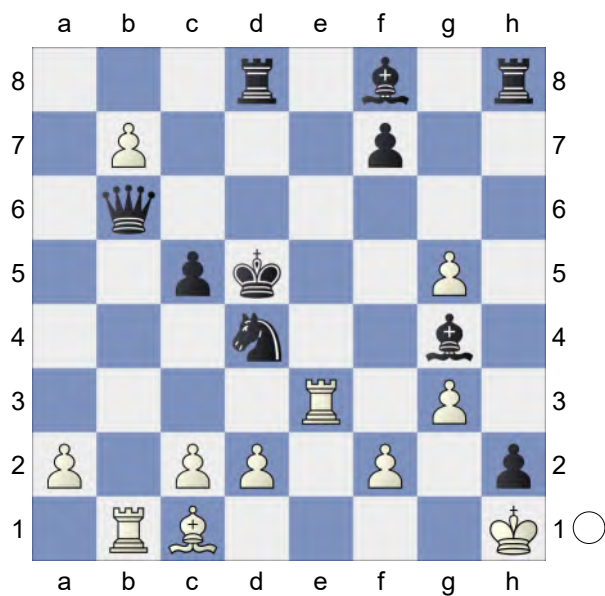
[but even stronger is 29...Re8! (GM Mihail Marin) (removal of the guard) 30.c4+ (30.Rxe8 is met by Bf3#) 30...Kxc4 31.Rc3+ Kd5 32.Ba3 Qc6 33.b8Q Rxb8 34.Qxb8 Ke6+ 35.f3 Qxf3+ 36.Rxf3 Bxf3# .]

30.Rb1

[GM Mihail Marin: 'Or' 30.b8Q Ftacnik,L Rxb8 31.Qxb8 Kc4+- GM Mihail Marin: '!' GM Mihail Marin: '(a rather slick winning move)' 32.f3 GM Mihail Marin Qxf3+ 33.Rxf3 Bxf3# .]

30...Qxb6

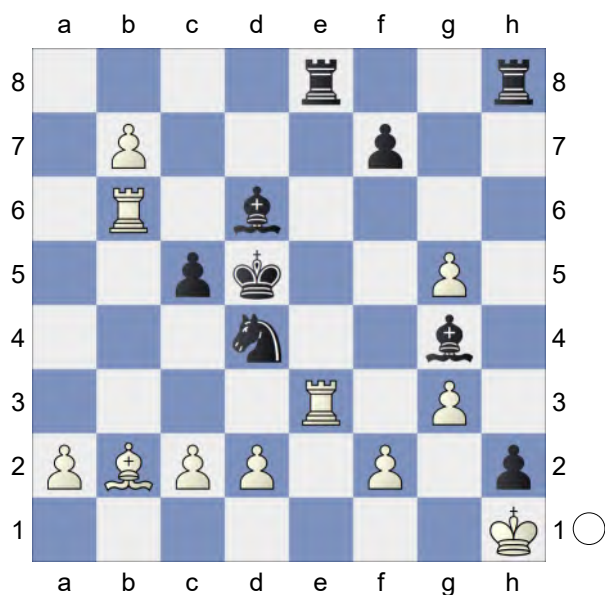
(Diagram)



31.Rxb6 Bd6 GM Mihail Marin: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'That is the end of White's promotion threats on b8.'" **32.Bb2** GM Mihail Marin: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'EXERCISE (planning): What is the quickest way to finish White off?'

[32.d3 (GM Mihail Marin) , threatening c2-c4 mate, is easily disabled by Nxc2 .]

32...Rde8



Ftacnik,Lubomir: 'In a contest for games with original positions this game would be a great candidate for one of the top

spots!' GM Mihail Marin: 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' Cyrus Lakdawala: '. ANSWER: Removal of the guard. There is no defence to ...Rxe3 and then ...Bf3 mate.'" Ftacnik,L: 'In a contest for games with original positions this game would be a great candidate for one of the top spots!'

0-1

396

□ Wei, Yi

■ Wang, Rui

123/38 Chiva

[Stankovic, Milos]

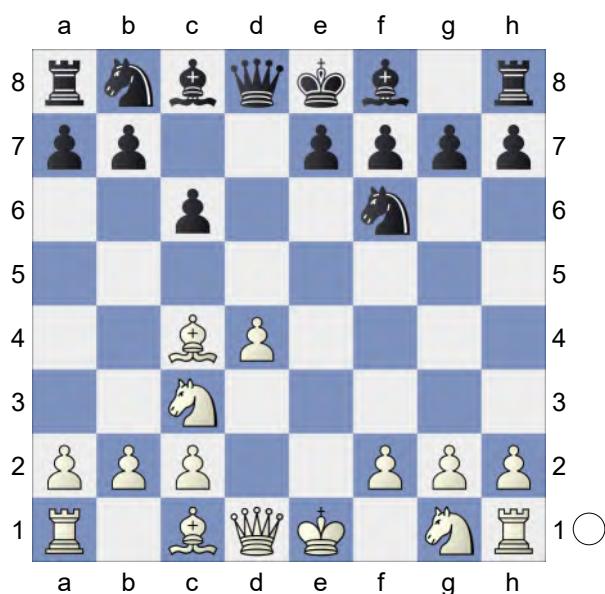
B01

2629

2398

2014

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd8
4.d4 c6 5.Bc4 Nf6



6.Nf3 Bf5 7.Ne5 e6 8.f3!?

[8.g4 - 86/(51)]

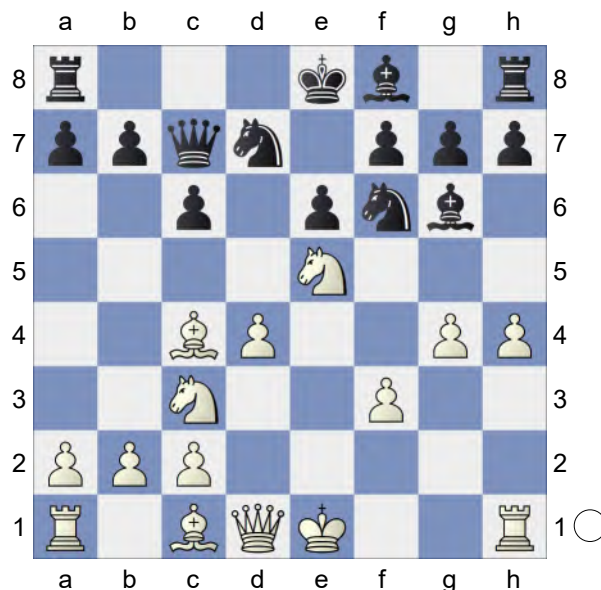
8...Nbd7?

[8...Nfd7]

9.g4 Bg6 10.h4 Qc7

[10...Nxe5 11.dxe5 Qxd1+ 12.Kxd1
0-0-0+ 13.Bd2 Nd7 14.h5 Nxe5
15.Be2±]

(Diagram)



11.Qe2!N

[11.h5 Nxe5 12.dxe5 Qxe5+
13.Qe2 Qg3+ (13...Qxe2+ 14.Bxe2
Bxc2 15.Kd2+-) 14.Kf1 Bxc2!
15.Rg1 Qh4 (15...Qh3+ 16.Qg2
Qxg2+ 17.Rxg2 Ba4 18.Nxa4 b5
19.Bb3 bxa4 20.Bxa4 Rc8 21.Rc2↑)
16.Qxc2 Bc5 17.Qe2 Bxg1 18.Kxg1
Qg3+ 19.Qg2 Qe1+ 20.Bf1±]
[11.Bf4]

11...h6 12.h5

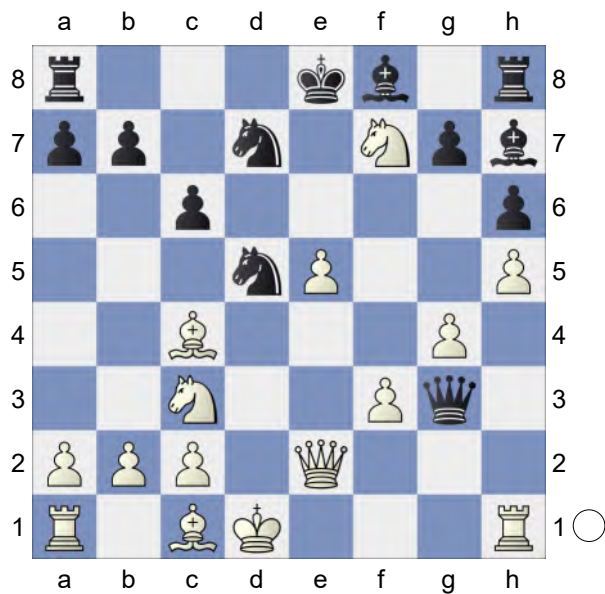
[12.Nxg6 fxg6 13.Qxe6+ Kd8
14.Ne2 Bd6 15.Qf7±]

12...Bh7 13.Nxf7! Qg3+

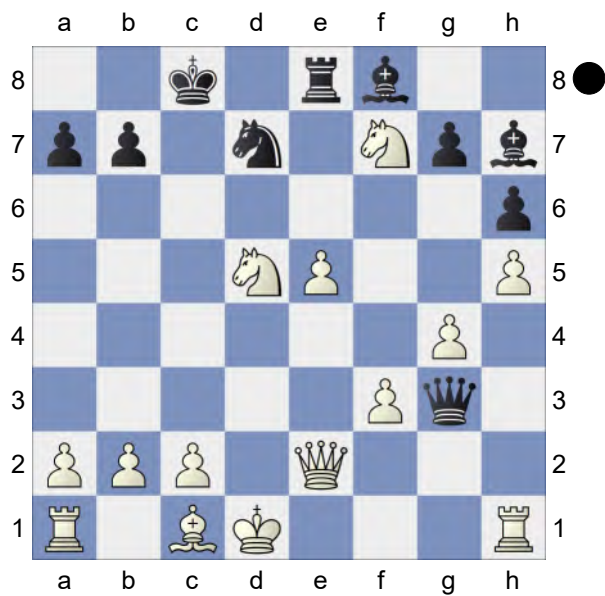
[13...Rg8 14.Bxe6+-]

14.Kd1+- e5 15.dxe5 Nd5

(Diagram)



**16.Bxd5 cxd5 17.Nxh8 0-0-0 18.Nf7
Re8 19.Nxd5**



1-0

101 **C42**
 □ Wei, Yi **2738**
 ■ Yu, Yangyi **2753**
 Danzhou 08th (5) 13.07.2017
 [Stohl, Igor]

1.e4 Stohl, Igor 1...e5 2.Nf3 Nf6
3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4

[5.Nc3 Nxc3 6.dxc3 is a line, which initially brought White success. Nowadays Black opts for a flexible approach, postponing the placement of his king for as long as possible and often castling queenside: is a line, which initially brought White success. Nowadays Black opts for a flexible approach, postponing the placement of his king for as long as possible and often castling queenside: Be7 After After

A) 7.Bf4 is currently played less often. Black has a choice here: is currently played less often. Black has a choice here: 0-0 (7...Nc6 8.Qd2 Be6 is similar to 7. ♔e3 is similar to 7. ♔e3) 8.Qd2 Nd7 9.0-0-0 Nc5 is the usual reaction, with White mostly playing is the usual reaction, with White mostly playing 10.Be3 anyway. anyway.;

B) 7.Be3

B1) 7...0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 (or or 8...Nd7 was the older main line);

B2) Black now prefers Black now prefers 7...Nc6 8.Qd2 Be6 9.0-0-0

B2a) 9...Bxa2 10.b3 a5 11.Kb2 a4 was once topical, today the engines promise White an advantage after was once topical, today the

engines promise White an advantage after 12.Ra1!? axb3 13.cxb3 Bxb3 14.Rxa8 Qxa8 15.Kxb3 Qa1 16.Qc1!? (16.Kc2±) 16...Na5+ 17.Kc2 Qa4+ 18.Kb1± The resulting positions are tense, but Black's compensation seems insufficient. The resulting positions are tense, but Black's compensation seems insufficient.;

B2b) 9...Qd7

B2b1) 10.b3 0-0-0

(Black has more equivalent options: Black has more equivalent options: 10...Bf6 11.h3 0-0-0 12.g4 h6 13.Bg2 Kb8 14.Rhe1 Rhe8 15.Kb2 a6 16.Re2 Qe7 17.Rde1 Qf8 18.Nd4 Nxd4 19.Bxd4 Bxd4 20.Qxd4 Bd7 21.f4 Rxe2 22.Rxe2 Re8 23.Rxe8+ Bxe8 24.Qb4 c6= Carlsen,M (2844)-Hou,Y (2673) Wijk aan Zee 2016 Carlsen,M (2844)-Hou,Y (2673) Wijk aan Zee 2016 Carlsen,M (2844)-Hou,Y (2673) Wijk aan Zee 2016 Hou lost only by miscalculating a drawn pawn-endgame. Hou lost only by miscalculating a drawn pawn-endgame.; 10...a6 11.h3 h5 12.Be2 0-0-0 13.Rhe1 Kb8 14.Kb2 d5 15.Nd4 Bf6 16.f4 g6 17.Bf3 Rhe8 18.Nxc6+ Qxc6 19.Bd4 Bh4 20.Bf2 Bf6 21.Bd4 Bh4 22.Bf2 Bf6 23.g4 hxg4 24.hxg4 d4! 25.Bxc6 dxc3+

26.Qxc3 Bxc3+ 27.Kxc3
 bxc6= Vachier Lagrave,M
 (2 7 8 8) - L i , C (2 7 5 5)
 Stavanger 2016) 11.Nd4 a6
 12.Nxe6 fxe6 13.g3 d5
 14.Bh3 Kb8 15.Rhe1 Rhe8
 16.f4 Bf6 17.Kb1 Qd6
 and the rather clumsy and
 the rather clumsy 18.Qd3
 (18.Bd4!?) 18...e5 19.Bc1?
 (19.fxe5 Nxe5 20.Qd4
 Nc6 21.Qd3=) 19...e4
 20.Qd2 Qc5 21.Bb2 d4!↑
 Vachier Lagrave,M (2804)-
 Caruana,F (2823) London
 2016/ Vachier Lagrave,M
 (2804)-Caruana,F (2823)
 London 2016/ Vachier
 Lagrave,M (2804)-Caruana,
 F (2823) London 2016/
 already gave Black the
 upper hand. See the notes
 to this game in CBM 176.
 already gave Black the
 upper hand. See the notes
 to this game in CBM 176.;

B2b2) 10.h4 h6 11.c4
 (Fashion, but there is more
 practical material with
 Fashion, but there is more
 practical material with
 11.Kb1 a6 12.Nd4 Nxd4
 13.Bxd4 Rg8 14.c4 0-0-0
 15.Qc3 g6= /± /± /±)

B2b21) 11...Bf6 12.Nd4
 Nxd4 13.Bxd4 Qe7
 14.Qf4 Bxd4 15.Qxd4
 Qf6?! (15...0-0 16.Bd3±
 perhaps gives White a
 small edge, but disrupting
 the kingside to avoid a
 possible attack leads to
 an unpleasant endgame.

perhaps gives White a
 small edge, but disrupting
 the kingside to avoid a
 possible attack leads to
 a n u n p l e a s a n t
 endgame.) 16.Qxf6 gxf6
 17.g3 0-0 18.Bg2 Bxc4
 19.Bxb7 Rab8 20.Bd5
 Bxd5 21.Rxd5 Rfe8
 22.Ra5 Rb7 23.b3 Re5
 24.Ra6 Re2 25.Rf1 Kf8
 26.Kd1± Grischuk,A
 (2 7 6 1) - Y u , Y (2 7 5 3)
 Jiayuguan m 2017;

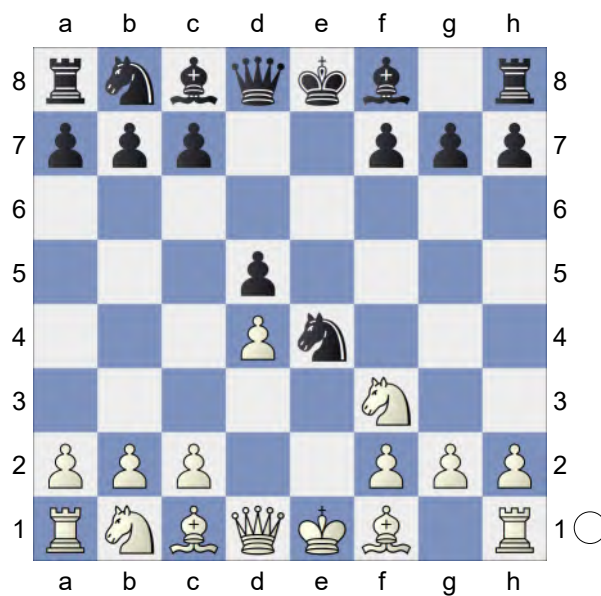
B2b22) Black can
 change tack with Black
 can change tack with
 11...0-0!?N 12.Bd3 f5!
 13.Nd4 Ne5 14.b3 Bf6±
 15.Nxe6 Qxe6 16.Be2
 Ng4 17.Bxg4 fxg4
 18.Qd5 led after led after
 Qxd5 19.Rxd5 Rae8
 20.Kd2 b6 21.g3 Be5
 22.Re1 a5 23.a4 Rf3
 24.Re2 Kf7=
 Leko,P (2678)-Hou,Y
 (2666) Biel 2017;

B2b3) The most natural
 continuation is The most
 natural continuation is
 10.Kb1 , but after , but after
 10...Bf6 (The prophylactic
 The prophylactic 10...a6
 is roughly equivalent. is
 roughly equivalent.) 11.h4
 h6 (11...0-0-0 12.Bg5 Qe7
 13.Qf4 h6 14.Bxf6 Qxf6
 15.Qxf6 gxf6 16.Nd4 Ne5
 17.f3 Rde8 18.h5 Rhg8
 19.b3 Bd7 20.Kc1 a6
 21.a4 Kd8 22.Ne2 f5
 23.Kd2 Ke7 24.Ke3 Kf6

25.Kf2 a5 26.Nf4±
 Robson,R (2656)-Wei,Y (2728) Khanty-Mansiysk 2017/
 Robson,R (2656)-Wei,Y (2728) Khanty-Mansiysk 2017/
 Robson,R (2656)-Wei,Y (2728) Khanty-Mansiysk 2017/
 White is somewhat better, but he didn't manage to increase his edge. White is somewhat better, but he didn't manage to increase his edge.) 12.Nd4 Nxd4
 13.Bxd4 Bxd4 14.Qxd4 0-0
 15.Rg1 Qe7 16.Bd3 Rfe8
 17.Rde1 Qf6 18.Qxf6 gxf6
 19.Kc1 Bd7 20.Kd2 Re5
 21.f4 Rxe1 22.Rxe1 f5
 23.Re7 Rd8 24.Bc4 c6!
 25.Be2 Kf8 26.Re3 d5=
 Ding,L (2755)-Bu,X (2681) China 2015
 Ding,L (2755)-Bu,X (2681) China 2015
 Ding,L (2755)-Bu,X (2681) China 2015
 Black has only one weakness and easily held the resulting endgame.
 Black has only one weakness and easily held the resulting endgame.]

5...d5

(Diagram)



6.Bd3 Be7 Let's check the alternatives:
 Let's check the alternatives:

[6...Nc6 7.0-0 Be7 is the most popular line: The elite has recently returned to the minimalistic, but risk-free is the most popular line: The elite has recently returned to the minimalistic, but risk-free The elite has recently returned to the minimalistic, but risk-free

A) 8.c4 transposes to lines from the note to move 6. was in vogue 10-15 years ago, Black still more or less holds the balance here: Stohl, Igor: 'transposes to lines from the note to move 6.' transposes to lines from the note to move 6. was in vogue 10-15 years ago, Black still more or less holds the balance here: was in vogue 10-15 years ago, Black still more or less holds the balance here: Stohl, Igor: 'transposes to lines from the note to move 6.' transposes to lines from the note to move 6. was in vogue 10-15 years ago, Black still more or less holds the balance here: Nb4 (8...Nf6!? also remains playable:

also remains playable: 9.Nc3 0-0 10.cxd5 Nxd5 11.Re1 Be6 12.h3 a6 13.a3 Re8 14.Qc2 h6 15.Bf5 Bxf5 16.Qxf5 Nxc3 17.bxc3 Bd6 18.Bf4 Ne7 19.Qg4 Qc8 20.Qg3 Nf5 21.Qh2 Rxe1+ 22.Rxe1 Bxa3 23.Bxc7 a5 24.Ra1 Bb2 25.Rxa5 Bxc3= Wei,Y (2696)-Li,C (2758) Wuxi 2016) 9.Be2 0-0 10.Nc3 Bf5 11.a3 Nxc3 12.bxc3 Nc6 13.Re1 Re8

A1) _____ The other branch seems analytically exhausted: The other branch seems analytically exhausted: 14.Bf4 _____ dxc4 15.Bxc4 Bd6 16.Rxe8+ Qxe8 17.Ng5 Bg6 18.Bxd6 cxd6 19.h4 Qe7 20.Qg4 h6 21.Nh3 Qe4 22.Nf4 (22.Qg3 Rc8 23.Bf1 Ne7!?±) 22...Ne5 23.dxe5 Qxc4 24.e6 (24.exd6 Rd8 25.Rd1 Bc2=) 24...fxe6 25.Qxg6 Qxf4 26.Qxe6+ Kh8 27.Rd1 Rf8 28.f3 Qxh4 29.Rxd6 Qg5= Radjabov,T (2731)-Giri,A (2797) Tbilisi 2015;

A2) 14.cxd5 Qxd5 15.Bf4 Rac8 16.h3 h6 (16...Be4 17.Qc1 Bf6 18.Qb2 Na5 19.Be5 c5!? 20.Bxf6 gxf6 21.Rad1 a6 22.Nh2 cxd4 23.Rxd4 Qc6 24.Bf3 Nc4 25.Qc1 Bxf3 26.Rxe8+ Rxe8 27.Nxf3 Ne5 28.Nh4 Qc8 29.Qc2 Ng6 30.Nf5↑ Yloenen,O (2415)-Abramov,S (2370) email 2013 Yloenen,O (2415)-Abramov,S (2370) email 2013 Yloenen,O (2415)-Abramov,S (2370) email 2013 Although Black held the game, he is definitely under pressure here. Although Black held the game, he is definitely

under pressure here.) 17.Nd2 Na5 18.Bf3 Qd7 19.Ne4 Bf8 20.Ra2 b6!? 21.Rae2 Rcd8 22.a4 Bg6 23.h4 f6 24.h5 Bf7 25.Ng3 Rxe2 26.Bxe2 c5 27.Bg4 Qd5 28.Bc7 Re8± Rodriguez,K (2361)-Dorer,M (2334) email 2014;

B) 8.Nbd2

B1) 8...Nxd2 9.Bxd2 Bg4 10.c3 0-0 11.h3 Bh5 allows White to escape the pin with the original allows White to escape the pin with the original 12.g3!? Qd7 13.Kg2 However, his edge is minimal at best after However, his edge is minimal at best after Bg6

B1a) 14.Ne1 Bd6 (14...Rae8 15.Bxg6 fxc6 16.Qg4 Qxg4 17.hxc6 g5 18.Nd3 Bf6 19.f4 h6 20.Rae1 Rxe1 21.Rxe1 Kf7 22.Kf3 Re8 23.Be3 a6 24.b3 a5 25.a4 Rd8 26.Rd1 Re8 27.Bc1 Rf8 28.Rd2 Rd8 29.Ne5+± Siikaluoma,A (2496)-Bendana Guerrero,G (2432) email 2011) 15.Qg4 Qxg4 16.hxc6 Rfe8 17.Bxg6 hxc6 18.Nd3 f6 19.g5 Kf7 20.Rh1 Rh8 21.b4 Rae8 22.a4 Nd8 23.b5 Ne6 24.Rxh8 Rxh8 25.a5 Ke7= Caruana,F (2810)-Dominguez Perez,L (2713) Dortmund 2016;

B1b) 14.Bxg6 fxc6 15.Bf4 h6 (15...Rf5!?) 16.Qd3 (16.Ne5 Nxe5 17.Bxe5 Bf6 18.Re1 Rae8 19.Bxf6 gxf6 20.Qd2 Kg7= Heimann,A (2588)-Hera,I (2609) Bad Ragaz 2017) 16...g5 17.Be5 Rf5 18.Rae1 Rf8 19.Re3

Bd8 (19...h5~~±~~) 20.g4 R5f7
21.Bg3 Be7 22.Rd1~~±~~
Areshchenko,A (2678)-
Volokitin,A (2649) Rivne
2016;

B2) 8...Bf5 Stohl, Igor: 'For the seemingly unassuming' Stohl, Igor: 'For the seemingly unassuming' 9.Re1 Stohl, Igor: 'see above' Stohl, Igor: 'see above' Nxd2 (Simplification is more logical than Simplification is more logical than 9...Nd6 10.Nf1 0-0 11.Bf4 Qc8 12.c3 Rd8 13.Ne3 Be6 14.Ng5 Bxg5 15.Bxg5 f6 16.Bf4~~±~~ Harikrishna, P (2755)-Li,C (2751) Gibraltar 2016) 10.Qxd2 Bxd3 11.Qxd3 0-0 and now: a more concrete line is and now: a more concrete line is

B2a) 12.c3

B2a1) 12...h6 13.Bf4
(13.Re2 Bd6! 14.Qf5 Ne7
15.Qh5 Ng6 16.Bd2 Bf4
17.g3 Bxd2 18.Nxd2 Qg5
19.Qxg5 hxg5 20.Rae1 f6
21.Nf1 Rad8 22.Ne3 Rfe8
23.Nf5 Rxe2 24.Rxe2 Kf7
25.Kg2 Rd7 26.Kf3 Nf8=
Kramnik,V (2808)-Li,C
(2746) Moscow 2016)
13...Bd6 14.Bg3 Bxg3
15.hxg3 Qd7 16.Qb5 a6
17.Qb3 Na5 18.Qb4 Nc6
19.Qb3 Na5 20.Qc2 Nc6
21.Re2 Rfe8 22.Rae1
Rxe2 23.Qxe2 Kf8 24.Qc2
Kg8 25.Qb3 Rb8 26.Ne5
Nxe5 27.Rxe5 c6 28.Qb4↑
Gao,R (2548)-Wang,Y
(2737) Shenzhen 2016;

B2a2) 12...Qd7 13.Bf4 a6

(13...Rae8 14.Re2 Bd6
15.Bxd6 Qxd6 16.Rae1
Rxe2 17.Qxe2 h6 18.g3
Rb8 19.Nh4 Qd7 20.g4 g6
21.Ng2 b5 22.b4 a5 23.a3
a4 24.h3 Rd8 25.Nf4 Qd6
26.Nd3 Kg7 27.Nc5~~±~~
Vallejo Pons,F (2709)-Li,C
(2720) Sharjah 2017)
14.Re3 Rae8 15.Rae1 Bd8
16.h3 Rxe3 17.Rxe3 f6!
(17...Re8?! 18.Qf5)
18.Re2 Rf7 (18...Ne7!?)
19.Nd2 Ng6 20.Be3 Qb5
21.Qxb5 axb5 22.Nb3 b6=
Hamarat - Rodin, kor. 1986
23.Nc1 Be7 24.Nd3 Bd6
25.g3 Ra8 26.b3 Kf7
27.Kg2 Nf8 28.Bf4 Rd8=
Hamarat,T-Rodin,E corr
1986) 19.Nd2 Be7 20.Nf1
Bf8 21.Qf3 Kasparov,G
(2625)-Karpov,A (2690)
Moscow 1981 Nd8! 22.Ne3
c6= should gradually
neutralise White's slight pull.
should gradually neutralise
White's slight pull.;

B2b) 12.Bf4 Bd6 (12...Qd7
13.Qb5!? a6 14.Qxb7 Nb4
15.Ne5 Qf5 16.Nc6 Nxc6
17.Qxc6 Bb4 18.c3 Qxf4
19.cxb4 Qxd4 20.a3 Rfd8
21.Rab1 h6 22.g3 Qb6
23.Rbc1 a5 24.b5~~±~~
Volkov,A (2144)-Saule,Z
(2147) email 2009) 13.Bg3
(13.Bxd6 Qxd6 14.c3 a6
15.Ng5 Qg6 16.Qxg6 hxg6
17.h4 Rfe8 18.Nh3 Ne7
19.Nf4 c6 20.g4 Rad8 21.f3
Nc8 22.Kf2 Nd6 23.Nd3 f6
24.Rxe8+ Rxe8 25.Re1=

/±, Dominguez Perez,L (2739)-Li,C (2720) Doha rpd 2016 / ±, Dominguez Perez,L (2739)-Li,C (2720) Doha rpd 2016 / ±, Dominguez Perez,L (2739)-Li,C (2720) Doha rpd 2016 White went on to win the almost equal endgame after further concessions from his opponent. White went on to win the almost equal endgame after further concessions from his opponent.) 13...Bxg3 14.hxg3 Qd7 15.Re3 Rfe8 16.Rae1 Rxe3 17.Rxe3 Rb8 (17...h6 18.Qb3 Rb8 19.Ne5 Qd6 20.Nxc6 Qxc6 21.c3 a5 22.Qa3 b6 23.Qe7↑ Adams,M (2738)-Wang,Y (2737) Baku olm 2016) 18.Qe2 h6 19.c3 Kf8 20.Kh2 a6 21.Qc2 Kg8 22.Nh4 g6 23.f4 Qg4 24.Nf3 Qd7 25.f5 Qxf5 26.Qxf5 gxf5 27.Nh4 Kg7 28.Nxf5+ Kf6 29.Rf3 Kg6 30.g4 Rh8± /=, Andreikin, D (2736)-Wei,Y (2706) Wijk aan Zee 2017/ /=, Andreikin,D (2736)-Wei,Y (2706) Wijk aan Zee 2017/ /=, Andreikin,D (2736)-Wei,Y (2706) Wijk aan Zee 2017/ In the end White didn't get anything more tangible and the game was drawn. In the end White didn't get anything more tangible and the game was drawn.]

[Last, but not least, there has been a notable revival of the rare 6...Bf5!?

A) 7.c4?! runs into runs into Bb4+ (Megabase shows Megabase shows 7...c6 8.0-0 Be7 as the move order in Areshchenko,

A (2570)-Mamedyarov,S (2657) Moscow 2005, but I suspect the game in fact went 7.0-0 ♙e7 8.c4 c6. as the move order in Areshchenko, A (2570)-Mamedyarov,S (2657) Moscow 2005, but I suspect the game in fact went 7.0-0 ♙e7 8.c4 c6.) 8.Nbd2 (8.Kf1 Nd2+ 9.Bxd2 Bxd3+ 10.Kg1 Bxd2 11.Nbxd2 dxc4 12.Qa4+ Qd7 13.Re1+ Kd8 14.Qb4 Nc6⌘ Valencia Ciordia,J (1763)-Miguel de Frutos,V (1839) email 2008) 8...Nxd2 (8...Nc6!⌘⌘) 9.Bxd2 Bxd3 10.Bxb4 dxc4 11.Kd2 Nc6↑;

B) 7.0-0 or Stohl, Igor: 'or' Stohl, Igor: 'or' 7...Be7 leads to positions from the previous note. Stohl, Igor: 'leads to positions from the previous note.' Stohl, Igor: 'leads to positions from the previous note.' 8.Re1 (8.Ne5 Nd7 9.Qf3 Nxe5 10.dxe5 Bg6 11.c4 c6 12.cxd5 Qxd5 13.Nd2 Nc3 14.Bxg6 Qxf3 15.Nxf3 Ne2+ 16.Kh1 fxc6 17.Be3 Rf8 18.Nd2 Nf4 19.Ne4 Rf5 20.Rad1 g5 21.Bd4 Ne6 22.Bc3 Rd8 23.f3 Rxd1 24.Rxd1 Nc5= Vachier Lagrave,M (2791)-Wang Yue (2699) Dortmund 2017; 8.c4 is perhaps a more promising try to unbalance the position, but Black gets counterplay after dxc4 9.Bxc4 0-0 10.Nc3 Nc6 11.Re1 Nd6⌘)

B1) 8...Nc6 allows a transposition, the energetic 9.c4!? (For the seemingly unassuming 9.Nbd2 see above) 9...0-0 gets us back to the 8...0-0

line. (9...Nb4 is played more often, but is played more often, but 10.Bf1± has long been considered pleasant for White. has long been considered pleasant for White.);

B2) A more flexible way is A more flexible way is 8...0-0 9.c4 (9.Nbd2 Nd6 10.Nf1 Nd7 11.Bf4 Bxd3 12.Qxd3 Re8 13.Re2 Bf8 14.Ne3 c6 15.Rae1 Ne4 16.Ng4 Bd6 17.Bxd6 Nxd6 18.Rxe8+ Nxe8 19.Qa3 Nf8 20.h4 Nd6 21.h5 h6 22.Qe3 Qd7 23.Qf4 Re8 24.Rxe8 ½, Adams,M (2736)-Li,C (2735) Geneve 2017 ½, Adams,M (2736)-Li,C (2735) Geneve 2017 ½, Adams,M (2736)-Li,C (2735) Geneve 2017) 9...Nc6 Stohl, Igor: 'gets us back to the 8...0-0 line.' Stohl, Igor: 'gets us back to the 8...0-0 line.' 10.cxd5 (10.Nc3 Nxc3 11.bxc3 Bxd3 12.Qxd3 dxc4 13.Qxc4 Qd7 14.d5 Na5 15.Qd3 Rae8 16.Be3 b6 17.Ne5 Qc8 18.h3 Bd6 19.Nf3 h6 20.c4 Nb7 21.Re2 Nc5 22.Qc2 Qd7 23.Rae1 Qa4= Naiditsch,A (2712)-Wang,H (2698) Danzhou 2017) 10...Qxd5 11.Nc3 Nxc3 12.bxc3 Rae8 13.h3 (13.Bf4!/?) 13...Bxd3 14.Qxd3 Bd6 15.Rxe8 Rxe8 16.c4 Qe4 17.Qxe4 Rxe4 18.Be3 b6 19.Rb1 Bf4 20.Rb3 Na5 21.Rc3 Bxe3 22.fxe3 c5 23.dxc5 Rxc4 24.Rd3 g6= Ivanchuk,V (2729)-Yu,Y (2753) Danzhou 2017 Ivanchuk,V (2729)-Yu,Y (2753) Danzhou 2017 Ivanchuk,V (2729)-Yu,Y

(2753) Danzhou 2017 This game was played 4 days later than ours and Yu Yangyi chose a different move-order to achieve the desired position. This game was played 4 days later than ours and Yu Yangyi chose a different move-order to achieve the desired position.]

[Black also has the symmetrical Black also has the symmetrical 6...Bd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.c4 c6 and now: White more often plays and now: White more often plays

A) 9.Re1 Bf5 10.Qb3 Qd7 11.Nc3 Nxc3 12.Bxf5 Qxf5 13.Qxb7!? (13.bxc3 b6 14.cxd5 cxd5 15.Qb5 Qd7 16.Rb1 Rc8 17.g3 Bf8 18.Bd2 Nc6 19.Ne5 Nxe5 20.Rxe5 Rd8 21.Qxd7 Rxd7 22.Rb5 Rad8 23.a4 Be7 24.a5 bxa5 25.Rxa5 f6 26.Re6 Rb8 27.Rea6 Rbb7= Vachier Lagrave,M (2796)-Caruana,F (2808) Stavanger 2017) 13...Qd7 (13...Ne4?! seems to be a dubious novelty: seems to be a dubious novelty: 14.Qxa8 Qd7 15.cxd5 Nf6 16.Re3 Nxd5 17.Rb3 Nb4 18.Rxb4 Bxb4 19.Be3 Bd6 20.d5 c5 21.b4 cxb4 22.Rc1 Rd8 23.Qxa7 Qxa7 24.Bxa7± /±, Karjakin,S (2781)-Caruana,F (2808) Stavanger 2017 / ±, Karjakin,S (2781)-Caruana,F (2808) Stavanger 2017 / ±, Karjakin,S (2781)-Caruana,F (2808) Stavanger 2017) 14.Qxd7 (14.Qxa8? Na4! 15.c5 Na6) 14...Nxd7 15.c5 Bxh2+! 16.Nxh2 Ne4 17.Bf4 Rfe8 18.f3 Nef6 19.Nf1 Nf8 20.Rxe8 Rxe8 21.Rd1 Re7 22.Nd2 Ne6 23.Be5 a5 24.Nb3 Ra7 25.a4 Nh5±

Svidler,P (2728)-Ivanchuk,V (2750) Morelia/Linares 2007 Svidler,P (2728)-Ivanchuk,V (2750) Morelia/Linares 2007 Svidler,P (2728)-Ivanchuk,V (2750) Morelia/Linares 2007 For more details see the notes to this game in CBM 117 by Marin. For more details see the notes to this game in CBM 117 by Marin.;

B) 9.Nc3 Nxc3 10.bxc3 dxc4 11.Bxc4 Bf5 (11...Bg4 12.Qd3= /± /± /±)

B1) 12.Re1 Nd7 13.Bg5 Qa5! 14.Nh4 (14.Qb3 b5 15.Bf1 Rfe8 16.c4 Be6 17.Qc2 bxc4 18.Bxc4 Bxc4 19.Qxc4 Qd5 20.Rec1 Rac8 21.Rc2 Nb6 22.Qb3 h6 23.Bd2 Qf5= Anand,V (2783)-Caruana,F (2807) Saint Louis rpd 2017 Anand,V (2783)-Caruana,F (2807) Saint Louis rpd 2017 Anand,V (2783)-Caruana,F (2807) Saint Louis rpd 2017) 14...Nb6 15.Bb3 Bd7∞ (15...Be6!?) ;

B2) 12.Bg5 Qc7?! (Δ12...Qa5! 13.Qd2 Nd7∞ Caruana was probably willing to play this in Stavanger and St Louis. Caruana was probably willing to play this in Stavanger and St Louis.) 13.Re1 h6?! (13...Nd7 14.Nh4 Bg6± is pleasant for White, he will have the bishop pair and doesn't even have to hurry with ♖xg6. However, it was still the lesser evil. is pleasant for White, he will have the bishop pair and doesn't even have to hurry with ♖xg6. However, it was still the lesser evil.) 14.Nh4! Bh7

15.Bxh6! Bxh2+ 16.Kh1 Bf4? (Δ16...gxh6 17.Qg4+ Kh8 18.Nf5 Bxf5 19.Qxf5 Qf4 20.Qh5± was more resilient, but White wins the piece back with a distinct advantage. was more resilient, but White wins the piece back with a distinct advantage.) 17.Bxg7! Kxg7 18.Qg4+ Kh8 19.Nf5 Bxf5 20.Qxf5 Qd6 21.g3 Bh6 22.Kg2 b5 23.Bb3 Qg6 24.Qxg6 fxc6 25.Re7+- Nepomniachtchi,I (2749)-Li,C (2720) Sharjah 2017 Nepomniachtchi,I (2749)-Li,C (2720) Sharjah 2017 Nepomniachtchi,I (2749)-Li,C (2720) Sharjah 2017 See the notes to this game in CBM 177 by Silver. See the notes to this game in CBM 177 by Silver.]

7.c4!? While this motif is typical, before castling it's very unusual. The Chinese are known to prepare together and Wei Yi presumably wanted to get his compatriot into uncharted waters as soon as possible. While this motif is typical, before castling it's very unusual. The Chinese are known to prepare together and Wei Yi presumably wanted to get his compatriot into uncharted waters as soon as possible.

[He is not interested in finding out, what Black intended after 7.0-0 - either Nc6 (or 7...Bf5 leads to positions from the previous note.)]

7...Bb4+ The most principled reaction. The most principled reaction.

[7...Nc6 doesn't force White to castle, instead he can fight for an edge with doesn't force White to castle, instead he can fight for an edge with 8.Nc3 , or , or (8.cxd5!?!; 8.0-0 transposes

to lines from the note to move 6.)]

[The same goes for The same goes for 7...0-0 , when , when 8.Nc3 (or or 8.0-0 leads to unexplored positions. leads to unexplored positions.)]

8.Kf1 Surprises continue - White voluntarily gives up castling rights. Surprises continue - White voluntarily gives up castling rights.

[However, However, 8.Nbd2 0-0 9.0-0 Bf5 10.Nb3 (Slightly bizarre, but Slightly bizarre, but 10.a3 Bxd2 11.Bxd2 Nxd2 12.Qxd2 Bxd3 13.Qxd3 dxc4 14.Qxc4 Nd7=; or the similar or the similar 10.Qc2 Nxd2= allow simplification with easy equality. allow simplification with easy equality.) 10...dxc4 11.Bxc4 Nc6 12.Bd3 Bg6 13.a3 Bd6 14.Re1 f5 15.Qc2 Kh8 16.Be3 Qf6 17.Nc5 Bxc5 18.dxc5 Rae8 19.Rad1 Bh5 20.Be2 f4 leads nowhere and White should already try to bail out with leads nowhere and White should already try to bail out with 21.Bd4!?= (21.Bc1?! a5 22.Qc4 Re7 23.h3 Rfe8 24.Kf1 h6 25.Qc2 Nxf2! 26.Kxf2 Bxf3 27.gxf3 Qh4+→ Caruana,F (2727)-Giri,A (2714) Reggio Emilia 2011)]

8...0-0 What could be more natural than castling? What could be more natural than castling?

[However, maybe Black should consider not giving up the centre with However, maybe Black should consider not giving up the centre with 8...c6!? After After

A) 9.Qc2 0-0!

A1) 10.Bxe4?! dxe4 11.Qxe4 Re8 12.Qd3 Qf6C (12...b5!?) ;

A2) 10.Nc3∞;

B) 9.Qb3 Be7∞;

C) 9.cxd5?! only furthers Black's development: only furthers Black's development: 9...cxd5

C1) 10.Qa4+ Nc6 11.Bb5 Bd6! Δ Δ Δ 12.Bxc6+ bxc6 13.Qxc6+ Qd7!? (13...Bd7 14.Qxd5 Nf6=) 14.Qxd7+ (14.Qxa8 0-0 15.Qxd5 Ba6+ 16.Kg1 Bxh2+≠) 14...Bxd7→;

C2) 10.Nc3 Bxc3 11.bxc3 0-0 12.Qc2 Nc6 13.Rb1 Re8 14.h3 b6 15.Bf4 Qf6 16.Bd2 Bf5 17.Be1 Rac8 18.Kg1 Bg6 19.Qd1 Na5 20.Ne5 Nxc3 21.Bxc3 Rxc3≠ Ricardi,P (2527)-Mellado Trivino,J (2447) Malaga 1999]

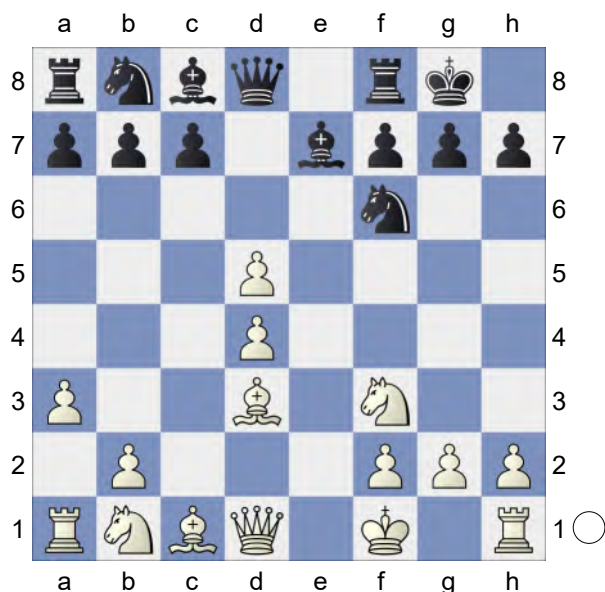
9.a3N Only this is a novelty, probably prepared at home. Only this is a novelty, probably prepared at home.

[9.c5 c6 10.h3 Ba5 promises less than nothing - promises less than nothing - 11.Bf4 Nd7 12.Nbd2 Qf6 13.g3 Bxd2 14.Nxd2 Qxd4 15.Nxe4 dxe4 16.Bc2 Qxb2 17.Kg2 Qf6 18.Bd6 Re8 19.Re1 Nf8 20.Bxe4 Bf5 21.Bxf5 Qxf5≠ Stoma,P (2312)-Levushkina,E (2227) Pardubice 2005]

[After After 9.Qb3 Black has the gambit Black has the gambit c5!? 10.cxd5 Bf5 11.g4 Bg6 12.h4 Nd6 13.dxc5 Bxc5 14.h5 Bxd3+ 15.Qxd3 Na6 16.h6 g6 17.Bf4 f5 18.Qc3 Qe7 19.Qg7+ Qxg7 20.hxg7 Rf7 21.Ng5 Rxg7 22.Bxd6 Bxd6 23.gxf5 gxf5 24.Ne6 Rg6 25.Nc3 Nb4 26.Nd4 Nd3 27.Rh5 Nf4 28.Rxf5 Rh6 29.Rg5+ Kf7 30.Nf5 Rh1+ 31.Rg1 Rxg1+ 32.Kxg1 Be5= Kudela,S (2456)-Bobykin,K (2336) email 2011]

9...Be7 10.cxd5 Nf6

[10...Qxd5 11.Qc2 also forces the knight to retreat. After also forces the knight to retreat. After Nf6 12.Nc3 Qd8 Wei Yi might continue Wei Yi might continue 13.h4!? as in the game. Now as in the game. Now Bg4!? leads to an sharp and unclear position. leads to an sharp and unclear position. (White's pieces are aiming for g5 and even White's pieces are aiming for g5 and even 13...h6 wouldn't discourage them for long. wouldn't discourage them for long.)]



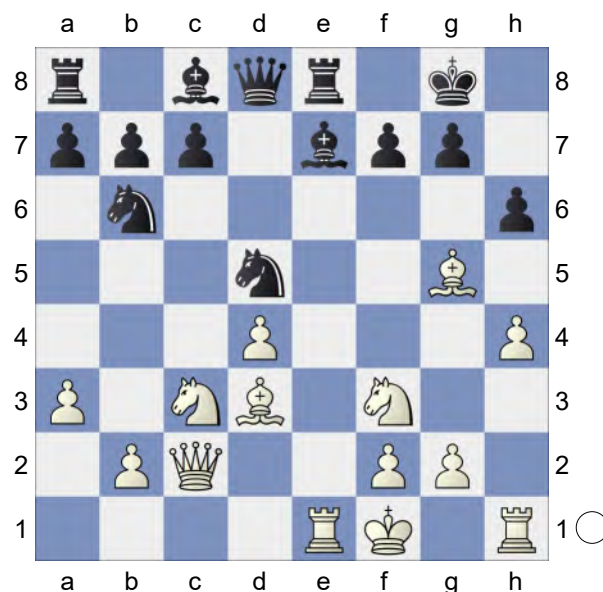
11.Nc3 Nbd7 12.h4!? Nb6 13.Bg5 Nfxd5

[13...Nbx d5 deserves attention, keeping more forces closer to the kingside. deserves attention, keeping more forces closer to the kingside.]

14.Qc2 h6 15.Re1 White has developed all his pieces, even the ♖h1 is indirectly taking part by granting White access to the g5-square. White has developed all his pieces, even the ♖h1 is indirectly taking part by granting White access to the g5-square. **15...Re8**

[15...c6!?∞ was interesting was

interesting]



Frees f8 for the king, but the downside is f7 becomes more vulnerable. Frees f8 for the king, but the downside is f7 becomes more vulnerable. **16.Ne5! Bxg5?! Not ideal, so we'll check the alternatives: Not ideal, so we'll check the alternatives:**

[Even worse is Even worse is ≤16...Be6? 17.Bh7+ Kf8 (17...Kh8 18.Bf5+-) 18.Ng6+! fxc6 19.Rxe6 Qd7!? (19...hxc5 20.Bxc6 g4 21.h5→ Δ h6 Δ h6 Δ h6 and Black's king can't survive the onslaught. and Black's king can't survive the onslaught.) 20.Bxe7+ (20.Rxc6!? hxc5 21.Rxc7↑) 20...Nxe7 21.Re4 Nbd5 22.Rh3 Nf6 23.Rf3±]

[Moradiabadi recommends Moradiabadi recommends Δ16...Bf6! 17.Bh7+ Kf8 18.Be4 Nxc3 19.bxc3 Be6 (19...Bxc5 20.Nxf7!±)

A) 20.Bxb7 hxc5 21.hxc5 Bxe5 22.Bxa8 Qxa8 23.Rxe5 (23.Rh8+ Ke7 24.Rxe8+ Qxe8 25.Rxe5 Kd8=) 23...Bc4+ 24.Kg1 Rxe5 25.Rh8+ Ke7 26.Rxa8 Re1+

27.Kh2 Nxa8∞;

B) 20.Bxf6 Qxf6!? (20...gxf6
21.Nd3 Bd5 22.f3±) 21.Bxb7
Rab8 22.Bf3 Nc4±]

[Opening a file for the ♖h1 is playing
with fire, another version of this idea
is Opening a file for the ♖h1 is playing
with fire, another version of this idea is
16...Nxc3?!

A) 17.Bh7+ Kf8 18.Nxf7 Qxd4
19.Ne5 (19.bxc3 Qc4+) 19...Bd6
20.bxc3 (20.Ng6+ Kf7 21.Nh8+
Kf8!=) 20...Qa4 21.Qa2 Be6
22.Ng6+ Kf7 23.Nh8+! Kf8=;

B) 17.bxc3 Bxg5 18.hxg5 Qxg5
19.Bh7+ Kf8∞;

C) 17.Nxf7! Kxf7 (17...Qxd4
18.bxc3 Qc5 19.Nxh6+! gxh6
20.Bh7+ Kh8 21.Bf6+-) 18.Bg6+
Kf8 19.bxc3 Qd6 20.Bxe8 hxg5
21.hxg5 Kxe8 22.Rh8+ Kf7
23.Qe4±]

17.hxg5 Qxg5

[Black can't afford Black can't afford
17...Nxc3? 18.gxh6!+- ♖→ ♖→ ♖→]

18.Bh7+ Kf8 19.Nxd5?!

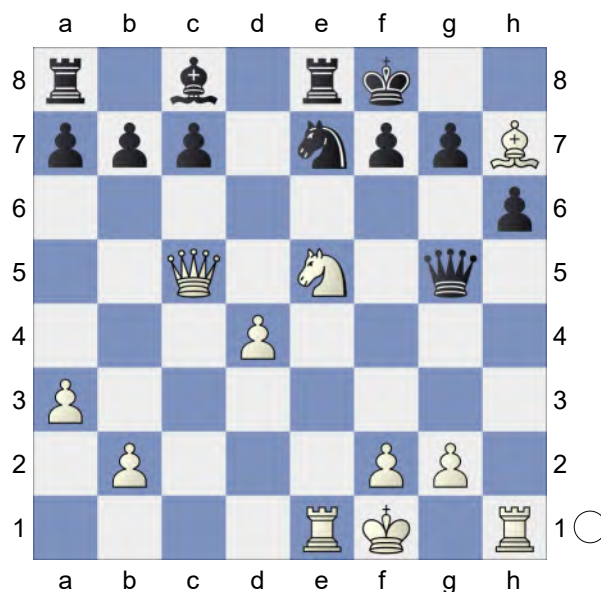
[This very human solution is
objectively inferior. Komodo after a
while points out the strongest This
very human solution is objectively
inferior. Komodo after a while points
out the strongest 19.Ne4 Qd8
20.Qc1! Nd7 (20...Re6 21.Bf5!±
wins an exchange, as wins an
exchange, as Rxe5? 22.Rxh6!+-
quickly loses quickly loses; The same
goes for The same goes for 20...Be6
21.Rxh6! gxh6 22.Qxh6+ Ke7
23.Nc5+-) 21.Nxd7+ (21.Rxh6 Nxe5
22.dxe5 gxh6 23.Qxh6+ Ke7
is only a perpetual after is only a
perpetual after 24.Qg5+=; 21.Nxf7!?
Kxf7 22.Rxh6± is no fun for Black

either. is no fun for Black either.)
21...Bxd7 22.Rxh6→]

19...Nxd5 20.Qc5+

[20.Be4 Nf6 (20...Ne7!? 21.Qxc7
Be6 22.Bxb7 Rad8±) 21.Qxc7 Re7
and White has nothing better than and
White has nothing better than
22.Qd8+ Re8 23.Qc7=]

20...Ne7



21.Re3 Bf5?!

[21...Rd8 22.Rg3 (22.Rh5 b6!)
22...Qd2 23.Rd3 Qg5 24.Rh5
Qxh5□ (24...b6? 25.Qxc7+-
loses, as loses, as Ba6 is not a check
anymore! is not a check anymore!)
25.Nd7+ Bxd7 26.Qxh5 Bc6±]

[Finally developing the ♕c8 is natural,
but a stronger move was Finally
developing the ♕c8 is natural, but a
stronger move was ♠21...Be6!
22.Rh5 (22.d5 Bf5 23.Bxf5 Qxf5
24.g4 Qf4 25.Nd7+ Kg8 26.Rxe7
Rxe7 27.Qxe7 Qc4+ 28.Kg2
Qxg4+=) 22...b6 23.Qb5 Qxh5
(Black doesn't have to sacrifice his
queen. Unclear alternatives are Black
doesn't have to sacrifice his queen.
Unclear alternatives are 23...c6

24.Qe2 Qf4[∞] , or the immediate , or the immediate; 23...Qf4!? $\Delta\Delta\Delta$ 24.Be4 g6=) 24.Nd7+ Bxd7 25.Qxh5 Rad8= /[∞] /[∞] /[∞]]

22.Rh5?! Returning the favour.
Returning the favour.

[A more energetic try was A more energetic try was Δ 22.Bxf5 Qxf5 23.Rh5! Qe6 24.Nxf7! Qa6+ 25.Kg1 Qc6 (25...Kxf7 26.Rhe5 Kg8 27.Rxe7[±] will cost Black at least the Δ c7 will cost Black at least the Δ c7) 26.Nxh6 (Even more ambitious is Even more ambitious is 26.Qb4!? Kxf7 27.Rc5→) 26...Qxc5 27.Rf3+ Qf5 28.Nxf5[±] White has a healthy extra pawn and excellent winning chances. White has a healthy extra pawn and excellent winning chances.]

22...Qxh5 $\square$

[22...b6? 23.Rxg5 bxc5 24.Rxf5 $\Delta\Delta\Delta$ Nxf5 25.Nd7#]

23.Nd7+ Bxd7 24.Qxh5 Material is roughly equal, but White's pieces remain more active. Material is roughly equal, but White's pieces remain more active. **24...Rad8**

[24...Bc6!? deserves attention. deserves attention.]

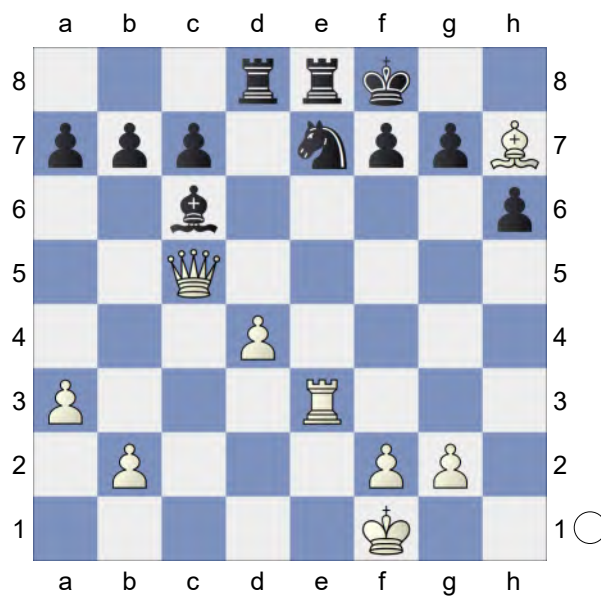
25.Qc5

[A typical engine line is A typical engine line is 25.Qa5 b6! 26.Qxa7 g6 27.Qxc7 Be6 28.Qe5 Nf5= and Black should survive - the Δ h7 is out of play. and Black should survive - the Δ h7 is out of play.]

25...Bc6

[25...g6? 26.Qe5]

(Diagram)

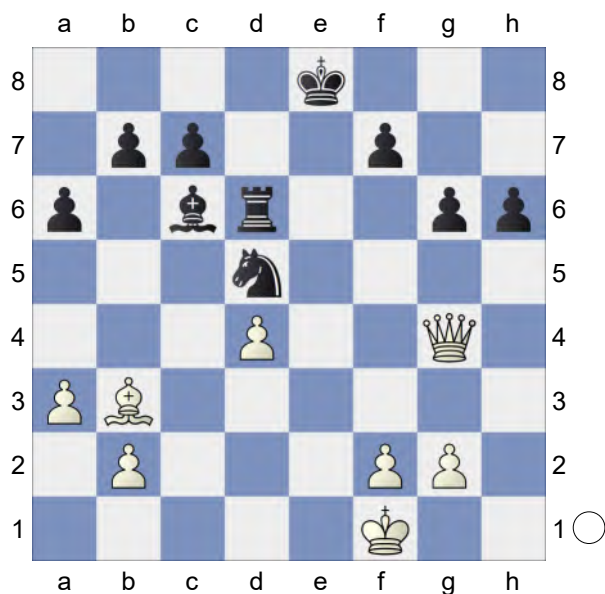


26.Bc2 a6 27.Bb3 Rd6 28.Qh5 Nd5 Loses a pawn, but simplifies the position and introduces fortress motifs. Loses a pawn, but simplifies the position and introduces fortress motifs.

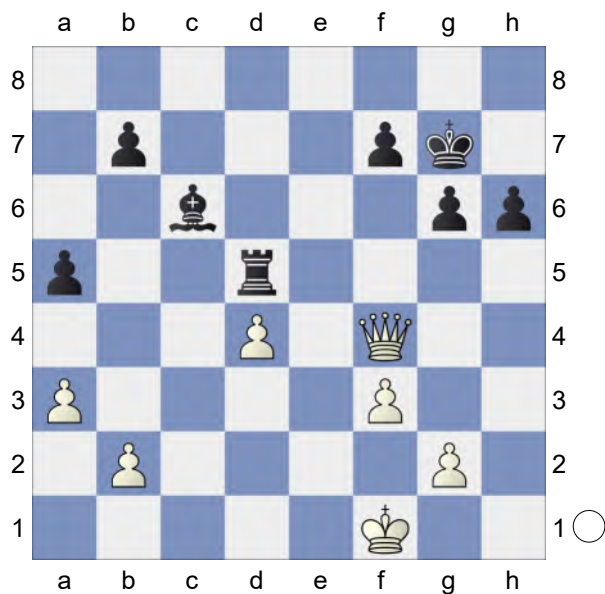
[This is something computers still don't fully understand, so most engines recommend This is something computers still don't fully understand, so most engines recommend 28...Rg6!? 29.g3[±] /= /= /= Black is slightly worse, but with reasonable drawing chances. Similar to the game, only here the play is more complex. Black is slightly worse, but with reasonable drawing chances. Similar to the game, only here the play is more complex.]

29.Rxe8+ Kxe8 30.Qg4 g6

(Diagram)

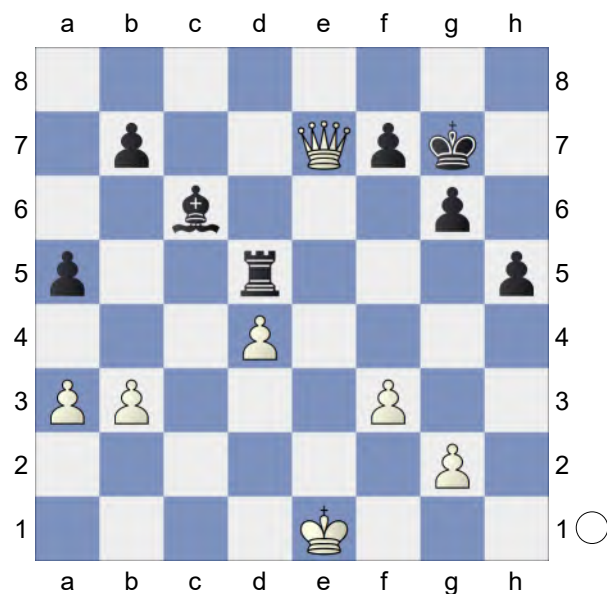


31.Bxd5 Rxd5 32.Qc8+ Ke7
33.Qxc7+ Kf6 34.Qf4+ Kg7 35.f3 a5

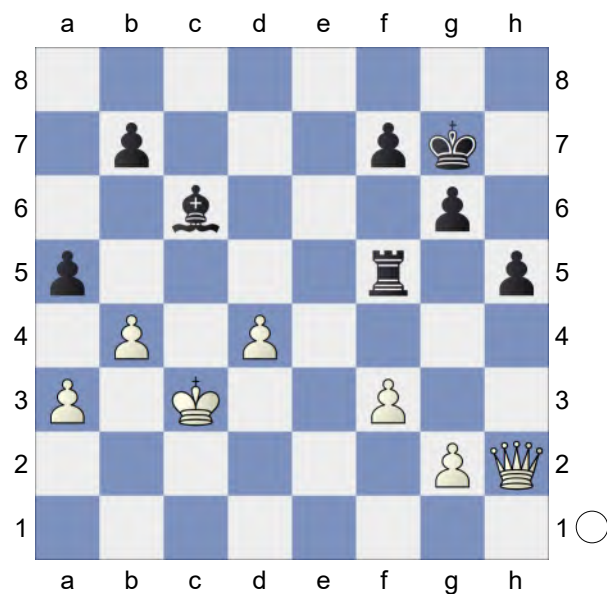


36.b3 Breaking down the defences is by no means easy, but White can play on for very long and without any risk. Breaking down the defences is by no means easy, but White can play on for very long and without any risk. **36...h5 37.Kf2 Rb5 38.Qe3 Rd5 39.Ke1 Rf5 40.Qe7 Rd5**

(Diagram)

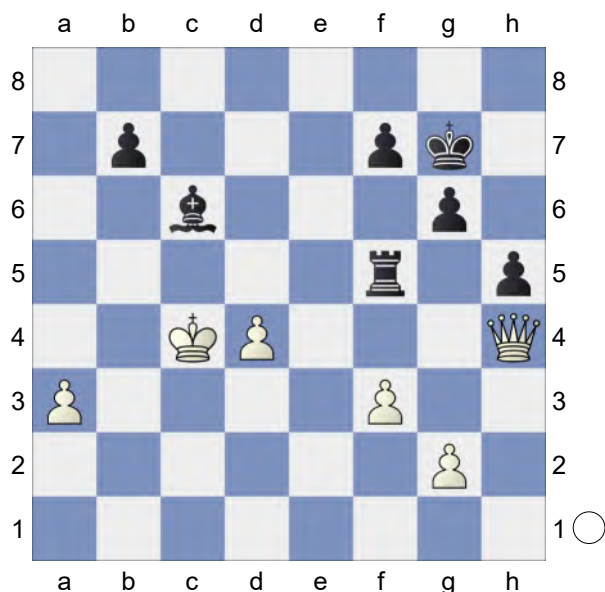


41.Qc7 Rf5 42.Qh2 Before activating his king, White stops any active counterplay. Before activating his king, White stops any active counterplay. **42...Bd7 43.Kd2 Be6 44.Kc3 Bd5 45.b4 Bc6**



46.Kb3 Bd5+ 47.Kc3 Bc6 48.Qh4 axb4+ 49.Kxb4 Rd5 50.Kc4 Rf5

(Diagram)



51.Qd8 Bb5+ 52.Kb4 Wei Yi has done his best, but the blockade is still holding... Wei Yi has done his best, but the blockade is still holding... **52...Bf1?** Black crumbles; this pseudo-active sortie is the decisive mistake. Black crumbles; this pseudo-active sortie is the decisive mistake.

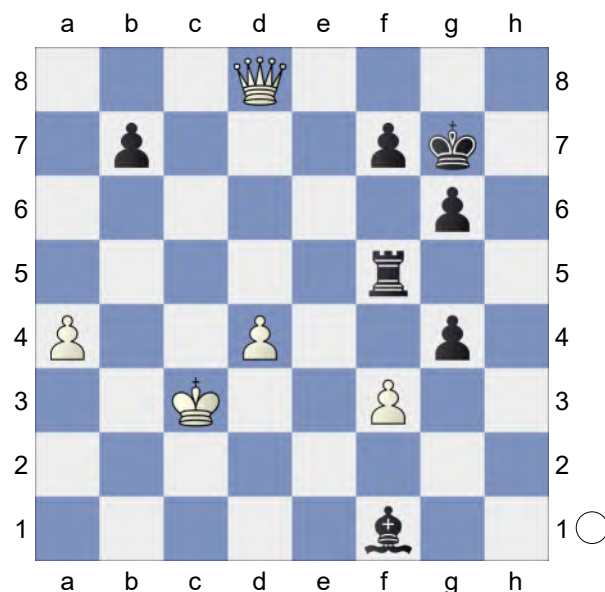
[He had to play the solid & patient He had to play the solid & patient 52...Bc6± White's chances lie in a suitable combination of the a6 and g4 breaks, but his win is by no means guaranteed. White's chances lie in a suitable combination of the a6 and g4 breaks, but his win is by no means guaranteed.]

53.g4! Rb5+ 54.Kc3 hxg4 55.a4! An important intermediate move. An important intermediate move.

[55.fxg4?! Bg2 56.a4 Rd5 complicates the issue for White. complicates the issue for White.]

55...Rf5

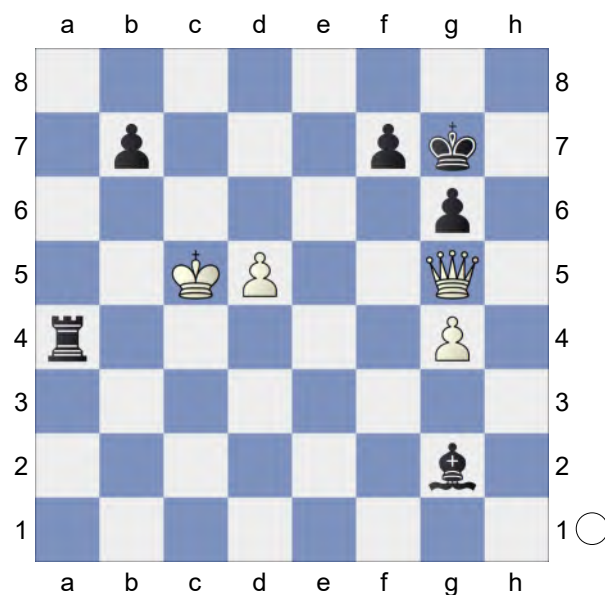
(Diagram)



56.fxg4 Rf3+ The rook has no more squares on the 5th rank, so the passed pawn can advance - the end is near. The rook has no more squares on the 5th rank, so the passed pawn can advance - the end is near. **57.Kb4 Rf4 58.Kc5 Bg2**

[58...Rxg4 59.Qe7 Bg2 60.a5+- Δ d5 Δ d5 Δ d5]

59.Qg5 Re4 60.d5+- Rxa4



61.Qe5+ Kf8 Other moves loses material immediately: Other moves loses material immediately:

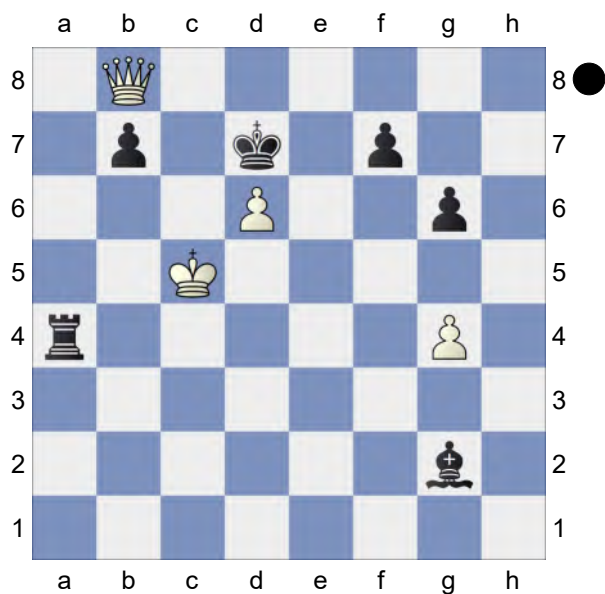
[61...Kg8? 62.Qe8+]

[61...Kh7? 62.Qh2+]

[61...f6? 62.Qc7+ Kg8 (62...Kh6
63.Qh2+) 63.Qc8+ Kg7 64.Qd7+]

62.Qh8+ Ke7 63.d6+ Kd7 64.Qb8

[64.Qb8 Ra5+ 65.Kb4+- and the ♖d6
will cost Black at least a rook. and the
♙d6 will cost Black at least a rook.]



1-0

166 **D90**
 □ Navara, David **2729**
 ■ Wei, Yi **2675**
 Tata Steel-B 77th (5) 15.01.2015
 [Stohl, Igor]

I'Ami, Erwin: 'The clash between the number one and number two came early in the tournament in round five. Navara came well-prepared, but Wei Yi showed tremendous tenacity in defense.' **1.Nf3** Navara knows his opponent from the Chinese league and he wanted to lure him into a concrete variation. I'Ami, Erwin: 'Stohl, I: 'Navara knows his opponent from the Chinese league and he wanted to lure him into a concrete variation.'

[After 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 Wei Yi also plays the Nimzo-Indian. He had one full-blooded Grünfeld in Wijk: g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3 Bg7

A) 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Qb3 is an attempt to transpose into the game, but here Black has the alternative Nxc3 7.bxc3 c5 8.e3 0-0 9.Be2 Nc6 10.0-0 Na5 11.Qa3 cxd4 12.exd4 (12.cxd4 Be6 with typical counterplay.) 12...b6 13.Bg5 f6 14.Be3 Be6 15.Nd2 Qd6 16.Qxd6 exd6 17.Bf4 d5 18.Rfe1 Kf7 19.Ba6 Rad8 20.h4 Bc8 21.Bb5 Bd7 22.a4 Rfe8= Anton Guijarro, D (2490)-Nabaty, T (2582) Benasque 2012;

B) 5.Bg5 Ne4 6.Bf4 Nxc3 (Grischuk lately experimented with 6...0-0!? Δ 7.Nxd5 c5≡) 7.bxc3 dxc4 (7...c5 is more popular, but the text is no worse.) 8.e3 Be6 9.Qb1 b6 10.Ng5 Bd5 11.e4 h6

B1) The position after 12.exd5

hxc5 13.Qb5+ occurs more often with the bishop on h4. Then Black can also consider 13...c6!? 14.dxc6 a6=, now he has the standard Qd7 14.Qxd7+ Nxd7 15.Bxc5 b5 16.a4 b4≠ (16...Nb6!? 17.axb5 0-0-0=);

B2) 12.Nf3 Be6 13.Be5 f6!? (This ugly, but concrete move seems stronger than 13...0-0 14.Bxc7 Kxc7 15.d5 Bc8 16.Bxc4 c6 17.0-0 Bb7 18.Bb3 cxd5 19.exd5 Nd7 20.c4 Nc5 21.Qb2+ Kh7 22.Rad1± Frog, I (2295)-Baikov, V (2370) Moscow 1995)

B2a) 14.d5 Bf7 15.Bg3 Maris, I (2178)-Leenhouts, K (2385) Vlissingen 2014 f5 16.Be5 0-0 is only a transposition. (Moreover, Black can consider 16...Bxe5!? 17.Nxe5 Qd6∞);

B2b) 14.Bg3 0-0 15.d5 f5 16.Be5 Bf7 I'Ami, Erwin: 'Stohl, I: 'is only a transposition.' 17.Bxc4 Bxe5 18.Nxe5 Qd6 19.f4 Nd7 20.Nxd7 (20.Nxf7 Qxf4! 21.d6 Rxf7≡ ↑) 20...Qxd7 21.exf5? (21.0-0 c6 22.exf5 gxf5 23.dxc6 Qxc6=) 21...Bxd5 22.Qe4 Rxf5 23.0-0-0 e6≠ Timman, J (2593)-Wei, Y (2675) Wijk aan Zee-B 2015]

1...Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 I'Ami, Erwin: 'The Anti-Grünfeld (where White delays the advance d2-d4) has served David well in both colors. I recall a victory with the black pieces against Levon Aronian, also in Wijk aan Zee.' **5.Qb3**

[5.Qc2 was introduced by Topalov

against Kamsky in 2011. Black's best is Nc6 and now:

A) 6.Qb3 Nb6 7.d4 is a paradoxical idea, White has invested a tempo and tries to prove the ♖c6 is misplaced. After Be6 8.Qd1 Bg7 9.e3 0-0 10.Be2 Bc4 11.Bxc4 Nxc4 12.0-0 Qd7 13.b3 Nb6 (13...Nd6!?=) 14.Bb2 Rad8 15.Qc2 e5 16.dxe5 Nxe5 17.Nxe5 Bxe5 18.Ne4 Vallejo Pons,F (2698)-Wei,Y (2634) Leon rpd 2014 Black can hold the balance with Bxb2 19.Qxb2 Nd5 20.Rad1 Qe7=;

B) 6.d4 Ndb4 7.Qa4 Bd7 8.Qd1 e5 9.dxe5 Bf5 10.Bg5 Be7 (10...Nc2+ 11.Qxc2 Bxc2 12.Bxd8 Rxd8 13.Rc1 Bf5 14.e4 Bh6 15.Rd1 Rxd1+ 16.Kxd1 Bg4 17.Bb5 Bxf3+ 18.gxf3 Bf4 19.Nd5 Bxe5 20.Nb4 Bxb2 21.Ke2 Ba3≠ So,W (2653)-Gupta,A (2644) Ho Chi Minh City 2012) 11.e4 Bg4 12.Bxe7 Qxe7 13.a3 Bxf3 14.gxf3 Rd8 15.Qa4 Nd3+ 16.Bxd3 Rxd3 17.Qb5 and here Black has a choice:

B1) 17...Rd4

B1a) 18.Nd5 Qxe5 19.Qxb7 Rxe4+ 20.Kf1 Qxd5 21.fxe4 Qc4+ 22.Kg1 Qxe4 23.Qc8+ Ke7 24.Qxc7+ (24.Qxh8 Nd4 and White can't avoid a perpetual) 24...Kf8 25.h4 ½, Szymanski,R (2414)-Spiegel,W (2373) email 2011 Nd4 26.Rh3 Qg4+ 27.Rg3 Ne2+=;

B1b) 18.f4 0-0 19.h4 (19.Qxb7 Qe6 20.Qa6 Nxe5 21.Qxe6 Nd3+=) 19...Qe6 20.Qe2 Rfd8 21.h5 Qb3

(21...g5!? 22.Rg1 h6∞) 22.hxg6 hxg6 23.Rh3 Rd2 24.Qg4 R2d3 25.Rxd3 Rxd3 26.Rd1 Rxd1+ 27.Nxd1 Nd4 28.Qd7 Qd3 ½, Zhao,J (2577)-Gao,R (2427) Ho Chi Minh City 2012;

B2) 17...Rxf3 18.Qxb7 Nd8 19.Qb4

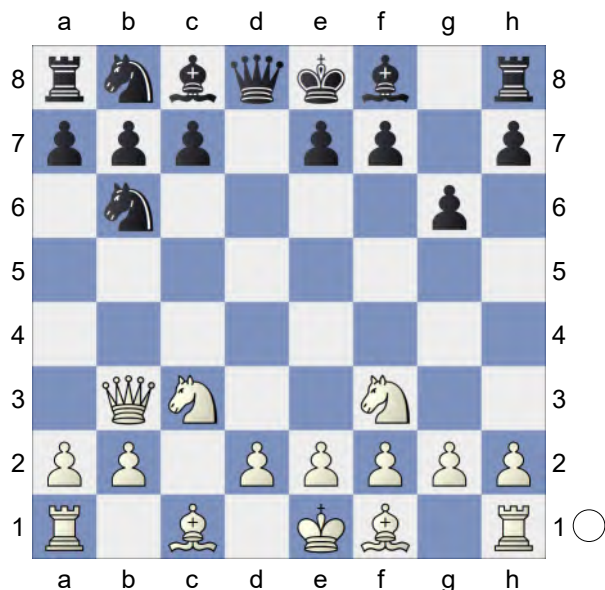
B2a) 19...Qxe5 20.Rd1 c6 (20...a5? has been played at least twice to avoid the following endgame. Surprisingly White hasn't found the decisive 21.Qa4+ c6 22.Rxd8+! Kxd8 23.Qd1++-) 21.0-0 Ne6 22.Qd6 Qxd6 23.Rxd6 0-0 24.Kg2 Rd3= /±, Vorobiov,E (2574)-Sutovsky,E (2700) WCup Khanty-Mansiysk 2011;

B2b) 19...Qh4!? 20.0-0-0 a5 21.Qb5+ (⊔21.Qxa5 0-0 22.Qxc7 Ne6∞ is an engine evaluation. White's kingside is weak and his queenside passed pawns can't move forward so easily...) 21...Kf8 22.e6? (22.Qxa5 Ne6∞) 22...Qf4+! 23.Kb1 Nxe6 24.Rd3 Rxf2 25.Qxa5 Rxh2 26.Rxh2 Qxh2≠ Arnaudov,P (2476)-Cheparinov,I (2664) BUL-ch Panagyurishte 2012]

5...Nb6

[Now 5...Nxc3? 6.Qxc3 is inferior, as both Rg8 (and 6...f6 are serious positional concessions.)]

(Diagram)



6.d4 Bg7

[6...Be6 7.Qc2 Bg4!? (After 7...Bg7 8.e4 Bg4 9.Ne5± Black's results in practice have been horrible.) 8.Qe4 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 c6 (9...Qxd4 10.Qxb7 Bg7 11.g3 Qb4 12.Qf3±) 10.e3 Bg7 11.Be2 e5 12.dxe5 Bxe5 13.Qe4 Qe7 14.Bd2 N8d7 15.Qc2 0-0 16.0-0 Rfe8 17.Rfd1 a5! 18.Be1 a4 19.Rab1 Nc5 20.Bf1 Rd8 21.g3 Bg7 22.Rxd8+ Rxd8 23.b4 axb3 24.axb3 Ra8 25.b4= /±, Gelfand,B (2740)-Svidler,P (2747) London Candidates 2013; For more details see the notes to this game in CBM 154 by Marin.]

7.Bf4

[Navara used to play 7.e4 here; his opponent was undoubtedly prepared: Bg4 (7...0-0 8.Be3 Bg4 transposes to the Smyslov System (D98-99), which is not Black's main choice against the ♘f3, ♙b3 Grünfeld nowadays.) 8.Bb5+ c6 9.Ng5 0-0 10.Be2 Bxe2 11.Nxe2 Possibly the most reliable reaction is the pawn sacrifice

A) 11...h6 12.Nf3±;

B) 11...e5 12.dxe5 h6 13.Nh3!? N8d7 14.f4 Nc5 15.Qc2 Nd3+ 16.Kf1∞ /± and Black's

compensation is questionable;

C) 11...Na6 12.Qh3 h6 13.Nf3

C1) 13...Qd7 14.Qh4 (14.g4!? h5 15.Rg1∞) 14...g5?! (14...h5) 15.Bxg5! h5 16.Nxg5 Rfd8 17.Qh5 e5 18.0-0 f6 19.Qh7+ Kf8 20.f4 exd4 21.f5 f5 22.f6+- Navara,D (2710)-Ris,R (2407) Reykjavik 2013;

C2) 13...h5 14.Rg1 Nd7 15.e5 Nb4 16.g4 Nc2+ 17.Kf1 Nxe5!? 18.Nxe5 Bxe5 19.gxh5 Qc8 20.Rg4 Qf5 21.dxe5 Rad8 22.hxg6 fxg6! (22...Rd1+? 23.Kg2 Ne1+ 24.Kg3 Qf3+ 25.Kh4 Qxf2+ 26.Kg5 f6+ 27.Kh6+- Cheparinov,I (2678)-Sutovsky,E (2660) Poikovsky 2013 White's king march is decisive! Qxe2 28.Re4! Qg2 29.Qe6+ Kh8 30.h4) 23.Nf4 Rd1+ 24.Ke2 (24.Kg2 Qe4+ 25.f3 Ne1+ 26.Kg3 Rd3!= /±) 24...Re1+ 25.Kd2 Rd8+ 26.Kc3 Nxa1 27.Rxg6+ Qxg6 28.Nxg6 Rxc1+ 29.Kb4 Rd4+ 30.Ka3 Nc2+=;

D) 11...c5!? 12.dxc5 N6d7 13.Qxb7 Qa5+ 14.Bd2 Qa6 15.c6 Qxc6 16.Qxc6 Nxc6 17.Rc1 Rac8 18.b3 Rfd8 (18...Nce5 19.0-0 Nd3 20.Rxc8 Rxc8 21.Be3 Rc2 22.Nc1 Nxc1 23.Rxc1 Rxa2 24.Kf1 h6 25.Rc8+ Nf8 26.Nf3 a5= Anton Guijarro,D (2607)-Harika, D (2505) Doha 2014) 19.Nf3 Bb2 Lupulescu,C (2630)-Swiercz,D (2614) Bundesliga 2014 20.Rc2 Nb4! 21.Rxc8 Nd3+=]

7...Be6 This is the main move. The Grünfeld is a very concrete opening and sometimes Black must even postpone castling to get effective counterplay. I'Ami,Erwin: 'Stohl,I: 'This is the main move. The Grünfeld is a very concrete opening and sometimes Black must even postpone castling to get effective counterplay."

[After 7...0-0 8.e3 (or even 8.Rd1 it's more difficult for Black to break up, or threaten White's centre.)]

8.Qa3 A strange square for the queen, but on the other hand White's play aims to keep his centre intact as long as possible. I'Ami,Erwin: 'Stohl,I: 'A strange square for the queen, but on the other hand White's play aims to keep his centre intact as long as possible."

[8.Qd1 c5! 9.e3 (9.e4!? cxd4 10.Nb5 Na6 11.Nbxd4 0-0 12.Bxa6 bxa6 13.0-0 Bg4±; 9.dxc5 Bxc3+ 10.bxc3 Qxd1+ 11.Rxd1 Na4 12.Nd4 Bc4!?=) 9...0-0 10.dxc5 Bxc3+ (10...Nd5 11.Nxd5 Qxd5 also looks good: 12.Qxd5 Bxd5 13.Be5 Rc8!=) 11.bxc3 Qxd1+ 12.Rxd1 Na4 13.Nd4 Nxc5 14.Nxe6 Nxe6 15.Bg3 Rc8 16.c4 Nc6 17.Be2 Grigoriants,S (2570)-Navara,D (2727) Wroclaw blitz 2014 Nc5∞]

[8.Qc2 Nc6 also gives Black tempi and counterplay after

A) 9.Rd1 Nb4 10.Qb1 0-0 11.e3 Bf5 12.e4 Bg4 13.Be2 Bxf3 14.Bxf3 Bxd4 15.Nd5 Hebert,J (2378)-Fier,A (2567) Cannes 2014 N4xd5 16.Rxd4 Nxf4 17.Rxd8 Rfxd8±;

B) 9.e4 Nxd4!? 10.Nxd4 Qxd4 11.Nb5 Qb4+! 12.Bd2 Qxb2 13.Nxc7+ (13.Qxb2 Bxb2 14.Rb1? Be5 15.f4 a6±)

13...Kd8= and White's compensation is at best good enough only for equality.;

C) 9.e3 Nb4 10.Qd1 0-0 11.a3 N4d5 12.Nxd5 Bxd5 13.Rc1 c6 14.Be2 Nd7= (14...a5 15.0-0 a4 16.Bg3 Nd7 17.Bc4 Qa5 18.Bxd5 Qxd5 19.Qe2 f5 20.Rfd1 Ra5 21.Ne1 Rb5 22.Nd3 Rb3 23.Rc2 Qf7 24.Qd2 Ra8 25.Qc1 Rb5 26.Rc4 Bf8 27.Qc2 Nb6 28.Rc5± Kholmov,R (2540)-Hort,V (2600) Moscow 1975)]

8...c5!? I'Ami,Erwin: 'Diagram

[8...Bc4 seems rather artificial: 9.0-0-0 (9.b3 Ba6 10.e3± is not bad, but perhaps White can aspire to more.; 9.Ne5!? Ba6 10.Rd1 is also interesting.) 9...c6 10.h4 N8d7 11.h5 a5 12.e4 e5 13.Bg5 f6 14.Bxc4 Nxc4 15.Qb3 b5 16.Be3! (16.h6?! Bf8 17.dxe5 fxe5 18.e6 Nc5! 19.Rxd8+ Rxd8 20.Qc2 Stohl,I (2528)-Cernousek,L (2455) CZE - chT 2014 g4±) 16...a4 17.Qc2±]

[8...Nc6 9.e3 (9.0-0-0!? was the famous game Topalov-Kamsky, Kazan 2011, but nowadays attention has shifted to the game continuation.) 9...a5

A) 10.Bb5 0-0 11.Bxc6 bxc6 12.Qc5 (12.0-0 Nc4 13.Qc5 Nxb2 14.Qxc6 Nd3 15.Bg3 Nb4 16.Qc5 Na6 17.Qb5 c5 18.Rfd1 Jakovenko,D (2713)-Navara,D (2715) GRE-chT Achaia 2013 Qd7!? 19.Qxa5 Rfc8±) 12...Nd5 13.Be5 Nxc3 14.Qxc3 Bd5 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.0-0 Bxf3 17.gxf3 Qd5 18.Rfc1 Qxf3 19.Qxc6 Qg4+ 20.Qg2 Qxg2+ 21.Kxg2 Rfb8 22.b3 a4 23.bxa4

Rxa4 24.Rxc7 e6 25.Rc2 Rba8 26.Kf3 R8a5 ♚ Iturrizaga Bonelli,E (2656)-Cheparinov,I (2710) Leon 2012;

B) 10.Rc1!? 0-0 11.Be2 Nb4 12.b3 c6 13.0-0 Bg4 14.Rfd1 N6d5 15.Nxd5 Nxd5 16.Bg3 Qb6 17.h3 Bh5 18.Bh4! Bxf3 19.Bxf3 e6 20.e4± Wang,H (2739)-Nepomniachtchi,I (2718) St Petersburg 2012]

[Black has reasonable chances to equalise after the modest 8...0-0 9.e3 N8d7 (Even here 9...Nc6 10.Be2 a5 11.0-0 Nb4 12.Rfc1 c6 13.Be5 Bh6 14.Ne4 Nd7 15.Nc5 Nxc5 16.Rxc5 Nd5 17.Bc4 Qb6 18.e4 Nf6 19.Bxe6 fxe6 20.Rc2 Qb4 21.Qd3± /±, Kramnik,V (2800)-Nakamura,H (2758) Moscow 2011)

A) 10.Be2 c5! eases Black's task: 11.dxc5 Nc4 12.Qb4 a5 13.Qb5 Rc8 14.0-0 (14.Nd4 Nxc5! ♗ Δ 15.Bxc4? Bd7) 14...Rxc5 15.Qxb7 Nxb2 16.Nd4 Rxc3 17.Qxb2 Rc5=;

B) 10.Rd1!?

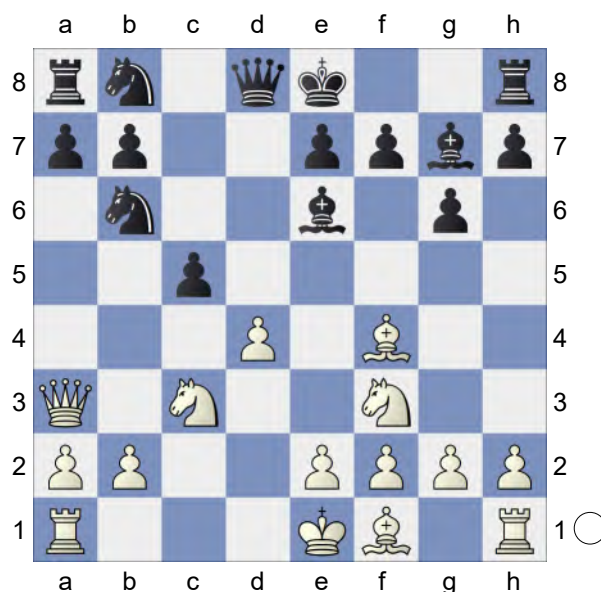
B1) 10...Nd5

B1a) 11.Nxd5 Bxd5 12.Be2 c6 13.0-0 Re8! 14.Bg3 Qb6 15.b3 e5 (Δ 15...a5!= Eljanov) 16.Nxe5 Nxe5 17.dxe5 Bxe5 18.Bc4 Bxc4 19.bxc4 Bxg3 20.hxg3= /±, Eljanov,P (2687)-Shirov,A (2740) Foros 2008;

B1b) 11.Bg3!? c6 12.e4 Nxc3 13.bxc3 Nf6 14.Bd3 Bg4 15.Rb1 Bxf3 16.gxf3 b6 17.Qa4 Qd7 18.Bf4 Rfd8 19.Rd1 Qh3 20.Ke2 Bh6 ♘ Rahman,Z (2528)-Vachier Lagrave,M (2722) WCup

Khanty-Mansiysk 2011;

B2) 10...c6 11.Ng5 Bd5 12.e4 Bc4! (12...e5 13.dxe5 Bxe5 14.Bxe5 Nxe5 Eljanov,P (2687)-Svidler,P (2746) Foros 2008 15.f4!±) 13.Bxc4 Nxc4 14.Qb3 e5 15.Qxc4 exf4 16.Nf3 c5!? 17.dxc5 Bxc3+ 18.bxc3 Qe7 (18...Qc7=) 19.c6 Nb6 20.Qb4 Rfe8 (20...Qxb4 21.cxb4 bxc6=) 21.Qxe7 (Δ 21.cxb7!? Qxb4 22.cxb4 Rxe4+ 23.Kd2 Rb8=) 21...Rxe7 22.cxb7 Rxb7 23.Rd4?! Na4! 24.Rb4 Goganov,A (2581)-Grandelius,N (2576) Stockholm 2014 Rab8 25.Kd2 Nxc3! 26.Rxb7 Nxe4+ ♗]



Stohl,I: '!'?' The most aggressive alternative, Black sacrifices a pawn to open either the long diagonal, or the c-file and disrupt White's development. l'Ami,Erwin: 'Stohl,I: 'The most aggressive alternative, Black sacrifices a pawn to open either the long diagonal, or the c-file and disrupt White's development.'" 9.e4!?' l'Ami,Erwin: '!' l'Ami,Erwin: 'Stohl,I: '!'?' A sharp thrust,

which actually also wins material and leads the game into murky tactical waters. I'Ami,Erwin: 'Stohl,I: 'A sharp thrust, which actually also wins material and leads the game into murky tactical waters.'

[9.0-0-0?! cxd4 10.Nxd4 (10.Nb5? Nd5) 10...Bxd4 11.e3 Nc6 $\bar{f}$]

[Modest, but playable is 9.e3 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Bxd4 11.Rd1 (11.exd4 forces White to reckon with the greedy Qxd4!? 12.Be3 Qe5 ∞) 11...Nc6 12.exd4 (12.Nb5 0-0 13.Nxd4 Nxd4 14.Rxd4 Qc8C $\rightleftharpoons$) 12...Nd5 (12...0-0!? 13.Be2 Qd7 $\rightleftharpoons$) 13.Bh6 Qb6 14.Be2 0-0-0 15.0-0 Nxd4?! (15...Qb4!? = Krasenkow) 16.Bg7 $\rightarrow$ Inarkiev,E (2693)-Sutovsky,E (2660) Poikovsky 2013 (16.Rxd4!? Qxd4 17.Rc1 $\rightarrow$)]

[I'Ami,Erwin: 'The only serious test. Instead' 9.Qxc5 is solid: Nc6 10.e3 (10.e4!?) 10...Rc8 11.Qa3 0-0 I'Ami,Erwin: 'offers Black plenty of play for the pawn. It is interesting to note though that Navara himself was unable to prove that compensation in a game against Le Quang Liem. He undoubtedly had an improvement prepared there.' (11...Nc4 12.Bxc4 Bxc4 13.d5! Qa5 14.Qxa5 Nxa5 15.Be5 $\uparrow$)

A) 12.Be2 Nc4 13.Qa4 (13.Bxc4 Bxc4 14.d5 Na5 15.Be5 Bxd5! Δ 16.Bxg7 Nc4 17.Qxa7 Bxf3 18.Bxf8 Bxg2 19.Qd4 Qxd4 20.exd4 Bxh1 21.Bxe7 Nxb2=) 13...Nxb2 14.Qb5 Nc4! 15.0-0 Qa5 16.Rfc1 Qxb5 (16...Na3?! 17.Qxb7 Nb4 18.Ne1 Bf5 19.g4 Nac2 20.Nxc2 Bxc2 21.Nb5 $\pm$ Le Quang Liem (2703)-Navara,D (2706) Belfort 2012) 17.Nxb5

Nb6=;

B) 12.Rd1

B1) 12...Nd5 13.Nxd5 Bxd5 14.Bd3!? (14.Be2 $\pm$) 14...Bxf3 15.gxf3 Qb6 16.Bg5 h6 17.Bh4 e5 18.d5 e4 19.fxe4 Nb4 20.0-0 g5 21.Bg3 $\pm$ Lalith,B (2529)-Jansa,V (2460) Pardubice 2012;

B2) 12...a5!? 13.Ne5 Nd5 14.Nxc6 Rxc6

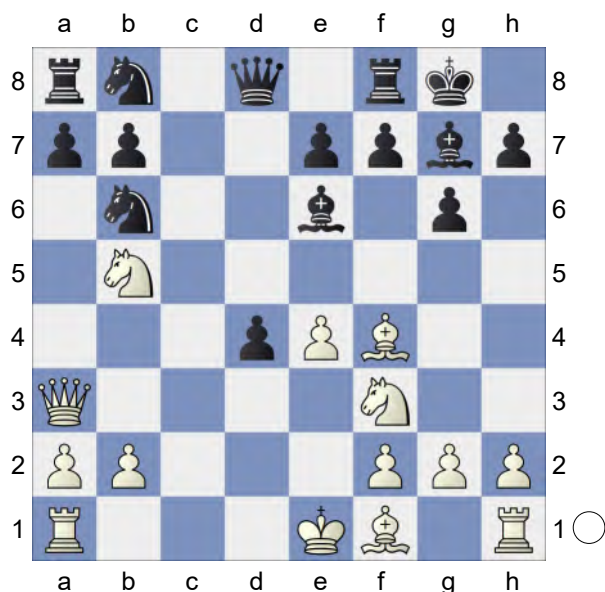
B2a) 15.Bb5? Rb6 (15...Rxc3! 16.bxc3 Nxf4 17.exf4 Qd5 $\rightarrow$) 16.Qxa5? (16.Be2 Nxf4 17.exf4 $\bar{f}$) 16...Nxf4 17.exf4 Bb3! 18.0-0 Bxd1 19.Rxd1 Rd6+ Sadorra,J (2451)-Ganguly,S (2625) Subic Bay 2009;

B2b) $\triangleleft$ 15.Bg3! a4!? (15...Nxc3 16.bxc3 Bd5 17.f3 Qb6 18.e4 Bc4 19.Bxc4 Rxc4 20.0-0 $\pm$; 15...Qc8 16.Rc1 Nb4 17.Bb5 Nxa2 18.0-0 Nxc1 19.Rxc1 $\pm$) 16.Bb5 Rxc3 17.bxc3 Qa5 18.Qxa4 Qxc3+ 19.Rd2 Rc8 $\equiv$]

[No one has yet tried 9.dxc5 I'Ami,Erwin: 'is the other move, but here also after' Nc4 I'Ami,Erwin: 'Black has excellent play, and what better proof of the rule not to bring the queen out too early?!' 10.Qb4 Na6 11.Qxb7 Nxc5 12.Qb5+ Nd7 13.e3 Nd6C (or 13...a6 $\equiv$ White's undeveloped kingside certainly looks discouraging.)]

9...cxd4 10.Nb5 I'Ami,Erwin: 'The point. Black is now forced to give up the exchange because 10...Na6 11.Rd1! is very uncomfortable.' **10...0-0!**

[10...Na6?! 11.Rd1 $\uparrow$]



I'Ami,Erwin: 'Stohl,I: '!' Black must be generous! I'Ami,Erwin: 'Stohl,I: 'Black must be generous!' **11.Nc7**

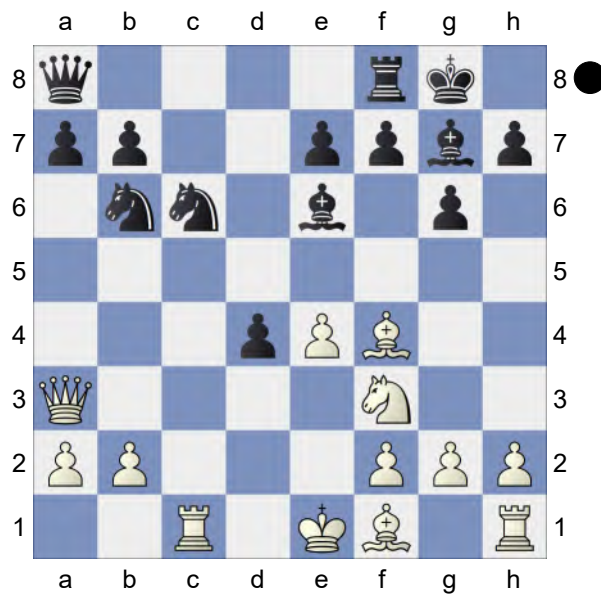
[White shouldn't be too greedy:
11.Bc7?! is very dangerous: Qd7
12.Bxb6 Nc6 13.Nc7 (13.Ba5 b6
14.Bd2 a6↑ /♣) 13...Rac8 14.Ng5
Bg4 15.h3 Bh5 16.g4 axb6 17.Nd5
Qd8 18.Nf3 f5!↑]

11...Nc6 12.Nxa8 Qxa8 I'Ami,Erwin: 'White is up material, but it is way too early to call this an advantage. Black is already fully mobilized and has a pawn for the exchange.' **13.Rc1** I'Ami,Erwin: 'Diagram

[≤13.Bd3 Nc4↑]

[Important. White would like to finish development with 13.Be2 followed by 0-0, but runs into Nc4 because taking 14.Bxc4 Bxc4 would leave the king stranded on e1 forever.]

(Diagram)



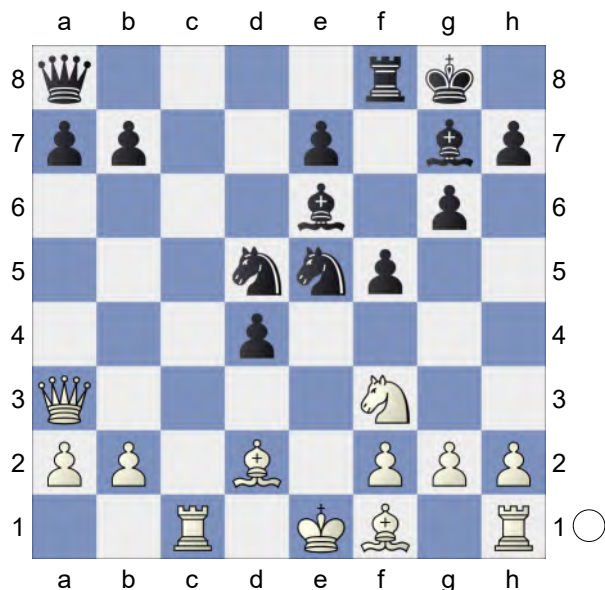
' Kingside development must still wait for a while. I'Ami,Erwin: 'Stohl,I: 'Kingside development must still wait for a while.'

13...f5 I'Ami,Erwin: '!' I'Ami,Erwin: 'This is not the time to play it slow. If White is allowed to castle, he will be clearly better.'

14.e5 I'Ami,Erwin: 'Keeping the position closed, which is the desirable thing to do with the king stuck on e1. With his last move, White gives up the d5-square, which Wei Yi immediately puts to use.' **14...Nd5 15.Bd2 Nxe5**

[The text move is stronger than
15...Qb8 16.Bb5 Bxe5 (16...Nxe5
17.Nxd4 Bf7 18.0-0± , safeguarding
the king.) 17.0-0 Bf7 18.Bxc6 Bd6!
(18...bxc6?! 19.Nxe5 Qxe5 20.Rxc6
f4 21.Qd3 Re8 22.Re1 Qg5
23.Qxd4 e5 24.Qc5+- Bu,Xiangzhi
(2670)-Tomczak,J (2560) Guimaraes
2012) 19.b4± (19.Bxd5 Bxa3
20.Bxf7+ Kxf7 21.bxa3 e5 22.Rc5±)]

(Diagram)



16.Nxd4

[16.Ng5!? could be an interesting area to investigate, with the idea of following up with f2-f4 and Bc4. In my view though, Black should have enough activity in all of these lines.]

16...Bf7 17.Be2 Nb6 'Ami,Erwin: 'Referring to my comment on move 13, White can't be allowed to rest.'

[Again concrete play, after 17...Rd8 18.Nf3 Nxf3+ 19.Bxf3 e5 20.0-0 e4 21.Be2 Qb8 22.Rfd1 Be5 23.h3 Bh2+ 24.Kh1 Nf4 25.Bf1 Nd3 26.Bxd3 Rxd3 27.Bc3± Khismatullin, D (2656)-Popov, I (2653) ECC Rhodes 2013 White has consolidated his slight material advantage.]

18.b3

[18.Qh3 Nec4 (⚠18...Rd8! 19.Bc3 Nd5±) 19.Bc3 Na4 20.Nxf5! Nxc3 21.Rxc3 Bxc3+ 22.Qxc3 gxf5 23.Bxc4 Qc8 24.Qg3+ Kh8 25.Qe5+ Kg8 26.Bxf7+ Kxf7 27.0-0± Wagner, D (2481)-Seger, R (2374) Bundesliga 2014 Material is equal again, but White with his safer king has a long-term advantage.]

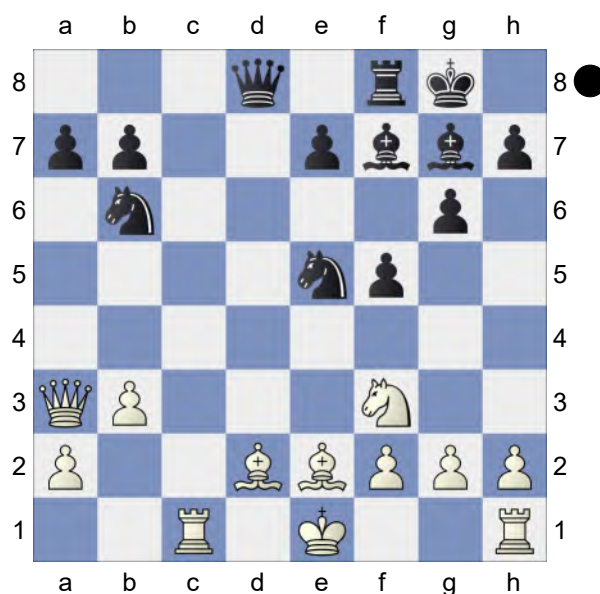
[18.0-0 Nec4! was the point behind the previous move.]

18...Qd8!? 'Ami,Erwin: 'Stohl,I: '!'?"

[18...Rd8 19.Nf3± and in a few moves White finally manages to castle...]

19.Nf3 'Ami,Erwin: 'Diagram

[19.Bc3 Nd5↑ can be unpleasant]

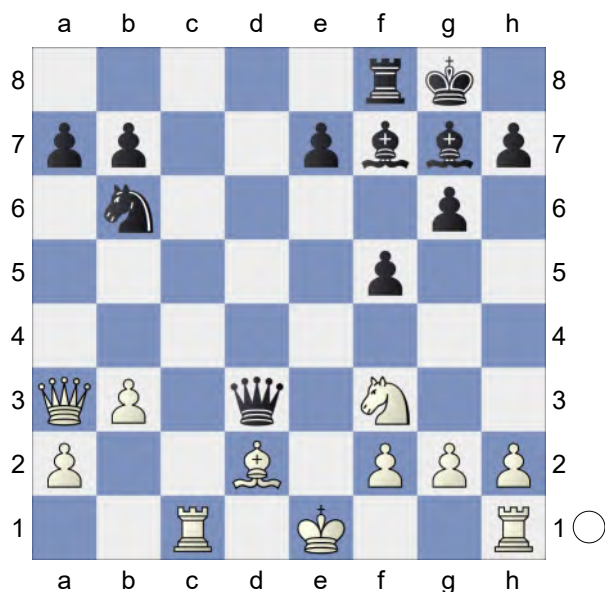


Needless to say, the players were still banging out their moves here. Welcome to modern chess, ladies and gentlemen! White should strive for simplification. 'Ami,Erwin: 'Stohl,I: 'White should strive for simplification.' **19...Nd3+**

[This move was also played quickly; the players are still following the game Svidler-Sutovsky from which Navara is about to deviate. I believe Black has an interesting alternative in 19...Nxf3+!? 20.Bxf3 Bd5! and it's not so easy for White to respond. For instance: 21.Bc3 (21.Qxa7 is the computer suggestion, but Rf6 22.Bg5 Re6+ 23.Kf1 Qd6!? leaves White in a difficult spot. It would go beyond the scope of my tournament report to go into further

detail here, but the main threat is to take on f3 and trap the bishop with f5-f4.; 21.0-0 Bxf3 22.gxf3 Qxd2!) 21...Bxf3 22.Bxg7 Kxg7 23.gxf3 Nd5 and I think the open king and ruined pawn structure don't give White much reason for optimism.]

20.Bxd3 Qxd3



21.Qxa7 I'Ami,Erwin: 'Not only taking the pawn on a7 but also destabilizing the knight. Going into this type of computer-like preparation is typical for David Navara. Personally, I would think twice before entering this position.' **21...Bb2**

[I'Ami,Erwin: 'Investing yet more material to keep the white king centralized. I'm curious what David had planned after' An untested computer line is 21...Nd5 I'Ami,Erwin: 'since the following line seems more or less forced' 22.Qc5

A) 22...Qe4+ 23.Kf1 Bb2 24.Re1 Qd3+ 25.Kg1 e5! with a very double-edged position. At least the engine's main line 26.Qc4 (26.Bh6!?) 26...Nf4 27.Qxd3 Nxd3 28.Rb1 Rc8 29.Ne1 Nxe1 30.Bxe1 Rc2 is far from convincing.

With the bishop coming to d4 I'd take black here!;

B) 22...Bb2 23.Qc2! hence the check on e4.;

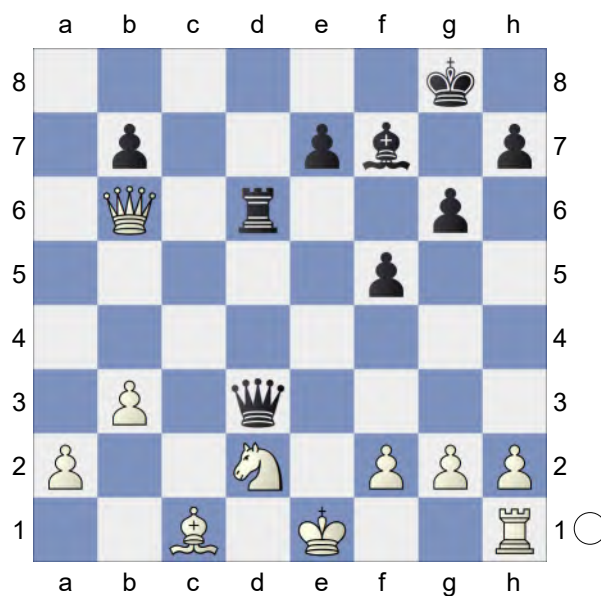
C) 22...e5!? 23.Qc2 Qa6 24.Ng5 Nf4 25.Bxf4 exf4 26.Nxf7 Re8+ 27.Kd1 Bc3! 28.Rb1 Qa5 29.Nd6 Rd8 30.Ke2 (30.Qd3 Qe5 31.Qc4+ Kh8 32.Kc2 Rxd6 33.Rhd1 Rc6 34.Rd5 Qe7 35.Kxc3 Rxc4+ 36.bxc4 Kg7≠) 30...Qe5+ 31.Kf1 Rxd6 32.Qe2 (32.Rd1 Re6 33.Qc1 Qe2+ 34.Kg1 Bd2 35.Qa1 Bc3=) 32...Rd2 33.Qxe5 Bxe5 and White has hardly more than 34.Re1 Bd4 35.Re2 Rd1+ 36.Re1 Rd2=]

[21...Rc8 22.Qxb6 Rxc1+ 23.Bxc1 Bc3+ 24.Bd2 Qb1+ 25.Ke2 Bc4+ 26.bxc4 Qxb6 27.Bxc3±]

22.Qxb6 I'Ami,Erwin: 'Stohl,I: "Practically forced I'Ami,Erwin: 'Stohl,I: "Practically forced"

[22.Rd1 Nd5↑ can be dangerous only for White.]

22...Bxc1 23.Bxc1 Rd8 24.Nd2 Rd6 I'Ami,Erwin: 'Diagram

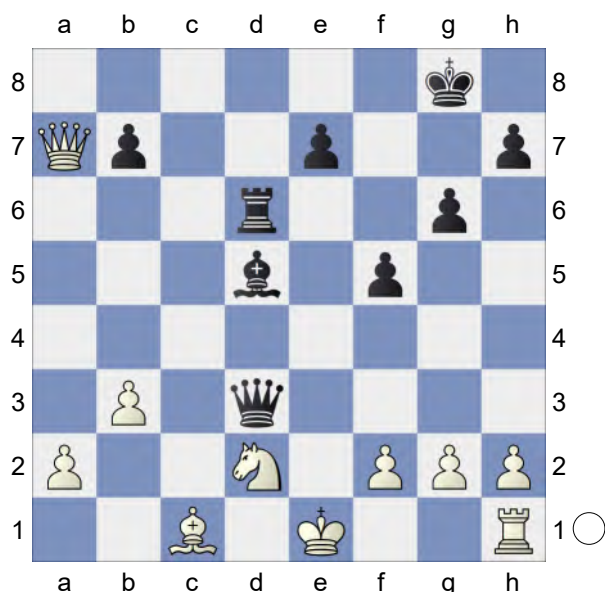


' 25.Qa7!?!N

[I'Ami,Erwin: 'Novelty! Yes, you read that correctly, I was as shocked as you are. Svidler chose' 25.Qb4 Bd5 26.f3 I'Ami,Erwin: 'when' Qe3+! (26...Re6+ 27.Kd1 Re2 28.Bb2 Rxc2 29.Kc1 Bxf3 30.Re1 Rxc2 31.Bc3↑ Svidler,P (2740)-Sutovsky,E (2657) ECC Rhodes 2013 Here Black also has 3 pawns for the knight, but White's forces are better coordinated and his extra piece starts to tell.) 27.Kd1 (27.Kf1? Re6+) 27...Bxf3+! I'Ami,Erwin: 'would have been fine for Black. From a7 the queen does a good job covering the e3-square and can sometimes create counterchances on the eighth rank in combination with the bishop coming to the a1-h8 diagonal.' 28.Kc2 Bxc2 29.Rd1 f4 is a line given by Krasenkow in CBM 157. (29...Kf8!?!=)]

25...Bd5

[25...Qc2? 26.0-0+-]
[25...Re6+? 26.Kd1+-]



Of course, Black must keep

♔ e1

trapped! I'Ami,Erwin: 'Stohl,I: 'Of course, Black must keep ♔ e1 trapped!' 26.f3 Re6+

[Navara in his preparation concentrated on 26...Rc6!

A) 27.Nc4 Bxc4 28.bxc4 Qxc4 29.Kf2 Qh4+ just barely scrapes a draw after 30.Ke2= (30.g3?! Rc2+ 31.Ke3 Qb4! 32.Qb8+ Kf7 33.Qe5 Rc3+ 34.Kf2 Rxc1 35.Rxc1 Qd2+≠);

B) 27.Qa3 Re6+ 28.Kd1 Re2 gives Black plenty of play. It is important that the white queen is on a3 in this line, and not on a7, as we will see later.;

C) 27.Kd1 Rxc1+ 28.Kxc1 Qc3+ 29.Kb1 (I'Ami,Erwin: 'or' 29.Kd1 Qa1+ 30.Kc2 Qxh1 31.Qc5 e6 and White has only a perpetual after 32.Qe7) 29...Qd3+ 30.Kb2 Qxd2+ 31.Ka3 and Black can force a perpetual with Bxf3!? (31...Qxc2= is also playable) 32.gxf3 Qd6+ 33.Ka4 (33.b4 Qd3+ 34.Ka4 b5+ 35.Ka5 Qa3+ 36.Kb6 Qe3+=) 33...Qd7+ 34.Kb4 (34.Ka5 Qd2+ 35.Kb6) 34...Qd2+ 35.Kb5 Qd3+= 36.Kb6?! (36.Kb4) 36...Qe3+ 37.Kxb7 Qxf3+≠ Some novelties objectively don't win, but 25. ♔a7!?! promised White good practical chances - Wei Yi was down to 17 minutes, while David started thinking only now. 38.Kb6 Qxh1 could be pushing it too hard for White. Black's f-pawn is already far advanced.]

27.Kd1 I'Ami,Erwin: 'Stohl,I: '□'

[27.Kf2? Re2+ 28.Kg1 (28.Kg3? f4+!+- mates) 28...Re1+-]

27...Ra6

[27...Rc6!= I'Ami,Erwin: '!' I'Ami,

Erwin: 'was possible again, setting up the same drawing mechanism. Surprisingly, even with an extra tempo (Kd1) White is unable to prevent the draw!' and despite the extra tempo it's surprisingly difficult to meet the main threat. After 28.Rf1 Ra6 29.Qc5 Rxa2 30.Qxe7 h5!? (30...Rxd2+? 31.Bxd2 Qxf1+ 32.Kc2→) it's difficult to see how White should untangle his forces: 31.Qg5 Rxd2+ 32.Bxd2 Qxf1+ 33.Kc2 Kf7=]
 [With the queen on a7 the move 27...Re2 doesn't work: 28.Qb8+ Kf7 29.Qg3! followed by Re1.]

28.Qc5

[28.Qb8+ Kf7 29.Qe5 Rxa2 30.Bb2 Bxb3+ 31.Ke1 Qc2 forces 32.Qg7+ Ke8 33.Qh8+ Kd7 34.Qd4+

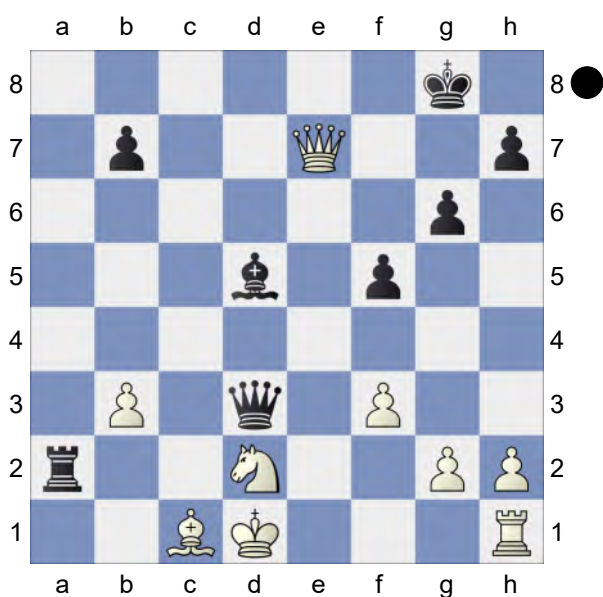
A) 34...Kc8 35.Bc3! (35.Qc3+? Qxc3 36.Bxc3 Rc2?) 35...Qd1+ 36.Kf2 Qxh1 37.Qc5+→;

B) 34...Ke8=]

28...Rxa2

[28...Rc6? 29.Qb4!±]

29.Qxe7 l'Ami,Erwin: 'Diagram



29...Bxb3+

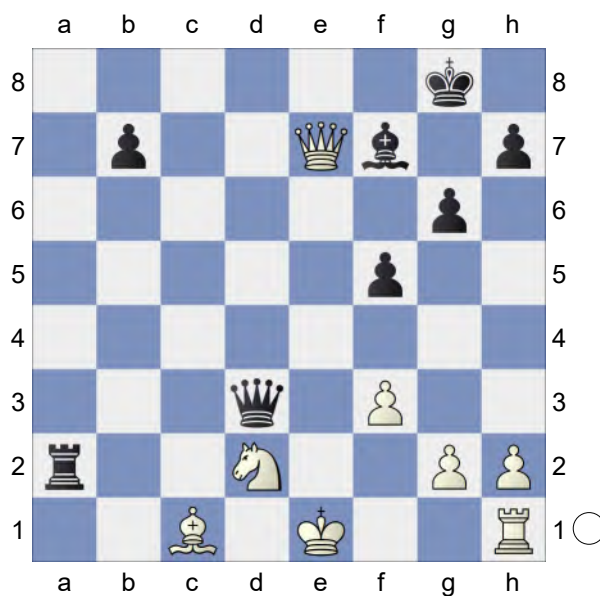
[With engines becoming stronger and

stronger it becomes increasingly difficult to get the point of why they are spitting out certain moves with certain evaluations. This is a beautiful example. Here, apparently, 29...h5!! is the move. I could try to explain it, or pretend to get the point, but honestly I don't.]

30.Ke1 Bf7?

[Both players saw 30...Rc2? 31.Qe8+ Kg7 32.Bb2+!±]

[l'Ami,Erwin: 'The first real mistake of the game. Instead' Wei Yi discarded l'Ami,Erwin: 'Stohl,l: 'Wei Yi discarded' Δ30...Qd4! l'Ami,Erwin: 'l'Ami,Erwin: 'Stohl,l: ' Δ!' due to l'Ami,Erwin: 'Stohl,l: 'due to'' 31.f4 (31.Nxb3 Qf2+ 32.Kd1 Qc2+=) , but Black should hold the endgame after l'Ami,Erwin: 'Stohl,l: ', but Black should hold the endgame after'' 31...Bd5 (31...Qxf4? 32.Rf1) 32.Qe8+ (32.h4!?) 32...Kg7 33.Qe5+ Qxe5+ 34.fxe5 Bxg2 35.Rg1 Bd5≡ l'Ami,Erwin: 'should be holdable, though slightly unpleasant. Stohl,l: '≡']



31.Kf2?! I'Ami,Erwin: 'Stohl,I: '?!'
 Instinctively escaping from the centre.
 I'Ami,Erwin: 'Stohl,I: 'Instinctively
 escaping from the centre.'

[However, Houdini indicates the
 extremely strong 31.Qe5! and now:
 Rc2 (31...Ra8 32.Ne4! fxe4
 33.Bh6+-) 32.Qb8+ Kg7 33.Bb2+!
 Kh6 (33...Rxb2 34.Qe5+-) 34.Qf8+
 Kh5 (34...Kg5 35.Ne4+! fxe4
 36.Qe7+ Kh5 37.g4+ Kh6 38.Qh4#)
 35.Qb4 Bc4 36.Kd1+- Black is in
 zugzwang, as he has no way to
 develop his play - bishop moves run
 into g4+.]

[David's desire to bring his king to
 safety couldn't be more natural but
 perhaps 31.Qb4! is even more
 convincing. It's very hard for Black to
 up the pressure, and trying to force
 matters with Rc2 32.Ba3 Qe3+
 33.Kd1 Rxd2+ 34.Qxd2 Qxa3
 35.Qd8+ Kg7 36.Qd4+ Kg8 37.Re1
 just looks lost.]

31...f4 I'Ami,Erwin: '!

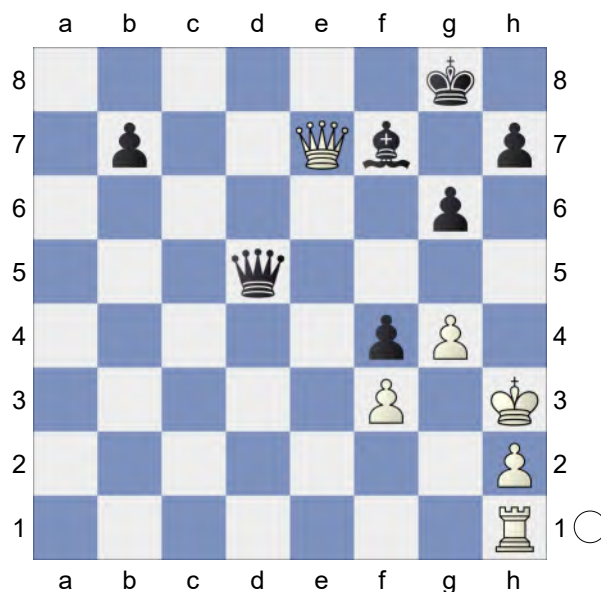
[I'Ami,Erwin: 'The best chance, of
 course.' A simple enough way is I'Ami,
 Erwin: 'Stohl,I: 'A simple enough way
 is" 31...Rxd2+ 32.Bxd2 Qxd2+
 33.Qe2 I'Ami,Erwin: 'would make life
 easy for White.' Qd4+ 34.Qe3± /+-]

[White's task is more difficult after
 31...Rc2!? Δ 32.Kg3 f4+ 33.Kh3
 Qd5! (33...Qf5+ 34.g4 Qc8 35.Bb2!
 Rxb2 36.Ne4→ Navara) 34.Re1
 Qh5+ 35.Qh4 Qc5 36.Ne4 Qc8+
 37.g4 Rxc1 (37...fxg3+? 38.Kxg3
 Rxc1 39.Nf6+ Kg7 40.Nh5+ gxh5
 41.Qg5+-) 38.Qh6 Be6 39.Re2!↑
 White has returned the piece,
 safeguarded his king and has
 attacking chances, but the game is
 still far from over.]

**32.g4!? I'Ami,Erwin: '!' I'Ami,Erwin: 'Stohl,
 I: '?!' 32...Qd4+?! I'Ami,Erwin: 'Stohl,I:
 '?!'**

[Δ32...Rc2 was still better, when
 Navara intended to play 33.Qe1!?±
 (33.Qe4 Qc3 34.Qxf4 Rxc1
 35.Rxc1 Qxc1 36.Qb8+ Kg7
 37.Qe5+ Kg8 38.Ne4 h5± /=)]

**33.Kg2 Rxd2+ 34.Bxd2 Qxd2+
 35.Kh3 Qd5**



36.Qe4 The position has finally stabilised.
 Navara felt that the queen swap leads to
 an easily won endgame, but the position
 is still quite tricky. I'Ami,Erwin: 'Stohl,
 I: 'The position has finally stabilised.
 Navara felt that the queen swap leads to
 an easily won endgame, but the position
 is still quite tricky."

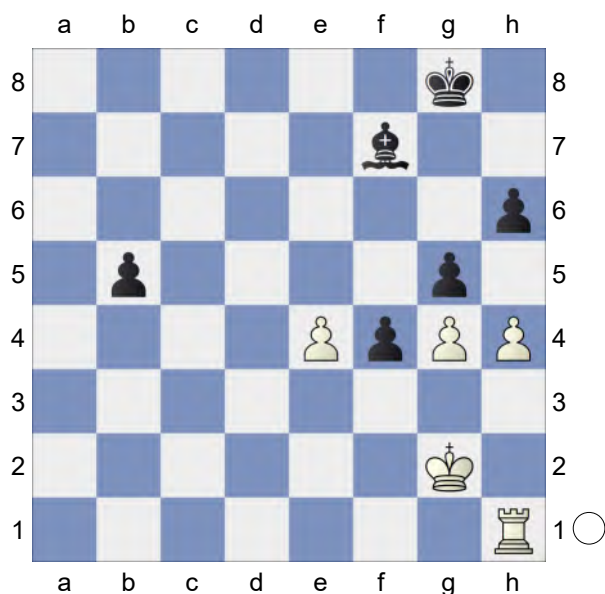
[Therefore afterwards he suggested
 I'Ami,Erwin: 'Stohl,I: 'Therefore
 afterwards he suggested" 36.Qe2!?
 I'Ami,Erwin: 'followed by Rd1 also
 deserved attention, but David
 correctly assesses the endgame as
 being a win.' h5 37.Rd1 hxc4+
 38.fxc4± →, when White plays for the
 attack.]

36...Qxe4 37.fxe4 g5 I'Ami,Erwin:

'Stohl,I: ' □" **38.Kg2** Flexible and good.
 I'Ami,Erwin: 'Stohl,I: 'Flexible and good.'

[After 38.Rb1?! Bc4 White has to play 39.Kg2 anyway.]

38...b5 39.h4 h6 I'Ami,Erwin: 'Diagram



' **40.hxg5?** I'Ami,Erwin: '??' I'Ami,Erwin: 'Stohl,I: '?' Only the last move before the control allows Black to save the game. I'Ami,Erwin: 'Stohl,I: 'Only the last move before the control allows Black to save the game.'

[I'Ami,Erwin: 'A huge slip! It was vital to keep the h-pawns on the board. The winning procedure is not that easy but definitely worth studying.' After I'Ami,Erwin: 'Stohl,I: 'After' 40.Ra1± I'Ami,Erwin: '!' I'Ami,Erwin: 'and now: Stohl,I: ' ±!' Black has extra problems with the weakness on h6, the players analysed I'Ami,Erwin: 'Stohl,I: 'Black has extra problems with the weakness on h6, the players analysed'

A) 40...Bc4 41.Ra6 Kg7;

B) 40...Be6 41.Kf3 Bb3 is an interesting defense, trying to meet a rook lift with Bd1+. With a series of precise moves White

should nevertheless win; 42.Rb1 Bc4 43.Rd1 b4 44.Rd4 Bb3 45.hxg5 hxg5 46.Rxb4 Bd1+ 47.Kf2 Kg7 (47...Bxg4 48.Rb5!) 48.Rb1 Bc2 49.Rb7+ Kg6 50.e5 Bd1 51.Rb6+ Kg7 52.Rb1 Bxg4 53.Rg1 and wins.;

C) 40...b4? 41.hxg5 hxg5 42.Ra5 loses the g-pawn and the game.;

D) 40...Kg7 41.Ra5 Bc4 42.Ra7+

D1) 42...Kg8 43.hxg5!

Now it's time to take and go after the g-pawn. hxg5 44.Rb7 (44.Kf3 Bb3!?) 44...Be2 45.Kf2 Bxg4 46.Rxb5 with an easy technical win. I'Ami,Erwin: '!';

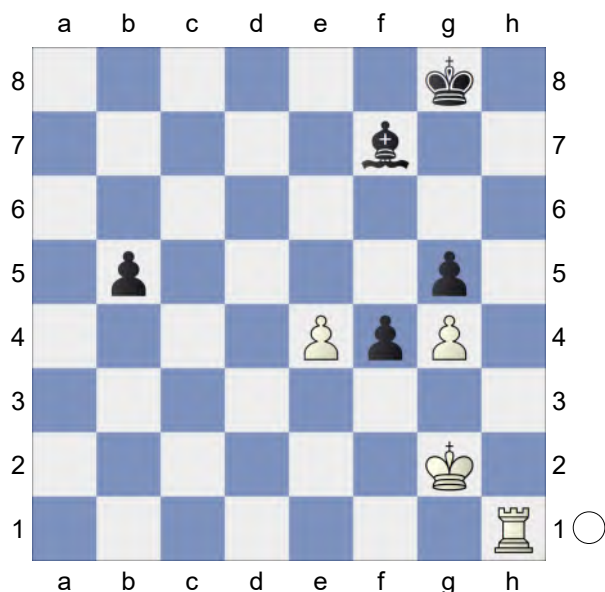
D2) 42...Kf6 43.h5!

D2a) 43...Be2 44.Rh7 Bxg4 45.Rxh6+ I'Ami,Erwin: 'is a line that illustrates why it was important to keep the h-pawns. ' Ke7 (45...Ke5 46.Rg6+-) 46.e5+-;

D2b) 43...Bd3 44.Kf3 b4 45.Rh7 Ke5 46.Rxh6 Bxe4+ 47.Ke2 Kd4 48.Kd2!+- The only winning move, overlooked from the distance by Navara. Preventing ♔c3 stops Black's counterplay and decides the game.]

40...hxg5

(Diagram)



41.Rh6 Kg7

[Good enough, but Black had also
41...b4!? 42.Rb6 b3 43.Rb5 Bc4
44.Rxg5+ Kf7 45.Rc5 Bd3=]

42.Rb6 Bc4 l'Ami,Erwin: 'The difference with the above lines now becomes obvious. White has no way to push the black king to the last rank. David tries a few more moves but eventually has to agree to a draw. There is simply no way through.' **43.Kf3**

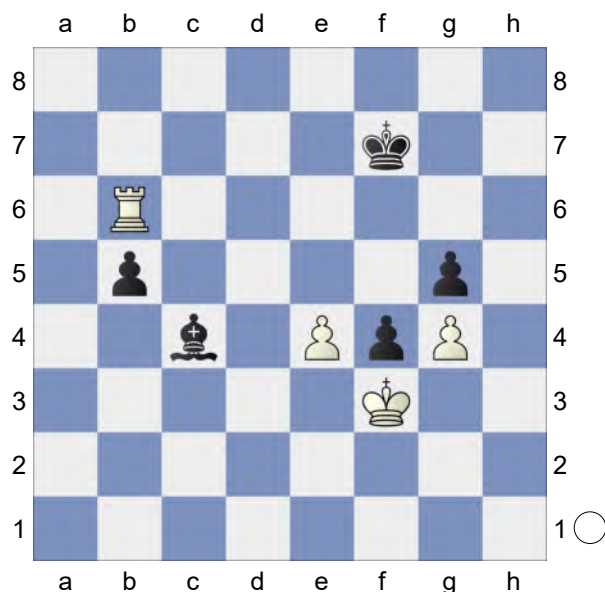
[The attempt to force zugzwang with
43.Kf2!? Kf7 44.Kf3 is insufficient
due to Bd3 45.e5 b4 46.Rxb4 Ke6
47.Rb3 Bc4 48.Rb6+ Kxe5 49.Rg6
Bd5+ 50.Kf2 Be6!=]

43...Kf7 44.Rd6

[44.e5 Bd5+ 45.Kf2 b4!? (45...Be6
46.Rxb5 Bxg4=) 46.Rxb4 Ke6
47.Rb6+ Kxe5 transposes to the
previous note.]

44...Be6 45.Rb6 Bc4

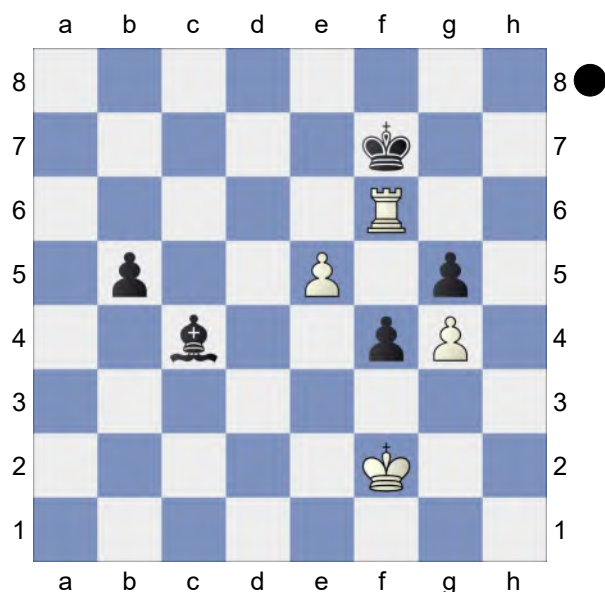
(Diagram)



46.Kf2 Bd3 47.e5 Bc4

[47...b4!? 48.Rxb4 Ke6=]

48.Rf6+ l'Ami,Erwin: 'Diagram



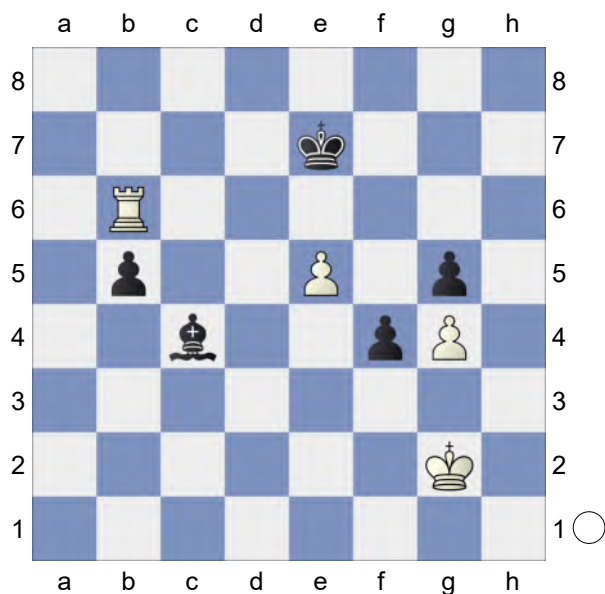
' 48...Ke7 l'Ami,Erwin: '!

[No need to fear ghosts. The threat is
now Be6! Instead 48...Kg7 49.Kf3 b4
50.Ke4 looks a bit scary.]

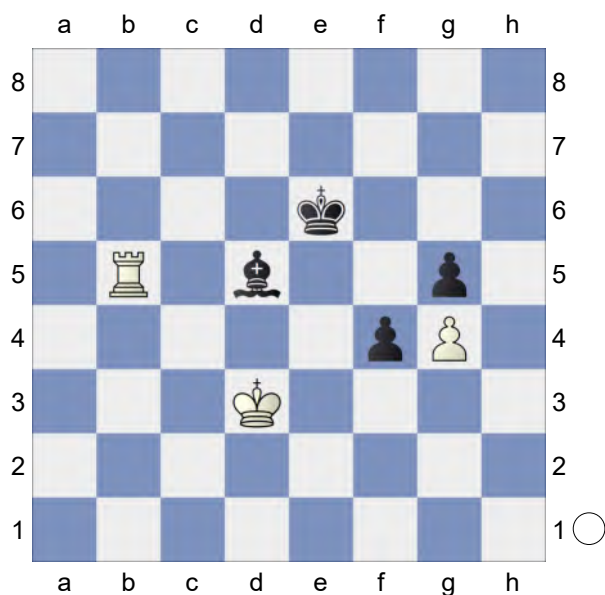
49.Rb6

[49.Rg6 b4 50.Rxg5 b3 and White
can stop the passed pawn only with
51.Rg6 Be6 52.Rg7+ Bf7 53.e6
Kxe6 54.Rg5 Kd6 55.Rf5 Bc4=]
[49.Kf3 Be6!]

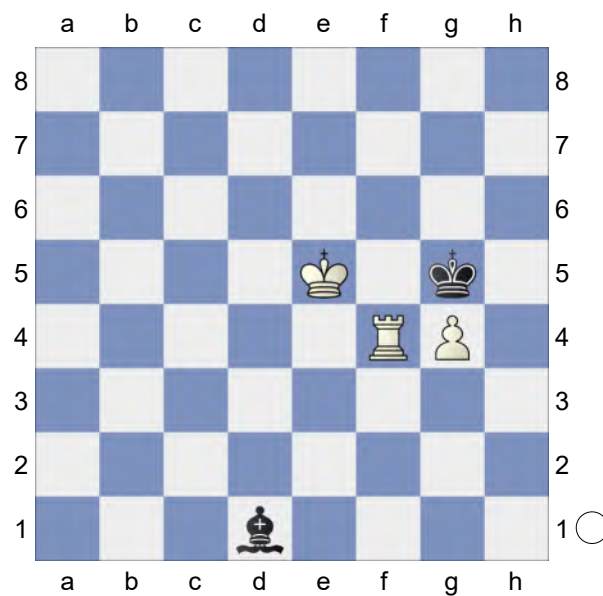
49...Kf7 50.Kg2 Ke7



51.Kf3 Bd5+ 52.Ke2 b4! I'Ami,Erwin: 'Forcing a transition to a drawn endgame on one wing. Stohl,I: '!' Wei Yi precisely calculates the aforementioned liquidation. I'Ami,Erwin: 'Stohl,I: 'Wei Yi precisely calculates the aforementioned liquidation. "
53.Rxb4 Ke6 54.Kd3
 [54.Rb6+ Kxe5 55.Rg6 Be6=]
54...Kxe5 55.Rb5 Ke6



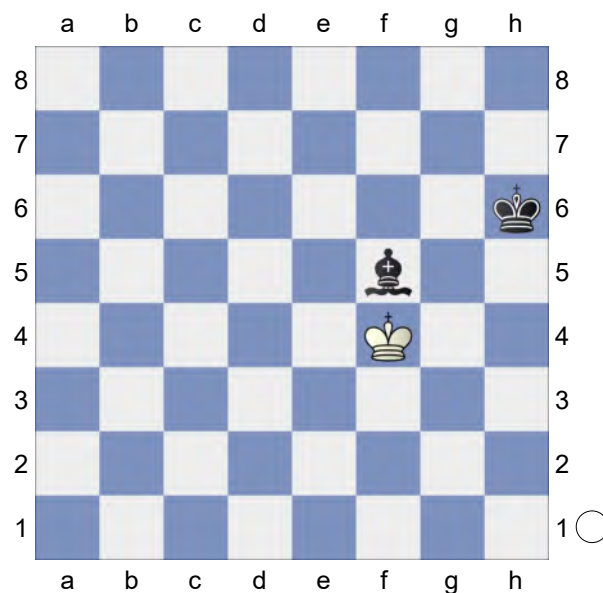
56.Kd4 Bf3 57.Rxg5 Kf6 58.Rf5+ Kg6 59.Rxf4 Bd1= I'Ami,Erwin: 'Stohl,I: '=" **60.Ke5 Kg5**



61.Rf1 Bxg4 62.Rg1 Kh5 63.Kf4 Be6 64.Rg5+ Kh6

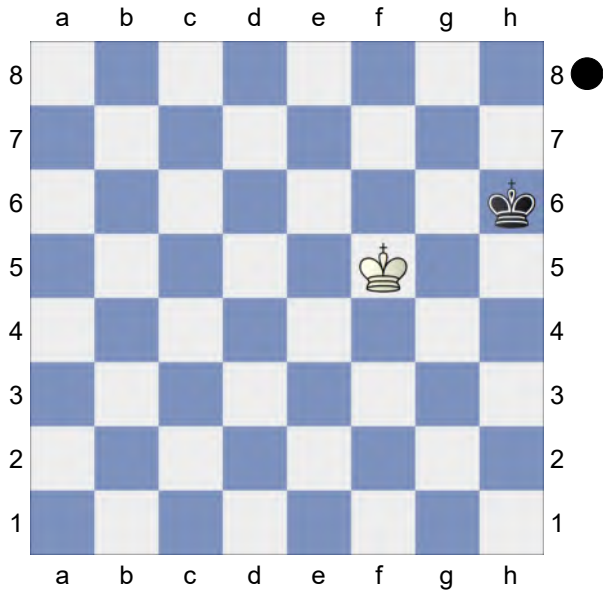
[64...Kh4?? 65.Rg6+-]

65.Rf5 Black's king is in the good corner and Navara decided not to test his opponent anymore. I'Ami,Erwin: 'Stohl,I: 'Black's king is in the good corner and Navara decided not to test his opponent anymore." **65...Bxf5**



66.Kxf5

(Diagram)



I'Ami,Erwin: 'I thought both players were very impressive this game. Sometimes a draw is a fair result!'

$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

45

□ Ding,Liren

■ Wei,Yi

Tata Steel-A 78th (8)

[Stohl,Igor]

D97

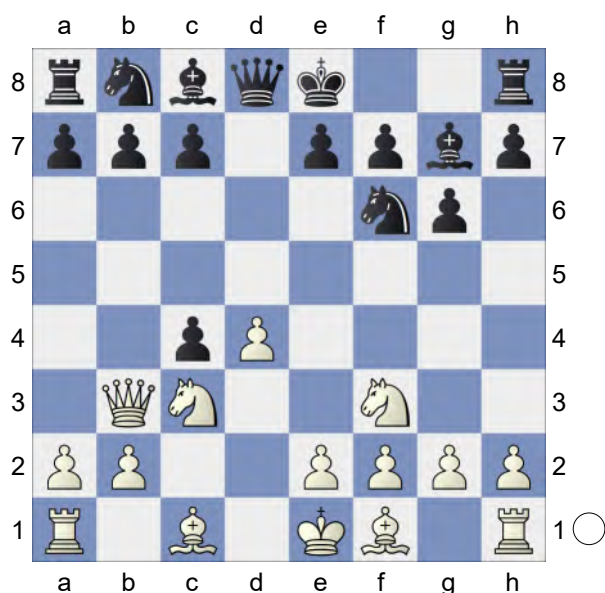
2766

2706

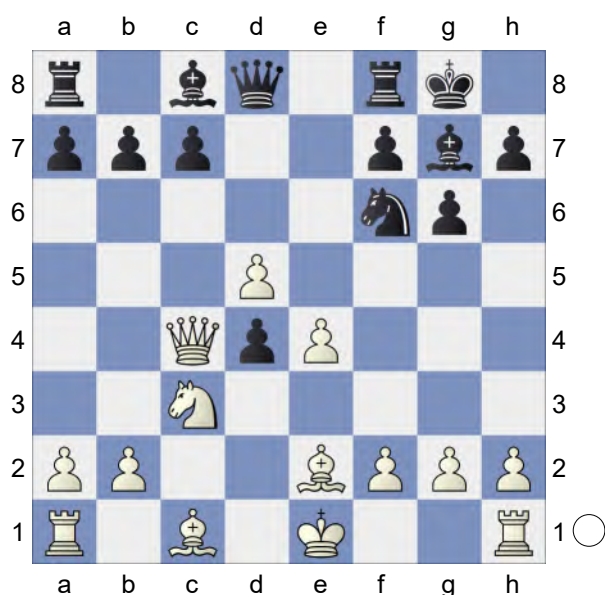
24.01.2016

1.d4 Pikula,Dejan Pikula,Dejan Pikula,
Dejan Pikula,Dejan Pikula,Dejan 1...Nf6

2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Qb3
dxc4



6.Qxc4 0-0 7.e4 Nc6 8.Be2 e5 9.d5
Nd4 10.Nxd4 exd4



11.Qxd4 c6 12.Qc4 b5!? 13.Qxc6

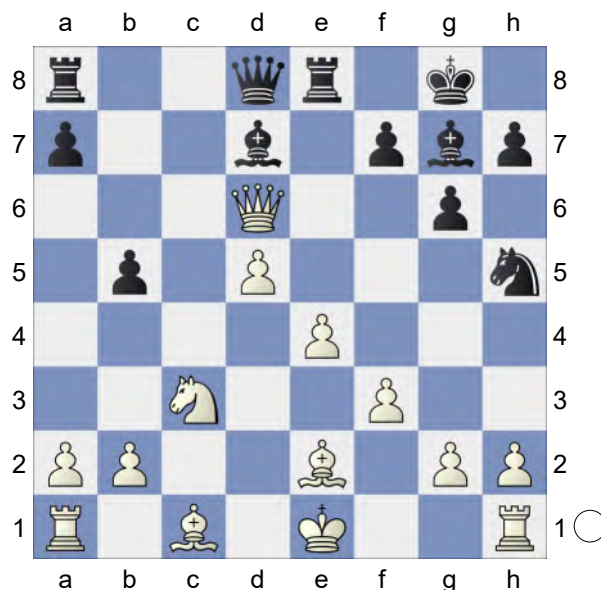
[13.Qb3 cxd5 14.exd5 was already mentioned via a different move order in the notes to Kraemer-Renet. Let's just repeat that was already mentioned via a different move order in the notes to Kraemer-Renet. Let's just repeat that b4 15.Qxb4 Nxd5 16.Nxd5 Qxd5 17.0-0 Qe5 is enough to hold the balance is enough to hold the balance]

13...Bd7 14.Qd6 Re8 15.f3

[15.Bg5 and and]

[15.Bd3!? are both more popular and more testing - see the following games. are both more popular and more testing - see the following games.]

15...Nh5



16.Be3

[The main alternative is The main alternative is 16.g3 f5 and now: and now:

A) 17.Be3 _____ Pikula,Dejan: '- 127/ (169)'

A1) 17...fxe4 18.f4!± (18.Nxe4 Nf6±);

A2) 17...Be5 18.Qc5 f4 19.Bd4

Rc8 20.Qxa7 fxc3

A2a) 21.Bxe5 Rxe5 22.Qd4?!
(22.hxc3 b4[∞]) 22...Qg5
23.a3 g2 24.Rg1 Nf4 25.Rd1
Qh4+ 26.Kd2 Re7↑
27.Bxb5?! Rxc3 28.bxc3
Bxb5[±] Gerbich,V (2454)-
Hebels,A (2409) email 2014;

A2b) 21.hxc3

A2b1) 21...Nxc3 22.Bxe5
Rxe5 (22...Nxb1 23.Bxb5!
Qh4+ 24.Kd1 Rxe5
25.Bxd7[±]) 23.Qd4 (23.Kf2
Nxb1+ 24.Rxb1 b4 25.Nd1
Rh5[±]; 23.Rg1!?[±]) 23...Nxb1
24.Qxe5 b4 Demuth,A
(2541)-Kobo,O (2412)
Barcelona 2015 25.Nb5
Qh4+ 26.Kd2 Ng3 27.Nd4
Qh2 28.Qg5 Nxe2
29.Nxe2 Ba4=;

A2b2) 21...Bxc3+ 22.Bf2
Bb8 23.Qa3 Bg3 24.Qa7
Bb8 ½, Demuth,A (2545)-
Gozzoli,Y (2573) Agen
2016;

A2b3) Untested, but
promising is flicking in
Untested, but promising is
flicking in 21...b4! 22.Bxe5
Rxe5[∞] Δ 23.Qd4
(The engine already prefers
wild moves as 23.Ba6 or;
23.Kf2!? bxc3 24.bxc3[∞])
23...Qg5↑;

B) 17.Bd3 a5 18.Be3 b4 19.Nd1

B1) 19...Rb8[∞] holds the balance,
as it's not easy for White to make
a constructive move. 20.Qc5
(20.0-0? Be5 21.Qc5 f4→)
20...Rc8 21.Qd6 (21.Qb6 Qxb6
22.Bxb6 Nf6) 21...Be5 22.Qb6
Bc7 23.Qd4 Be5=;

B2) 19...Nf6!? 20.e5 Ng4
also seems to work after some
amazing tactics:

B2a) 21.e6 Nxe3 22.exd7
Nc2+ 23.Kd2 Re7!
(23...Nxa1 24.dxe8Q+ Qxe8
25.Re1+-) 24.Bxc2 Rxd7
25.Qf4 (25.Qe6+ Kf8 26.Bb3
a4 27.Bc4 Rc8 28.Qe2
Qc7[±]) 25...Rxd5+↑

White's forces are
uncoordinated, Black has a
serious attack for the piece.
White's forces are
uncoordinated, Black has a
serious attack for the piece.;

B2b) 21.fxc4 Bxe5 22.Qc5
Rc8 23.Qa7 Ra8 24.Qc5
Rc8 25.Qa7 Ra8 26.Qb7
Rb8 27.Qa6 Meier,G (2646)-
So,W (2677) Saint Louis 2012
Ra8 28.Qc4 Rc8= 29.Qb3?
f4!→;

C) 17.0-0!? was tested in email
games and leads to great
complications: was tested in email
games and leads to great
complications:

C1) 17...Be5 18.Qc5 Rc8
19.Qf2 b4 20.f4 (20.Nd1 Rc2!?
21.f4 Bd4 22.Qxd4 Rxe4
23.Qxa7 Rxe2 24.Ne3 Qc8
25.Qd4 Bb5[∞]) 20...Bg7 21.e5
bxc3 22.bxc3 Bf8 23.d6 Nf6
24.Qd4 Qb6 25.Be3 Bxd6
26.Bc4+ (26.Qc4+ Be6
27.Bxb6 Bxc4 28.Bxc4+ Rxc4
29.Bxa7 Be7 30.exf6 Bxf6
and the most likely result is a
draw and the most likely result is
a draw) 26...Be6 27.Bxe6+
Rxe6 28.Rab1 Bc5 29.Qxc5
Qxc5 30.Bxc5 Rxc5 31.exf6

Rc7 32.Rfc1 Kf7 33.Kf2 Rec6±
 Palsson,J (2459)-Hebels,A
 (2409) email 2014 Palsson,J
 (2459)-Hebels,A (2409) email
 2014 Palsson,J (2459)-Hebels,A
 (2409) email 2014 and White
 couldn't convert his extra pawn
 and White couldn't convert his
 extra pawn;

C2) 17...Qc8 18.Qa3 Qb8
 19.d6 b4 20.Qb3+ Kh8 21.Nd5
 Qxd6 22.Qxb4 Qxb4 23.Nxb4
 fxe4 24.fxe4 (24.f4 Rab8
 25.Nd5 Rec8 26.Re1 Be6
 27.Nc3 Bd4+ 28.Kg2 Ng7
 29.g4 h5 30.h3 a5±
 Botev,K (2423)-Roques,P (2375)
 email 2015) 24...Rab8 25.Nd5
 Bh3 26.Rd1 Rxe4 27.Be3 a5
 (27...Rxb2 28.Bf3 Re8 29.Bxa7
 Rf8 30.Bxh5 Rg2+ 31.Kh1
 Bxa1 32.Rxa1 gxh5 33.Nf4
 Rxf4 34.gxf4 Rg6= Bergmann,
 M (2404)-Dard,M (2168) email
 2012) 28.Bf3 Ree8 29.Rd2
 Rxb2 30.Rxb2 Bxb2=
 Vekelis,G (2351)-Thierry,R
 (2334) email 2015]

16...f5

[16...Be5 17.Qa6 Nf4 18.Bxf4 Bxf4
 19.g3 Be3 20.Bxb5 Rb8 21.Bxd7
 Qxd7 22.Qd3 Bc5 23.0-0-0 Rb4
 24.Rd2± Sandipan,C (2590)-Adhiban,
 B (2547) Moscow 2013 Sandipan,C
 (2590)-Adhiban,B (2547) Moscow
 2013 Sandipan,C (2590)-Adhiban,B
 (2547) Moscow 2013 Black doesn't
 have enough for 3 pawns, but in the
 end he even managed to win the
 game (!) Black doesn't have enough
 for 3 pawns, but in the end he even
 managed to win the game (!)]

17.Qa3

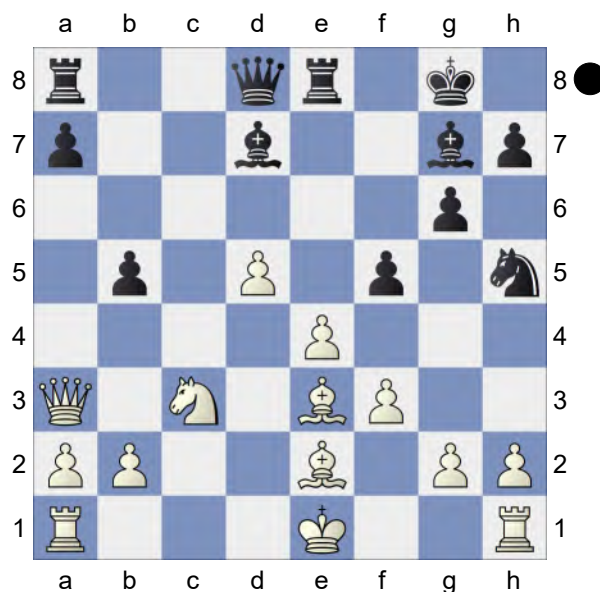
Pikula,Dejan: 'N' 'N'

Piku'Diagram

[17.0-0-0 However, the engine
 immediately points out However, the
 engine immediately points out

A) 17...Qc8 18.Qc5 Qxc5 19.Bxc5
 Rac8 20.Bd6 fxe4 21.Rde1 b4?!
 (21...Nf6 22.Kb1 Rxc3! 23.bxc3
 Nxd5 24.Bb4 Nxc3+ 25.Bxc3
 Bxc3 26.Rd1 Bf5 27.Kc1 Rc8
 28.fxe4 Be5+ 29.Kb1 Bxe4+
 30.Bd3 Bxg2±) 22.Bxb4 Nf4
 23.Ba6 Rb8 24.Bd6± Savchenko,
 B (2618)-Garcia,J (2438) Subic Bay
 2016;

B) 17...Rb8! 18.Qb4 a5
 (18...fxe4!? 19.Nxe4 Nf6±)
 19.Qb3 b4 20.d6+ Kh8 21.Nd5
 a4 (or or 21...fxe4 Black holds the
 initiative, as his ♔ is safer than its
 counterpart. Black holds the
 initiative, as his ♔ is safer than its
 counterpart.)]



Pikula,Dejan: 'N' Pikula,Dejan: 'Diagram
 [#]' la,Dejan: 'Diagram [2]' Pikula,Dejan:
 'N' 'N' 'N' Pikula,Dejan: 'Diagram [2]'
 Pikula,Dejan: 'Diagram [#]' 17...b4
 Pikula,Dejan: '! '!' Pikula,Dejan: '! '!'

!"

[17...fxe4

A) 18.f4 _____ Qh4+ (18...b4!? can transpose into the game can transpose into the game) 19.g3 Qh3 20.Bf1 (20.Nd1!?) 20...Qg4 21.Be2 Qh3=;

B) 18.Nxe4 Rxe4 19.fxe4 Qh4+ 20.Bf2 Qxe4 21.Kf1 Nf4 22.Bf3 Qc4+ 23.Kg1 Re8 (or or 23...Rf8 also gives Black ample compensation also gives Black ample compensation)]

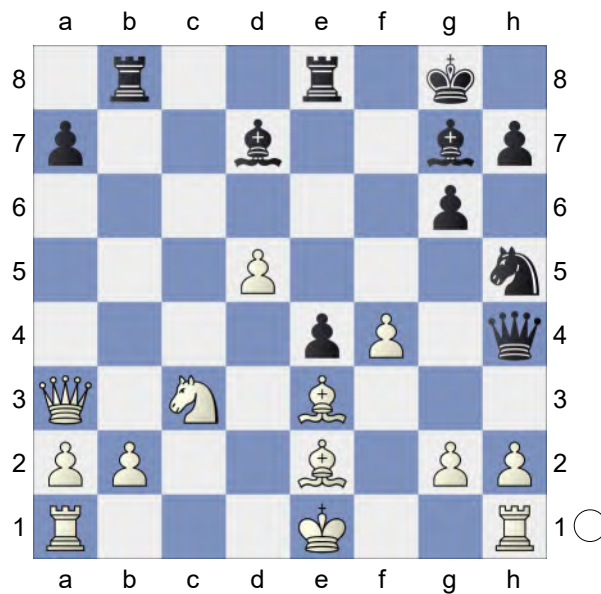
18.Qxb4 Rb8 19.Qa3 fxe4 20.f4

[20.0-0?! Pikula,Dejan exf3 21.Rxf3 Bg4! (21...Rxe3 22.Rxe3 Bd4 23.Nd1 Qh4 24.Nf2 Nf4 25.Ba6 Rxb2 26.Rf1 Qg5 27.Rg3 Qe5 28.Rf3 Qg5=) 22.Rf2 Rxe3 23.Bxg4 Bd4 24.Raf1 Qh4 25.h3 (25.Be2 Re5-+) 25...Qg3! (25...Re1! 26.Nd1 Rxf1+ 27.Kxf1 Ng3+ 28.Ke1 Ne4-) 26.Bxh5 (26.Rf8+ Kg7-+) 26...Rxc3 27.bxc3 Bxf2+ 28.Kh1 gxh5-+]

20...Qh4+!

[20...Bg4 21.Bxg4 (21.Bc4!?) 21...Qh4+ 22.g3 Qxg4 23.Rf1 Rec8 24.Rc1± And Black might not have enough for two pawns. And Black might not have enough for two pawns.]

(Diagram)



21.g3 Nxg3 More or less forced, but probably still home preparation. More or less forced, but probably still home preparation.

[21...Qh3?! 22.0-0-0±]

22.Bf2 Qh3 Pikula,Dejan: '=!' '=!' Pikula,Dejan: '=!' '=!' **23.Bxg3** Rec8! Pikula,Dejan: '! '!' Pikula,Dejan: '! '!'

24.Bf1 Despite his large material advantage White's ♔ is in permanent danger and there is no obvious way to consolidate his setup. Despite his large material advantage White's ♔ is in permanent danger and there is no obvious way to consolidate his setup.

[24.Rg1 Bd4 (24...Rxb2?! 25.Rc1) 25.0-0-0 Bc5 26.Qa5 Qf5! 27.Rg2 Bb4 28.Qxa7 (28.Qa6? Pikula,Dejan Rb6 29.Qxa7 Bxc3 30.bxc3 Qf6-+) 28...Bc5= Timman Timman 29.Qa5 Pikula,Dejan Bb4=]

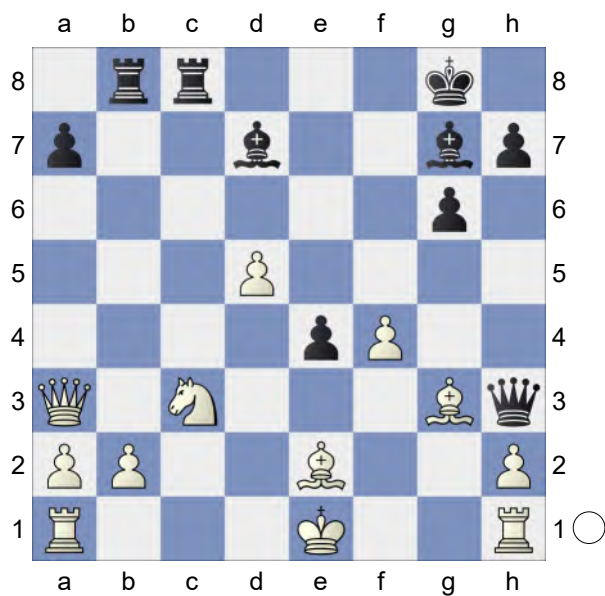
[24.Rf1 Pikula,Dejan Rxb2! 25.Rc1 Bxc3+ 26.Rxc3 Rxe2+! 27.Kxe2 Bb5+ 28.Ke3 Bxf1=]

24...Qg4

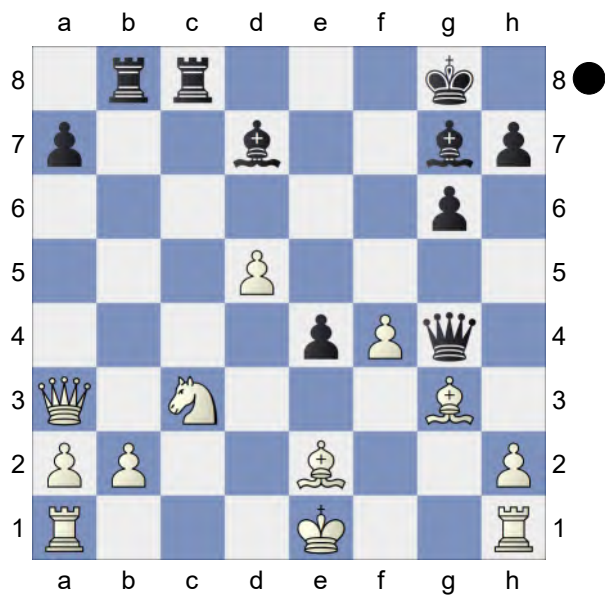
[24...Qh5 Pikula,Dejan 25.Be2]

25.Be2 Qh3

(Diagram)



Pikula,Dejan: '=' '=' Pikula,Dejan: '=' '='
26.Bf1 Qg4 27.Be2



$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

44

□ Ding, Liren

■ Wei, Yi

Tata Steel-A 78th (8)

[Stohl, Igor]

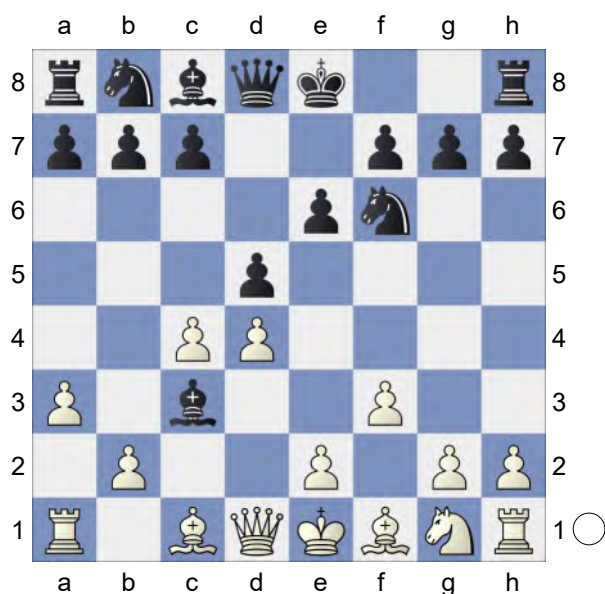
E25

2766

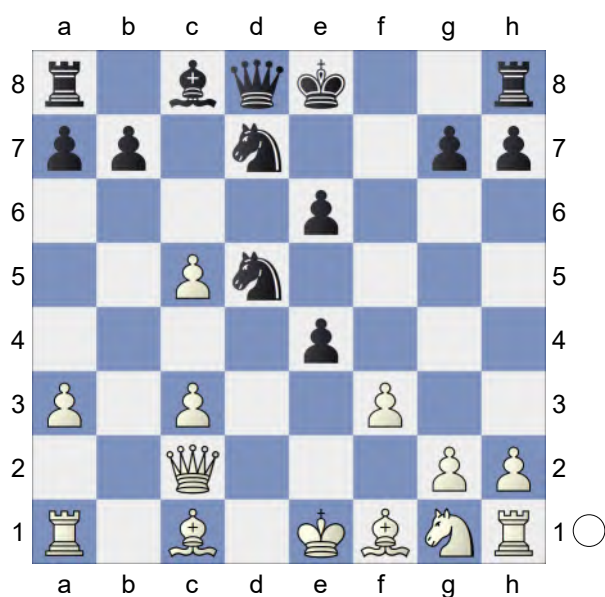
2706

24.01.2016

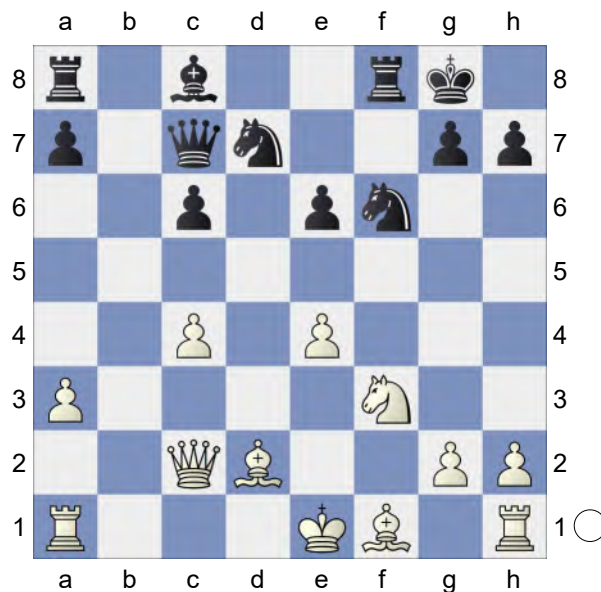
1.d4 Pikula, Dejan 1...e6 2.c4 Nf6
3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3 d5 5.a3 Bxc3+



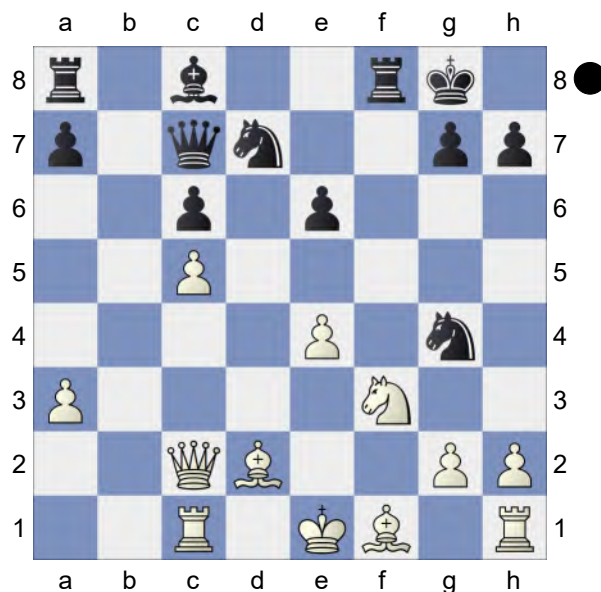
6.bxc3 c5 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.dxc5 f5
9.e4 fxe4 10.Qc2 Nd7



11.fxe4 N5f6 12.c6 bxc6!? 13.Nf3
Qa5 14.Bd2 0-0 15.c4 Qc7



16.c5 Ng4 17.Rc1 Pikula, Dejan: 'N'
Pikula, Dejan: 'Diagram'

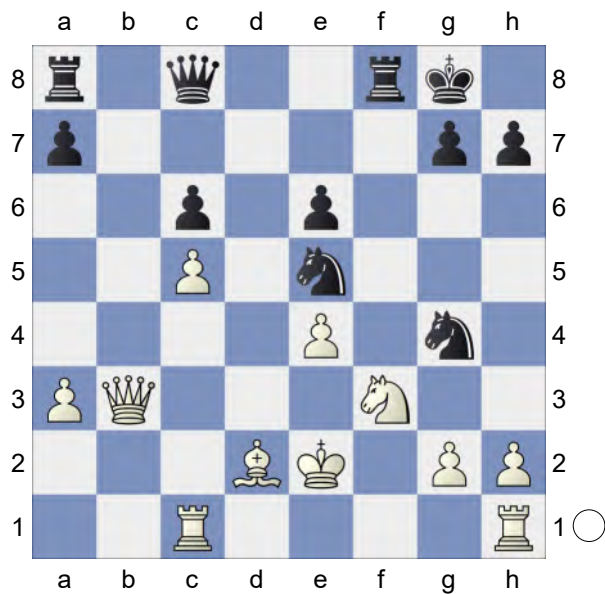


' 17...Nde5 Pikula, Dejan: '!' 18.Be2 Ba6
19.Qb3

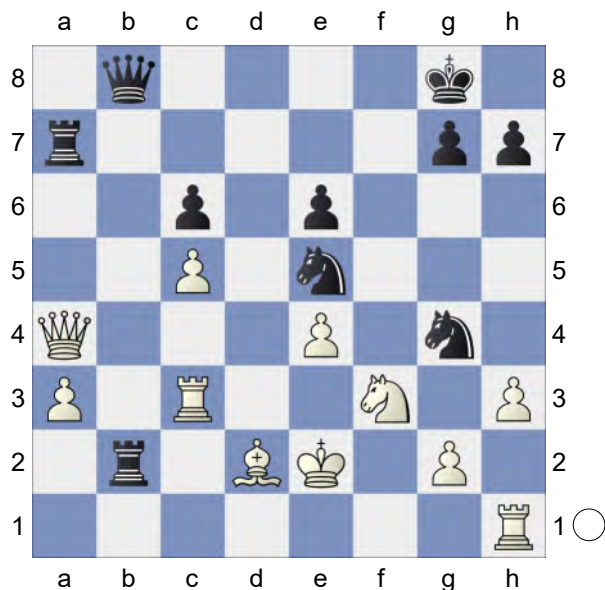
[19.Bxa6 Pikula, Dejan Rxf3=
20.gxf3? Pikula, Dejan Nxf3+ 21.Kd1
(21.Ke2 Nd4+-+; 21.Kf1?! Rf8)
21...Rd8]

19...Bxe2 20.Kxe2 Qc8!

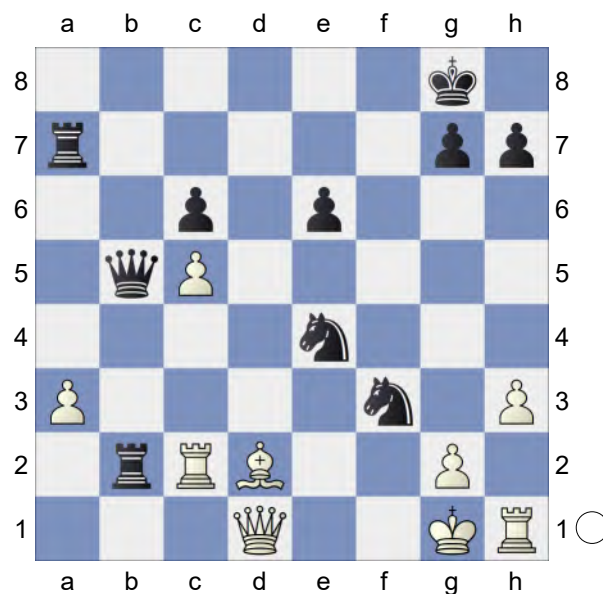
(Diagram)



21.Rc3 Rb8 More or less forced, but probably still home preparation. **22.Qa4 Rb2** Pikula,Dejan: '=!' **23.Qxa7 Rf7!** Pikula,Dejan: '!' **24.Qa4** Despite his large material advantage White's ♔ is in permanent danger and there is no obvious way to consolidate his setup. **24...Qb8 25.h3 Ra7**



Pikula,Dejan: '= ' **26.Qd1 Nf6 27.Rc2 Qb5+ 28.Kf2 Nxe4+ 29.Kg1 Nxf3+**
[29...Nxf3+! 30.gxf3 Qd3 31.Rxb2 Qd4+= Timman]



1/2-1/2

122

□ Wei,Yi

■ Vovk,Yuri

FIDE World Cup (2.1)

[Szabo,Krisztian]

C11

2734

2628

14.09.2015

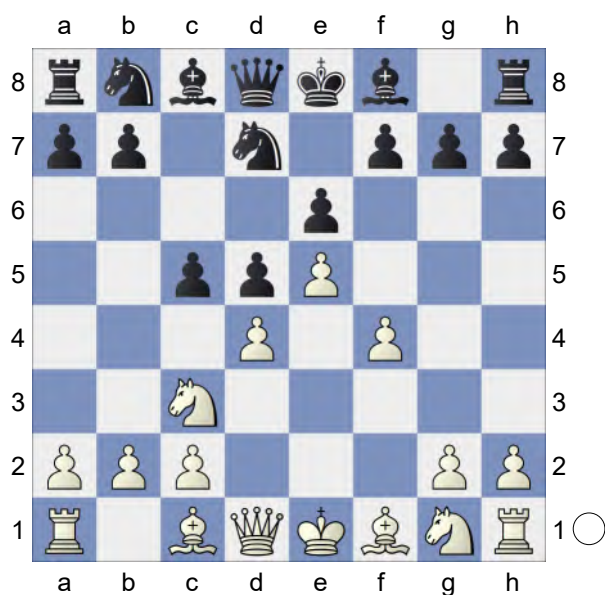
1.e4

Szabo,Kr John Watson John

Watson John Watson: 'Szabo,Krisztian

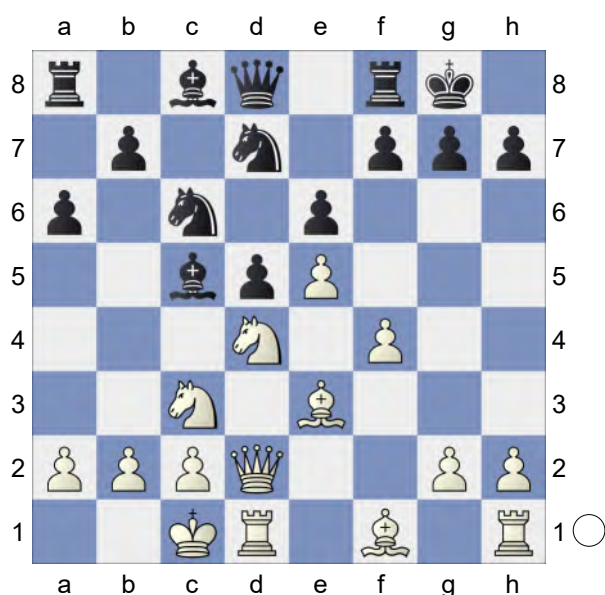
Szabo,Krisztian: 'Szabo,Kr" 1...e6 2.d4

d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5



6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be3 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bc5

9.Qd2 0-0 10.0-0-0 a6



11.Qf2 Bxd4 12.Bxd4 b5 13.Be3

[Also from this month's batch: 13.Bd3 John Watson Nxd4 (13...b4 14.Na4 Nxd4 15.Qxd4 Qa5 16.b3 Bb7 is unclear) 14.Qxd4 f6? (14...Qb6±) 15.Nxd5! Nxe5 16.Nxf6+?! (16.Be4! Bb7 17.Nxf6+ Qxf6 18.Bxb7) 16...Qxf6 17.fxe5 Qg5+?! (17...Qh6+ 18.Kb1 Bb7 19.Be4) 18.Kb1 Bb7 Trbojevic, M (2381)-Lyell, M (2313), Budapest 2015 and the most accurate course was probably 19.h4! intending Qxg2? 20.Rhg1 Qf2 21.Qg4 Qf7 22.Rdf1 Qe7 23.Rxf8+ Rxf8 24.Qh5]

13...Qa5

Szabo,Kr: 'This move is

becoming popular nowadays. Black

would like to play ...b4, but first he

prevents Na4 with 13...Qa5.' This move

is becoming popular nowadays. Black

would like to play ...b4, but first he

prevents Na4 with 13...Qa5. John

Watson: 'Szabo,Krisztian: 'This move is

becoming popular nowadays. Black

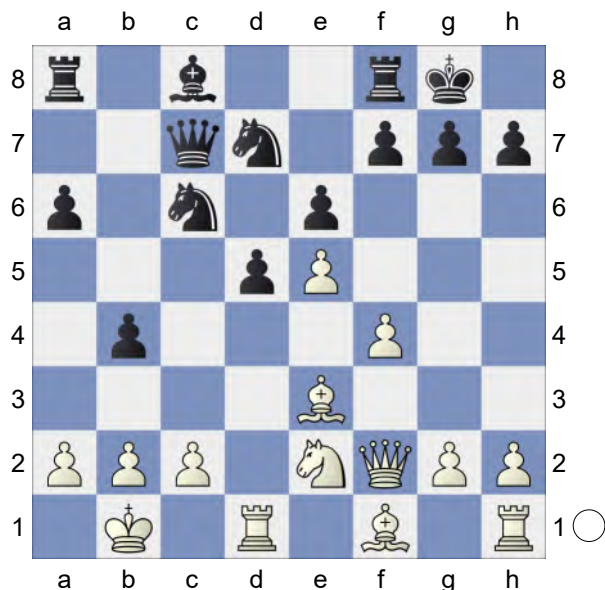
would like to play ...b4, but first he

prevents Na4 with 13...Qa5."

[Szabo,Kr: 'In the event of In the event of 13...b4 John Watson: 'Szabo, Krisztian' 14.Na4! Szabo,Kr: '!' .]

14.Kb1 b4 15.Ne2 Qc7

(Diagram)

**16.Ng3**

[16.h4 John Watson: 'Szabo, Krisztian']

[Szabo, Kr: 'and' and 16.Nd4 John Watson: 'Szabo, Krisztian' Szabo, Kr: 'are more popular moves.' are more popular moves.]

16...a5

[16...f6 John Watson 17.exf6 Nxf6 is safer, when White's bishops may outweigh Black's centre, but that's not certain.]

17.Nh5 f6N John Watson: 'Now this is risky, if still playable.' John Watson: 'Now this is risky, if still playable. Szabo, Krisztian: 'N' Szabo, Kr: 'The new move in the game.' The new move in the game. John Watson: 'Szabo, Krisztian: 'The new move in the game.'"

[17...a4 John Watson: 'Szabo, Krisztian' 18.Bb5 (18.Bd3 f5 19.g4 Ba6 20.Bxa6 Rxa6 21.gxf5 Rxf5 22.Qe2 Ra8 23.Rhg1 g6 24.Ng3 Rff8 25.h4↑ C.Balogh-Vasiesiu, Mamaia 2015. Szabo, Kr: 'C.Balogh-Vasiesiu, Mamaia 2015. and White's attack looks faster.' and White's attack looks faster.) 18...Ba6 19.Bxa6

Rxa6 20.Rd3 Rc8 21.Rc1 Ne7± Caruana-Meier, Dortmund 2013, Szabo, Kr: 'Caruana-Meier, Dortmund 2013, with a double-edged struggle.' with a double-edged struggle.]

[17...Ne7 John Watson 18.Bd3 Ng6]

18.Qg3 Rf7 19.Bb5 John Watson: '!' '!' John Watson: '!' for ingenuity.'

[19.exf6 John Watson Nxf6 20.Nxf6+ Rxf6 21.f5 e5 22.Rxd5 Bxf5 23.Bc4 Kh8 is uninspiring, with equal chances.]

19...fxe5?! John Watson: 'This natural move, winning e5, opens too many lines for White (the f-file and bishop on e3). Better' Szabo, Kr: 'A dubious move, because Black opens the f-file, which will be very important for White.' A dubious move, because Black opens the f-file, which will be very important for White. John Watson: 'Szabo, Krisztian: 'A dubious move, because Black opens the f-file, which will be very important for White.'"

[19...a4 John Watson: ', when Black has counterplay, and the amazing' Szabo, Kr: 'was more logical, however' was more logical, however John Watson: 'Szabo, Krisztian: 'was more logical, however"

A) 20.Rxd5! (John Watson) can be met by b3! 21.cxb3 axb3 22.a3 exd5 23.e6 Ndb8! 24.f5! (24.exf7+ Qxf7) 24...Kh8 25.exf7 Bxf5+ 26.Ka1 Qxf7 and Black is surviving with an extra pawn.;

B) 20.exf6 John Watson: 'Szabo, Krisztian' 20...Nxf6 21.Nxf6+ Rxf6 22.Qe1 Bb7 23.Qe2± Szabo, Kr: 'and White's position looks more attractive.' and White's position looks more attractive.]

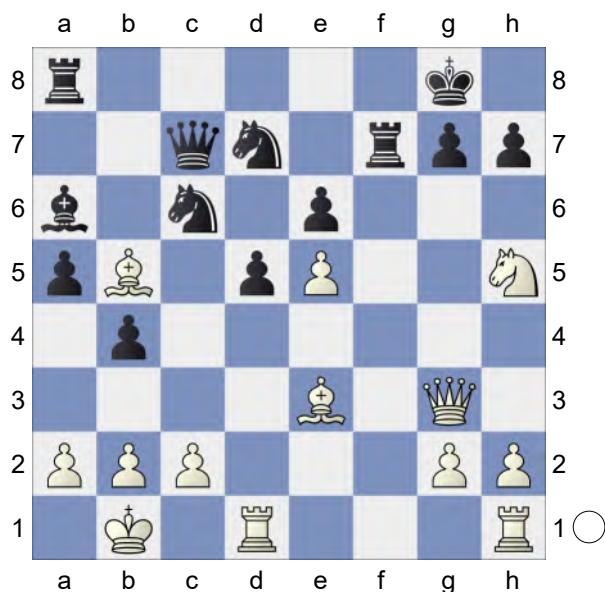
20.fxe5 Ba6

[20...Ndx5 Szabo,Kr: 'could have been met by' could have been met by 21.Rdf1!↑ Szabo,Kr: 'and White looks nicely placed.' and White looks nicely placed. (21.Bxc6 John Watson Nxc6) 21...Ng6? John Watson 22.Rxf7 Qxg3 23.Rxg7+ Kh8 24.hxg3]

[20...Na7 (John Watson) looks attractive, hitting b5 and e5, but White's attack crashes through after 21.Rdf1! Qxe5 22.Qh4!]

[20...Ncxe5? (John Watson) loses because of the pin on e5 after 21.Rhf1]

[20...Ne7!? (John Watson) is also met by 21.Rhf1 Qxe5 and now 22.Qh3! with ideas of Rxf7 and Bd4 and Black may survive, but in a highly unpleasant situation.]



John Watson: 'There are many options, but White's attack is real:' **21.Bxc6?!** John Watson: '!? '!? ' John Watson: 'Szabo,Krisztian: '?!' Szabo,Kr: 'Inaccuracy. White removes the c6-N, but the a6-B controls the important f1-square.' Inaccuracy. White removes

the c6- ♘, but the a6- ♖ controls the important f1-square. John Watson: 'Szabo,Krisztian: 'Inaccuracy. White removes the c6- ♘, but the a6- ♖ controls the important f1-square.'

[21.Rdf1! John Watson: 'secures a limited advantage after' Szabo,Kr: 'was the strongest reply,' was the strongest reply, Ndx5 22.Bxa6 Rxa6 23.Bh6± John Watson: ', e.g., Szabo, Krisztian: ' ±" Szabo,Kr: 'and White has a dangerous attack!' and White has a dangerous attack! John Watson: 'Szabo,Krisztian: 'and White has a dangerous attack!' Ra8 John Watson 24.Rxf7 Qxf7 25.Nxg7 (25.Bxg7 Qxh5 26.Bxe5+ Qg6) 25...Kh8 26.Nxe6! Rg8 27.Qh3]

[21.Bxa6 John Watson Rxa6 22.Rxd5 exd5 23.e6 Qxg3 24.exf7+ Kxf7 25.Nxg3 Ne7 is not so clear.]

21...Qxc6 22.Bh6 Rc8 23.Rc1 g6? Szabo,Kr: 'This move looks like the only move, but it is a mistake!' This move looks like the only move, but it is a mistake! John Watson: 'Szabo,Krisztian: 'This move looks like the only move, but it is a mistake!'

[23...Nc5! John Watson: 'with the idea ...Ne4 returns the material for defence:' Szabo,Kr: 'should have played' should have played John Watson: 'Szabo,Krisztian: 'should have played'

A) 24.Bxg7 John Watson Ne4 25.Qg4 Nf2 26.Qg5 Rf5 (or 26...Ne4 27.Qh6 a4 28.Nf6+ Nxf6 29.exf6 a3 30.Qg5 axb2 31.Bh6+ with a perpetual) 27.Qe7 (27.Qh6 Ng4) 27...Rf7;

B) 24.Nxg7 John Watson: 'Szabo, Krisztian' 24...Ne4 25.Qg4 Kh8± Szabo,Kr: 'and Black has strong

counterplay; the position becomes very complicated.' and Black has strong counterplay; the position becomes very complicated.]

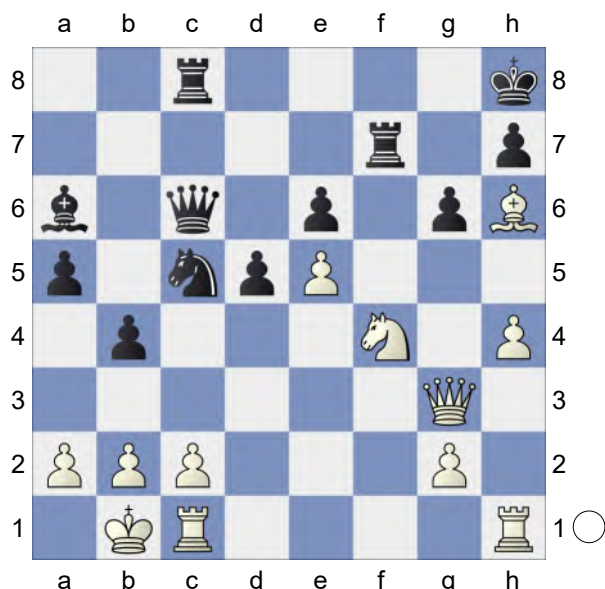
24.Nf4! John Watson: 'Now Black's attack is too slow, while h4-h5 threatens.' John Watson: 'Now Black's attack is too slow, while h4-h5 threatens. Szabo, Krisztian: '!' Szabo, Kr: 'Threatening Nxg6!' Threatening ♖xg6! John Watson: 'Szabo, Krisztian: 'Threatening ♖xg6!'

24...Kh8

[24...Nf8 John Watson: 'Szabo, Krisztian' 25.h4!± Szabo, Kr: 'followed by h5 and Black's situation is difficult.' followed by h5 and Black's situation is difficult.]

[24...Nc5 John Watson 25.Nxg6! Ne4 26.Qg4 Nf2 27.Qg5 Ne4 28.Ne7+ Kh8 29.Nxc6 Nxg5 30.Nxb4 axb4 31.Bxg5 leaves White two pawns to the good.]

25.h4 Nc5



26.h5 Ne4 Szabo, Kr: 'Black tries to create some counterplay, but his K is very weak.' Black tries to create some counterplay, but his ♔ is very weak. John Watson: 'Szabo, Krisztian: 'Black

tries to create some counterplay, but his ♔ is very weak. " **27.Qh4 gxh5**

28.Qxh5 John Watson: '?!' '?!'

[28.Nxh5 John Watson: '!' '!' John Watson: 'isn't obvious, but leaves one more attacker and secures a larger advantage after' Szabo, Kr: 'was also strong.' was also strong. John Watson: 'Szabo, Krisztian: 'was also strong.' Rg8 John Watson 29.Nf6 Nxf6 30.exf6 Qd6 31.Qh5 Qd7 32.Bg7+ Rfxg7 33.fxg7+ Qxg7 34.Rce1]

28...Qe8 John Watson: '?' '?'

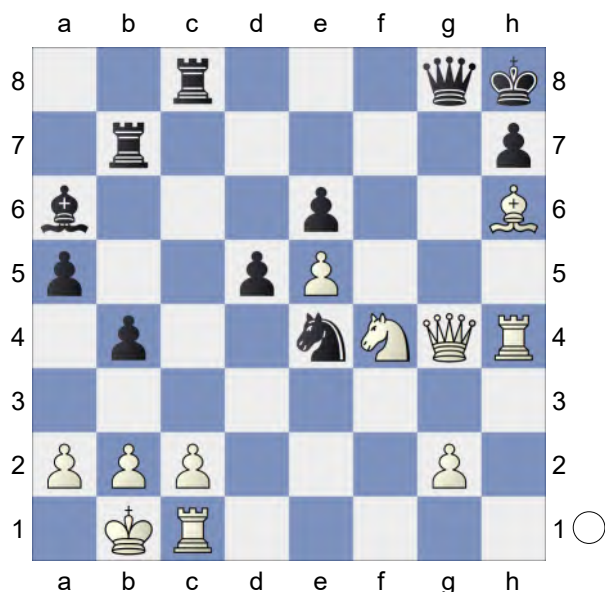
[28...Qd7 John Watson]

29.Rh4

[Szabo, Kr: 'The engine suggests' The engine suggests John Watson: 'Szabo, Krisztian: 'The engine suggests' 29.Bg5! John Watson: '+-!' '+-!' John Watson: 'is more immediately decisive.' John Watson: 'is more immediately decisive. Szabo, Krisztian: '!' Nxg5 John Watson: 'Szabo, Krisztian' 30.Qxg5 Rg7 31.Qf6 Qf7 32.Rh6+- Szabo, Kr: 'and Black has no hope left.' and Black has no hope left.]

29...Rb7?! John Watson: '?' '?' John Watson: 'Szabo, Krisztian: '?!'

[29...Re7 John Watson: '!' '!' John Watson: 'is tougher and keeps White's advantage down.' Szabo, Kr: 'was more accurate,' was more accurate, John Watson: 'Szabo, Krisztian: 'was more accurate, " 30.Qg4 John Watson: 'Szabo, Krisztian' Qg8 31.Qh3 Qf7 Szabo, Kr: 'and the e6-P is protected, however after' and the e6- ♗ is protected, however after 32.Nh5↑ Szabo, Kr: 'White's chances are better. ' White's chances are better.]

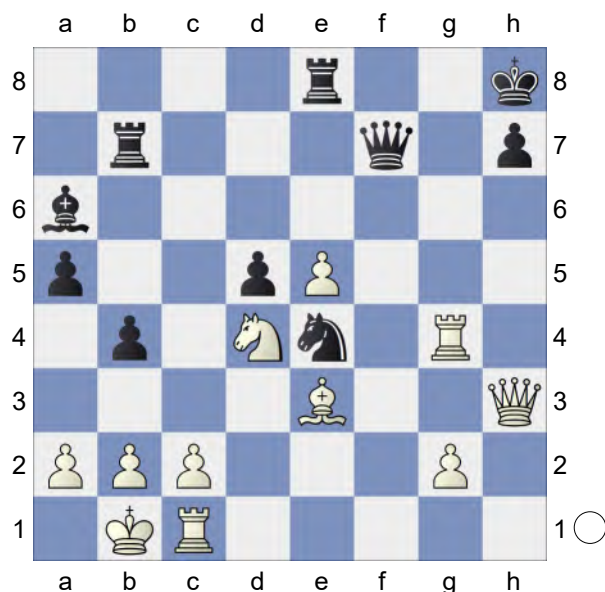
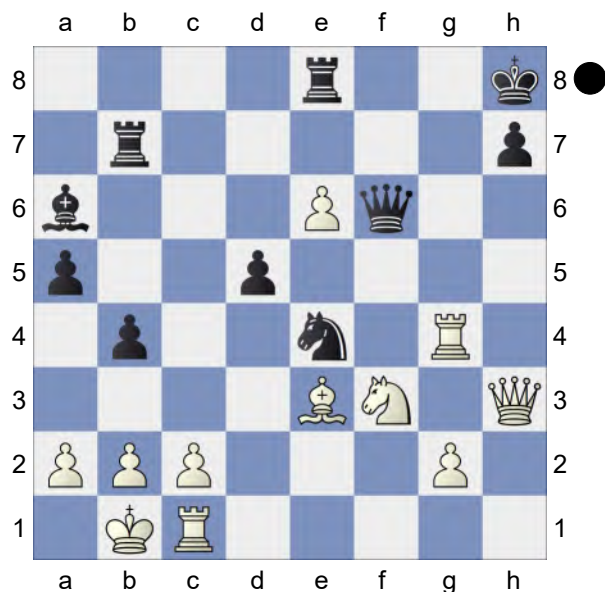
30.Qg4! Qg8

31.Qh3 John Watson: 'Threatening Rg4.'
31...Qf7?! John Watson: 'Szabo, Krisztian: '?!' Szabo, Kr: 'Loses immediately, but Black's position was difficult.' Loses immediately, but Black's position was difficult. John Watson: 'Szabo, Krisztian: 'Loses immediately, but Black's position was difficult.'

[Szabo, Kr: 'Even' Even John Watson: 'Szabo, Krisztian: 'Even' 31...Nf2 Szabo, Kr: 'was tougher, but' was tougher, but John Watson: 'Szabo, Krisztian: 'was tougher, but' 32.Qxe6 Qxe6 33.Nxe6 Re7 34.Ng5± John Watson: ' ±!' ±!' John Watson: 'Szabo, Krisztian: ' ±' Szabo, Kr: 'and White is a healthy P up.' and White is a healthy ♙ up. John Watson: 'Szabo, Krisztian: 'and White is a healthy ♙ up.']

[31...Re8 John Watson 32.Rg4]

32.Nxe6+- John Watson: 'Szabo, Krisztian: '+-' Szabo, Kr: 'Now Black is helpless.' Now Black is helpless. John Watson: 'Szabo, Krisztian: 'Now Black is helpless.' 32...Rg8 33.Nd4 Qf2 34.Rg4 Re8 35.Be3 John Watson: '!' '!

35...Qf7**36.e6 Qf6 37.Nf3**

John Watson: '!' '!' John Watson: 'threatens Bd4 and there's no real answer. A fine attacking game.'

1-0

292

C48

□ Wei, Yi

2706

■ Rodshtein, Maxim

2654

WchT 10th Tsaghkadzor (6.4) 25.04.15

[Szabo, Krisztian]

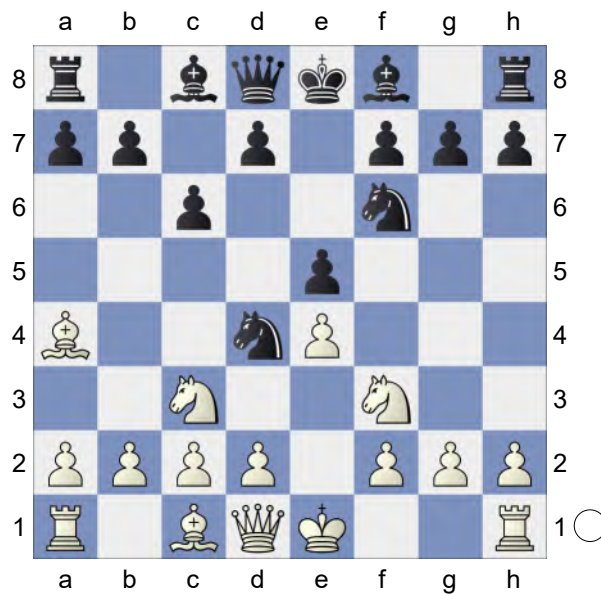
Tadic, Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: 'Second column, second game of the Chinese GM Wei Yi! He played a very interesting game to give an important 2,5-1.5 victory for his team against Israel.' 1.e4 Tadic, Branko Tadic, Branko Tadic, Branko Tadic, Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot' 1...e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.Nc3 Nd4

[4...Bb4 (Tadic, Branko) (Etienne Bacrot) was his opponent's choice in last week's game. Anand said that Wei Yi-Melkumyan inspired him for his opening against Mamedyarov in the Shamkir Gashimov memorial. Tadic, Branko: 'was his opponent's choice in last week's game. Anand said that Wei Yi-Melkumyan inspired him for his opening against Mamedyarov in the Shamkir Gashimov memorial.']

5.Ba4 c6

[5...Bc5 Tadic, Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: 'is Black's long-time favourite move.' is another main continuation.]
[5...Nxf3+ Tadic, Branko]

(Diagram)



Tadic, Branko: '!? '!? '!? '!? Tadic, Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: 'On impulse of Giri, and now Rodshtein, this move might soon become very popular.' 6.Nxe5

[6.d3 Tadic, Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot' a5!? Tadic, Branko: 'A funny move that seems strong for Black.' Tadic, Branko: '!? A funny move that seems strong for Black.' An interesting move, which seems strong for Black. He would like to trap the ♗. 7.Nxe5 d6 8.Nf3 Nxf3+ 9.Qxf3 Bg4 10.Qg3 b5 11.Nxb5 cxb5 12.Bxb5+ Bd7 13.Bc4 Nh5 14.Qf3 Nf6 15.Qg3 Nh5 Tadic, Branko: 'with a draw in Vallejo-Giri 2013.' with a draw in Vallejo-Giri, ESP-chT 2013.]

6...d5 Nowadays the most fashionable move. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo, Kr: 'Nowadays the most fashionable move.'

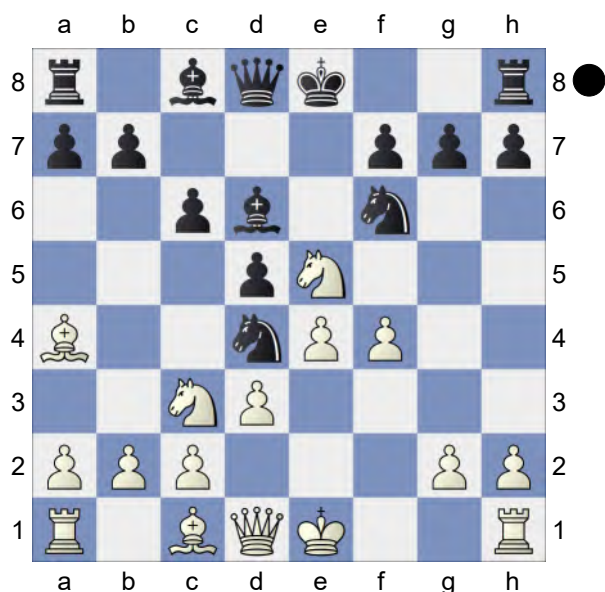
[Nevertheless Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo, Kr: 'Nevertheless' 6...d6 Mikhalevski, V: 'is the main alternative.' is more popular. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo, Kr: 'is more popular.']

7.d3

[After the greedy 7.exd5 Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot' Bd6 8.dxc6 0-0 Tadic,Branko: 'Black has great compensation.' Black has great compensation for the ♗s.]

7...Bd6 8.f4 Mikhalevski, V: 'It's quiet surprising, but the entire system with 5... c6 hasn't been sufficiently studied.' Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: '

[Mikhalevski, V: 'Earlier we considered games which featured' 8.Nf3 Mikhalevski, V: 'Ivanchuk, V (2703)-Caruana, F (2670)/ Biel SUI 2009/ [M i k h a l e v s k i , V] . 'Bg4 is also common. 9.Be3 Tadic,Branko]



" **8...Bc5** Mikhalevski, V: 'The purpose of this move is obvious: Black prevents short castles.' Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: 'The bishop moves again but now White can't castle easily. This seemingly strong idea was only used twice in older games.'" Tadic,Branko: 'The bishop moves again but now White can't castle easily. This seemingly strong idea was only used twice in older

games.' Black plays again with his ♗, but now White can't castle easily. The g1-a7 diagonal is important for the ♗. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'Black plays again with his ♗, but now White can't castle easily. The g1-a7 diagonal is important for the ♗. " **9.exd5 0-0** Mikhalevski, V: '!' Mikhalevski, V: 'Black is playing for the initiative.'

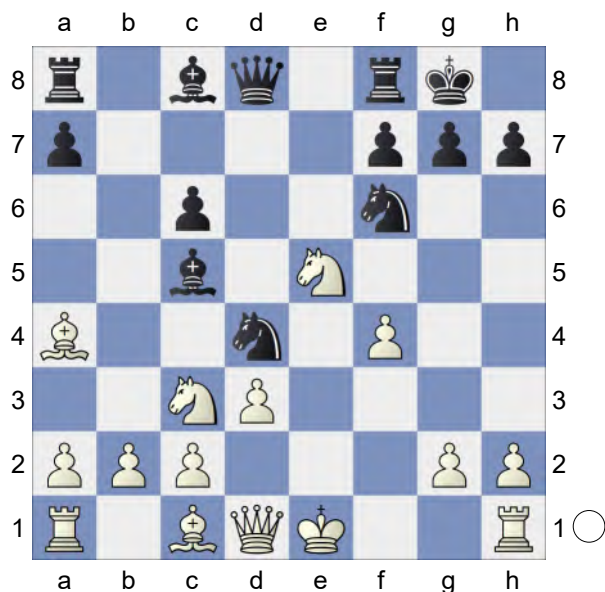
[9...Nxd5! Tadic,Branko 10.Ne4 in Amrein, R (2269)-Ivan, A (2259)/ Sikonda 2005, Black had to continue Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot' Qh4+! Tadic,Branko: 'is an additional option.' 11.g3 (11.Kf1 Nf5 12.Qe1 Nfe3+ 13.Bxe3 Nxe3+ 14.Ke2 Qh5+ 15.g4! Bxg4+ 16.Kd2 Ng2 17.Nxg4! Nxe1 18.Nef6+ gxf6 19.Nxf6+ Kf8 20.Nxh5 Nf3+ 21.Ke2 Nd4+ 22.Kd1 b5 23.Bb3 Rd8! with strong initiative for the pawn.) 11...Qh3 12.Kf2! (12.Nxc5?? fails to Qg2 13.Rf1 Bh3+) 12...Bb6 13.c3 0-0 14.cxd4 Bxd4+ 15.Ke1 f6 16.Nf3 Bg4 17.Qe2 Rae8 18.Qf1 Bb6! 19.Qxh3 Bxh3 with sufficient counterplay.]

10.dxc6 Mikhalevski, V: '!' Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: 'This might look greedy but White needs to take some material to compensate his poor king position.' Tadic,Branko: 'This might look greedy but White needs to take some material to compensate his poor king position.' This might look greedy, but White needs to take some material to compensate for his poor ♗ position. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'This might look greedy, but White needs to take some material to compensate for his poor ♗ position.'"

[Mikhalevski, V: 'Rublevsky played' 10.Ne4?! Tadic,Branko Mikhalevski, V: '?' Mikhalevski, V: 'but got worse after' Nxe4 11.dxe4 Qh4+ 12.g3

Qh3→ - 97/215 13.Be3 Qg2
 Rublevsky, S (2687)-Mamedyarov, S
 (2699)/Foros 2006.]

10...bxc6



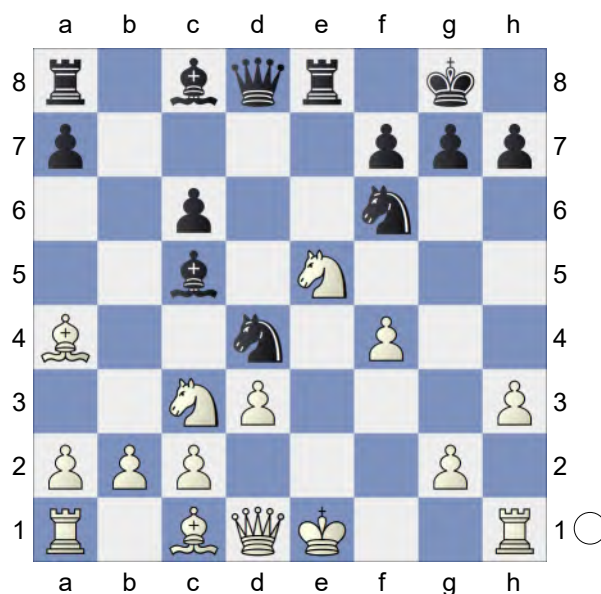
11.h3 Tadic,Branko: 'N!?' 'N!?' 'N!?' 'N!?'
 Mikhalevski, V: '!' Mikhalevski, V: 'A
 strong novelty.' Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne
 Bacrot: 'Losing a tempo for development
 but controlling the important g4 square. I
 suspect White's unusual play was part of
 his opening preparation.'" Tadic,Branko:
 'Losing a tempo for development but
 controlling the important g4 square. I
 suspect White's unusual play was part of
 his opening preparation.' White also
 plays a pawn move, but he needs to
 control the important g4-square.
 Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'White also
 plays a pawn move, but he needs to
 control the important g4-square."

[11.Kf1 Tadic,Branko Re8∞ 12.Bb3
 , which can be met by

A) I played 12...Nxb3 13.axb3
 Qd4? (13...Bb7! looks playable for
 Black.) 14.Qe2 Bg4 15.Qe1±
 and was worse in Berbatov, K
 (2454)-Mikhalevski, V (2584)/ Aix-
 les-Bains 2011.;

B) 12...Re7!N 13.h3 Bb7
 14.Bxf7+ Rxf7 15.Nxf7 Kxf7
 16.Be3 Bb6± is promising for
 Black.]

11...Re8 Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: '



" **12.Qd2!N** Mikhalevski, V: '!
 Mikhalevski, V: 'A brilliant defensive
 resource, which was prepared by the
 Chinese youngster at home. The idea is
 to vacate the d1-square for the king.
 Szabo,Kr: 'N!' Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne
 Bacrot: '!' Etienne Bacrot: 'A very funny
 move and the best defense.'" Tadic,
 Branko: '! A very funny move and the
 best defense.' The first new move in the
 game, which is the best defence. I guess
 it was still preparation. Mikhalevski, V:
 'Szabo,Kr: 'The first new move in the
 game, which is the best defence. I guess
 it was still preparation."

[12.0-0 Rxe5 13.fxe5 Ne2+ 14.Kh1
 and draw in Rohs-Sherwood, corr
 2015. For example: Ng3+ 15.Kh2
 Nxf1+ 16.Qxf1 Ng4+! 17.Kh1 Nf2+
 18.Kh2 Ng4+= with perpetual
 checks.]

[12.Be3 Tadic,Branko Nxc2+!
 13.Qxc2 Bxe3 14.Bxc6 Bxf4 15.0-0

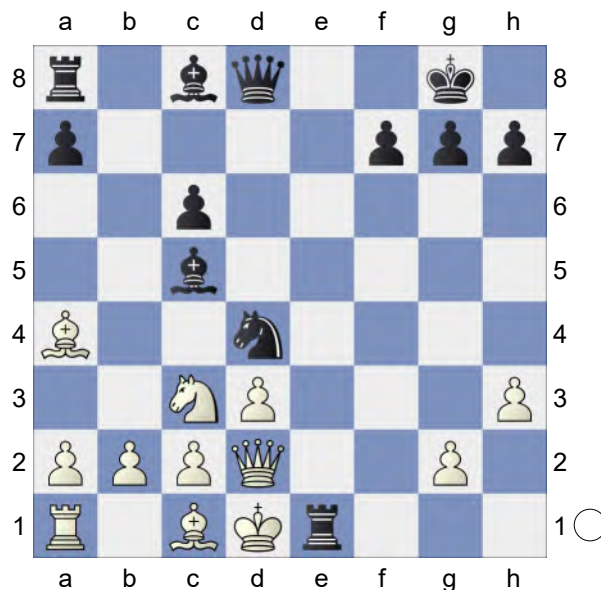
Bxe5 16.Bxa8 Ba6

12...Nd7! Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: 'The strong knight should be taken off the board.' The strongest reply. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'The strongest reply. "**13.Kd1** Tadic,Branko: '!' '!' '!' '!' Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: 'The king somehow finds a safe place. Of course all problems are not solved and now White should find a way to take out his queenside pieces.'" Tadic, Branko: 'The king somehow finds a safe place. Of course all problems are not solved and now White should find a way to take out his queenside pieces.' It is not a pretty move, but White has to do something with his ♔. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'It is not a pretty move, but White has to do something with his ♔.'" **13...Nxe5 14.fxe5 Rxe5** Mikhalevski, V: 'Black won one of the sacrificed pawns back, but White is still a pawn up. So if he manages to finish development his chances will be higher.' **15.Re1** Of course, White has to simplify. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'Of course, White has to simplify.'" **15...Rxe1+**

[In the event of Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo, Kr: 'In the event of' 15...Qe7 Mikhalevski, V: 'is less accurate because of' Tadic,Branko: '(Etienne Bacrot) looks more natural but' 16.Rxe5 Qxe5 17.Qg5! Tadic,Branko: '!' Bf5 Mikhalevski, V: '!' 18.Bf4 Qe6 19.Bb3 Mikhalevski, V: '!' Otherwise ... ♖e8 is too strong. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'Otherwise ... ♖e8 is too strong.'" Nxb3 20.axb3 Re8 21.Bd2 Tadic,Branko: 'followed by Kc1-b1 might be better for White.' Tadic,Branko: 'followed by Kc1-b1 might be better for White.' followed by ♔c1-b1 and White is a healthy ♖

up.]

[15...Rf5!? making White's development difficult deserved serious attention. 16.Ne4 Be7 17.Ng3 Rc5 18.Ne2 Ne6 19.Nf4 Bd6 20.Nxe6 Bxe6 with good compensation for a pawn.]



Mikhalevski, V: '!' **16.Qxe1 Bf5** Mikhalevski, V: '!' Mikhalevski, V: 'White is getting ready for 17.Ne4.'

[16...Be6!? 17.Ne4 Be7 18.Be3 c5 19.c3 Nf5 20.Kc2 Qa5 21.b3 c4! 22.dxc4 Nxe3+ 23.Qxe3 Bxc4 24.Rd1 Be6 and Black retains compensation for a pawn thanks to his bishop pair.]

17.Qe5 Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: ' [Mikhalevski, V: 'After' 17.Ne4!? Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: '!'?" Tadic, Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot' was the alternative Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'was the alternative'

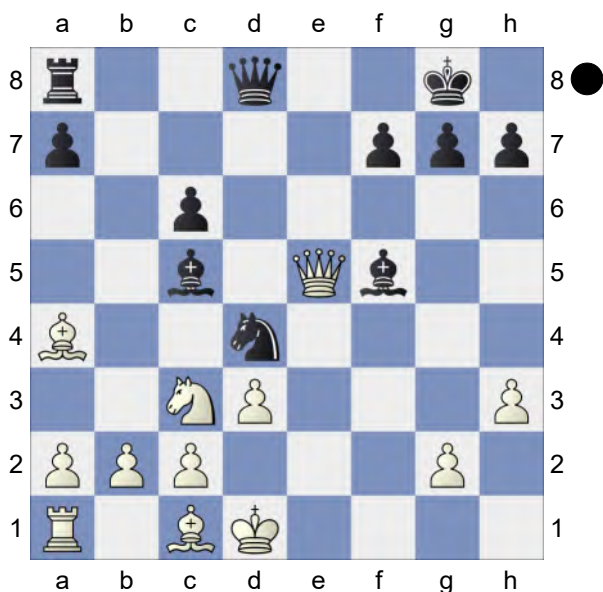
A) 17...Bb6 18.c3! Tadic,Branko: '!' Ne6 19.Kc2! Tadic,Branko: '!' Tadic,Branko: 'White consolidates.' Tadic,Branko: '! White consolidates.' and White is OK.;

B) 17...Bxe4! 18.Qxe4 Qf6 19.Qf4 (or 19.Bf4 g5 20.c3! Rd8! 21.Qe5 Qxf4 22.Qxf4 gxf4 23.cxd4 Bxd4=) 19...Qg6! 20.g4 Re8! 21.Bd2 h5 leads to a strong initiative.;

C) 17...Bf8 Tadic,Branko: '♚' Tadic, Branko: 'Unnatural and strong.' Tadic,Branko: '□ Unnatural and strong.'

C1) Now 18.c3? Tadic,Branko: '?!' is dubious, as Qa5! Tadic,Branko: '♞!' Tadic,Branko: '♞' 19.Bc2 (19.b3 Ne6 20.Bxc6 Rd8♞ Tadic,Branko: '♞' and White is in trouble.) 19...Nxc2 20.Kxc2 c5↑ and Black has a great initiative for the ♞.;

C2) 18.Bd2 Bg6♞ and Black has also some compenstaion for the ♞.]



" **17...Qf8?** Mikhalevski, V: 'The first mistake in a very complex position.' Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: 'Black had a much stronger move which only leads to a draw. It is incredible but White's crazy opening is safe!' Tadic,

Branko: 'Black had a much stronger move which only leads to a draw. It is incredible but White's crazy opening is safe!' A very logical move, which protects the ♞ and prepares for ... ♞e8. Nevertheless this is a mistake; moreover Black had a stronger move, which only leads to a draw. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'A very logical move, which protects the ♞ and prepares for ... ♞e8. Nevertheless this is a mistake; moreover Black had a stronger move, which only leads to a draw.'

[17...Bb6! Tadic,Branko: '!? '!' '!' '!' '!' Mikhalevski, V: 'was necessary.' was the correct reply, 18.Bxc6 Tadic,Branko: '=' '=' '=' '=' Tadic, Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: 'If it wasn' t for this move then Black would simply continue with Qd7 and Re8, with a great attack.' Tadic,Branko: 'If it wasn' t for this move then Black would simply continue with Qd7 and Re8, with a great attack.' If White doesn't accept this ♞, Black would simply continue with ♞d7 followed by ♞e8, with a great attack. Bc7= Tadic,Branko: '!' '!' '!' '!' Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: '=' Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: '=' 19.Qc5 (The logical Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'The logical' 19.Qd5? Mikhalevski, V: 'is bad due to' Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot' Tadic,Branko: '?' is losing, as Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'is losing, as' Qf6! 20.Bxa8 Bg4+! Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: '!' 21.hxg4 Qf1+ 22.Kd2 Bf4# Tadic,Branko: 'would be a dream finish for Black!' Tadic, Branko: 'would be a dream finish for Black!' with a nice mate! Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'with a nice mate!') 19...Bb6 20.Qd5 (20.Qe5 Bc7=)

20...Qf6! Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: '!' Etienne Bacrot: 'This strong idea was probably missed by Rodshtein when he played his 17th move.'" Tadic,Branko: '!' This strong idea was probably missed by Rodshtein when he played his 17th move.' This is the point! (20...Bxd3 Tadic,Branko 21.Bxa8 Bxc2+ 22.Kd2 Qf6 23.Qxd4 Bxd4 24.Kxc2 Bxc3 25.bxc3 Qf5+ 26.Kb2 Qb5+ 27.Kc2 Qf5+=) 21.Bxa8 Bg4+ 22.hxg4 Qf1+ Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: '=' Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'and draw by perpetual checks.'" 23.Kd2 Qf2+ 24.Kd1 Mikhalevski, V: '=' Mikhalevski, V: 'with a draw by perpetual.' Qf1+= and draw by perpetual checks.]

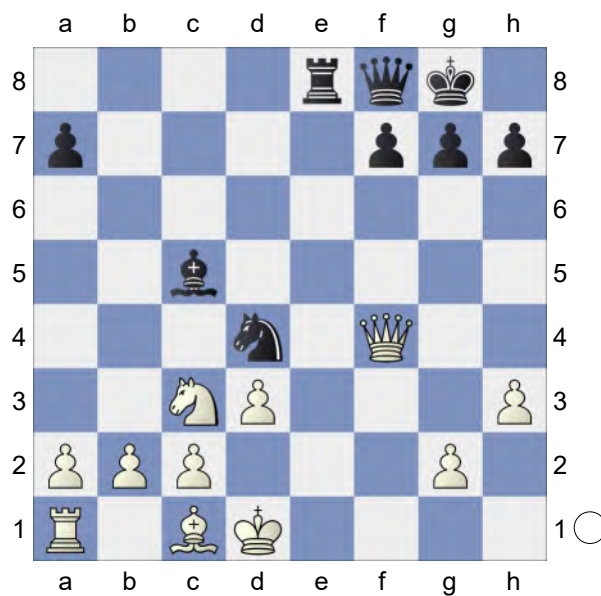
18.Bxc6! Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: '±!' Tadic,Branko: '!' ±' The right answer! Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'The right answer!'" **18...Nxc6 19.Qxf5 Nd4 20.Qf4** Mikhalevski, V: '±!' Mikhalevski, V: 'Now Black's resources are insufficient for two pawns.'

[20.Qf1!? Tadic,Branko: '(Etienne Bacrot) seems far safer to me.' was also an interesting option.]

20...Re8

[20...Ne6 doesn't help. 21.Qf1 Rd8 22.Ne4 Bb6 23.c3±]

(Diagram)



21.Bd2?! Mikhalevski, V: 'This developing move looks inaccurate.' Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: '?' Etienne Bacrot: 'A logical move, but based on a miscalculation.'" Tadic, Branko: '?' A logical move, but based on a miscalculation.' A logical developing move, but not the best. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'A logical developing move, but not the best.'

[Mikhalevski, V: 'It was better to play' 21.Ne4! Tadic,Branko: '!' '!' '!' '!' Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: 'maintains White's clear advantage.'" Tadic,Branko: 'maintains White's clear advantage.' was correct, for example: Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'was correct, for example:' f5 (21...Ne6 Tadic,Branko 22.Qf5) 22.Nxc5 Qxc5 23.c3± Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: ' ±' and White looks nicely placed. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'and White looks nicely placed.'" Qd5!? Tadic,Branko Mikhalevski, V: '!' (23...Ne6 Tadic,Branko 24.Qe3 Qb5 25.Kc2) 24.Qf2! (24.Qf1 Ne2 25.Kc2 Ng3 26.c4! Qd4 27.Qf3 Re2+ 28.Bd2 Rxd2+ 29.Kxd2

Qxb2+ 30.Ke3 Qxa1 31.Qxg3±
with good winning chances in the
queen endgame.)]

21...Qe7! Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot:
'Now the evaluation is very unclear,
since Black's pieces are working well
together.' Tadic,Branko: 'Now the
evaluation is very unclear, since Black's
pieces are working well together.' Now
the position is very unclear, since
Black's pieces are working well together.
Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'Now the
position is very unclear, since Black's
pieces are working well together.'"

22.Qg5

[Now 22.Ne4? Tadic,Branko:
'(Etienne Bacrot) was Wei Yi's first
intention in my opinion but after' Tadic,
Branko: '?' was Wei Yi's first intention
in my opinion but after' could have
been met by f5! Tadic,Branko: '!' 23.Ng3
(23.Nxc5? Qe2+!
Tadic,Branko: '!' 24.Kc1 Qxg2-+
Tadic,Branko: 'White can't defend
against the fork and back rank mate
threats.' Tadic,Branko: '-□+ White
can't defend against the fork and back
rank mate threats.' and Black wins.)
23...Qb7 with a lot of threats.]

[Δ22.b4!? Tadic,Branko Mikhalevski,
V: '!' Bb6 23.a3± might be a better
choice, with the idea to bring the king
to b2, but it's not that clear for a
human player, as 22.b4 looks
weakening.]

22...Qb7

[22...Qe6! might be more accurate.]

23.b4!? Mikhalevski, V: 'Now the move
is less clear as the pawn can be
captured by the bishop. Szabo,Kr: '!'?"
Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: 'A good
try to get out. From here there are many
inaccuracies in the game but the players

were probably short on time after this
opening!' Tadic,Branko: 'A good try to
get out. From here there are many
inaccuracies in the game but the players
were probably short on time after this
opening!' An ambitious reaction by Wei
Yi! Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'An
ambitious reaction by Wei Yi!'

[Δ23.Rb1 Tadic,Branko Mikhalevski,
V: '!' f5 24.Qg3 promised more
winning chances, but Black retains
good counterplay after Qc6]

23...Bb6 Mikhalevski, V: '?!'

[Mikhalevski, V: 'Black should have
taken the pawn.' 23...Bxb4!
Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: 'Taking
back some material is also nice.' was
more accurate, Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,
Kr: 'was more accurate, " Mikhalevski,
V: 'Probably he was afraid of'

A) 24.Qd5 Tadic,Branko Qxd5
25.Nxd5 Bxd2 26.Kxd2 Re2+
27.Kc3 Nb5+! 28.Kc4 Na3+
29.Kc5 (29.Kb3 Nxc2 30.Rc1
Nd4+ 31.Kc3 Ne6= and Black
should be able to survive.)
29...Nxc2 30.Rb1 g6∞;

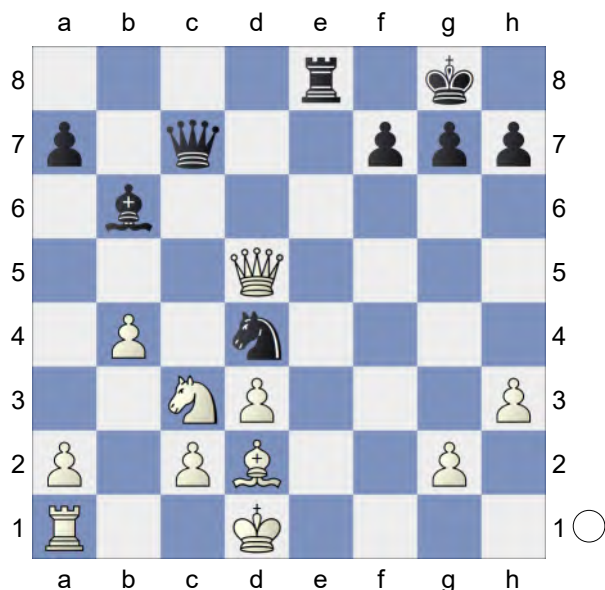
B) 24.Rb1 Mikhalevski, V: 'but
after'

B1) 24...a5 25.a3? doesn't work
because of Nf3! 26.gxf3 Qxf3+
27.Kc1 Bxa3+ 28.Rb2 Qxh3±
with the better chances for
Black. (In case of 28...Qf1+
29.Nd1 Bxb2+? 30.Kxb2 Qxd1
White creates counterplay by
means of 31.Bc3 Rb8+
32.Ka3=);

B2) 24...Qb6! 25.a3? (25.Be3
Tadic,Branko Qd6∞) 25...Nb5!-+
Tadic,Branko: '-+' '-+' '-+' '-+' and
White can't defence against ...
♔g1.]

24.Qd5 Mikhalevski, V: '±!' **24...Qc7**
Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: '

[24...Qb8 Might be more accurate,
but who can understand these
nuances during a game?]



" **25.Kc1** Mikhalevski, V: '?!'

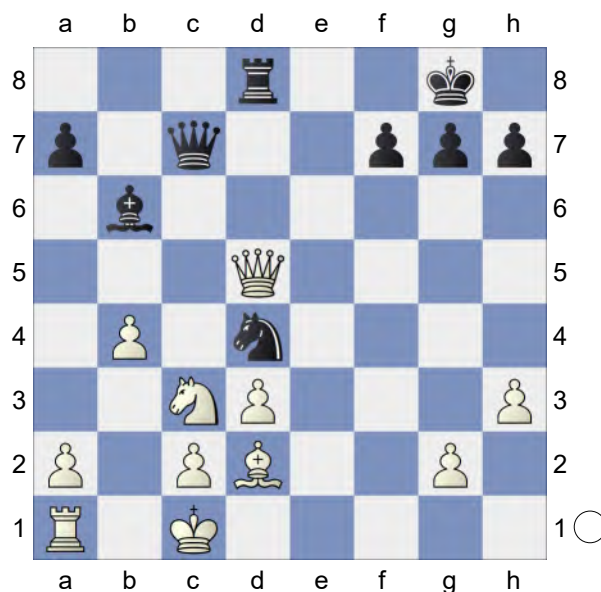
[The computer suggests Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo, Kr: 'The computer suggests' 25.a4! Tadic,Branko: 'Δ!' 'Δ!' 'Δ!' Mikhalevski, V: 'would be better.' Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: '!' Etienne Bacrot: 'A great computer move to disturb the bishop's good square on b6.'" Tadic,Branko: '!' A great computer move to disturb the bishop's good square on b6.' to push the ♗ away from the good b6-square. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo, Kr: 'to push the ♗ away from the good b6-square."

Rd8 Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot' 26.Qc4 (26.Qe4!/? Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo, Kr: '!'?" f5 27.Qf4 Qc6 28.a5 Bc7 29.Qf2±) 26...Qh2 27.Kc1 Qh1+ 28.Kb2 Qxg2 29.Ne4± Tadic,Branko: 'It's funny that we get the game's position with the useful tempo a4 up for White!' Tadic,Branko: '± It's funny

that we get the game's position with the useful tempo a4 up for White!' and finally White's ♔ is safe, his position is slightly better.]

25...Rd8?!

[25...Rc8! Mikhalevski, V: 'was strong, with the idea to meet' Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: 'with the idea Ne2 is strong and leads to an unclear position.'" Tadic,Branko: '!' with the idea Ne2 is strong and leads to an unclear position.' was stronger; now he is threatening ... ♘e2. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo, Kr: 'was stronger; now he is threatening ... ♘e2.'" 26.Kb2 Tadic,Branko Mikhalevski, V: '?!' Mikhalevski, V: 'with' Ne2! 27.Qc4 (27.Nxe2? Qxc2+ 28.Ka3 Qxd2-+) 27...Qb8 Mikhalevski, V: '!' 28.Nxe2 (28.Qg4 Bd4 with the initiative.) 28...Rxc4 29.dxc4∞]



Mikhalevski, V: 'Slight inaccuracies are unavoidable in such a complicated position.' An inaccuracy. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo, Kr: 'An inaccuracy.'" **26.Qc4** Mikhalevski, V: '!' **26...Qg3** **27.Kb2** Mikhalevski, V: 'It's understandable that

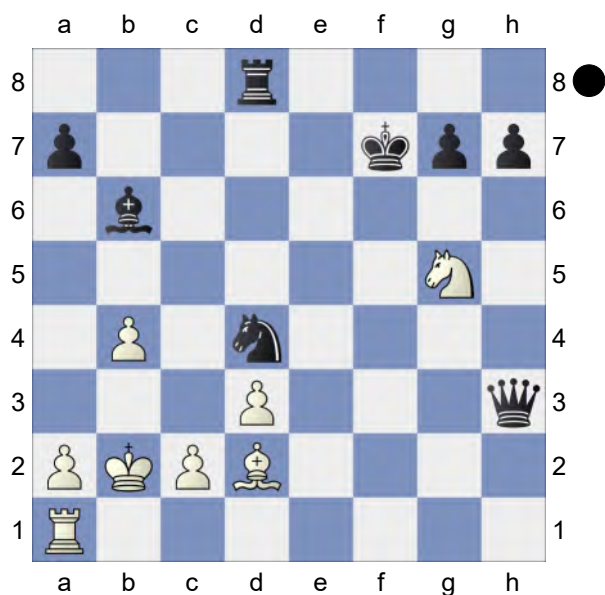
Wey Yi wants to secure his king.'

[Mikhalevski, V: 'However,' 27.a4! Mikhalevski, V: 'was stronger. For example,' Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: 'was still a strong move.' Tadic,Branko: '! was still a strong move.' was still a strong move. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'was still a strong move.' Qxg2 Tadic,Branko 28.a5 Nf3 29.axb6 Qxd2+ 30.Kb2 axb6 31.Qc7± Mikhalevski, V: '±']

27...Qxg2 28.Ne4 Qxh3

[28...Nf3 Tadic,Branko: '!?' '!' '!' '!' Mikhalevski, V: '!?' 29.Bc3 Qxh3 Tadic,Branko: ' ± ' ± ' ± ' Mikhalevski, V: '=' Mikhalevski, V: 'deserved serious attention as it prevents Qxf7, which occurred in the game.' (29...Nd4!? Tadic,Branko: '! Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot' 30.Rc1 Tadic,Branko Qxh3 leads to a wild middlegame.) 30.a4 h5± is still a sharp middlegame.]

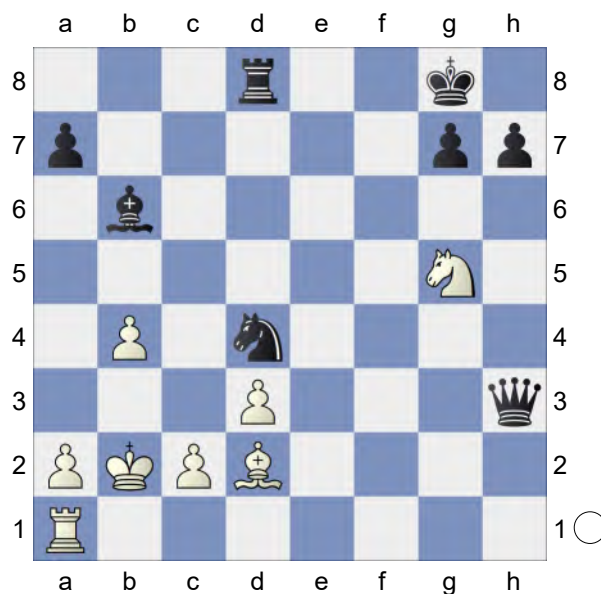
29.Qxf7+ Kxf7 30.Ng5+ Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: '



" 30...Kg8?!

[Black should have played Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'Black should have

played" 30...Kg6 Mikhalevski, V: '! Mikhalevski, V: 'was better.' Tadic, Branko: '! '!' '!' Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: 'is much more natural.' to activate his ♔, which will be very important in the endgame. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'to activate his ♔, which will be very important in the endgame. " 31.Nxh3 Tadic,Branko Nf3 32.Bc3 (32.Bf4 Kf5!↑) 32...Rd7∞ (32...Rf8!= and White experiences problems with his misplaced knight on h3.)]



Mikhalevski, V: '?' Mikhalevski, V: 'This retreat turns out to be wrong. Szabo,Kr: '?!' Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: '?' Another dubious move. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'Another dubious move.' **31.Nxh3** Mikhalevski, V: ' ± ' **31...Nf3** **32.Bf4 Bd4+** Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: '?' Etienne Bacrot: 'Now White regroup.' Tadic,Branko: '? Now White regroup.'

[32...h6!? Tadic,Branko: '(Etienne Bacrot) with the idea g5 was essential. ' was more natural to prepare for ...g5. However White continues with 33.Rf1 Nd4 34.c4 and his queenside's ♕s are

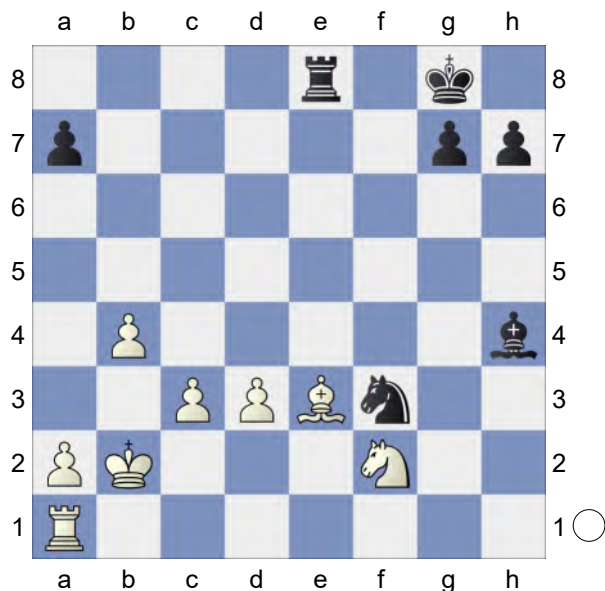
very fast.]

33.c3 Bf6 34.Nf2 Bh4 Tadic,Branko:
'Etienne Bacrot: '?' Etienne Bacrot: 'Too
many moves by pieces when the passed
pawn should have been pushed forward.'
' Tadic,Branko: '?' Too many moves by
pieces when the passed pawn should
have been pushed forward.'

[34...g5 35.Be3 Rd7± left more
practical chances.]

35.Be3 Re8

[35...a6!? Tadic,Branko 36.Kc2±]
[35...Bxf2 36.Bxf2 a6 37.Kc2±
is not much fun either.]



36.Ne4 Ne1 37.Rd1

[37.Rxe1!? Tadic,Branko Bxe1
38.Bxa7±]

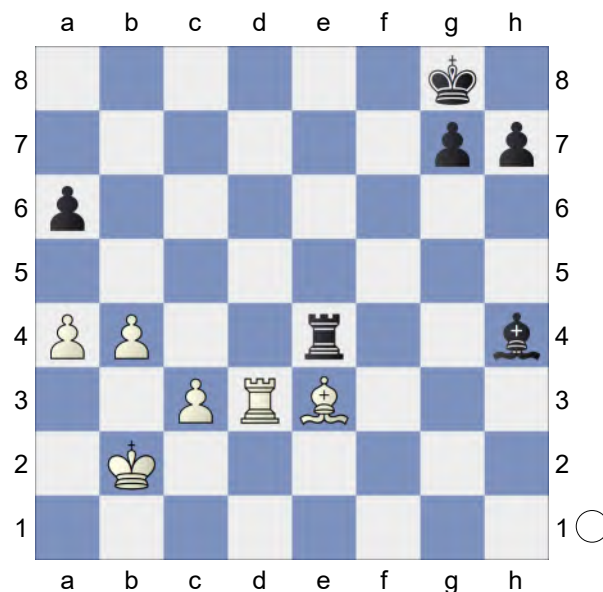
37...a6 38.a4

[38.c4!? Nxd3+ 39.Rxd3 Rxe4
40.Kb3+- is also winning for White.]

38...Nxd3+ Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne
Bacrot: 'Black takes back material but he
is clearly down in the race.' Tadic,
Branko: 'Black takes back material but
he is clearly down in the race.' 'Black
takes back material but he is clearly
down in the race.' Mikhalevski, V:

'Szabo,Kr: 'Black takes back material
but he is clearly down in the race.' "

39.Rxd3 Rxe4 Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne
Bacrot: '



" Now the material is balanced, but
White's ♖s are more advanced, his
position should be winning. Mikhalevski,
V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'Now the material is
balanced, but White's ♖s are more
advanced, his position should be winning.'
"

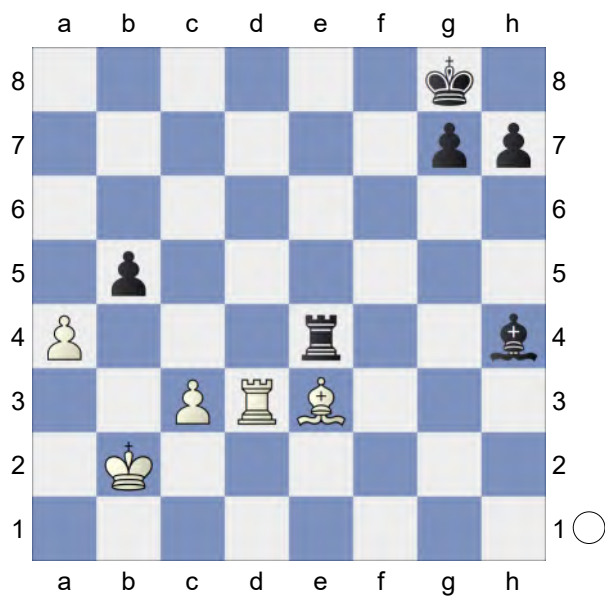
40.b5 Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot:
'Not the best way to push.' Tadic,
Branko: 'Not the best way to push.'

[Probably 40.Kb3 Tadic,Branko:
'Etienne Bacrot' was more accurate to
push the c- ♖, h5 41.c4 Bg3 42.b5
axb5 43.cxb5+- Tadic,Branko: 'is an
easy win, for example:' Tadic,Branko:
'is an easy win, for example:' and
White is winning. h4 Tadic,Branko
44.Bc5 Rg4 45.a5 h3 46.a6 h2
47.Rd1]

40...axb5

[40...Rxa4 Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne
Bacrot' 41.b6+- Tadic,Branko: '+□-']

(Diagram)



41.axb5 h5 42.Bd4

[Mikhalevski, V: 'The immediate' 42.b6
Tadic, Branko: '!? ' '!? ' '!? ' '!? '
Mikhalevski, V: '+-!' Mikhalevski, V:
'is more accurate.' was also fine.
Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'was also
fine."]

42...Bg5

[42...Bd8!? Tadic,Branko Mikhalevski,
V: 'looks like a better practical try,
although it should be lost anyway.'
43.b6 Rxd4 44.b7 Rxd3 45.b8Q±
Kf8±]

43.b6 Tadic,Branko: '?' '?' '?' '?'
Mikhalevski, V: '?' Mikhalevski, V: 'An
inaccuracy.'

[43.Rg3! Tadic,Branko Mikhalevski,
V: 'was better.' Bh6 (43...Rg4
44.Rxg4 hxg4 45.Kc2 g3 46.Kd3
Bf4 47.Ke4 g5 48.c4+-) 44.b6
Mikhalevski, V: '+-' h4 45.Rh3 g5
46.Re3+-]

43...Bf4 Mikhalevski, V: '?' Mikhalevski,
V: 'Black returns the favour.'

[Mikhalevski, V: 'After the correct'
 43...h4 Tadic,Branko: '!' '!' '!' '!'
 Mikhalevski, V: '!' Mikhalevski, V:
 'Szabo.Kr: ' 43" was more accurate

Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo, Kr: 'was more accurate' 44.Rf3! (44.b7 Bf4) 44...Be7 (44...Bd8!± the win isn't trivial anymore, if White can win at all.) 45.Kc2 and White is also fine.]

44. Rf3?

[44.Rh3! Tadic,Branko: '!? '!? '!? '!? 'Mikhalevski, V: 'is strong, stopping Black's pawns first.' Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: 'slowing down Black's pawns was the last winning possibility. " was better, to slow down the ♖s. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'was better, to slow down the ♖ s." g6 Tadic,Branko 45.Kb3+- Mikhalevski, V: 'White advances the king to d5 and wins.']

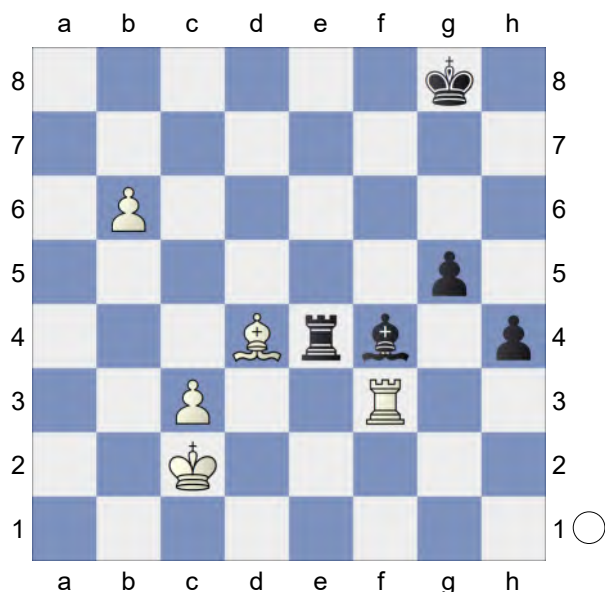
[44.c4 Tadic,Branko h4 45.c5 h3
46.c6 h2 47.c7+-]

44...g5! Mikhalevski, V: '±' Mikhalevski, V: 'Now Black is back in the game. Szabo,Kr: '!' Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: 'After four strange moves the endgame is now unclear." Now Black ♖s are also dangerous. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'Now Black ♖s are also dangerous. " 45.Kc2 h4

[45...Re8! Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot' 46.Kd3 Kf7 Black seems fine and the rook endgame after 47.Be3 (or 47.c4 Ke6 48.Be3 Rb8=) 47...Ke6 48.Bxf4 gxf4 49.Rxf4 Kd5 Mikhalevski, V: 'looks drawish.' Tadic,Branko: '=' '=' '=' is drawish. and Black survives.]

[45...Kf7!? Tadic,Branko 46.Kd3]

(Diagram)



Mikhalevski, V: '?!' Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: 'An alternative idea was to bring the king to the queenside.' Tadic,Branko: 'An alternative idea was to bring the king to the queenside.'

46.Kd3 Re7! Mikhalevski, V: '!?'
Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: '!' Tadic, Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: '!'

[46...Re1 47.c4 Kf7 48.c5 Ke6 49.Kc4+-]

[or Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'or' 46...Re8 Mikhalevski, V: 'was possible.

' 47.c4 and White looks faster.

Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'and White looks faster.'" Bb8 48.Rh3! Rd8

49.Ke4 Kf7 50.c5 Ke6±

with chances for a draw.]

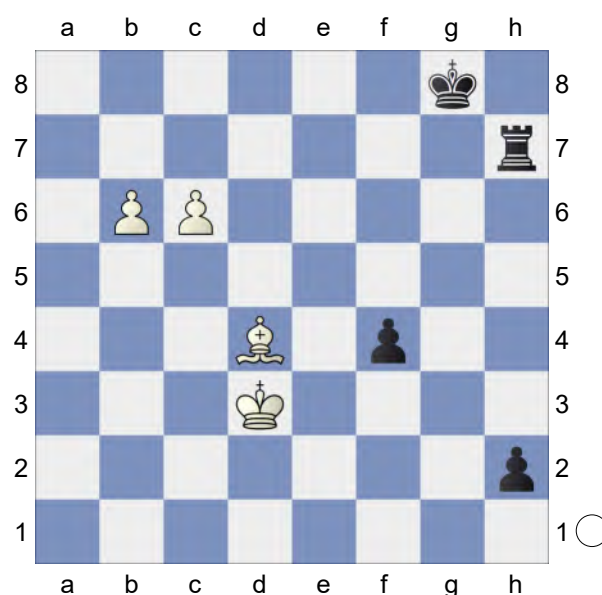
47.c4 Rh7 Mikhalevski, V: '!' Tadic, Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: 'A perfect place for the rook, as it stops White's pawn and helps the h-pawn advance.'" Tadic, Branko: 'A perfect place for the rook, as it stops White's pawn and helps the h-pawn advance.' A perfect place for the ♖, as it stops White's b-♙ and helps the h-♙ advance. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'A perfect place for the ♖, as it stops White's b-♙ and helps the h-♙ advance. "

48.c5 h3 49.Rxf4 Mikhalevski, V: '!' Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: '!'

[49.Bg1!? Mikhalevski, V: '!'

Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: '!' was the alternative, Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo, Kr: 'was the alternative," h2 50.Bxh2 Bxh2 51.Rf2 Mikhalevski, V: '!' Bb8 (51...Bc7 Tadic,Branko 52.Kc4±) 52.c6 (52.Rf5 Rg7 53.Rd5) 52...Kg7 with a complicated endgame. I think Black can survive.]

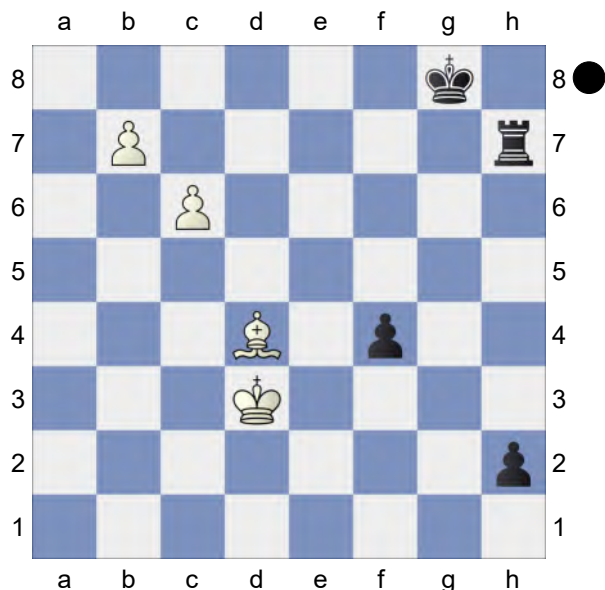
49...gxf4 50.c6 h2



51.b7 Tadic,Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: '

[51.c7 h1Q 52.c8Q+ Kf7]

(Diagram)



"It is difficult to say, which white ♖ is more important to push. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo, Kr: 'It is difficult to say, which white ♖ is more important to push."

51...Rh3+? Mikhalevski, V: 'A losing move.' Tadic, Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: 'A bad luck mistake. Now White has a miraculous win because his king finds a safe place.' Tadic, Branko: '? A bad luck mistake. Now White has a miraculous win because his king finds a safe place.' The decisive mistake. After this move White is winning, but it is very difficult in a practical game. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo, Kr: 'The decisive mistake. After this move White is winning, but it is very difficult in a practical game."

[Mikhalevski, V: 'After' 51...h1Q! was correct, Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo, Kr: 'was correct,' 52.b8Q+ Kf7 53.Qxf4+ Ke8 Mikhalevski, V: '!' 54.Qb8+ Kf7 Tadic, Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: 'was the most obvious draw.' Tadic, Branko: 'was the most obvious draw.' 55.Qc7+ Kg6= Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo, Kr: '=' and a draw. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo, Kr: 'and a draw.' 56.Qd6+ Tadic, Branko Kf5= (56...Kh5

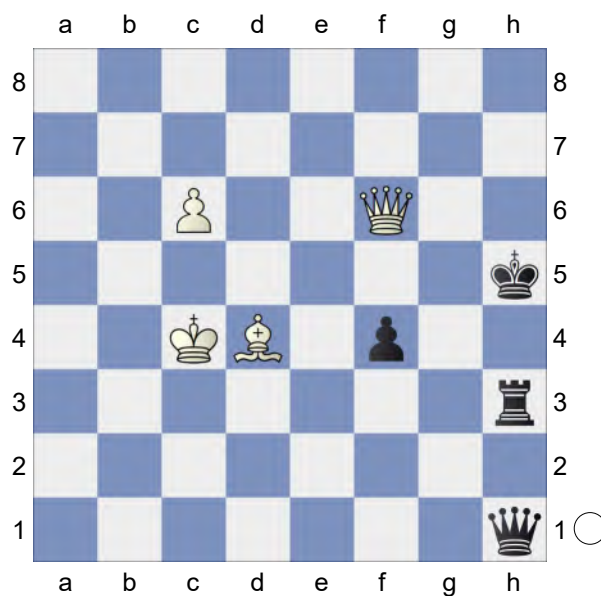
57.Qe5+ Kg4= and Black seems to hold a draw.)]

[51...Rxb7 Tadic, Branko Tadic, Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: 'is also a draw but it is more complicated to be sure about it over the board.' Tadic, Branko: 'is also a draw but it is more complicated to be sure about it over the board.' 52.cxb7 h1Q 53.b8Q+ Kf7= 54.Qc7+ (Tadic, Branko) Etienne Bacrot Ke8 55.Qc8+ Ke7! Tadic, Branko: '!' 56.Bc5+ Kf6 57.Qf8+ Ke6 58.Qe8+ Kf5 59.Qf7+ Ke5 60.Bd4+ Kd6]

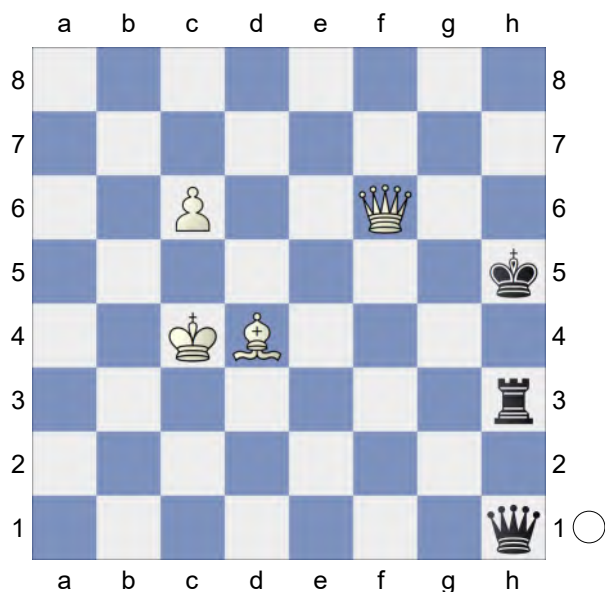
52.Kc4+- Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo, Kr: '+-' **52...h1Q 53.b8Q+** Tadic, Branko: 'Etienne Bacrot: '+-' Etienne Bacrot: 'The win is not so easy to achieve but Wei Yi displays flawless technique.' Tadic, Branko: '+□- The win is not so easy to achieve but Wei Yi displays flawless technique.' **53...Kh7**

[53...Kf7 Tadic, Branko 54.Qxf4+ Ke8 55.Qe5+ Kf7 56.Qf5+ Ke8 57.Qg6+ Kd8 58.Bb6+ Ke7 59.Bc5+ Kd8 60.Qd6+ Kc8 61.Qd7+ Kb8 62.Qb7#]

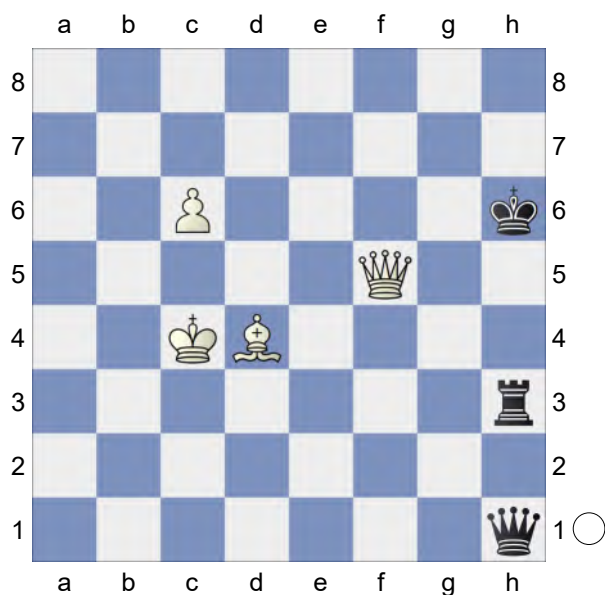
54.Qh8+ Kg6 55.Qf6+ Kh5



56.Qf5+ Kh6 57.Qf6+ Kh5 58.Qf5+ Kh6 59.Qxf4+ The win is still not so easy to achieve, but with exact calculation Wei Yi forces his win. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'The win is still not so easy to achieve, but with exact calculation Wei Yi forces his win.' 59...Kg6 60.Qf6+ Kh5



61.Qf5+ Kh6 62.Qf4+ Kg6 63.Qg4+ Kh6 64.Qe6+ Kh5 65.Qf5+ Kh6

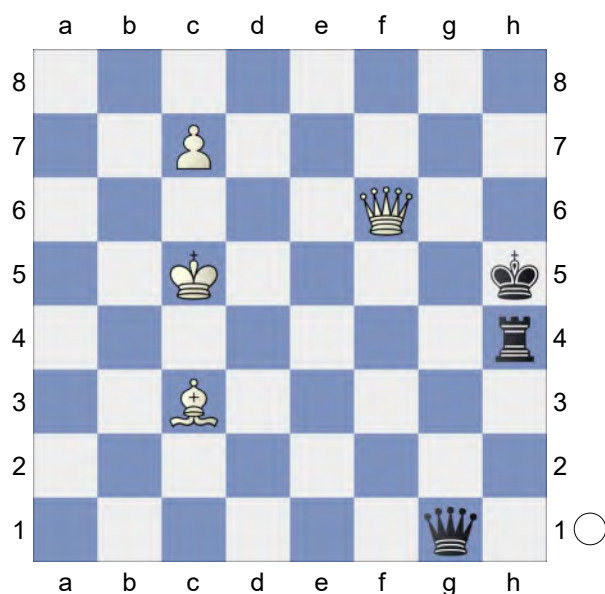


66.Qf6+ Kh5 67.c7! Mikhalevski, V: 'Quite surprisingly Black can't stop the c-pawn.' 67...Qc1+ 68.Bc3 Tadic,Branko:

'Etienne Bacrot: '!' 68...Rh4+

[68...Rxc3+ Tadic,Branko: '(Etienne Bacrot) leads to an easy queens endgame.' is also losing easily 69.Qxc3 Qf1+ 70.Kb4 Qf4+ 71.Kb3 Qf7+ 72.Qc4 Qf3+ 73.Kb4 Qf8+ 74.Qc5+- Tadic,Branko: 'Check!']

69.Kd5 Qd1+ 70.Kc5 Mikhalevski, V: '!' 70...Qg1+

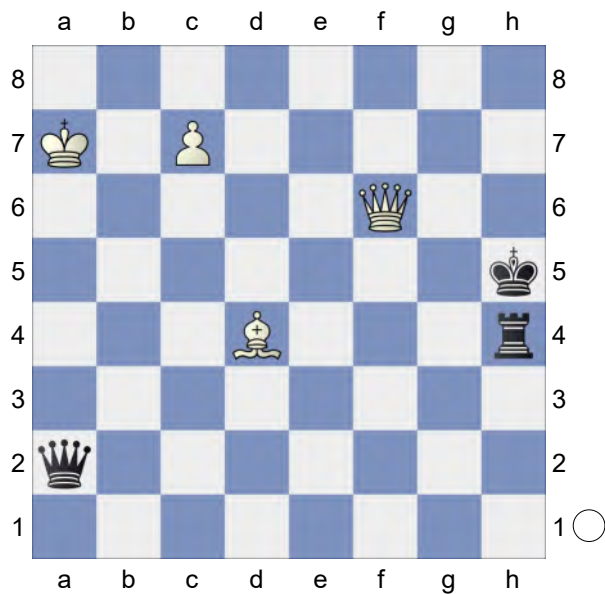


71.Kb5 Qb1+ 72.Kc5 Qg1+ 73.Bd4! Tadic,Branko: '!' 73...Qc1+ 74.Kb6 Tadic,Branko: '!' '!' '!' '!' Mikhalevski, V: '!' 74...Qb1+ 75.Ka7 Mikhalevski, V: 'Slightly inaccurate as it lets Black get a position with a rook versus queen.'

[75.Kc6+- Mikhalevski, V: '!'? Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: '+-' Qc2+ 76.Kd6+-]

75...Qa2+

(Diagram)



76.Qa6 Mikhalevski, V: '!' 76...Qf7

[76...Qd5 Tadic,Branko 77.c8Q Qxd4+ 78.Qb6+-]

[76...Qxa6+ 77.Kxa6 Rxd4 78.c8Q led to a well-known endgame with a rook versus queen, where Black would retain practical chances.]

77.Qb5+ Mikhalevski, V: '!' 77...Kg6

[or 77...Kg4 78.Kb8+-]

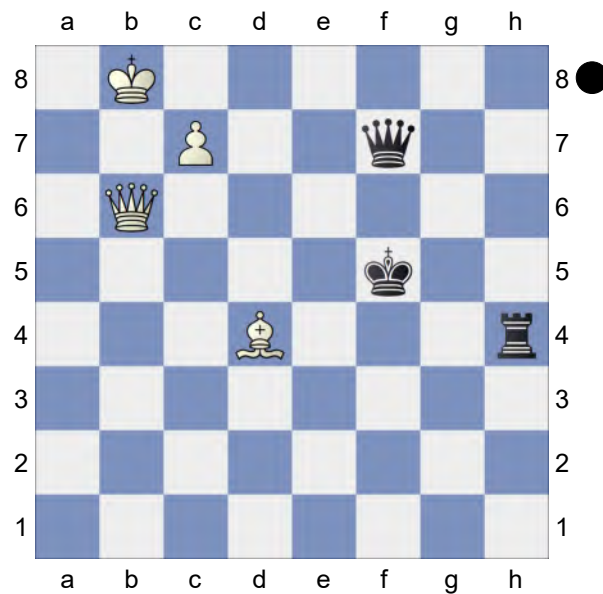
78.Qb6+ Kf5

[78...Kh5 Tadic,Branko 79.Kb8 Qf4 80.Be3]

[78...Kh7 Tadic,Branko Mikhalevski, V: '!' Mikhalevski, V: 'was a better practical chance.' 79.Qb7 (79.Kb8 Qf4 80.Qb7+- is winning, but the win isn't trivial yet.) 79...Rxd4 80.c8Q Ra4+ (80...Rf4 with the aforementioned endgame.) 81.Kb8+-]

79.Kb8

(Diagram)



Mikhalevski, V: '+-!' Mikhalevski, V: 'Now it's all over. A very interesting fighting game. The opening line hasn't been studied enough and so I expect more practical tests. Black's play can be improved by means of 17...Bb6, while 9...Nxd5 is also worth attention.' What a nice victory by Wei Yi! Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'What a nice victory by Wei Yi!'

1-0

296

□ Wei, Yi

■ Melkumyan, Hrant

WchT 10th Tsaghkadzor (4.4) 22.04.15

[Szabo, Krisztian]

C49

2706

2676

Stamenkovic, Zoran: 'In this new column for CEWN I will try to find the most interesting games by strong junior players. Today I decided to comment on one from the 15-year old Chinese Wei Yi who helped his team, the current Olympic champions, to beat Armenia 3, 5-0, 5!' **1.e4** Stamenkovic, Zoran

Stamenkovic, Zoran Kuzmin, Alexey Stamenkovic, Zoran Szabo, Kr Szabo, Kr Stamenkovic, Zoran Kuzmin, Alexey Stamenkovic, Zoran Szabo, Kr **1...e5**

2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bb5

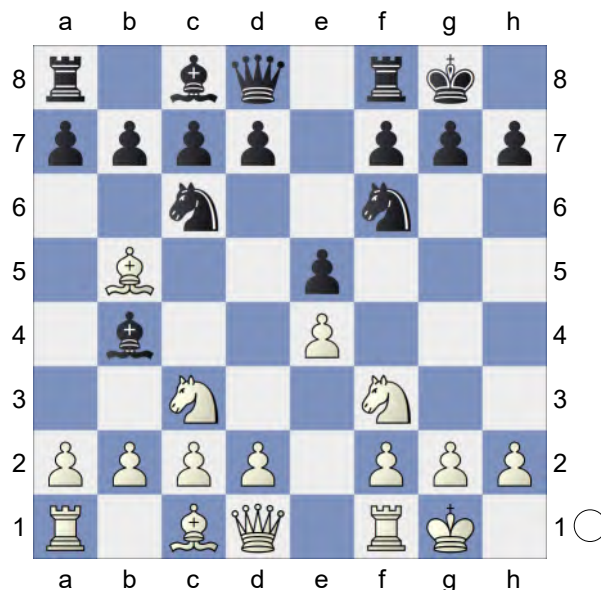
Stamenkovic, Zoran: 'The four knights is often employed by Wei Yi along with the Italian game.' **4...Bb4**

[4...Nd4 (Stamenkovic, Zoran) is my favorite move.]

[4...Bc5 Stamenkovic, Zoran 5.Nxe5 Nxe5 6.d4 a6 !? is an interesting new option, Wei Yi-Eljanov 2014.]

5.0-0 0-0

(Diagram)



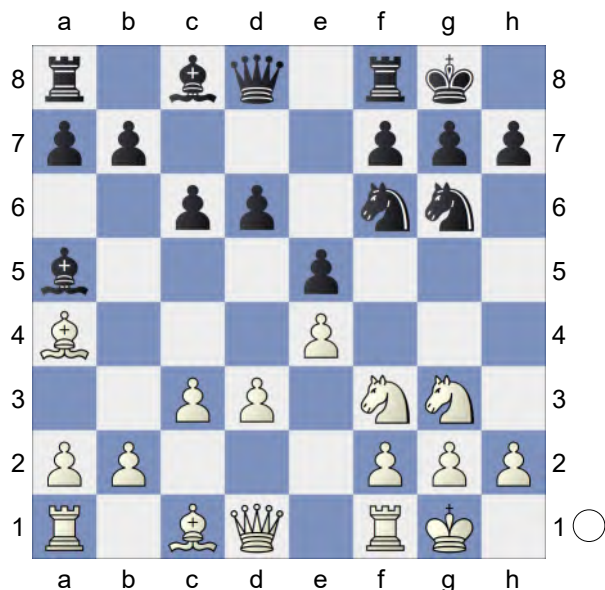
6.d3 d6 7.Ne2 Szabo, Kr: 'A new and fashionable move.' Kuzmin, Alexey: '!?' Stamenkovic, Zoran: 'A new, fashionable and very logical move. The big theory is' A new and fashionable move. Stamenkovic, Zoran: 'Szabo, Kr: 'A new and fashionable move.'"

[7.Bg5 Szabo, Kr: 'is the real main line. ' is the real main line. Bxc3 Stamenkovic, Zoran 8.bxc3 Qe7 9.Re1 Nd8 10.d4 Ne6 with still more than 500 games played.]

7...Ne7 8.c3 Ba5 9.Ng3 c6

[Szabo, Kr: '3 days later Mamedyarov played' 3 days later Mamedyarov played 9...Ng6 Stamenkovic, Zoran: 'Szabo, Kr' 10.d4 Bb6 11.Re1 c6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.h3 h6 14.Be3 Be6 15.Qc2 Qc7 16.a3 a5 17.c4 a4 18.Red1 exd4 19.Bxd4 Ne5= Szabo, Kr: 'with an approximately equal position, although later White managed to win, Anand-Mamedyarov, Shamkir 2015.' with an approximately equal position, although later White managed to win, Anand-Mamedyarov, Shamkir 2015.]

10.Ba4 Ng6

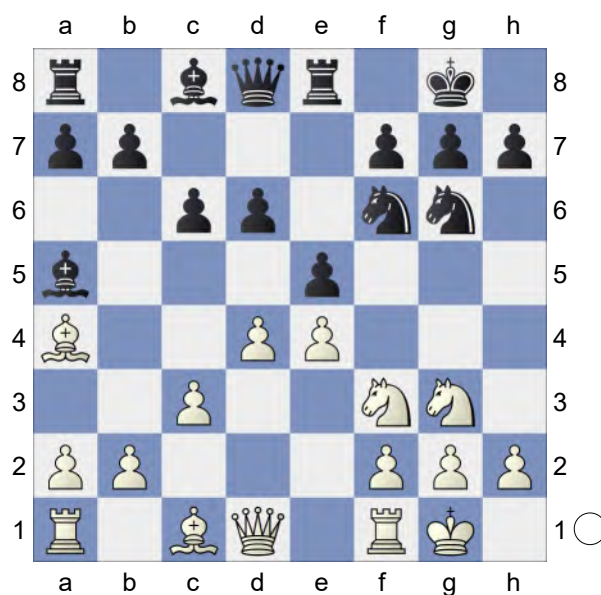


11.d4 Szabo,Kr: 'The most natural move, White gains the centre. Black will develop his pieces before going for the counterbreak with d5.' Stamenkovic, Zoran: 'Normal play for the center. Melkumyan will develop his pieces before going for the counterbreak with d5.' The most natural move, White gains the centre. Black will develop his pieces before going for the counterbreak with d5. Stamenkovic, Zoran: 'Szabo,Kr: 'The most natural move, White gains the centre. Black will develop his pieces before going for the counterbreak with d5.' **11...Re8** Stamenkovic, Zoran: '

[The attempt to open the centre immediately with 11...d5 Kuzmin,Alexey Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'is a very decent try.' was used even in the XIXth century! White's chances are slightly preferable: 12.Nxe5 (I think that the modern way 12.Bg5!? isn't bad either. h6 13.Bxf6 Qxf6 14.dxe5 Nxe5 15.Nxe5 Qxe5 16.exd5 Qxd5 17.Qxd5 cxd5 18.Rfd1±)

A) 12...Nxe4 13.Nxe4 (13.Nxg6 Stamenkovic,Zoran hxg6 14.Nxe4)

13...dxe4 14.Nxg6 hxg6
Lipke,P-Pillsbury,H Vienna 1898.
15.Re1± Re8 Stamenkovic,Zoran
16.Bf4 ±;
B) 12...Nxe5 13.dxe5 Nxe4
14.Nxe4 dxe4 15.Bf4± Maroczy,G-
Leonhardt,P San Sebastian 1911.
Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'I am still not
sure that Black can fully equalize
here.']



12.Bc2 h6 Kuzmin,Alexey: 'The symmetrical plan with ... ♖e8, ...h6 and ... ♙e6 looks solid. But it doesn't promise equal chances, because White has a space advantage: d4-pawn against d6-pawn.'

[12...d5?! Kuzmin,Alexey isn't good. After 13.Bg5↑ Black is in troubles. For instance exd4 14.Nxd4 h6 15.Bxf6 Qxf6 16.exd5 cxd5 17.Bxg6 (or 17.Nh5 Qd6 18.Bxg6 fxg6 19.Qa4±) 17...fxg6 18.Qa4 Qd8 19.Qb3±]

13.h3

[White can begin with 13.Be3 Kuzmin,Alexey , because Ng4 doesn't seriously disturb him: 14.Bd2 c5 15.Ba4 Bd7 16.Bxd7 Qxd7

17.d5± Artemiev-Pashikian, Lake Sevan, 2016, The space advantage and the black pawns fixed on dark squares promise better chances for White.]

13...Be6

[13...Bb6 (Stamenkovic,Zoran) - 93/259]

[Again 13...d5?! Kuzmin,Alexey is too early: 14.Nxe5! Nxe5 15.dxe5 Nxe4 16.Nxe4 (16.Qh5!?) 16...dxe4 17.Qh5! (17.Bf4 Popov,I-Demchenko, A New Delhi 2016) 17...g6 18.Qxh6 Rxe5 19.Rd1±]

14.Re1 Kuzmin,Alexey: '±'

[14.Be3!? Kuzmin,Alexey is possible too. The moves ♔e3 and ♖e1 are steps of the same plan. Qc7 (14...b5 15.Qc1↑) 15.Re1 (15.Qc1!? Kh7 16.Nh2 d5 17.b4 Bb6 18.a4↑ Naiditsch,A-Nabaty,T Jerusalem 2016) 15...Rad8± Nearly the same position (just with ... ♗b6 instead of ... ♖ad8) arose in the game Kochetkova-Rodshtein). White can play ♔d2 or ♖c1 immediately, or include 16.a4!? ♗b6.

A) 16.Qd2

A1) In the event of 16...Bb6 a position from the game Bauer, C-Sargissian, G Paris 2009 arose. 17.Nf5! Bxf5 (17...d5 18.Nxg7! with a dangerous attack) 18.exf5 Nf8 19.Bxh6! N8h7 (19...gxh6? 20.Qxh6 N8h7 21.Ng5+-) 20.Be3± Bauer, C-Sargissian, G Paris 2009.;

A2) 16...exd4!? 17.Nxd4 d5 18.e5!↑;

B) 16.Qc1 b5?! (16...exd4±) 17.b4 Bb6 18.a4± Campora, D-Goldin, A New York 1998.;

C) 16.a4!?±]

14...Bc7 Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'N' 'N' 'N'

[Kuzmin,Alexey: 'An attempt to seize space on the queenside doesn't promise equality:' 14...b5 Szabo,Kr: 'was played by Jakovenko' Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'was played in Rapport-Jakovenko in Gibraltar this year.' was played by Jakovenko 15.Bd2 (15.a3 Kuzmin,Alexey c5 16.b4 cxb4 17.axb4 Bb6 18.Bd3 Bd7 19.Bd2±) 15...Qc7 Kuzmin,Alexey: '?!' (15...c5 Kuzmin,Alexey) 16.Qc1 Stamenkovic, Zoran: '!?' (16.Nf5!?) 16...Kh7 17.a4 a6 18.Nf5↑ Rapport-Jakovenko, Caleta 2015, Szabo,Kr: 'Rapport-Jakovenko, Caleta 2015, and White has a nice initiative.' Kuzmin,Alexey: '±' Kuzmin,Alexey: 'Rapport,R-Jakovenko,D Caleta ENG 2015' Rapport-Jakovenko, Caleta 2015, Kuzmin,Alexey: ' ±' Kuzmin,Alexey: 'Rapport,R-Jakovenko,D Caleta ENG 2015' Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'and White has nice attacking possibilities.' and White has a nice initiative.]

[14...Bb6 Stamenkovic,Zoran]

[14...exd4 Kuzmin,Alexey 15.Nxd4±]

15.Be3 d5

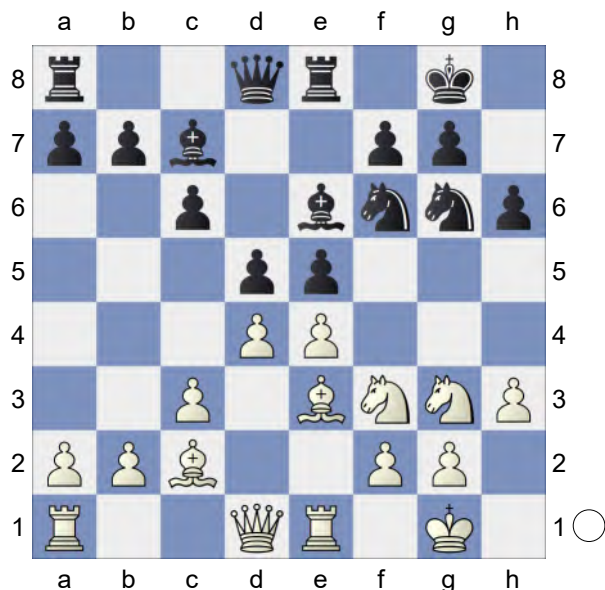
[A reasonable alternative is 15...Qe7 Kuzmin,Alexey White is slightly better. And he has a few ways to continue:

A) 16.Qd2 Qf8 17.Rad1±;

B) 16.b3!? Qf8 17.c4± (17.Qb1?! d5= Sengupta,D-Shyam,N Nagpur 2015.);

C) 16.Qe2 Qf8 17.Rad1 a5 Ekstroem,R-Hort,V Switzerland 2007. 18.a4 Rad8 19.c4±]

(Diagram)



Szabo,Kr: 'It seems to be interesting, because we have a mirror position after 15 moves! However with the extra tempo and the fight in the centre, White logically takes the advantage.' Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'It is funny that we still have a mirror position after fifteen moves! But with the extra tempo and the fight in the center White logically takes the advantage.' It seems to be interesting, because we have a mirror position after 15 moves! However with the extra tempo and the fight in the centre, White logically takes the advantage. Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Szabo, Kr: 'It seems to be interesting, because we have a mirror position after 15 moves! However with the extra tempo and the fight in the centre, White logically takes the advantage.' It seems to be interesting, because we have a mirror position after 15 moves! However with the extra tempo and the fight in the centre, White logically takes the advantage.' Kuzmin, Alexey: 'This is the most principled move, but White retains better chances.' It seems to be interesting, because we have a mirror position after 15 moves! However with the extra tempo and the fight in the centre, White logically takes the advantage. Kuzmin,Alexey: 'This is the most principled move, but White

retains better chances.' **16.Nxe5**

[Szabo,Kr: 'In the event of In the event of 16.exd5 Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Szabo, Kr' Bxd5 17.Bxg6 fxc6 18.Nxe5 Bxe5 19.dxe5 Rxe5= Szabo,Kr: 'and Black should equalise.' Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'seems almost equal.' and Black should equalise.]

16...Nxe5 17.dxe5 Nxe4

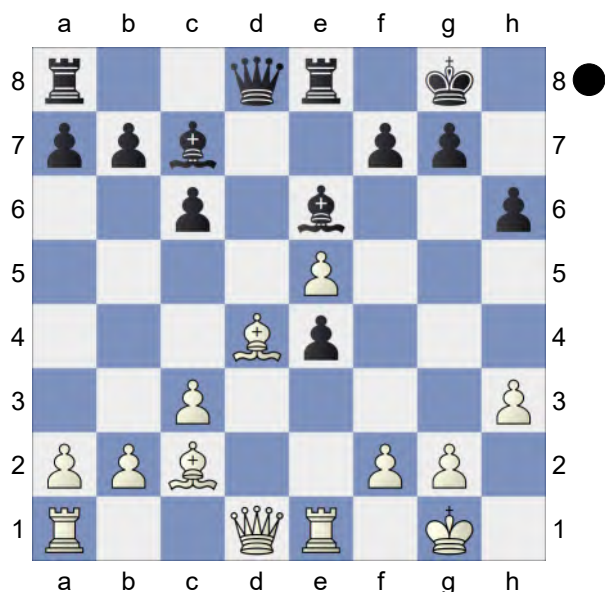
[17...Bxe5?! Szabo,Kr: 'could have been met by' could have been met by 18.f4! Stamenkovic,Zoran: '!' Bc7 19.e5↑ Szabo,Kr: 'and White has a great position.' Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'White has a great advantage.' and White has a great position.]

18.Nxe4

[Szabo,Kr: 'The engine suggests' The engine suggests Kuzmin,Alexey: 'There is an interesting resource:' 18.Qd3!? Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Szabo, Kr' Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'was the other way to play for an edge.' f5 Kuzmin, Alexey: '!' (18...Qh4 19.Bd4±) 19.exf6 Bxg3 20.fxc3 Qxf6 Kuzmin,Alexey: 'and now 21. ♖d4 or 21.c4 with an initiative.' 21.Bd4 Qg5 22.g4± Szabo,Kr: 'and with his pair of Bs, White looks more comfortable.' and with his pair of ♖s, White looks more comfortable.]

18...dxe4 19.Bd4 Kuzmin,Alexey: '±' Stamenkovic,Zoran: '

(Diagram)



' **19...Bd5?!** Szabo,Kr: 'A small inaccuracy.' Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Szabo, Kr: '?!' Stamenkovic,Zoran: '!? There was another tricky defensive possibility: A small inaccuracy. Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Szabo,Kr: 'A small inaccuracy.'

[19...Qe7 20.b4! Szabo,Kr: 'White avoids ...c5.' White avoids ...c5. (20.Qh5 Stamenkovic,Zoran c5 21.Be3 Bd5 22.Bf4±) 20...Rad8 21.Qe2± Szabo,Kr: 'and Black loses a P.' and Black loses a ♠.]

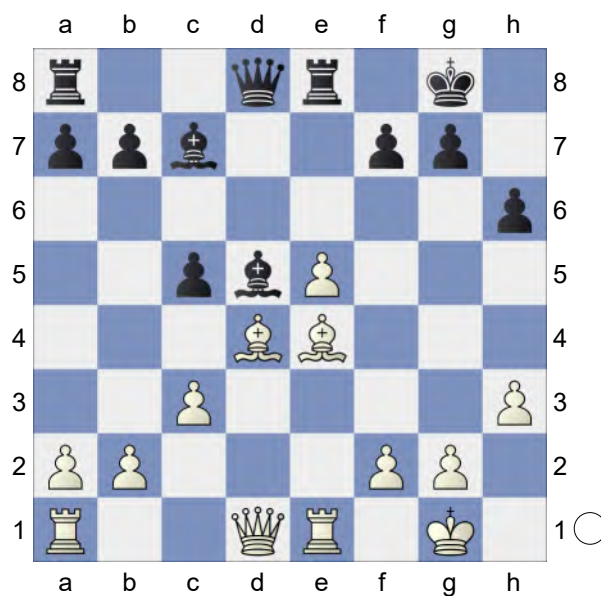
[Szabo,Kr: 'Probably' Probably 19...Qg5! Szabo,Kr: 'was the best reaction' Stamenkovic,Zoran: '!' was the best reaction 20.Bxe4 Bxh3 21.f4 Kuzmin,Alexey: '!' Qg3! Stamenkovic, Zoran: '!' with an unclear position because the obvious' 22.Qf3 (22.Re3? Szabo,Kr: 'is nicely met' Stamenkovic,Zoran: '? is nicely met:' is nicely met Qxf4 23.gxh3 c5! Stamenkovic,Zoran: '!' 24.Bxc5 Rxe5 Szabo,Kr: 'and White can't defend the K and save the piece at the same time.' Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'and White can't defend the king and save the piece at the same time.' and White can't

defend the ♔ and save the piece at the same time.; 22.Qb3↑ Kuzmin,Alexey) 22...Qxf3 23.Bxf3 (23.gxf3↑ Kuzmin,Alexey White has some initiative.) 23...Be6= Szabo,Kr: 'with a balanced position.' with a balanced position.]

20.Bxe4 c5

[Szabo,Kr: 'Of course' Of course Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Szabo,Kr: 'Of course' 20...Bxe5? Szabo,Kr: 'does not work, because of' Stamenkovic, Zoran: '?' does not work, because of Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Szabo,Kr: 'does not work, because of' 21.Bxe5 Rxe5 22.Bh7+- Szabo,Kr: 'and White is winning.' Stamenkovic,Zoran: '+□-' and White is winning. Stamenkovic, Zoran: 'Szabo,Kr: 'and White is winning.']

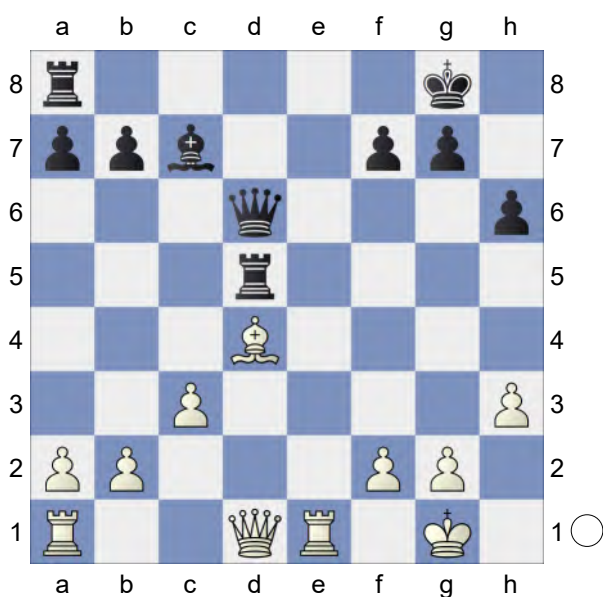
[In a very old game Black tried 20...Bxe4 Kuzmin,Alexey 21.Rxe4 Qd5 22.Qc2! (22.f3?! Bxe5 23.Bxe5 Rxe5 24.Qxd5 Rxd5 25.Re7 Rd2= Maroczy,G-Teichmann,R Prague 1908.) 22...Bxe5 23.Rae1 f6 24.b3±]



21.Bxc5 Rxe5 22.Bxd5 Rxd5 23.Bd4

Szabo,Kr: 'White is a P up, moreover his d4 B is very strong. Now Black has to gain the initiative, otherwise his position is hopeless.' Kuzmin,Alexey: ' ♖ White is a ♖ up, moreover his d4 ♖ is very strong. Now Black has to gain the initiative, otherwise his position is hopeless. Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Szabo,Kr: 'White is a ♖ up, moreover his d4 ♖ is very strong. Now Black has to gain the initiative, otherwise his position is hopeless.' Kuzmin,Alexey: 'Black doesn't have sufficient compensation for the pawn.' White is a ♖ up, moreover his d4 ♖ is very strong. Now Black has to gain the initiative, otherwise his position is hopeless. Kuzmin,Alexey: 'Black doesn't have sufficient compensation for the pawn.' **23...Qd6** Szabo,Kr: 'The best chance.' Stamenkovic,Zoran: '

[23...Bb6 Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Szabo, Kr' 24.Re4± Szabo,Kr: 'and White is safe.' Stamenkovic,Zoran: '±' and White is safe.]



' The best chance. Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Szabo,Kr: 'The best chance.' **24.Qg4!?**

Szabo,Kr: 'A brave decision by Wei Yi!' Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Fearless play!' A brave decision by Wei Yi! Stamenkovic, Zoran: 'Szabo,Kr: 'A brave decision by Wei Yi!'

[24.g3 Szabo,Kr: 'is a more conservative move, where White still pushes with' Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'is a more conservative move where White still pushes:' is a more conservative move, where White still pushes with Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Szabo,Kr: 'is a more conservative move, where White still pushes with' Bb6

A) 25.Qf3 Bxd4 26.cxd4 Rb8! Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Szabo,Kr' Stamenkovic,Zoran: '!?' (26...Rd8 Stamenkovic,Zoran: ' ♖' ♖' ♖' 27.Rad1 Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Szabo,Kr' b6 28.Re4± Szabo,Kr: 'White is still a pawn up.' White is still a pawn up.) 27.Rad1 Rxd4 28.Rxd4 Qxd4 29.Re7 Qxb2 30.Qxf7+ Kh8 Szabo,Kr: 'and it seems like Black might hold.' Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'and it seems like Black might hold.' and it seems like Black might hold.;

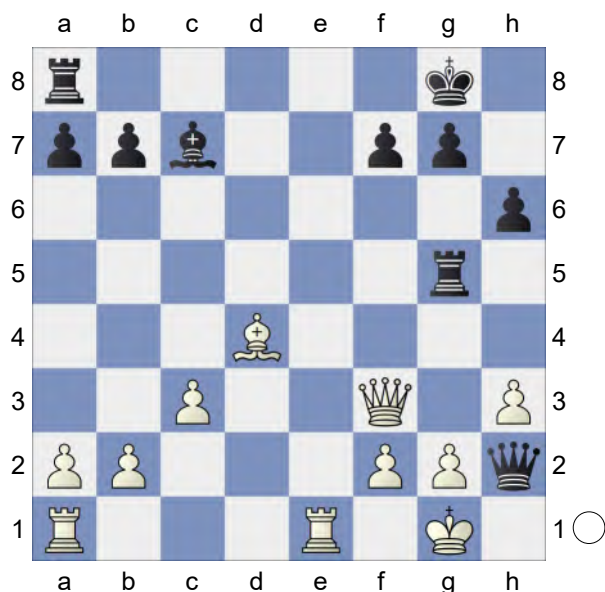
B) 25.Re4 Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Szabo,Kr' 25...f5!?! (25...Rd8 26.Qb3 Bxd4 27.Rxd4 Rxd4 28.cxd4±) 26.Re2 Bxd4 27.cxd4 Rxd4 28.Qb3+± Szabo,Kr: 'and White has a slight advantage.' and White has a slight advantage.]

24...Rg5

[24...Qh2+ Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Szabo,Kr' 25.Kf1 Rg5 26.Qf3 transposes to the game.]

25.Qf3 Qh2+

(Diagram)



26.Kf1 Szabo,Kr: 'transposes to the game.' transposes to the game.

26...Qh1+?! Stamenkovic,Zoran: '?! It is necessary to exchange White's strong bishop:'

[Szabo,Kr: 'It was necessary to exchange White's strong bishop with' It was necessary to exchange White's strong bishop with Stamenkovic, Zoran: 'Szabo,Kr: 'It was necessary to exchange White's strong bishop with' 26...Bb6! Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Szabo, Kr: '!' 27.Rad1

A) 27...Qh1+ Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Szabo,Kr' 28.Ke2 Qxg2 (28...Qh2 29.Bxb6 axb6 30.Rd7± Stamenkovic,Zoran: '±') 29.Qxg2 Rxg2 30.Kf3 Rg6 31.Re7±;

B) 27...Bxd4 28.Rxd4 Qh1+ 29.Ke2 Qh2! Szabo,Kr: 'The best practical chance.' Stamenkovic, Zoran: '!' was the best practical chance, since both other moves lead to very unpleasant endgames:' The best practical chance. (29...Re8+ 30.Re4 Rxe4+ 31.Qxe4 Qxg2 32.Qxg2 Rxg2 33.Rd1 Stamenkovic,Zoran: '±' '±'

'±' Rg6 Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Szabo, Kr' 34.Rd8+ Kh7 35.Rd7 Rb6 36.b4 Kg6 37.Kd3± Szabo,Kr: 'and White is more active.' Stamenkovic, Zoran: '±' and White is more active.; 29...Qxg2 Stamenkovic, Zoran: 'Szabo,Kr' 30.Qxg2 Rxg2 31.Kf1 Rh2 32.Re7 Rxh3 33.Rf4! Rf8 34.Rxb7± Szabo,Kr: 'and White's R are more active.' Stamenkovic,Zoran: '±' and White's ♖ are more active.) 30.Rd7 Rf8 Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'and because of his slightly unsafe king, White will need many strong moves to prove an advantage.' 31.g4 Szabo,Kr: 'and White should be slightly better, but his K is unsafe, so he will need many strong moves to prove an advantage.' and White should be slightly better, but his ♔ is unsafe, so he will need many strong moves to prove an advantage.]

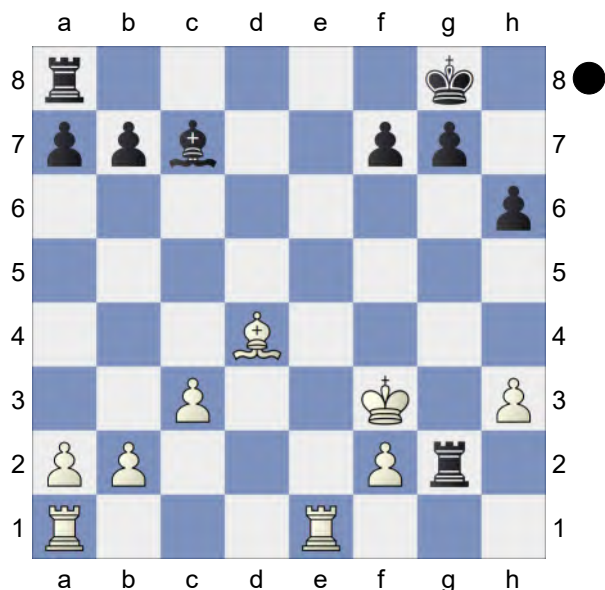
27.Ke2 Qxg2?! Szabo,Kr: 'Black simplifies for a bad endgame.' Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Szabo,Kr: '?!' Stamenkovic,Zoran: '? enters a lost endgame. There were still some chances after' Black simplifies for a bad endgame. Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Szabo, Kr: 'Black simplifies for a bad endgame.'

[Szabo,Kr: 'Still' Still Stamenkovic, Zoran: 'Szabo,Kr: 'Still' 27...Qh2 Szabo,Kr: 'gave some practical chances. After the creation of threats with the Q and R White's K has become uncomfortable.' Stamenkovic, Zoran: '!' '!' '!' Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'followed by Bb6.' gave some practical chances. After the creation of threats with the ♔ and ♖ White's ♔ has become uncomfortable. Stamenkovic, Zoran: 'Szabo,Kr: 'gave some

practical chances. After the creation of threats with the ♔ and ♕ White's ♔ has become uncomfortable."

28.Rad1± Stamenkovic,Zoran]

28.Qxg2 Rxc7 29.Kf3 Stamenkovic, Zoran: '



' 29...Rh2?? Szabo,Kr: 'The decisive mistake. Now the R gets trapped!' Stamenkovic,Zoran: '?' '?' '?' Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Szabo,Kr: '??' Stamenkovic,Zoran: '?? Now the rook gets trapped!' Szabo,Kr: 'The decisive mistake. Now the R gets trapped!' Stamenkovic,Zoran: '?' '?' Stamenkovic, Zoran: 'Szabo,Kr: '??' The decisive mistake. Now the ♖ gets trapped! Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Szabo,Kr: 'The decisive mistake. Now the ♖ gets trapped!'

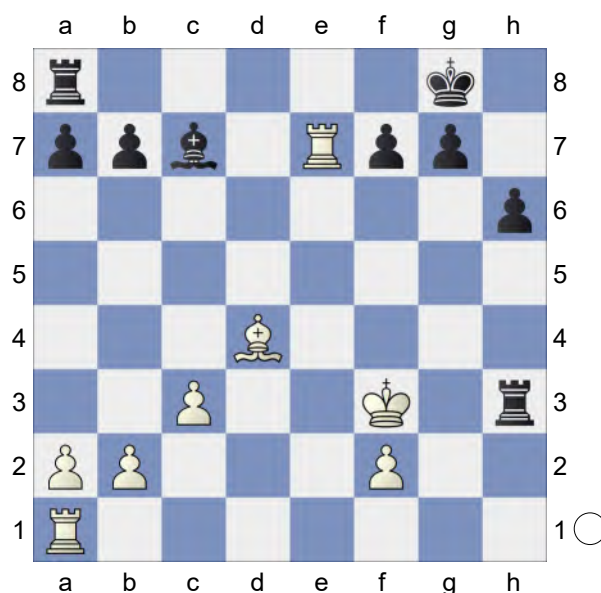
[29...Rg5 Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Szabo, Kr' 30.Re7± Stamenkovic,Zoran: '±']

[Szabo,Kr: 'or' or Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Szabo,Kr: 'or' 29...Rg6 Szabo,Kr: 'was important' was important Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Szabo,Kr: 'was important' 30.Re7 Bb6 Stamenkovic, Zoran: 'Szabo, Kr' 31.Rd1± Szabo,Kr: 'and the R endgames

usually give him some chance to survive.' and the ♖ endgames usually give him some chance to survive.]

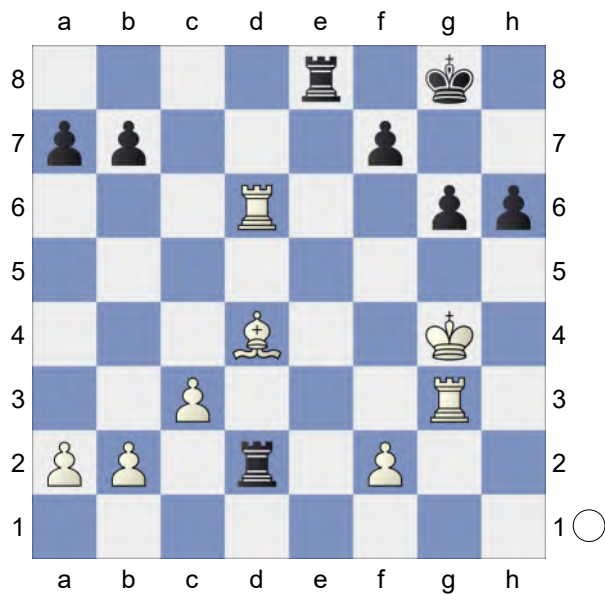
30.Re7!+- Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Szabo, Kr: '+-!' 30...Rxc7+

[30...Rc8 31.Rxc7! Szabo,Kr: 'This is the point!' Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'Szabo, Kr: '!' This is the point! Stamenkovic, Zoran: 'Szabo,Kr: 'This is the point!' Rxc7 32.Kg3+- Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'is another nice final.']

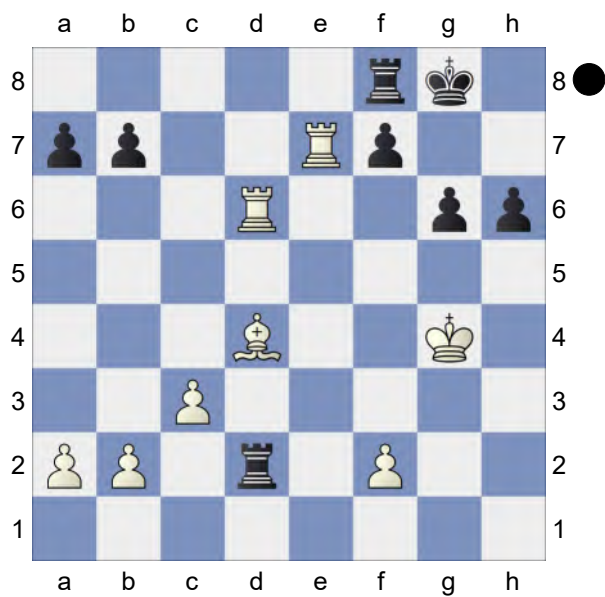


31.Kg4 Bd6 32.Rd7 Stamenkovic, Zoran: '+□-' 32...Rd3 33.Rxd6 Re8 34.Rg1 g6 35.Rg3 Rd2

(Diagram)



36.Re3 Rf8 37.Re7



Stamenkovic,Zoran: 'A very clean game by Wei Yi.'

1-0

464

□ Wang, Chen

■ Wei, Yi

Shenzhen Celebrity 5th rapid (3.1)

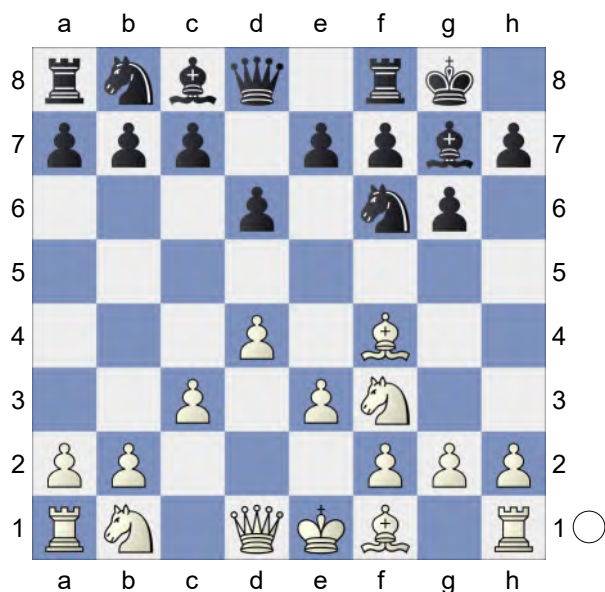
[Szabo, Krisztian]

A48

2529

2737

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bf4 Bg7 4.c3
0-0 5.e3 d6



6.h3 b6 7.Be2 Bb7 8.0-0 Nbd7
9.Bh2

[9.Nbd2 Re8

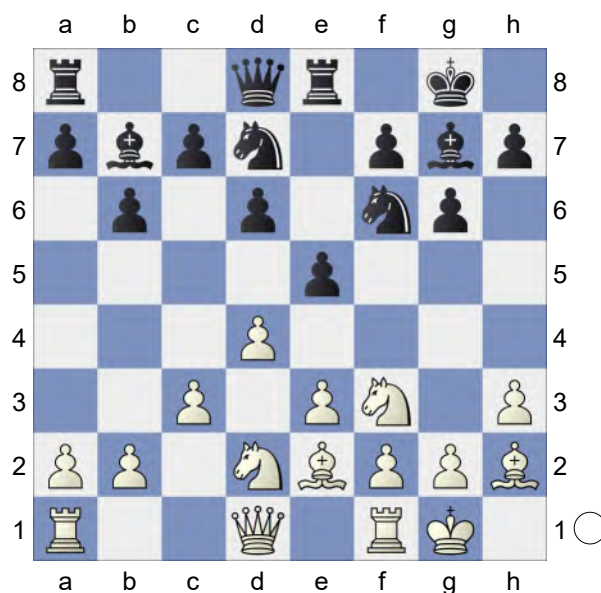
A) 10.a4 e5 (10...a6!?) 11.dxe5
dxe5 12.Bh2 a6 13.Qc2 Qe7
14.Rfd1 h6 15.b4 Rac8 (15...e4!?
was also interesting.) 16.Rab1 Kh7
17.c4 Ra8 At first sight this is a
strange move, but Black is
preparing for ...a5. (17...c5!?)
18.Rdc1 (18.c5!?) 18...Bc6
19.Rb2 a5 20.b5 Bb7 21.Ra2
Rad8♣ Bojanic-Stojanovic, Banja
Luka 2004, and Black is more
comfortable.;

B) 10.Bh2 see 9.♘h2.;

C) 10.Nc4 Ne4 The ♘ is powerful
from e4. 11.a4 e5 12.dxe5 dxe5
13.Bh2 a5 14.Qc2 Ng5 15.Nfd2

Qe7 16.Rfd1 f5 17.f3 Kh8 18.h4
Nf7 19.h5 Nf6 20.hxg6 hxg6
21.Nf1 Bh6♣ Charkhalashvili-
Arakhamia Grant, Tbilisi 2005, and
Black's chances are already
better.]

9...Re8 10.Nbd2 see 9.♘h2. 10...e5



11.dxe5

[11.a4 a6 see Le Quang Liem-
Caruana, Dubai rapid 2014. (11...Qe7
12.a5 h6 13.Qa4 Rad8 14.axb6
axb6 15.Qb3 Ra8 16.Rfd1 Red8
17.Nc4 Ne4 18.Bf1 Kh7 19.Qb4
Qe6 20.Ncd2 Nxd2 21.Nxd2 f5
22.Qc4 Qxc4 23.Nxc4 e4 24.Na3
Nf6 25.Nb5 Ne8= Starozhilov-
Nyzhnyk, Kiev 2010, with an equal
position.)]

11...dxe5 12.Nc4

[12.Qc2 e4 13.Nd4 a6 14.Nc4 Nd5
15.Rfd1 Qg5 16.Nb3 Nf8 17.Rd2
Rad8 18.Rad1 h5♣ Hoang Than
Trang-Dzagnidze, Caleta 2013, and
the position is complicated..]

12...Ne4 13.Qc2 Qe7 14.Rad1 h6

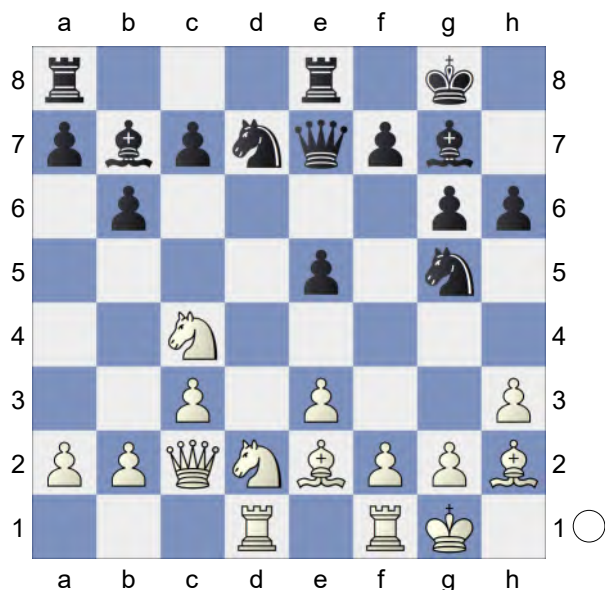
[14...a5!?

[14...Rad8 15.b4 Ng5 16.Ncd2
Nxf3+ (16...f5?! 17.Nxg5 Qxg5

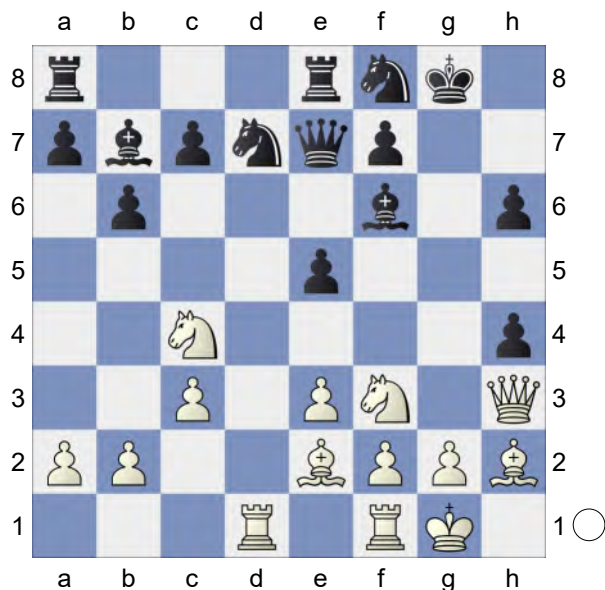
18.Nf3 Qe7 19.Qa4± (Burmakin-Semeniuk, Tomsk 2001) 17.Bxf3 Bxf3
18.Nxf3 c5=]

15.Nfd2 Ng5

[15...Nxd2 16.Rxd2 Nc5=]



**16.h4 Nh7 17.h5 gxh5 18.Qf5 h4
19.Nf3 Nhf8 20.Qh3 Bf6**



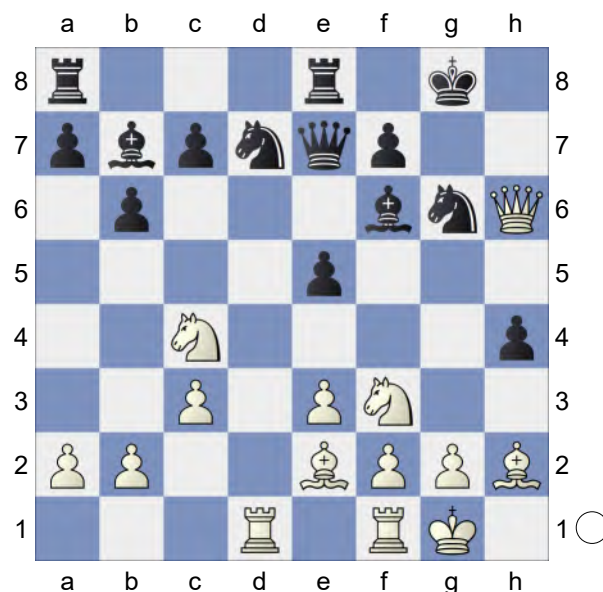
21.Qg4+ Kh8 22.Qh5 Kg7 23.Qg4+ Kh8 24.Qh5 Ng6

[24...Kg7]

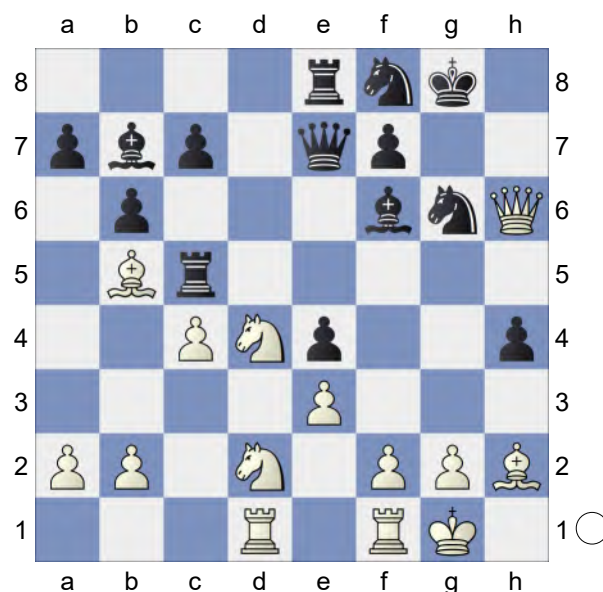
25.Qxh6+

[25.Rxd7! Qxd7 26.Ncxe5±]

25...Kg8



26.Ncd2 Rad8 27.Bc4 Ndf8 28.Bb5 e4 29.Nd4 Rd5 30.c4 Rc5



31.b4 Rg5 32.Bxe8 Qxe8?

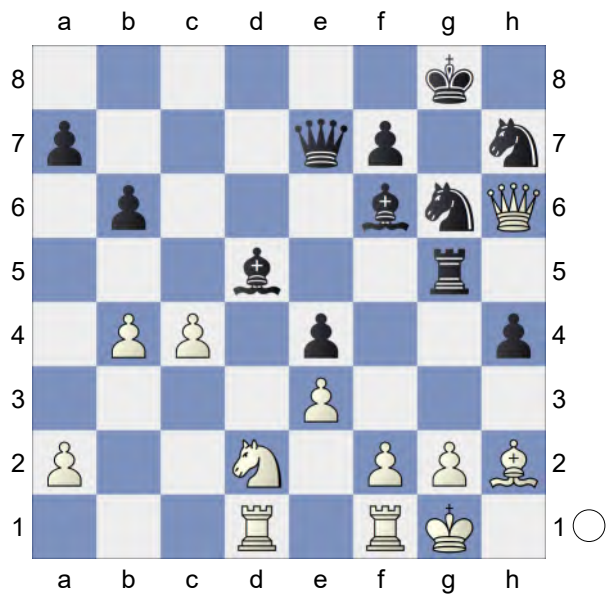
[32...Bg7]

33.Nb5?

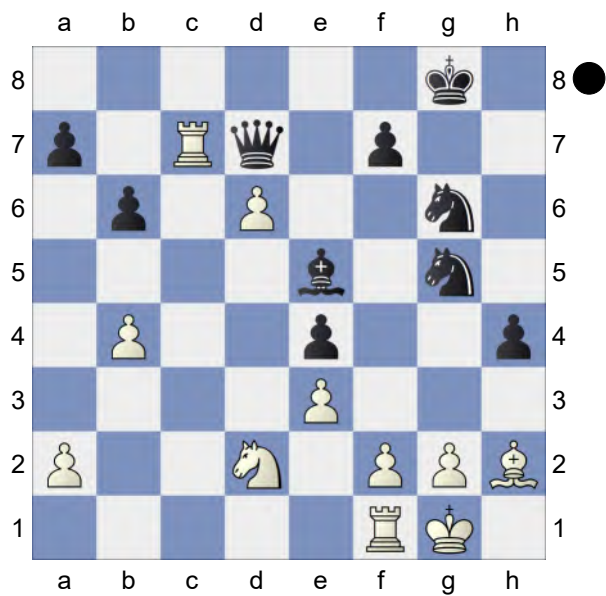
[33.Bf4!+-]

33...Nh7 34.Nxc7 Qe7 35.Nd5 Bxd5

(Diagram)



**36.cxd5 Bg7 37.d6 Qd7 38.Qxg5
Nxg5 39.Rc1 Be5 40.Rc7**



0-1

408

□ Vovk, Yuri

■ Wei, Yi

FIDE World Cup (2.7)

[Szabo, Krisztian]

A48

2617

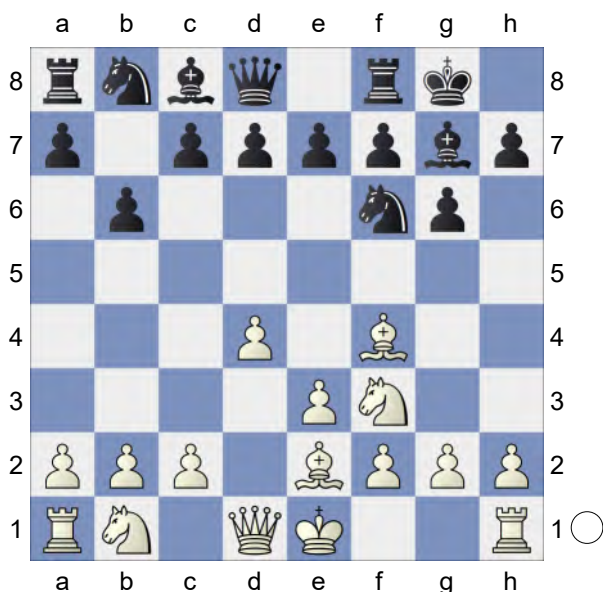
2734

16.09.2015

1.d4 Damien Damien 1...Nf6 2.Nf3 g6
3.Bf4 Bg7 4.e3 0-0 5.Be2 b6

[5...Nh5 Damien 6.Be5 f6]

[5...d6 Damien 6.h3 (6.0-0 Nh5
7.Bg5 h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Bg3 Nxc3
10.hxc3)]



6.h3

[6.0-0 Bb7 7.c4 d6 8.h3 Nbd7
9.Nc3 a6 (9...Ne4 Damien) 10.Bh2
Re8 11.Qc2 e5 12.Rfd1 exd4
13.Nxd4 Ne5 14.Rac1 Rc8 15.b3
Qe7 16.Bf1 c5 17.Nde2 Bc6 18.Nf4
Rcd8 19.Nfd5 Nxd5 20.Nxd5 Qb7
21.Rd2 b5 22.Rcd1 f5 23.Bg3 h6
24.Nf4 Qe7 25.Nd5 Qf7 26.cxb5
axb5 27.Nc3 c4 28.Rxd6 Rc8
29.Ne2 Kh7 30.Nf4 Be4 31.Qe2 c3
32.Qxb5 c2 33.Rc1 Rd8 34.Rxd8
Rxd8 35.Ne2 Rd1 36.Bxe5 Bd3
37.Qb8 Bxe2 38.Rxc2 Bxf1 39.Bxc3

Qxc3 40.Rc7 Bb5+ 41.Kh2 Bd7
42.Ra7 g5 43.Qc7 h5 44.b4 Qa1
45.Qd8 Rh1+ 46.Kg3 h4+ 47.Kf3
Qd1# 0-1 (47) Riazantsev, A (2708)-
Nepomniachtchi, I (2717) Khanty-
Mansiysk 2013]

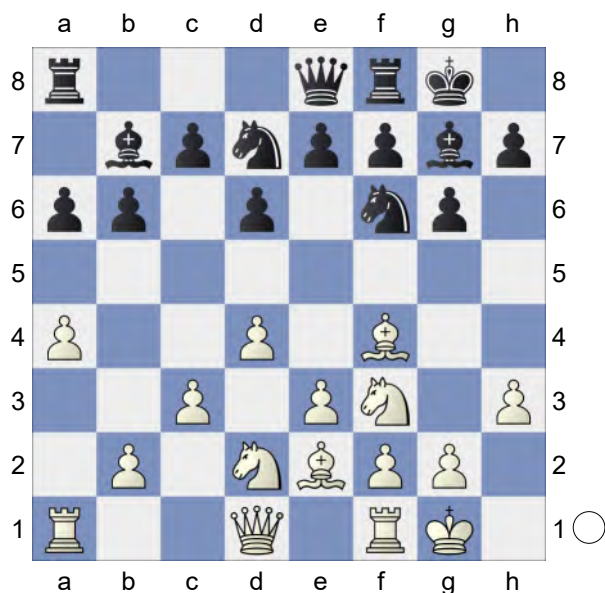
6...Bb7 7.0-0 d6

[7...c5 8.c3 d6 9.a4 a6 10.Bh2
Nc6 11.Nbd2 cxd4 12.exd4 Bh6
13.Re1 Nd5 14.Bf1 Bf4 15.Bxf4
Nxf4 16.Ne4 d5 17.Ned2 Qc7
18.Ne5 Nxe5 19.Rxe5 f6 20.Re3 e5
21.Qb3 Kh8 22.Rae1 e4 23.c4 f5
24.Rc3 Qd8 25.a5 dxc4 26.Qxb6
Qxb6 27.axb6 Nd5 28.Rxc4 Rf6
29.Rc5 Rd8 30.Nc4 Nxb6 31.Rc7
Rd7 32.Rxd7 Nxd7 33.Ne5 Nf8
34.Bc4 Kg7 35.Ra1 Rd6 36.Ra5
Rxd4 37.Bxa6 Bxa6 38.Rxa6 Rd1+
39.Kh2 Rd2 40.Kg1 Rxb2 41.Ra7+
Kf6 42.Nc4 Rb1+ 43.Kh2 h5 44.h4
Ne6 45.Ra6 f4 46.Nd2 Rb4 47.Kg1
Ke5 48.Ra5+ Kd4 49.Ra1 Nc5
50.Rd1 Nd3 51.Ra1 Nxf2 52.Kxf2
e3+ 53.Ke2 Rb2 54.Ra4+ Ke5
55.Ra5+ Ke6 56.Ra6+ Kf5 57.Ra5+
Kg4 58.Rg5+ Kxh4 59.Rxc6 Rxd2+
60.Kf1 Ra2 61.Ke1 Rf2 62.Kd1 f3
0-1 (62) Grachev, B (2654)-Svidler, P
(2722) Moscow 2010]

8.c3 Nbd7 9.Nbd2 Qe8 10.a4 a6

[10...e5 11.dxe5 (11.Bh2 a6
see Nagle-Shabalov, New York 2011.
see Nagle-Shabalov, New York
2011.) 11...dxe5 12.Bh2 (12.Bg3 a5
13.Qc2 Qe7 14.Rfd1 Rfd8 15.Bc4
Ne8 16.e4 Nd6= Schroeder-Kozlov,
ICCF 2009, Schroeder-Kozlov, ICCF 2009,
equalising with a symmetrical
structure. equalising with a
symmetrical structure.) 12...a5
13.Nc4 Ne4 14.Qc2 Qe7 15.Rfb1

White prepares for b4, so now Black should find counterplay. White prepares for b4, so now Black should find counterplay. Nec5 16.Ncd2 Rfd8 17.Bg3 e4 18.Nd4 Ne5 19.Bb5 Ncd3 Suddenly Black becomes very active with his ♘s, so his position is already more promising. Suddenly Black becomes very active with his ♘s, so his position is already more promising. 20.Nc4 Nxc4 21.Bxc4 Be5 22.Bxe5 Nxe5 23.Bb5 Qg5 24.Rd1 Rd6 25.Bf1 Rad8 ♞ L.Hansen-Ivanchuk, Adelaide 1988]



11.Qc2

[11.Qb1 e5 12.dxe5 dxe5 13.Bh2 Qe7 14.Rd1 Rfd8 15.Bc4 Ne8 16.Ne4 Bxe4 17.Qxe4 Nd6 18.Qc6 Nxc4 19.Qxc4 Nc5= Rozhko-Zoler, Yerevan 2014]
 [11.Nc4 Ne4 12.Re1 e5 13.Bh2 Kh8 14.Qb3 f5 15.Rad1 g5 16.Na5 Ndc5 17.dxc5 Nxc5 18.Qc4 bxa5 19.Nxg5 (Mladenovic-J.Todorovic, Vrnjacka Banja 2012) Bf6!→]
 [11.Qb3 e5 12.Bh2 Qe7 13.Qa3 Ne4 14.Rfd1 exd4 15.cxd4 Ndf6

16.Rac1 Rfd8 17.Nxe4 Bxe4 18.Nd2 Bb7 19.Bf3 Bxf3 (19...c5?! 20.Bxb7 Qxb7 21.Nc4± Mrkonjic-Kuljasevic, Bizovac 2004) 20.Nxf3 c5=]
 [11.Bh2 see Nagle-Shabalov, New York 2011. see Nagle-Shabalov, New York 2011.]
 [11.a5 Damien b5]

11...e5 12.dxe5

[The usual The usual 12.Bh2!? is also possible. is also possible.]

12...dxe5 13.Bh2

[13.Bg3 Qe7 14.Rfd1 Rad8 15.Bc4 e4 16.Nd4 Ne5 17.Bf1 c5 (17...Nd3!?) 18.N4b3 Nh5 19.Bh2 f5 Black is very ambitious, his kingside attack is faster than White's play on the queenside. Black is very ambitious, his kingside attack is faster than White's play on the queenside. 20.Nc4 Nd3! (20...f4?! 21.Rxd8 Qxd8 22.Nbd2 Nd3 23.Bxd3 exd3 24.Qb3 fxe3 (Engel-Tabatabaei, Porto Carras 2015) 25.Nxe3+ Kh8 26.Ndc4 Qf6 27.Rf1±) 21.Nxb6 (21.Bxd3? exd3 22.Rxd3 Qe4-+) 21...f4!→ and Black has a dangerous attack. and Black has a dangerous attack.]

13...e4

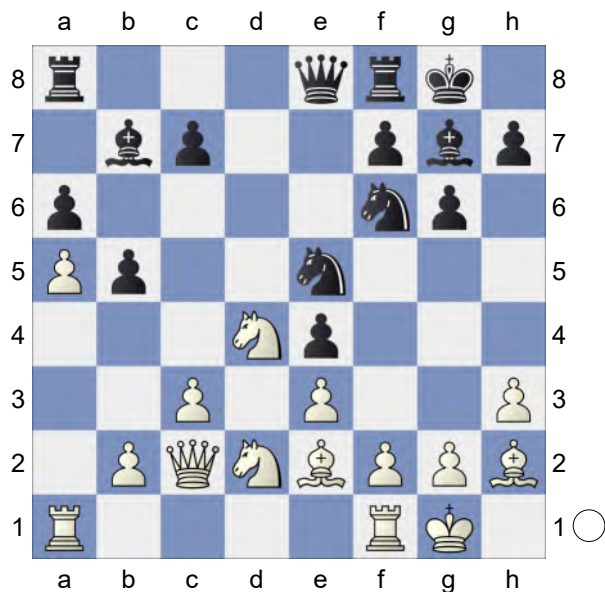
[13...Qe7 14.Rfd1 Rfd8]

14.Nd4 Ne5

[14...c5!? 15.N4b3 Qe6∞]

15.a5! b5

(Diagram)



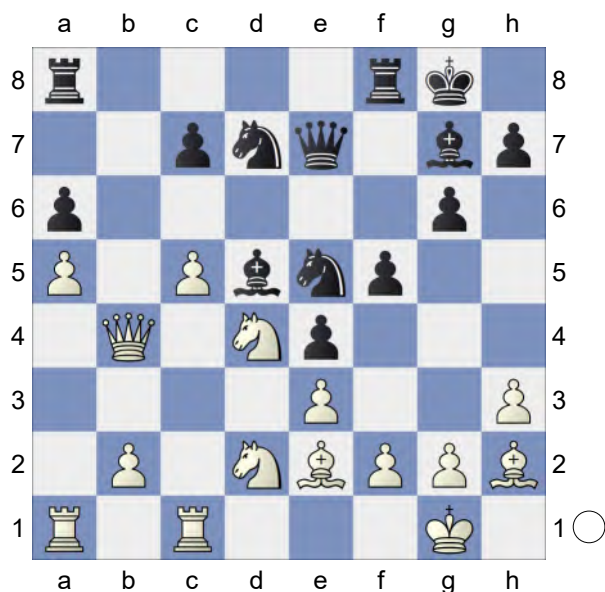
16.c4 b4 17.c5 Bd5

[17...Nc6 **Damien**]

18.Qa4 Qe7 19.Qxb4 Nfd7

[19...Nc6 20.Nxc6 Bxc6 21.Qa3 Nd5 22.Nc4 Rfd8 23.Rfd1 Rd7 24.Rac1 Rad8]

20.Rfc1 f5



21.Qa3 c6 22.Nc4 Nd3

[22...Nxc4 **Damien** 23.Bxc4]

[22...f4 **Damien**]

A) 23.Bxf4 Nd3 24.Bxd3 exd3
25.Qxd3 (25.Nf3) 25...Nxc5;

B) 23.exf4]

23.Bd6

[23.Nb6 **Damien** Bxd4]

23...Qg5 24.Bxf8?

[24.h4! Qxh4 25.Bxd3 exd3 26.Qxd3±]

[24.Rc2 **Damien**]

[24.Bxd3 **Damien** exd3 25.g3 Qh5]

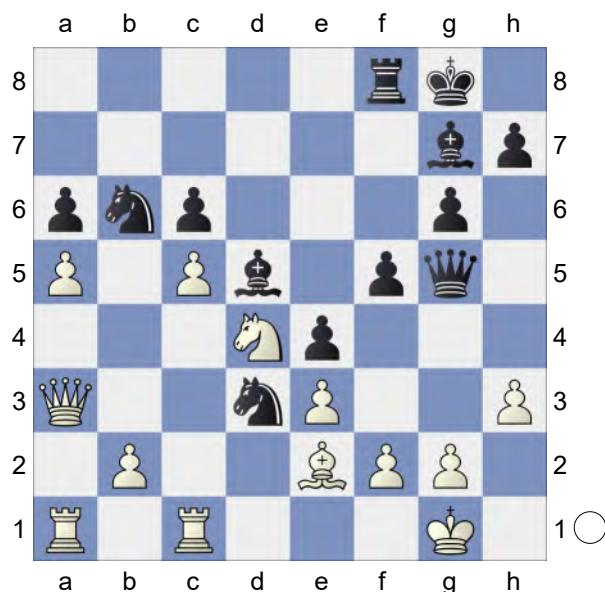
24...Rxf8 25.Nb6

[25.h4 Qxh4 26.Bxd3 exd3 27.Qxd3 Nxc5 28.Qc2 f4]

[25.Bxd3 **Damien** exd3 26.g3 Qh5 27.Qxd3 Qxh3]

[25.Rc3 **Damien** f4]

25...Nxb6



26.cxb6 Nxc1?

[26...Bxd4!-+ **Andrew Martin: '!'**]

27.Rxc1 Bxd4 28.Bxa6?

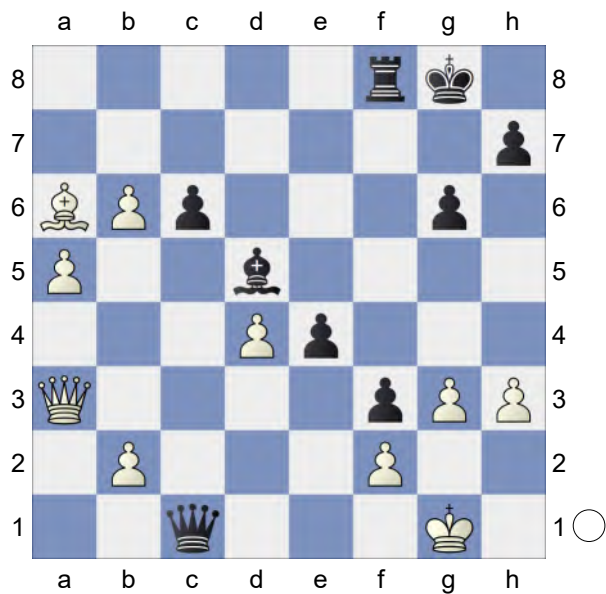
[28.h4!∞ Qh6 29.Bxa6]

28...f4!-+

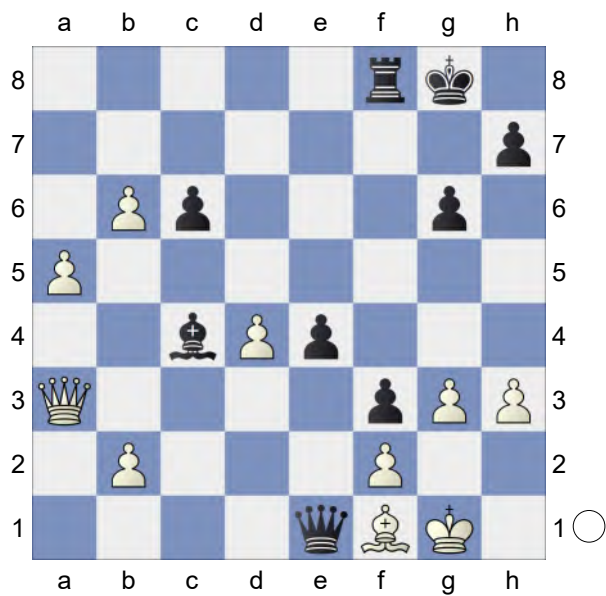
[28...Be5 **Damien**]

29.exd4 f3 30.g3 Qxc1+

(Diagram)



31.Kh2 Qd2 32.Kg1 Qe1+ 33.Bf1 Bc4



0-1 (33) Vovk, Y (2617)-Wei, Y (2734)
Baku 2015 CBM 169 [Andrew Martin]
0-1

437

□ Sengupta,Deep

■ Wei,Yi

WchT 10th Tsaghkadzor (9.4) 28.04.15

[Szabo,Krisztian]

C83

2567

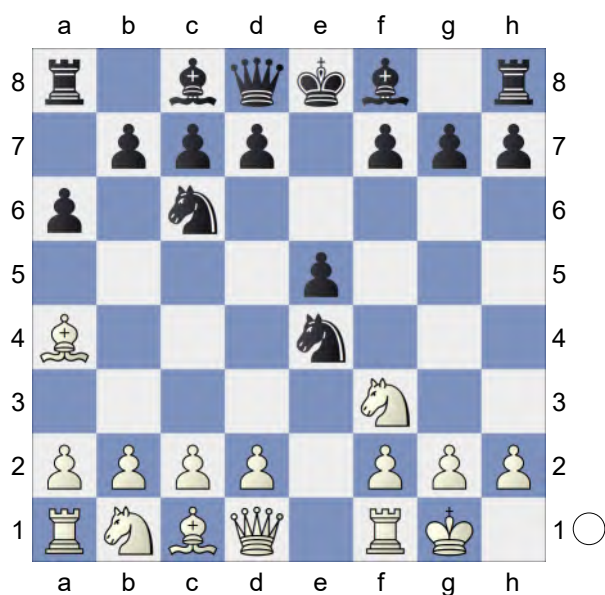
2706

1.e4 Szabo,Kr Szabo,Kr Szabo,Kr

Szabo,Kr: 'Szabo,Krisztian Szabo,

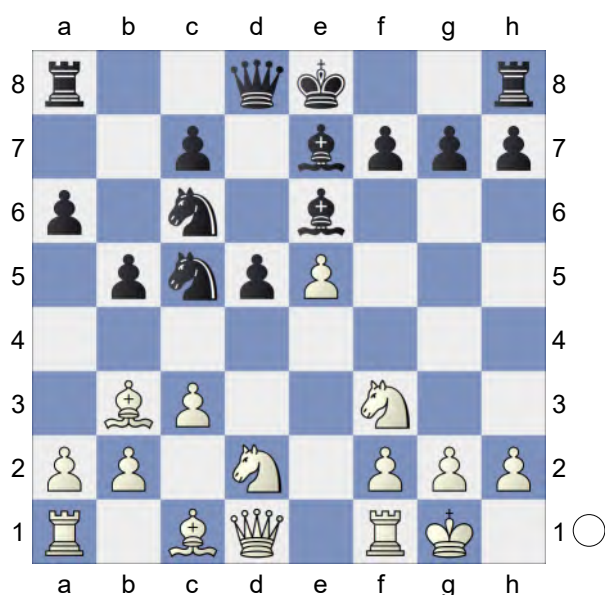
Krisztian: 'Szabo,Kr" 1...e5 2.Nf3 Nc6

3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3

Be7 10.Nbd2 Nc5



11.Bc2 d4 'This line has become very popular nowadays. Szabo,Krisztian: 'Szabo,Kr: 'This line has become very popular nowadays.'" This line has become very popular nowadays.'Szabo, Krisztian: 'This line has become very popular nowadays. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'This line has become very popular nowadays.'"

[11...Bg4 'is the another main move. Szabo,Krisztian: 'Szabo,Kr: 'is the another main move.'" is the another main move. Szabo,Kr: 'Szabo, Krisztian: 'is the another main move.'"]

12.Nb3 d3 13.Bb1 Nxb3 14.axb3 Bf5

15.Bf4 Mikhalevski, V: 'An extremely rare move, which 'A quite rare move. Szabo,Krisztian: 'Szabo,Kr: 'A quite rare move.' Mikhalevski, V: 'An extremely rare move, which had been seen only once before in tournament practice. White's idea is to protect the e5-pawn in order to play 16.Ne1 and win the d3-pawn.'" had been seen only once before in tournament practice. White's idea is to protect the e5-pawn in order to play 16.Ne1 and win the d3-pawn.' A quite rare move.'Szabo,Krisztian: 'A quite rare move. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'A quite rare move.'"

[15.Be3 Mikhalevski, V: 'Bruzon Bautista, L (2689)-Mikhalevski, V (2552)/ Washington D.C. 2013/'is much more popular, from where the B usually goes to d4. Szabo,Krisztian: 'Szabo,Kr: 'is much more popular, from where the B usually goes to d4. ' Mikhalevski, V: 'Bruzon Bautista, L (2689)-Mikhalevski, V (2552)/ Washington D.C. 2013/ [Mikhalevski, V]" [Mikhalevski, V]' is much more popular, from where the ♖ usually goes to d4.'Szabo,Krisztian: 'is much

more popular, from where the ♖ usually goes to d4. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo, Kr: 'is much more popular, from where the ♖ usually goes to d4. "']

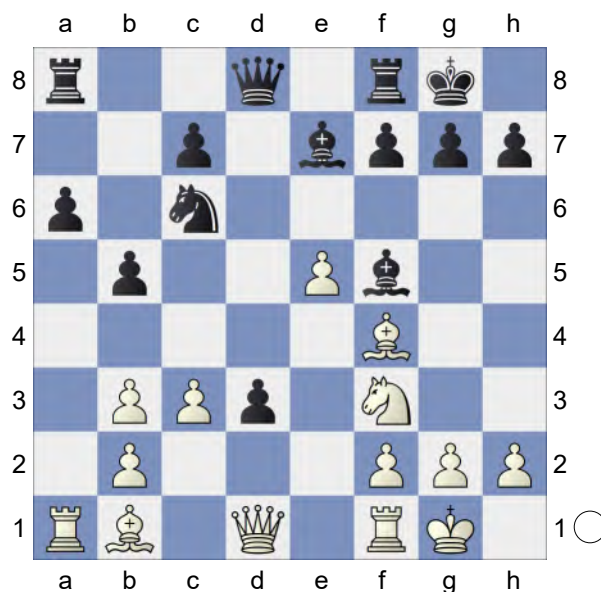
[Earlier we analysed 15.Re1 Szabo, Kr: 'Szabo, Krisztian' 0-0 16.b4 Caruana, F (2783) - Nakamura, H (2772)/Shamkir AZE 2014/[Mikhalevski, V]. Szabo, Kr: 'Caruana, F (2783) - Nakamura, H (2772)/Shamkir AZE 2014/[Mikhalevski, V]. Mikhalevski, V: 'in Shirov, A (2722)-L'Ami, E (2628)/Wijk aan Zee NED 2011/[Mikhalevski, V] The latter transposes into 15.Re1.' (16.Be3 Bruzon Bautista, L (2687)-Mikhalevski, V (2551)/Edmonton 2013/[Mikhalevski, V].) [and 15.b4 0-0]

15...0-0N

['2 years ago Szabo, Krisztian: 'Szabo, Kr: '2 years ago"' 2 years ago Szabo, Kr: 'Szabo, Krisztian: '2 years ago" 15...Qd5 'was tried, Szabo, Krisztian: 'Szabo, Kr: 'was tried,'"' was tried, Szabo, Kr: 'Szabo, Krisztian: 'was tried, " 16.Re1 0-0 17.b4 (17.Ba2?! b4 18.Nd2 Nd8 19.Be3 f6 20.exf6 Bxf6 D.Howell-Berry, England 2013, 'D.Howell-Berry, England 2013, and Black has wonderful activity. Szabo, Krisztian: 'D.Howell-Berry, England 2013, Szabo, Kr: 'D.Howell-Berry, England 2013, and Black has wonderful activity.'" and Black has wonderful activity. Szabo, Kr: 'Szabo, Krisztian: 'and Black has wonderful activity.'') 17...Rfe8 18.h3± 'and White is slightly better. Szabo, Krisztian: 'Szabo, Kr: 'and White is slightly better.'" and White is slightly better. Szabo, Kr: 'Szabo, Krisztian:

'and White is slightly better."]

['or even Szabo, Krisztian: 'Szabo, Kr: 'or even"' or even Szabo, Kr: 'Szabo, Krisztian: 'or even" 15...Qd7 16.Qd2 0-0 17.Rd1 Rfd8 18.Ne1 Qe6 19.Nxd3 Bxd3 20.Bxd3 Nxe5 21.Bxe5 Qxe5 22.Re1 Qd6 1/2 Fenwick-Anderson, corr 2013.]



'Novelty by Wei Yi. Szabo, Krisztian: 'Szabo, Kr: 'Novelty by Wei Yi.' Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo, Kr: 'N"' Novelty by Wei Yi.' Szabo, Krisztian: 'Novelty by Wei Yi. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo, Kr: 'Novelty by Wei Yi.'" **16.Ne1 Qd5** Mikhalevski, V: '!' Mikhalevski, V: 'A typical idea for this system. Black is counterattacking the b3-pawn.' Szabo, Kr: 'Szabo, Krisztian: 'Mikhalevski, V: '!' Mikhalevski, V: 'A typical idea for this system. Black is counterattacking the b3-pawn.'" **17.Bxd3 Bxd3 18.Qxd3 Qxb3 19.Qf3?!** Mikhalevski, V: 'It's unnecessary to force the Black queen to e6, where she belongs. Moreover, the f3-square had t'A dubious move, which loses a tempo and he blocks the important f3-square from his N. Szabo,

Krisztian: 'Szabo,Kr: 'A dubious move, which loses a tempo and he blocks the important f3-square from his N.' Mikhalevski, V: 'It's unnecessary to force the Black queen to e6, where she belongs. Moreover, the f3-square had to be left free for the white knight.'" o be left free for the white knight.' A dubious move, which loses a tempo and he blocks the important f3-square from his ♘. 'Szabo,Krisztian: 'A dubious move, which loses a tempo and he blocks the important f3-square from his ♘. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'A dubious move, which loses a tempo and he blocks the important f3-square from his ♘.'"

[19.Nf3! 'should have played Szabo, Krisztian: 'Szabo,Kr: 'should have played'" should have played Szabo, Kr: 'Szabo,Krisztian: 'should have played" Rfd8 20.Qe4 Qe6 21.Rfc1! 'and he prepares for Nd4 with a balanced middlegame. Szabo, Krisztian: 'Szabo,Kr: 'and he prepares for Nd4 with a balanced middlegame.'" and he prepares for ♘d4 with a balanced middlegame. Szabo,Kr: 'Szabo,Krisztian: 'and he prepares for ♘d4 with a balanced middlegame."]

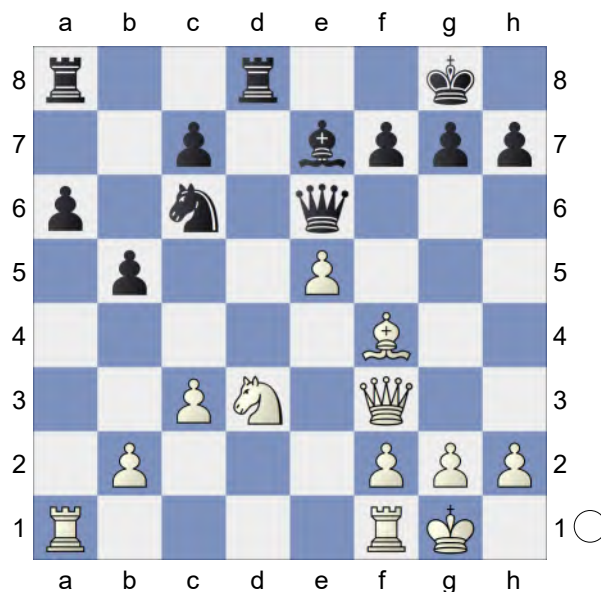
[19.Qe2!? Szabo,Kr: 'Szabo,Krisztian' Qe6 20.Nf3 Bc5 21.Rfe1 would be more accurate, although Black retains a solid position.]

19...Qe6 20.Nd3 Mikhalevski, V: 'White chooses a strange square for his knight, which is a consequence of his previous move.' Szabo,Kr: 'Szabo,Krisztian: 'Mikhalevski, V: 'White chooses a strange square for his knight, which is a consequence of his previous move.'"

[It would be better to admit that 19.Qf3 was inaccurate and come back to the

right plan. 20.Qe2 Szabo,Kr: 'Szabo, Krisztian' f6 21.Nf3 fxe5 22.Bg3 Bf6 23.Rfe1 Rfe8 24.h3=]

20...Rfd8



Mikhalevski, V: '!' Mikhalevski, V: 'Black is going to apply pressure along the d-file.' Szabo,Kr: 'Szabo,Krisztian: 'Mikhalevski, V: '!' Mikhalevski, V: 'Black is going to apply pressure along the d-file.'" **21.Rad1** Mikhalevski, V: 'Slightly inaccurate again.' Szabo,Kr: 'Szabo, Krisztian: 'Mikhalevski, V: 'Slightly inaccurate again.'"

['Probably Szabo,Krisztian: 'Szabo,Kr: 'Probably'" Probably Szabo,Krisztian: 'Probably Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'Probably'" ♞21.Rfd1 Mikhalevski, V: '!' 'was more accurate, Szabo, Krisztian: 'Szabo,Kr: 'was more accurate,' Mikhalevski, V: '!' Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: ' ♞'" was more accurate, 'Szabo,Krisztian: 'was more accurate, Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo, Kr: 'was more accurate, '" Rd7 22.Ne1= Mikhalevski, V: 'was better and promised equal chances.'" and White simplifies the position. Szabo, Krisztian: 'Szabo,Kr: 'and White

simplifies the position.' Mikhalevski, V: 'was better and promised equal chances. Szabo,Kr: '= "" and White simplifies the position.' Szabo, Krisztian: 'and White simplifies the position. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'and White simplifies the position.' ""]

21...Rd7! 'The right plan. Black

immediately starts to double on the d-file. Szabo,Krisztian: 'Szabo,Kr: 'The right plan. Black immediately starts to double on the d-file.' "" The right plan. Black immediately starts to double on the d-file. 'Szabo,Krisztian: 'The right plan. Black immediately starts to double on the d-file. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'The right plan. Black immediately starts to double on the d-file.' "" **22.Rde1?** Mikhalevski, V: 'White has lost the thread.' 'A mistake, which simply loses an important tempo, moreover White leaves the d-file too. Szabo,Krisztian: 'Szabo,Kr: 'A mistake, which simply loses an important tempo, moreover White leaves the d-file too.' Mikhalevski, V: 'White has lost the thread.' "" A mistake, which simply loses an important tempo, moreover White leaves the d-file too.' Szabo,Krisztian: 'A mistake, which simply loses an important tempo, moreover White leaves the d-file too. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'A mistake, which simply loses an important tempo, moreover White leaves the d-file too.' ""

[Mikhalevski, V: 'Instead he had to solve the problem of the pin by means of' Szabo,Kr: 'Szabo,Krisztian: 'Mikhalevski, V: 'Instead he had to solve the problem of the pin by means of' "" **22.Nb4** 'was interesting to take advantage of the unprotected a8 R, Szabo,Krisztian: 'Szabo,Kr: 'was interesting to take advantage of the

unprotected a8 R,' "" was interesting to take advantage of the unprotected a8 R, 'Szabo,Krisztian: 'was interesting to take advantage of the unprotected a8 R, Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'was interesting to take advantage of the unprotected a8 R, "" Bxb4 23.Rxd7 Qxd7 24.Rd1 Qe8 25.cxb4 Nxb4 'and although Black is a P up, White has some chance to equalise. Szabo, Krisztian: 'Szabo,Kr: 'and although Black is a P up, White has some chance to equalise.' "" and although Black is a P up, White has some chance to equalise.' Szabo,Krisztian: 'and although Black is a P up, White has some chance to equalise. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'and although Black is a P up, White has some chance to equalise.' "" **26.e6!** Szabo,Kr: 'Szabo,Krisztian' fxe6 **27.Bxc7** and White isn't far from equalising.]

22...Rad8 23.Nc1 Na5

[After 23...a5!? Szabo,Kr: 'Szabo, Krisztian' **24.Ne2** (or **24.h3 h6**) **24...Rd3** **25.Be3** **Nxe5** **26.Qg3** **Qf5** Black is a pawn up.]

24.Ne2 Nb3 Mikhalevski, V: 'Black is covering the d4-square.' Szabo,Kr: 'Szabo,Krisztian: 'Mikhalevski, V: 'Black is covering the d4-square.' ""

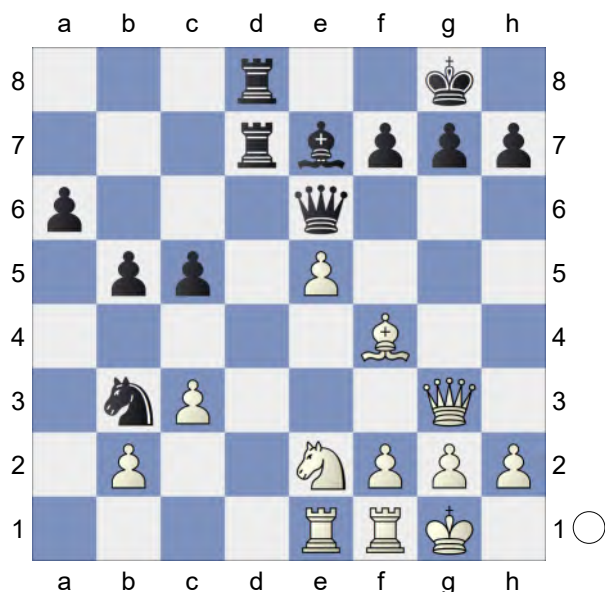
[**24...Rd3?! would be wrong in view of** Szabo,Kr: '(Szabo,Krisztian) would be wrong in view of' **25.Be3**]

25.Qg3 Mikhalevski, V: '?!' Mikhalevski, V: 'A weird move.' Szabo,Kr: 'Szabo, Krisztian: 'Mikhalevski, V: '?!' Mikhalevski, V: 'A weird move.' ""

[**25.h3** is more useful, although White is already under serious pressure. Szabo,Kr: '(Szabo,Krisztian) is more useful, although White is already

under serious pressure.']

25...c5



Mikhalevski, V: '!' Mikhalevski, V: 'Black gets rid of his backward pawn on c7. "Suddenly Black has become very active on the queenside. His Rs are very strong on the d-file, his N is unpleasant on b3 and his Ps are ready to advance. Szabo, Krisztian: 'Szabo,Kr: 'Suddenly Black has become very active on the queenside. His Rs are very strong on the d-file, his N is unpleasant on b3 and his Ps are ready to advance.' Mikhalevski, V: '!' Mikhalevski, V: 'Black gets rid of his backward pawn on c7.'" Suddenly Black has become very active on the queenside. His ♖s are very strong on the d-file, his ♘ is unpleasant on b3 and his ♙s are ready to advance. 'Szabo, Krisztian: 'Suddenly Black has become very active on the queenside. His ♖s are very strong on the d-file, his ♘ is unpleasant on b3 and his ♙s are ready to advance. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'Suddenly Black has become very active on the queenside. His ♖s are very strong on the d-file, his ♘ is unpleasant on b3 and his ♙s are ready to advance. '"

26.Kh1 Mikhalevski, V: 'Every move is bad when your position is bad. So it's not easy to give a better recommendation.' Szabo,Kr: 'Szabo, Krisztian: 'Mikhalevski, V: 'Every move is bad when your position is bad. So it's not easy to give a better recommendation.'" **26...Nd2** Mikhalevski, V: '!?' Mikhalevski, V: 'Time to pick up some material.' Szabo,Kr: 'Szabo, Krisztian: 'Mikhalevski, V: '!?' Mikhalevski, V: 'Time to pick up some material.'"]

[Black could also keep strengthening his position with 26...a5!?! Szabo,Kr: 'Szabo,Krisztian']

27.Bxd2 Mikhalevski, V: 'Inconsistent.' Szabo,Kr: 'Szabo,Krisztian: 'Mikhalevski, V: 'Inconsistent.'"]

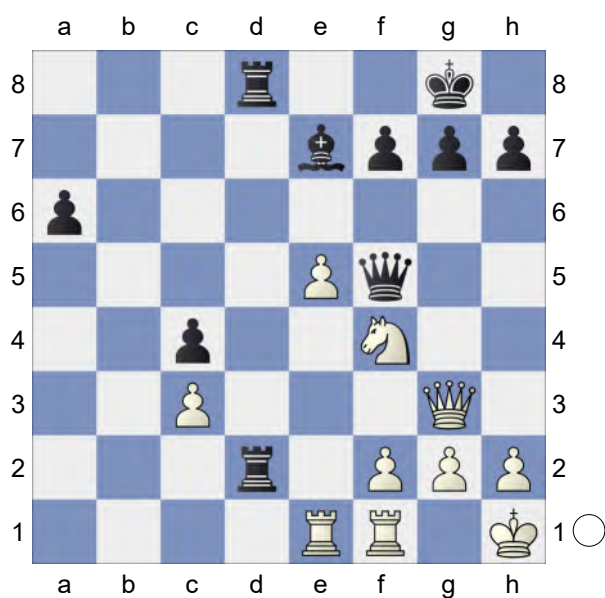
[27.Rg1 Szabo,Kr: 'Szabo,Krisztian' a5 is not much fun either, but at least it justifies White's 26th move.]

27...Rxd2 Mikhalevski, V: '♠' Mikhalevski, V: 'Black's advantage can be seen with the naked eye.' Szabo,Kr: 'Szabo, Krisztian: 'Mikhalevski, V: ' ♠' Mikhalevski, V: 'Black's advantage can be seen with the naked eye.'" **28.Nf4 Qf5 29.b3 c4** Mikhalevski, V: 'A slight inaccuracy. It wasn't necessary to exchange White's weaknesses, when he can hardly move' This is a little bit impatient, but after this move still Black keeps his advantage. Szabo,Krisztian: 'Szabo,Kr: 'This is a little bit impatient, but after this move still Black keeps his advantage. ' Mikhalevski, V: 'A slight inaccuracy. It wasn't necessary to exchange White's weaknesses, when he can hardly move. '" . ' This is a little bit impatient, but after this move still Black keeps his advantage.' Szabo,Krisztian: 'This is a little bit impatient, but after this move

still Black keeps his advantage. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'This is a little bit impatient, but after this move still Black keeps his advantage.'"

['The natural Szabo,Krisztian: 'Szabo, Kr: 'The natural'" The natural'Szabo, Krisztian: 'The natural Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'The natural'" 29...h6!♣ Mikhalevski, V: '!"was the best move to open the back rank. Now White is faced with a lot of threats. Szabo, Krisztian: 'Szabo,Kr: 'was the best move to open the back rank. Now White is faced with a lot of threats.' Mikhalevski, V: '!' Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: ' ♣!'" was the best move to open the back rank. Now White is faced with a lot of threats.'Szabo, Krisztian: 'was the best move to open the back rank. Now White is faced with a lot of threats. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'was the best move to open the back rank. Now White is faced with a lot of threats.''" 30.f3 Szabo,Kr: 'Szabo,Krisztian' Rc2 31.e6 Rdd2♣ yields Black a clear edge.]

30.bxc4 bxc4



31.h4?! Mikhalevski, V: 'This only worsens an already unpleasant position. "An inaccuracy, which involves a weakness with this P. Szabo,Krisztian: 'Szabo,Kr: 'An inaccuracy, which involves a weakness with this P.' Mikhalevski, V: 'This only worsens an already unpleasant position.'" An inaccuracy, which involves a weakness with this ♠. Szabo,Krisztian: 'An inaccuracy, which involves a weakness with this ♠. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo,Kr: 'An inaccuracy, which involves a weakness with this ♠.'"

[31.Ne2 'was more solid, Szabo, Krisztian: 'Szabo,Kr: 'was more solid, '" was more solid, Szabo,Kr: 'Szabo, Krisztian: 'was more solid, '" Bc5 32.Qh4 Qxe5 33.Qxc4 'and White is not yet without all hope. Szabo, Krisztian: 'Szabo,Kr: 'and White is not yet without all hope.'" and White is not yet without all hope. Szabo,Kr: 'Szabo,Krisztian: 'and White is not yet without all hope."]

[31.Qf3!/? with the idea Szabo,Kr: '(Szabo,Krisztian) with the idea' a5 32.g4 Qd7 33.e6 fxe6 34.Nxe6 Rc8 35.Re3♣ would be a better defence.]

31...a5 Mikhalevski, V: '!?' Mikhalevski, V: 'Black's plan is very simple- he wants to advance the a-pawn all the way to a2. ' Szabo,Kr: 'Szabo,Krisztian: 'Mikhalevski, V: '!?' Mikhalevski, V: 'Black's plan is very simple- he wants to advance the a-pawn all the way to a2.'"

[31...h6!/? is good prophylaxis against an advance of the h-pawn to h6, and also a luft, which is always useful. Szabo,Kr: '(Szabo,Krisztian) is good prophylaxis against an advance of the h-pawn to h6, and also a luft, which is always useful.']

32.h5? Mikhalevski, V: '?!' Too optimistic, but White's situation was already difficult. Szabo, Krisztian: 'Szabo, Kr: 'Too optimistic, but White's situation was already difficult.' Mikhalevski, V: '?!' Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo, Kr: '?!' Too optimistic, but White's situation was already difficult.' Szabo, Krisztian: 'Too optimistic, but White's situation was already difficult. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo, Kr: 'Too optimistic, but White's situation was already difficult.'"

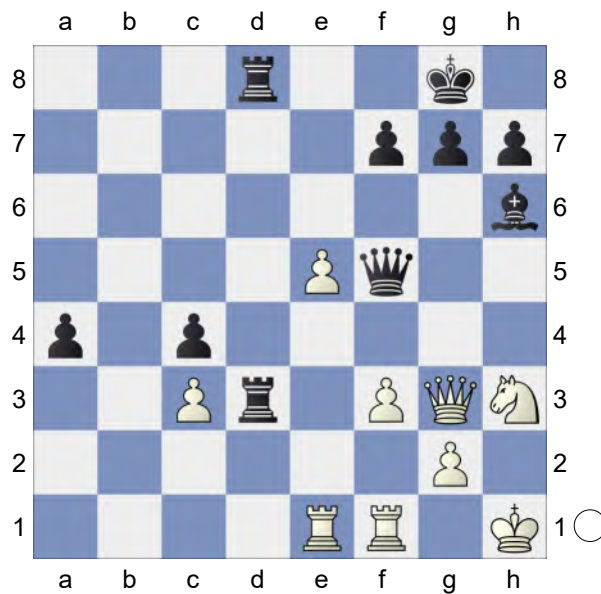
[32.Ra1 Mikhalevski, V: 'preventing 32...a4 was n'was tougher, Szabo, Krisztian: 'Szabo, Kr: 'was tougher,' Mikhalevski, V: 'preventing 32...a4 was necessary.' ecessary.' was tougher, Szabo, Kr: 'Szabo, Krisztian: 'was tougher, " h6 33.Rxa5 Rd1 34.Ra1 Rxf1+ 35.Rxf1 Bc5! 'A very nice cool-headed reply! Szabo, Krisztian: 'Szabo, Kr: 'A very nice cool-headed reply!'" A very nice cool-headed reply! Szabo, Kr: 'Szabo, Krisztian: 'A very nice cool-headed reply!" (35...Qxe5? 36.Ng6!) 36.Re1 Rd2+ 'and Black is better. Szabo, Krisztian: 'Szabo, Kr: 'and Black is better.'" and Black is better. Szabo, Kr: 'Szabo, Krisztian: 'and Black is better.'"]

32...a4 33.h6 Bg5

[or 33...g6-+ In both cases White is helpless. Szabo, Kr: '(Szabo, Krisztian) In both cases White is helpless.']

34.Nh3 R2d3 Mikhalevski, V: '!' Szabo, Kr: 'Szabo, Krisztian: 'Mikhalevski, V: '!' "**35.f3 Bxh6-+**

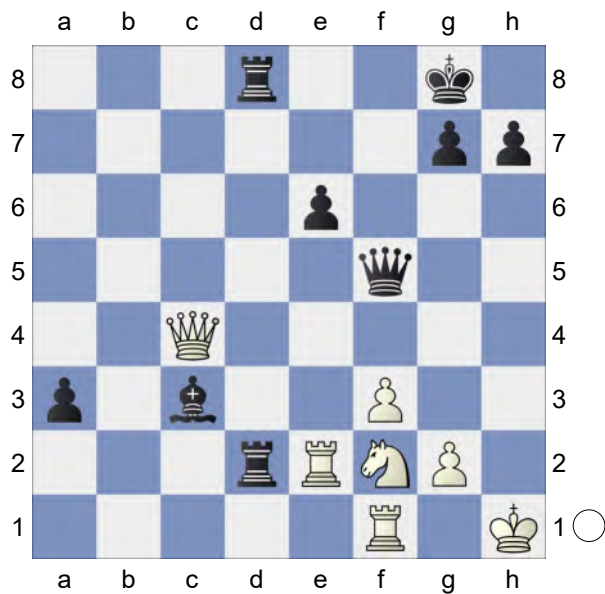
(Diagram)



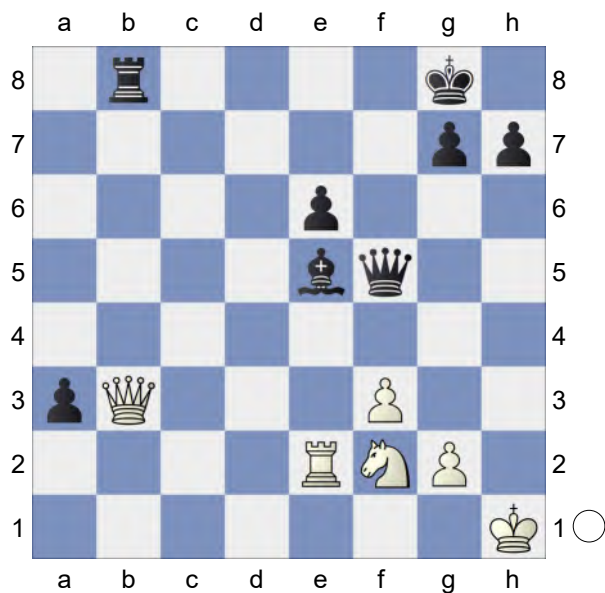
Mikhalevski, V: 'The rest was easy. "Black is a healthy P up and his pieces are active, White's situation is hopeless. Szabo, Krisztian: 'Szabo, Kr: 'Black is a healthy P up and his pieces are active, White's situation is hopeless.' Mikhalevski, V: 'The rest was easy.'" Black is a healthy ♗ up and his pieces are active, White's situation is hopeless. 'Szabo, Krisztian: 'Black is a healthy ♗ up and his pieces are active, White's situation is hopeless. Mikhalevski, V: 'Szabo, Kr: 'Black is a healthy ♗ up and his pieces are active, White's situation is hopeless. "' **36.Qh4 Bd2 37.Re2 Bxc3 38.e6 fxe6 39.Qxc4 a3 40.Nf2**

[40.Rxe6 doesn't help. Szabo, Kr: '(Szabo, Krisztian) doesn't help.' Qd5 41.Qxd5 R8xd5 42.Ra6 (or 42.Re8+ Kf7 43.Ra8 Ra5 44.Rxa5 Bxa5 45.Ra1 Re3! 46.Ra2 Bc7 47.g4 Rb3 48.Ng5+ Kg6 49.Ne4 Rb1+ 50.Kg2 Rb2+ 51.Rxb2 axb2 52.Nc3 Kg5-+) 42...Ra5 43.Rxa5 Bxa5 44.Ra1 Bb4 45.Nf2 Rd2 46.Ne4 Rc2 with the subsequent 47...a2 and Black wins.]

40...Rd2



41.Rfe1 Rxe2 42.Rxe2 Be5
 Mikhalevski, V: '!' Szabo,Kr: 'Szabo,
 Krisztian: 'Mikhalevski, V: '!' **43.Qb3**
Rb8



Mikhalevski, V: '!' Mikhalevski, V: 'A well-
 played game by the 15-year-old
 Chinese superstar. If White wants to play
 15.Bf4 he should follow it up with 19.Qe2.
 ' Szabo,Kr: 'Szabo,Krisztian: 'Mikhalevski,
 V: '!' Mikhalevski, V: 'A well-
 played game by the 15-year-old Chinese
 superstar. If White wants to play 15.Bf4

he should follow it up with 19.Qe2."
0-1

428

E62

□ Kazhgaleyev, Murtas

2587

■ Wei, Yi

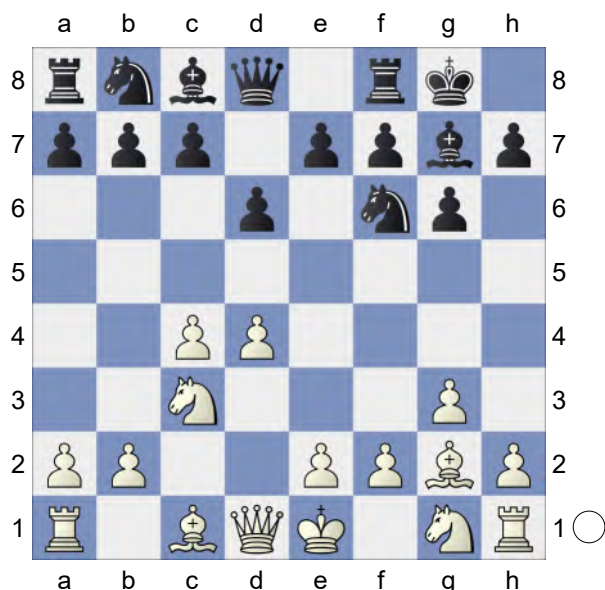
2733

WchT 12th Astana (9.11)

14.03.2019

[Szabo, Krisztian]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2
0-0 5.Nc3 d6



6.Nf3 Nc6 7.0-0 e5 8.dxe5 dxe5
9.Bg5 Be6 10.Nd5

[10.Qxd8?! Raxd8∞]

[10.b3?! h6

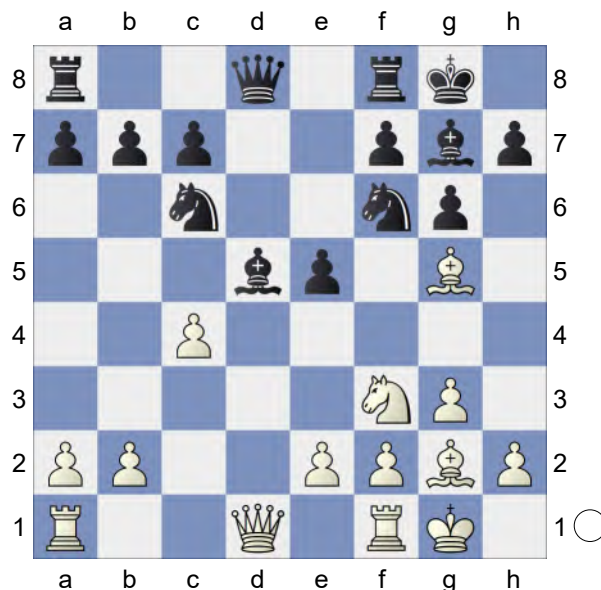
A) 11.Bxf6 Qxf6 12.Nd2
(Arslanov-V.Onischuk, Kazan 2013)

(12.Ne4?! Qe7 Black has a promising position, he is ready to complete the plans he has initiated with ...f5 followed by ...e4. 13.Rc1 Rad8 14.Qc2 f5 15.Nc3 e4 16.Nh4 Qf7♯ Musaev-Mamedyarov, Baku 2001) 12...Rad8 13.Nd5 Bxd5 14.cxd5 Ne7 15.e4 c6↑;

B) 11.Be3 (Burmakin-Kornev, Moscow 1995) 11...Qe7∞]

10...Bxd5

(Diagram)



11.Bxf6 Bxf6

[11...Qxf6!?]

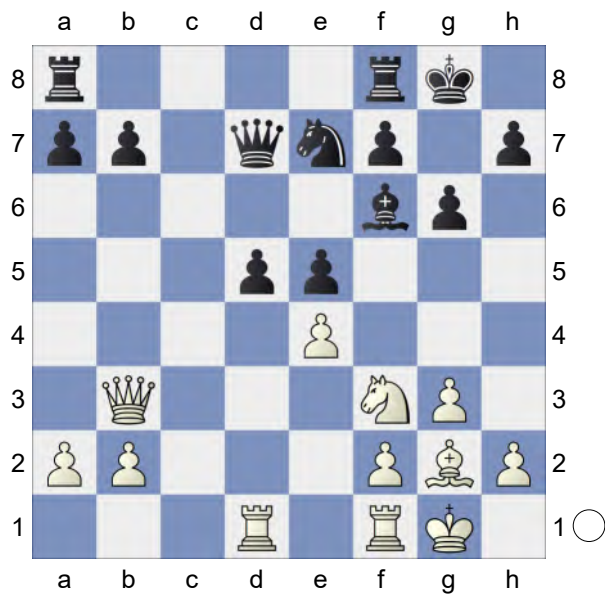
12.cxd5 Ne7 13.e4 Qd7 14.Qb3 c6
15.Rad1

[15.dxc6 This obviously leads to a drawish position. Nxc6 (1/2 Berkes-Naiditsch, Hungary chT 2016) 16.Rfd1 Qe7 17.Rd5 Rfd8 18.Rad1 Rxd5 19.Rxd5 Rd8 20.Rxd8+ Nxd8= A.Saric-Jovanovic, Bjelovar 2019]

[15.Rfd1 cxd5 16.exd5 Nf5 17.d6 Nxd6 18.Qd5 Rad8 19.Nxe5 Qf5 20.Nd3 Qxd5 21.Bxd5 Rfe8= Saduakassova-Jones, Reykjavik 2019]

15...cxd5

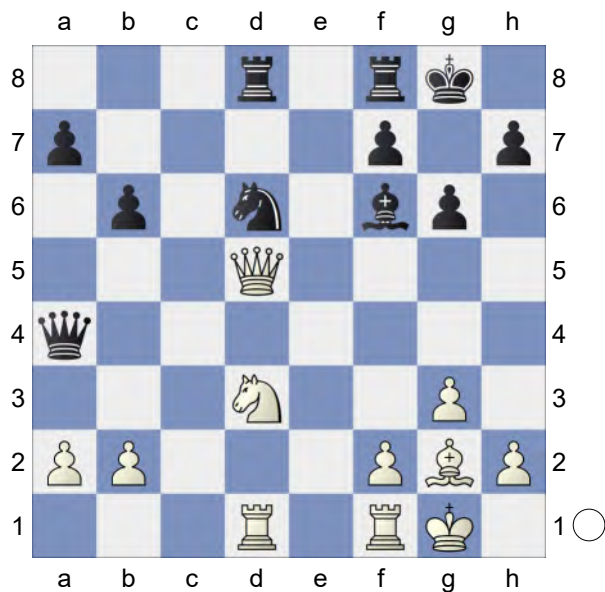
(Diagram)



16.exd5 Nc8 17.d6!?

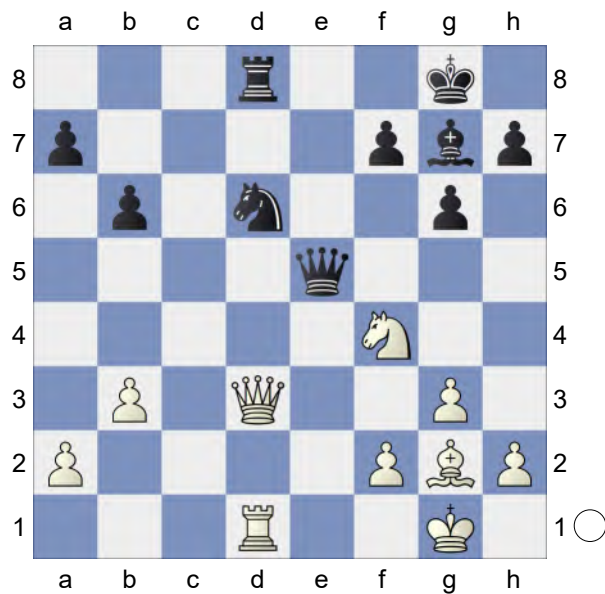
[17.Rfe1 Re8 18.Rd2 Nb6
and Black needs to be careful, but can
hold his position.]

**17...Nxd6 18.Qd5 Rad8 19.Nxe5
Qa4= 20.Nd3 b6**



**21.b3 Qb5 22.Nf4 Bg7 23.Rfe1 Rfe8
24.Rxe8+ Qxe8 25.Qd3 Qe5**

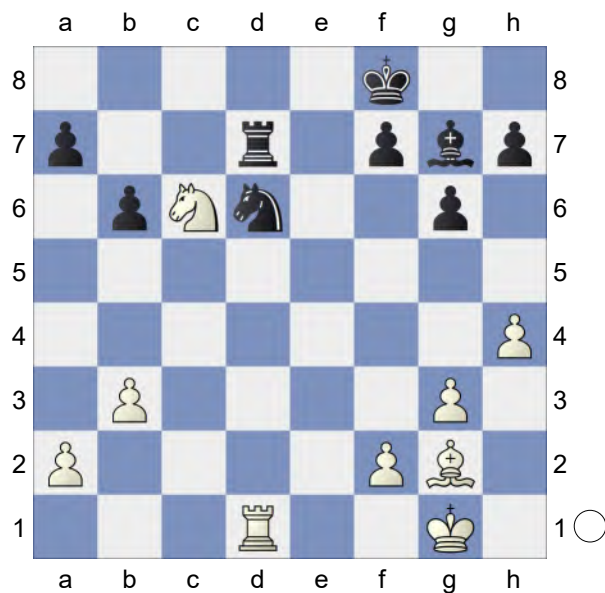
(Diagram)



26.h4 Qc3?!

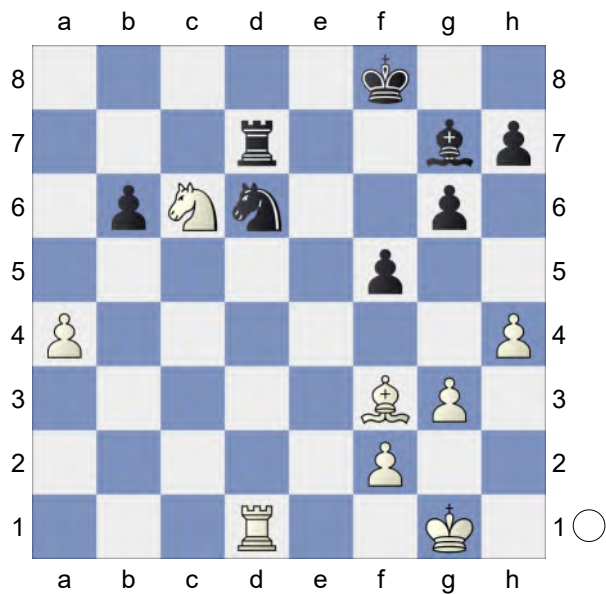
[26...Bf6=]

**27.Qxc3 Bxc3 28.Nd5 Bg7 29.Ne7+
Kf8 30.Nc6 Rd7**

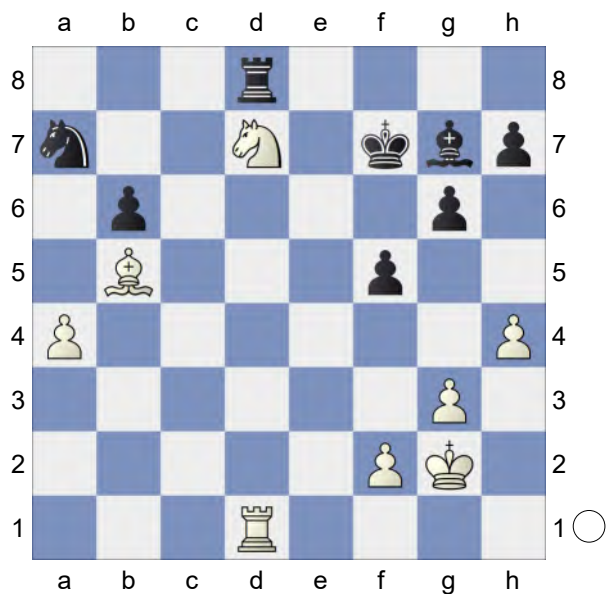


**31.a4 a5 32.b4 axb4 33.Nxb4 f5
34.Bf3 Rd8 35.Nc6 Rd7**

(Diagram)

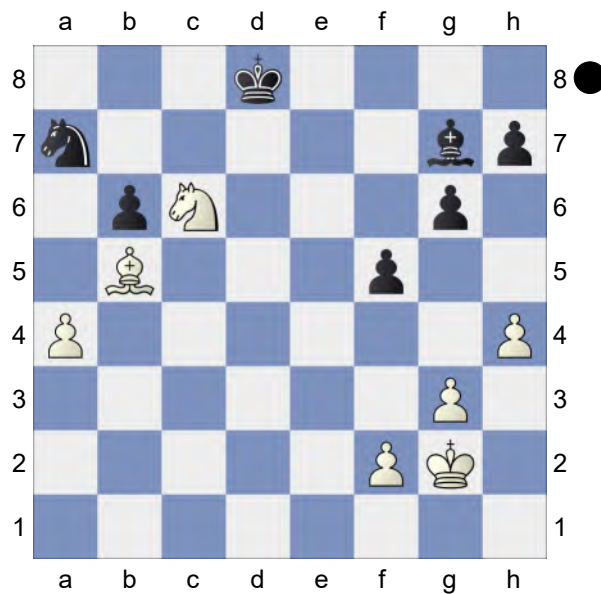


36.Kg2 Ke8 37.Nb8 Rd8 38.Bc6+ Kf7 39.Nd7 Nc8 40.Bb5 Na7 $\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$



**41.Ne5+?!
[41.Be2!±]
41...Ke7 42.Rxd8 Kxd8 43.Nc6+**

(Diagram)



82

□ Wei,Yi

■ Rios,Cristhian Camilo

43rd Olympiad 2018 Open (2.2) 25.09.18

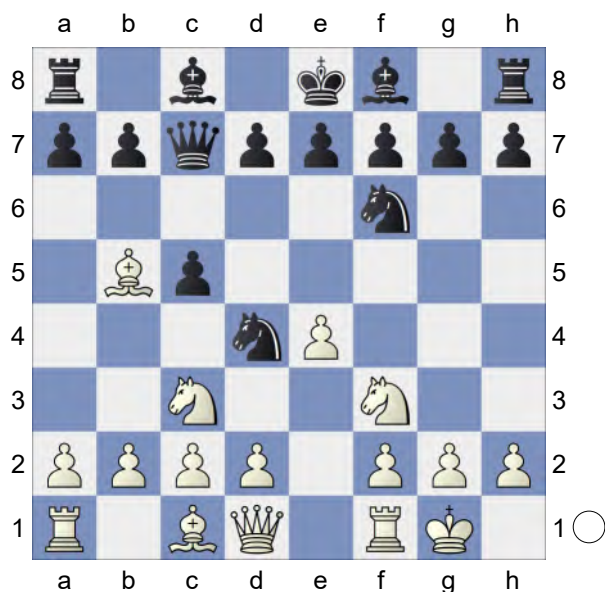
[TA]

B30

2742

2465

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bb5
Qc7 5.0-0 Nd4



6.Re1 a6 7.Bc4 B30: Sicilian: 2...Nc6 3
Bb5, lines without ...g6

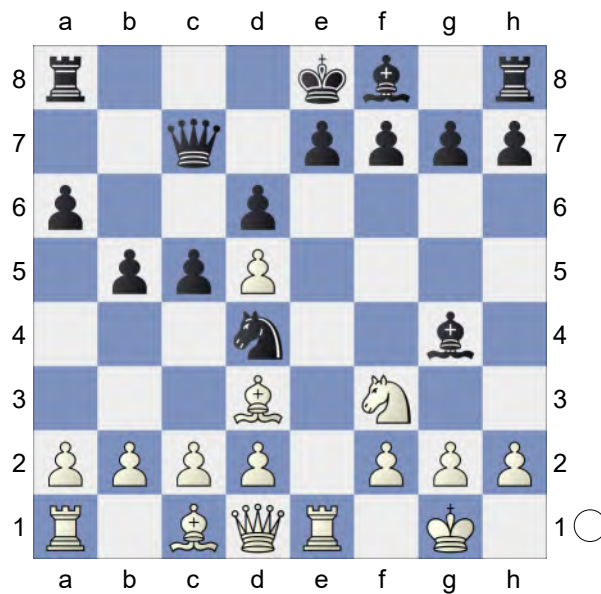
[7.Bf1 Ng4 8.g3 Nxf3+ 9.Qxf3 Ne5
10.Qe2 d6 11.Nd5 Qd8 12.Bg2 e6
13.Ne3 g6 14.b4 cxb4 1-0 (35) Wei,
Y (2735)-Inarkiev,E (2690) Magas
2018]

7...d6 8.Nd5 Nxd5 9.exd5 LiveBook:
33 Games. White is slightly better. 9...b5
10.Bd3N

[Predecessor: 10.Nxd4 bxc4 11.Ne2
g6 12.Nc3 Bg7 13.Qe2 0-0 14.Qxc4
Rb8 1/2-1/2 (29) Kevicky,M (2411)-
Doroshenko,A (2259) ICCF email
2015]

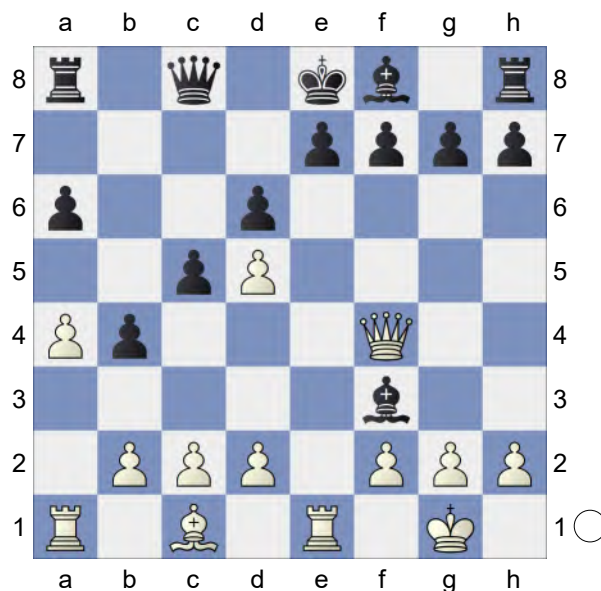
10...Bg4

(Diagram)



11.Be2 Nxe2+ 12.Qxe2 Qb7 13.a4 b4
14.Qe4↑ White has good play. 14...Qc8
[14...Bxf3= 15.gxf3 (15.Qxf3 e6±)
15...g6]

15.Qf4± Bxf3



16.Qxf3 h5 17.h3 Rh6 18.c4 g5

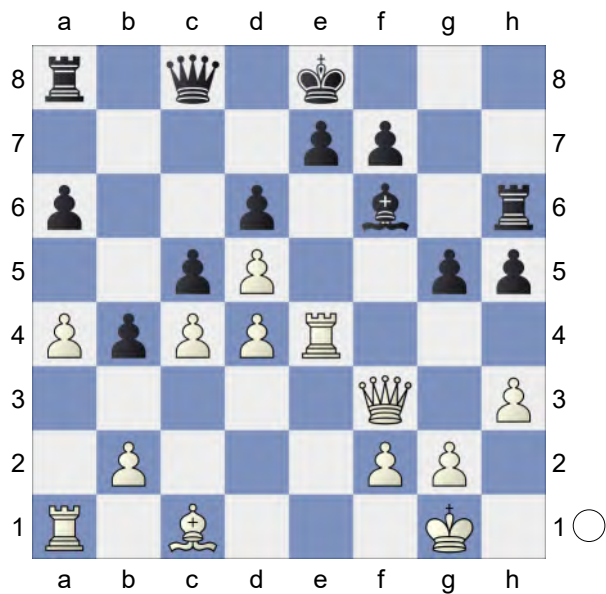
[Better is 18...bxc3 19.dxc3 Rf6
20.Qxh5 Qf5 21.Qxf5 Rxf5]

19.Re4 Bg7

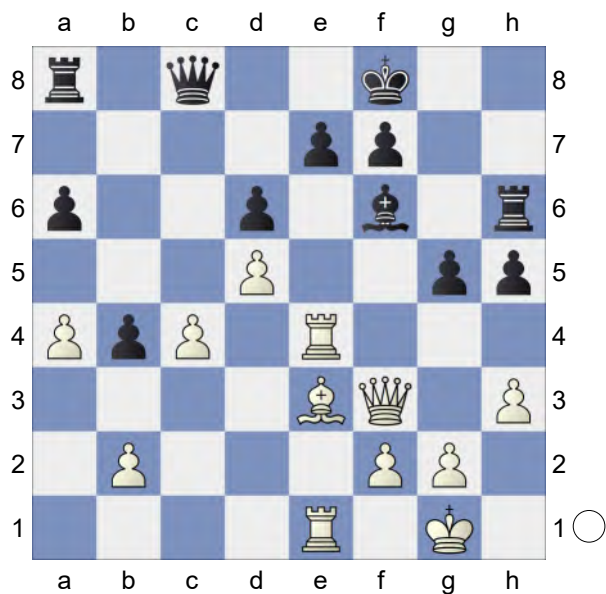
[19...Rg6±]

20.d4+- Bf6

[20...Rg6 was necessary.]

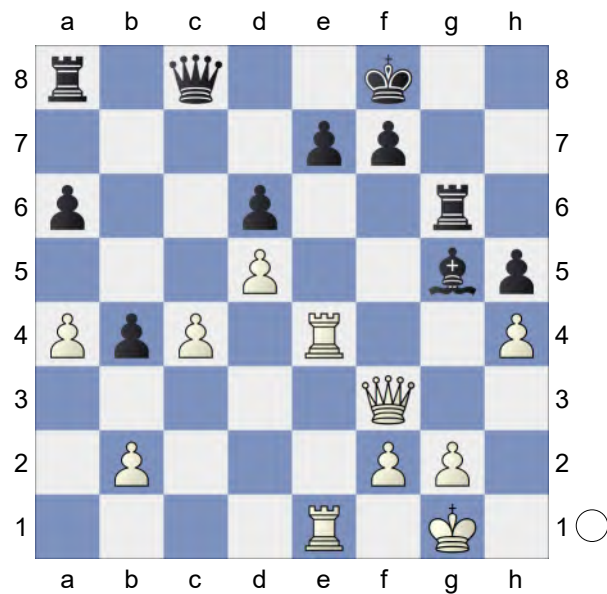


21.dxc5 Qxc5 22.Be3 Qc8 23.Re1 Kf8

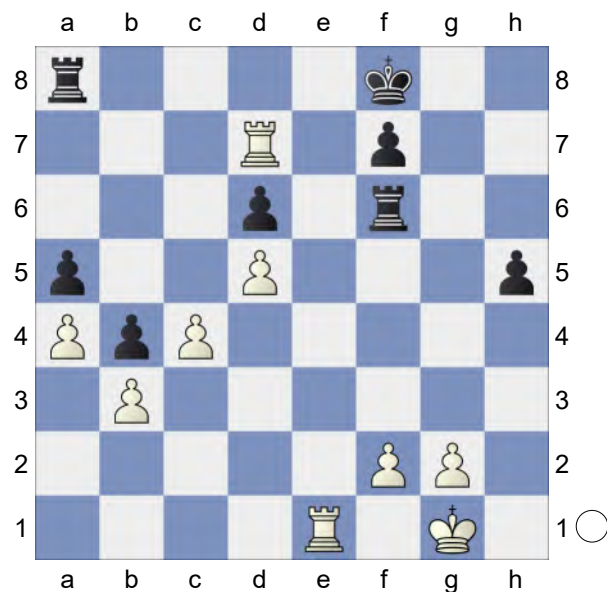


24.h4! Rg6
 [24...gxh4 25.Bxh6+]
25.Bxg5 Bxg5

(Diagram)

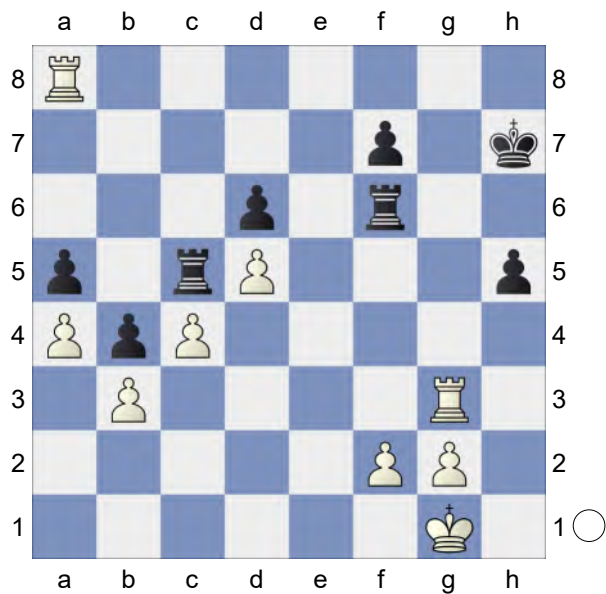


26.hxg5 Rxc5 27.Rxe7 Qf5 28.Qxf5 Rxf5 Endgame KRR-KRR 29.b3 a5 30.Rd7 Rf6

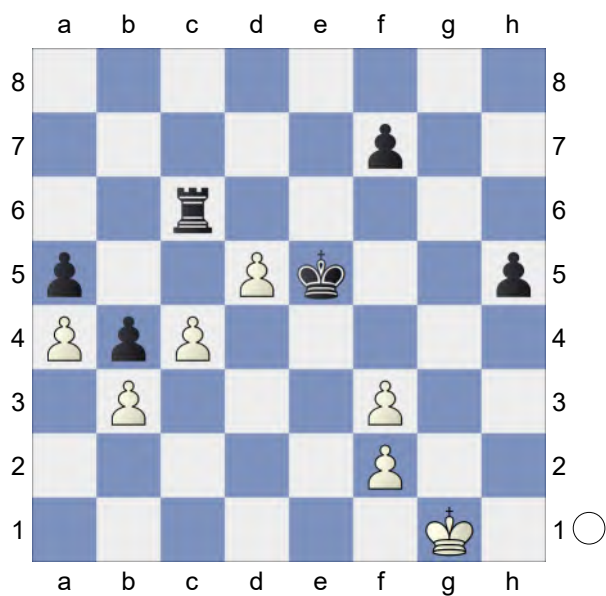


31.Ree7 Rb8 32.Ra7 Rc8 33.Re3 Rc5 34.Ra8+ Kg7 35.Rg3+ Kh7

(Diagram)

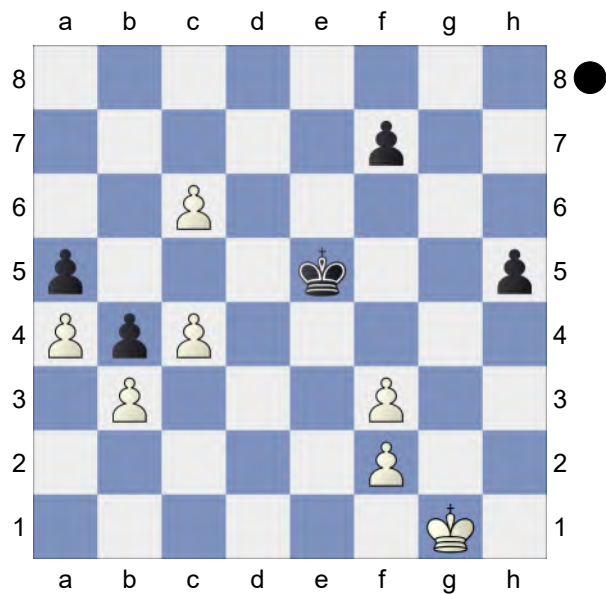


36.Rf3 Rxf3 37.gxf3 KR-KR 37...Kg6
38.Ra6 Kf6 39.Rxd6+ Ke5 40.Rc6
Rxc6

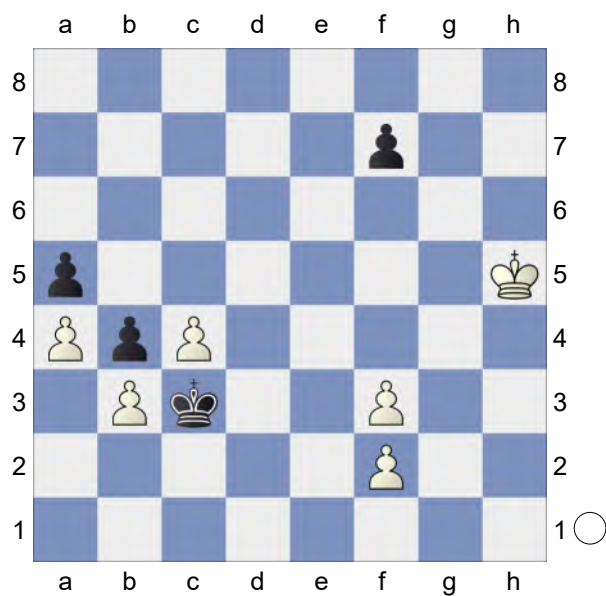


41.dxc6

(Diagram)

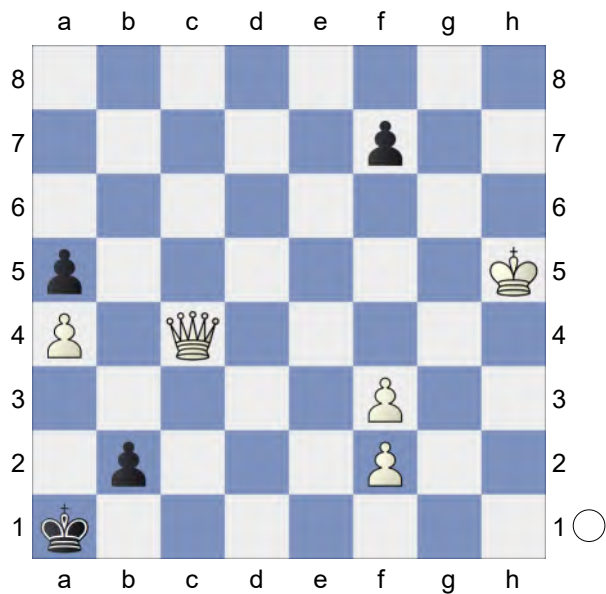


Strongly threatening c7. KP-KP 41...Kd6
42.Kg2 Kxc6 43.Kg3 Kc5 44.Kh4
Kd4 45.Kxh5 Kc3

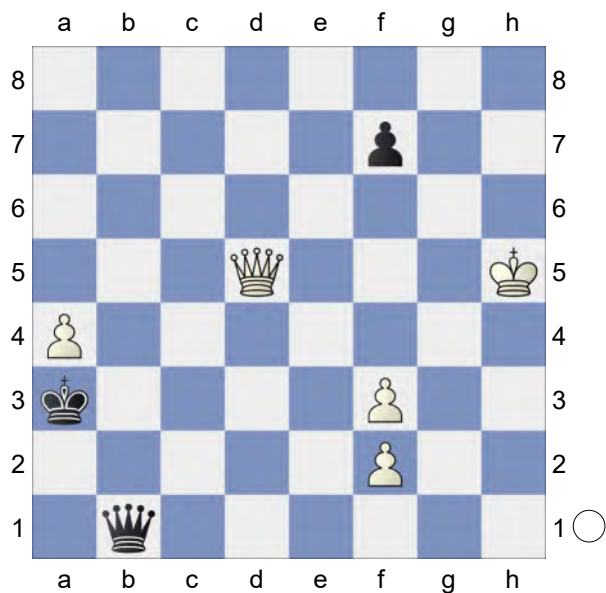


46.c5 Kxb3 47.c6 Ka2 48.c7 b3
49.c8Q b2 50.Qc4+ Ka1

(Diagram)

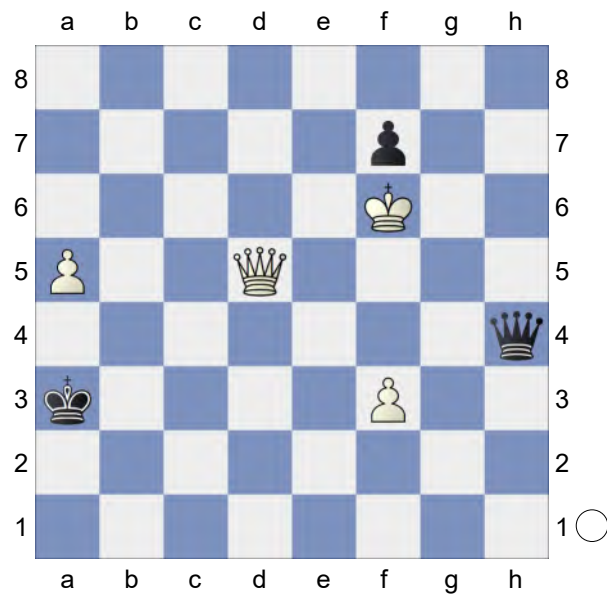


51.Qd4 Black must now prevent Qg7.
51...Ka2 52.Qd5+ Ka1 53.Qxa5
 aiming for Qe1+. **53...b1Q KQ-KQ**
54.Qe5+ Ka2 55.Qd5+ Ka3



56.Qd6+ Ka2 57.Kg5 Qg1+ 58.Kf6
Qxf2
 [58...Kb3 59.Kxf7 Qxf2]
59.Qd5+ Ka3 60.a5 Qh4+

(Diagram)



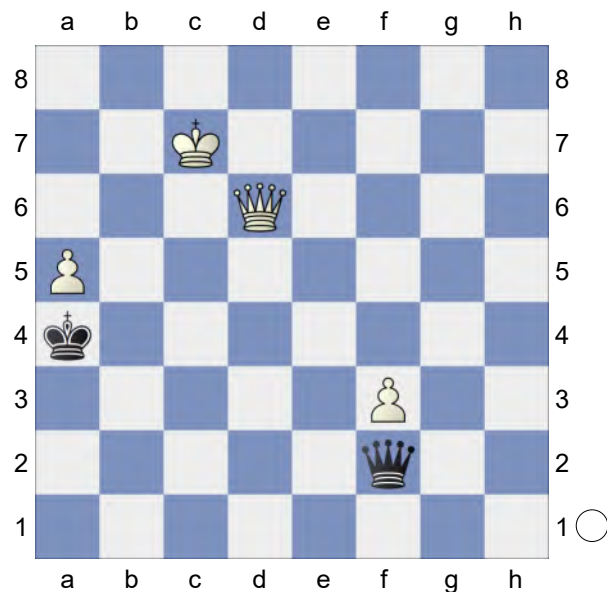
61.Kxf7 Qh7+ 62.Ke8 Qh8+ 63.Kd7
Ka4 64.Kc7?

[64.a6 Qg7+ 65.Kd6 Qh6+ 66.Kc5
 Qf8+ 67.Kd4 Qf6+ 68.Kd3 Qxa6+
 69.Qc4+ Ka5 70.Qxa6+ Kxa6
 71.Kd4]

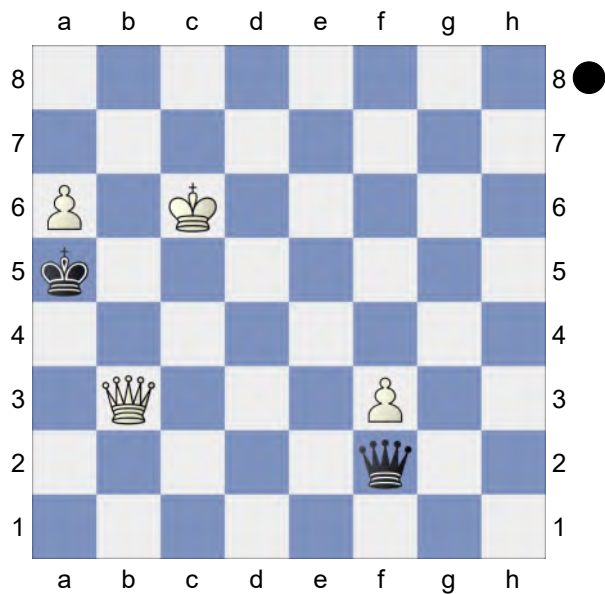
64...Qh2+?

[64...Kb4 65.a6 Qc3+ 66.Qc6 Qa1
 67.Qd6+ Kb5 68.Qc6+ Kb4]

65.Qd6 Qf2



66.a6 Kb5 67.Qd3+ White mates.
67...Ka5 68.Qa3+ Kb5 69.Qb3+ Ka5
70.Kc6



Precision: White = 84%, Black = 49%.

1-0

482

□ Onkoud, Abdelaziz

■ Wei, Yi

43rd Olympiad 2018 Open (1.2) 24.09.18

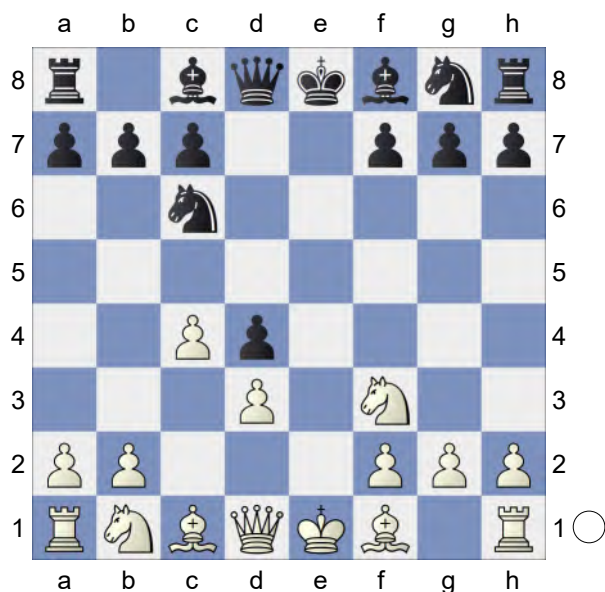
[TA]

A09

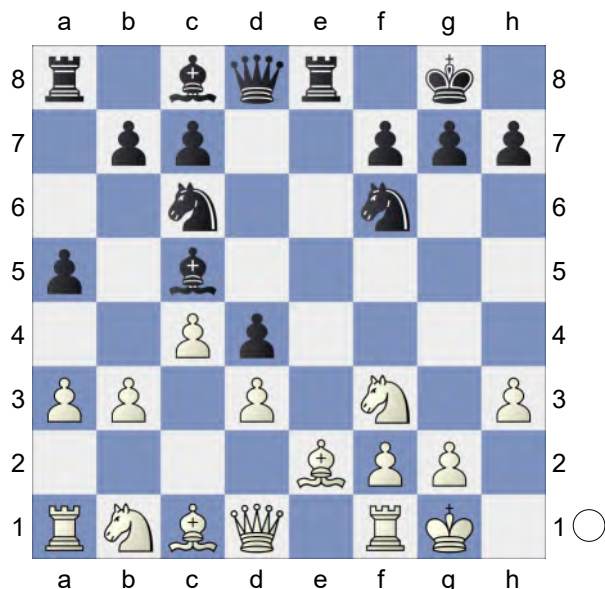
2315

2742

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 d4 3.e3 Nc6 4.d3 e5
5.exd4 exd4

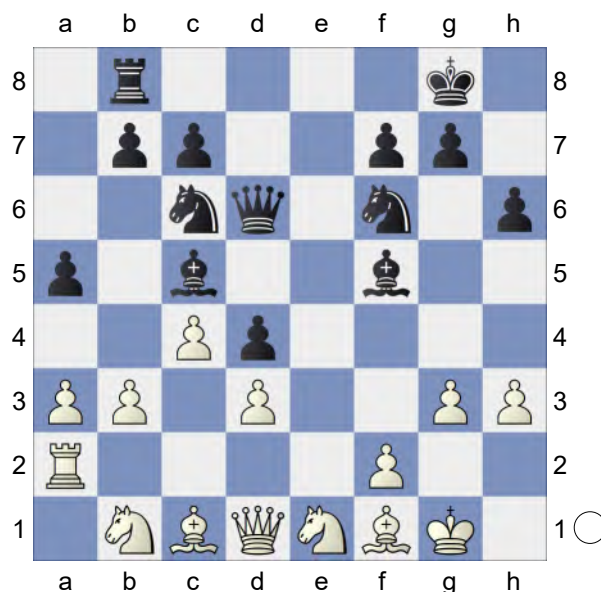


6.a3 2 A09: Réti Opening: 1 Nf3 d5 c4
6...a5! 7.b3 Nf6 8.Be2 Black is slightly
better. 8...Bc5 9.0-0 0-0 10.h3 Re8



11.Re1 Bf5 12.Bf1 Qd6 13.Ra2 Rxe1

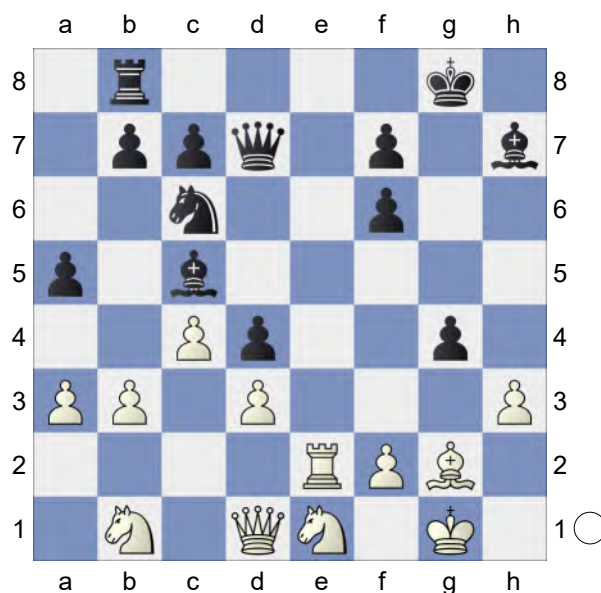
14.Nxe1 h6 15.g3 Rb8



16.Bg2 Qd7 17.g4 Bh7 18.Re2 h5
19.Bg5

[19.g5= Ne8 20.Nd2]

19...hxg4 20.Bxf6 gxf6



21.hxg4 Kh8

[21...Kg7 22.Bxc6 Qxc6]

22.f4! Bd6↑ Black has the initiative.

[22...Qxg4

23.Re8+!!

Rxe8

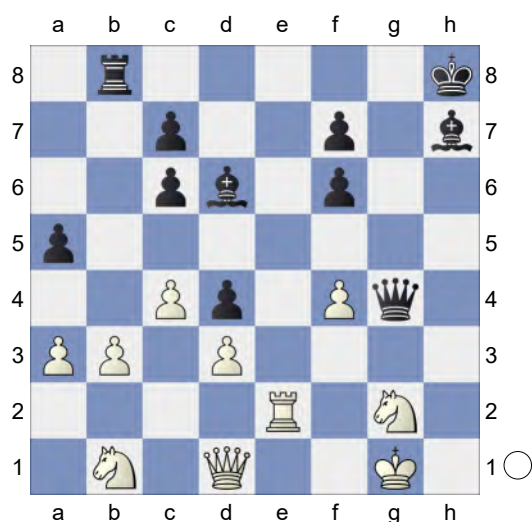
24.Qxg4]

23.Bxc6 Qxg4+ 24.Ng2?

[24.Bg2!]

24...Rg8+

[Don't go for 24...bxc6?



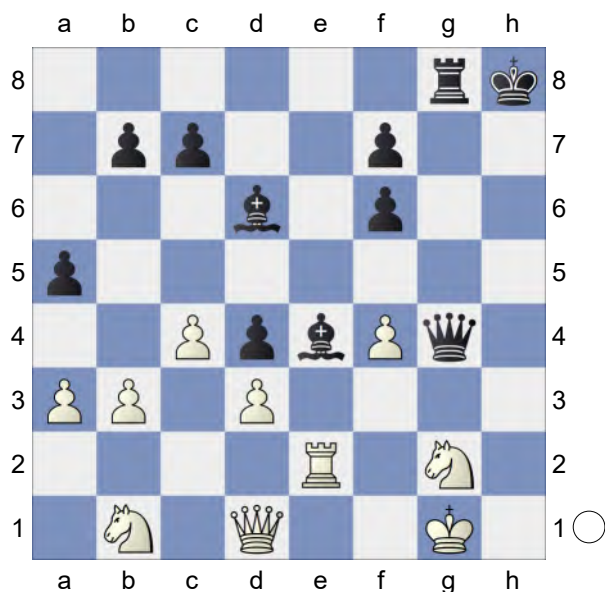
25.Re8+! Rxe8 26.Qxg4+-]

[Weaker is 24...Qg3 25.Bd5+ (25.Be4? Bxf4 26.Bxh7 Kxh7+-)]

25.Be4

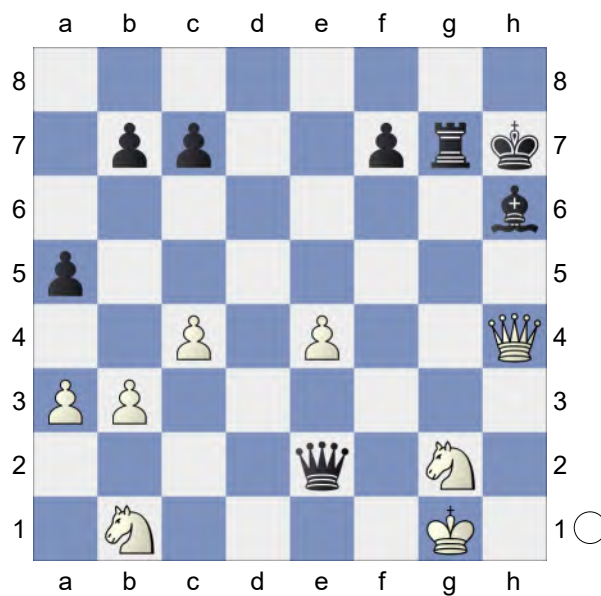
[Δ25.Re1 Qxf4 26.Qf3 bxc6
27.Qxf4 Bxf4 28.Rd1]

25...Bxe4



**26.dxe4 Bxf4 (→ ...Be3+) 27.Qxd4
Qxe2 28.Qxf6+ Rg7 29.Qd8+ Kh7
30.Qh4+ Bh6**

(Diagram)



Precision: White = 51%, Black = 55%.
0-1

168

□ Wei,Yi

■ Xu,Yi

Makati 139/7

[Tadic,Branko]

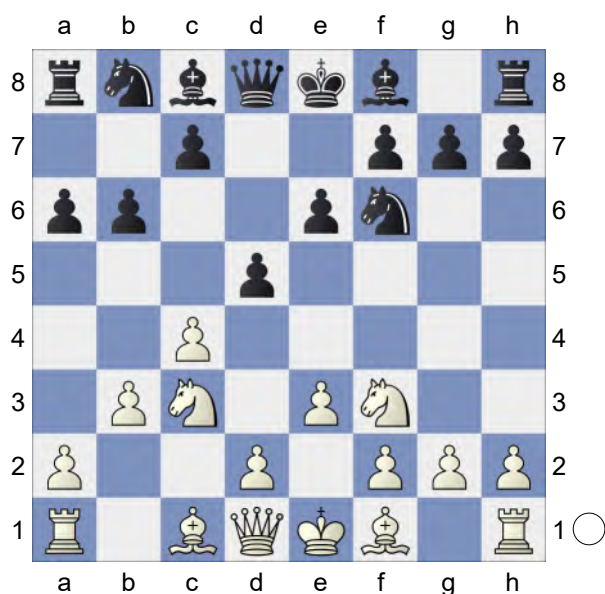
A17

2728

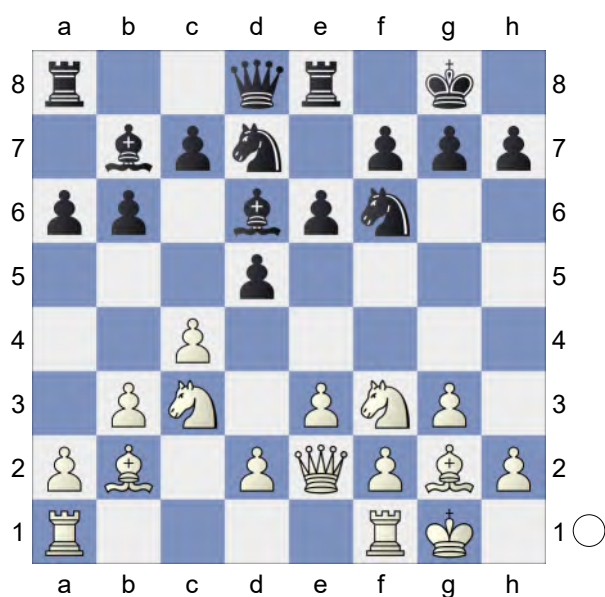
2533

2018

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.e3
b6!? 5.b3 a6

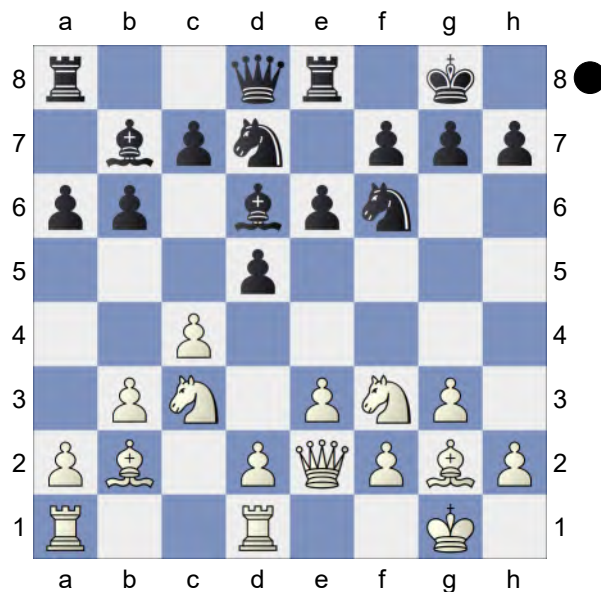


6.g3 Bb7 7.Bg2 Bd6 8.Bb2 0-0 9.0-0
Nbd7 10.Qe2 Re8



11.Rfd1 Diagram

(Diagram)



11...Qe7N

[11...e5 - 139/ (7)]

12.d4 Ne4

[12...Rad8 13.Nh4!? g6 14.Rac1 c5
15.dxc5 Nxc5 16.b4 Nce4 17.Nxe4
Nxe4 (17...dxe4?! 18.c5±) 18.a3±]

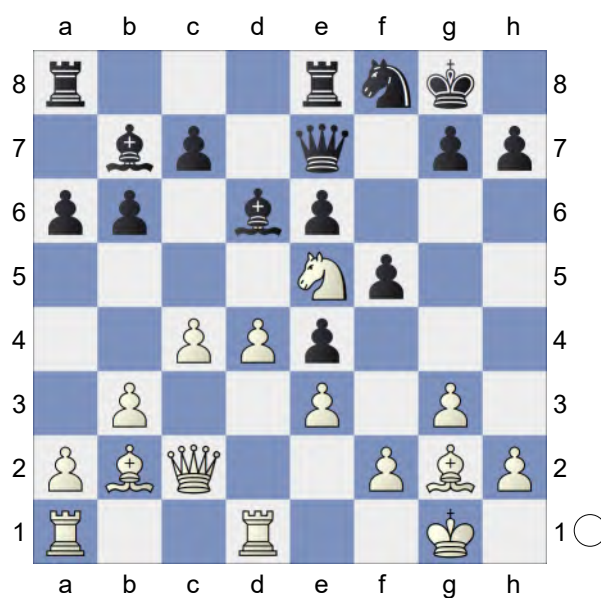
13.Nxe4 dxe4 14.Ne5

[14.Nd2 f5∞]

14...Nf8

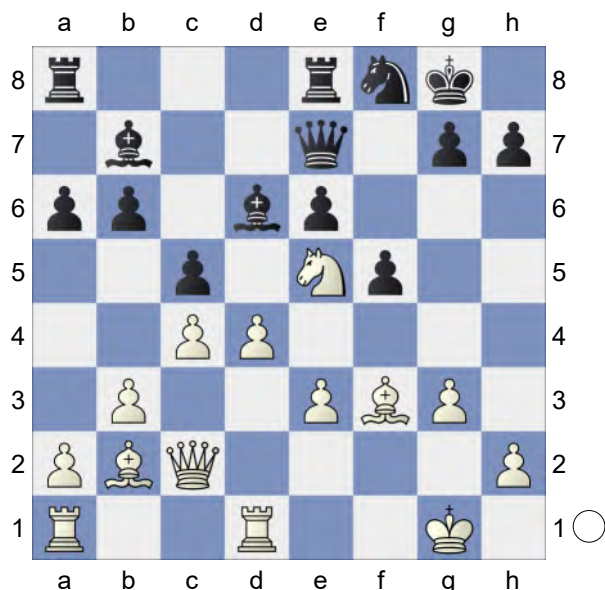
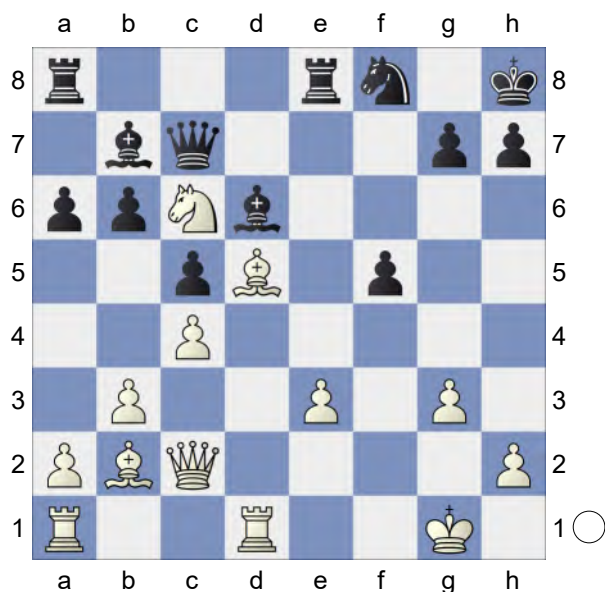
[14...a5!? 15.Rac1 f5 16.Nxd7
(16.c5?! Bxe5 17.dxe5 bxc5±)
16...Qxd7∞]

15.Qc2 f5



16.f4 exf3

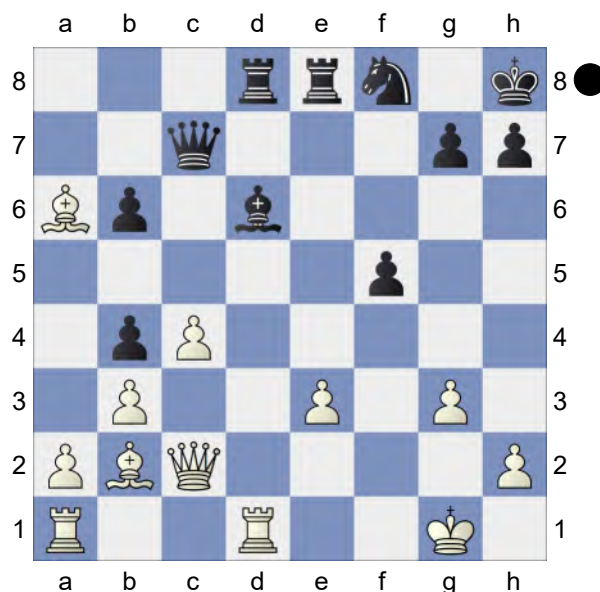
[16...Red8 17.g4!? Bxe5 18.fxe5
fxg4 19.Bxe4 Bxe4 20.Qxe4 h5∞]

17.Bxf3 c5 Diagram**18.Nc6!?** **Qc7** **19.d5 exd5** **20.Bxd5+ Kh8****21.Nb4 cxb4**

[21...Bxg3 22.hxg3 cxb4 23.Qf2
Ne6 24.Bxb7 Qxb7 25.Qxf5 Nc5∞]

22.Bxb7 Rad8 **23.Bxa6? Diagram**

[23.Bg2 Bc5 (23...Rxe3 24.Bd4
Re7 25.Qxf5 Ng6 26.Kh1±) 24.Bd4
f4!∞]

**23...Bxg3!**

[23...Rxe3! 24.Bd4 (24.Qxf5?
Re2+-) 24...Re4±]

24.hxg3 Rxd1+?

[24...Qxg3+ 25.Qg2 Qxe3+

A) 26.Kf1 Qf4+ 27.Qf2 Qe4
28.Rxd8 (28.Kg1? Qg4+-+)
28...Qh1+ 29.Qg1 Qf3+ 30.Qf2=;

B) 26.Kh2 Qf4+ 27.Kg1
(27.Qg3? Re2+-+) 27...Qe3+
28.Kh1 Qh6+ 29.Kg1 Qe3+=]

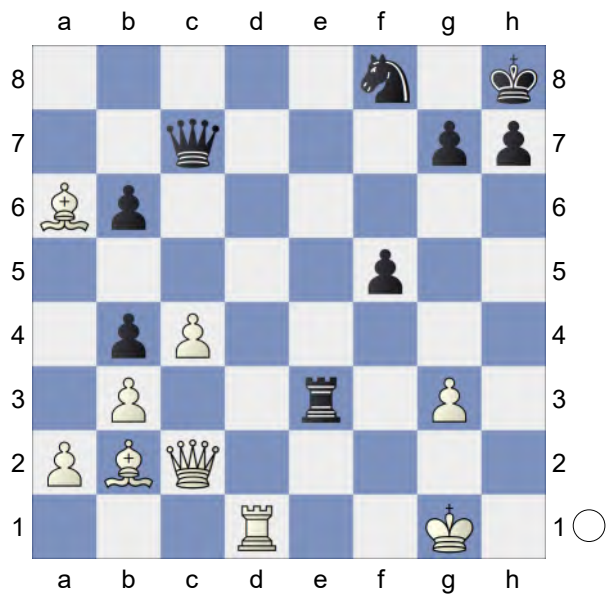
25.Rxd1 Rxe3?

[25...Qxg3+ 26.Qg2 Qxe3+ 27.Kh1
Qh6+ 28.Qh2 Qc6+ 29.Kg1 Qf3
30.Rf1 Qd3 31.Qf2 Re6 (31...Re2?
32.c5! Qxa6 33.Qxf5+-)

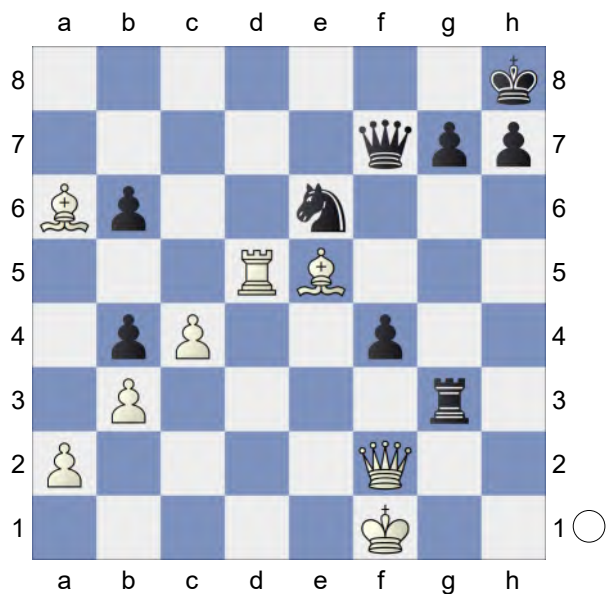
A) 32.Bb7 Re2! 33.Qf3 (33.Qxf5?
Qg3+-+) 33...Qxf3 34.Rxf3 Rxb2
35.Rxf5 Ng6∞;

B) 32.Bc1!±]

(Diagram)

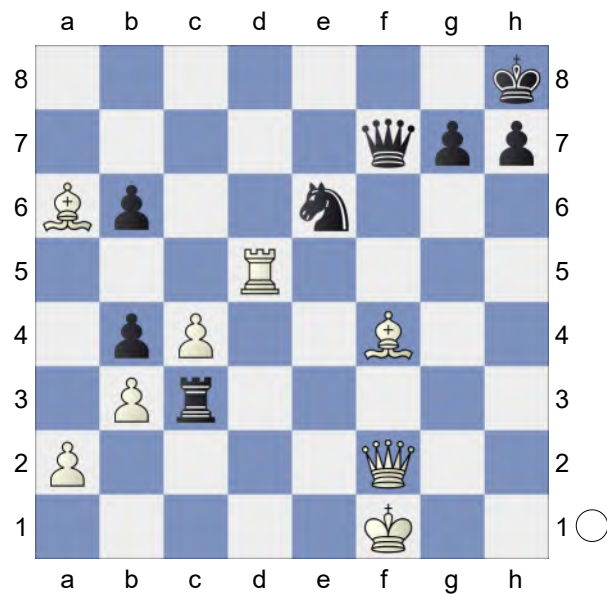


26.Qf2+- Rxc3+ 27.Kf1 f4 28.Rd5
Ne6 29.Be5 Qf7 Diagram

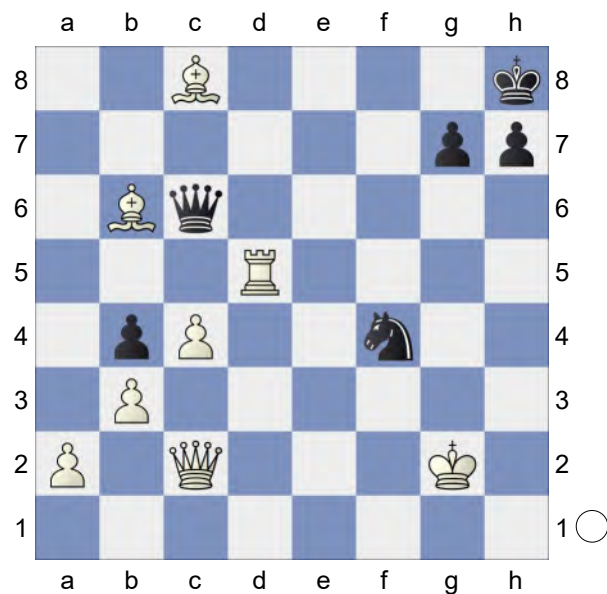


30.Bxf4! Rc3
 [30...Nxf4 31.Rd8+-]

(Diagram)

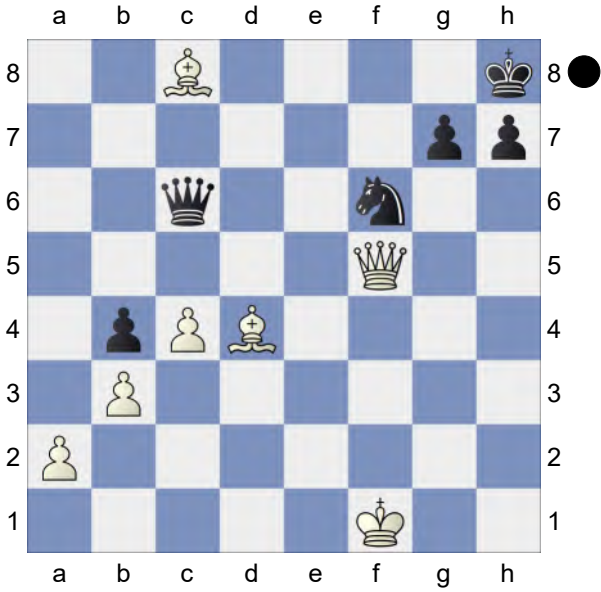


31.Be3 Qc7 32.Bxb6 Rc1+ 33.Kg2
Qc6 34.Bc8 Rc2 35.Qxc2 Nf4+



36.Kf1 Nxd5 37.Qf5 Nf6 38.Bd4

(Diagram)



1-0

175

□ Wei,Yi

■ Xu,Minghui

(ch) 134/(13)

[Tadic,Branko]

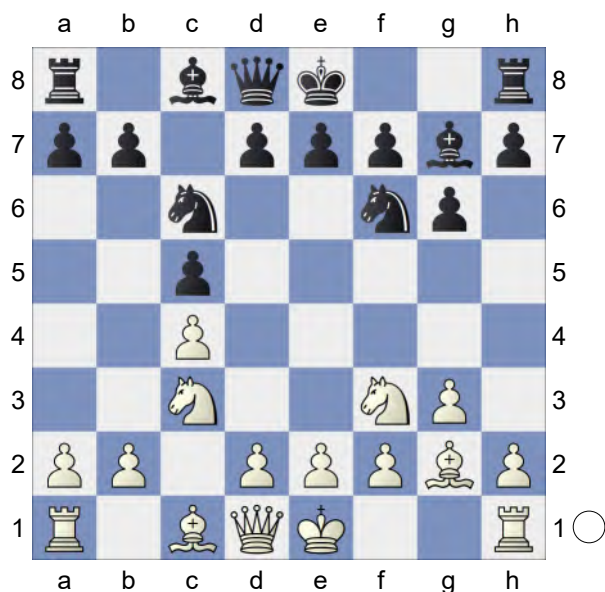
A39

2727

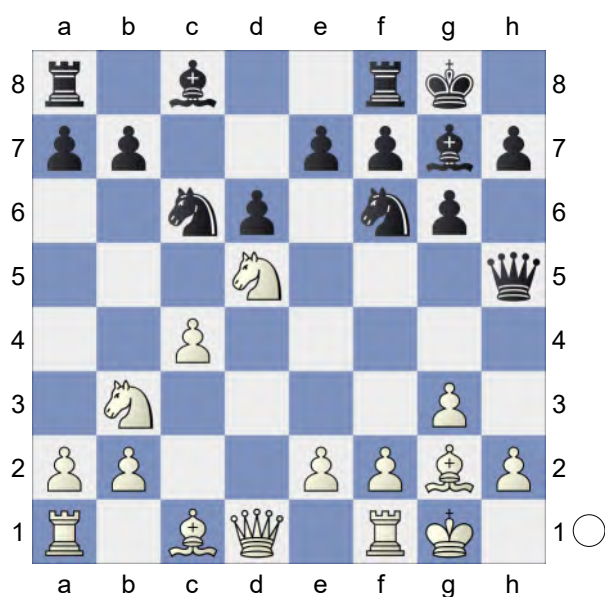
2283

2017

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.g3
g6 5.Bg2 Bg7



6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 0-0 8.0-0 Qa5
9.Nb3 Qh5 10.Nd5 d6



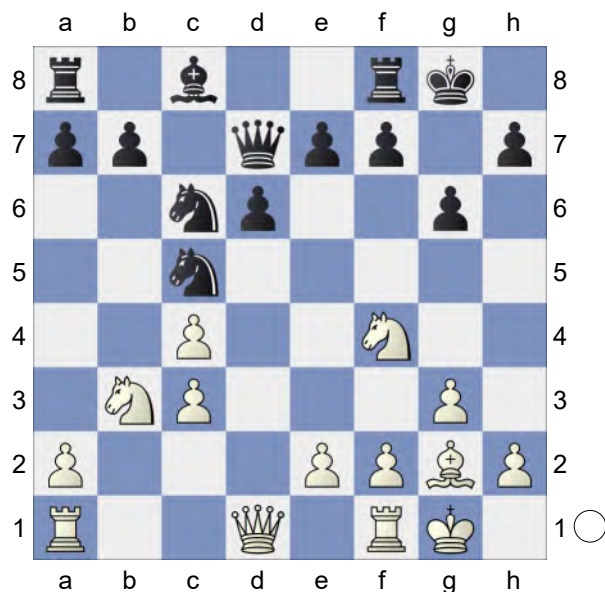
11.Nf4 * 11...Qf5 12.Bd2 Ne4
13.Be1!N

[13.Be3]

13...Nc5

[13...Bxb2? 14.Qb1 Bxa1 15.Bxe4
Qe5 16.Nxa1±]

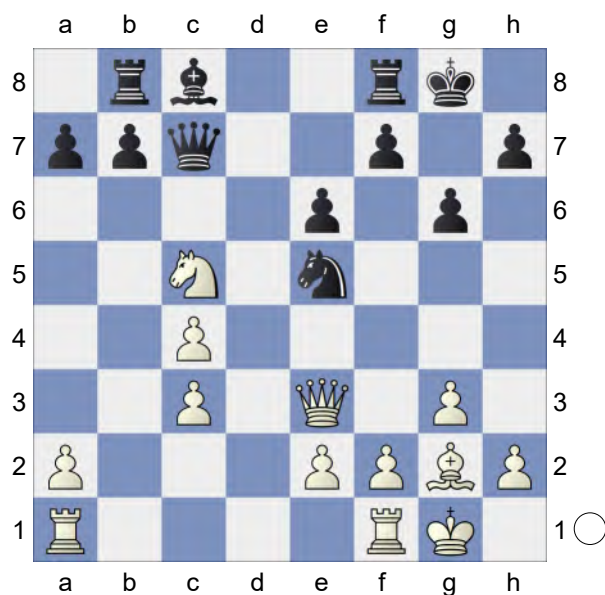
14.Bc3! Bxc3 15.bxc3 Qd7



16.Nxc5 dxc5 17.Qc1 e6 18.Nd3 Qc7
19.Nxc5 Ne5 20.Qe3 Rb8

[20...Rb8 21.Nd3!±]

[20...Nxc4 21.Qd4↑]



65

□ Wei,Yi

■ Sambuev,Bator

Tbilisi (m/3-rapid) 134/134

[Tadic,Branko]

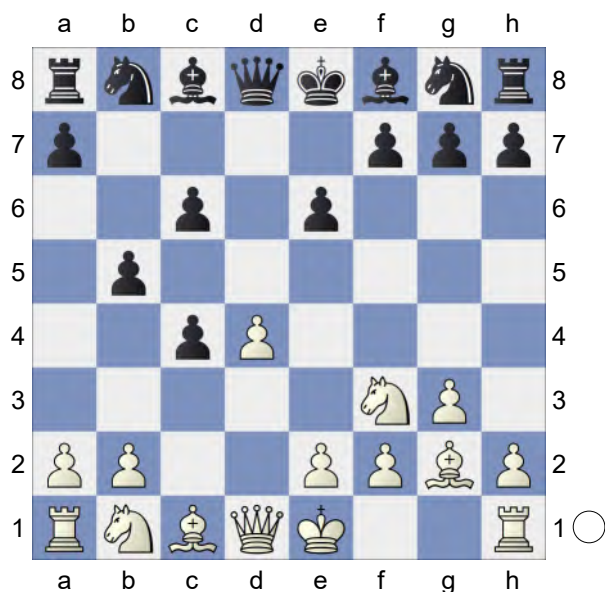
D31

2748

2529

2017

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 e6 3.d4 c6 4.g3 dxc4
5.Bg2 b5



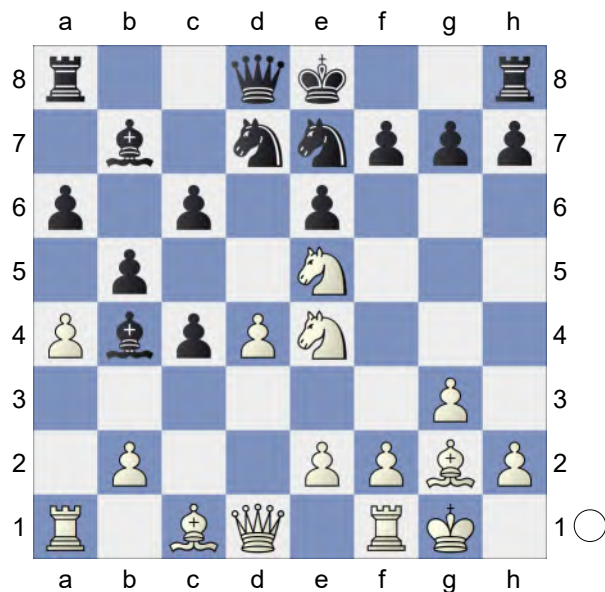
6.Ne5 Bb7 7.0-0 a6 8.Nc3 Bb4 9.a4
Ne7 10.Ne4

[10.axb5 - 90/(352)]

10...Nd7?N

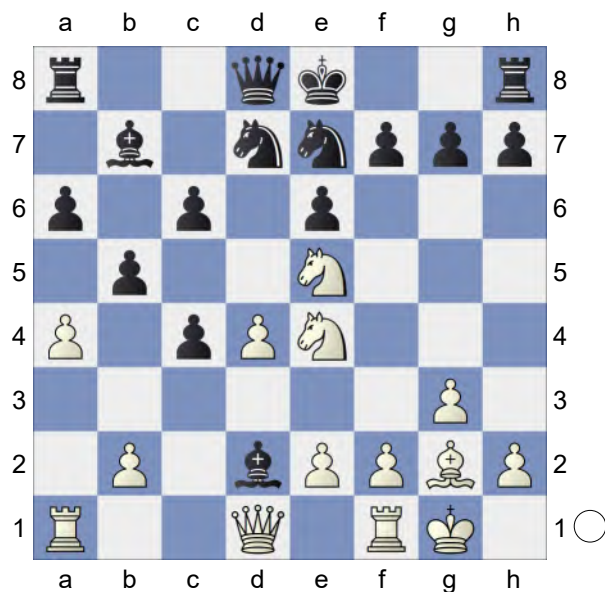
[10...0-0 11.Bd2 c5 (11...Bxd2
12.Qxd2 Nd7 13.Nxd7 Qxd7 14.Nc5
Qc7 15.Qf4↑) 12.dxc5 Bxd2
13.Qxd2 Qxd2 14.Nxd2 Bxg2
15.Kxg2 Nbc6 16.Nxc6 Nxc6
17.axb5 axb5 18.Ne4±]

(Diagram)



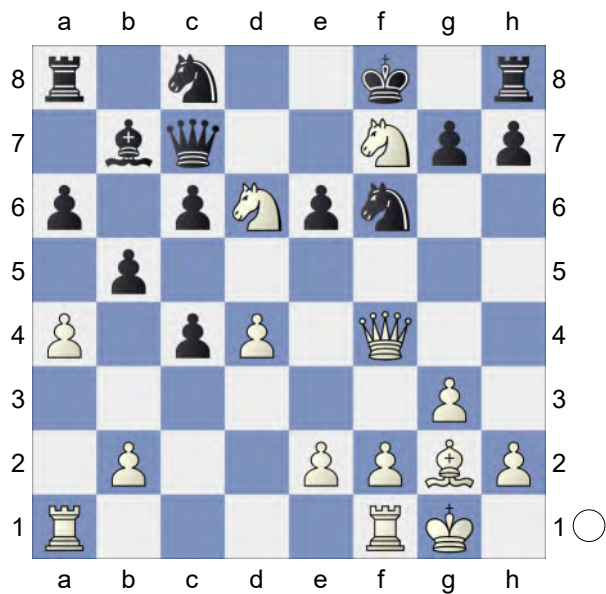
11.Bd2! Bxd2 Diagram

[11...Nxe5? 12.Bxb4+-]



12.Nd6+! Kf8 13.Nexf7 Qc7
14.Qxd2+- Nc8 15.Qf4 Nf6

(Diagram)



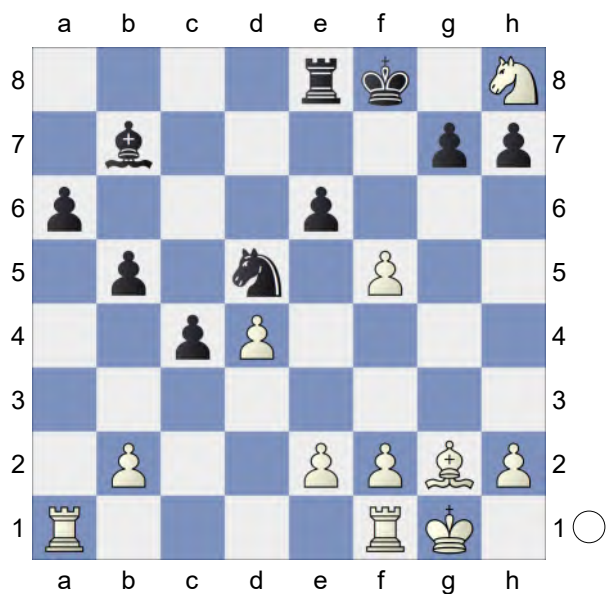
16.Nxc8

[16.axb5 axb5 17.Rxa8 Bxa8
18.e4+-]

16...Qxf4 17.gxf4 Rxc8 18.Nxh8 Nd5

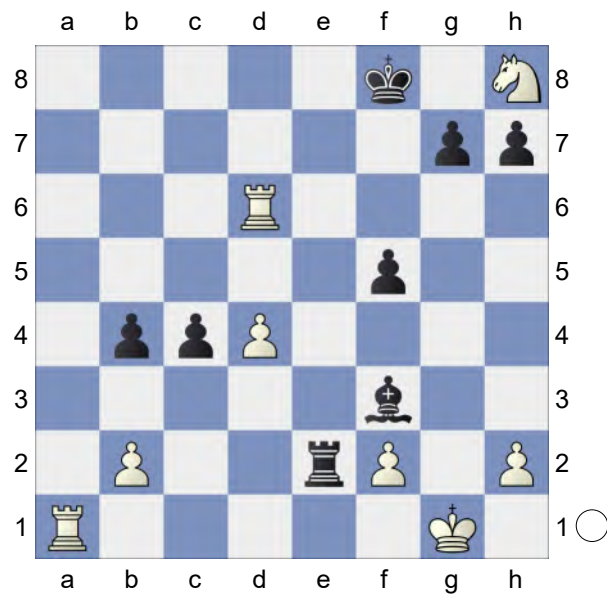
19.axb5 cxb5 20.f5 Re8

[20...exf5 21.Bxd5 Bxd5 22.Rxa6+-]

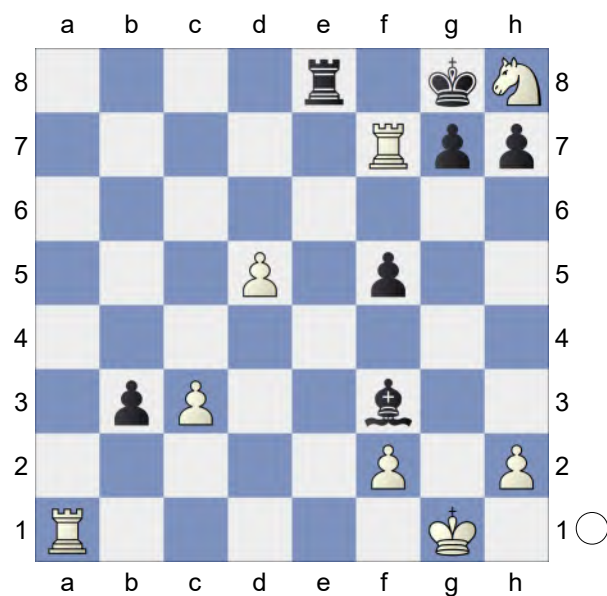


**21.Rfc1 exf5 22.Bxd5 Bxd5 23.Rxa6
Rxe2 24.Rd6 Bf3 25.Ra1 b4**

(Diagram)

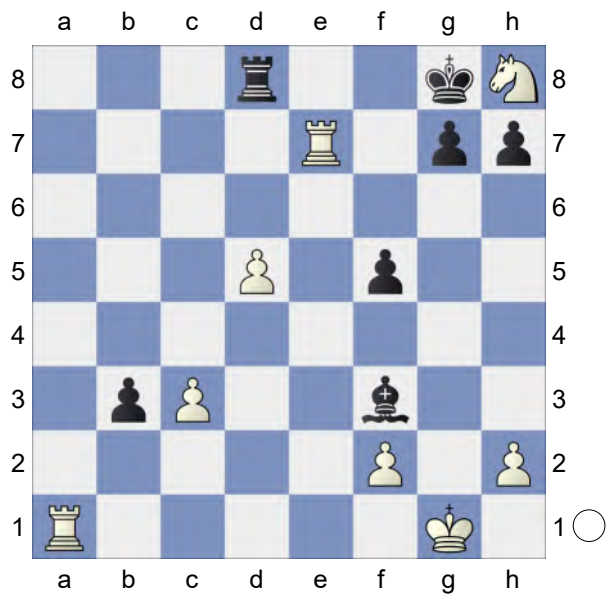


**26.d5 c3 27.bxc3 b3 28.Rd7 Re8
29.Rf7+ Kg8 Diagram**

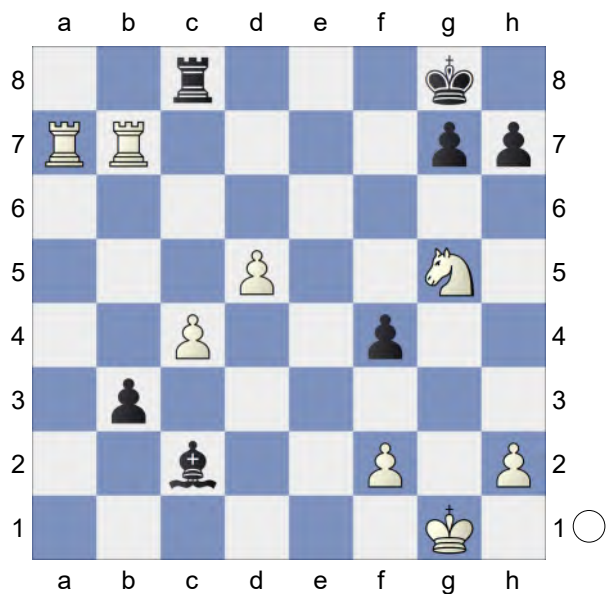


30.Re7! Rd8

(Diagram)

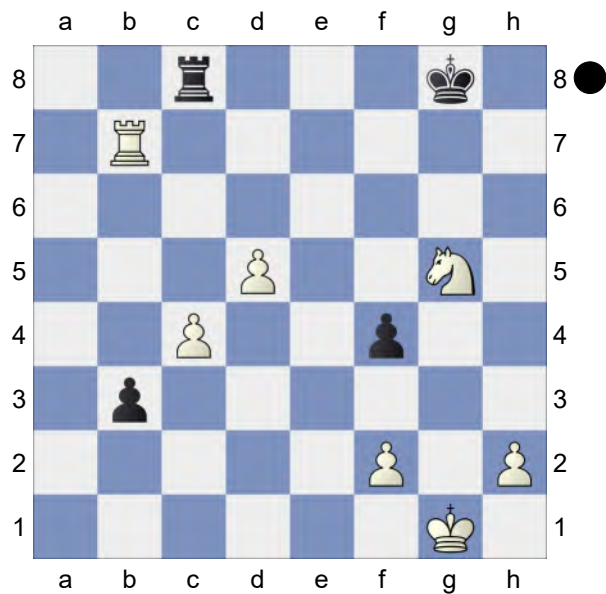


31.c4 Be4 32.Rb7 Bc2 33.Nf7 Rf8 1-0
34.Ng5 Rc8 35.Raa7 f4



36.Rxg7+ Kh8 37.Rxh7+ Bxh7
38.Rxh7+ Kg8 39.Rb7

(Diagram)



72

□ Wei,Yi

■ Navara,David

Yancheng (m/1) 136/(45)

[Tadic,Branko]

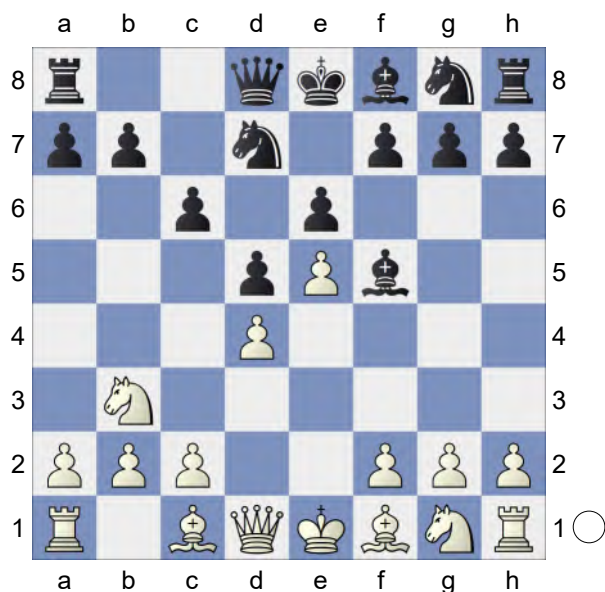
B12

2743

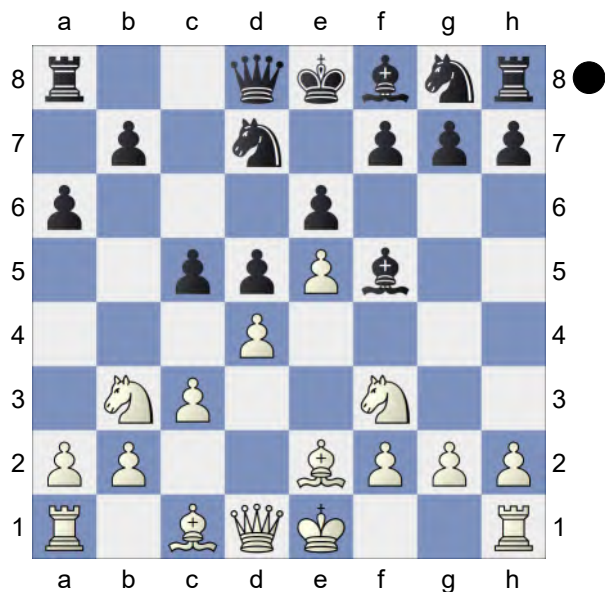
2740

2017

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nd2 e6
5.Nb3 Nd7



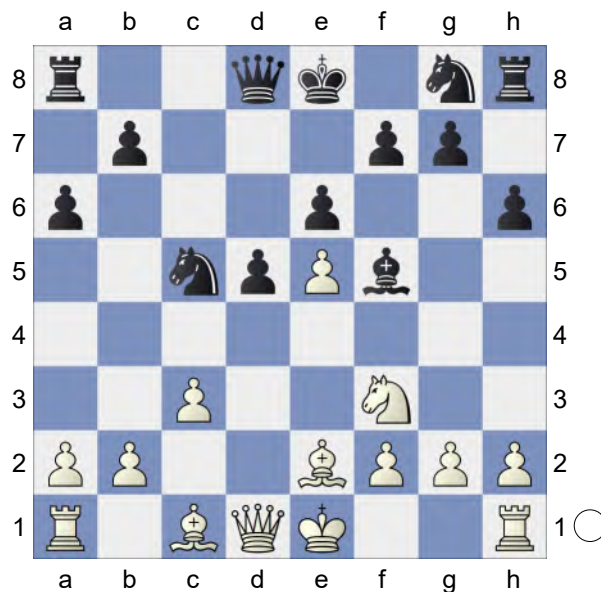
6.Nf3 a6 7.Be2 c5 8.c3 Diagram



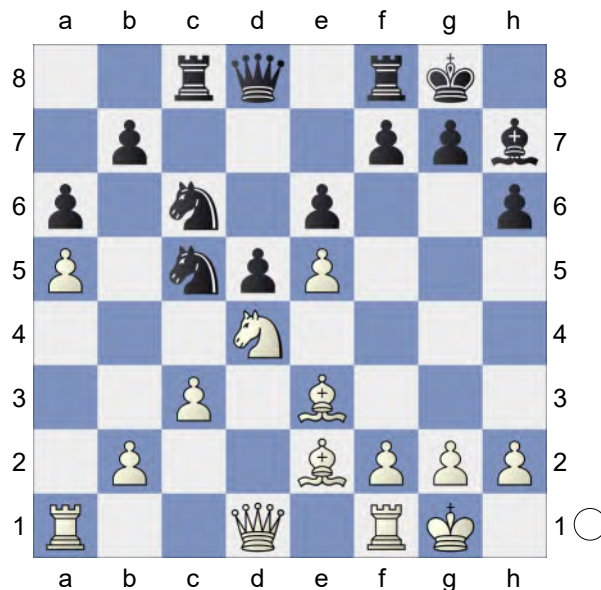
8...h6N

[8...c4 - 136/(45)]

9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.Nxc5 Nxc5



11.Be3 * 11...Rc8 12.0-0 Ne7 13.Nd4
0-0 14.a4 Bh7 15.a5 Nc6



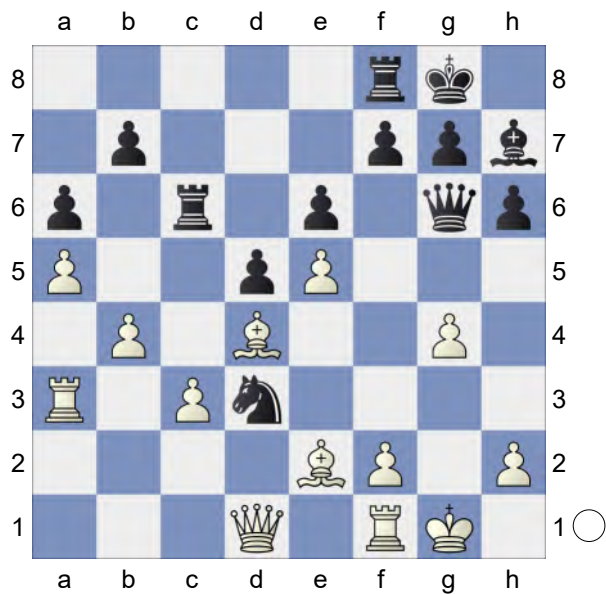
16.Nxc6 Rxc6 17.Bd4 Qg5 18.Ra3
[18.f4! Qf5 19.b4 Nd7 (19...Nd3?
20.Qd2+- Δ Rad1) 20.Ra2!?±]

18...Qf5

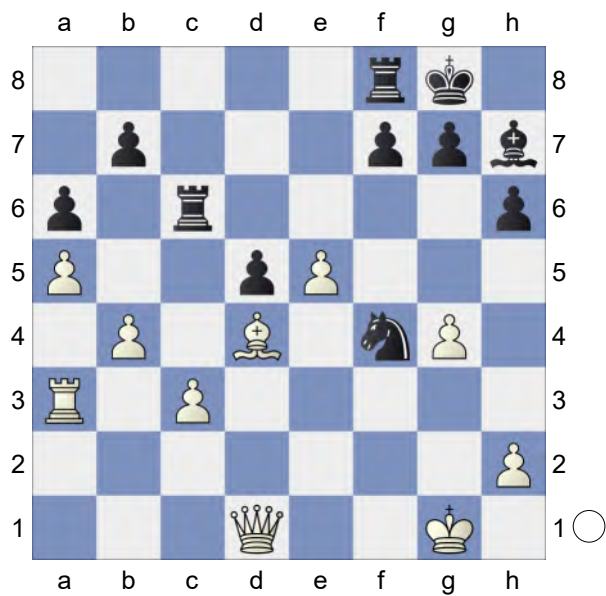
[18...Bf5 19.b4 Nd7 20.Re1 Qg6
21.h4↑]

19.b4 Nd3 20.g4 Qg6

(Diagram)



**21.f4 Qe4 22.Bf3 Qxf4 23.Bxd5 exd5
24.Rxf4 Nxf4**



195

□ Wei,Yi

■ Ganguly,Surya Shekhar

Liaocheng 132/118

[Tadic,Branko]

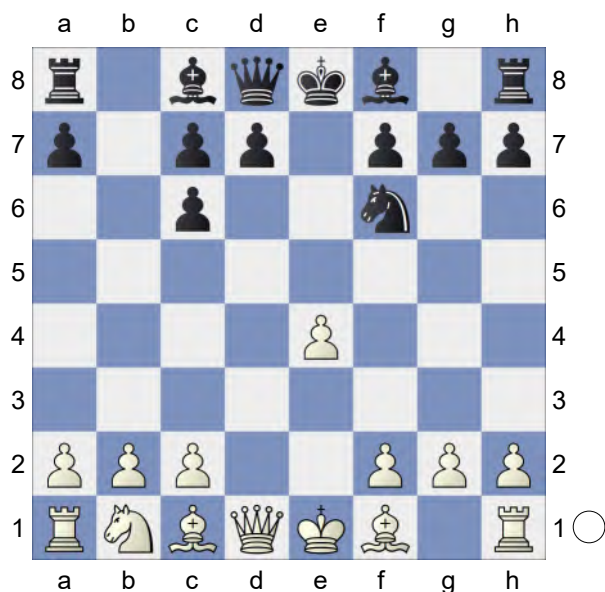
C45

2725

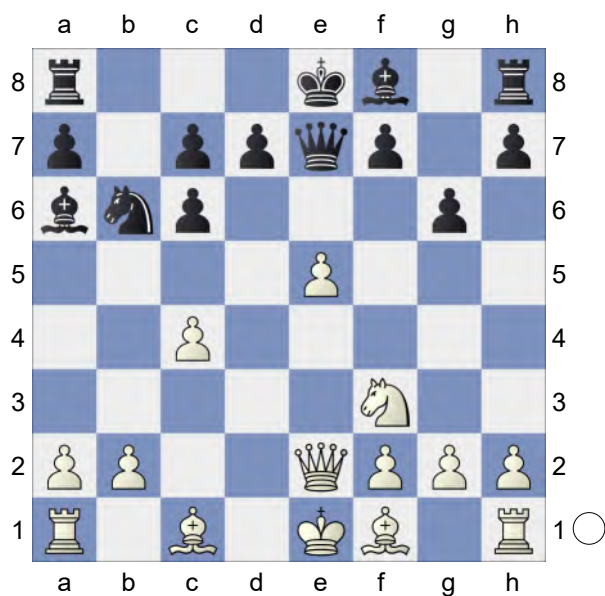
2644

2017

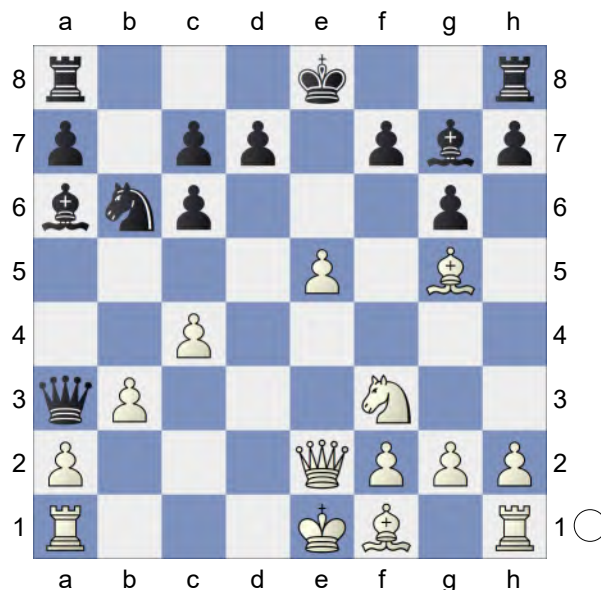
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nxc6 bxc6



6.e5 Qe7 7.Qe2 Nd5 8.Nd2 g6 9.c4
Ba6 10.Nf3
[10.b3 - 70/(298)]
10...Nb6



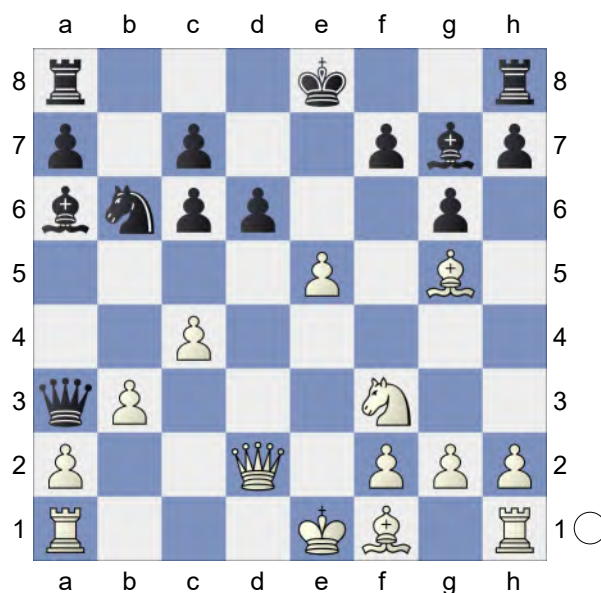
11.b3 Bg7 12.Bg5 Qa3 13.Bc1 Qe7
14.Bg5 Qa3 Diagram



15.Qd2!?N

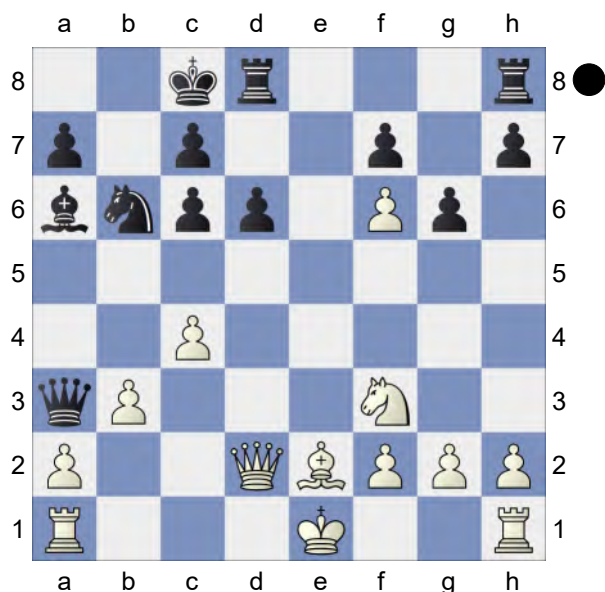
[15.Bc1=]

15...d6



16.Bf6 Bxf6 17.exf6 0-0-0 18.Be2
Diagram

(Diagram)



18...Rhe8

[18...d5! 19.0-0 dxc4 20.Qc3 Rhe8

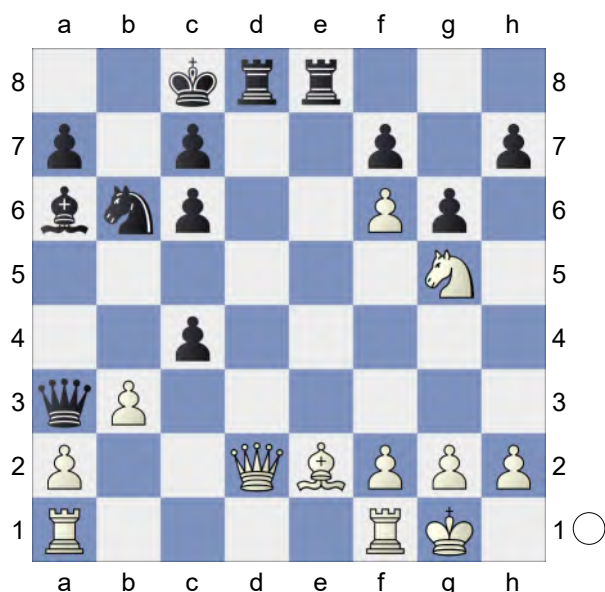
A) 21.Rfe1 Nd5 22.Qd4 Nb6
(22...c5!? 23.Qg4+ Kb8 24.bxc4
Nxf6 25.Qf4 Rd6 26.Rab1+ Kc8
27.Ne5 Rde6 28.Bf1 Bb7[∞])

A1) 23.Qg4+?! Kb7 24.bxc4
(24.Bxc4 Bxc4 25.bxc4 Rxe1+
26.Rxe1 Rd6⁷);

A2) 23.Qc3=;

B) 21.Ne5 Rd5 22.f4 g5[∞]]

19.0-0 d5 20.Ng5 dxc4



21.Qf4 Nd5

[21...Qd6! 22.Qg4+ (22.Qxd6 Rxd6
23.Rfe1 (Δ Bg4) Kb8⁷) 22...Rd7
23.Nxh7 (23.Nxf7? Qxf6-+) 23...Qe5
24.Bxc4 Nxc4 25.bxc4 Qe2
(25...Qh5 26.Qxh5 gxh5 27.Ng5
Bxc4[∞]) 26.Qh3 Bxc4 27.Ng5 Qe5
28.Rfd1 Bd5 29.Nxf7 Qxf6 30.Nh6
Qf4⁷]

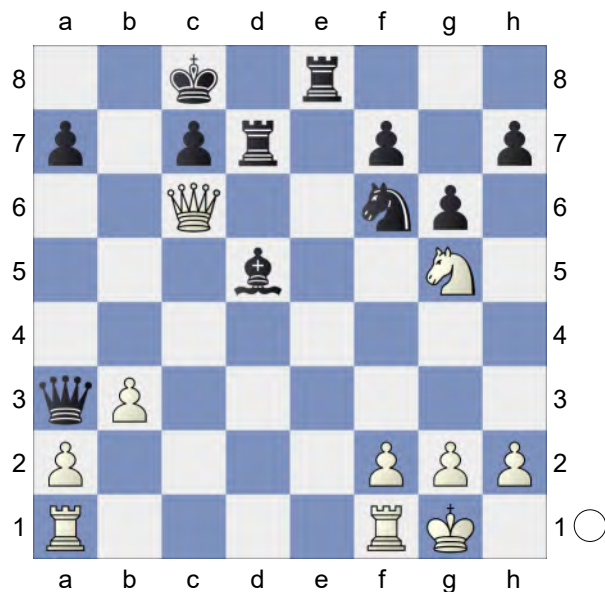
22.Qg4+ Rd7 23.Bxc4 Nxf6 24.Qf3

[24.Qh4=]

24...Bxc4 25.Qxc6

[25.bxc4? Qxf3 26.Nxf3 Ne4⁷]

25...Bd5

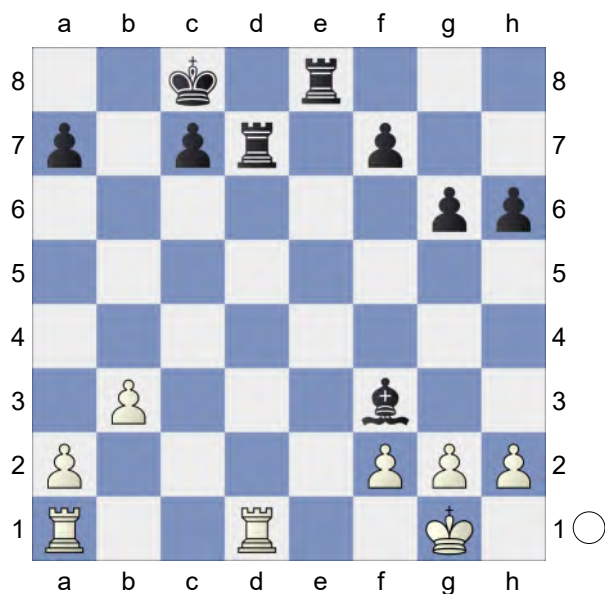


26.Qxf6 h6 27.Nf3 Qd6 28.Qc3

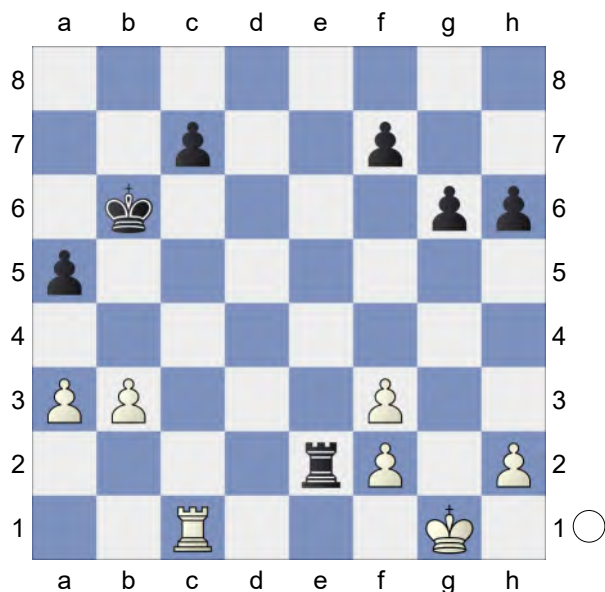
[28.Qxd6 Rxd6 29.Rfe1 Rxe1+
30.Rxe1 Bxf3 31.gxf3 Rd2⁷]

**28...Qc6 29.Qxc6 Bxc6⁷ 30.Rfd1
Bxf3**

(Diagram)



31.gxf3 Re2 32.Rxd7 Kxd7 33.Rd1+ Kc6 34.Rc1+ Kb6 35.a3 a5



36.Rc3 Ra2 37.a4 Rd2 38.Rc4 c5

[38...Rd3! 39.b4 (39.Rf4 f5 40.b4 c5!) 39...axb4 40.Rxb4+ Kc5 41.Rb5+ Kd6 42.Kg2 Ra3 43.a5 c5]

39.Re4 Rd3!

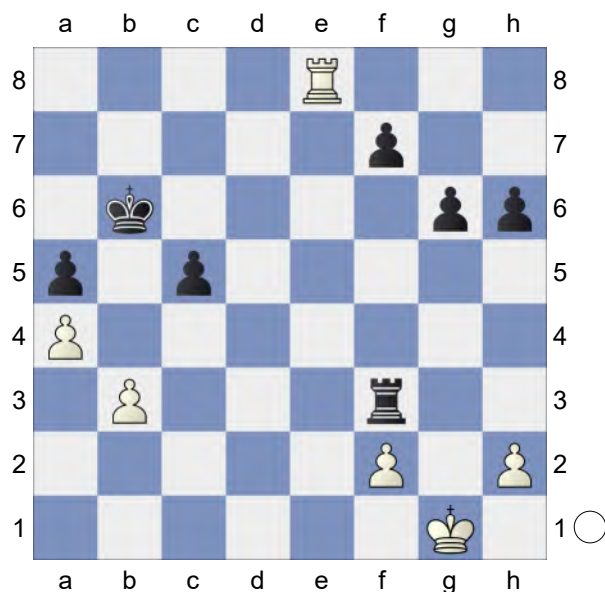
[39...Rd4 40.Re7 c4 41.bxc4 Rxc4 42.Rxf7 Rxa4 43.Rf6+ Kb5 44.Rxg6 Rc4 45.Rxh6 a4 46.Re6! a3 47.Re1 Kb4 48.Kg2 Kb3 49.Kg3 a2 50.h4 Kb2 51.h5 a1Q 52.Rxa1 Kxa1 53.f4

Kb2 54.Kg4 Kc3 55.h6 Kd4 56.h7 Rc8 57.Kf5 Kd5 58.Kg6 Ke6 59.f5+ Ke7 60.f6+ Ke6 61.Kg7

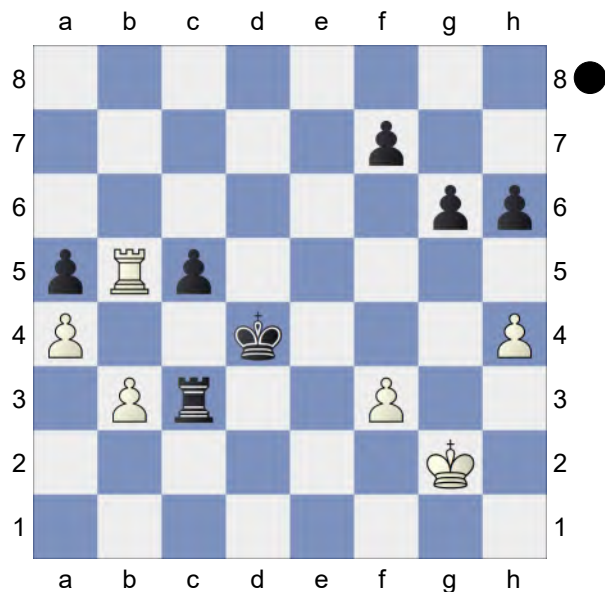
A) 61...Rb8 62.f4 (62.f7 Ke7 63.f4 Rf8=) 62...Rb7+ 63.Kg6 Rxh7 64.f5+ Ke5=;

B) 61...Rh8! 62.Kxh8 Kf7=]

40.Re8 Rxf3



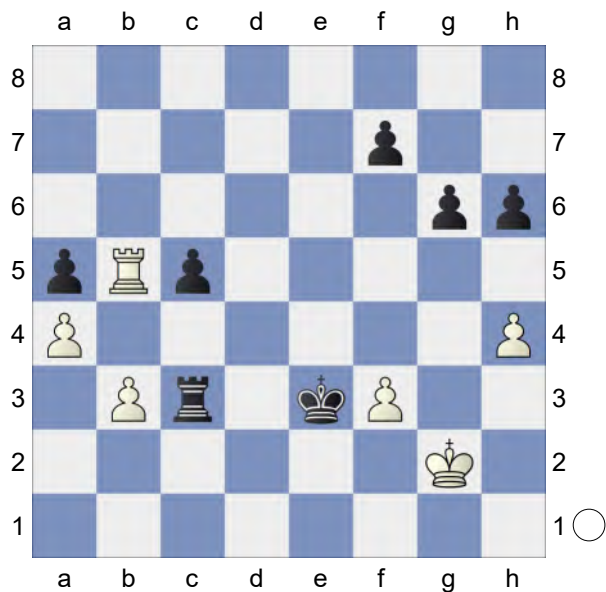
41.Rb8+ Kc6 42.Rb5 Kd5 43.Kg2 Rc3 44.h4 Kd4 45.f3 [Diagram](#)



45...Ke3?!

[45...h5! 46.Kg3 (46.Rxa5 Rxb3+; 46.Kf2 f5 47.Rb8 Ke5+) 46...Ke3

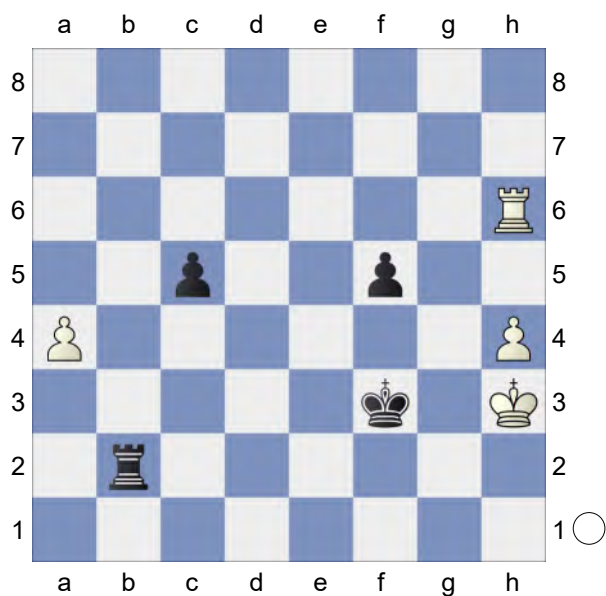
47.Rxa5 f5-+ 48.Ra6 f4+ 49.Kg2
 (49.Kh3 Kxf3 50.Rxg6 Ke2+-+)
 49...Rc2+ 50.Kh3 Kxf3 51.Rxg6 Rc3
 52.Rg2 Ke4+ 53.Kh2 Rxb3 54.Ra2
 c4 55.a5 c3 56.a6 Rb8-+
 (56...Rb2+ 57.Rxb2 cxb2 58.a7
 b1Q 59.a8Q+ $\mp$)]



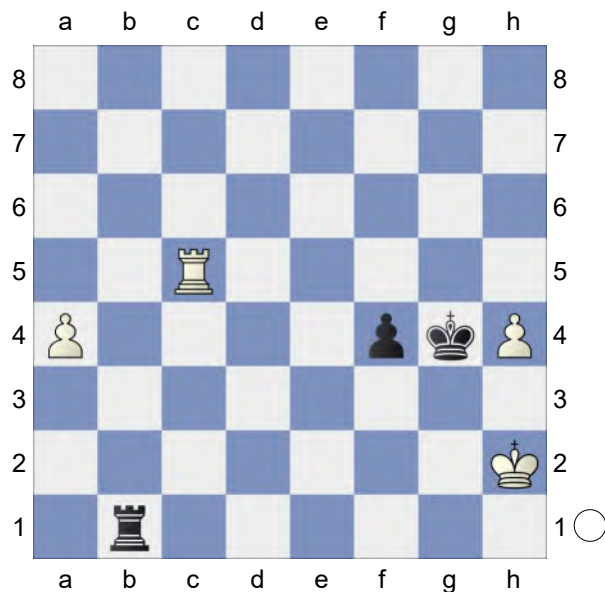
46.Rxa5 Kf4 47.Ra6 f5?

[Δ 47...Rxb3 48.Rf6+ Ke3 49.Rxf7
 Ra3 $\mp$]

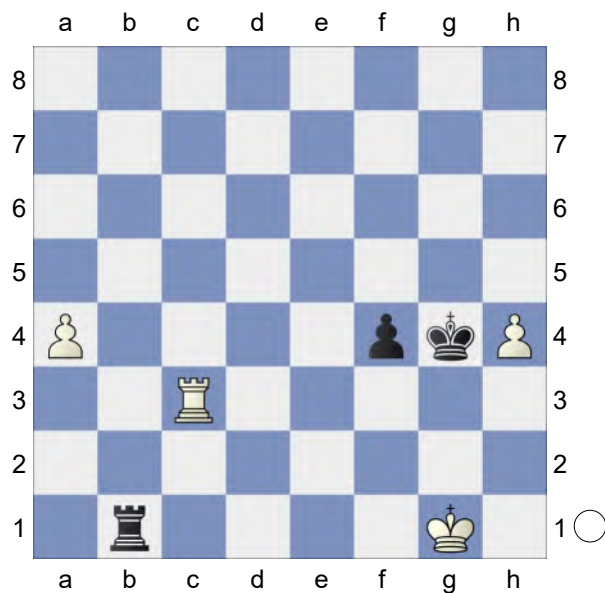
**48.Rxg6= Rxb3 49.Rxh6 Rb2+
 50.Kh3 Kxf3**



**51.Rc6 Rb1 52.Kh2 Rb2+ 53.Kh3
 Rb1 54.Kh2 Kg4 55.Rxc5 f4**



**56.Rc3 Rb2+ 57.Kg1 Rb1+ 58.Kg2
 Rb2+ 59.Kg1 Rb1+**



1/2-1/2

125

□ Wei,Yi

■ Ding,Liren

Baku (m/5-blitz) 126/96

[Tadic,Branko]

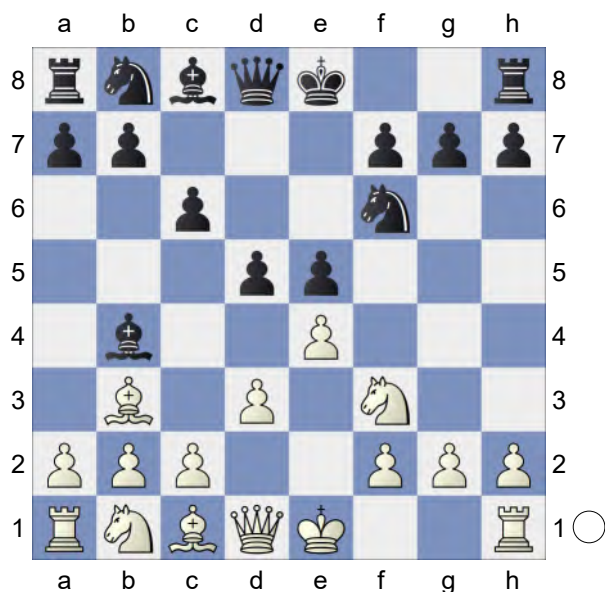
C24

2734

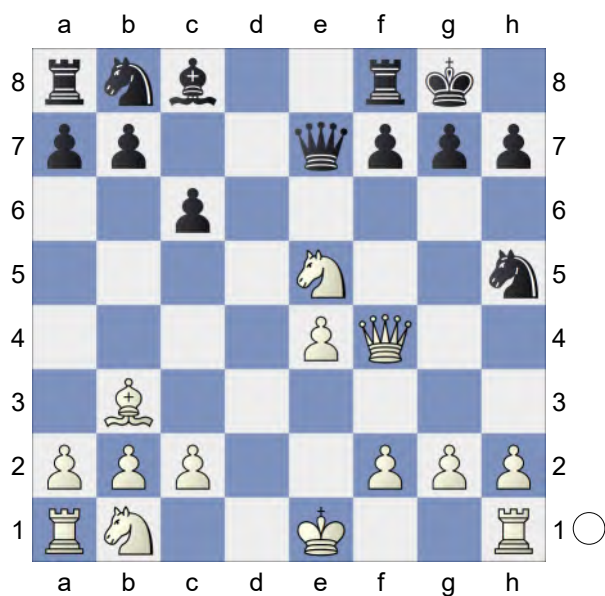
2782

2015

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5
5.Bb3 Bb4+



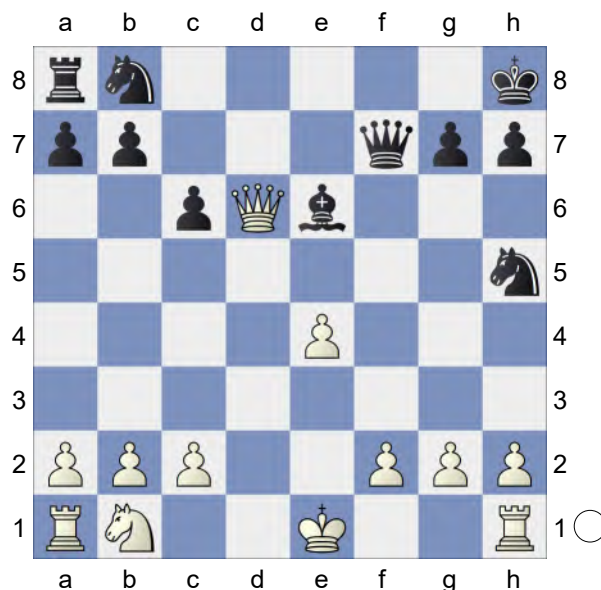
6.Bd2 Bxd2+ 7.Qxd2 dxe4 8.Nxe5
0-0 9.dxe4
[9.Nxf7 - 98/(219)]
9...Qe7 10.Qf4 Nh5



11.Bxf7+ Kh8

[11...Qxf7 12.Qxf7+ Rxf7 13.Nxf7
Kxf7 14.Nc3 Nd7 15.0-0-0 Ke7
(15...Ne5 16.f4±)]

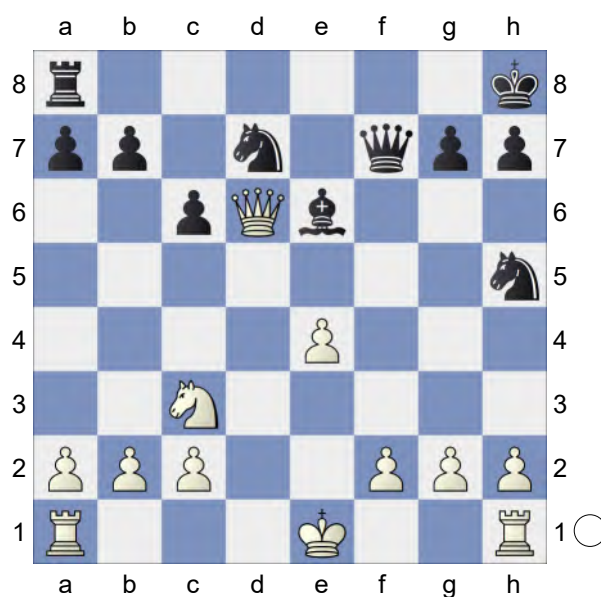
12.Qg3 Rxf7 13.Nxf7+ Qxf7 14.Qd6
Be6 Diagram



15.Nc3N

[15.Qd8+ Qg8 16.Qxg8+ Kxg8
17.Nc3 Nd7 18.0-0-0 Ne5 19.b3±]
[15.Nd2]

15...Nd7



16.0-0-0 Re8 17.Rhf1

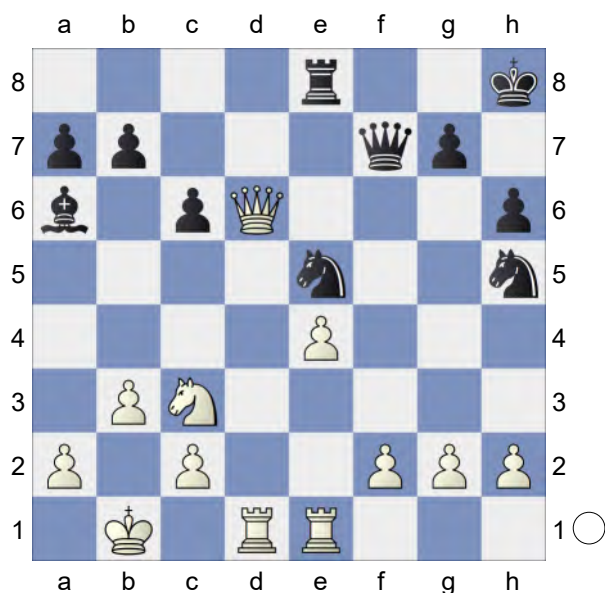
[17.f3 Nf4 18.g3 Nh3 19.f4! Bg4

(19...Nf2 20.f5 Bc4 21.Qxd7 Qxd7
22.Rxd7 Nxh1 23.Rxb7±) 20.Rd4±]

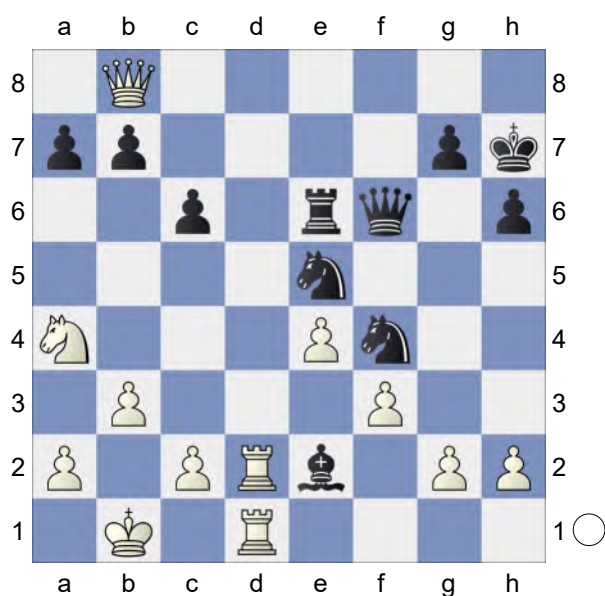
**17...Bc4 18.Rfe1 Ne5 19.b3 Ba6
20.Kb1**

[20.f3 Nf4 21.Rd2 Qh5 22.Kb1±
△Qxh2? 23.Qxe5!+-]

20...h6



**21.f3 Nf4 22.Rd2 Kh7 23.Red1 Re6
24.Qb8 Qf6 25.Na4 Be2**



26.Rc1?!

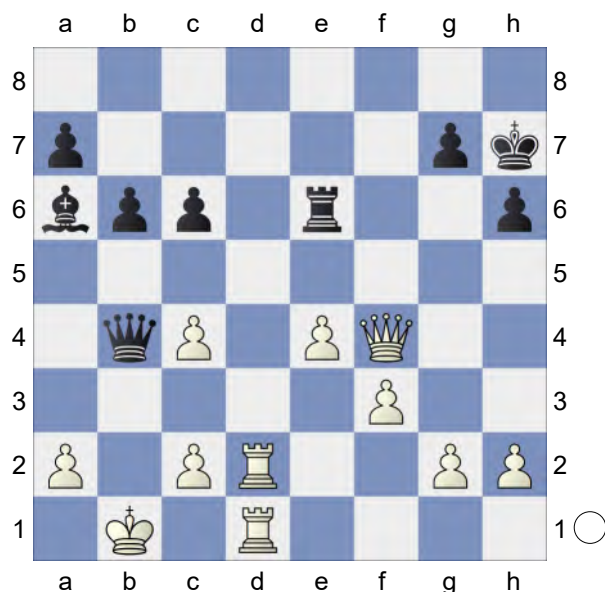
[△26.Re1 Bxf3 (26...Bb5 27.Nc5
Re7 28.a4±) 27.Rf1 Bxe4 28.Nc5
Bxc2+ 29.Rxc2 Re7 30.g3 Ned3!

31.gxf4 Nb4 32.Rd2 (32.Rc4?
Re2+) 32...Qf5+ 33.Kb2 Qxc5
34.Qd6 Qxd6 35.Rxd6 Re2+ 36.Kb1
Rxb2 37.Rd7 Nxa2 38.Rf3±
(38.Rxb7 Nc3+ 39.Kc1 Na2+
40.Kd1 Nc3+ 41.Kc1=)]

26...b6 27.Nc3 Ba6

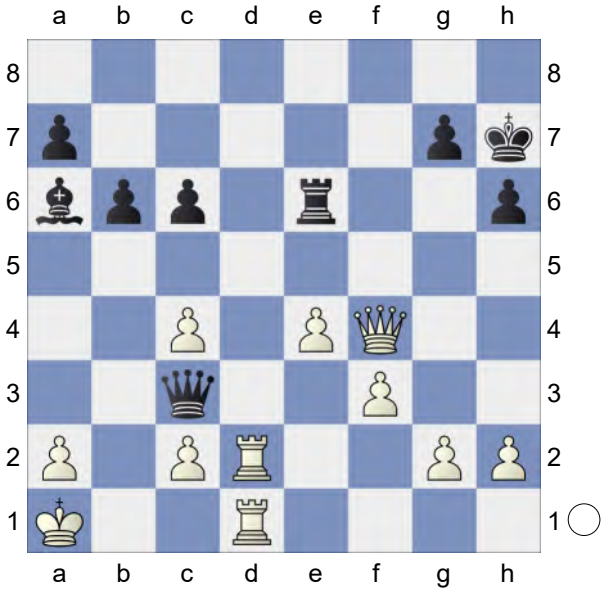
[27...Nc4 28.bxc4 Qxc3 29.Qxf4
Qb4+ (29...Bxc4 30.Qf5+ Rg6
31.Rd3 Bxd3 32.cxd3 Qxd3+
33.Rc2=) 30.Ka1 Qc3+ 31.Kb1
Qb4+=]

**28.Rcd1 Nc4 29.bxc4 Qxc3 30.Qxf4
Qb4+**



31.Ka1 Qc3+

(Diagram)



$\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$

235

□ Wang, Yue

■ Wei, Yi

126/9 Chiva

[Tadic, Branko]

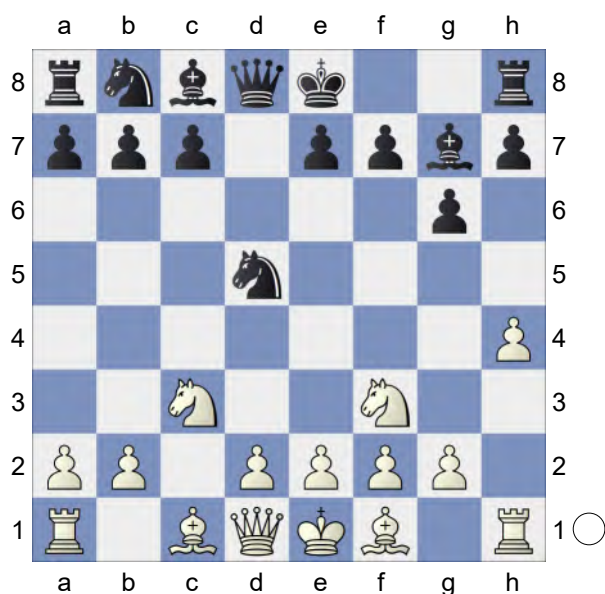
A16

2721

2725

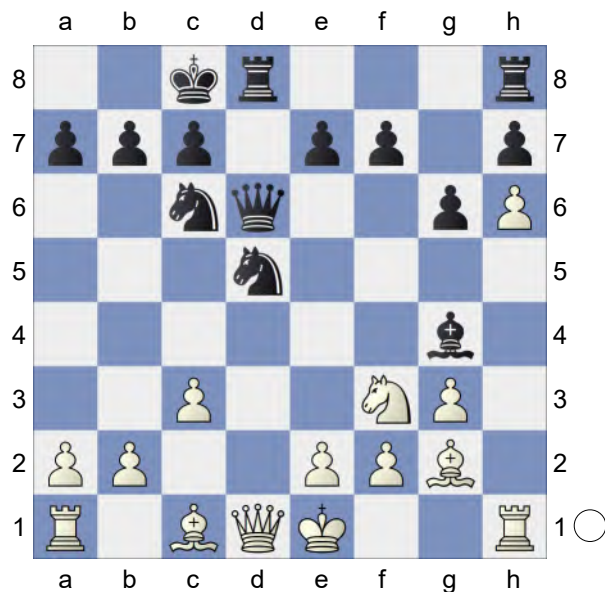
2015

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5
Nxd5 5.h4 Bg7



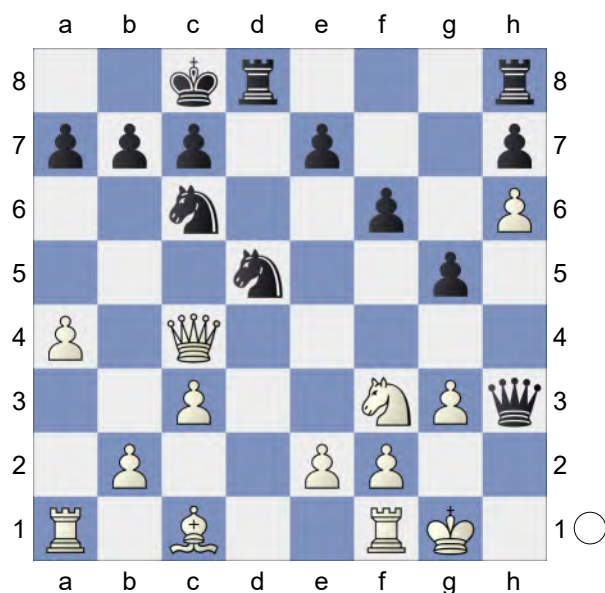
6.h5 Nc6 7.g3 Bg4 8.h6 Bxc3
9.dxc3
[9.bxc3 - 78/(11)]
9...Qd6N
[9...Qd7]
10.Bg2 0-0-0

(Diagram)



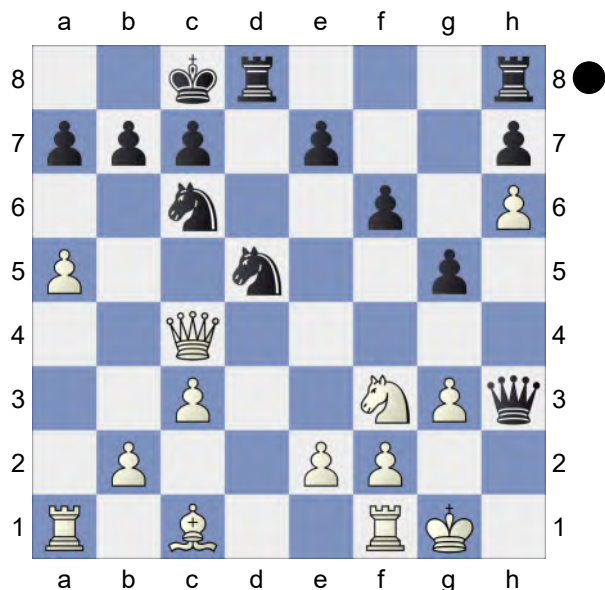
11.Qa4 Qe6 12.0-0 f6 13.Qc4?!
[13.Nd4 Nxd4 14.cxd4 Bxe2 15.Re1
Qa6 16.Qc2 Bb5 17.a4 Bd3 18.Qc5
e6 19.Bd2]

13...Bh3 14.Bxh3 Qxh3 15.a4 g5



16.a5 Diagram

(Diagram)



16...Rhg8?

[16...a6! 17.b4 Rd6! Δ18.Re1 Ne5!→]

17.a6 Nb6 18.Qe4 Rd5 19.Qxh7 Rgd8 20.Re1

[20.axb7+ Kxb7

A) 21.Be3!? Nc4 22.Bxa7!
(22.Bd4 Nd6∞) 22...Nxa7 23.Qe4 Nb6 24.c4 f5 25.Qc2 R5d6 26.Rxa7+ Kxa7 27.c5 Rxh6 28.cxb6+ Kxb6 29.Qb3+ Ka7 (29...Kc6? 30.Ne5+ Kd6 31.Nf7+-) 30.Ra1+ Ra6 31.Rxa6+ Kxa6 32.Nxg5∞;

B) 21.Re1 Rf5

B1) 22.Nd4

B1a) 22...Rxf2!? 23.Kxf2 Qh2+ 24.Kf1 (24.Ke3? Qxg3+ 25.Kd2 Nxd4 26.cxd4 Rxd4+ 27.Kc2 Qxe1-+) 24...Qh1+ 25.Kf2 Qh2+=;

B1b) 22...Nxd4 23.cxd4 Rxd4 24.Qxe7 g4 25.Be3 Rh5 26.Rxa7+ Kxa7 27.Qxc7+ Ka6 28.Qc6 Qh2+ 29.Kf1

B1b1) 29...Qh1+ 30.Qxh1 Rxh1+ 31.Kg2 Rxh6 (31...Rxe1 32.Bxd4 Rxe2

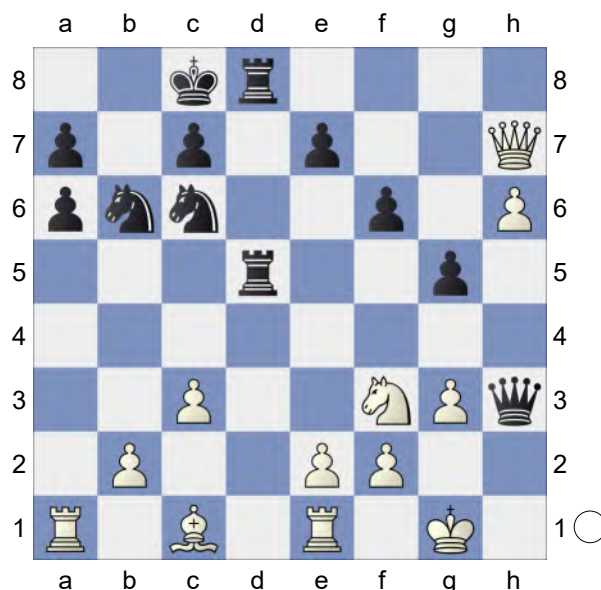
33.h7 Re8 34.Bxf6+-)

32.Bxd4+-;

B1b2) 29...Qh3+ 30.Kg1=;

B2) 22.b4 Nd5 23.Bd2 Nf4 (23...Ne5!?) 24.Bxf4 gxf4 25.b5! Rh5 26.bxc6+ Kc8 27.Nh4 fxg3 28.fxg3 Qxg3+ 29.Ng2 Rdd5 30.Qh8+ Rd8 31.Qh7=]

20...bxa6



21.b3

[21.b4!? Ne5 22.Be3 Ng4 (22...Nbc4 23.Qe4 Nxe3 24.Nxe5 fxe5 25.Qxe3↑) 23.Bc5∞]

21...Rf5 22.Nd4

[22.c4? Rxf3! 23.exf3 Nd4 24.Qd3 e5≠]

22...Nxd4

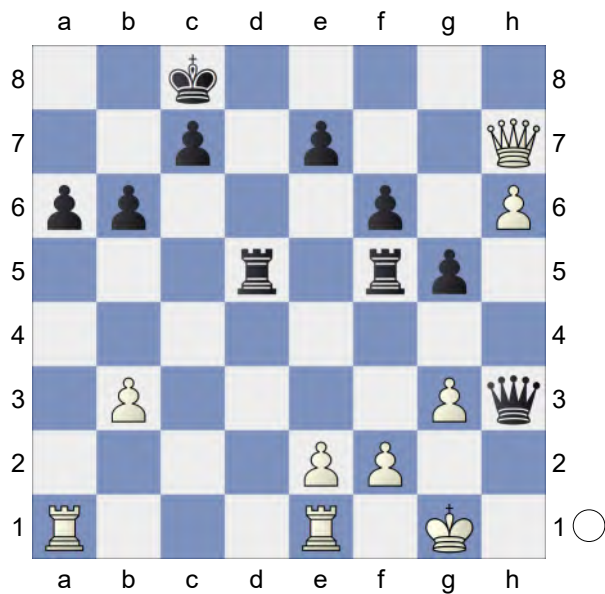
[22...Rxf2=]

23.cxd4 Rxd4 24.Be3 Rdd5?

[24...Rh4 25.gxh4 Qg4+ 26.Kh2 Qxh4+ 27.Kg2 Qg4+=]

25.Bxb6 axb6 Diagram

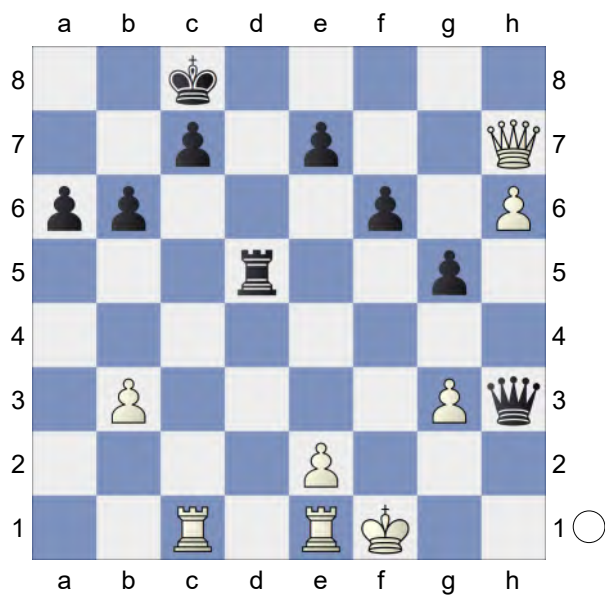
(Diagram)

**26.Rac1?**

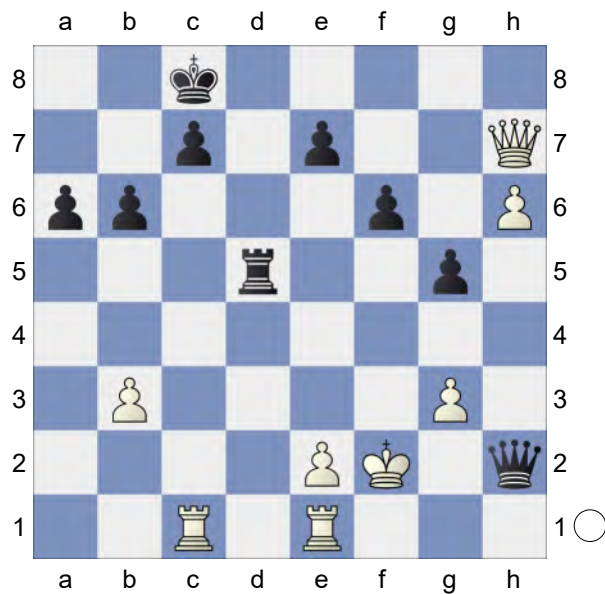
[26.Qg8+! Kb7 27.Rec1 Qxh6
 (27...Rxf2? 28.Qxd5+-) 28.Rxa6!
 Kxa6 29.Qa8+-]

26...Rxf2 27.Kxf2 Qh2+ 28.Kf1

[28.Kf3? g4+ 29.Kxg4 (29.Ke4
 Qg2+ 30.Kf4 Qf2+ 31.Kxg4
 Rg5+-) 29...Rg5+ 30.Kf4 Qxg3+-]

28...Qh1+ 29.Kf2 Qh2+ 30.Kf1 Qh3+**31.Kf2 Qh2+**

(Diagram)



1/2-1/2

261

□ Wang, Yue

■ Wei, Yi

Danzhou 126/(9)

[Tadic, Branko]

A16

2716

2724

2015

David Cummings: 'En route to a dominant tournament victory in Danzhou, Wang Yue faced the 16-year old emerging superstar Wei Yi in the 3rd round. This was the day after Wei Yi had beaten Bruzon in a brilliant king-hunt which has already been dubbed the Game of the Century. Using an original move order in the Pseudo-Grinfeld, Wang Yue managed to steer the game into a queenless middlegame where he was in his element. From there he confidently outplayed his young opponent.' Fischer, Johannes: 'David Cummings: 'The game started with the common move order '' Fischer, Johannes: 'Tadic, Branko: 'David Cummings: 'The game started with the common move order''' **1.Nf3**

[1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.cxd5 Nxd5 4.Nf3 1-0 (43) Wang Yue-Wei Yi 35: Danzhou 2015 OR: The English [David Cummings]]

1...Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5

Fischer, Johannes: 'David Cummings: '." Fischer, Johannes: 'Tadic, Branko: 'David Cummings: '.'" **5.h4** David Cummings: 'At first sight, this looks like an aggressive attempt to blow Black out of the water, but Wang Yue has a more subtle plan in mind.'

[Fischer, Johannes: 'To understand the course of the game, it is necessary to review the line with an immediate' David Cummings: 'To understand the course of the game, it is necessary to

review the line with an immediate' 5.e4 Nxc3 6.dxc3 Qxd1+ 7.Kxd1 which was pioneered by Ulf Andersson in the late 70s and early 80s. In this position Fischer, Johannes: 'which was pioneered by Ulf Andersson in the late 70s and early 80s. In this position' David Cummings: 'which was pioneered by Ulf Andersson in the late 70s and early 80s. In this position' Bg7 is regarded as inferior or even an outright mistake! See the game Batchuluun-Li Chao in the archives for further details. (The best response for Black here is 7...f6! when the game Kekelidze-Robson World Open Philadelphia, 2012 showed Black's idea of trading the dark squared bishops with Fischer, Johannes: ', with the idea of trading the dark-squared bishops, is the best response for Black, for example' David Cummings: ', with the idea of trading the dark-squared bishops, is the best response for Black, for example' 8.Be3 e5 9.Kc2 Nd7 10.Nd2 Bc5 - see the notes on this game in the PGN archive for more background on this line. Fischer, Johannes: 'and Black is fine.')]

5...Bg7

[Fischer, Johannes: 'Alternatives are: ' 5...h6

A) 6.e4 Perhaps this is where Wang Yue drew his inspiration from - L'Ami shows the idea of h2-h4 followed by e2-e4 having provoked ...h7-h6 Fischer, Johannes: '. This line is similar to 5 e4, but with h2-h4 andh7-h6 inserted. This makes a small but significant difference. Now Black has:' David Cummings: '.

This line is similar to 5 e4, but with h2-h4 andh7-h6 inserted. This makes a small but significant difference. Now Black has: 'Nxc3 (6...Nb6 gives White a kind of ideal Grünfeld where Black has not challenged White's pawn centre. An example featuring Bent Larsen continued David Cummings: 'gives White a kind of ideal Grünfeld where Black has not challenged White's pawn centre. An example featuring Bent Larsen continued' 7.d4 Bg7 8.Be3 Bg4 9.Qd2 Bxf3 10.gxf3 e6 11.0-0-0 Nc6 12.Bb5 Qf6 13.Qe2 a6 14.Bxc6+ bxc6 15.h5 and White generated a strong attack in B.Larsen-Z.Franco Ocampos, Buenos Aires 1979.) 7.dxc3 Qxd1+ 8.Kxd1 Fischer,Johannes: 'and now:'

A1) Here 8...f6 doesn't make sense because of Fischer, Johannes: 'is much less effective than in the note to White's 5th move, since Black's light squares have been compromised by the combination of 5...h6 and 8...f6. White can continue' David Cummings: 'is much less effective than in the note to White's 5th move, since Black's light squares have been compromised by the combination of 5...h6 and 8...f6. White can continue' 9.h5 (9.Bc4 e5 10.h5 g5 11.Be3 Nd7 12.Nd2 Bc5 13.Nf1 and White's light square control gives him a slight advantage. David Cummings: 'and White's light square control gives him a slight advantage.');

A2) 8...Bg4 9.Kc2

Fischer,Johannes: 'and practice has seen: ' Bxf3 (or 9...Nd7 10.Be3 Bxf3 11.gxf3 e5 12.Bh3 Bd6 , P.Eljanov-E.Sutovsky, Netanya (blitz) 2009, and now David Cummings: ', P.Eljanov-E. Sutovsky, Netanya (blitz) 2009, and now' 13.Rad1 is a little better for White) 10.gxf3 h5 11.f4 Nd7 12.f5 with a slight edge for White was Naiditsch, A (2687)-Ni, H (2657) Wijk aan Zee 2010 1/2-1/2 (52) Fischer, Johannes: 'opening the position for the two bishops gave White a slight edge in A.Naiditsch-Ni Hua, Wijk aan Zee 2010.' David Cummings: 'opening the position for the two bishops gave White a slight edge in A.Naiditsch-Ni Hua, Wijk aan Zee 2010.';

A3) 8...Nd7 9.Bf4 c6 10.Bc4 Bg7 11.Kc2 Nc5 12.Nd2 Be6 13.f3 b6 14.a4 Bxc4 15.Nxc4 0-0-0 16.h5 g5 17.Be5 and White is better, L'Ami, E (2615)-Negi, P (2621) Wijk aan Zee 2010 1-0 (35) Fischer, Johannes: 'and White is better due to Black's pawn weaknesses, E.l'Ami-P.Negi, Wijk aan Zee 2010. ' David Cummings: 'and White is better due to Black's pawn weaknesses, E.l'Ami-P. Negi, Wijk aan Zee 2010.';

B) 6.d3 was played in another recent game of Wang Yue: 6...Bg7 7.Bd2 c5 8.g3 Nc6 9.Bg2 e6 10.0-0 b6 11.Nxd5 exd5 12.Bc3 0-0 with equality, Wang, Y (2726)-Zeng, C (2541) China 2015 1/2-1/2 (31)]

[Fischer,Johannes: 'and' 5...Nf6

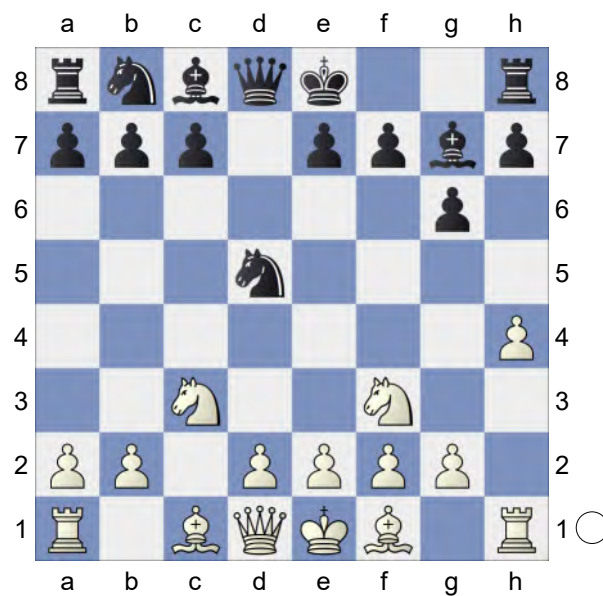
Fischer,Johannes: 'are covered in the next game.' David Cummings: 'are covered in the next game.' 6.d4 is featured in Piket-Svidler and Zvjaginsev-Najer in the Archives]

[5...h5 White can again try the plan with e2-e4 and dxc3, although this has hardly been seen in practice. One example: Fischer,Johannes: 'and White can again try the plan with ' 6.e4 Nxc3 7.dxc3 Qxd1+ 8.Kxd1 Fischer,Johannes: ', for example ' Bg4 9.Kc2 Nd7 10.Be3 (10.Ng5 f6 11.f3 fxe5 12.fxe4 gxe4 13.Rxe4 with a powerful pin on the h-file, D. Forcen Esteban-R.Perez Garcia, Lorca 2015. David Cummings: 'with a powerful pin on the h-file, D.Forcen Esteban-R.Perez Garcia, Lorca 2015. ') 10...e5 11.Bc4 Bxf3 12.gxf3 Bc5 Raineri de Luca, P (2275)-Vila Gazquez, X (2456) Catalunya 2012, 1/2 - 1/2 (53), and here 13.a4 is a little better for White]

[5...Nc6 , and now White can try David Cummings: ', and now White can try' 6.e4 , for example Ndb4 7.d3 Bg4 8.a3 Bxf3 9.gxf3 Na6 10.Be3 Bg7 11.f4 (11.h5 immediately looks best) 11...Nd4 12.h5 c6?! 13.h6 Bf8 14.Qa4 , and White has the initiative due to Black's stalled development, T. Lei-R.Padmini, Al Ain 2015.]

[5...Nxc3]

(Diagram)



* Fischer,Johannes: 'Tadic,Branko: '"
6.e4 David Cummings: 'White's idea is to enter an improved version of the queenless middlegame. Since Black's bishop is committed to the g7-square, the equalizing plan given in the note to White's 5th move is not available.'

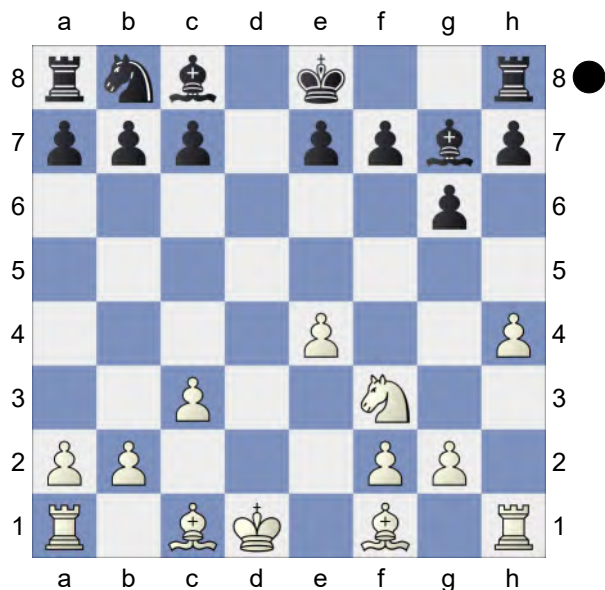
[6.h5 is covered in Vallejo Pons-Safarli and Shimanov-Mchedlishvili - see PGN Archives Fischer,Johannes: 'is a major alternative that keeps the queens on the board and leads to a dynamic game, for example ' David Cummings: 'is a major alternative that keeps the queens on the board and leads to a dynamic game, for example' Nc6 7.g3 Bg4 8.h6 Bxc3 9.dxc3 Qd6 10.Bg2 0-0-0 with chances for both sides, Ding Liren-Wei Yi, FIDE World Cup, Baku 2015.]

6...Nxc3N Fischer,Johannes: 'Tadic, Branko: 'N"

[Fischer,Johannes: 'The knight retreat ' 6...Nb6 Fischer,Johannes: 'again gives White the centre. After ' 7.d4 Bg4 8.Be3 0-0 9.Qd2 Bxf3 10.gxf3 e5 11.d5 h5 12.Bg5 Qd6?! (12...Bf6 13.0-0-0±

Fischer,Johannes: 'is slightly better for White') 13.Nb5 Qd7 14.Rc1 c6 15.Bh3 and White is on top, Zhou, J (2652)-Li, C (2619) Danzhou 2010 Fischer,Johannes: 'and White's bishops leap into action, Zhou Jianchao-Li Chao, Danzhou 2010.']

7.dxc3 Qxd1+ 8.Kxd1 Diagram



David Cummings: 'Black has a wide choice here.' Fischer,Johannes: 'Tadic, Branko: 'Diagram [#]'' 8...b6 David Cummings: 'Black is likely better off not touching his queenside pawns for now, as in the game his weakened structure becomes a target.'

[Fischer,Johannes: 'Other tries: ' Fischer,Johannes: 'David Cummings: 'Other tries: ' '8...Nd7 Fischer,Johannes: 'is probably the most solid. Now White can choose: ' David Cummings: 'is probably the most solid. Now White can choose: ']

A) 9.h5 is my recommendation, disrupting Black's kingside with the h-pawn. Play could continue David Cummings: 'is my recommendation, disrupting Black's kingside with the h-pawn. Play could continue' Nc5

(or 9...Nf6 10.h6 Bf8 11.Bd3 and White leads in development) 10.h6 Bf8 11.e5 and now:

A1) 11...Bg4 12.Be3 Bxf3+ (12...0-0-0+ 13.Kc1 Nd3+ 14.Kc2 Bf5 15.Kb3!? Be6+ 16.c4 and White is better in this unusual endgame) 13.gxf3 e6 14.Kc2 Nd7 15.Rd1 Nxe5 16.Bd4 f6 17.Bh3 Bd6 18.f4 Nd7 19.Bxe6 and White won in Bai Jinshi-Gao,Rui, Shenzhen (rapid) 2016. David Cummings: 'and White won in Bai Jinshi-Gao, Rui, Shenzhen (rapid) 2016.:'

A2) 11...Bf5 12.Be3 Nd3 13.Bxd3 Bxd3 14.Ke1 b6 15.Rd1 Rd8 and now 16.Rh4, activating the h1-rook, gives White an edge here. David Cummings: ', activating the h1-rook, gives White an edge here.:'

B) 9.Bc4 Nf6 (9...Nc5 10.Re1 Bd7 with a solid position) 10.Re1 Ng4 11.Ke2 Bd7 12.a4 Fischer,Johannes: ', Ni Hua-Wei Yi, Danzhou 2015 and now ' Fischer, Johannes: 'David Cummings: ', Ni Hua-Wei Yi, Danzhou 2015 and now" e6 (12...Rf8 is OK for Black according to Mikhalevski. David Cummings: 'is OK for Black according to Mikhalevski.:' 12...--) 13.h5 0-0-0 14.Rh1 f5 15.Ng5 Rde8 16.hxg6 hxg6 17.Rxh8 Bxh8 18.f3 Ne5 19.Bb3±]

[8...Bg4 9.Kc2 and now Black has tried a number of moves:

A) 9...Nd7 10.Be3 with a further branch:

A1) 10...Nf6 11.Nd2 Be6 12.f3 Nh5 13.Bb5+ c6 14.Bc4 Bxc4

15.Nxc4 f5 16.exf5 Ng3
 17.Rhe1 Nxf5 18.Rad1 Bf6
 19.Bg5 Bxg5 20.hxg5 Rd8
 , Q. Le - A. Gupta, Asian
 Championship, Al Ain 2015, and
 now 21.Rxd8+ Kxd8 22.Rh1!
 and White is clearly better
 because of Black's weak pawns
 and passive h8-rook David
 Cummings: 'and White is clearly
 better because of Black's weak
 pawns and passive h8-rook'
 (22.--);

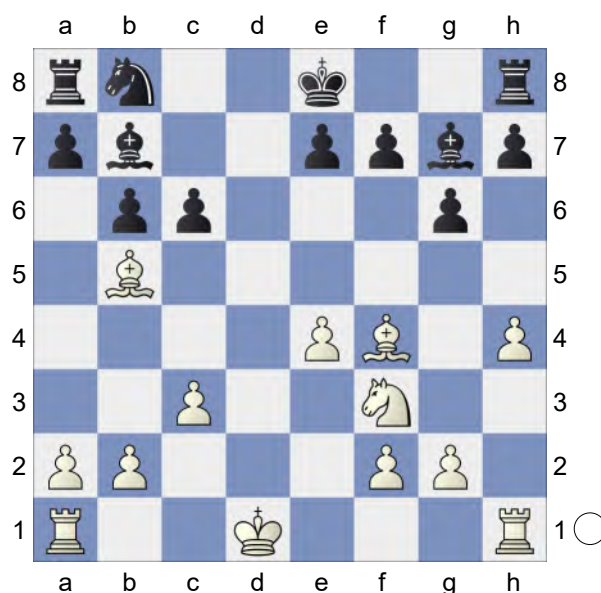
A2) 10...e5 11.Bc4 Bxf3
 12.gxf3 h5 13.Rad1 Nb6
 14.Bb3 Bh6 15.a4 Nc8?!
 16.Rd5 f6 17.Rhd1 Nd6 18.Bc5
 0-0-0 19.Bxa7 with a clear extra
 pawn for White, B.Adhiban-A.
 Puranik, Doha 2015.;

B) 9...Bxf3 10.gxf3 Nd7 11.h5
 0-0-0 12.Be3 a6 13.a4 Bf6 14.f4
 e5?! 15.fxe5 Nxe5 16.f4 Ng4
 17.Bc5 Bg7 18.e5 Kb8 19.Be2
 and White's rampant bishops give
 him a great position, B.Deac-E.
 Karavade, Zalakaros 2016. David
 Cummings: 'and White's rampant
 bishops give him a great position,
 B. Deac-E.Karavade, Zalakaros 2016.
 ';

C) 9...Nc6 10.Be3 Ne5 11.Nxe5
 Bxe5 12.Bb5+ c6 13.Bc4 h5
 14.f3 Be6 15.Bxe6 fxe6 16.Rad1
 Bd6 17.Rd3 e5 18.c4 c5 19.Rd5
 with a big advantage for White,
 since the d6-bishop is just a big
 pawn in this position, Bai Jinshi-M.
 Turov, Graz 2016. David
 Cummings: 'with a big advantage
 for White, since the d6-bishop is
 just a big pawn in this position,
 Bai Jinshi-M.Turov, Graz 2016.']

9.Bf4 Bb7 10.Bb5+ David Cummings:
 '!' David Cummings: 'White provokes
 Black's next.' **10...c6**

[Fischer,Johannes: 'The alternative
 was' 10...Nd7 11.Ne5 Bxe5 12.Bxe5
 f6 13.Bxc7 Bxe4 14.f3 when White's
 two bishops give him the better game
 Fischer,Johannes: ', when White's
 two bishops give him the better game.'
 David Cummings: ', when White's two
 bishops give him the better game.']



David Cummings: 'This loosens Black's
 queenside structure and also blocks his
 b7-bishop for now.' **11.Be2**

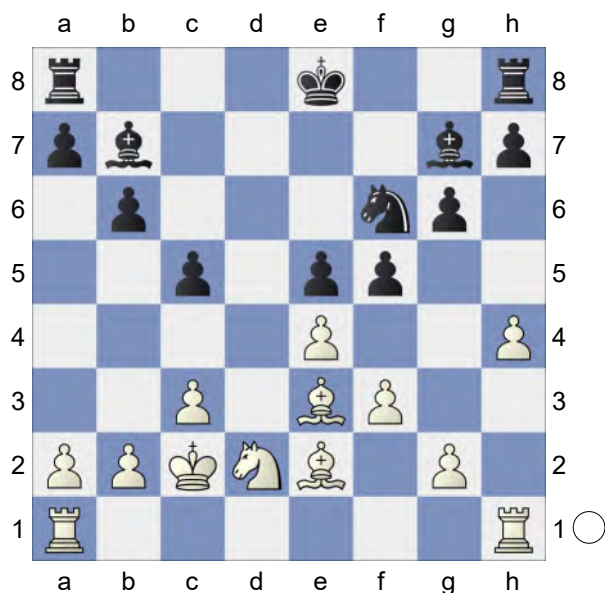
[11.Bc4 is more active Fischer,
 Johannes: 'is more active, although
 Wang Yue repeated 11 Be2 in a later
 game.' David Cummings: 'is more
 active, although Wang Yue repeated
 11 Be2 in a later game.']

11...Nd7

[Instead, 11...Ba6?! 12.a4 (12.h5
 also looks good) 12...0-0 13.a5 Rd8+
 14.Nd2 Bxe2+ 15.Kxe2 Nd7
 16.Rhd1 Be5 17.Be3 Bc7 18.Nb3
 and White retained his slight pull,
 Wang Yue-P.Maghsoodloo, Abu

Dhabi 2016.]

12.Kc2 e5 13.Be3 c5 14.Nd2 f5 15.f3 Nf6



16.Bd3 0-0 17.a4 David Cummings: 'White initiates a typical pawn lever against Black's queenside structure. White stands slightly better.' Fischer, Johannes: 'The queens are off the board but White manages to keep Black under pressure and plays on both wings.'

[David Cummings: 'Wang Yue didn't want to be drawn into lines such as ' David Cummings: 'Wang Yue didn't want to be drawn into lines such as' Fischer, Johannes: 'Tadic, Branko: 'Wang Yue didn't want to be drawn into lines such as' After 17.exf5 Black plays Nd5 David Cummings: 'etc.' Fischer, Johannes: 'Tadic, Branko: 'etc.']

17...Rac8 18.a5 b5 David Cummings: '?!' David Cummings: 'Further loosening his queenside. Perhaps Black wanted to provoke complications, but White is well placed to meet them.'

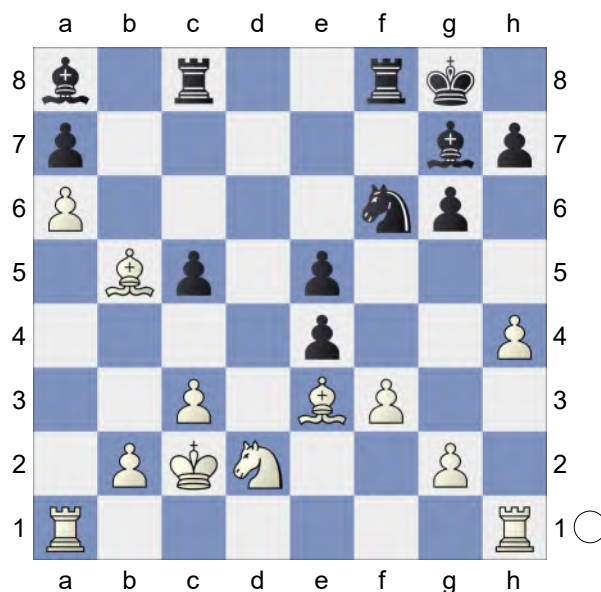
[18...Rc7 looks better Fischer, Johannes: 'looks better.']

19.a6± Fischer, Johannes: 'Tadic, Branko:

'±' 19...Ba8 20.Bxb5

[Fischer, Johannes: 'Instead, ' 20.exf5 c4 21.Be4 Nxe4 22.Nxe4 gxf5 23.Nd6 also gives White a clear advantage Fischer, Johannes: 'also gives White a clear advantage.' David Cummings: 'also gives White a clear advantage.']

20...fxe4



21.Bc4+ Kh8 22.h5 the h4-pawn finally sees some more action! David Cummings: 'The h4-pawn finally sees some more action!' Fischer, Johannes: 'Tadic, Branko: 'The h4-pawn finally sees some more action!'

[Fischer, Johannes: 'In any case, ' 22.Ra5 without sacrificing the h-pawn, was also very strong. Fischer, Johannes: ', without sacrificing the h-pawn, was also very strong.' David Cummings: ', without sacrificing the h-pawn, was also very strong.']

22...exf3 23.gxf3 gxh5 24.Rh4?! Fischer, Johannes: 'Tadic, Branko: '?!'

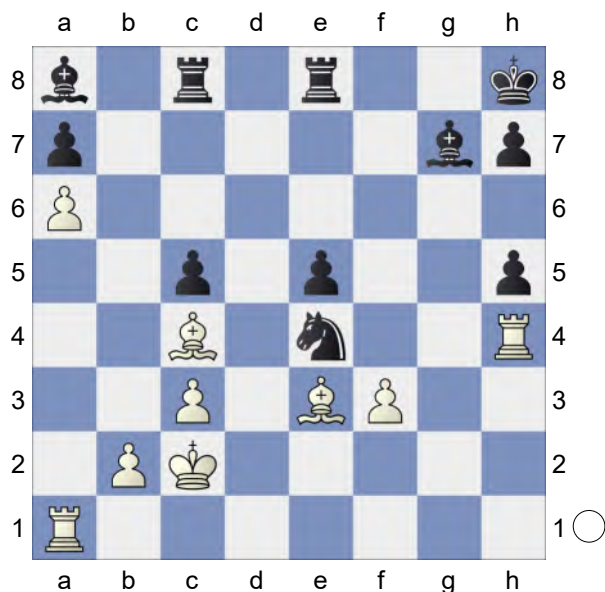
[Fischer, Johannes: 'Komodo prefers to set its sight on the queenside and wants to play' 24.Ra5 was more clear cut, targeting the c5-pawn Fischer,

Johannes: 'David Cummings: 'was more clear cut, targeting the c5-pawn.' Fischer,Johannes: 'Tadic,Branko: 'was more clear cut, targeting the c5-pawn.' Fischer,Johannes: 'here - with a clear advantage for White. After the textmove Black comes close to equality again.']

24...Rfe8?! Fischer,Johannes: 'Tadic, Branko: '?!'

[24...Nd5 followed by trading one of the bishops, would have limited White's advantage Fischer, Johannes: 'followed by trading one of the bishops, would have limited White's advantage.']

25.Ne4 Nxe4

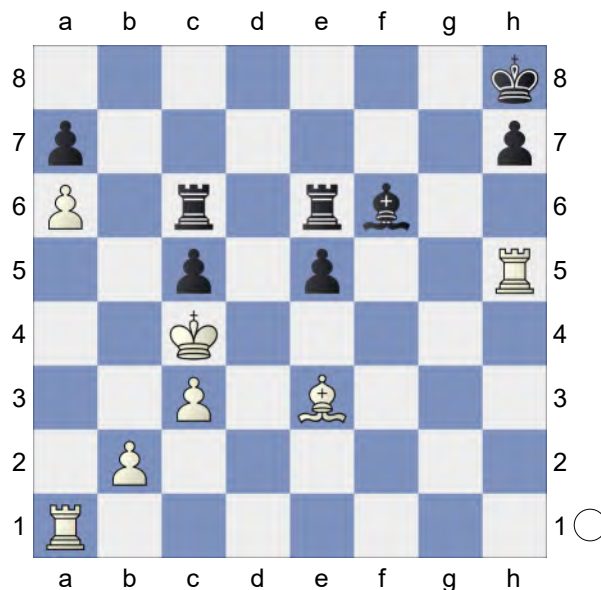


26.fxe4 Bf6 27.Rxh5 Bxe4+ 28.Bd3 Bxd3+ 29.Kxd3 Fischer,Johannes: 'Black is a pawn up but all his pawns are weak and White's king is much more active than Black's. Komodo here recommends' 29...Re6

[Black is a pawn up but all his pawns are weak and White's king is much more active than Black's. Komodo here recommends 29...c4+ 30.Ke4 Re7 31.Rh6 Rf7 32.Rf1±]

30.Kc4 Rcc6?!

[Fischer,Johannes: 'Instead ' 30...Rc7 31.Bxc5 e4 32.Kd5 Re8 gave better chances for counterplay Fischer, Johannes: 'gave better chances for counterplay.' David Cummings: 'gave better chances for counterplay.']

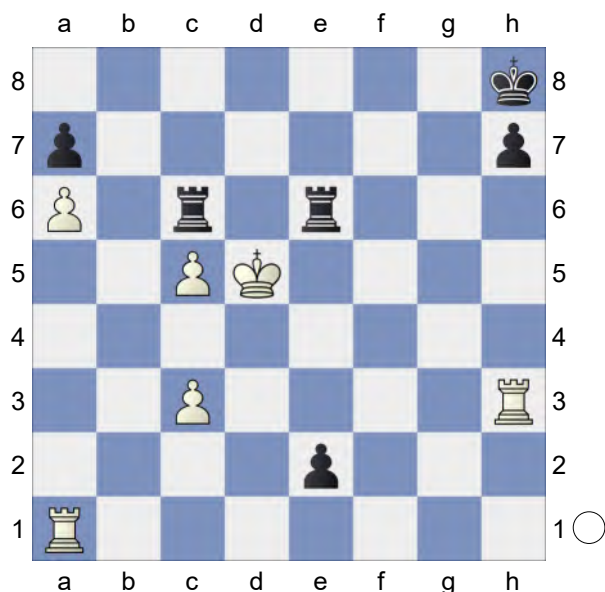


The rooks are awkwardly placed here, and allows White to demonstrate a remarkable idea David Cummings: 'The rooks are awkwardly placed here, and allows White to demonstrate a remarkable idea.' Fischer,Johannes: 'Tadic,Branko: 'The rooks are awkwardly placed here, and allows White to demonstrate a remarkable idea.'" Fischer,Johannes: 'Now Black gets into trouble.' **31.Bxc5 Be7**

[31...Rxa6 is answered by 32.Rah1 Fischer,Johannes: 'winning the h7-pawn.']

32.b4 Bxc5 33.bxc5 e4 34.Kd5! An extraordinary "King fork" motif! David Cummings: 'An extraordinary 'King fork' motif!' Fischer,Johannes: 'Tadic,Branko: 'An extraordinary 'King fork' motif!' Fischer,Johannes: 'White's king has the

two black rooks well under control.' **34...e3 35.Rh3!** White chases down the e-pawn, which cannot be saved. If a pair of rooks is traded, White's advanced c-pawn and active King give him a winning position in the resulting single rook endgames. Fischer,Johannes: 'Tadic,Branko: '!' Tadic,Branko: 'White chases down the e-pawn, which cannot be saved. If a pair of rooks is traded, White's advanced c-pawn and active King give him a winning position in the resulting single rook endgames.'" **35...e2**

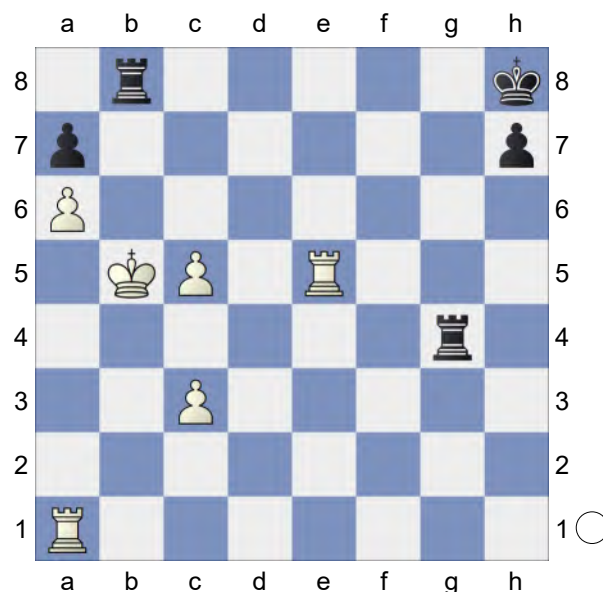


36.Rh2 Rg6 37.Rxe2 Rc8 38.Re5

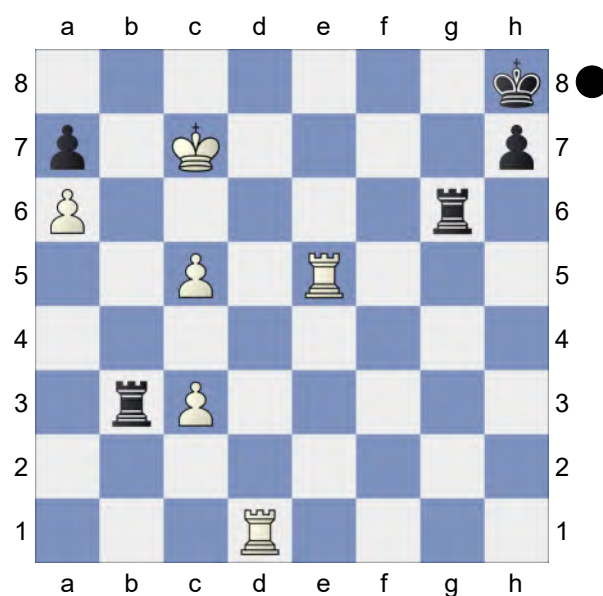
[38.Rae1 followed by exchanging a pair of rooks, also wins Fischer, Johannes: 'followed by exchanging a pair of rooks, also wins.' David Cummings: 'followed by exchanging a pair of rooks, also wins.']

38...Rd8+ 39.Kc4 Rg4+ 40.Kb5 Rb8+

(Diagram)



41.Kc6 Rg6+ 42.Kc7 Rb3 Black has run out of checks, and now White activates his a1-rook with decisive effect David Cummings: 'Black has run out of checks, and now White activates his a1-rook with decisive effect.' Fischer, Johannes: 'Tadic,Branko: 'Black has run out of checks, and now White activates his a1-rook with decisive effect.'" **43.Rd1**



1-0 (43) Wang Yue (2716)-Wei Yi (2724) Danzhou CHN 2015 [David Cummings] Fischer,Johannes: 'Tadic, Branko: '1-0 (43) Wang Yue-Wei Yi 35:

Danzhou 2015 OR: The English [David Cummings]"

474

□ Stefansson,Hannes

■ Wei,Yi

Island - China (rapid) 117/(166)

[Tadic,Branko]

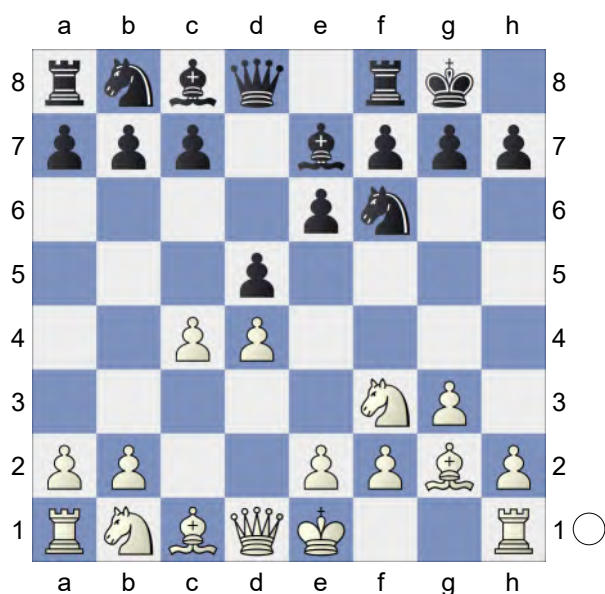
E05

2496

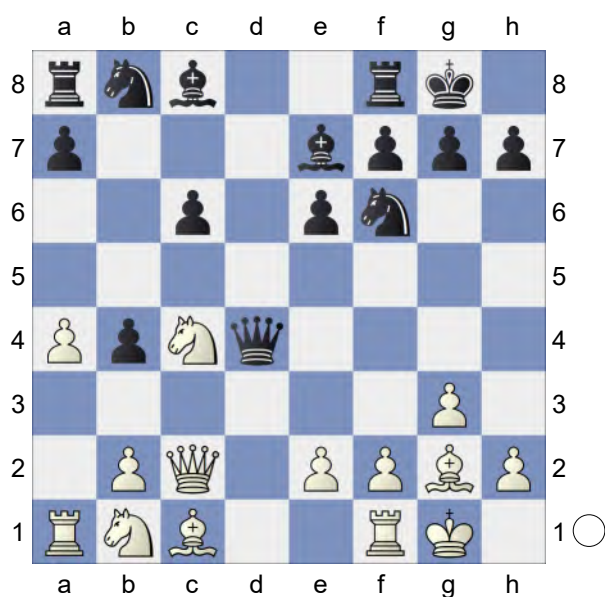
2501

2013

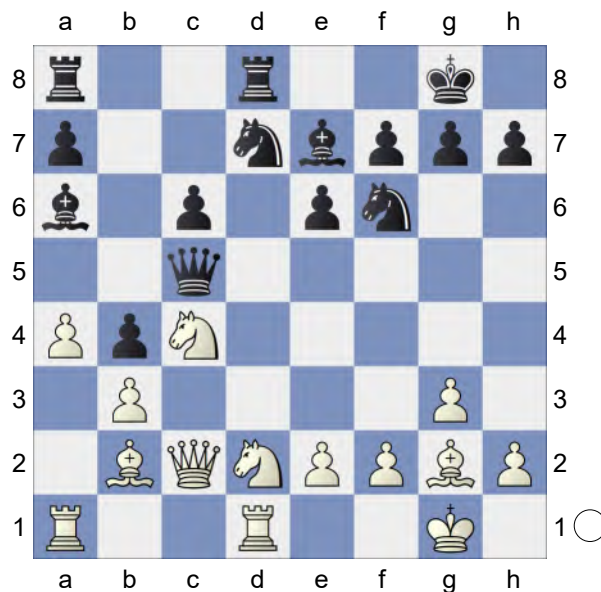
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.g3 Be7
5.Bg2 0-0



6.0-0 dxc4 7.Qc2 b5 8.a4 b4 9.Ne5
Qxd4 10.Nxc4 c6

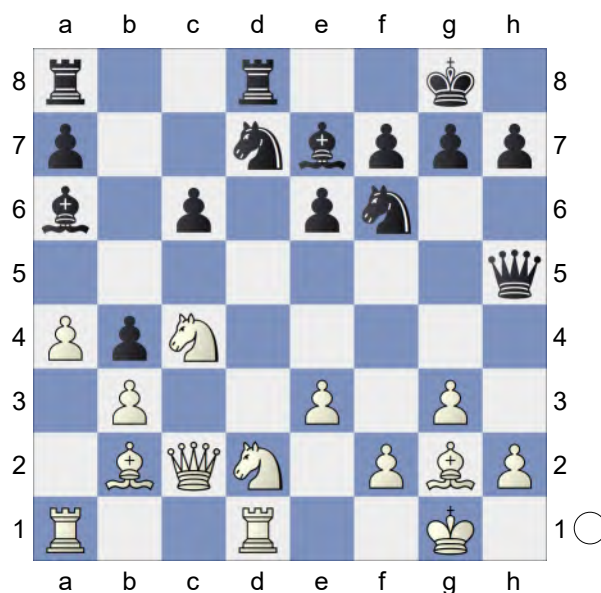


11.Rd1 Qc5 12.Nbd2 Ba6 13.b3
Nbd7 14.Bb2 Rfd8 * Tadic,Br: '



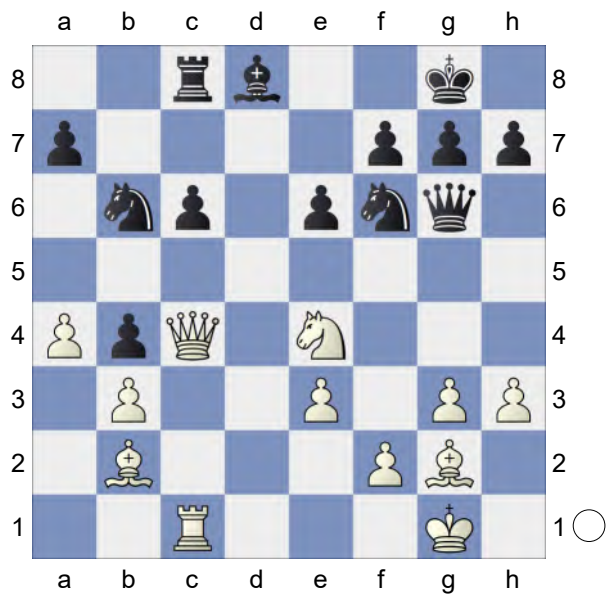
' Tadic,Br: '♘ Tadic,Branko: '*' 15.e3N
[15.Rac1 Ü 117/166 Tadic,Br: '— 117/
166' Tadic,Br: '— 117/166 Tadic,
Branko: 'Ü 117/166"]

15...Qh5



16.Rac1 Rac8 17.h3 Qg6 18.Ne4
Bxc4 19.Qxc4 Nb6?
[19...Nd5! ♗ f5]
20.Rxd8+ Bxd8

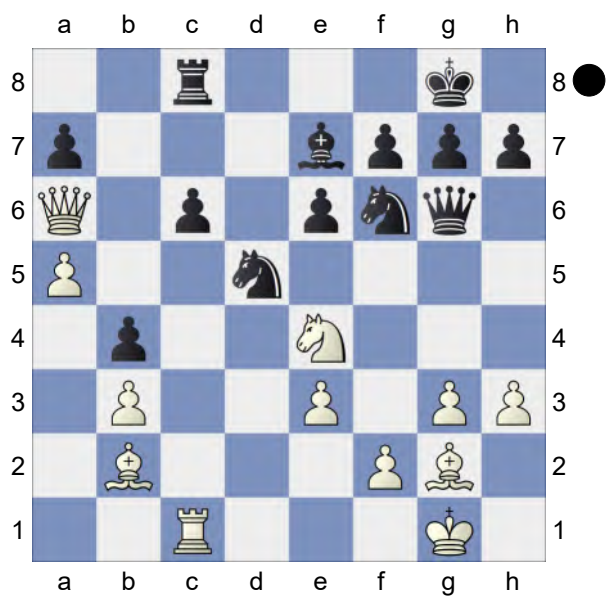
(Diagram)



21.Qd3

[21.Qxb4±]

21...Be7 22.a5 Nbd5 23.Qa6±



37

□ So, Wesley

■ Wei, Yi

chess24.com (Int.-rapid) 144/(95)

[Tadic, Branko]

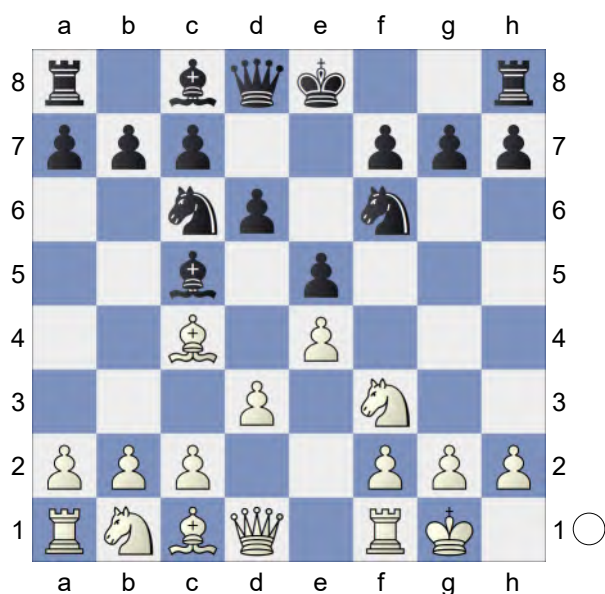
C54

2770

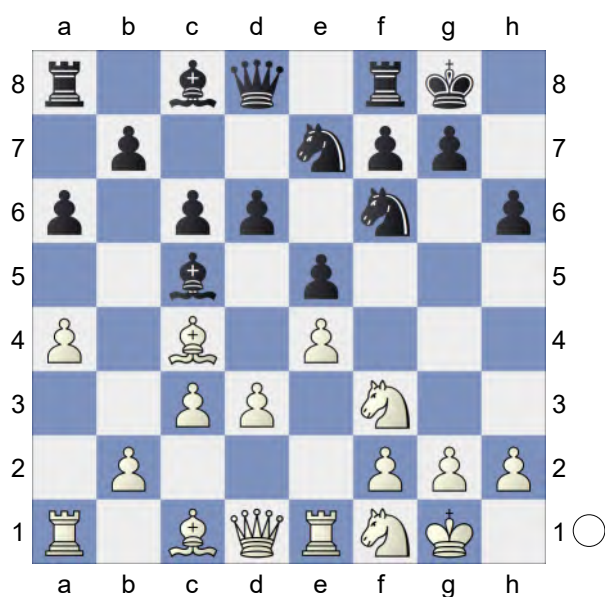
2732

2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0
Nf6 5.d3 d6

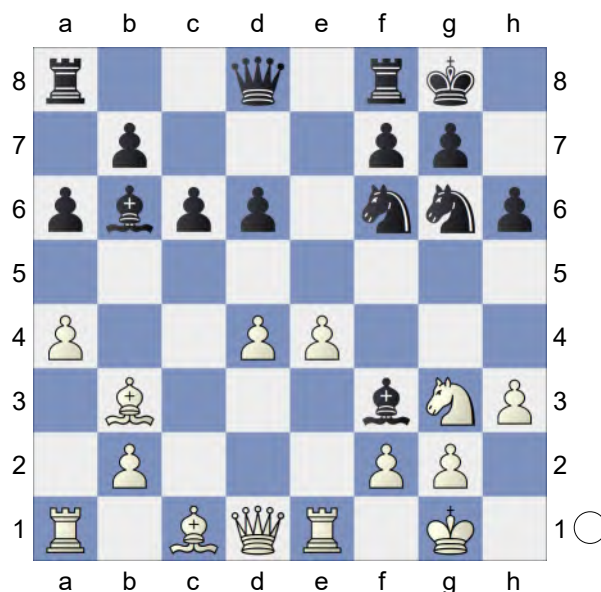


6.c3 * 6...a6 7.Re1 h6 8.a4 0-0
9.Nbd2 Ne7 10.Nf1 c6

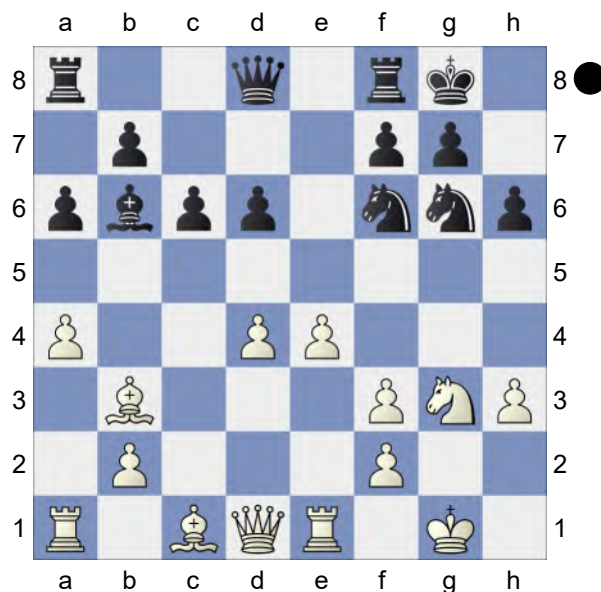


11.Bb3 Ng6 12.Ng3 Bb6 13.d4N
[13.h3]

13...exd4 14.cxd4 Bg4 15.h3 Bxf3



16.gxf3 Diagram

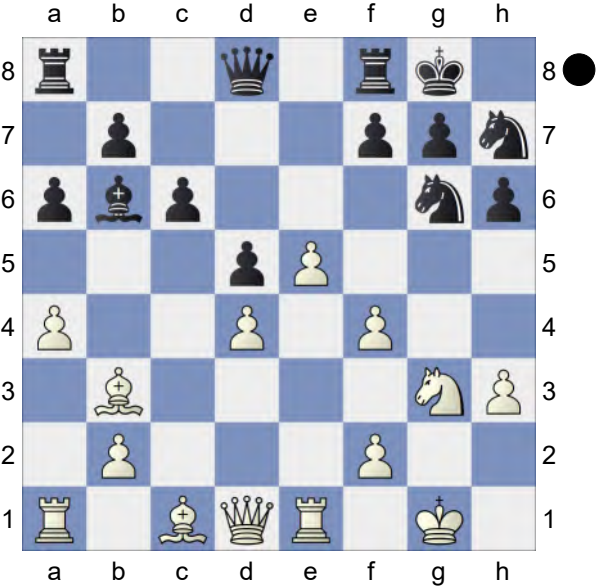


16...d5?!

[16...c5! 17.e5 dxe5 18.dxe5 Qxd1
19.Bxd1 Ba5∞]

17.e5 Nh7 18.f4±

(Diagram)



384

□ Ganguly, Surya Shekhar

■ Wei, Yi

Changsha 141/12

[Tadic, Branko]

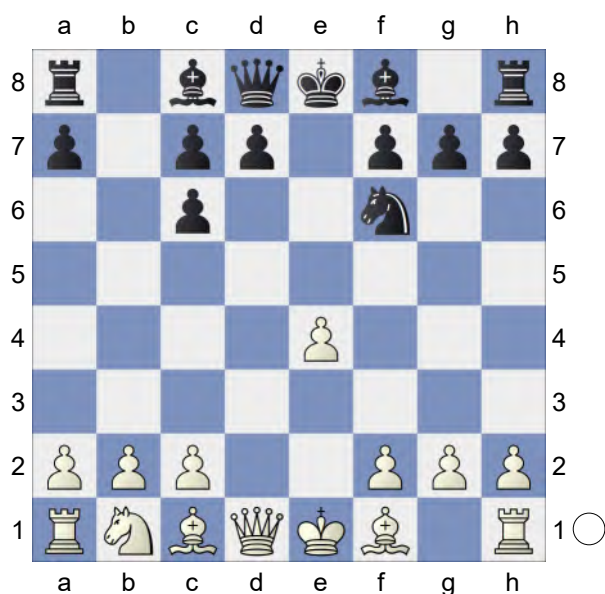
C45

2638

2737

2019

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nxc6 bxc6



6.e5 Qe7 David Cummings: 'This line has a good theoretical reputation for Black, but gives him a bigger burden in preparation. White has many alternatives over the next few moves, including several sharp ideas. This game shows that this can be a challenge even for 2700+ players. We Yi goes wrong very early on, and Ganguly wins a miniature with great preparation and great calculation.' **7.Qe2** David Cummings: 'We have also looked at:' **7...Nd5 8.c4 Nb6 9.Nc3** David Cummings: 'Alternatives, both involving a sac of the c-pawn, are:' **9...a5** David Cummings: '?' David Cummings: 'It turns out this active, developing move is just a mistake, although in 10 previous games White had not punished

it. The mainline is: **10.Bd2!** Diagram [10.Qe4]

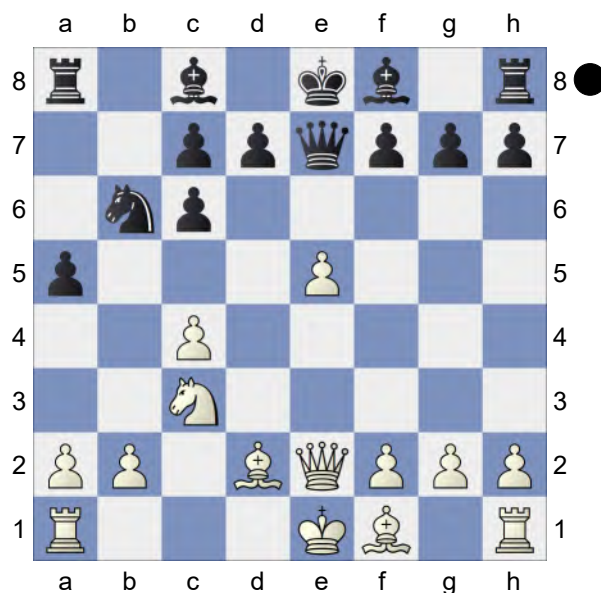
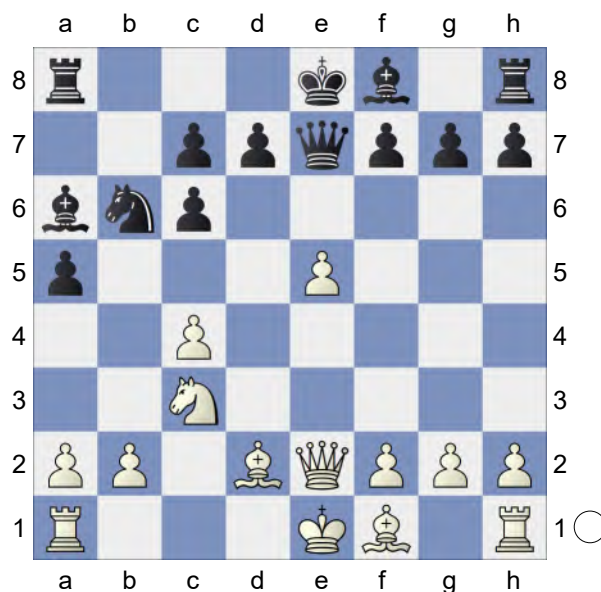


Diagram [#] David Cummings: 'Giving up the f2-pawn looks scary, but the tactics all work out for White. Most earlier games had seen:' **10...Ba6?N**



David Cummings: 'Instead:' **11.b3! a4 12.f4**

[12.Qe4 Bb7+- 13.Rb1
David Cummings: 'and now:' axb3
David Cummings: '?!' 14.axb3 Ra5
(14...d5 15.exd6 cxd6 16.Bd3

$Qxe4+$ 17. $Bxe4$ $d5^\infty$ 18. $Bd3$!?) 15. $f4$ $d5$!?]]

[12. $Rb1$? $axb3+-$ 13. $axb3+-$ $Bb7$ 14. $Qe3$ David Cummings: 'is fine for Black. Now' $d6$ (14... $g6$? 15. $Ne4$) 15. $exd6$ $cxd6$ 16. $Bd3$]

12...Qa3 13.Bc1 Qb4 Diagram

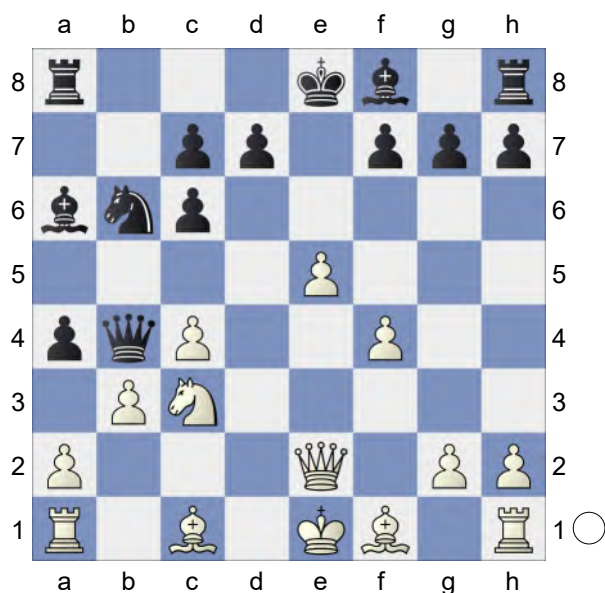
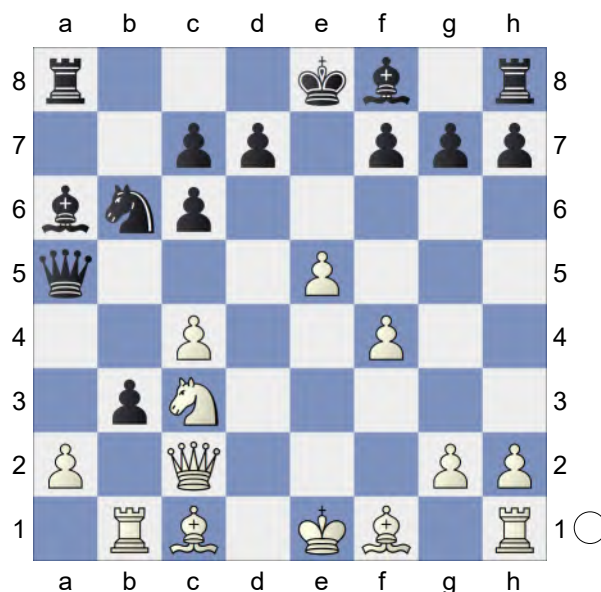


Diagram [#] David Cummings: 'transposes to the main game' 14. $Qc2$!! David Cummings: '!' David Cummings: 'This is a key idea, allowing $Nc3-e4$ to hit the queen and defend the $f2$ -square.'

[14. $Bd2+-$ $axb3$ 15. $Nb5$ $Bxb5$ 16. $Bxb4$ $Bxb4+$ and White is a piece up 17. $Kf2$ $Bxc4$]

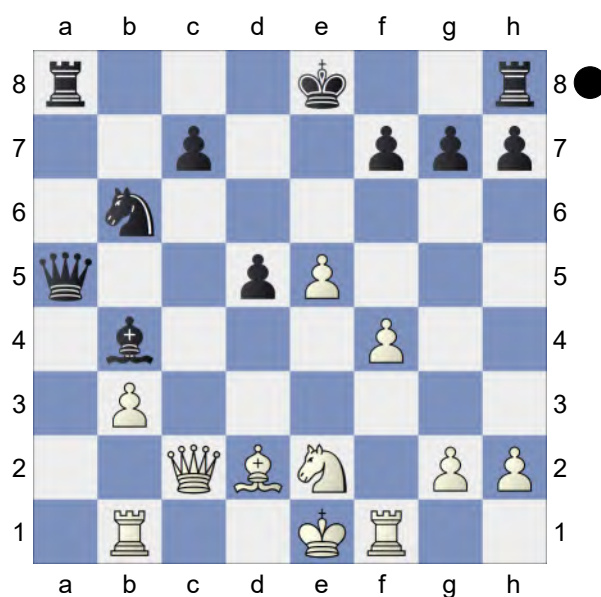
14...Qa5 15.Rb1 axb3

(Diagram)



David Cummings: '!?' David Cummings: 'A nice joke in a lost position.' 16. $axb3$ $Bb4??$ 17. $Bd2$ David Cummings: 'was unlikely to happen!' 17... $d5$ 18. $cxd5$ David Cummings: 'even wins, since Black has no time to give discovered check'

[18. $exd6$ $cxd6$ 19. $Bd3$]
18...Bxf1 19.Rxf1 cxd5 20.Ne2
 [20. $Ne2$ $c5$]



1-0

383

□ Ganguly, Surya Shekhar

■ Wei, Yi

Changsha 141/12

[Tadic, Branko]

A33

2638

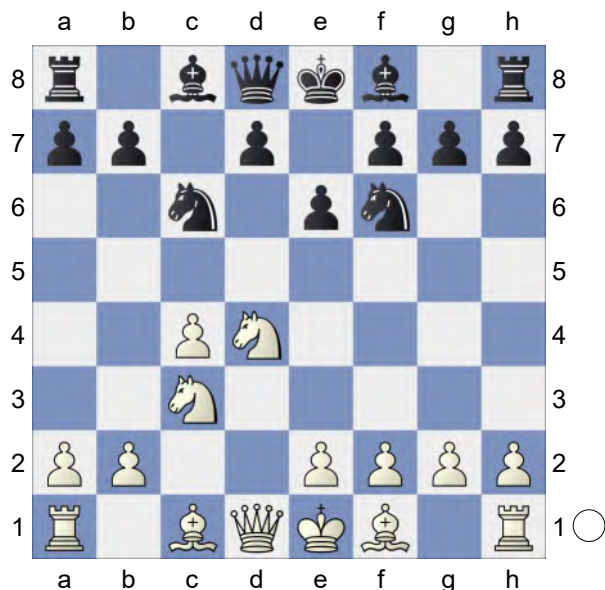
2737

2019

1.c4 c5

[1...Nf6 2.Nc3 c5 1-0 (16) Ganguly, S (2638)-Wei Yi (2737) Changsha CHN 2019 [David Cummings]]

2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.d4 cxd4
5.Nxd4 e6



6.g3 Qb6 David Cummings: 'This line has a good theoretical reputation for Black, but gives him a bigger burden in preparation. White has many alternatives over the next few moves, including several sharp ideas. This game shows that this can be a challenge even for 2700+ players. We Yi goes wrong very early on, and Ganguly wins a miniature with great preparation and great calculation.' **7.Ndb5** David Cummings: 'We have also looked at:'

[7.Nb3 (the old main line) and now Ne5 8.e4 Bb4 9.c5!? is Bruzon

Batista-Swiercz in the Archives]

[7.Nf3 - see Harikrishna-Vachier-Lagrave]

[7.Nc2 - see Dubov-Gabrielian]

7...Ne5 8.Bg2

[8.Bf4 is another major branch, see Topalov-Caruana and earlier games in the Archives]

8...a6 9.Qa4 David Cummings: 'Alternatives, both involving a sac of the c-pawn, are:'

[9.Na4 Qd8 10.Nbc3 Nxc4 11.b3 see Navara-So in the Archives]

[9.Na3 Bxa3 10.bxa3 Nxc4 11.0-0 is Howell-Jumabayev, also in the Archives]

9...Bc5 David Cummings: '?' David Cummings: 'It turns out this active, developing move is just a mistake, although in 10 previous games White had not punished it. The mainline is:'

[9...Rb8 - 136/18 10.Na3 (10.Be3 can be found in Harikrishna-Grischuk in the Archives) 10...Bxa3 11.Qxa3 Nxc4 12.Qb3 which is another variation on the c4-sac theme in Matlakov-Rambaldi, also in the Archives]

10.Bf4! Diagram

[10.0-0 - 48/44 - 48/44 David Cummings: 'but this is nothing special for White, for example' Nxc4 11.Qxc4 axb5 12.Qxb5 Qxb5 13.Nxb5 Serper, G (2541)-Rodriguez Vila, A (2500) Reno 1999 1/2-1/2 (17), and now 0-0 is about equal.]

(Diagram)

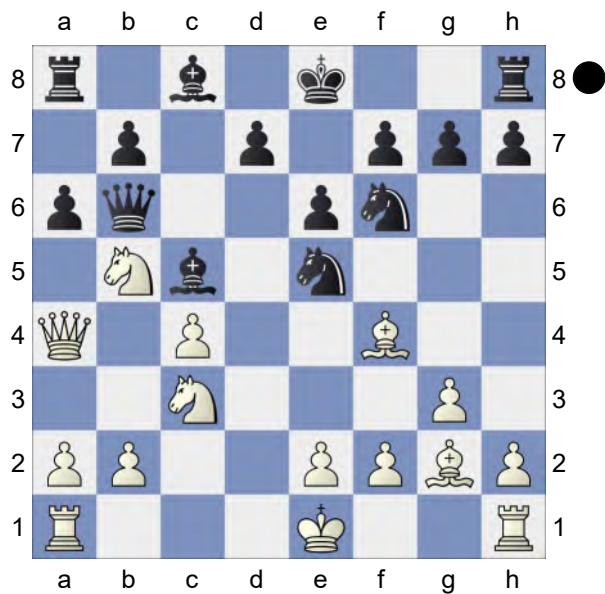


Diagram [#] David Cummings: 'Giving up the f2-pawn looks scary, but the tactics all work out for White. Most earlier games had seen:' Diagram [#] Diagram [#] David Cummings: 'Giving up the f2-pawn looks scary, but the tactics all work out for White. Most earlier games had seen:' Diagram [♟] **10...Bxf2+?N**

[10...Nfg4 David Cummings: 'and now:'

A) 11.h3! is an important move, with some sample lines going g5 (11...Bxf2+ 12.Kf1 Bxg3 13.c5 Qxc5 14.Ne4 and White wins material) 12.Bxg5 Nxf2 (12...Bxf2+ 13.Kf1 Bxg3 transposes to the main game) 13.Bf6 Nxe1 14.Bxe5 axb5 15.Qxa8 0-0 16.Bxh1 d6 17.Bf6 and White emerges from the complications with a clear advantage.;

B) 11.0-0-0 David Cummings: '?!' '?!'

B1) 11...Bxf2? 12.Nd6+ Ke7 13.h3 Be3+ 14.Kb1 g5 15.Nf5+! Kf8 (15...exf5 16.Nd5+) 16.Nxe3 Nxe3

17.Bxe5+-;

B2) 11...Rb8

B2a) 12.Na3 f6

David Cummings: 'is fine for Black. Now' 13.Ne4 (13.Nc2? Nxf2 14.b4 Nxd1 15.Rxd1 Be7 left Black well on top in Bang, A (2315)-Fedder, S (2390) Lyngby 1989 0-1 (26))

13...Nxf2 14.Nxf2 Bxf2;

B2b) 12.b4 Be7 13.c5!?

axb5 14.Nxb5

B2b1) 14...Qd8? 15.h3+-

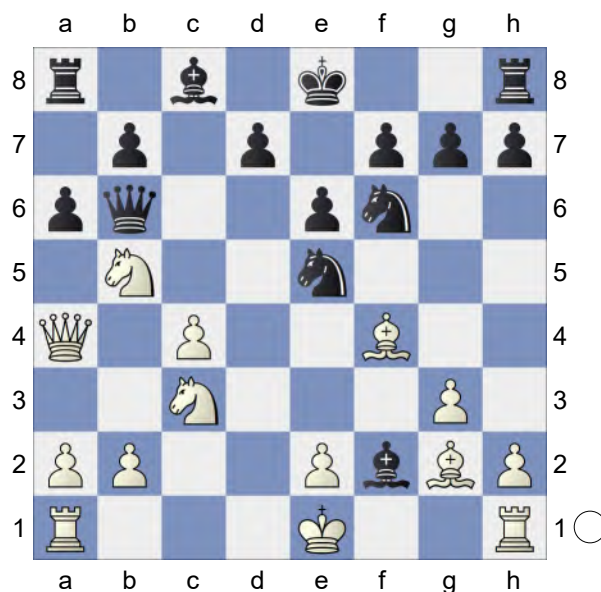
(15.Qa7+-);

B2b2) 14...Bxc5 15.bxc5

(15.h3!?) 15...Qxc5+

16.Kb1 0-0∞]

[10...axb5? 11.Qxa8 0-0 12.Bxe5 Ng4 13.Qb8 leaves White ahead too much material]



David Cummings: 'Instead:' **11.Kf1! Nfg4**

[11...Neg4 12.Nc7+ Kd8 13.Nxa8+-]

12.h3 g5 13.Bxg5 Bxg3 Diagram

(Diagram)

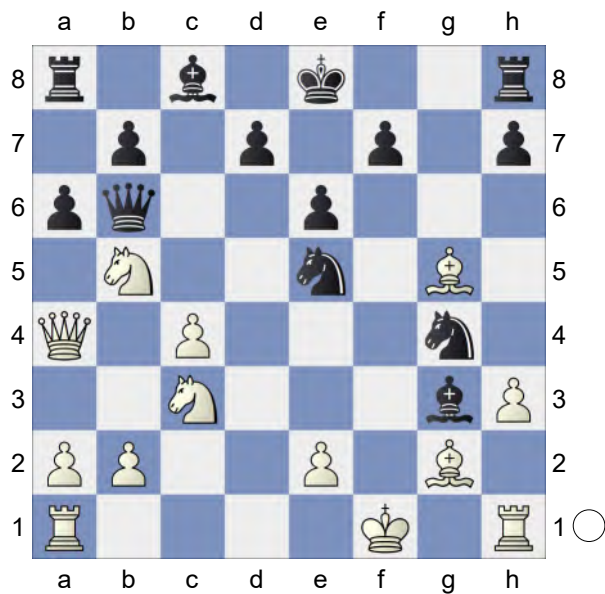
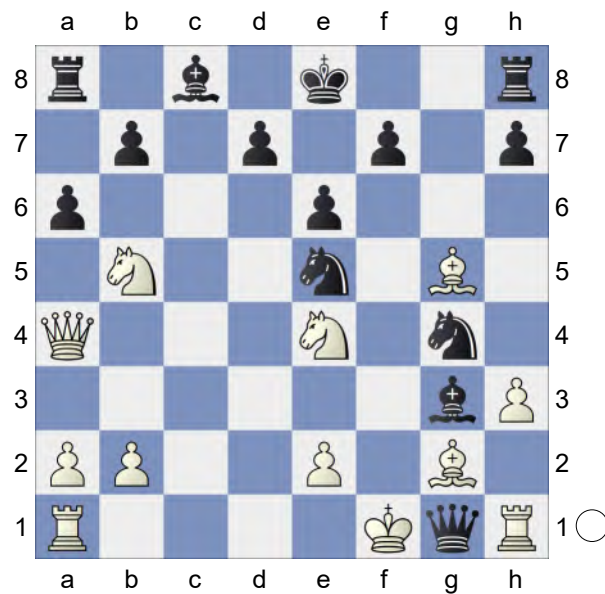


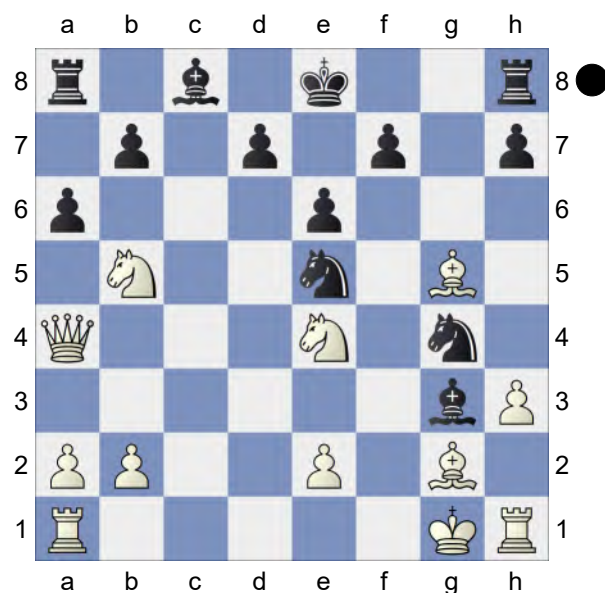
Diagram [#] David Cummings: 'transposes to the main game' Diagram [#] Diagram [#] David Cummings: 'transposes to the main game' Diagram [♟] **14.c5!!** David Cummings: '!' David Cummings: 'This is a key idea, allowing Nc3-e4 to hit the queen and defend the f2-square.' **14...Qxc5 15.Ne4 Qg1+**

[15...Ne3+ 16.Kg1 David Cummings: 'even wins, since Black has no time to give discovered check' (16.Bxe3 Qxe3 17.Nxg3 0-0 18.Rg1 and White is a piece up) 16...Qb6 17.Nbd6+ Kf8 18.Bh6+ Ke7 19.Nxc8+ Rhxc8 20.Qa3+ d6 21.Bxe3+-]

(Diagram)



David Cummings: '!?' David Cummings: 'A nice joke in a lost position.' **16.Kxg1** [16.Rxg1?? Nh2# David Cummings: 'was unlikely to happen!']



1-0

432

□ Wei,Yi

■ Antonio,R.

Asian Cities Dubai Cup 2013 (5.1)

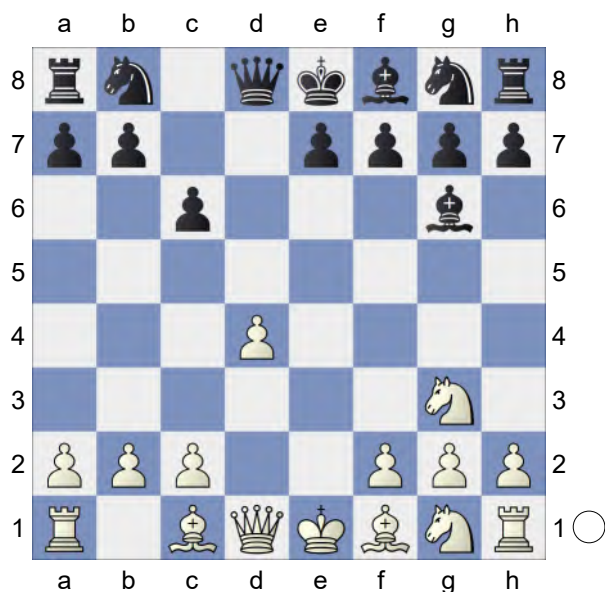
[Tom Rendle]

B19

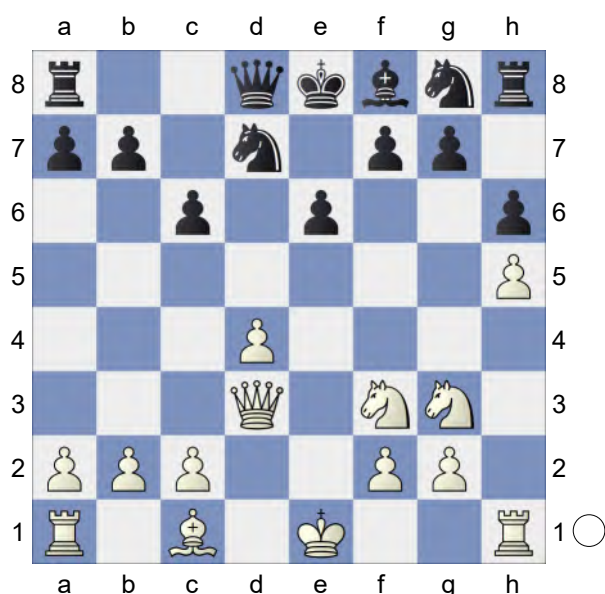
2580

2518

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4
Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6



6.h4 h6 7.Nf3 Nd7 8.h5 Bh7 9.Bd3
Bxd3 10.Qxd3 e6



11.Bd2 Ngf6 12.0-0-0 Be7 13.Kb1
Black has been struggling here recently

after the usual moves (13...0-0 and 13...
Qb6!?) so it's interesting to see a new
approach in this game, even though it's
ultimately unsuccessful. **13...a5!?**
A very logical choice from Antonio - he
doesn't want to castle kingside into a big
attack so instead he aims to gain space
on the queenside and wait to see
White's plan **14.Ne4 a4! 15.c4**
I'm not at all convinced by this move as
it seems to allow Black good play

[15.Nxf6+! is the critical test of this
line

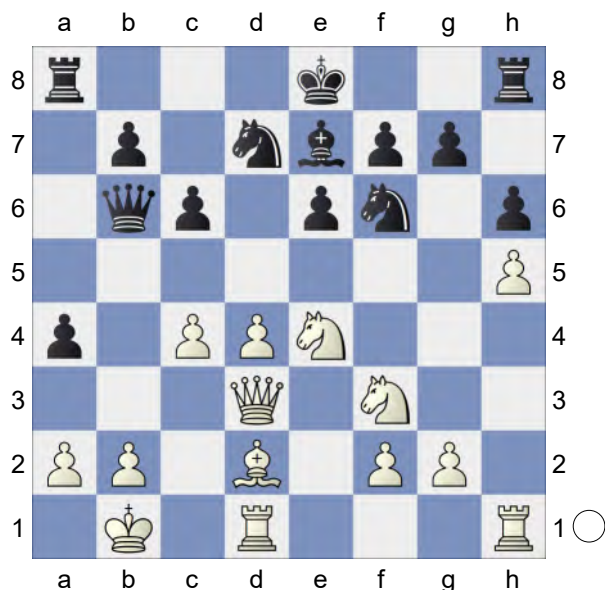
A) 15...Bxf6 16.g4 (16.a3!
looks like a safe path to a slight
edge, e.g. Nb6 17.Bf4 Qd5
18.Ne5 0-0 19.Ng4 Bg5 20.Ne3
Qd8 21.Be5 and White is ready to
push on the kingside with g4 and
f4.) 16...Qb6 17.Bc1 Qa6!
and Black had almost equalised in
Stopa, J (2470)-Tangborn, E (2455)
ICC 2006;

B) 15...Nxf6 16.Ne5! Qd5 17.f3
(17.Qg3! gives Black more
problems, for example a3 18.b3
Rg8 19.Bc1 and it's not clear
where Black's king is going in the
long term.) 17...b5 18.g4 Rd8
19.Rhe1 Nd7?! (19...a3! 20.b3
Nd7 is about equal) 20.Nxc6?
(20.Ng6! was the right way to
sacrifice the piece with excellent
compensation after fxg6 21.Qxg6+
Kf8 22.Rxe6 Bh4 23.g5!)
20...Qxc6 21.d5 Qc4 22.Qxc4
bxc4 23.Ba5 Ra8 and White didn't
have enough for the piece in Kunal,
M (2288)-Lalith, B (2484) New Delhi
2012]

15...Qb6!

[15...Nxe4 16.Qxe4 a3 17.b3 Nf6
might equalise for Black although he

still should be careful of a quick g4. Play could continue 18.Qe2 Qd6 19.g4!? Nxg4 20.Rhg1 f5 21.Bc1 and White has excellent compensation for the sacrificed pawn]



Another useful waiting move keeping the option of castling on either side.

16.g4!? A tricky pawn sacrifice that should probably be accepted. Other moves don't seem to cause Black too many problems as castling kingside should be safe enough **16...Nxe4**

[16...Nxg4! must also be investigated here. White gets reasonable compensation after 17.Rhg1 f5 18.Rde1! but Black may be OK after 0-0! (not 18...fxe4?! 19.Qxe4 Nxf2 20.Qe3 and White will regain the piece with an excellent position) 19.Ng3 Bf6 20.Rxe6 and now Black can force a draw with (or 20.Re2 Rf7 and White has enough compensation for the pawn but no more) 20...Nc5! 21.Qe2 Nxe6 22.Qxe6+ Kh8 23.Nxf5 Rae8 24.Qd7 Rd8 25.Qe6 Rde8]

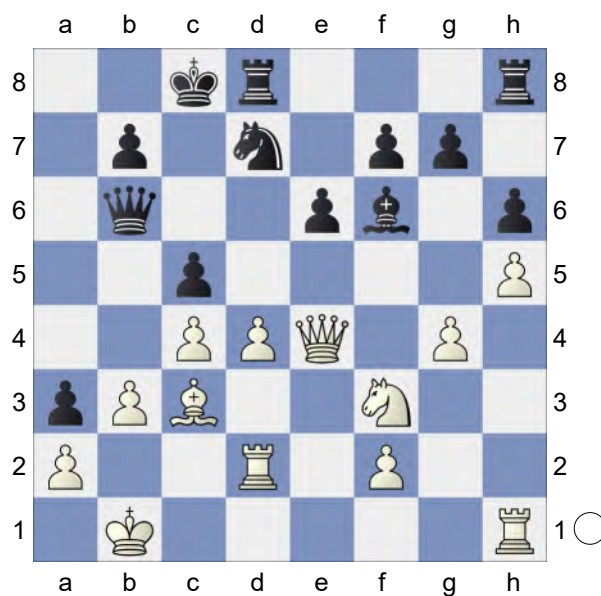
17.Qxe4 Bf6 18.Bc3

[18.Bf4! also looks sensible, preparing Ne5 on the next move. I don't see an easy way for Black to equalise here, for example a3 19.b3 Be7 20.Rhg1 and Black is running out of moves to avoid castling. Kingside is not a good option with g5 coming but 0-0-0 21.Ne5 Nxe5 22.c5! Qa6 23.Qxe5 Kd7 is obviously rather awkward for Black if not immediately losing.]

18...a3?!

[18...Qa6! would be my choice here and now White's best chance for an edge is probably 19.Ne5 but after Nb6! (19...Bxe5?! 20.dxe5 Nb6 21.Qd4 0-0 22.g5! gives White a fantastic and probably just a winning attack) 20.f4 Bxe5 21.Qxe5 Qxc4 22.Qxg7 Rf8 23.a3 0-0-0 the position is just very unclear]

19.b3 0-0-0 Once Black has been forced to castle queenside it seems clear to me that his early queenside aggression hasn't really helped - Wei Yi has control of the centre here and here he prepares to double on the d-file. **20.Rd2 c5**



A try for counterplay but it doesn't really work - still, it's probably better than just sitting and waiting for White to improve his position further. **21.Rhd1 Qc7 22.Qe3 cxd4?!**

[perhaps Black should wait with 22...Rhe8 and see what White's plan is. Perhaps the way to improve the position is 23.Rd3 Kb8 24.Kc2 preparing dxc5 Rc8 25.Ne5 Nxe5 26.dxe5 Bg5 27.f4 Be7 28.Rd7 Qc6 29.Qe2 and White is clearly better although Black is still fighting hard for the draw after Rc7]

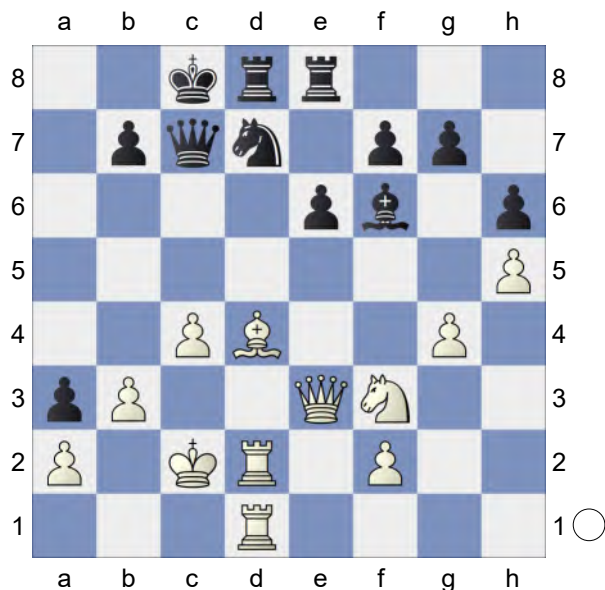
23.Bxd4 Now White is very comfortable.

[not 23.Nxd4? Bg5!]

23...Qc6 24.Kc1

[an immediate 24.g5! was stronger, e.g. hxg5 25.Nxg5 Bxg5 (25...e5 26.Bc3 changes nothing) 26.Qxg5 e5 27.Be3 and Black will lose a pawn - the pin on the d-file is a real problem.]

24...Qc7 25.Kc2 Rhe8



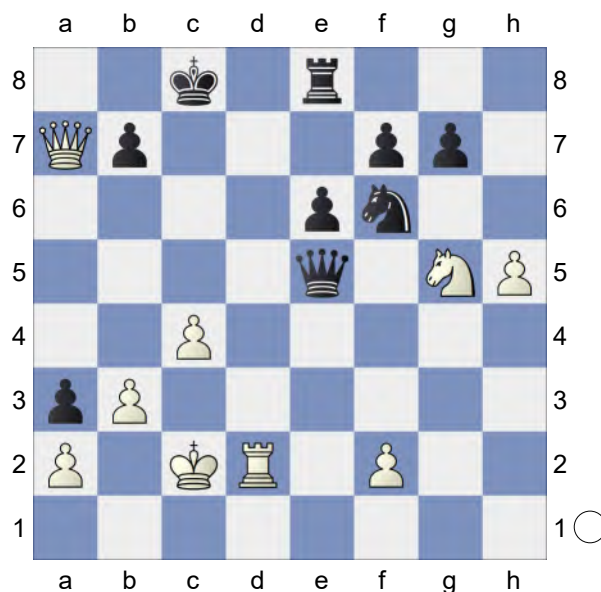
26.g5! Finally the breakthrough comes 26...hxg5 27.Nxg5 Bxd4 28.Qxd4 Nf6 29.Qa7!

[29.Qxd8+ also wins a pawn after Rxd8 30.Rxd8+ Qxd8 31.Rxd8+

Kxd8 32.h6! gxh6 33.Nxf7+ Ke7 34.Nxh6]

29...Rxd2+ 30.Rxd2 Qe5

[30...Qe7 also fails to 31.c5 Nd5 (or 31...Rd8 32.Rxd8+ Qxd8 33.Nxf7; 31...Kc7 32.Rd4! and now Black must play Nd5 and again allow 33.Ne4) 32.Ne4]



31.Nxf7 Qb2+ 32.Kd3 Qb1+ 33.Kd4 Amazingly the king is safe enough in the centre of the board as the knight on f7 prevents a check on d8

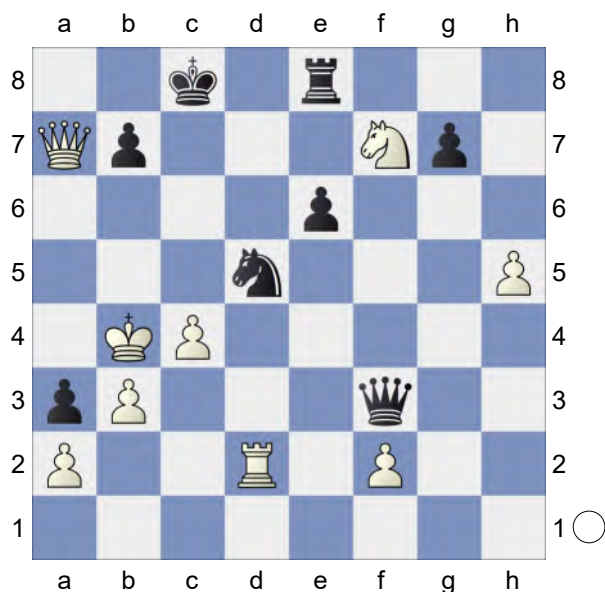
[33.Ke2! was still a safer option when after Qe4+ 34.Qe3 Qxe3+ 35.Kxe3 the ending should be winning for White]

33...Qe4+? A final mistake after which the position is hopeless for Black

[33...e5+ gives Black swindling chances but after accurate play White should still win: 34.Kc5 Ne4+ 35.Kb6 Re6+ 36.Kb5 Nc3+ 37.Kb4 Nxa2+ 38.Rxa2! Qe1+ (38...Qxa2? allows mate in 5 with 39.Qa8+ Kc7 40.Qd8+ Kc6 41.Qc8+ Kb6 42.Qc5+ Ka6 43.Qa5#) 39.Kc5 and White's extra piece should win the game

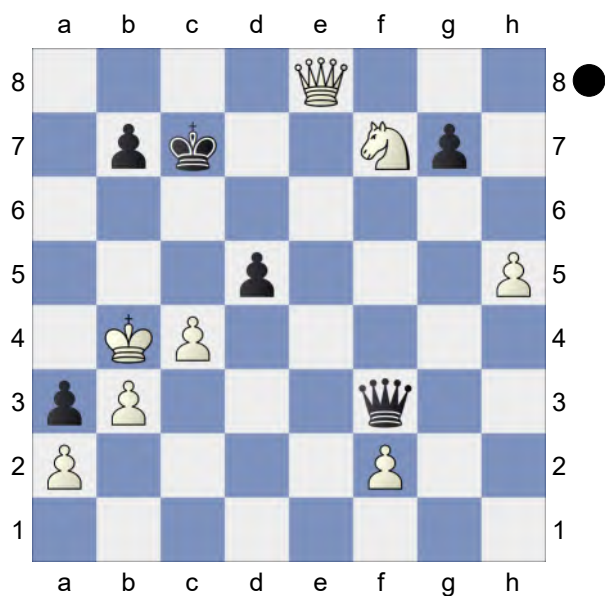
although with the king so exposed Black can still hope to cause problems. One line would be Qd1 40.Qa8+ Kc7 41.Qd8+ Qxd8 42.Nxd8 Kxd8 43.Rxa3 which gives back the piece for a good ending. With an active king and an extra pawn White must have excellent winning chances]

34.Kc3 Qf3+ 35.Kb4! Nd5+



A desperate last try 36.Rxd5
[36.cxd5 Qf4+ 37.Rd4 wins more easily]

36...exd5 37.Qa8+ Kc7 38.Qxe8

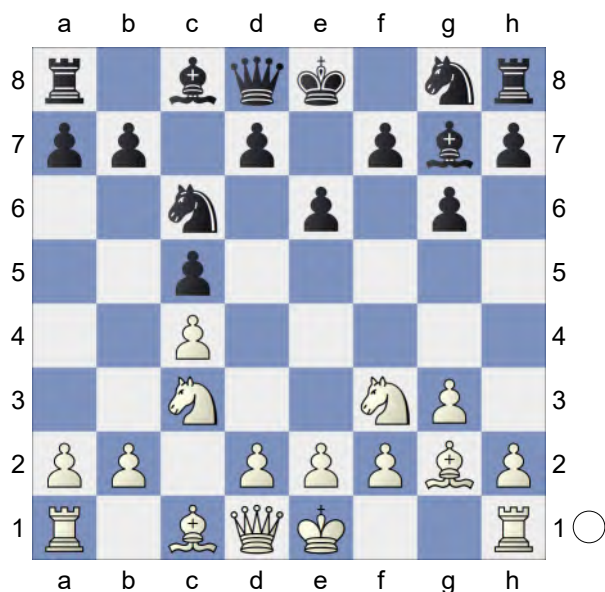


The dust has settled and Black's position is hopeless. 13...a5 deserves more outings as in this game Black was definitely close to equalising and 16...Nxg4! looks like it was playable.

1-0

417 **A37**
 □ **Zhou, Weiqi** **2601**
 ■ **Wei, Yi** **2634**
 Danzhou 5th (9) 04.07.2014
[Tony Kosten]

1.c4 g6 2.Nc3 c5 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.g3
Nc6 5.Bg2 e6



If White wants to win this line is a real problem. **6.e3**

[6.0-0 Nge7 7.d3 is the most popular, but is just too easy to play for Black. (7.e3 would transpose after 0-0 8.d4)]

6...Nge7 7.d4

[7.0-0 Nf5!? (7...0-0 8.d4 cxd4 9.Nxd4 Nxd4 10.exd4 d5 as below.) 8.Ne4 d6 9.d4! see Bejtovic, J-Grandelius, N, in the Archive.]

7...0-0!? Extremely rare.

[7...cxd4 8.Nxd4 Nxd4 9.exd4 d5 10.cxd5 Nxd5 is the very drawish mainline, although this normally arrives from a Nge2 line, rather than Nf3 as here, see Bacrot, E-Vaisser, A in the PGN Archive.]

8.0-0 White is happy to transpose.

[8.d5 Na5 9.Nd2 Rb8 10.a4 d6 11.0-0 exd5 12.cxd5 gave Black a perfectly reasonable Benoni position in Landgren, P (2182) -Tikkanen, H (2232)/Hallsberg 2000.]

[8.dxc5 Qa5]

8...b6!? Black continues to search for a more interesting game.

[8...cxd4 9.Nxd4 Nxd4 (or 9...d5) 10.exd4 reaches the mainline once again.]

[8...d6 is also possible, and scores well, 9.Re1!? (9.b3 Nf5) 9...Re8 10.b3 Rb8 (10...e5!?) 11.Bb2 cxd4 12.exd4 d5 13.cxd5 exd5 14.Ne5 with a small plus to White in Grischuk, A (2783)-Dominguez Perez, L (2754)/Beijing 2013.]

9.b3 New.

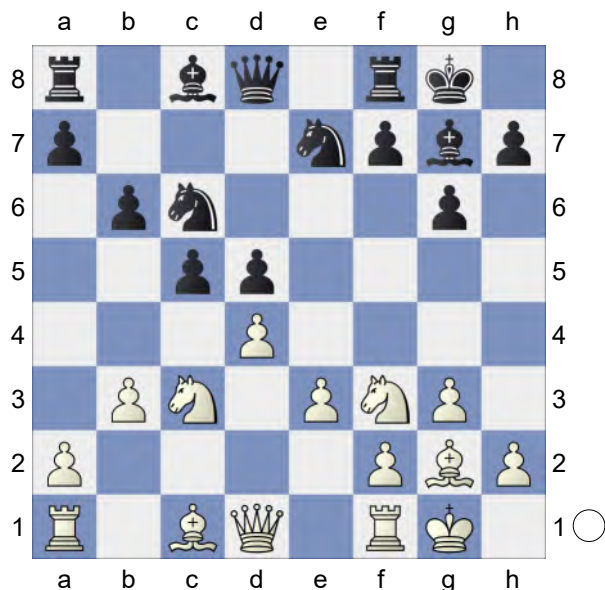
[9.dxc5 bxc5 10.Ne4 Ba6! 11.Qa4 Qa5 12.Qxa5 Nxa5 De Andrade, W (2250) -Bruzon Batista, L (2488)/Sao Bernardo 1999, 13.Rd1 equal.]

[9.d5 Na5 10.dxe6 fxe6 11.Ne5? d5 12.f4 Bxe5 13.fxe5 Nxc4 14.Rxf8+ Marinangeli, M (2143)-Arjona, J/ Olavarria 2002, Qxf8! 15.Nxd5 Nxd5 16.Bxd5 Qd8! 17.Bf3 Qxd1+ 18.Bxd1 Bb7 and ...Nxe5.]

[9.Re1 Ba6 10.Qa4 Bb7 is nothing, Quirico, P (2118) -Bergero, S (1707)/Torino 2013.]

9...d5 The position is almost entirely symmetrical with White to move. The only difference is the placement of the respective kingside knights, but if anything this favours Black as the f3-knight masks the g2-bishop. This suggests that White would be better off with his knight on e2 instead, food for thought! **10.cxd5 exd5**

(Diagram)



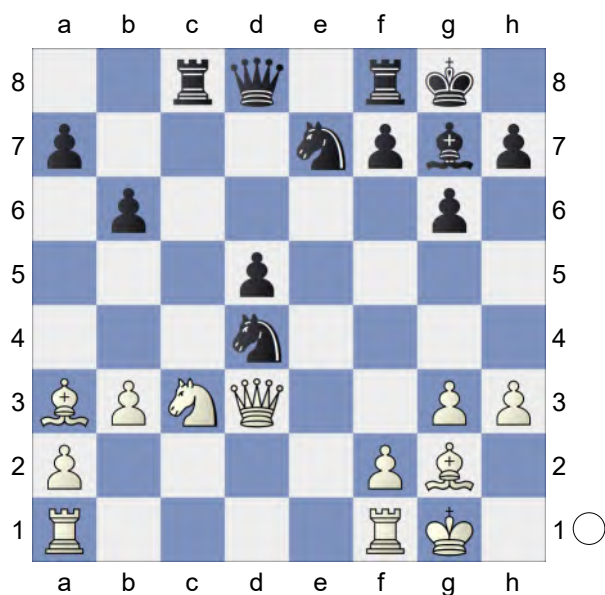
11.Ba3 Bg4 The d4-pawn is pinned.

12.h3 cxd4! 13.exd4

[13.Bxe7 Nxe7 14.exd4 Bxf3
15.Bxf3 Nf5 is 'equalish' but only
Black can be better.]

13...Bxf3 14.Qxf3 Nxd4 15.Qd3

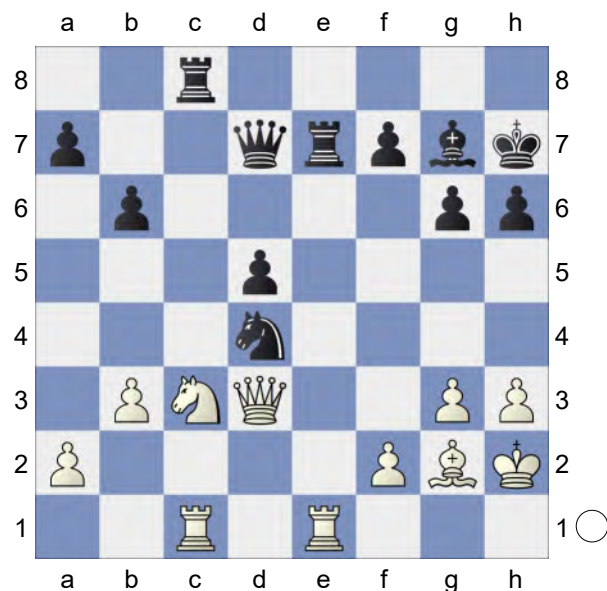
It seems strange that White can play good logical moves from the beginning of the game, and already be struggling to regain his pawn and hold a draw! Where did he go wrong? **15...Rc8**



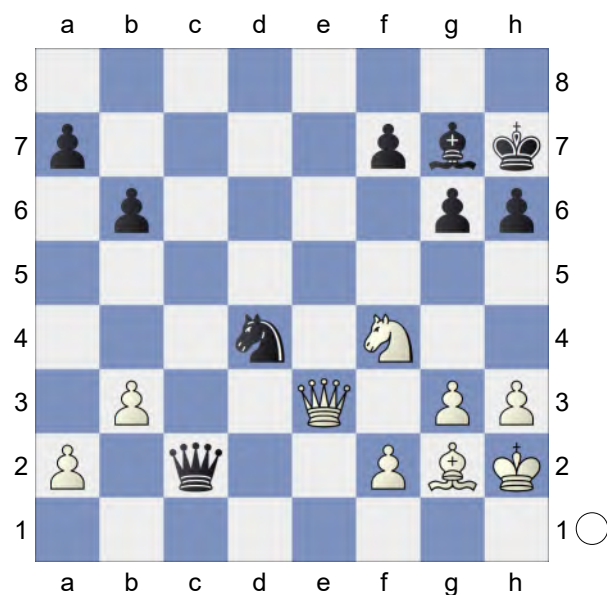
Threatening ...Rxc3. **16.Rac1**

[16.Bxe7?! Qxe7 (16...Rxc3

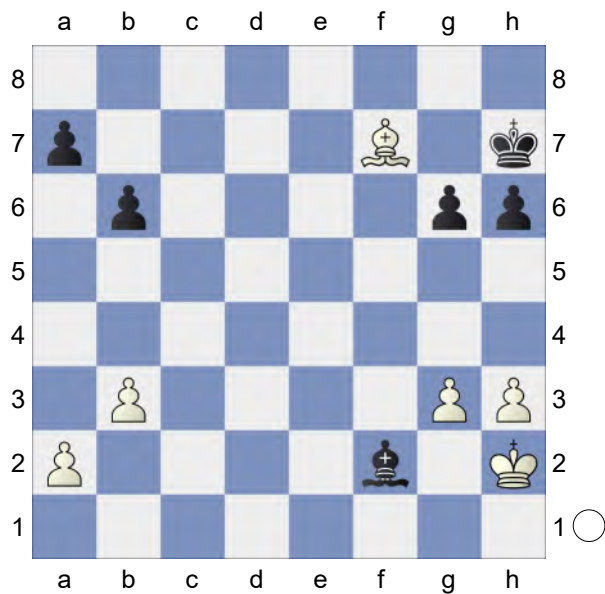
17.Qxc3 Qxe7 18.Rae1 Ne2+
19.Rxe2 Qxe2 with a pawn more,
although a draw is likely.) 17.Rae1
Qa3 18.Nxd5 Rc2 with advantage.]
16...Re8 17.Kh1 h6 18.Rfe1 Kh7
19.Kh2 Qd7 20.Bxe7! White chooses
the perfect time to liquidate. 20...Rxe7



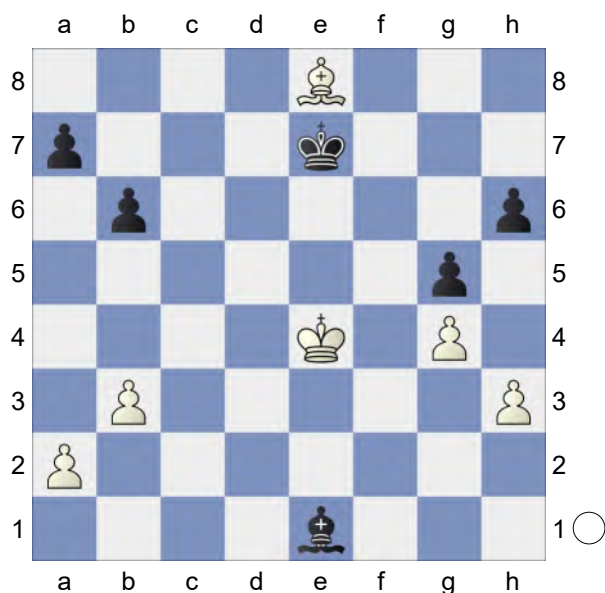
21.Rxe7 Qxe7 22.Nxd5 Qd7 23.Rxc8
Qxc8 Now the position is a total draw,
although the game continues a bit.
24.Nf4 Qc5 25.Qe3 Qc2



26.Bd5 Nf5 27.Qe2 Qxe2 28.Nxe2
Nd4 29.Nxd4 Bxd4 30.Bxf7 Bxf2

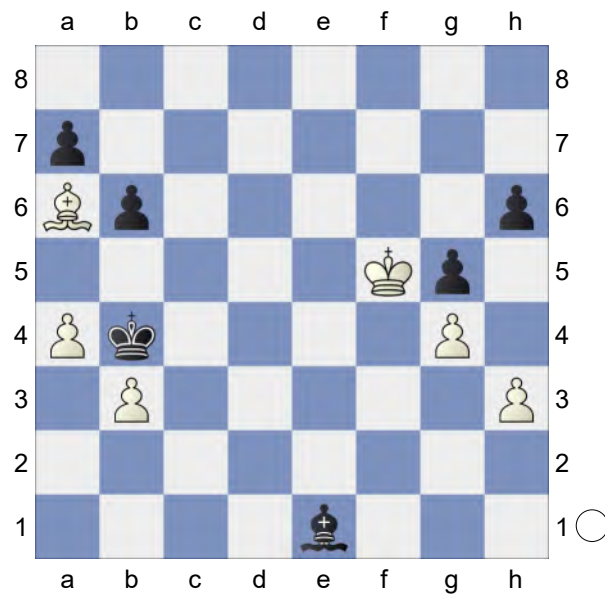


I suppose there must have been a no-draw rule of some sort, as playing on here is totally absurd, of course. 31.Kg2 Be1 32.Kf3 Kg7 33.Be8 Kf6 34.g4 g5 35.Ke4 Ke7

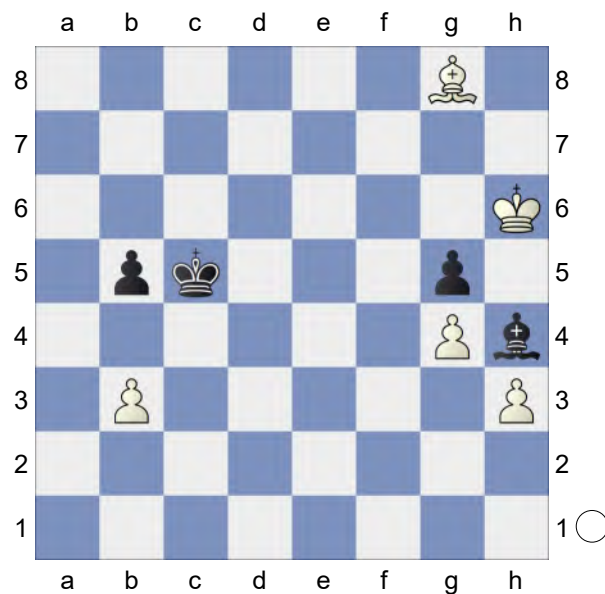


36.Bb5 Kf6 37.Bc4 Ke7 38.Ba6 Kd6 39.Kf5 Kc5 40.a4 Kb4

(Diagram)

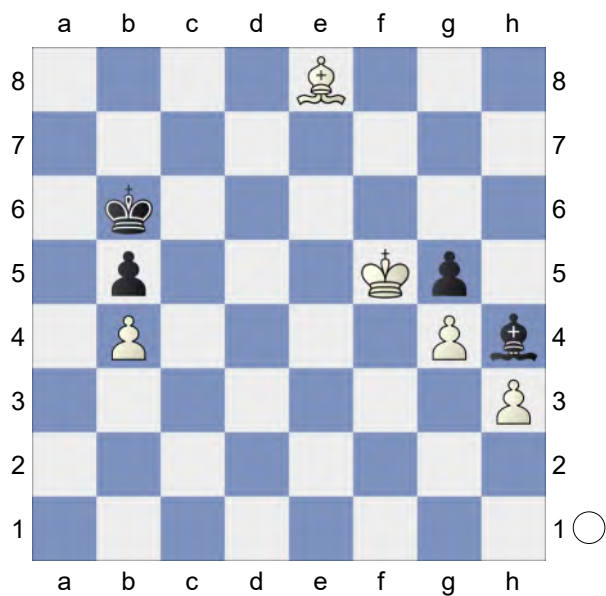


41.Bc4 a6 42.Kg6 b5 43.axb5 axb5 44.Bg8 Kc5 45.Kxh6 Bh4

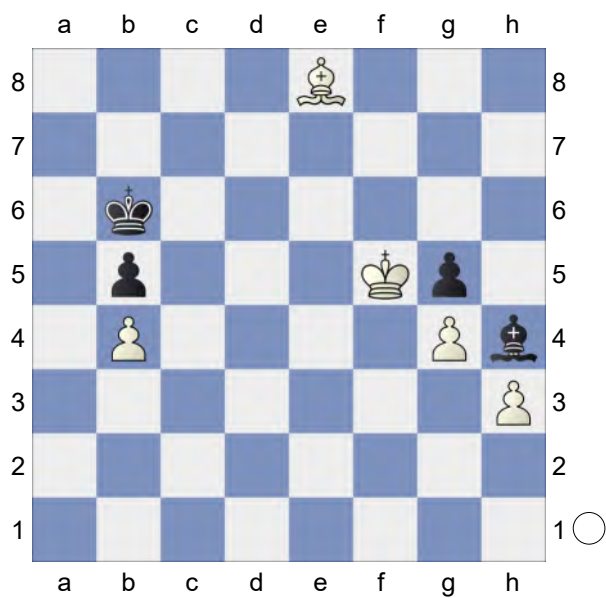


46.Kg6 Kd6 47.Kf5 Kc5 48.Bf7 Kd6 49.b4 Kc6 50.Be8+ Kb6

(Diagram)



**51.Bd7 Ka6 52.Be8 Kb6 53.Bd7 Ka6
54.Be8 Kb6**



1/2-1/2

460

□ Wei,Yi

■ Zhou Jianchao

4th Hainan Danzhou GM (8.5) 28.05.13

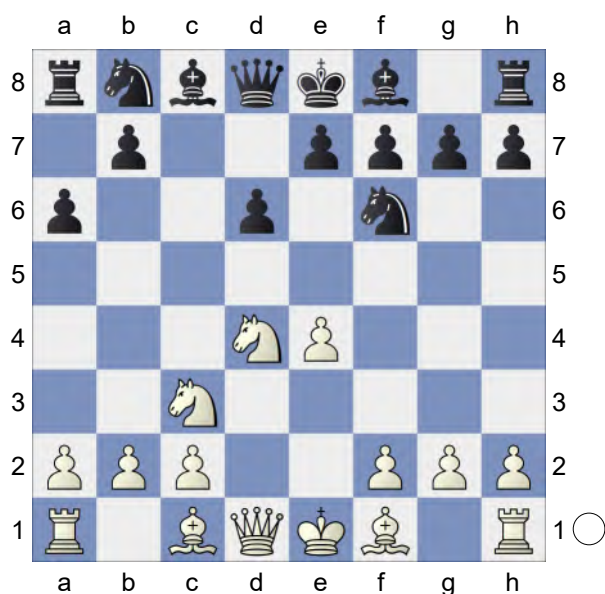
[Van Delft & Ris]

B80

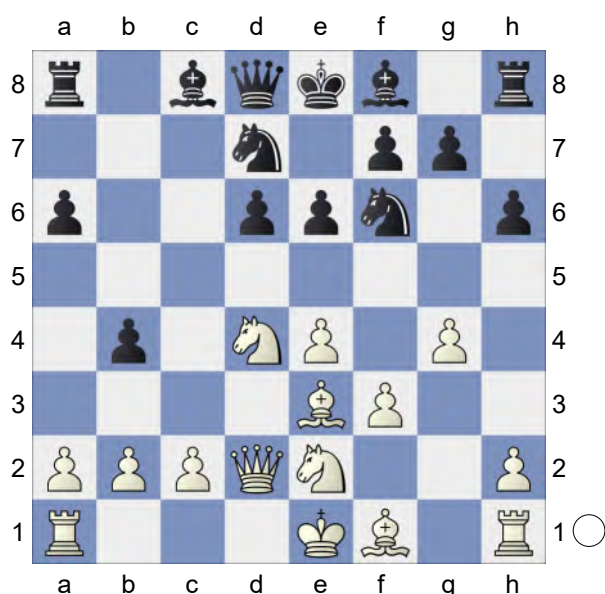
2530

2607

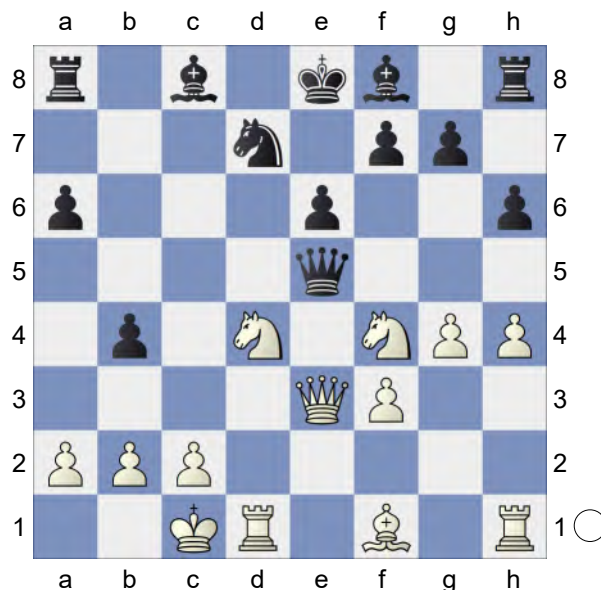
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 a6



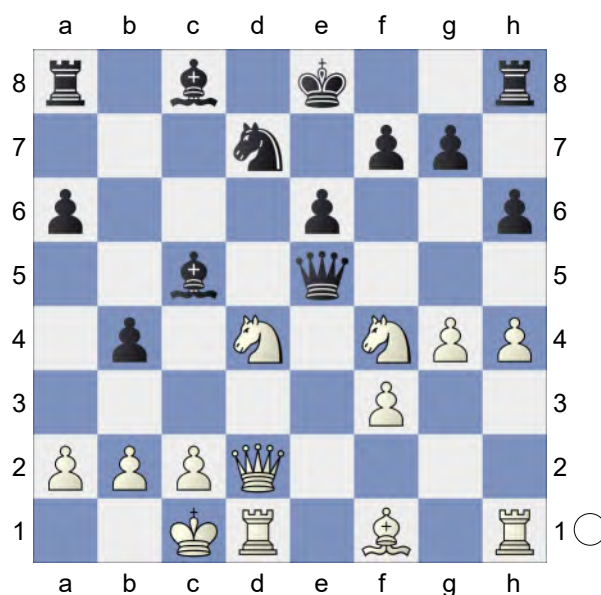
6.Be3 e6 7.f3 b5 8.Qd2 Nbd7 9.g4
b4 10.Nce2 h6



11.0-0-0 Qc7 12.h4 d5 13.exd5 Nxd5
14.Nf4 Nxe3 15.Qxe3 Qe5



16.Qd2 Bc5 Diagramm



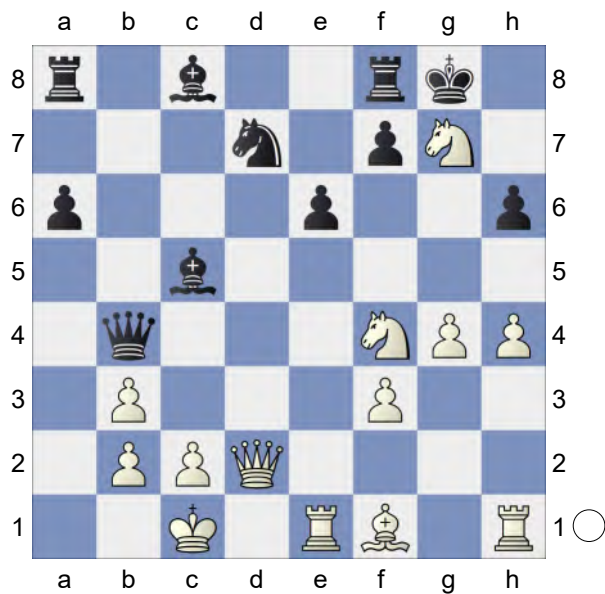
Black has misplayed a sharp line of the English Attack and is now quickly punished for it: **17.Nf5!** Starting the action. **17...0-0**

[17...exf5 18.Re1 simply loses the Q.]

18.Re1 Qb8 19.Nxg7! The energetic follow-up. **19...b3**

[19...Kxg7 20.Nh5+ Kh7 21.Bd3+ f5 22.Rxe6 and White's attack wins easily.]

20.axb3 Qb4



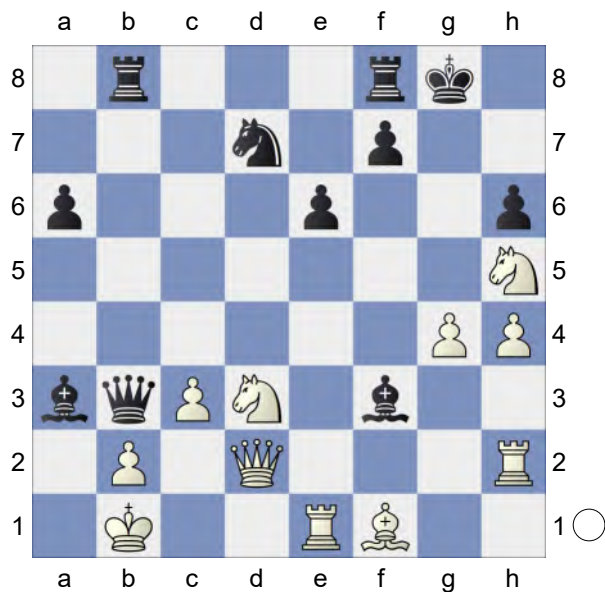
21.c3 Qxb3 22.Ngh5

[22.Ngxe6!? fxe6 23.Nxe6
also looks good.]

22...Rb8 23.Nd3 Ba3 24.Rh2 Bb7

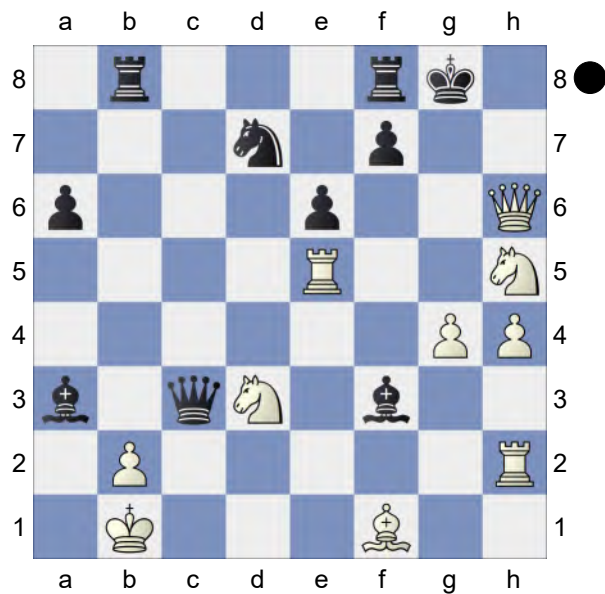
[24...Qa2 was the final defensive try.]

25.Kb1 Bxf3



26.Qxh6 Qxc3 27.Re5

(Diagram)



1-0

448

□ Wei, Yi

■ Stukopin, Andrey

52nd World Juniors 2013 (9.7) 22.09.13

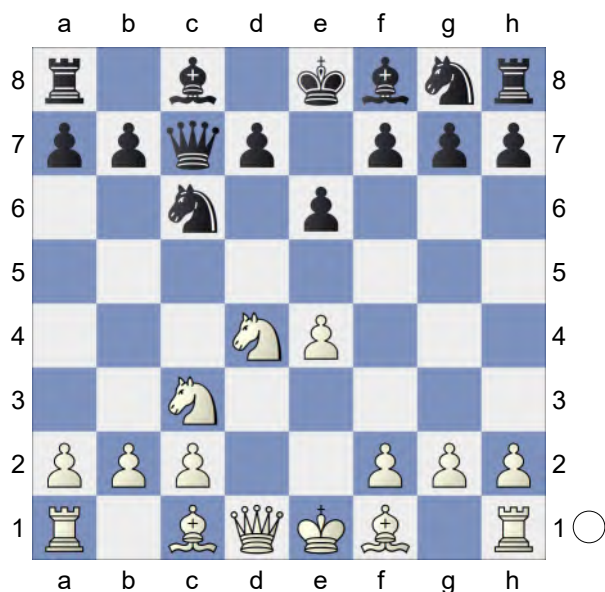
[Van Delft & Ris]

B48

2551

2522

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7



6.Be3 a6 7.Qd2 Nf6 8.0-0-0

[8.f4!? d6 9.Be2 (9.0-0-0! is more in the spirit of White's previous move.) 9...Bd7 (9...Be7 is the normal move here.) 10.0-0 (10.0-0-0 is still an option.) 10...Be7 11.Rad1 0-0 12.Nb3 b5 13.a3 Rfd8 14.Bf3 Rab8 15.g4!? Attacking in classical style. Be8 (15...Bc8 16.g5 Nd7 to relocate the bishop on the long diagonal actually looks fine for Black.) 16.Qg2 Nd7 17.g5 Nb6 18.Bc1 (The immediate 18.f5 looks more straightforward.) 18...Nc4 (18...Na4!?) 19.Kh1 Qb6 20.Bg4 Bd7?! (20...a5 seems to be the right strategy here, preparing b4 to push the knight back from c3 and making it possible to answer f5 with exf5.)

21.Qh3 Qb7 22.f5 N6e5 23.g6!
Now White is getting his play going.
fxg6 24.fxg6 Nxd6 25.Bxe6+?!
(25.Nd4!) 25...Bxe6 26.Qxe6+ Kh8
27.Nd4 Re8 28.Qd5 Bf6 29.Qxb7
Rxb7 30.Nd5 Bxd4 31.Rxd4 Kg8
and, although this position is fairly
balanced, Black eventually went on to
win in Stukopin-Cori, Kocaeli 2013.]

8...Be7

[8...b5 9.Bf4 Ne5 10.Nf3 Nxf3
11.gxf3 Qa5 was played in Safarli-
Jumabayev, Baku 2013, but here the
simple 12.Kb1 b4 13.Ne2 d5
and now a move like 14.Nd4
looks attractive for White.]

9.f4!?

[9.f3 b5 10.g4 Nxd4

A) 11.Qxd4 Bb7 12.g5 Nh5

A1) 13.Bh3 f6!? (13...Rc8
also works well.) 14.Kb1 fxe5
15.Bg4 Nf6 16.Bxe5 Bc5
17.Qd2 Nxe4 18.fxe4 0-0
19.Qxd7 Qxd7 20.Rxd7 Bc6
21.Rc7 Rac8 22.Rxc8 Rxc8↑
Kurayan-Pavlidis, Kocaeli 2013;

A2) 13.Kb1 Rc8 14.Qd3N
Sanal-Ter Sahakyan, Kocaeli
2013, and here Black has d5!
15.exd5 Rd8 16.a3 Bxd5
with a very comfortable position.;

B) 11.Bxd4 Bb7 (11...b4!?
12.Na4 Rb8 13.Kb1 0-0 14.Qf2
d5 15.e5 Nd7≠ Kanarek-Vidit,
Kocaeli 2013.)

B1) 12.g5 Nh5 13.Be5 Qxe5
14.Qxd7+ Kf8 15.Qxb7 Bxe5+
16.Kb1 Qb8! is an important
point.;

B2) 12.Kb1 0-0 13.h4 (13.Be3
b4 14.Ne2 d5 15.g5 Nd7
16.exd5 Bxd5 17.Nf4 Bc6≠
Idani-Grover, Kocaeli 2013.)

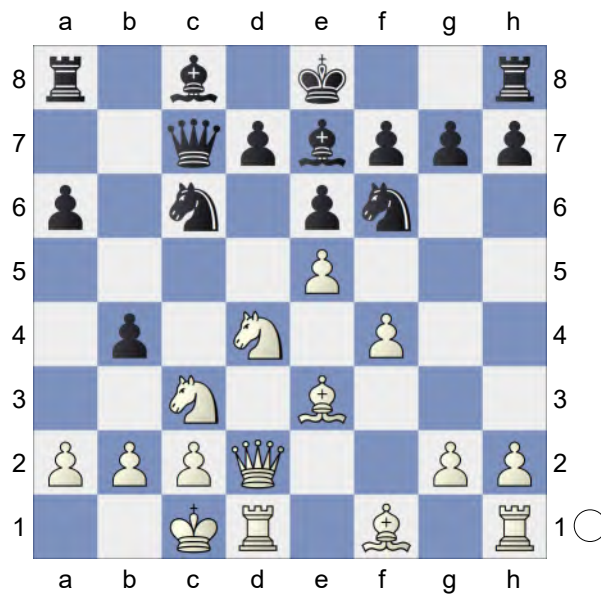
13...Rac8 14.Bd3?! e5!
15.Be3?! Bb4

Kurayan-Stukopin, Kocaeli 2013.;

B3) 12.Bd3 0-0 13.Ne2
(13.Kb1 b4 14.Na4 d5 15.e5
Nd7 16.Qe3 Rab8 17.f4 Bc6
18.Nc5 Nxc5 19.Bxc5 Bb5;
13.g5 Nh5 14.Ne2 f6) 13...d6
14.Ng3 Nd7 15.Kb1 Ne5
Black is already doing very well
here. 16.f4 Nf3 (16...Nxd3
17.cxd3 Rfc8 is an interesting
middlegame option.) 17.Qc3
Qxc3 18.Bxc3 d5 19.exd5 Bxd5
20.Be4 Bxe4 21.Nxe4 Rfd8
22.Rdf1 Nd4 23.f5 exf5 24.gxf5
f6 25.Rhg1 Kf7 26.Ng3
(26.Ba5 had to be played to
keep the position balanced.)
26...Bf8 27.Rf4 Nc6 28.a3 a5
29.b3 Bc5 30.Rg2 Rd1+
31.Ka2 Nb4+! A nice tactic,
gaining a winning advantage.
32.Bxb4 axb4 33.a4 bxa4
34.Nh5 Bf8! This bishop kills any
hope of counterplay. 35.bxa4
Rxa4+ 36.Kb2 Raa1 37.Kb3
Rdb1+ 38.Kc4 Ra5 39.Kd3
Re5 40.Kd2 Rd5+ 41.Ke2 Rc5
42.Kd3 Rd1+ 43.Ke4 Rc4+
44.Ke3 Rc3+ 45.Ke4 Re1+
0-1, Eliseev-Yu Yangyi, Kocaeli
2013]

9...b5 10.e5 b4

(Diagram)

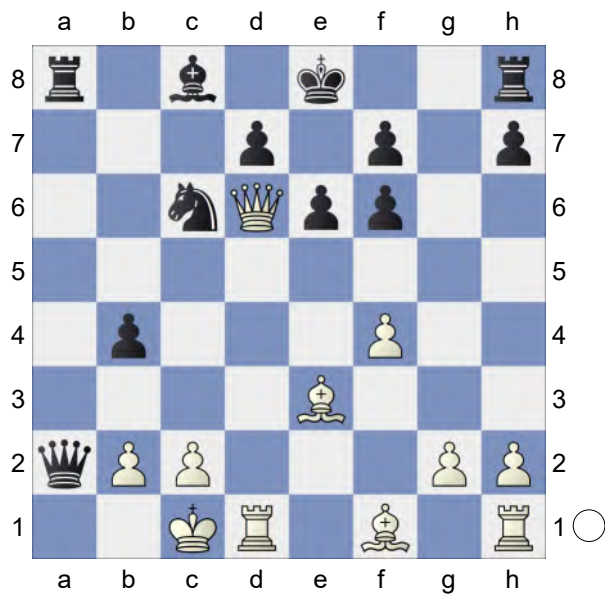


11.Ncb5 axb5 12.Nxb5 Qa5!

[12...Qb8 13.exf6 gxf6 14.Kb1 d5
15.c4 (15.Qf2 Ba6 16.Bb6 Bxb5
17.Bxb5 Qb7 18.b3 Rb8 19.Bxc6+
Qxc6 20.Bd4 is probably fine for
Black, but you might as well avoid it.)
15...bxc3 16.Qxc3 Bd7 17.Bc5 0-0
18.Qg3+ Kh8 19.Qh4 Bxc5
20.Qxf6+ Kg8 21.Qg5+ Kh8 22.Qf6+
Kg8 23.Qg5+ Kh8 24.Qf6+ Kg8
25.Qg5+ Kh8 1/2-1/2, Yu Yangyi-Cori,
Kocaeli 2013.]

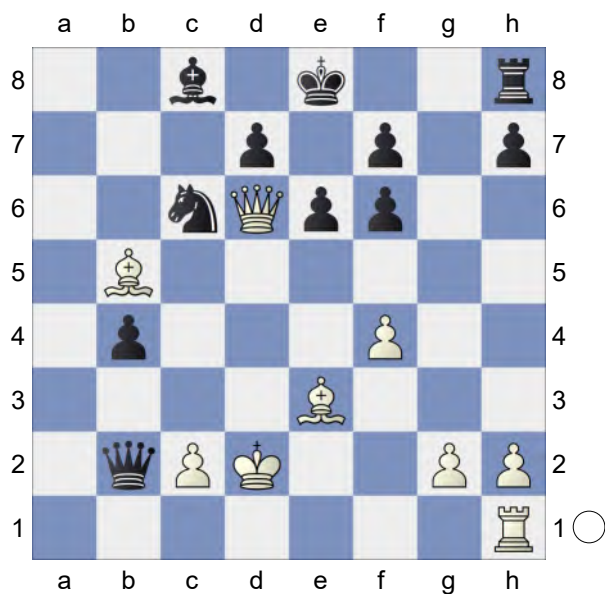
**13.exf6 gxf6 14.Nd6+ Bxd6 15.Qxd6
Qxa2**

(Diagram)



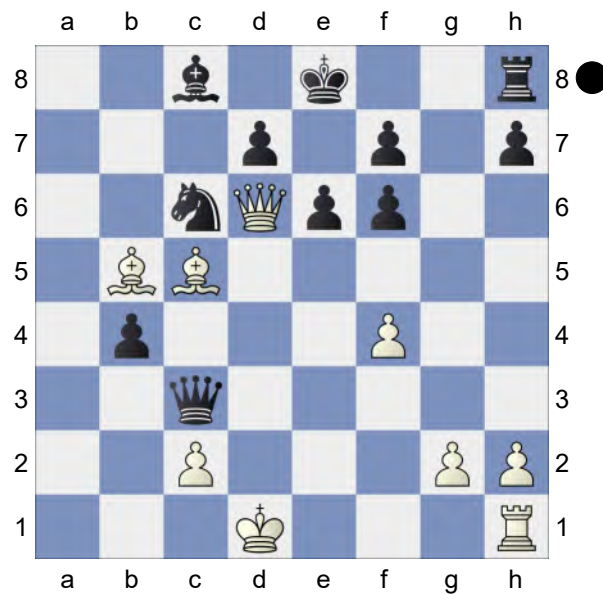
16.Rd3 Qa1+ 17.Kd2 Ra2 18.Rb3
 [18.Bd4 Nxd4 19.Rxd4 Rxb2
 20.Bb5 Qa5 21.Bxd7+ Bxd7 22.Ra1!
 Qxa1 23.Qb8+ Ke7 24.Qd6+
 with a perpetual.]

18...Rxb2 19.Bb5 Qa2 20.Rxb2 Qxb2



21.Bc5 Qc3+ 22.Kd1 Diagram

(Diagram)



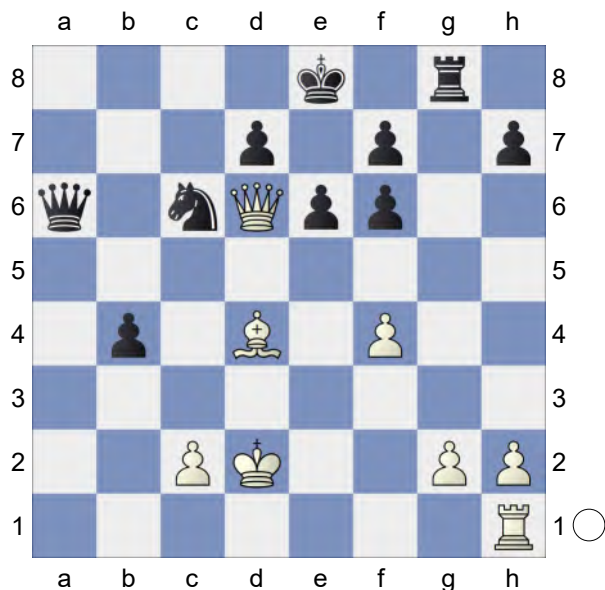
As an aspiring Taimanov player, you need to be aware of the f4 options that White has within the English Attack, on move eight and nine, that is. In Stukopin-Cori 8.f4!? was answered by the modest 8...d6 and now 9.0-0-0 actually looks quite attractive for White. The alternative 9.f4!? was played twice on the top boards at the World Junior. In Yu Yangyi-Cori Black played 12...Qb8 and drew without problems (15.Qf2 may be an alternative there). In Wei Yi-Stukopin Black deviated with 12...Qa5! and after relatively forcing play the diagram position was reached. Here Black found the only move 22...Ba6!, which solved all his problems. The new main line of the Taimanov, 9.f3 b5 10.g4 Nxd4, was tested six times at the World Junior and with three wins and three draws Black scored yet another fantastic result. The most prominent of these games was Eliseev-Yu Yangyi, which helped the latter to become World Champion. Black consistently obtained pleasant positions from the opening and it's still hard to see where White can improve. **22...Ba6!** The only move.

23.Bxa6

[23.Bxc6 Qa1+ 24.Kd2 Qc3+
with a perpetual.]

23...Qa1+ 24.Kd2 Qxa6 25.Bd4?!

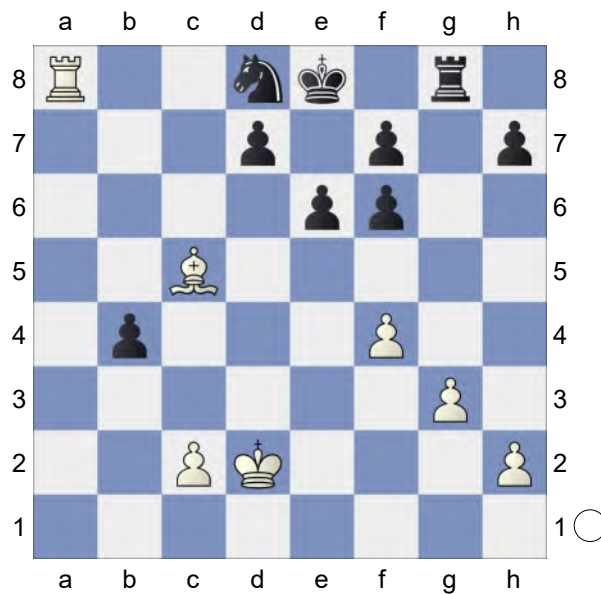
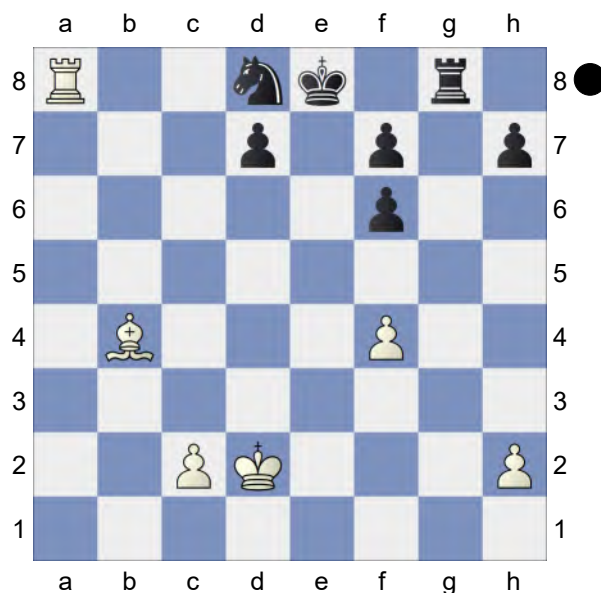
[25.Rb1 Kd8 26.Bxb4 Nxb4
27.Qxb4 and White is active enough
to compensate for the minus pawn.]

25...Rg8**26.g3 Qb7?!**

[Here 26...b3! would still test White
and challenge him to find two accurate
rook moves: 27.Rb1! (27.cxb3 Qa2+
is good for Black.; 27.Ra1 Qb7
28.Bc5 b2 29.Rb1 f5 30.c3 f6
31.Kc2 Kf7 32.Rxb2 Qc8+) 27...bxc2
28.Ra1! c1Q+ (28...Qb7 29.Bc5
is dynamically balanced.) 29.Rxc1
Qa2+ 30.Kd1 Qa4+ 31.Kd2=]

**27.Bc5 Qb8 28.Qxb8+ Nxb8 29.Ra1
Nc6 30.Ra8+ Nd8**

(Diagram)

**31.f5 exf5 32.Bxb4 f4 33.gxf4**

1/2-1/2

461

□ Wei,Yi

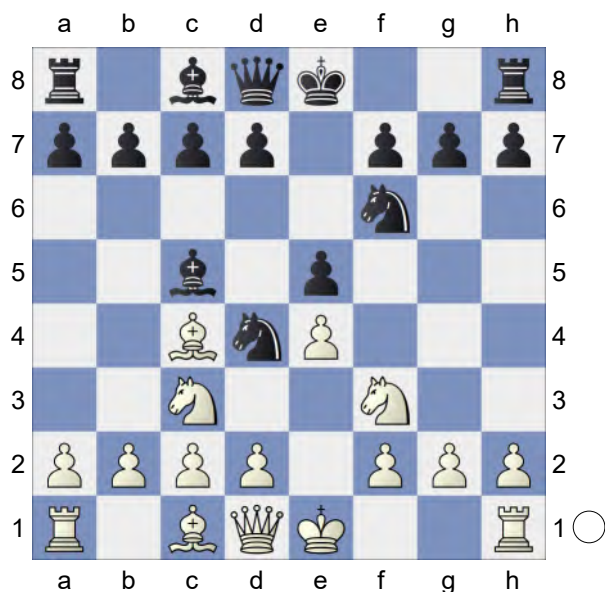
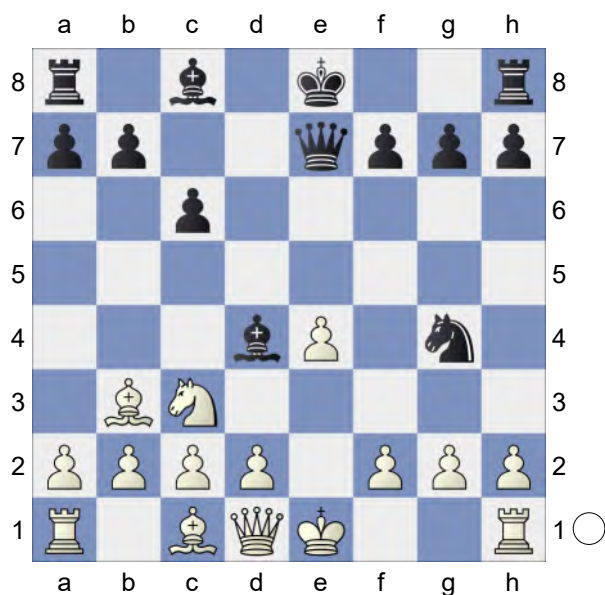
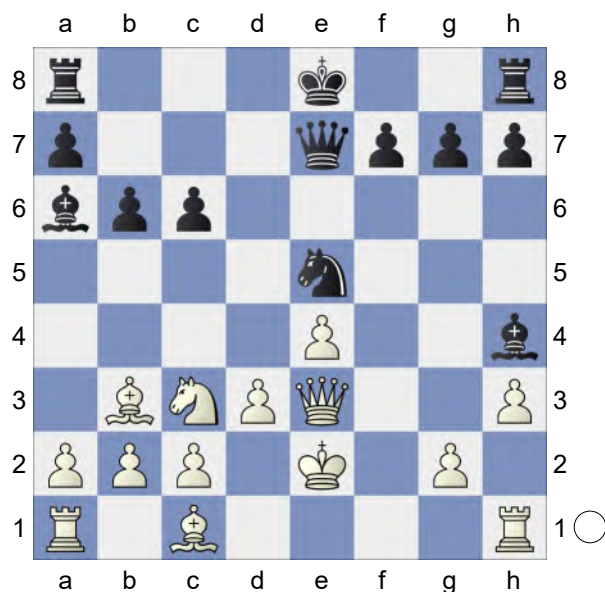
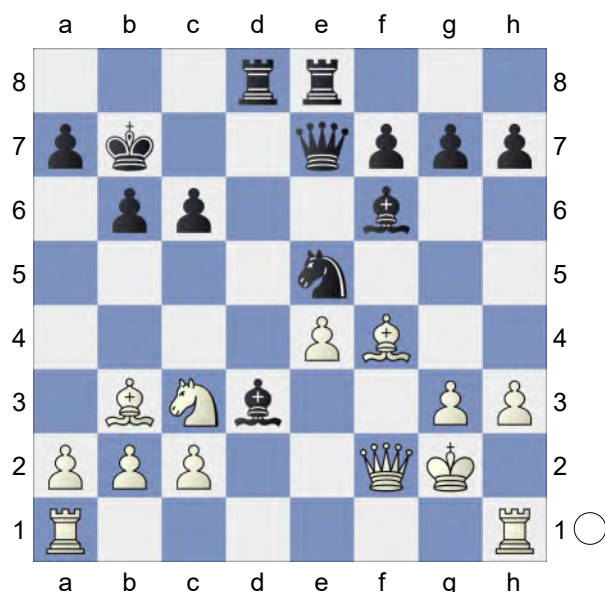
■ Li,Chao

ch-CHN 2013 Xinghua CHN (3.2) 18.4.13
[Van Delft & Ris]

C48

2530

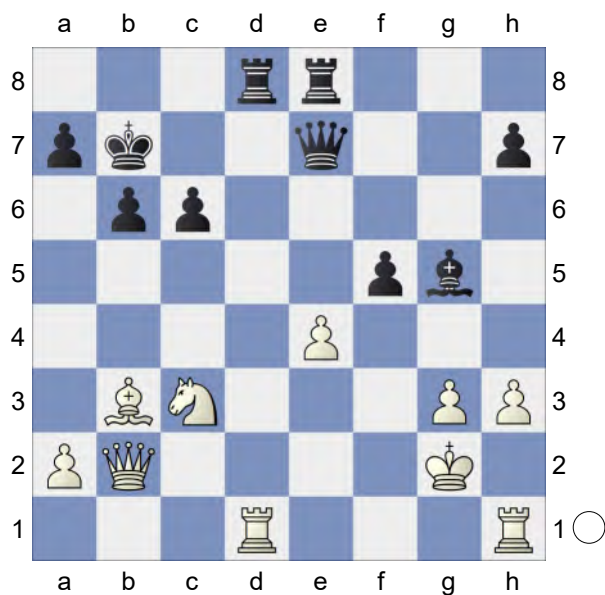
2686

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.Nc3
Nd4 5.Bc4 Bc56.Nxe5 Qe7 7.Nf3 d5 8.Bxd5 c6
9.Nxd4 Bxd4 10.Bb3 Ng4 DiagrammWhite can keep good control over the
position with 11.Qf3![11.0-0?? loses immediately to Qh4
12.h3 Nxf2]11...Bxf2+ 12.Ke2! Here the K is
perfectly safe. This is reminiscent of the
legendary Steinitz Gambit. 12...Bh4
13.h3 Ne5 14.Qe3 b6 15.d3!
White is playing solidly so that the
central pawns make a shelter for the K.
15...Ba616.g3 Bf6 17.Kf2! The K walks to
safety. 17...0-0-0 18.Kg2 Rhe8 19.Qf2
Kb7 20.Bf4 Bxd3!?

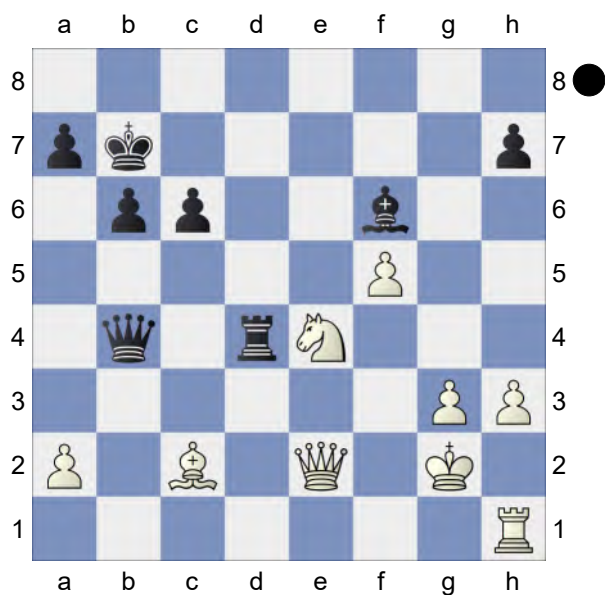
Trying to create counterplay, but White

convincingly brings home the full point.

21.cxd3 Nxd3 22.Qe2 Nxb2 23.Qxb2 g5 24.Bxg5 Bxg5 25.Rad1 f5



26.exf5 Bf6 27.Rxd8 Rxd8 28.Qe2 Qb4 29.Ne4 Rd4 30.Bc2



1-0

61

□ Wang, Yue

■ Wei, Yi

TCh Shanghai CHN (7)

[Van Delft/Ris]

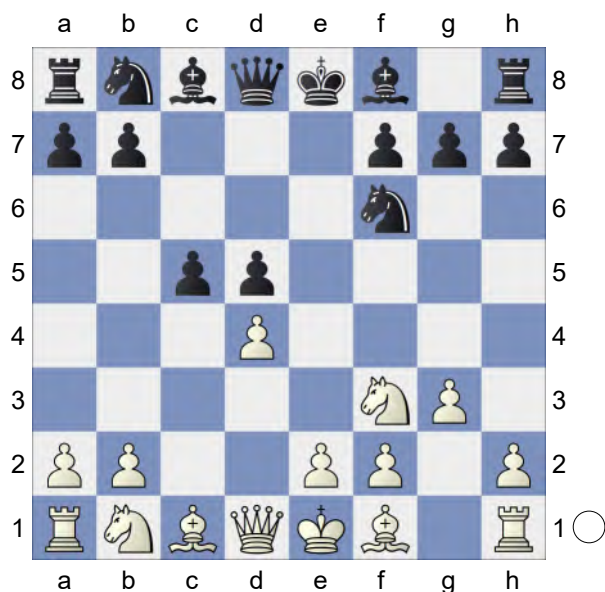
D30

2749

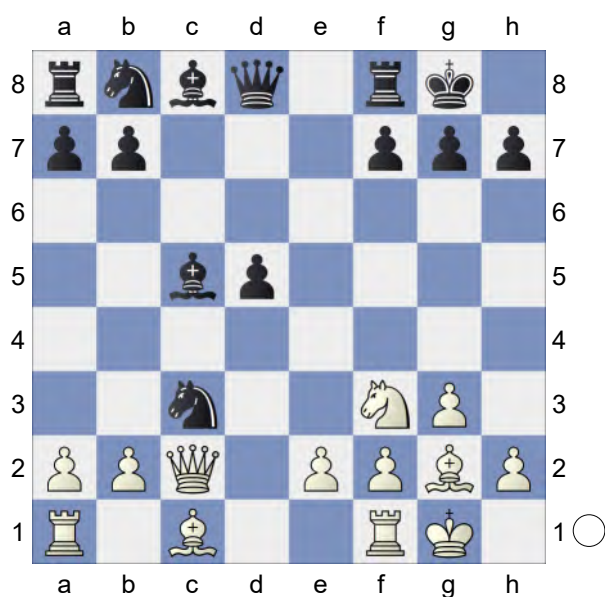
2244

24.07.2010

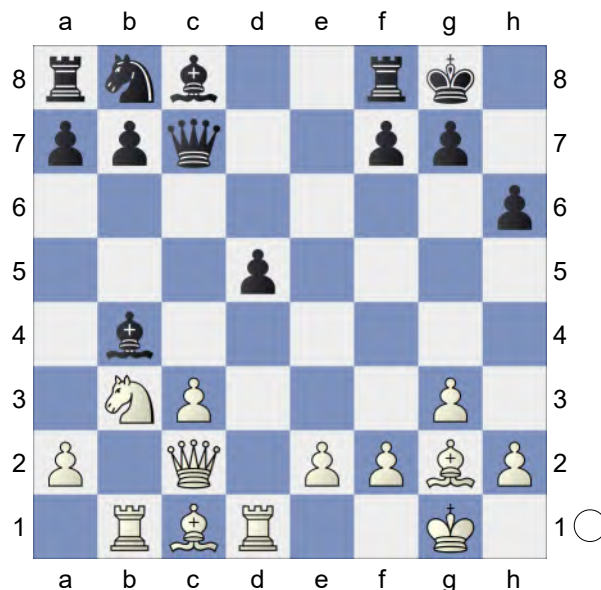
1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 c5 4.cxd5
exd5 5.g3 Nf6



6.Bg2 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.dxc5 Bxc5
9.Qc2 Ne4 10.Nc3 Nxc3

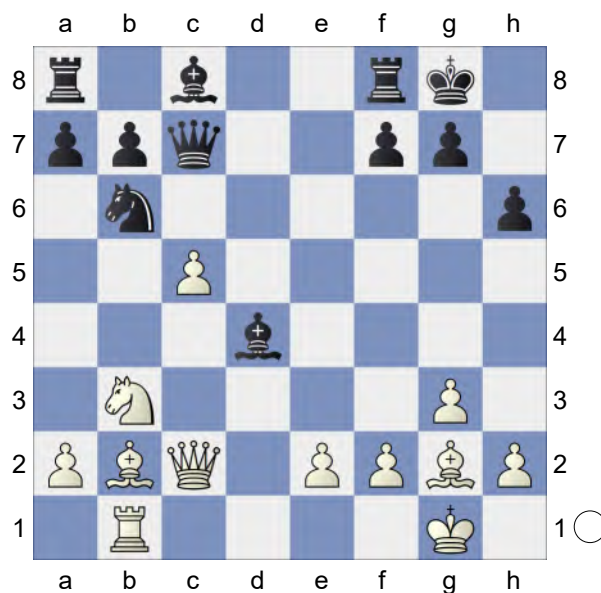


11.bxc3 h6 12.Rd1 Qb6 13.Rb1 Qa5
14.Nd2 Qc7 15.Nb3 Bb4



16.Bb2 Nd7 17.Rxd5 Nb6 18.Rd4
Be7 19.c4 Bf6 Diagram # 20.c5!
With this positional exchange sacrifice
White keeps a strong initiative.
20...Bxd4

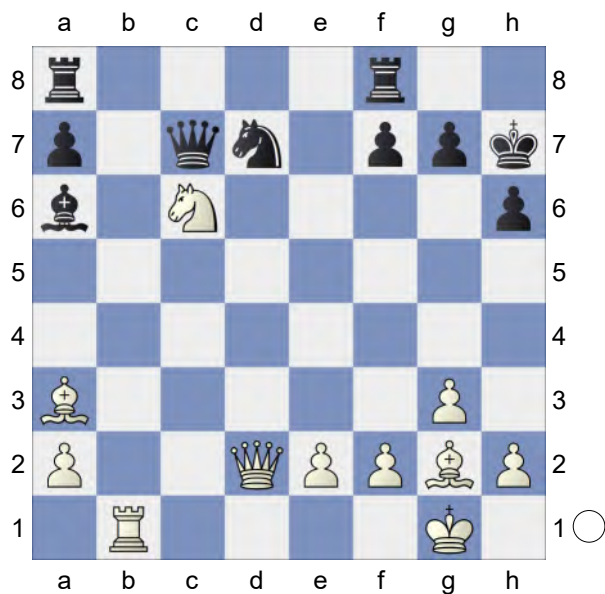
[In case of 20...Nd7 White can simply
retreat with 21.Rdd1 and c4 is no
longer hanging.]



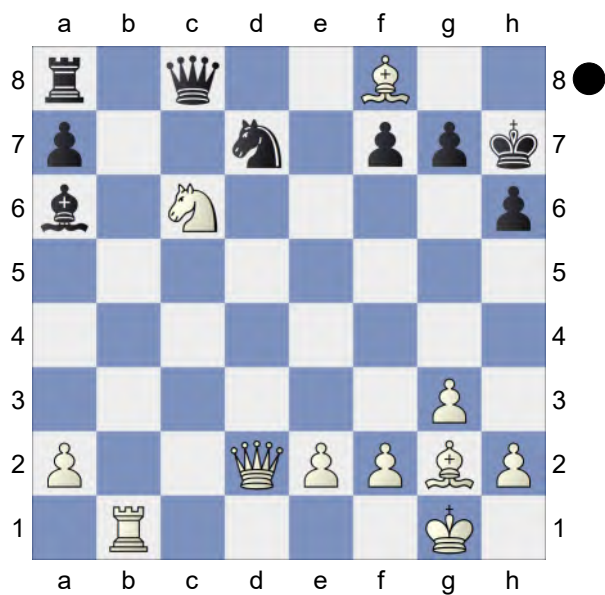
21.Nxd4 Nd7 22.c6! bxc6

[22...Nb6 is met by 23.Nb5! Qb8
(23...Qe7 24.Ba3; 23...Qd8 24.cxb7)
24.c7 trapping the Q.]

23.Nxc6 Kh8 24.Qd2 Threatening 25.
Qxh6. 24...Kh7 25.Ba3 Ba6
 [25...Re8 26.Bd6]



26.Bd6 Qc8 27.Bxf8
 [27.Bxf8 and Black resigned as both
 Nxf8 (and 27...Qxf8 28.Qxd7)
 28.Ne7 lose more material.]



1-0

450

□ Wei, Yi

■ Emiroglu, Cankut

52nd World Juniors (1.10) 13.09.2013

[Van de Oudeweetering, Arthur]

C10

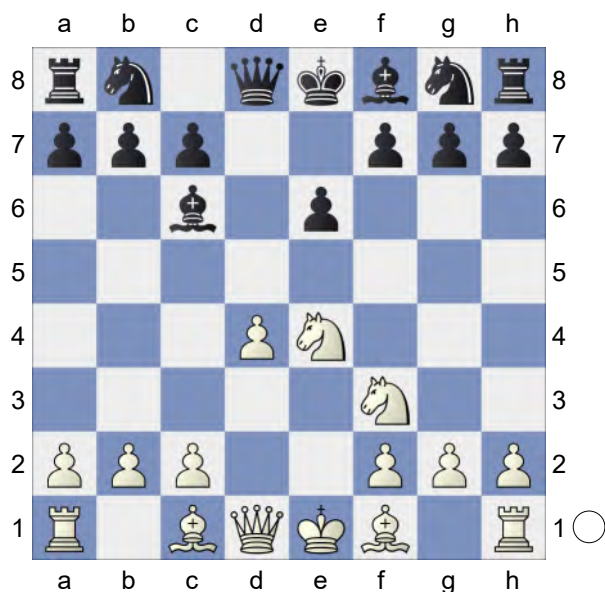
2551

2260

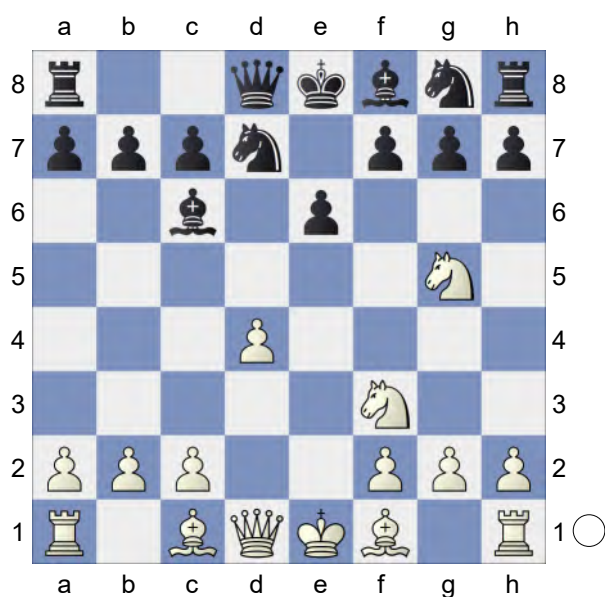
THE KING IN THE MIDDLE 1.e4 e6

2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bd7

5.Nf3 Bc6



6.Neg5 Nd7 Diagram

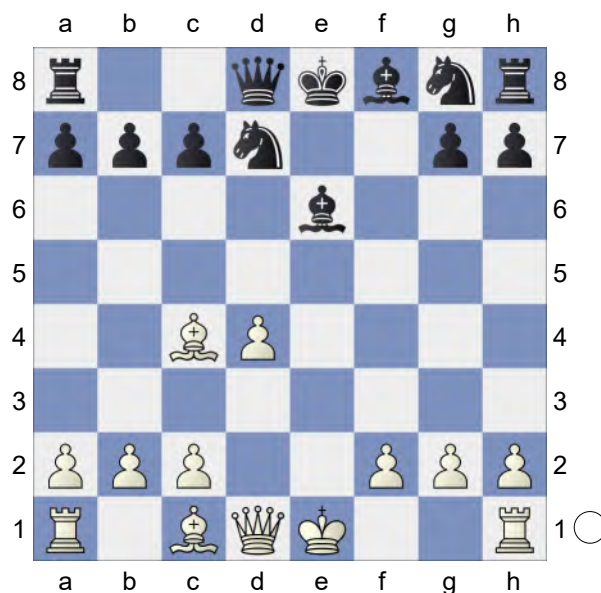


Here we have an even more recent example where the young Chinese

player was more or less following in the footsteps of his compatriot. 7.Nxf7!? Kxf7 8.Ng5+ Ke8 9.Bc4 White is about to capture a second pawn on e6, and though there is no immediate danger of mate, the black king will be stuck in the middle for a while. 9...Bd5

["The computer" fearlessly takes on g2 first: 9...Bxg2 10.Rg1 Bd5 11.Nxe6 but Black's loss of the right to castle is still troublesome; after, for example, Bxe6 12.Bxe6 (a 'beastly bishop', see CVT 117) Qh4 13.Qf3 Ngf6 14.Bf4 White seems to have sufficient compensation.]

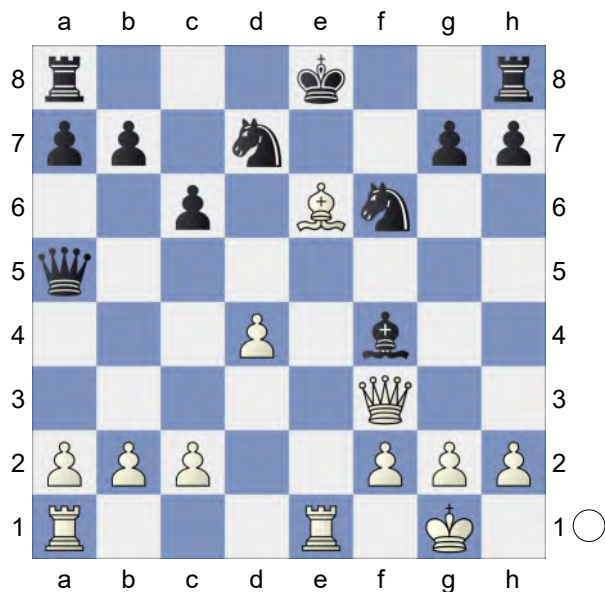
10.Nxe6 Bxe6



11.Bxe6 Bd6 12.0-0 Ngf6 White has definite positional compensation, but if and when Black manages to disentangle the position, material balance will gradually tell and both sides have their practical chances. 13.Qf3

[The immediate 13.Re1 may be more to the point, to answer c6 with 14.c4] 13...c6 14.Re1 Qa5 15.Bf4 Bxf4

(Diagram)



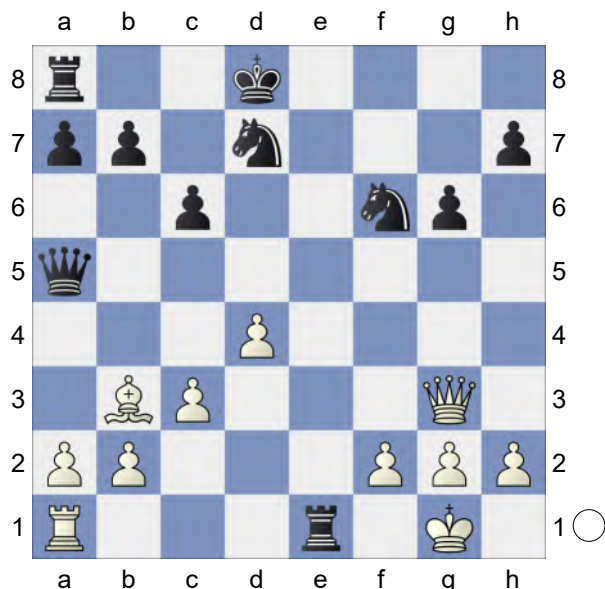
16.Qxf4 Kd8 17.Qg3 g6 18.c3

Here White continued very 'solidly', whereas perhaps

[18.Rad1]

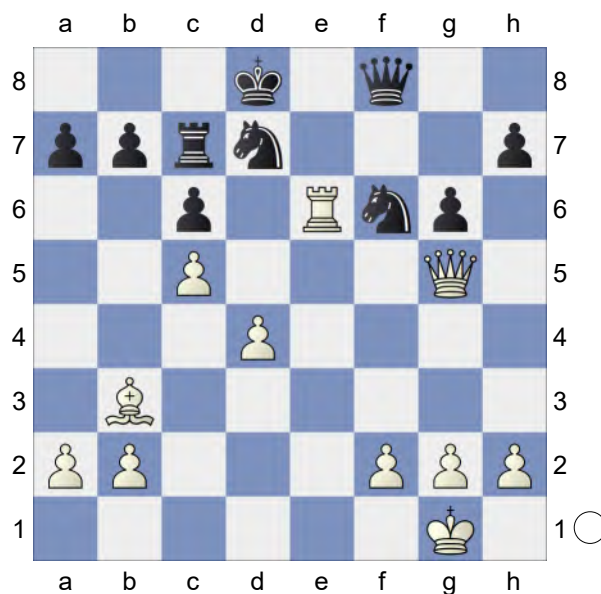
[or 18.c4 would have been more appropriate. In the game Black eventually managed to evacuate his king safely to b8 after having manoeuvred his queen to d6. But just before the 40th move he collapsed under the constant pressure.]

18...Re8 19.Bf7 Re7 20.Bb3 Rxe1+

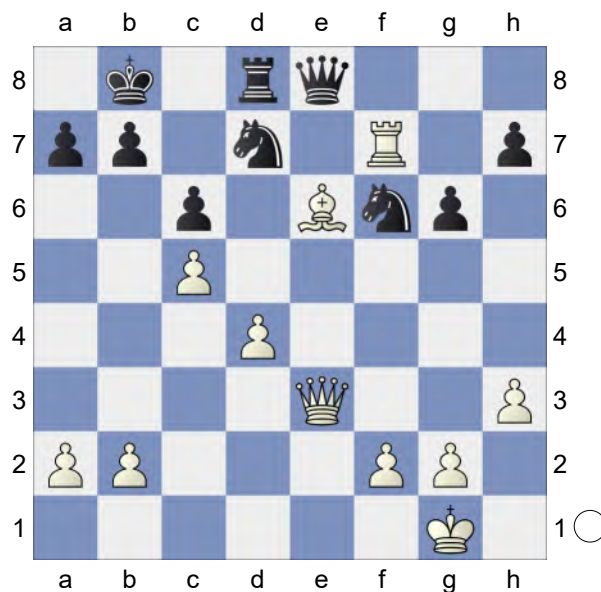


21.Rxe1 Qc7 22.Qg5 Qd6 23.Re6

Qf8 24.c4 Rc8 25.c5 Rc7

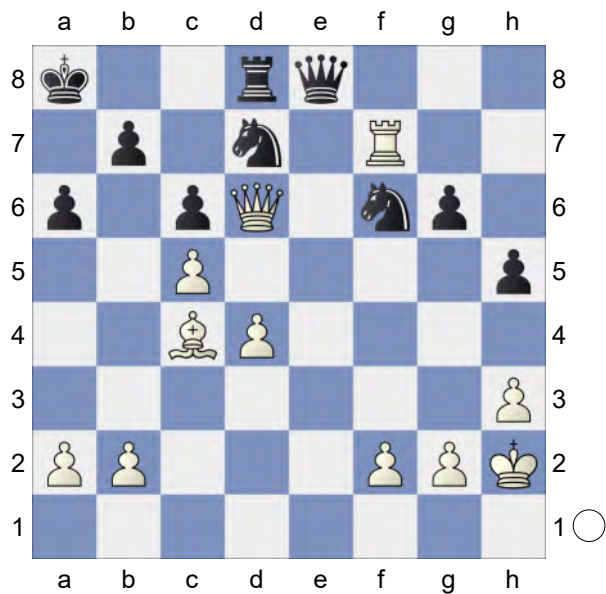


**26.h3 Kc8 27.Qe3 Kb8 28.Re7 Rc8
29.Rf7 Qe8 30.Be6 Rd8**

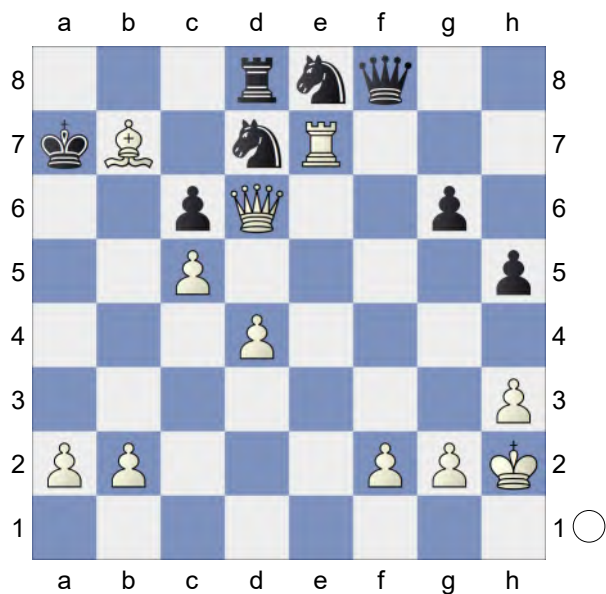


**31.Qf4+ Ka8 32.Qc7 a6 33.Kh2 h5
34.Bc4 Rc8 35.Qd6 Rd8**

(Diagram)

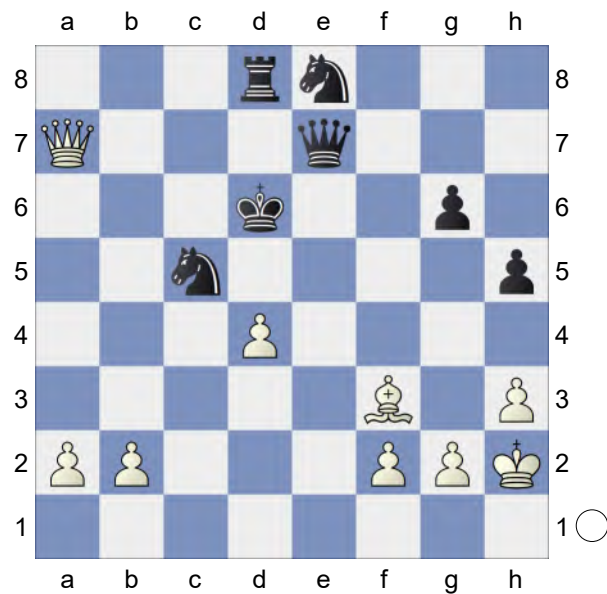


**36.Qc7 Rc8 37.Qd6 Rd8 38.Re7 Qf8
39.Bxa6 Ne8 40.Bxb7+ Ka7**

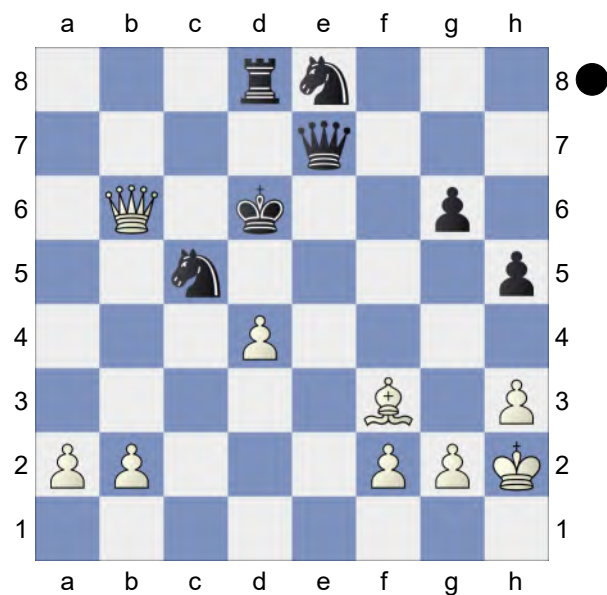


**41.Qxc6 Qxe7 42.Qa6+ Kb8 43.Bf3
Nxc5 44.Qa8+ Kc7 45.Qa7+ Kd6**

(Diagram)



46.Qb6+



1-0

414

E46

□ Rapport, Richard

2605

■ Wei, Yi

2418

51st World Juniors (2.4) 03.08.2012

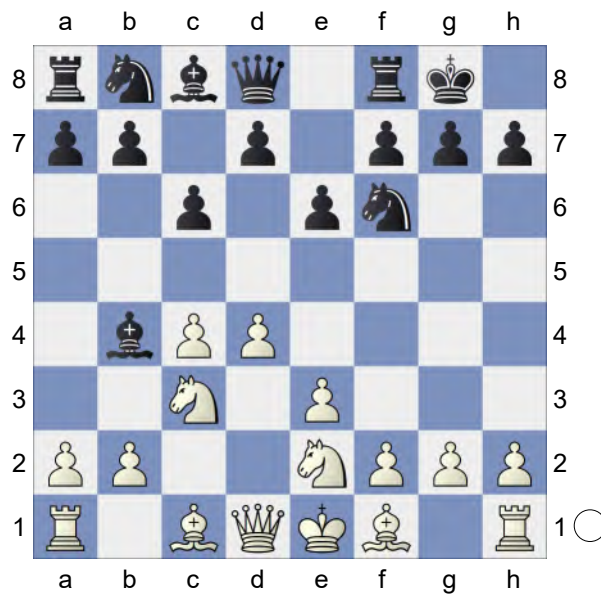
[Van de Oudeweetering, Arthur]

ANAND'S MURDEROUS TWIN GUNS

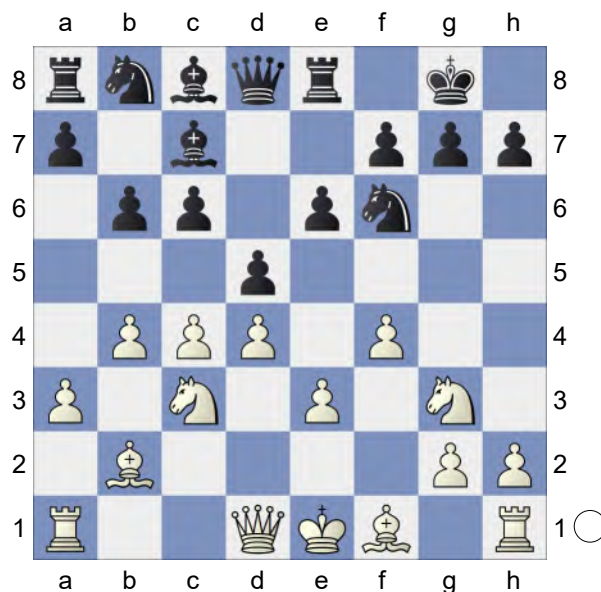
Maybe you've always been impressed by the positioning of the bishops in Lasker-Bauer. After last week you know you'd seen nothing yet. Bring on Anand's murderous twin guns! Of course I'm talking about the Aronian-Anand game from the Tata tournament in Wijk aan Zee, which is coming to an end this weekend. It was Game of the Week in CVO 211 and you might just have spotted the game elsewhere too. So we won't discuss it here, but we will look into some other deadly bishops aimed at the opponent's king. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3** ANAND'S MURDEROUS TWIN GUNS

Maybe you've always been impressed by the positioning of the bishops in Lasker-Bauer. After last week you know you'd seen nothing yet. Bring on Anand's murderous twin guns! Of course I'm talking about the Aronian-Anand game from the Tata tournament in Wijk aan Zee, which is coming to an end this weekend. It was Game of the Week in CVO 211 and you might just have spotted the game elsewhere too. So we won't discuss it here, but we will look into some other deadly bishops aimed at the opponent's king. **3...Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Nge2 c6**

(Diagram)

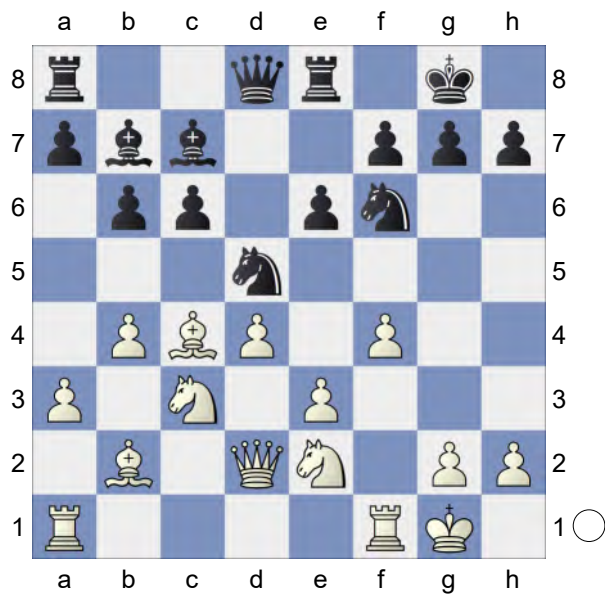


6.a3 Ba5 7.b4 Bc7 8.Bb2 d5 9.Ng3
Re8 10.f4 b6

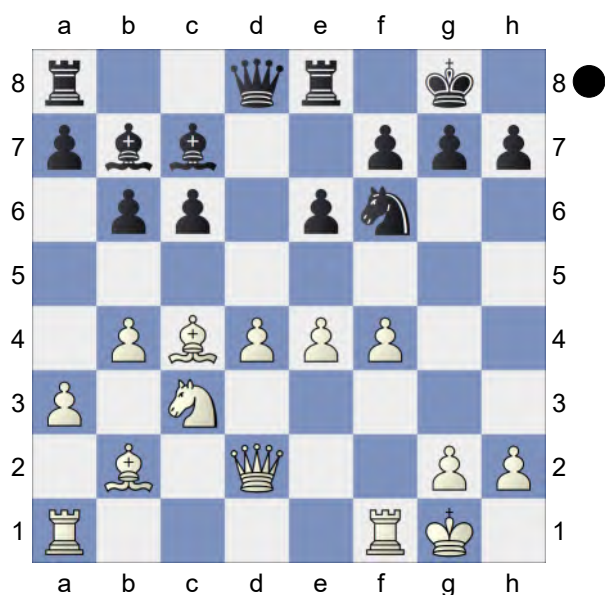


11.Be2 dxc4 12.Bxc4 Nd5 13.Qd2
Nd7 14.0-0 N7f6 15.Nge2 Bb7

(Diagram)



16.e4 Nxc3 17.Nxc3 Diagram



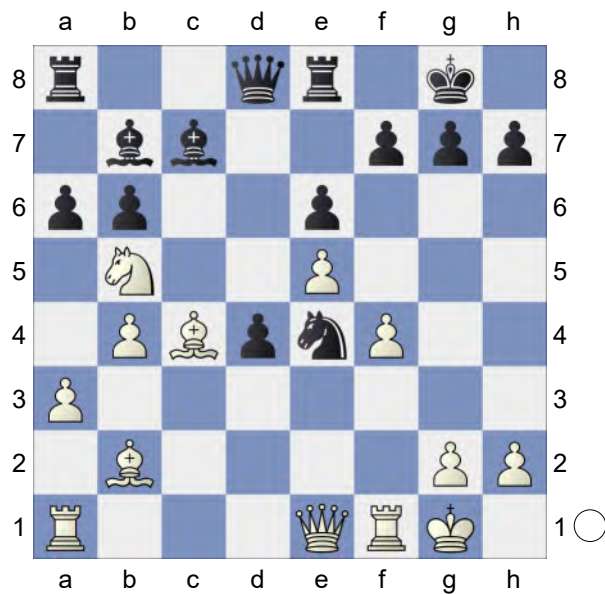
17...c5 Here comes bishop no. 1. **18.e5**
The logical follow-up, but now the b7-bishop's path is no longer blocked by any enemy pawns (cf. CVT 68, "War on the Long Diagonal"), recalling Aronian-Anand. **18...cxd4 19.Nb5 Ne4 20.Qe1?**

[The natural 20.Qc2]

[and 20.Qxd4 are both preferable.]

20...a6

(Diagram)



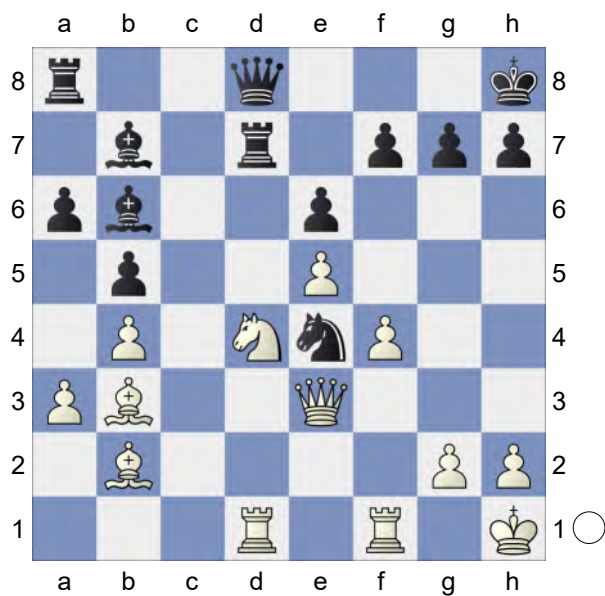
21.Nxd4

[This is the point. After 21.Nxc7 Qxc7 the bishop on c4 is under attack and Black keeps his extra pawn. After the text move Black's dark-squared bishop also comes to life.]

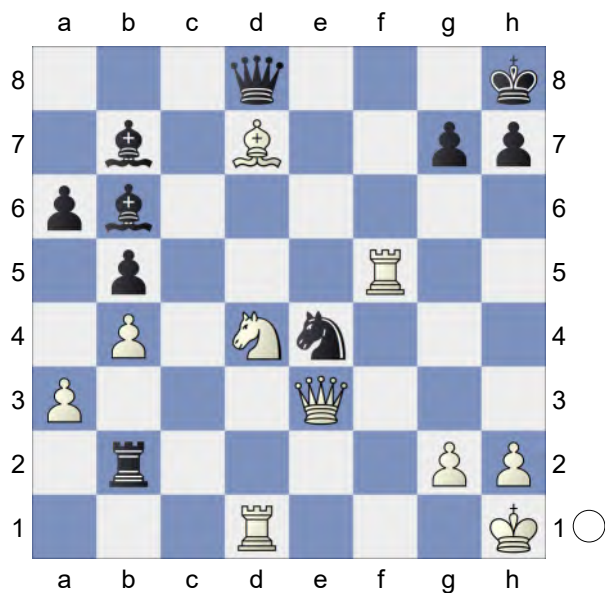
21...b5 22.Bb3 Bb6 Now the position resembles the famous Rtlewi-Rubinstein game, which Anand also referred to immediately after his game against Aronian. **23.Rd1 Re7 24.Kh1 Rd7 25.Qe3 Kh8?!**

[25...g6! 26.Bc2 Rc8 27.Bxe4 Bxe4 28.Qxe4 Rc4]

(Diagram)



26.f5 exf5 27.Rxf5 Rc8 28.e6 fxe6 29.Bxe6 Now White also has two fearsome bishops - difficult calculation lies ahead. **29...Rc2 30.Bxd7 Rxb2**

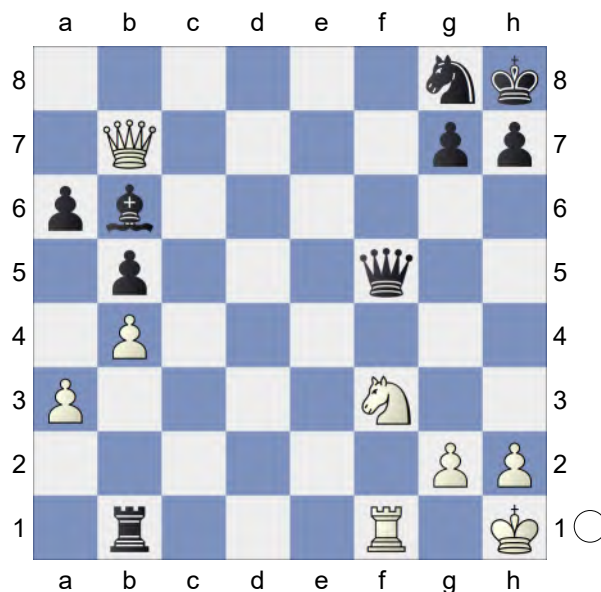


31.Qf4? Obvious, but wrong. White unpins his knight and is threatening mate, but after the cool reply Black is on top. Apparently

[31.Qe1 was the best move, leaving White in charge (Nf6 32.Bc6!).]

31...Nf6! Defending against mate and attacking both g2 and d7. Suddenly White's pieces are uncoordinated while

Black's bishops - and not only the bishops - can do their thing. **32.Nf3 Qxd7 33.Qb8+ Ng8 34.Rf1 Qxf5 35.Qxb7 Rb1**



0-1

476

□ Wei,Yi

■ Xu,Yinglun

Beijing (zt)

[Velickovic,Sa]

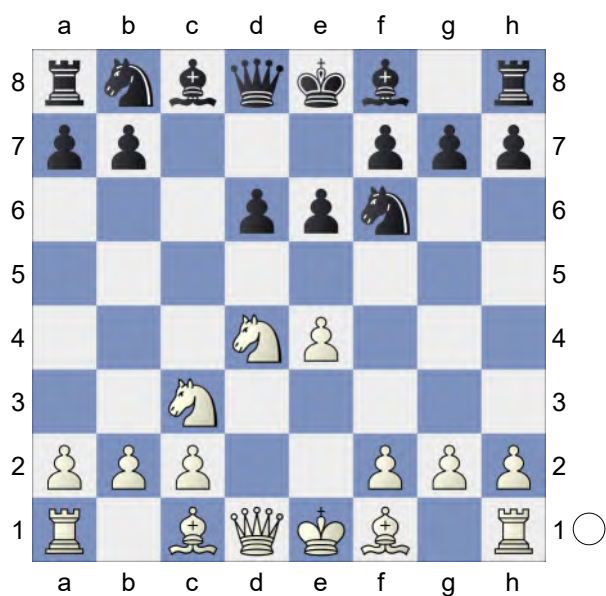
B81

2453

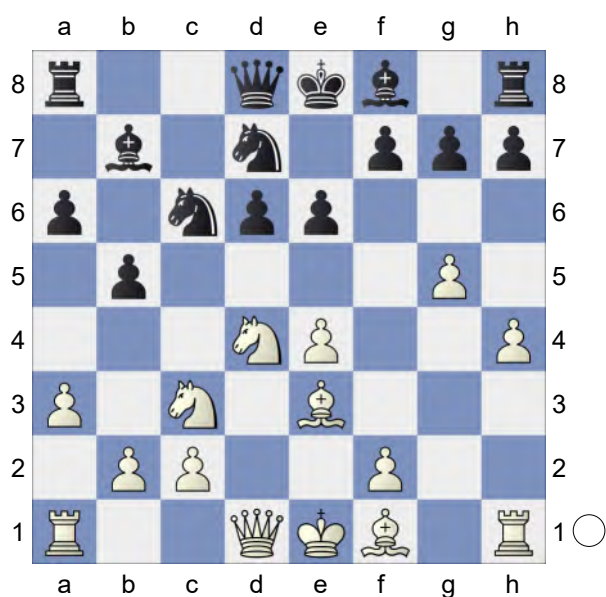
2281

2012

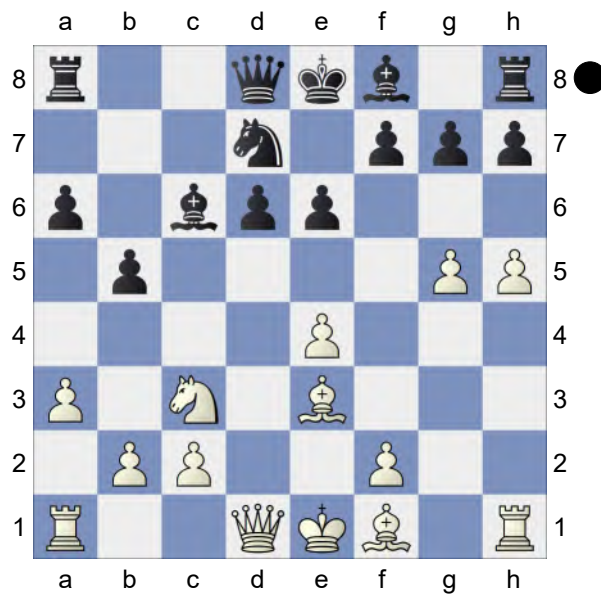
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 e6



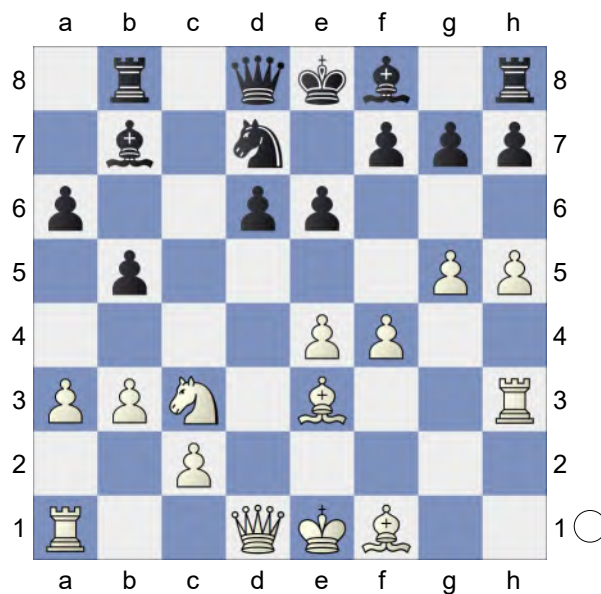
6.g4 a6 7.g5 Nfd7 8.Be3 b5 9.a3 Bb7
10.h4 Nc6



11.Nxc6 Bxc6 12.h5
(Diagram)

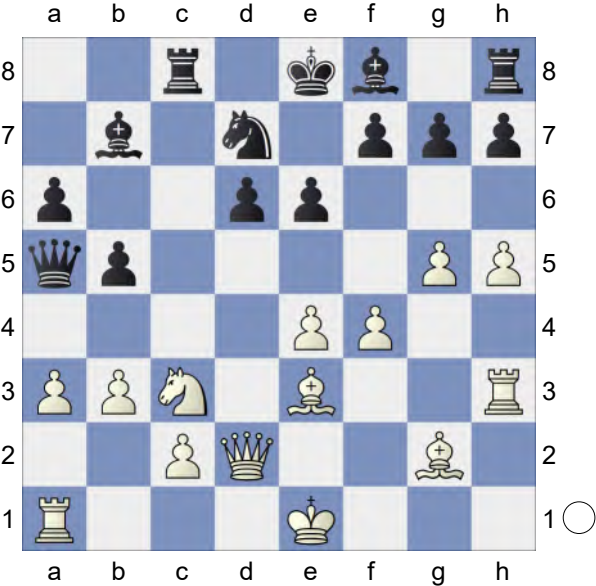


Rb8!?N 13.Rh3 Ne5 14.b3 Bb7 15.f4
Nd7



16.Bg2 Rc8 17.Qd2 Qa5

(Diagram)



263

□ Wei,Yi

■ Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi

Asia Chess Cup (5.3)

[Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi]

C55

2714

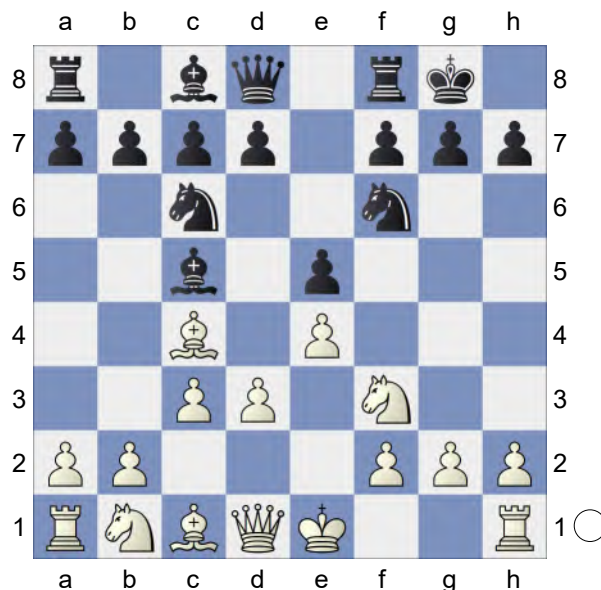
2648

01.04.2016

Vidit,S: 'China had been our main competitor in the Asian championship and needless to say this was a very crucial match for the final standings. Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'China had been our main competitor in the Asian championship and needless to say this was a very crucial match for the final standings. Vidit,S: 'China had been our main competitor in the Asian championship and needless to say this was a very crucial match for the final standings.' Vidit,S: 'China had been our main competitor in the Asian championship and needless to say this was a very crucial match for the final standings.'"

China had been our main competitor in the Asian championship and needless to say this was a very crucial match for the final standings." China had been our main competitor in the Asian championship and needless to say this was a very crucial match for the final standings. " **1.e4** Vidit,S Vidit,S Vidit,S Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R Vidit,S Vidit,S: 'Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidit,S Vidit,S Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R Vidit,S" Vidit,S: 'Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidit,S Vidit,S Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R Vidit,S" **1...e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.d3 Nf6 5.c3 0-0**

(Diagram)



6.0-0 d5 Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: '!? ' Vidit,S: 'The most direct and concrete attempt to equalise against the Italian. The resulting position leads to the e5-point becoming the main battlefield. Most of the following moves from both sides either directly or indirectly influence control of the e5-point.' The most direct and concrete attempt to equalise against the Italian. The resulting position leads to the e5-point becoming the main battlefield. Most of the following moves from both sides either directly or indirectly influence control of the e5-point. Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: '!? '!? ' Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'The most direct and concrete attempt to equalise against the Italian. The resulting position leads to the e5-point becoming the main battlefield. Most of the following moves from both sides either directly or indirectly influence control of the e5-point.' Vidit,S: 'The most direct and concrete attempt to equalise against the Italian. The resulting position leads to the e5-point becoming the main battlefield. Most of the following moves from both sides

either directly or indirectly influence control of the e5-point.'" The most direct and concrete attempt to equalise against the Italian. The resulting position leads to the e5-point becoming the main battlefield. Most of the following moves from both sides either directly or indirectly influence control of the e5-point. Vidit,S: 'Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'The most direct and concrete attempt to equalise against the Italian. The resulting position leads to the e5-point becoming the main battlefield. Most of the following moves from both sides either directly or indirectly influence control of the e5-point. " **7.exd5 Nxd5** Vidit,S: 'White already has a choice to make here. He has a wide variety of options at his disposal, leading to various kinds of strategically complex, yet balanced positions.'" White already has a choice to make here. He has a wide variety of options at his disposal, leading to various kinds of strategically complex, yet balanced positions. Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'White already has a choice to make here. He has a wide variety of options at his disposal, leading to various kinds of strategically complex, yet balanced positions.' Vidit,S: 'White already has a choice to make here. He has a wide variety of options at his disposal, leading to various kinds of strategically complex, yet balanced positions.'" White already has a choice to make here. He has a wide variety of options at his disposal, leading to various kinds of strategically complex, yet balanced positions. Vidit,S: 'Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'White already has a choice to make here. He has a wide variety of options at his disposal, leading to

various kinds of strategically complex, yet balanced positions. " **8.Nbd2**

[8.a4 Vidit,S: 'The space seizing move has been in fashion lately in the Italian.'"The space seizing move has been in fashion lately in the Italian. Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'The space seizing move has been in fashion lately in the Italian.' Vidit,S: 'The space seizing move has been in fashion lately in the Italian.'" The space seizing move has been in fashion lately in the Italian. Vidit,S: 'Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'The space seizing move has been in fashion lately in the Italian."

A) 8...Nb6 9.Bb5 Bd6 (9...Ne7 10.a5±) 10.a5 Nd5 11.a6± Demchenko,A (2596)-Jakovenko,D (2745), 2014;

B) 8...Nf6 9.Nbd2 Bf5 10.Qe2 Qe7 11.Ne4 Nxe4 12.dxe4 Be6 13.b4 Bd6 14.a5 f6 15.Be3 Nd8 16.Rfd1 Nf7 17.Nd2 Rfd8 18.Bxe6 Qxe6 19.Qc4 Qxc4 20.Nxc4 a6 Shankland(2656)-Nakamura(2814), Baku 2015, Vidit, S: 'Shankland(2656)-Nakamura (2814), Baku 2015, with a slight, but secure edge.'"Shankland(2656)-Nakamura (2814), Baku 2015, with a slight, but secure edge. Vidit, S a n t o s h G u j r a t h i : 'Shankland(2656)-Nakamura(2814), B a k u 2 0 1 5 , V i d i t , S : 'Shankland(2656)-Nakamura (2814), Baku 2015, with a slight, but secure edge.'" with a slight, but secure edge. Vidit,S: 'Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'with a slight, but secure edge.'";

C) 8...a6 9.Nbd2 Kh8! ?] [8.Re1 Bg4 9.h3 Bh5 10.Nbd2 Nb6

(10...Bb6 11.Ne4 f6 Vidit,S: 'is an additional option for Black in this move order though' is an additional option for Black in this move order though Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidit, S/Quintiliano,R: 'is an additional option for Black in this move order though' Vidit,S: 'is an additional option for Black in this move order though' is an additional option for Black in this move order though Vidit, S: 'Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'is an additional option for Black in this move order though') 11.Bb5 Bd6 would tranpose to the text.]

[8.b4 Be7 9.Re1 (9.b5 Na5 10.Bxd5 Qxd5 11.c4 Qd7 12.Bd2 e4 13.Bxa5 exf3 14.Qxf3 a6) 9...Bf6 10.a4 a6 11.Nfd2 Bf5 12.Ne4 Be7 Vidit,S: 'leads to a different kind of interesting position. 'leads to a different kind of interesting position. Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'leads to a different kind of interesting position.' Vidit,S: 'leads to a different kind of interesting position.' leads to a different kind of interesting position. Vidit,S: 'Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'leads to a different kind of interesting position.']

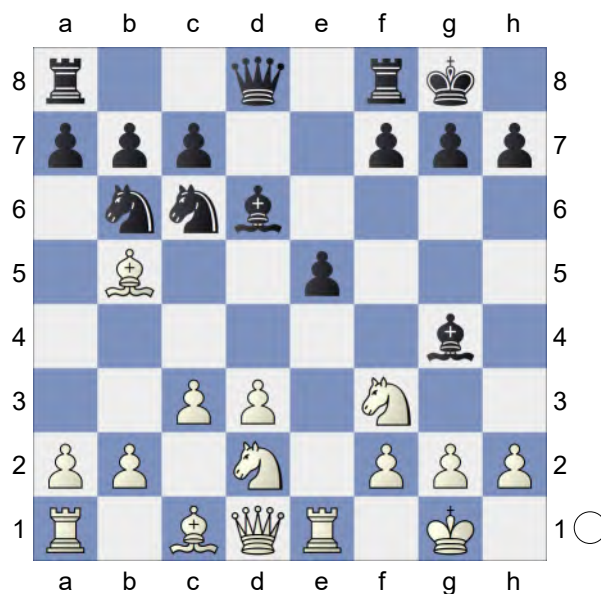
[8.h3 Nb6 9.Bb5 Bd6 10.Re1 Ne7! 11.d4 exd4 12.cxd4 (12.Nxd4 c5 13.Nf3 Bf5=) 12...c6 13.Bd3 Bf5=]

8...Nb6 Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: '!' Vidit,S: 'Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: '!' '!' **9.Bb5 Bd6 10.Re1**

[10.Ne4 Bf5 11.Re1 Re8 12.Bd2 (12.Bg5 Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R Vidit,S: '(Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi) Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R' Qd7) 12...Bg6 13.a4 a6 14.Bxc6 bxc6 15.a5 Nd5 16.Qa4 Qd7= Kryvoruchko,Y (2706)-

Tomashevsky,E (2714) Doha 2014 Vidit,S: 'Kryvoruchko,Y (2706) - Tomashevsky,E (2714) Doha 2014' Kryvoruchko,Y (2706) - Tomashevsky,E (2714) Doha 2014 Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Kryvoruchko,Y (2706)-Tomashevsky,E (2714) Doha 2014 Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: '1/2-1/2 Kryvoruchko,Y (2706)-Tomashevsky,E (2714) Qatar Masters op Doha 2014 (5)' Vidit,S: 'Kryvoruchko,Y (2706) - Tomashevsky,E (2714) Doha 2014']

10...Bg4



11.h3 Bh5 Vidit,S: 'would tranpose to the text.' Vidit,S: 'Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'would tranpose to the text.'" Vidit,S: 'would tranpose to the te'Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidit,S: 'would tranpose to the text.'" xt.' **12.Ne4 f5** Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: '!' Vidit,S: 'Vidit, Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: '!' '!' Vidit, S/Quintiliano, R: 'Quintiliano - I think this is an ambitious move for Black.'" Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'Quintiliano - I think this is an ambitious move for Black.' Vidit,S: 'Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidit, S/Quintiliano, R: 'Quintiliano - I think this is an ambitious

move for Black."

[Vidit,S: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'Quintiliano - Grischuk scored a nice win with a more solid approach recently:' Quintiliano - Grischuk scored a nice win with a more solid approach recently: 12...Re8 Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R Vidit,S: '(Vidit, Santosh Gujrathi) Vidit,S/Quintiliano, R' 13.Bg5 (13.Ng3 Bg6 14.Bg5 Qd7 15.Nh4 ½-½ Annaberdiev,M (2496)-Le,Q (2739) Asia-chT KO rapid 5th 2017 (1.1) Vidit,S: 'Vidit,S/ Quintiliano,R: '½-½ Annaberdiev,M (2496)-Le,Q (2739) Asia-chT KO rapid 5th Ashkhabad 2017 (1.1)' f6!?N 16.Be3 Bf7=) 13...f6 14.Be3 a6 15.Bxc6 bxc6 16.Ng3 (16.g4!? Vidit,S: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'is recommended by Roiz in the notes to the game as a more active option' is recommended by Roiz in the notes to the game as a more active option Bf7 17.c4 Bf8 18.Kh2 a5 19.Rg1 Vidit,S: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'with double-edged play. Maybe Black can bring the knight back now' with double-edged play. Maybe Black can bring the knight back now Nc8!? 20.Nh4 Nd6 21.Qe2 Kh8 22.Rad1 Rb8∞) 16...Bf7 Vidit,S: 'Vidit,S/ Quintiliano,R: 'We have a similar position to those reached in Fedoseev-Shirov and Anand-So, but as we saw, the bishop pair is valuable compensation for Black's damaged structure on the queenside' We have a similar position to those reached in Fedoseev-Shirov and Anand-So, but as we saw, the bishop pair is valuable compensation for Black's damaged structure on the queenside 17.c4 Vidit,S: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'again

playing to prevent ♖d5" again playing to prevent ♖d5 (17.d4?! ½-½ Carlsen,M (2855)-Aronian,L (2792) Leuven GCT blitz 2016 (1) Vidit,S: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: '½-½ Carlsen,M (2855)-Aronian,L (2792) Leuven GCT blitz 2016 (1)' exd4 18.Nxd4 Bxg3 19.fxg3 Nc4 20.Bc1 Qd5̄) 17...Bb4! Vidit,S: 'Vidit,S/ Quintiliano,R: 'This is a nice motif when White plays c3-c4, slightly disrupting his pieces' This is a nice motif when White plays c3-c4, slightly disrupting his pieces 18.Re2 Bf8 19.b3 c5! Vidit,S: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano, R: 'Now Black prevents d3-d4' Now Black prevents d3-d4 20.Qe1 a5! 21.Rd1 a4̄ 0-1 Nakamura,H (2777)-Grischuk,A (2766) Sinquefield Cup 6th 2018 (3) Vidit,S: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano, R: '0-1 Nakamura,H (2777)-Grischuk, A (2766) Sinquefield Cup 6th Saint Louis 2018 (3) we have a similar situation to the game Anand-So. Black achieved slight pressure on the queenside, but as Nakamura displayed a better defence, in the end Grischuk won by advancing the kingside pawns, after meticulous preparation -" we have a similar situation to the game Anand-So. Black achieved slight pressure on the queenside, but as Nakamura displayed a better defence, in the end Grischuk won by advancing the kingside pawns, after meticulous preparation -] 13.Ng3 Bxf3 14.Qxf3 Qd7 Vidit,S: 'Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidit,S/ Quintiliano,R: 'Quintiliano - This position looks somehow balanced, but still tense for both sides. Black has lost the bishop pair, but obtained a free development

and more space in the centre. On other hand, it is not easy to figure out how White should continue his development." Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'Quintiliano - This position looks somehow balanced, but still tense for both sides. Black has lost the bishop pair, but obtained a free development and more space in the centre. On other hand, it is not easy to figure out how White should continue his development.' Vidit,S: 'Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'Quintiliano - This position looks somehow balanced, but still tense for both sides. Black has lost the bishop pair, but obtained a free development and more space in the centre. On other hand, it is not easy to figure out how White should continue his development.'"

[Vidit,S: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'Quintiliano - " Quintiliano - 14...Ne7?! Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R Vidit,S: '(Vidit, Santosh Gujrathi) Vidit,S/Quintiliano, R Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'was played by Giri, but I'm not sure about the objective value of this move" was played by Giri, but I'm not sure about the objective value of this move 15.Qxb7 c6 16.Bc4+ (16.Bxc6? Rb8 Vidit,S: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'is the trick" is the trick) 16...Nxc4 17.Qb3! Kh8 18.Qxc4 Qd7 19.Bd2 Nd5 ½-½ Vachier Lagrave,M (2789)-Giri,A (2782) Leuven GCT blitz 2018 (11) Vidit,S: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: '½-½ Vachier Lagrave,M (2789)-Giri,A (2782) Leuven GCT blitz 2018 (11) Black had some compensation for the pawn, what sometimes is enough in a blitz game -" Black had some compensation for the pawn, what sometimes is enough in a blitz game -]

15.a4 Vidit,S: 'Played after a long think. I already had a huge time advantage. Also, maybe it is better to leave the queenside untouched."Played after a long think. I already had a huge time advantage. Also, maybe it is better to leave the queenside untouched. Vidit, Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'Played after a long think. I already had a huge time advantage. Also, maybe it is better to leave the queenside untouched. /Quintiliano - Actually, this is the most played, but as the game went, Vidit is probably right, as the weaknesses on the queenside proved helpful only for Black.' Vidit,S: 'Played after a long think. I already had a huge time advantage. Also, maybe it is better to leave the queenside untouched.'" Played after a long think. I already had a huge time advantage. Also, maybe it is better to leave the queenside untouched. Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'Played after a long think. I already had a huge time advantage. Also, maybe it is better to leave the queenside untouched. / Quintiliano - Actually, this is the most played, but as the game went, Vidit is probably right, as the weaknesses on the queenside proved helpful only for Black.' Vidit,S: 'Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Played after a long think. I already had a huge time advantage. Also, maybe it is better to leave the queenside untouched. Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'Played after a long think. I already had a huge time advantage. Also, maybe it is better to leave the queenside untouched. / Quintiliano - Actually, this is the most played, but as the game went, Vidit is probably right, as the weaknesses on the queenside proved helpful only for Black.'" "

[Q u i n t i l i a n o - 15.Bd2
Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R Vidit,S: '(Vidit,
Santosh Gujrathi) Vidit,S/Quintiliano,
R Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'right now
looks a bit risky" right now looks a bit
risky e4!? 16.Qe2 (16.dxe4? Bxg3)
16...Rae8 Vidit,S: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,
R: 'with some pressure for Black" with
some pressure for Black 17.Nf1
(17.dxe4? f4 18.Nf1 f3→) 17...a6
18.Bxc6 Qxc6↑]

[Q u i n t i l i a n o - 15.Bxc6
Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R Vidit,S: '(Vidit,
Santosh Gujrathi) Vidit,S/Quintiliano,
R' bxc6 16.c4 Rae8 Vidit,S: 'Vidit,S/
Quintiliano,R: 'this is also fine for
Black" this is also fine for Black 17.b3
Bc5 18.Qe2? 0-1 Kapnisis,S (2510)-
Cheparinov,I (2660) Gibraltar Masters
8th 2010 (10) Vidit,S: 'Vidit,S/
Quintiliano,R: '0-1 Kapnisis,S (2510)-
Cheparinov,I (2660) Gibraltar Masters
8th Caleta 2010 (10)" f4 19.Ne4 Bd4
20.Rb1 f3→]

[Quintiliano - 15.d4?! ½-½ Smirin,I
(2676)-Melkumyan,H (2640) Warsaw
Najdorf Memorial op-A 14th 2016 (8)
Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R Vidit,S: '(Vidit,
Santosh Gujrathi) Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R
Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: '½-½ Smirin,I
(2676)-Melkumyan,H (2640) Warsaw
Najdorf Memorial op-A 14th 2016 (8)"
e4 16.Qd1 a6 17.Bf1 Rae8
Vidit,S: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'once
more Black's position seems very
promising" once more Black's position
seems very promising]

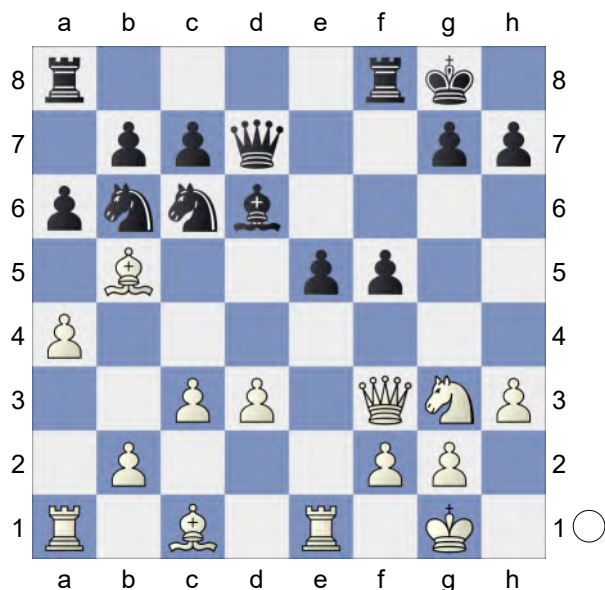
[Q u i n t i l i a n o - 15.b3!?
Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R Vidit,S: '(Vidit,
Santosh Gujrathi) Vidit,S/Quintiliano,
R' Rae8 16.Bb2 1-0 Van Kampen,R
(2646)-Perez Ponsa,F (2553) PRO
League Stage rapid 2018 (8) Vidit,S:

'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: '1-0 Van
Kampen,R (2646)-Perez Ponsa,F
(2553) PRO League Stage chess.com
INT rapid 2018 (8)" e4! Vidit,S: 'Vidit,
S/Quintiliano,R: 'this gives a strong
initiative for Black" this gives a strong
initiative for Black 17.Qe2 (17.dxe4
fxe4 18.Qg4 e3!⌘) 17...Re6!?!→]

[Quintiliano - Vidit,S: 'Quintiliano -
Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'Quintiliano - the
regroupment suggested by Vidit later
is likely the safest option for White,
but there too I didn't find problems for
Black" the regroupment suggested by
Vidit later is likely the safest option for
White, but there too I didn't find
p r o b l e m s f o r B l a c k 15.Nf1
Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R Vidit,S: '(Vidit,
Santosh Gujrathi) Vidit,S/Quintiliano,
R' Rae8 16.Be3 (16.a4 Vidit,S:
'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'is once more
met by" is once more met by a6!
17.Bxc6 bxc6 18.Bd2 Nd5 19.a5?
Vidit,S: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'waste
of time" waste of time Kh8 20.Rab1?
e4 21.dxe4 fxe4 22.Qg4 Qf7↑
;0-1 Berend,E (2287)-Bellia,F (2435)
Francophone-ch 5th 2017 (5) Vidit,S:
'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: ' ;0-1 Berend,E
(2287)-Bellia,F (2435) Francophone-
ch 5th Yasmine Hammamet 2017 (5)
and Black had a dangerous initiative -"
and Black had a dangerous initiative
-) 16...a6!?! 17.Bxc6 bxc6 18.c4
(18.Nd2 Nd5 19.Nc4 Re6∞)
18...Bb4! 19.Red1 Vidit,S: 'Vidit,S/
Quintiliano,R: 'There is a nice way to
improve the pieces now for Black"
There is a nice way to improve the
pieces now for Black Na4! 20.Rab1
(20.a3 Be7 21.b3? Nb2-+) 20...f4!
21.Bd2 a5 22.Bxb4 (22.a3 Bxd2
23.Nxd2 Rb8 Vidit,S: 'Vidit,S/

Quintiliano,R: 'wins the pawn' wins the pawn) 22...axb4 23.Nd2 Nc5= Vidit,S: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'and Black is at least OK' and Black is at least OK]

15...a6



Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: '!' Vidit,S: 'Vidit, Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: '!' '!' 16.Bxc6 bxc6 Vidit,S: 'White has managed to weaken Black's queenside pawn structure a bit, but this has come at the cost of space in the centre and piece activity for Black.' White has managed to weaken Black's queenside pawn structure a bit, but this has come at the cost of space in the centre and piece activity for Black. Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'White has managed to weaken Black's queenside pawn structure a bit, but this has come at the cost of space in the centre and piece activity for Black.' Vidit,S: 'White has managed to weaken Black's queenside pawn structure a bit, but this has come at the cost of space in the centre and piece activity for Black.' White has managed to weaken Black's queenside pawn structure a bit, but this

has come at the cost of space in the centre and piece activity for Black. Vidit, S: 'Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'White has managed to weaken Black's queenside pawn structure a bit, but this has come at the cost of space in the centre and piece activity for Black. ' 17.c4 Vidit,S: 'Somehow I didn't like White mixing up a4 and c4. Maybe slow regrouping with Nf1 Bd2 is the way to play the position' Somehow I didn't like White mixing up a4 and c4. Maybe slow regrouping with Nf1 Bd2 is the way to play the position Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'Somehow I didn't like White mixing up a4 and c4. Maybe slow regrouping with ♖f1 ♕d2 is the way to play the position. /Quintiliano - This committal decision by Wey Yi can be explained by the fact that usually, when White exchanges on c6, he continues with c3-c4 in order to deprive the knight of coming back to the centre via d5. Still, the inclusion of a2-a4 in this case only helps Black.' Vidit,S: 'Somehow I didn't like White mixing up a4 and c4. Maybe slow regrouping with Nf1 Bd2 is the way to play the position' Somehow I didn't like White mixing up a4 and c4. Maybe slow regrouping with ♖f1 ♕d2 is the way to play the position. / Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'Somehow I didn't like White mixing up a4 and c4. Maybe slow regrouping with ♖f1 ♕d2 is the way to play the position. / Quintiliano - This committal decision by Wey Yi can be explained by the fact that usually, when White exchanges on c6, he continues with c3-c4 in order to deprive the knight of coming back to the centre via d5. Still, the inclusion of a2-a4 in this case only helps Black.' Vidit,S: 'Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Somehow I didn't like White mixing up a4 and c4.

Maybe slow regrouping with ♖f1 ♕d2 is the way to play the position Vidit,S/ Quintiliano,R: 'Somehow I didn't like White mixing up a4 and c4. Maybe slow regrouping with ♖f1 ♕d2 is the way to play the position. /Quintiliano - This committal decision by Wey Yi can be explained by the fact that usually, when White exchanges on c6, he continues with c3-c4 in order to deprive the knight of coming back to the centre via d5. Still, the inclusion of a2-a4 in this case only helps Black."

[Q u i n t i l i a n o - 17.Bd2? Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R Vidit,S: '(Vidit, Santosh Gujrathi) Vidit,S/Quintiliano, R' e4! Vidit,S: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'is still good for Black' is still good for Black]

[Q u i n t i l i a n o - 17.Nf1 Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R Vidit,S: '(Vidit, Santosh Gujrathi) Vidit,S/Quintiliano, R' Rae8 18.a5 Nd5 19.Bd2 Re6! Vidit,S: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'This seems again easier for Black, he has space and promising ideas on the kingside, like e5-e4, f5-f4 or ♖e6-g6. White does not have a clear plan and should be constantly aware of these threats" This seems again easier for Black, he has space and promising ideas on the kingside, like e5-e4, f5-f4 or ♖e6-g6. White does not have a clear plan and should be constantly aware of these threats]

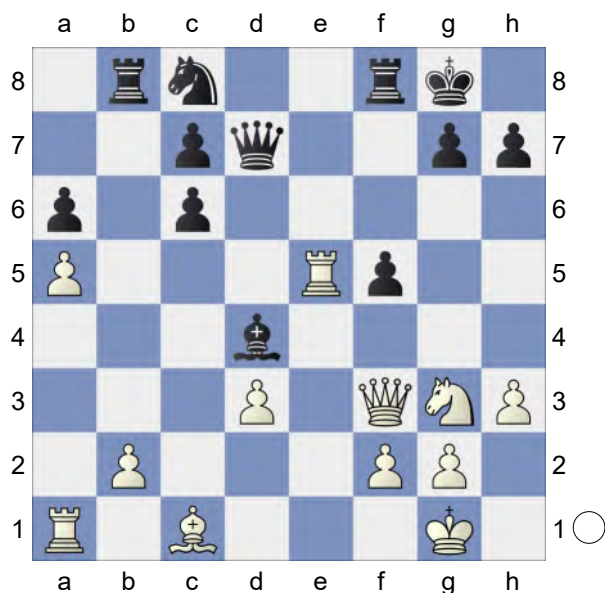
17...Rab8! Vidit,S: 'The appropriate place for the rook! I felt quite comfortable at this point.' 'The appropriate place for the rook! I felt quite comfortable at this point. Vidit, Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'The appropriate place for the rook! I felt quite comfortable at this point. /

Quintiliano - I found this move very impressive. It shows a profound understanding of the changes provoked by a2-a4 in this position. With the pawn still on a2, this move would be just useless, but now White has no easy way to face the pressure in the b-file, thus making his development more difficult.' Vidit,S: 'The appropriate place for the rook! I felt quite comfortable at this point. "' The appropriate place for the rook! I felt quite comfortable at this point. Vidit, S/Quintiliano,R: 'The appropriate place for the rook! I felt quite comfortable at this point. /Quintiliano - I found this move very impressive. It shows a profound understanding of the changes provoked by a2-a4 in this position. With the pawn still on a2, this move would be just useless, but now White has no easy way to face the pressure in the b-file, thus making his development more difficult. ' Vidit,S: 'Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'The appropriate place for the rook! I felt quite comfortable at this point. Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'The appropriate place for the rook! I felt quite comfortable at this point. /Quintiliano - I found this move very impressive. It shows a profound understanding of the changes provoked by a2-a4 in this position. With the pawn still on a2, this move would be just useless, but now White has no easy way to face the pressure in the b-file, thus making his development more difficult. "' **18.a5 Nc8 19.c5** Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: '!? ' Vidit, S/Quintiliano,R: 'Quintiliano -' Vidit,S: 'Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidit,S/ Quintiliano,R: '!? '!? ' Vidit,S/Quintiliano, R: 'Quintiliano -' Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'Quintiliano - Wey Yi realizes he must do something to change the course of the

game, and quickly.'" Vidity,S/Quintiliano, R: 'Wey Yi realizes he must do something to change the course of the game, and quickly.' Vidity,S: 'Vidity, Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidity,S/Quintiliano,R: 'Wey Yi realizes he must do something to change the course of the game, and quickly.'"

[Q u i n t i l i a n o - 19.Rb1 Vidity,S/Quintiliano,R Vidity,S: '(Vidity, Santosh Gujrathi) Vidity,S/Quintiliano, R' c5 20.Nf1 Ne7 Vidity,S: 'Vidity,S/Quintiliano,R: 'is simply pleasant for Black" is simply pleasant for Black]

19...Bxc5 20.Rxe5 Bd4



21.Re1

[21.Rxf5 Vidity,S: 'fails to' Vidity,S: 'fails to Vidity,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidity,S/Quintiliano,R: 'fails to'" fails to Vidity, S: 'Vidity,Santosh Gujrathi: 'fails to' Ne7 22.Rf4 Ng6!]

21...Nd6 Vidity,S: 'Black is in control. However, Black's position is not without its weaknesses, especially the queenside pawn formation. In this position, White needs to find the precise way to play against these pawn weaknesses.'"Black is in control.

However, Black's position is not without its weaknesses, especially the queenside pawn formation. In this position, White needs to find the precise way to play against these pawn weaknesses. Vidity,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidity,S/Quintiliano,R: 'Black is in control. However, Black's position is not without its weaknesses, especially the queenside pawn formation. In this position, White needs to find the precise way to play against these pawn weaknesses.'" Black is in control. However, Black's position is not without its weaknesses, especially the queenside pawn formation. In this position, White needs to find the precise way to play against these pawn weaknesses. Vidity,S: 'Vidity,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Black is in control. However, Black's position is not without its weaknesses, especially the queenside pawn formation. In this position, White needs to find the precise way to play against these pawn weaknesses. "

22.Ne2?! Vidity,S: 'This move cramps White's position and uncoordinates his pieces.' Vidity,S: 'This move cramps White's position and uncoordinates his pieces. Vidity,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidity,S/Quintiliano,R: 'This move cramps White's position and uncoordinates his pieces.'" This move cramps White's position and uncoordinates his pieces. Vidity,S: 'Vidity,Santosh Gujrathi: 'This move cramps White's position and uncoordinates his pieces."

[Δ22.Qd1! Rfe8 (22...Bxb2 23.Bxb2 Rxb2 24.Qc1 Rb5 25.Ne2; 22...f4 23.Ne2 Bxb2 24.Bxb2 Rxb2 25.Nd4) 23.Rxe8+ Rxe8 24.Ne2 Bf6 25.Be3 Nb5 Vidit,S: 'with an interesting and complicated position. "with an interesting and complicated position. Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidit, S/Quintiliano,R: 'with an interesting and complicated position.' Vidit,S: 'with an interesting and complicated position.'" with an interesting and complicated position. Vidit,S: 'Vidit, Santosh Gujrathi: 'with an interesting and complicated position.']

22...Rfe8 Vidit,S: 'The point. White's pieces get into a tangle now, but his problems can be solved if the queen could somehow get to d1.' 'The point. White's pieces get into a tangle now, but his problems can be solved if the queen could somehow get to d1. Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'The point. White's pieces get into a tangle now, but his problems can be solved if the queen could somehow get to d1.' Vidit,S: 'The point. White's pieces get into a tangle now, but his problems can be solved if the queen could somehow get to d1.'" The point. White's pieces get into a tangle now, but his problems can be solved if the queen could somehow get to d1. Vidit,S: 'Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'The point. White's pieces get into a tangle now, but his problems can be solved if the queen could somehow get to d1. " **23.Bf4?** Vidit,S: 'I was very surprised to see this move. White loses a pawn for no compensation.' Vidit,S: 'I was very surprised to see this move. White loses a pawn for no compensation. Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'I was very surprised to

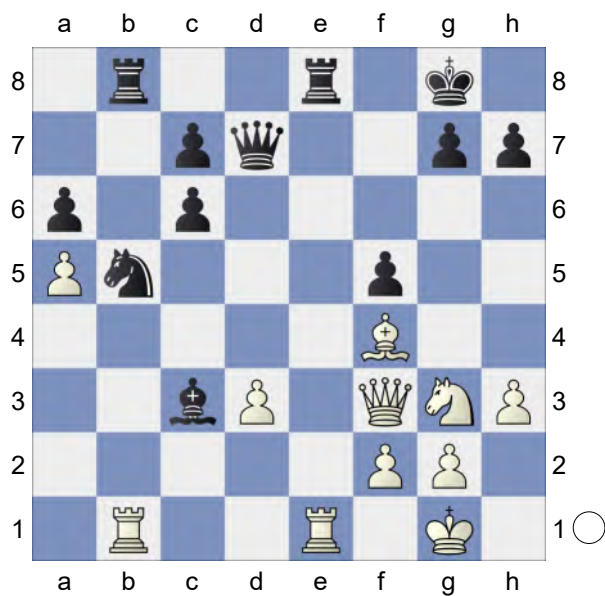
see this move. White loses a pawn for no compensation.'" I was very surprised to see this move. White loses a pawn for no compensation. Vidit,S: 'Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'I was very surprised to see this move. White loses a pawn for no compensation."

[23.Rd1 Nb5]

[Δ23.Rb1 Nf7 24.Rd1 Bf6 25.d4 Qd5]

23...Bxb2 24.Rab1 Nb5! Vidit,S: 'Black is just a pawn up and controls the important squares. White is going nowhere in the pursuit to counter-attack against Black's weak pawns.' 'Black is just a pawn up and controls the important squares. White is going nowhere in the pursuit to counter-attack against Black's weak pawns. Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'Black is just a pawn up and controls the important squares. White is going nowhere in the pursuit to counter-attack against Black's weak pawns.' Vidit,S: 'Black is just a pawn up and controls the important squares. White is going nowhere in the pursuit to counter-attack against Black's weak pawns.'" Black is just a pawn up and controls the important squares. White is going nowhere in the pursuit to counter-attack against Black's weak pawns. Vidit,S: 'Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Black is just a pawn up and controls the important squares. White is going nowhere in the pursuit to counter-attack against Black's weak pawns. " **25.Ng3 Bc3**

(Diagram)



26.Rxe8+ Rxe8 27.Be3 g6 28.Qd1

Vidit,S: 'I thought for more than half hour in this position. As Kramnik once said, if you think for more than 20mins in a position you usually end up playing a bad move :)'"I thought for more than half hour in this position. As Kramnik once said, if you think for more than 20mins in a position you usually end up playing a bad move :) Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidit, S/Quintiliano,R: 'I thought for more than half hour in this position. As Kramnik once said, if you think for more than 20 mins in a position you usually end up playing a bad move :)' Vidit,S: 'I thought for more than half hour in this position. As Kramnik once said, if you think for more than 20mins in a position you usually end up playing a bad move :)' I thought for more than half hour in this position. As Kramnik once said, if you think for more than 20mins in a position you usually end up playing a bad move :)' Vidit,S: 'I thought for more than half hour in this position. As Kramnik once said, if you think for more than 20 mins in a position you usually end up playing a bad move :)' Vidit,S:

'Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'I thought for more than half hour in this position. As Kramnik once said, if you think for more than 20mins in a position you usually end up playing a bad move :) Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'I thought for more than half hour in this position. As Kramnik once said, if you think for more than 20 mins in a position you usually end up playing a bad move :)' **28...Bxa5**

[28...f4 Vidit,S: 'doesn't work because of' Vidit,S: 'doesn't work because of' Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'doesn't work because of'" doesn't work because of Vidit,S: 'Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'doesn't work because of' 29.Qb3+]

[Vidit,S: 'I was also considering' Vidit,S: 'I was also considering' Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'I was also considering'" I was also considering Vidit,S: 'Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'I was also considering' 28...Qd5 29.Ne2 Bxa5 30.Ra1 Bb6 31.Bxb6 cxb6 32.Rxa6 Vidit,S: 'But this didn't look that easy to convert'"But this didn't look that easy to convert Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'But this didn't look that easy to convert' Vidit,S: 'But this didn't look that easy to convert'" But this didn't look that easy to convert Vidit,S: 'Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'But this didn't look that easy to convert'"]

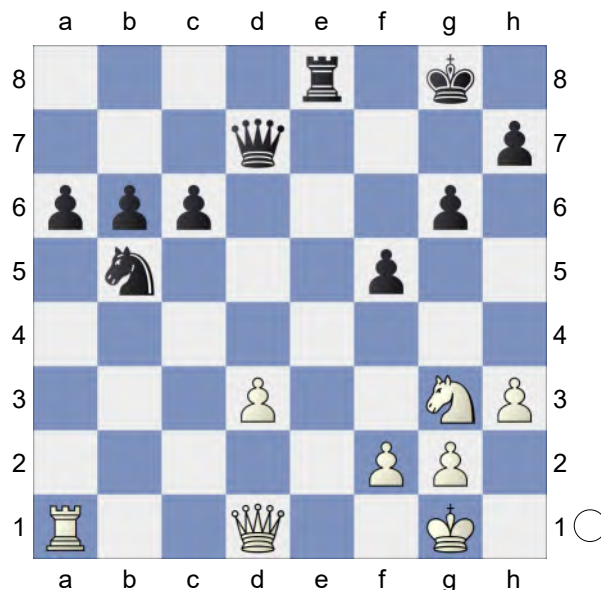
29.Ra1 Bb6? Vidit,S: 'A bad move. Luckily it wasn't punished.'"A bad move. Luckily it wasn't punished. Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'A bad move. Luckily it wasn't punished.' Vidit,S: 'A bad move. Luckily it wasn't punished.'" A bad move. Luckily it wasn't punished. Vidit,S: 'Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'A bad move. Luckily it wasn't

punished."

[♞29...f4 Vidit,S: 'I saw this but I misevaluated the position with' Vidit,S: 'I saw this but I misevaluated the position with Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'I saw this but I misevaluated the position with'" I saw this but I misevaluated the position with Vidit,S: 'Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'I saw this but I misevaluated the position with" 30.Bxf4 (30.Rxa5 fxe3 31.Qb3+ Qd5 32.Qxd5+ cxd5-+) 30...Re1+ 31.Qxe1 Bxe1 32.Rxe1 Nc3 Vidit,S: 'but Black should be winning here as it isn't easy to stop the a-pawn.'"but Black should be winning here as it isn't easy to stop the a-pawn. Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'but Black should be winning here as it isn't easy to stop the a-pawn.' Vidit,S: 'but Black should be winning here as it isn't easy to stop the a-pawn.'" but Black should be winning here as it isn't easy to stop the a-pawn. Vidit,S: 'Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'but Black should be winning here as it isn't easy to stop the a-pawn.'"]

30.Bxb6 cxb6

(Diagram)



31.Rxa6 f4 32.Ne2

[32.Nf1 Nd4 33.Rxb6 Vidit,S: 'The position looks menacing, but amazingly, White still manages to hold this position.'"The position looks menacing, but amazingly, White still manages to hold this position. Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'The position looks menacing, but amazingly, White still manages to hold this position.'" Vidit,S: 'The position looks menacing, but amazingly, White still manages to hold this position.'" The position looks menacing, but amazingly, White still manages to hold this position. Vidit,S: 'Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'The position looks menacing, but amazingly, White still manages to hold this position.'" f3 34.Ng3 Ne2+ 35.Kh2! fxe2 36.Qb3+]

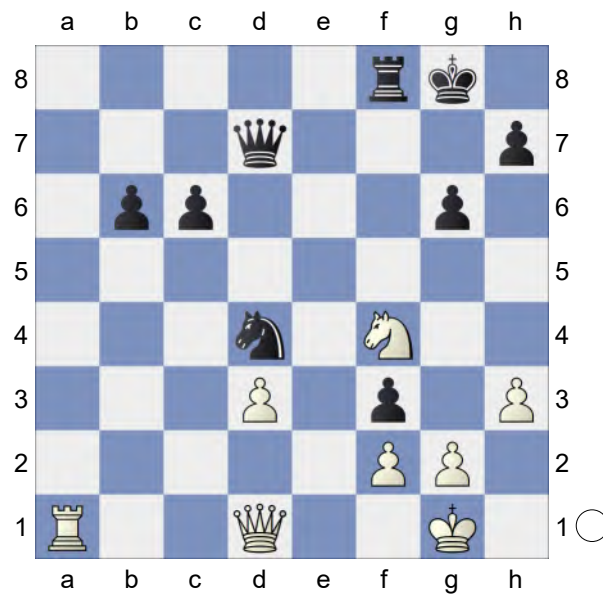
32...f3 33.Nf4? Vidit,S: 'A terrible square for the knight. I wasn't sure how good Black's position is after Ng3.'"A terrible square for the knight. I wasn't sure how good Black's position is after Ng3. Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'A terrible square for the knight. I wasn't sure how good Black's

position is after ♖g3.' Vidit,S: 'A terrible square for the knight. I wasn't sure how good Black's position is after Ng3.'" A terrible square for the knight. I wasn't sure how good Black's position is after ♖g3. Vidit,S: 'Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'A terrible square for the knight. I wasn't sure how good Black's position is after ♖g3."

[33.Ng3 Nd4 (33...fxg2 34.Qb3+ Kh8 35.Qb2+ Qd4 36.Qxd4+ Nxd4 37.Rxb6=) 34.Rxb6 h5 Vidit,S: 'was my original plan. Although it looks a bit scary, with a few accurate moves White holds the balance:' "was my original plan. Although it looks a bit scary, with a few accurate moves White holds the balance: Vidit, Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano, R: 'was my original plan. Although it looks a bit scary, with a few accurate moves White holds the balance:' Vidit, S: 'was my original plan. Although it looks a bit scary, with a few accurate moves White holds the balance:' " was my original plan. Although it looks a bit scary, with a few accurate moves White holds the balance: Vidit,S: 'Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'was my original plan. Although it looks a bit scary, with a few accurate moves White holds the balance:' 35.Qb1 Ne2+ 36.Kh2!=]

33...Nd4 34.Ra1 Rf8

(Diagram)



Vidit,S: 'With the score of 3-1 we managed to defeat our main rivals, China! After this we won all our remaining games and secured the gold medal again after a wait of 7 years! :)'"With the score of 3-1 we managed to defeat our main rivals, China! After this we won all our remaining games and secured the gold medal again after a wait of 7 years! :) Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'Vidit,S/Quintiliano,R: 'With the score of 3-1 we managed to defeat our main rivals, China! After this we won all our remaining games and secured the gold medal again after a wait of 7 years! :)'" Vidit,S: 'With the score of 3-1 we managed to defeat our main rivals, China! After this we won all our remaining games and secured the gold medal again after a wait of 7 years! :)" With the score of 3-1 we managed to defeat our main rivals, China! After this we won all our remaining games and secured the gold medal again after a wait of 7 years! :) Vidit,S: 'Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi: 'With the score of 3-1 we managed to defeat our main rivals, China! After this we won all our

remaining games and secured the gold medal again after a wait of 7 years! :)"

0-1

75

E92

□ Wei,Yi

2743

■ Jones,G.

2640

80th Tata Steel GpA (4.6)

16.01.2018

[Vigorito,D]

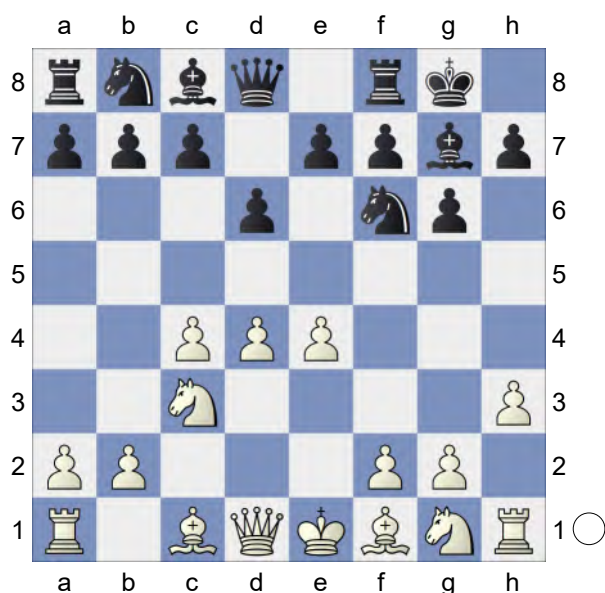
1.d4

Arsovic,Goran Arsovic,Goran

Krasenkow,M: 'Krasenkow,Michal'

1...Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6

5.h3 0-0



6.Nf3 e5 7.d5 a5 8.Bg5 Na6 9.Be2

Now we are technically in a Petrosian Variation. 9...Qe8 10.g4

[10.Nd2 Nd7 11.a3 h6?!

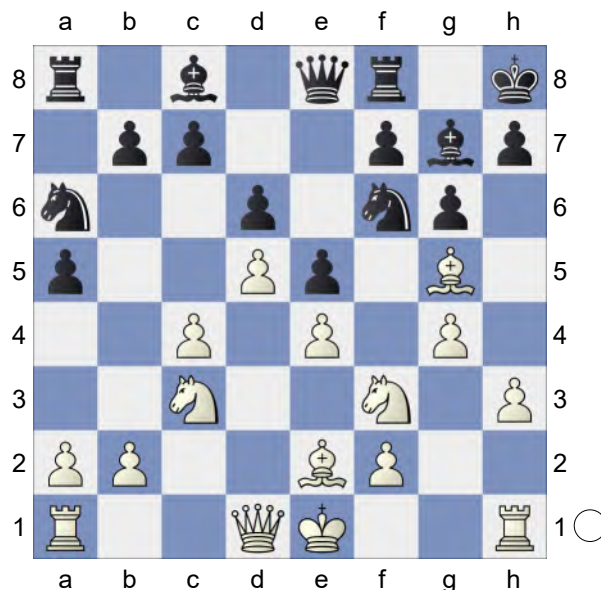
see Movsesian, S (2698) -Grischuk, A (2763) Istanbul 2012.]

10...Kh8

[Instead 10...Nc5 see Varga, P (2475)-Efimenko, Z (2435) Master Open, Lausanne 2001.]

[I have expressed preference for 10...Nd7! and only after 11.Rg1 (11.Nd2 Ndc5 intending ...f5; 11.a3 Nb6! is another typical idea) 11...Kh8 (or just 11...Ndc5)]

(Diagram)



Generally I do not like to play this move unless White has played Rg1, but Black has done well here in the past. **11.Nd2** Krasenkow,M: 'Not the most accurate move order.'

[Krasenkow,M: 'Korobov's' 11.Be3 Krasenkow,M: 'is more appropriate here (see my "Opening trends" article in CBM 182). 'Ng8 12.g5!?

see Korobov,A (2705)-Smirin,I (2638) Eilat 2012 (This turns out to be very effective. White can also play more slowly with 12.Nd2)]

11...Ng8 Preparing ...f5 and possibly ...Bh6. Preparing ...f5 and possibly ...Bh6. Krasenkow,M: '! **12.h4 f5** this has scored very well for Black

[12...f6 13.Be3 f5

A) 14.gxf5 gxf5 15.exf5 Bxf5 (15...Nh6 16.Bh5 Qd7 17.f6 Rxf6 18.Nde4 Rf8 0-1 (44) Polivanov,A (2421)-Vovk,A (2339) Lvov 2005 19.Qd2 Nf5 20.0-0-0±; 15...Bh6 16.Bg5 Bxg5 17.hxg5 Bxf5 18.Nde4± 1/2 (18) Giddins,S (2290)-Gullaksen,E (2365) Skei 1995) 16.Nde4 Nf6 17.Ng3 Qd7 (Black's bishop has no h7-square)

18.h5 Rf7 19.h6 Bf8 20.Bd3 Bxd3 21.Qxd3 Ng4 22.Nce4 Nxe3 23.fxe3 Qg4 24.Kd2± 0-1 (36) Polak,T (2544)-Novikov,S (2562) Pardubice 2007;

B) 14.f3! f4 15.Bf2 is better for White, because all the play will shift to the queenside, where White has a significant space advantage.]

[12...h6!? 13.Be3 f5 is possible, transposing to the position from my game against Spirin, examined in the same article.]

13.gxf5

[After 13.f3 Arsovic,Goran: '- 82/508' f4 Black threatens to win the g5-bishop, and (13...fxg4!? 14.fxg4 Nf6±) 14.h5 Bf6 allows Black to both trade his bad bishop and keep some open lines on the kingside. 15.hxg6 Qxg6 16.Bxf6+ Nxf6 17.Nb3 b6 18.Qd2 Bd7 19.0-0-0 Krasenkow,M: '±' Krasenkow,M: '0-1 (40) Lazarev,V (2500)-Cebalo,M (2465) Estensi 2001' Kg7 20.Rdg1 h6 with chances for both sides in Lazarev,V (2500)-Cebalo, M (2465) Lido degli Estensi 2001, 0-1 (40)]

13...gxf5 14.Bh5!?

[14.exf5 Bxf5 15.Nde4 Nf6 16.Ng3 Qd7! 17.Rg1 Nb4± Georgiadis,I (2449)-Simeonidis,I (2238) Rethymno 2013, 1/2-1/2 (45) 18.Rc1 e4± 1/2 (45) Georgiadis,I (2449)-Simeonidis,I (2238) Rethymno 2013]

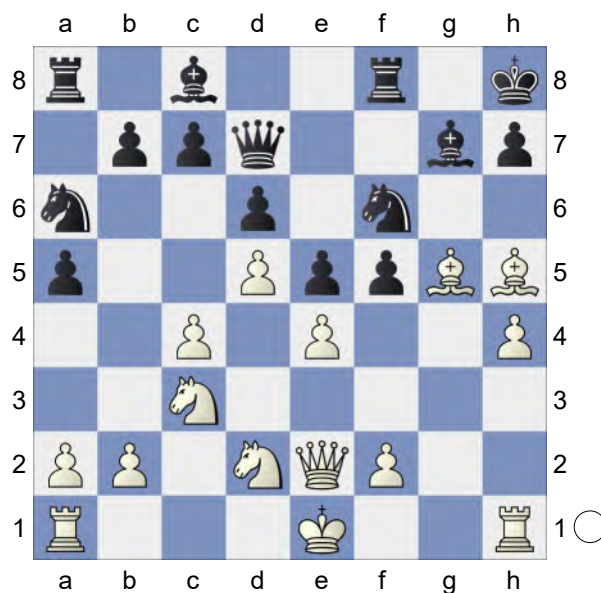
[14.Qc2 has been played in some correspondence games. Nf6 (14...Nb4 15.Qb3 Nf6 16.0-0-0 Nd7 17.Qa3 Nc5± Sidenko,A (2286) - Mancuso,A (2244) Lechenicher SchachServer 2010) 15.a3 Nc5 16.exf5 e4 (16...Qd7!?N) 17.h5 Bxf5 led to a mess. Make of it what

you will, with engines running. 18.h6 Nd3+ 19.Kf1 Nxf2! 20.hxg7+ Kxg7 21.Rg1 Kh8 22.Nb5 Nd3 23.Rg3 Bg4 24.Bxd3 Nh5+ 25.Kg1 Nxe3 26.Nxe4 Qh5!-+ 27.Qh2 Nxe4 28.Bxe4 Bh3 29.Bg2 Qxg5 30.Qxh3 Rf6 31.Nxc7 Rg8 32.Ne6 Qd2 33.Rf1 Rxg2+ 34.Qxg2 Qe3+ 35.Rf2 Rg6 36.b3 Rxg2+ 37.Kxg2 h5 38.Rf3 Qe2+ 39.Kg3 h4+ 40.Kf4 a4 0-1 (40) Malkov,A (2233)-Ulasevich,S (2319) ICCF 2012]

14...Qd7 Now both the Bh5 and Qd7 are somewhat misplaced. **15.Qe2N**

[15.exf5?! Qxf5 16.Nde4 Nc5! is already looking good for Black. 17.Qe2 Nxe4 18.Nxe4 Nf6 Arsovic,Goran: ' ±' 19.Ng3 Qd7 20.Rg1 Solomon,K (2350)-Popovic,D (2553) Cappelle-la-Grande 2014 b5! with excellent play. (20...c6± 0-1 (32) Solomon,K (2350)-Popovic,D (2553) Cappelle-la-Grande 2014)]

15...Nf6



16.Bf3 fxe4 A concrete move. A concrete move. Krasenkow,M: '?!'

[16...Qf7 was also possible.]

[16...Nc5 Arsovic,Goran Krasenkow,

M: 'is a normal continuation. If'
17.0-0-0 Krasenkow,M: 'then'

A) 17...fxe4 18.Ndxe4 Nfxe4
19.Nxe4 Qf5! 20.Bg2 Nxe4
21.Bxe4 Qxf2 22.Qh5 (22.Qxf2
Rxf2 23.Rdf1 Rxf1+ 24.Rxf1 Bg4
25.Rf7 Rc8) 22...Bf5 23.Rhf1
Bxe4! 24.Rxf2 Rxf2±;

B) 17...Qf7 Krasenkow,M: '!?'
18.Rhg1 a4∞]

17.Ndxe4 Nxe4 18.Nxe4 Nb4
Krasenkow,M: 'Alas, sending Black's
knight to c5 is not so easy now:'

[18...b5!? Arsovic,Goran 19.cxb5
Nb4 20.Nc3 Rxf3 (20...Nc2+
21.Qxc2 Rxf3 22.0-0-0±) 21.Qxf3
Nc2+ 22.Kd2 Nd4! (22...Nxa1
23.Rxa1±) 23.Qe3 Qf5 24.Rac1
Rb8±]

[18...Nc5?! 19.Nxc5 dxc5 20.Rg1±]
[18...b6 19.Rg1 Nc5 20.Nxc5 bxc5
21.Be4 Qf7 22.f3±]

19.Bg2
[Of course not 19.a3? Nc2+ 20.Qxc2
Rxf3]

19...Qa4 Always aggressive, but White's
21st move will give him a sizable
advantage. Arsovic,Goran: '?!'

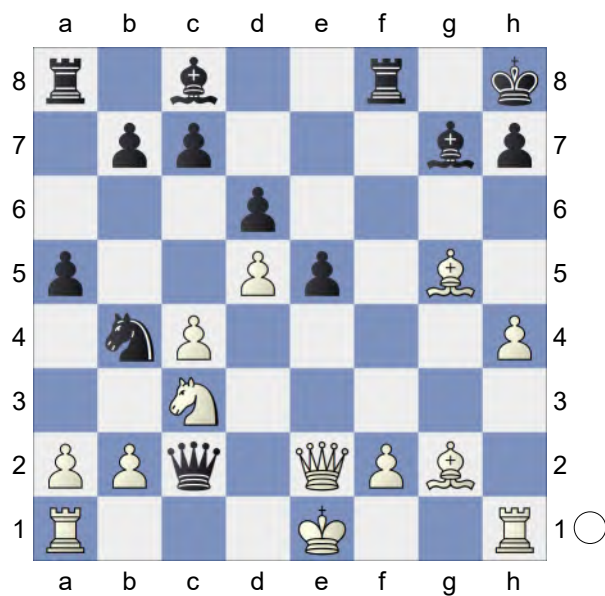
[19...c6!? Krasenkow,M: 'was
probably a better way to create
counterplay.']

[19...Qg4!? 20.Bh3 (20.f3
Arsovic,Goran Qh5 21.Ng3 Qg6∞)
20...Qxe2+ 21.Kxe2 Bxh3 22.Rxh3
b5!? 23.cxb5 Arsovic,Goran Nxd5∞]

20.Nc3
[20.b3 Qe8 leaves the queenside
softened up. 21.h5 Arsovic,Goran h6
22.Be3±]

20...Qc2

(Diagram)



21.Be4! The only move, but strong.
21...Qxe2+ 22.Kxe2± Krasenkow,M:
'After the exchange of queens White's
king is safe, and he keeps the better
prospects due to Black's passive g7
bishop.' **22...Bg4+?!'**

[A better try was 22...Bf5 23.Rhc1
Arsovic,Goran Na6 24.Be3±]

23.f3 Bh5 24.Rag1 Rf7 Krasenkow,M:
'?!'

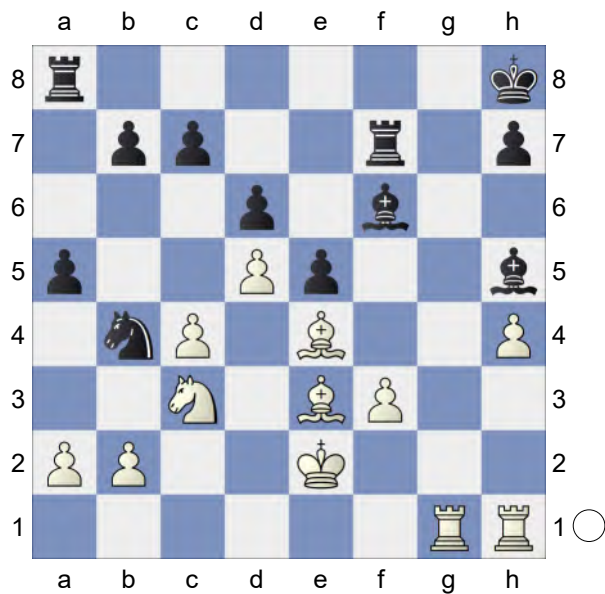
[24...Na6 Arsovic,Goran Arsovic,
Goran Krasenkow,M: '!?' 25.Be3 Nc5
(25...Bf6) 26.Bxc5 dxc5 27.Rg5 Be8
28.Nb5±]

25.Be3 Bf6? Arsovic,Goran: '?!' Arsovic,
Goran: 'Diagram

[25...Raf8 26.Rh3± h6
Arsovic,Goran 27.c5±]

[It was better to "take the last move
back": 25...Rff8]

(Diagram)



' **26.Rg5!** Krasenkow,M: 'This is what Black missed. He can't take the rook so material losses are inevitable.'

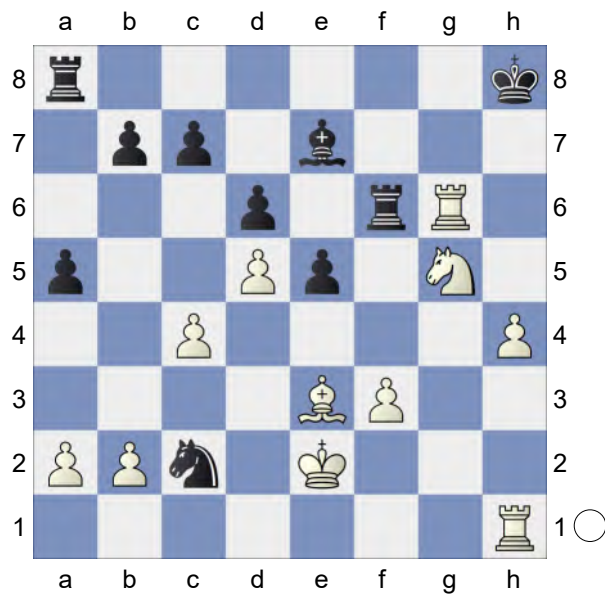
[Even more accurate was Krasenkow, M: 'But' 26.a3 Krasenkow,M: '!' Na6 27.Rg5 Arsovic,Goran: '+-!' Arsovic, Goran: '+-!' Krasenkow,M: '!' Krasenkow,M: 'was even more accurate. Black had no ideas with ... ♖b4-c2 in that case.']

26...Bg6

[26...Bxg5 27.hxg5+-]

27.Bxg6 hxg6 28.Rxg6+- It's a bit of a mop-up now. **28...Nc2 29.Ne4 Be7 30.Ng5 Rf6**

(Diagram)



31.Rxf6

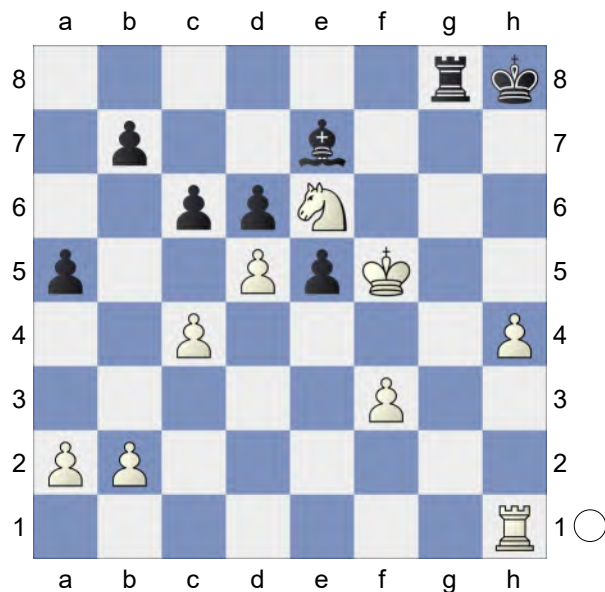
[31.h5 Arsovic,Goran Nxe3 32.Kxe3 Rxg6 33.hxg6+ Kg7 34.Rh7+ Kxg6 35.Rxe7 Kxg5 36.Rxc7+-]

31...Bxf6 32.Ne6 Krasenkow,M: 'White easily converts his material and positional advantage.'

32...Nxe3 33.Kxe3 Rg8 34.Ke4 c6

[34...Be7 Arsovic,Goran 35.c5+-]

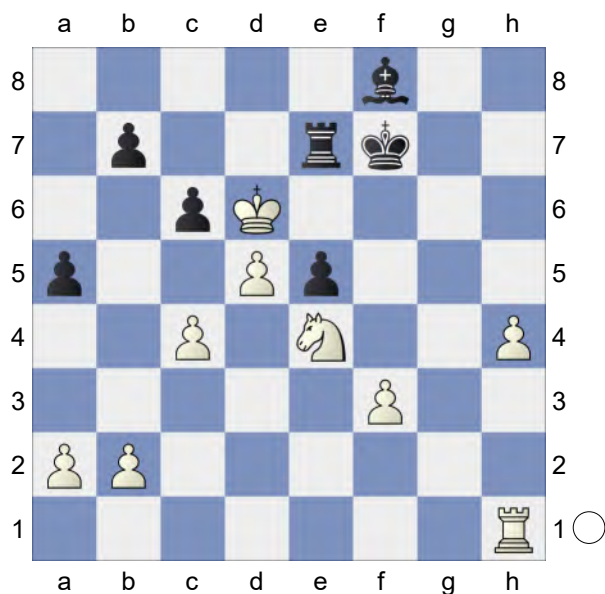
35.Kf5 Be7



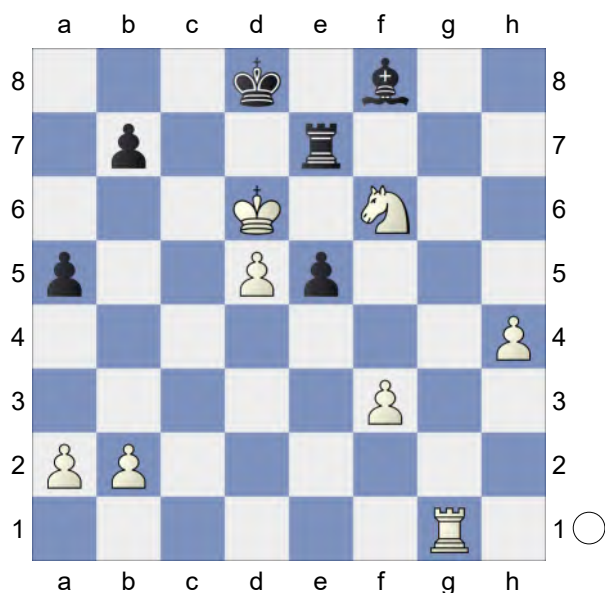
36.Ng5 Re8 37.Ne4 Kg7 38.Ke6

[38.c5 Arsovic,Goran dxc5 39.d6 Bd8 40.Nxc5+-]

38...Bf8+ 39.Kd7 Re7+ 40.Kxd6 Kf7

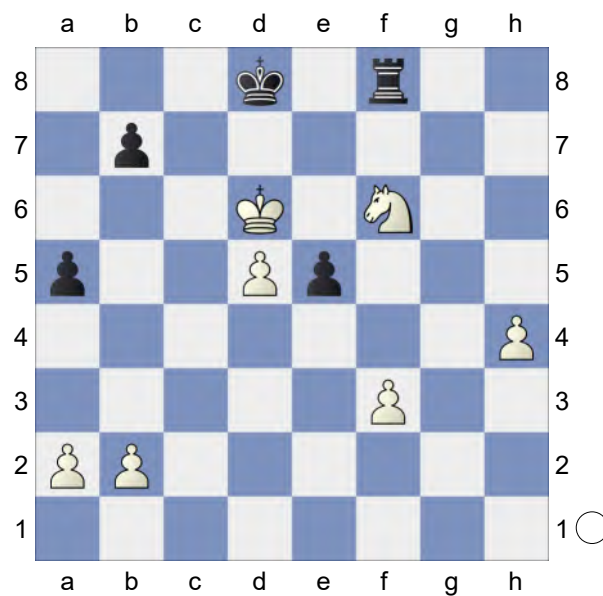


41.Rg1 cxd5 42.cxd5 Ke8 43.Nf6+ Kd8 Arsovic,Goran: 'Diagram [43...Kf7 44.Nd7!?]

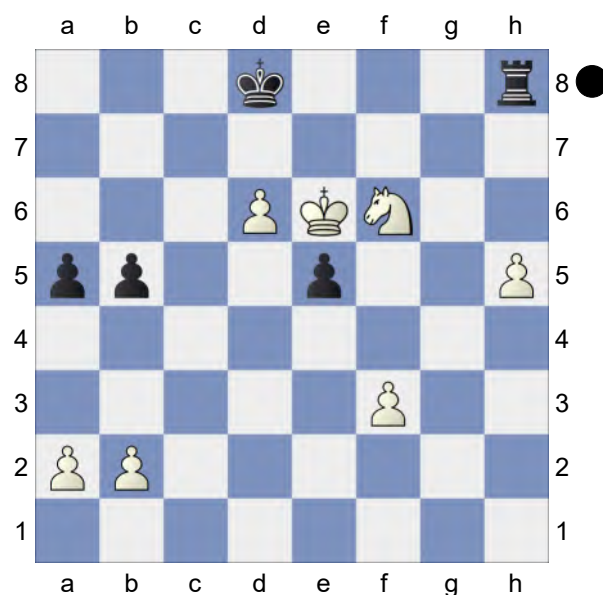


44.Rg8 Arsovic,Goran: '!' **44...Re8+ 45.Rxf8 Rxf8**

(Diagram)



46.Ke6 Rh8 47.h5 b5 48.d6



Krasenkov,M: 'Black's king and rook are completely paralysed.'

1-0

262

□ Wei, Yi

■ Wagner, Dennis

Moscow Aeroflot op-A 15th (4) 04.03.16

[Wagner, Dennis]

D16

2714

2583

Wagner, D: 'After my draw against Bu Xiangzhi in round 2 I faced another strong Chinese player in Round 4. I was looking forward to crossing swords with one of the most succesful prodigies in the world. After preparing the whole day against his 1. e4 I was confronted with a surprise as early as move one!' Sumets, Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis: 'Wagner, D: 'After my draw against Bu Xiangzhi in round 2 I faced another strong Chinese player in Round 4. I was looking forward to crossing swords with one of the most succesful prodigies in the world. After preparing the whole day against his 1. e4 I was confronted with a surprise as early as move one!'" After my draw against Bu Xiangzhi in round 2 I faced another strong Chinese player in Round 4. I was looking forward to crossing swords with one of the most succesful prodigies in the world. After preparing the whole day against his 1. e4 I was confronted with a surprise as early as move one! Sumets, Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis: 'After my draw against Bu Xiangzhi in round 2 I faced another strong Chinese player in Round 4. I was looking forward to crossing swords with one of the most succesful prodigies in the world. After preparing the whole day against his 1. e4 I was confronted with a surprise as early as move one!'" Wagner, Dennis: 'After my draw against Bu Xiangzhi in round 2 I faced another strong Chinese player in Round 4. I was

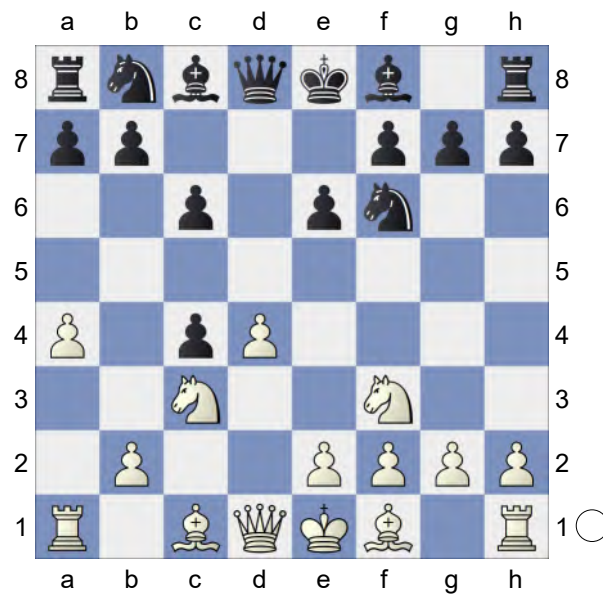
looking forward to crossing swords with one of the most succesful prodigies in the world. After preparing the whole day against his 1. e4 I was confronted with a surprise as early as move one!"After my draw against Bu Xiangzhi in round 2 I faced another strong Chinese player in Round 4. I was looking forward to crossing swords with one of the most succesful prodigies in the world. After preparing the whole day against his 1. e4 I was confronted with a surprise as early as move one! Sumets, Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis: 'After my draw against Bu Xiangzhi in round 2 I faced another strong Chinese player in Round 4. I was looking forward to crossing swords with one of the most succesful prodigies in the world. After preparing the whole day against his 1. e4 I was confronted with a surprise as early as move one!'" ' ' 1.d4!?

Sumets, Andrey Wagner, D Wagner, D Sumets, Andrey Wagner, D Sumets, Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis Wagner, Dennis Wagner, Dennis: '!' '!' Wagner, Dennis: 'Sumets, Andrey' Wagner, Dennis: 'Sumets, Andrey' 'Wagner, Dennis Wagner, Dennis Wagner, Dennis: '!' '!' '!' Wagner, Dennis: 'Sumets, Andrey' Wagner, Denn' Sumets, Andrey Wagner, D Wagner, D Sumets, Andrey Wagner, D Sumets, Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis Wagner, Dennis: '!' Wagner, Dennis: 'Sumets, Andrey'" is: 'Sumets, Andrey Sumets, Andrey" Sumets, Andrey" 1...d5! Wagner, D: 'It was clear that Wei Yi's preparation was aimed against my Grünfeld Defence in which he is also an expert, but why make it so easy for the opponent? After a few minutes of thought I went for the Slav Defence.' Sumets, Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis: '!' '!' Wagner, Dennis: '!' '!'

!"Wagner,D: 'It was clear that Wei Yi's preparation was aimed against my Grünfeld Defence in which he is also an expert, but why make it so easy for the opponent? After a few minutes of thought I went for the Slav Defence.'

Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: '!' ' ' It was clear that Wei Yi's preparation was aimed against my Grünfeld Defence in which he is also an expert, but why make it so easy for the opponent? After a few minutes of thought I went for the Slav Defence. Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis: 'It was clear that Wei Yi's preparation was aimed against my Grünfeld Defence in which he is also an expert, but why make it so easy for the opponent? After a few minutes of thought I went for the Slav Defence. "Wagner,Dennis: 'It was clear that Wei Yi's preparation was aimed against my Grünfeld Defence in which he is also an expert, but why make it so easy for the opponent? After a few minutes of thought I went for the Slav Defence. "It was clear that Wei Yi's preparation was aimed against my Grünfeld Defence in which he is also an expert, but why make it so easy for the opponent? After a few minutes of thought I went for the Slav Defence. Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis: 'It was clear that Wei Yi's preparation was aimed against my Grünfeld Defence in which he is also an expert, but why make it so easy for the opponent? After a few minutes of thought I went for the Slav Defence. "' ' 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 e6!?

(Diagram)



Wagner,D: 'This line is quite solid and I guess it will gain more popularity after Peter Svidler's successful opening duels at the Candidates....' Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: '!' '!'?"Wagner,Dennis: '!' '!' '!'?"Wagner,D: 'This line is quite solid and I guess it will gain more popularity after Peter Svidler's successful opening duels at the Candidates....' Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis: '!'?" ' This line is quite solid and I guess it will gain more popularity after Peter Svidler's successful opening duels at the Candidates.... Sumets, Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'This line is quite solid and I guess it will gain more popularity after Peter Svidler's successful opening duels at the Candidates.... "Wagner,Dennis: 'This line is quite solid and I guess it will gain more popularity after Peter Svidler's successful opening duels at the Candidates.... "This line is quite solid and I guess it will gain more popularity after Peter Svidler's successful opening duels at the Candidates.... Sumets, Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'This line is quite solid and I guess it will gain more

popularity after Peter Svidler's successful opening duels at the Candidates.... ""' 6.e3

[6.e4 Wagner,D: 'is the sharper alternative.' Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis'"Wagner,Dennis Wagner,Dennis: 'Wagner,D: 'is the sharper alternative.' Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis'" is the sharper alternative.]

6...c5 7.Bxc4 Nc6 8.0-0 Be7

[8...cxd4! Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis' is the move order used by Svidler. 9.exd4 (9.Nxd4 Bd7! 10.Nf3 a6 11.e4 Qc7 12.h3 Bd6 13.Qe2 0-0 14.Bd3 Ne5 15.Nxe5 Bxe5 16.f4 Bd4+ 17.Be3 Bxe3+ 18.Qxe3 e5 19.Rac1 exf4 20.Qxf4 Qxf4 21.Rxf4 Be6 22.Kf2 Rac8 23.Ke3 Nd7 24.Rff1 Rfe8 25.Be2 Nb6 26.Rcd1 Nc4+ 27.Bxc4 Rxc4 28.Rf2 Kf8 29.Rd4 Rxd4 30.Kxd4 Rc8 1/2-1/2 (30) Karjakin,S (2760)-Svidler, P (2757) Moscow RUS 2016 Wagner, D: '1/2-1/2 (30) Karjakin,S (2760) - Svidler,P (2757) Moscow RUS 2016' Sumets,Andrey: '1/2-1/2 (30) Karjakin, S (2760)-Svidler,P (2757) Moscow RUS 2016 Wagner,Dennis: '1/2-1/2 (30) Karjakin,S (2760)-Svidler,P (2757) Moscow RUS 2016 Wagner,D: '1/2-1/2 (30) Karjakin,S (2760) -Svidler, P (2757) Moscow RUS 2016'") 9...Be7 10.Qe2 0-0 11.Rd1 will transpose.]

9.Qe2

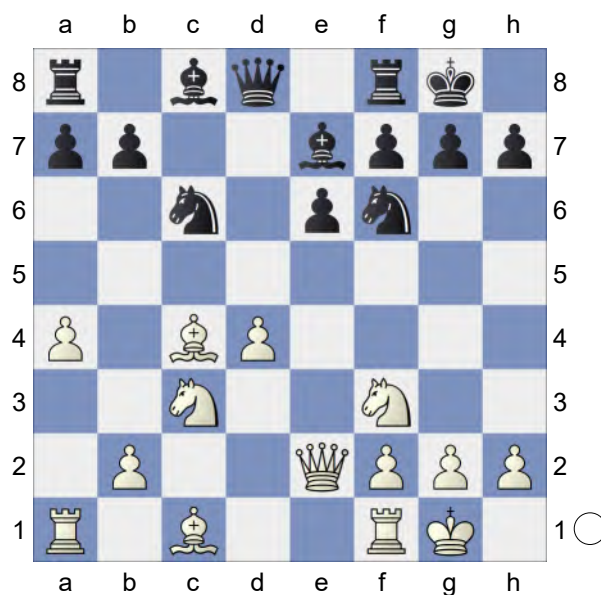
[9.dxc5 Wagner,D: 'against my move order White can also play' Sumets, Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis'"Wagner, Dennis Wagner,Dennis: 'Wagner,D: 'against my move order White can also play' Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis'" against my move order White can also play Qxd1 10.Rxd1 Bxc5

Wagner,D: 'though in this ending he probably has nothing particular.' Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'Wagner,D: 'though in this ending he probably has nothing particular.'" though in this ending he probably has nothing particular.]

9...cxd4 10.exd4

[10.Rd1!? Wagner,D: 'is a serious alternative though, made possible by my move order.' Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis'"Wagner,Dennis Wagner,Dennis: 'Wagner,D: 'is a serious alternative though, made possible by my move order.' Sumets, Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis'" is a serious alternative though, made possible by my move order. 0-0 11.Nxd4 Qc7 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.e4 Wagner,D: 'White could claim a very slight edge here.' Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis: 'Wagner,D: 'White could claim a very slight edge here.'" White could claim a very slight edge here.]

10...0-0



11.Rd1 Wagner,D: 'will transpose.' Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'Wagner,D: 'will transpose.'" Wagner,D:

'will transpose.' Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'will transpose.'" Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'will transpose.' Wagner,Dennis: 'Wagner,D: 'will transpose.'" **11...Nb4 12.Bg5** Wagner,D: 'Neither of us could remember all the details of the line, but nevertheless we followed the most critical path.' Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'Wagner,D: 'Neither of us could remember all the details of the line, but nevertheless we followed the most critical path.'" Neither of us could remember all the details of the line, but nevertheless we followed the most critical path. Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'Neither of us could remember all the details of the line, but nevertheless we followed the most critical path.'"Wagner,Dennis: 'Neither of us could remember all the details of the line, but nevertheless we followed the most critical path.'"Neither of us could remember all the details of the line, but nevertheless we followed the most critical path. Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'Neither of us could remember all the details of the line, but nevertheless we followed the most critical path.'" ' **12...h6**

[12...Bd7 Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis'"Wagner,Dennis Wagner,Dennis: 'Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis'" 13.d5!±]

13.Bxf6 Bxf6 14.Ne4

[14.Ne5 Sumets,Andrey Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'Sumets,Andrey'"Wagner,Dennis: 'Sumets,Andrey'"Sumets,Andrey Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'Sumets,Andrey'" ' Bd7 15.d5 exd5 16.Nxd5 Nxd5 17.Rxd5 Bxe5 18.Qxe5 Qe8 19.Qxe8 Bxe8=]

14...b6

[Black has some problem after 14...Nd5 Sumets,Andrey Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'Sumets,Andrey'"Wagner,Dennis: 'Sumets,Andrey'"Sumets,Andrey Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'Sumets,Andrey'" ' 15.Ne5 Be7 16.Nc3

A) 16...Nxc3 17.bxc3 Qc7 18.Qe4 Bf6 19.Bd3 It seems to me that White should be happy with the results of the opening. g6 20.Qf4 (20.h4!? h5 21.Qf4±) 20...Bg5 21.Qg3 Bd7 22.h4 Bf6 23.Qf4 (23.h5 g5 24.Bc2 Bxe5 25.dxe5 Bc6 26.Qd3 f5=; 23.Nxd7! Qxd7 24.h5 g5 25.Qf3 Bg7 26.Rdb1 Rab8 27.a5 Rfc8 28.Ra3±) 23...Kg7 24.h5 g5 25.Qe4 Rh8 26.Nxd7 Qxd7 27.Rab1 Rab8 28.Rb5 Qc6= Postny,E (2652)-Yilmaz,M (2580)1/2 (42) Emsdetten GER 2015;

B) 16...Bb4?! It is a slightly strange idea to trade the dark-squared bishop for a knight. After bxc3 and c4 White attacks Black's knight on d5. 17.Qf3 Bxc3 18.bxc3 Qd6 19.Bb3 Rb8 20.Rd3 b6 21.Qg4 f5 22.Qh4 Bb7 23.Rg3± 1-0 (36) Gupta,A (2593)-Danin,A (2589) Bad Wiessee 2013]

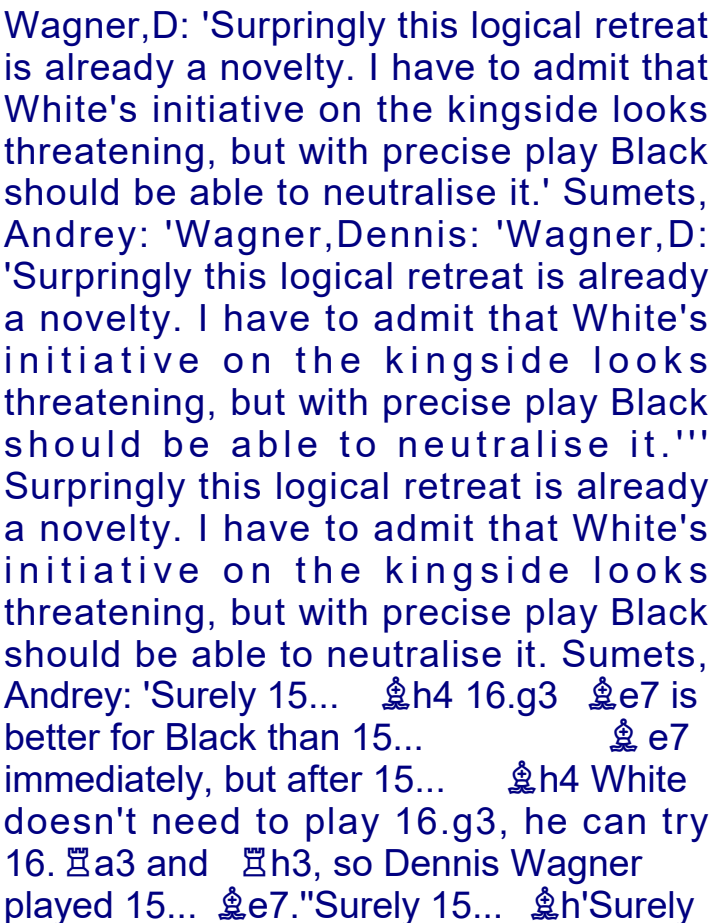
15.Ne5 Be7!?

[15...Bb7 Wagner,D: 'was played in some games, but runs into a strong counter.' Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'Wagner,D: 'was played in some games, but runs into a strong counter.'" was played in some games, but runs into a strong counter. Sumets,Andrey: 'see the game Edouard, R - Ernst,S Wijk aan Zee 2013."see the game E'see the game

Edouard, R - Ernst,S Wijk aan Zee 2013. Wagner,Dennis: 'was played in some games, but runs into a strong counter. Sumets,Andrey: 'see the game Edouard, R - Ernst,S Wijk aan Zee 2013."was played in some games, but runs into a strong counter. Sumets,Andrey: 'see the game Edouard, R - Ernst,S Wijk aan Zee 2013."see the game Edouard, R - Ernst,S Wijk aan Zee 2013. Wagner, Dennis: 'was played in some games, but runs into a strong counter. Sumets,Andrey: 'see the game Edouard, R - Ernst,S Wijk aan Zee 2013." " " douard, R - Ernst,S Wijk aan Zee 2013. Wagner,Dennis: 'was played in some games, but runs into a strong counter. Sumets,Andrey: 'see the game Edouard, R - Ernst,S Wijk a a n Z e e 2 0 1 3 . ' ' ' 16.Nxf6+ Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis"Wagner,Dennis Wagner, Dennis: 'Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis'" Qxf6 17.Nd7 Qg6 18.d5!±] [15...Bh4!?

Wagner,D: 'was discussed in the Candidates a few days later.' Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis: '!' '!'?"Wagner,Dennis: '!' '!' '!'?"Wagner,D: 'was discussed in the Candidates a few days later.' Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: '!'?" ' was discussed in the Candidates a few days later. Sumets,Andrey: 'see the game Nakamura,H - Svidler,P FIDE Candidates 2016"see the game N'see the game Nakamura,H - Svidler, P FIDE Candidates 2016 Wagner, Dennis: 'was discussed in the Candidates a few days later. Sumets, Andrey: 'see the game Nakamura,H - Svidler,P FIDE Candidates 2016"was discussed in the Candidates a few

days later. Sumets,Andrey: 'see the game Nakamura,H - Svidler,P FIDE Candidates 2016"see the game Nakamura,H - Svidler,P FIDE Candidates 2016 Wagner,Dennis: 'was discussed in the Candidates a few days later. Sumets,Andrey: 'see the game Nakamura,H - Svidler,P FIDE Candidates 2016" " " akamura,H - Svidler,P FIDE Candidates 2016 Wagner,Dennis: 'was discussed in the Candidates a few days later. Sumets,Andrey: 'see the game Nakamura,H - Svidler,P FIDE C a n d i d a t e s 2 0 1 6 ' ' ' 16.g3 Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis"Wagner,Dennis Wagner, Dennis: 'Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis'" Be7 17.Nc3 Bf6 18.d5 Qc7 19.d6 Qc5 20.Ng4 Bxc3 21.bxc3 Nc6 22.Rab1 a6 23.d7 Bb7 24.Bd3 Rfd8 25.Qe4 Kf8 26.Qh7 h5 27.Ne3 Ne5 28.Be4 Bxe4 29.Qxe4 Ra7 30.Nd5 Ng4 31.Ne3 Nf6 32.Qb4 Qxb4 33.Rxb4 Nxd7 34.Rxb6 Nxb6 35.Rxd8+ Ke7 36.Rd4 a5 37.Nc4 Nd5 38.Rd3 Rc7 39.Nxa5 Nxc3 40.Kg2 Nxa4 41.Ra3 Nc3 42.Nb3 g5 43.Nd2 f5 44.h3 Kf6 45.g4 Nd5 46.gxf5 Kxf5 47.Nf1 Nf4+ 48.Kg3 Rc1 49.Ne3+ Kg6 50.Kh2 Rb1 51.Ng2 Rb2 52.Nxf4+ gxf4 53.Kg1 e5 54.Ra5 Re2 55.h4 f3 56.Kh2 Rxf2+ 57.Kg3 Re2 58.Kxf3 Re1 59.Ra8 Rh1 60.Ke4 Rxh4+ 61.Kxe5 Rb4 62.Rg8+ Kh7 63.Rg1 Kh6 64.Kf5 1/2-1/2 (64) Nakamura,H (2790)-Svidler,P (2757) Moscow RUS 2016 Wagner,D: '1/2-1/2 (64) Nakamura,H (2790) -Svidler,P (2757) Moscow RUS 2016' Sumets,Andrey: '1/2-1/2 (64) Nakamura,H (2790)-Svidler,P (2757) Moscow RUS 2016



15... ♖h4 16.g3 ♗e7 is better for Black than 15... ♗e7 immediately, but after 15... ♖h4 White doesn't need to play 16.g3, he can try 16. ♖a3 and ♖h3, so Dennis Wagner played 15... ♗e7. Wagner, Dennis: 'Surprisingly this logical retreat is already a novelty. I have to admit that White's initiative on the kingside looks threatening, but with precise play Black should be able to neutralise it. Sumets, Andrey: 'Surely 15... ♖h4 16.g3 ♗e7 is better for Black than 15... ♗e7 immediately, but after 15... ♖h4 White doesn't need to play 16.g3, he can try 16. ♖a3 and ♖h3, so Dennis Wagner played 15... ♗e7."Surprisingly this logical retreat is already a novelty. I have to admit that White's initiative on the kingside looks threatening, but with precise play Black should be able to neutralise it. Sumets, Andrey: 'Surely 15... ♖h4 16.g3 ♗e7 is better for Black than 15... ♗e7 immediately, but after 15... ♖h4 White doesn't need to play 16.g3, he can try 16. ♖a3 and ♖h3, so Dennis Wagner played 15... ♗e7."Surely 15... ♖h4 16.g3 ♗e7 is better for Black than 15... ♗e7 immediately, but after 15... ♖h4 White doesn't need to play 16.g3, he can try 16. ♖a3 and ♖h3, so Dennis Wagner played 15... ♗e7. Wagner, Dennis: 'Surprisingly this logical retreat is already a novelty. I have to admit that White's initiative on the kingside looks threatening, but with precise play Black should be able to neutralise it. Sumets, Andrey: 'Surely 15... ♖h4 16.g3 ♗e7 is better for Black than 15... ♗e7 immediately, but after 15... ♖h4 White doesn't need to play 16.g3, he can try 16. ♖a3 and ♖h3, so Dennis Wagner played 15... ♗e7." " " 4 16.g3 ♗e7 is better for Black than 15... ♗e7

immediately, but after 15... ♖h4 White doesn't need to play 16.g3, he can try 16. ♖a3 and ♖h3, so Dennis Wagner played 15... ♗e7. Wagner,Dennis: 'Surprisingly this logical retreat is already a novelty. I have to admit that White's initiative on the kingside looks threatening, but with precise play Black should be able to neutralise it. Sumets, Andrey: 'Surely 15... ♖h4 16.g3 ♗e7 is better for Black than 15... ♗e7 immediately, but after 15... ♖h4 White doesn't need to play 16.g3, he can try 16. ♖a3 and ♖h3, so Dennis Wagner played 15... ♗e7.'" **16.Ra3 Bb7** Wagner,D: 'Here my opponent spent about 40 minutes, trying to figure out the right way to carry out the attack.' Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'Wagner,D: 'Here my opponent spent about 40 minutes, trying to figure out the right way to carry out the attack.'" Here my opponent spent about 40 minutes, trying to figure out the right way to carry out the attack. Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'Here my opponent spent about 40 minutes, trying to figure out the right way to carry out the attack. "Wagner,Dennis: 'Here my opponent spent about 40 minutes, trying to figure out the right way to carry out the attack. "Here my opponent spent about 40 minutes, trying to figure out the right way to carry out the attack. Sumets, Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'Here my opponent spent about 40 minutes, trying to figure out the right way to carry out the attack. "' ' **17.Qg4**

[17.Rg3 Wagner,D: 'was the main alternative, where I intended to go for' was the main alternative, where I intended to go for Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'was the main

alternative, where I intended to go for" Bh4! Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: '!' 18.Rh3 (18.Rg4 Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis'"Wagner,Dennis Wagner,Dennis: 'Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis'" Nd5=) 18...Nd5 19.Qg4 Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis' Bg5!= Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: '=!' Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: '=!' '=!' 20.Rf3 Sumets,Andrey Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'Sumets,Andrey" Nf6 21.Nxf6+ Bxf6 22.Rh3 Bxe5 23.dxe5 Qg5= see ♖h3 24.Qxg5 hxg5 25.Rhd3 Rfc8 26.b3 a6 27.Rg3 b5 28.axb5 axb5 29.Bf1 Ra3 30.Bxb5 Ra5 31.Bc4 Rxe5=]

17...Nd5! Wagner,D: 'I took some time in order to calculate all the important lines, but came to the conclusion that this cool defensive moves keeps everything under control. The white bishop is blocked and furthermore the knight also adds defensive resources to the kingside.' Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: '!' '!' "Wagner,Dennis: '!' '!' '!'Wagner,D: 'I took some time in order to calculate all the important lines, but came to the conclusion that this cool defensive moves keeps everything under control. The white bishop is blocked and furthermore the knight also adds defensive resources to the kingside.' Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: '!' ' 'I took some time in order to calculate all the important lines, but came to the conclusion that this cool defensive moves keeps everything under control. The white bishop is blocked and furthermore the knight also adds defensive resources to the kingside. Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'I took some time in order to calculate all the

is the point. "This is the po'This is the
point. Wagner,Dennis: 'Thia important
idea is the point of Black's strategy.
Sumets,Andrey: 'This is the point. "Thia
important idea is the point of Black's
strategy. Sumets,Andrey: 'This is the
point. "This is the point. Wagner,
Dennis: 'Thia important idea is the point
of Black's strategy. Sumets,Andrey:
'This is the point. "' ' " int. Wagner,
Dennis: 'Thia important idea is the point
of Black's strategy. Sumets,Andrey:
'This is the point. "' **19.Bxd5** Wagner,D:
'After hesitating for a moment, my
ambitious opponent goes for the most
ambitious sequence of moves.' Sumets,
Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'Wagner,D:
'After hesitating for a moment, my
ambitious opponent goes for the most
ambitious sequence of moves.'" After
hesitating for a moment, my ambitious
opponent goes for the most ambitious
sequence of moves. Sumets,Andrey:
'Wagner,Dennis: 'After hesitating for a
moment, my ambitious opponent goes
for the most ambitious sequence of
moves."Wagner,Dennis: 'After hesitating
for a moment, my ambitious opponent
goes for the most ambitious sequence
of moves."After hesitating for a moment,
my ambitious opponent goes for the
most ambitious sequence of moves.
Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'After
hesitating for a moment, my ambitious
opponent goes for the most ambitious
sequence of moves.'" ' ' '

[Wagner,D: 'It was also possible to play more safely with' Sumets, Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'Wagner,D: 'It was also possible to play more safely with'" It was also possible to play more safely with Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'It was also possible

18...Bg5

18...Bg5 Sumets,Andrey: '!' '!' '!' Wagn'Wagner,Dennis: 'Sumets,Andrey: '!' Wagner,Denn'Sumets,Andrey: '!' '!' Wagner,D'Wagner,Dennis: 'Sumets, Andrey: '!' : 'Thia important idea is the point of Black's strategy.' is: 'Sumets, Andrey: '!' '!' er,D'Wagner,Dennis: 'Sumets,Andrey: '!' Wagner,Dennis: 'Sumets,Andrey: '!' '!' : 'Thia important idea is the point of Black's strategy.' Thia important idea is the point of Black's strategy. Sumets,Andrey: 'This

a forced sequence of moves White has managed to coordinate an attack against the pawn on g7...''' ' **23...g5!** Wagner,D: 'This one is the only good move, trapping the rook, which provokes futher complications, but White is the one trying to survive now.' Sumets, Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'Wagner,D: 'This one is the only good move, trapping the rook, which provokes futher complications, but White is the one trying to survive now.'" This one is the only good move, trapping the rook, which provokes futher complications, but White is the one trying to survive now. Sumets,Andrey: 'Now Black is OK. "Now Black is O'Now Black is OK. Wagner,Dennis: 'This one is the only good move, trapping the rook, which provokes futher complications, but White is the one trying to survive now. Sumets, Andrey: 'Now Black is OK.'"This one is the only good move, trapping the rook, which provokes futher complications, but White is the one trying to survive now. Sumets,Andrey: 'Now Black is OK. "Now Black is OK. Wagner,Dennis: 'This one is the only good move, trapping the rook, which provokes futher complications, but White is the one trying to survive now. Sumets,Andrey: 'Now Black is OK.'" ' " K. Wagner, Dennis: 'This one is the only good move, trapping the rook, which provokes futher complications, but White is the one trying to survive now. Sumets,Andrey: 'Now Black is OK.'" [23...g6? Sumets,Andrey: '?!' '?!'Wagner,Dennis: '?!' '?!' Wagner, Dennis: 'Sum'Wagner,Dennis: '?!' '?!' '?!' Wagner,Dennis: 'Sumets,A'Sumets, Andrey: '?!' Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis: '?" ndrey: '?!'" ets,Andrey: '?!'"

[23...g6? Sumets,Andrey: '?!' '?!'Wagner,Dennis: '?!' '?!' Wagner, Dennis: 'Sum'Wagner,Dennis: '?!' '?!' '?!' Wagner,Dennis: 'Sumets,A'Sumets, Andrey: '?!' Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis: '?" ndrey: '?!'" ets,Andrey: '?!'"

24.h4! Wagner,D: 'gives White a huge initiative.' Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis: '!' '!'Wagner,Dennis: '!' '!' '!'Wagner,D: 'gives White a huge initiative.' Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis: '!' '!' ' gives White a huge initiative. Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis: 'gives White a huge initiative. "Wagner,Dennis: 'gives White a huge initiative."gives White a huge initiative. Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'gives White a huge initiative.'" ' ' Rac8 25.Re1 Kg7 26.Qe3± Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: ' ±' '±'"Wagner,Dennis: ' ±' '±' '±'Sumets, Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: ' ±'" " Rc7 Sumets,Andrey Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis: 'Sumets, Andrey'"Wagner,Dennis: 'Sumets, Andrey'"Sumets,Andrey Sumets, Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'Sumets, Andrey'" ' ' 27.Rf4 Qc2 (27...Qh5? 28.Ng4+-) 28.Ng4 f5 29.Qe5+ Kh7 30.Ne3±]

24.h4 f6

[24...Qc2? Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis'"Wagner,Dennis Wagner, Dennis: 'Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis'" 25.Rf1!]

25.hxg5

Sumets,Andrey: '?!' '?!' '?!'Wagner,Dennis: 'Sumets,Andrey: '?!' Wag'Sumets,Andrey: '?!' '?!'Wagner, Dennis: 'Sumets,Andrey: '?!' '!' ner, Dennis: 'Sumets,Andrey: '?!' '?!'" agner, Dennis: 'Sumets,Andrey: '?!' Wagner, Dennis: 'Sumets,Andrey: '?!' '?!'"

[25.Nd3!? Wagner,D: 'is less aggressive, but possible as well.' Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: '!' '!'?' '!'Wagner, Dennis: '!'?' '!'?' '!'?"Wagner,D: 'is less aggressive, but possible as well.' Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: '!'?' '!' is less

aggressive, but possible as well.
Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'is
less aggressive, but possible as well.
'Wagner,Dennis: 'is less aggressive,
but possible as well.' 'is less
aggressive, but possible as well.
Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'is
less aggressive, but possible as well.'
'

A) 25...Rac8 Sumets,Andrey:
'Wagner,Dennis"Wagner,Dennis
Wagner,Dennis: 'Sumets,Andrey:
'Wagner,Dennis"' 26.hxg5 fxg5!
(26...hxg5 27.f4 Rc2 28.Ne1!±)
27.Rf4 Qg6 28.Rxf8+ Rxf8=;

B) 25...Rf7!? Sumets,Andrey:
'Wagner,Dennis"Wagner,Dennis
Wagner,Dennis: 'Sumets,Andrey:
'Wagner,Dennis"' 26.hxg5 Rg7!
Wagner,D: 'an amazing resource.'
Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis:
'Wagner,D: 'an amazing resource.'"
an amazing resource. (26...hxg5
27.f4) 27.f4 (27.Rf4 Qxg5
28.Qxg5 Rxg5 29.g3 Rh5 30.f3
Rf8=) 27...Rc8;

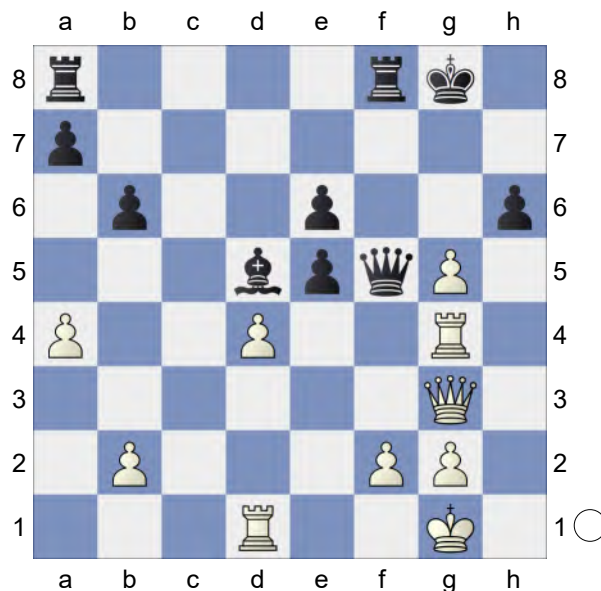
C) 25...Kh7 Sumets,Andrey
Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis:
'Sumets,Andrey"Wagner,Dennis:
'Sumets,Andrey"Sumets,Andrey
Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis:
'Sumets,Andrey"' ' 26.hxg5 fxg5!
(26...hxg5? 27.f4 Rg8 28.Qh3+
Kg7 29.fxg5 fxg5 30.Qh5+-) 27.f4
(27.Rc1 Rac8 28.Rxc8 Rxc8
29.Qd6 Rf8 30.f3 Rg8=) 27...Rg8
28.Rf1 Raf8 29.Rf2 gxf4 30.Rxf4
Qh5=;

D) 25...Rad8 Sumets,Andrey:
'Wagner,Dennis"Wagner,Dennis
Wagner,Dennis: 'Sumets,Andrey:
'Wagner,Dennis"' 26.hxg5 (26.Re1
Rc8! 27.hxg5 hxg5 28.f4 Rc2̄)

26...hxg5 27.f4 Bb3! 28.Re1 Rxd4
29.Nf2! Qd5 30.fxg5 Rxg4
31.Nxg4 fxg5 32.Re5 Qd1+
33.Kh2 Kf7!! Wagner,D: 'the only
move.' Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,
Dennis: 'Wagner,D: 'the only move.
'" the only move. 34.Nf2 Rh8+
35.Nh3 g4 36.Re3 Bxa4 37.Qf4+
Ke7 38.Qg5+ Kf7=]

25...fxe5

[25...hxg5 Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,
Dennis"Wagner,Dennis Wagner,
Dennis: 'Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,
Dennis"' 26.f4!]



Sumets,Andrey: '!' '!' '!'Wagn'Wagner,
Dennis: 'Sumets,Andrey: '!' Wa'Sumets,
Andrey: '!' '!'Wagner,Dennis: 'Sumets,
Andrey: '!' '!' gner,Dennis: 'Sumets,
Andrey: '!' '!' er,Dennis: 'Sumets,
Andrey: '!' Wagner,Dennis: 'Sumets,
Andrey: '!' '!' 26.gxh6+ Kh8 27.dxe5?
Sumets,Andrey: '?!' '?!' '?!'Wagner,
Dennis: '?!' '?!' Wag'Wagner,Dennis: '?!'
'?!' '?!' Wagner,Dennis'Sumets,Andrey:
'?!' '?!'Wagner,Dennis: '?!' Wagner,
Dennis: 'Sumets,Andrey: '?!' '!' : 'Sumets,
Andrey: '?!' Wagner,Dennis: 'Sumets,

Andrey: '?!' '?!'"" ner,Dennis: 'Sumets,
Andrey: '?!' Wagner,Dennis: 'Sumets,
Andrey: '?!' '?!'""

[27.h7! Wagner,D: 'was the move I was more afraid of, since the annoying pawn on h7 can never be taken and pins my rooks to the 8th rank because of the potential Rg8+ threat.' Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis: 'Wagner,D: 'was the move I was more afraid of, since the annoying pawn on h7 can never be taken and pins my rooks to the 8th rank because of the potential Rg8+ threat.'" was the move I was more afraid of, since the annoying pawn on h7 can never be taken and pins my rooks to the 8th rank because of the potential Rg8+ threat. Sumets, Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'was the move I was more afraid of, since the annoying pawn on h7 can never be taken and pins my rooks to the 8th rank because of the potential Rg8+ threat.'"Wagner,Dennis: 'was the move I was more afraid of, since the annoying pawn on h7 can never be taken and pins my rooks to the 8th rank because of the potential Rg8+ threat.'" was the move I was more afraid of, since the annoying pawn on h7 can never be taken and pins my rooks to the 8th rank because of the potential Rg8+ threat.'" was the move I was more afraid of, since the annoying pawn on h7 can never be taken and pins my rooks to the 8th rank because of the potential Rg8+ threat.'" ' ' Rac8 28.Re1! Wagner,D: '= ' '= ' '= Wagner,D: 'White should just resist taking the pawn on e5, as his own pawn seriously hinders his

initiative.' Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis: '!' '= '!'""Wagner,Dennis: '!' '= '!' '= '!'""Wagner,D: '= ' '= ' '= Wagner,D: 'White should just resist taking the pawn on e5, as his own pawn seriously hinders his initiative.' Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: '!' ' ' White should just resist taking the pawn on e5, as his own pawn seriously hinders his initiative. Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'White should just resist taking the pawn on e5, as his own pawn seriously hinders his initiative.'"Wagner,Dennis: 'White should just resist taking the pawn on e5, as his own pawn seriously hinders his initiative.'"White should just resist taking the pawn on e5, as his own pawn seriously hinders his initiative.'" ' ' (28.dxe5? Qh5f) 28...e4 (28...Qh5 Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis' 29.Rh4 Qf5 30.Rg4=) 29.Rg5 Qf6 30.Rg6 Qf5 (30...Qf7 Sumets,Andrey Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis: 'Sumets, Andrey'"Wagner,Dennis: 'Sumets, Andrey'"Sumets,Andrey Sumets, Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'Sumets, Andrey'" ' ' 31.Qe5+-) 31.Rg5=]

27...Rac8 Sumets,Andrey: '?!' '?!' '?!'W"Wagner,Dennis: 'Sumets,Andrey: '?!' Wag'Sumets,Andrey: '?!' '?!'Wagner, Dennis: 'Sumets,Andrey: '?!'"" ' ner, Dennis: 'Sumets,Andrey: '?!' '?!'"" agner, Dennis: 'Sumets,Andrey: '?!' Wagner, Dennis: 'Sumets,Andrey: '?!' '?!'""

[27...Rf7! Wagner,D: 'might be even stronger, introducing the plan

mentioned below with ...Raf8 and ... Qc2-c7 against Rg7.' Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis' might be even stronger, introducing the plan mentioned below with ... ♖af8 and ... ♔c2-c7 against ♖g7. 28.Rg7 Qc2 29.Rf1 Raf8+ Sumets,Andrey: '♣' '♣' '♣'Wagner,Dennis: '-+' Wag'Wagner, Dennis: '-+' '-+' Wagner,Dennis: 'Sumets,Andrey: ' ♣' '♣' ner,Dennis: 'Sumets,Andrey: '♣' '♣']

[27...Qc2! Sumets,Andrey Sumets, Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'Sumets, Andrey"Wagner,Dennis: 'Sumets, Andrey"Sumets,Andrey Sumets, Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'Sumets, Andrey"' ' 28.Re1 (28.Rf1 Rf7 29.Rg7 Raf8♣) 28...Qd2 29.Re3 (29.f4 Qd4+ 30.Re3 Rg8 31.Rg7 Qd1+ 32.Kf2 Rac8-+) 29...Rf7 30.Rg7 Qd1+ 31.Kh2 Qh5+ 32.Kg1 Raf8♣]

28.Rg7

[28.h7 Wagner,D: '?' '?' '?' Sumets, Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis Wagner, Dennis: '?' '?' "Wagner,Dennis Wagner,Dennis: '?' '?' "?"Wagner,D: '?' '?' '?' Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis Wagner,Dennis: '?' ' Qh5♣]

28...Qc2!? Wagner,D: 'This seems like a good practical move, trying to deflect the d1-rook, which could otherwise have joined the battle via d4, but objectively it's not the best, because it allows a strong combination, leading to a forced draw.' Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: '!'?' '!'?"Wagner,Dennis: '!'?' '!'?' '!'?"Wagner,D: 'This seems like a good practical move, trying to deflect the d1-rook, which could otherwise have joined the battle via d4, but objectively it's not the best, because it allows a strong combination, leading to a forced

draw.' Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: '!'?" ' This seems like a good practical move, trying to deflect the d1-rook, which could otherwise have joined the battle via d4, but objectively it's not the best, because it allows a strong combination, leading to a forced draw. Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'This seems like a good practical move, trying to deflect the d1-rook, which could otherwise have joined the battle via d4, but objectively it's not the best, because it allows a strong combination, leading to a forced draw."Wagner,Dennis: 'This seems like a good practical move, trying to deflect the d1-rook, which could otherwise have joined the battle via d4, but objectively it's not the best, because it allows a strong combination, leading to a forced draw."This seems like a good practical move, trying to deflect the d1-rook, which could otherwise have joined the battle via d4, but objectively it's not the best, because it allows a strong combination, leading to a forced draw.'" ' ' **29.Re1**

[29.Rd4? Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis"Wagner,Dennis Wagner, Dennis: 'Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis"' Qxf2+! Wagner,D: 'was the whole point.' Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis: 'Wagner,D: 'was the whole point.'" was the whole point. (29...Qc1+!/?-+)]

[29.Kh2!! Sumets,Andrey: '!'?' '!'?' '!'?"Wagner,Dennis: '!!!' '!!!' W'Wagner, Dennis: '!!!' '!!!' '!!!' Wagner,Den'Sumets,

Andrey: '!?' '!?' "Wagner, Dennis: '!'!
 Wagner, Dennis: 'Sumets, Andrey: '!?' '
 nis: 'Sumets, Andrey: '!?' " Wagner,
 Dennis: 'Sumets, Andrey: '!?' '!?' "
 agner, Dennis: 'Sumets, Andrey: '!?' "
 Wagner, Dennis: 'Sumets, Andrey: '!?'
 '!?' " Rxf2 30.Rxd5! Sumets, Andrey:
 'Wagner, Dennis: '!' '!'"Wagner, Dennis:
 '!' '!' '!' "Sumets, Andrey: 'Wagner,
 Dennis: '!' '!' 'exd5 31.h7!
 Sumets, Andrey: '= ' '= ' "Wagner,
 Dennis: '!' '!' Wagn'Wagner, Dennis: '!'
 '!' '!' Wagner, Denn'Sumets, Andrey: '= '
 '= "Wagner, Dennis: '!' Wagner, Dennis:
 'Sumets, Andrey: '= ' ' ' is: 'Sumets,
 Andrey: '= ' Wagner, Dennis: 'Sumets,
 Andrey: '= ' '= ' " er, Dennis: 'Sumets,
 Andrey: '= ' Wagner, Dennis: 'Sumets,
 Andrey: '= ' ' ' ' ' ' Rxd5! Sumets,
 Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis'Wagner, Dennis
 Wagner, Dennis: 'Sumets, Andrey: 'Wagner,
 Dennis' 32.Qxg2 Qxg2+ 33.Rxg2
 Kxh7= Wagner, D: 'a funny line...'
 Sumets, Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis:
 'Wagner, D: 'a funny line...' " a funny
 line...]

[29.Rd2? Sumets, Andrey: 'Wagner,
 Dennis'Wagner, Dennis Wagner,
 Dennis: 'Sumets, Andrey: 'Wagner,
 Dennis' " Qb1+ 30.Kh2 Rc1-+]

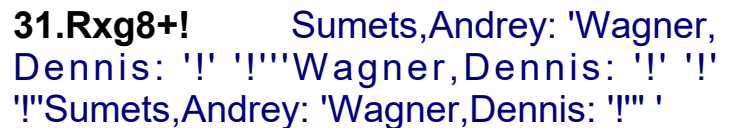
29...Rg8? Wagner, D: 'This logical move
 throws away the win!' Sumets, Andrey:
 'Wagner, Dennis: '?' '?' "Wagner, Dennis:
 '?' '?' '?' "Wagner, D: 'This logical move
 throws away the win!' Sumets, Andrey:
 'Wagner, Dennis: '?' ' ' This logical move
 throws away the win! Sumets, Andrey:
 'Wagner, Dennis: 'This logical move
 throws away the win!' "Wagner, Dennis:
 'This logical move throws away the
 win!' "This logical move throws away the
 win! Sumets, Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis:

'This logical move throws away the win!' "
 ''

[29...Rc7! Wagner, D: 'was much
 stronger, with the strong idea of ...
 Rc7 followed by ...Qc7! which I had
 missed. Now Black would most
 probably win the game.' Sumets,
 Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis'Wagner,
 Dennis Wagner, Dennis: 'Wagner, D:
 'was much stronger, with the strong
 idea of ...Rc7 followed by ...Qc7!
 which I had missed. Now Black would
 most probably win the game.' Sumets,
 Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis' " was much
 stronger, with the strong idea of ...
 Rcf7 followed by ... Qc7! which I had
 missed. Now Black would most
 probably win the game. 30.f3 Rc7
 31.Qg5 Qc7 32.Rc1 Rxg7 33.hxg7+
 Qxg7 34.Qh5+ Qh7 35.Qg5
 Wagner, D: 'There still remains a
 difficult technical job, but Black
 should win.' Sumets, Andrey: 'Wagner,
 Dennis: 'Wagner, D: 'There still
 remains a difficult technical job, but
 Black should win.' " There still remains
 a difficult technical job, but Black
 should win. a6 36.Kf2 b5 37.a5 b4
 38.Rc5 Rb8-+]

30.Qg5! Wagner, D: 'Now the queen is
 transferred to the stronger square e7,
 from where new ideas like Rh7+ followed
 by Qf6+ are introduced.' Sumets,
 Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis: '!' '!'"Wagner,
 Dennis: '!' '!' '!' "Wagner, D: 'Now the
 queen is transferred to the stronger
 square e7, from where new ideas like
 Rh7+ followed by Qf6+ are introduced.'
 Sumets, Andrey: 'Wagner, Dennis: '!' ' ' "
 Now the queen is transferred to the
 stronger square e7, from where new
 ideas like Rh7+ followed by Qf6+ are
 introduced. Sumets, Andrey: 'Wagner,

(Diagram)



[31.f3 Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,
Dennis'"Wagner,Dennis Wagner,
Dennis: 'Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,
Dennis'" Qc7! Wagner,D: 'would be
bad for White.' Sumets,Andrey:
'Wagner,Dennis: 'Wagner,D: 'would be
bad for White.'" would be bad for
White.]

31...Rxg8 32.Qf6+



the both of us played very principled chess starting from the opening and the draw is a good result, though I definitely had chances for more...' Sumets, Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'Wagner,D: 'I really like this game, since the both of us played very principled chess starting from the opening and the draw is a good result, though I definitely had chances for more...' I really like this game, since the both of us played very principled chess starting from the opening and the draw is a good result, though I definitely had chances for more...' Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'I really like this game, since the both of us played very principled chess starting from the opening and the draw is a good result, though I definitely had chances for more...'Wagner,Dennis: 'I really like this game, since the both of us played very principled chess starting from the opening and the draw is a good result, though I definitely had chances for more...'I really like this game, since the both of us played very principled chess starting from the opening and the draw is a good result, though I definitely had chances for more...' Sumets,Andrey: 'Wagner,Dennis: 'I really like this game, since the both of us played very principled chess starting from the opening and the draw is a good result, though I definitely had chances for more...' ''

1/2-1/2

355

□ Wei, Yi

■ Anne Haast

Tata Steel Challengers (12) 24.01.2015

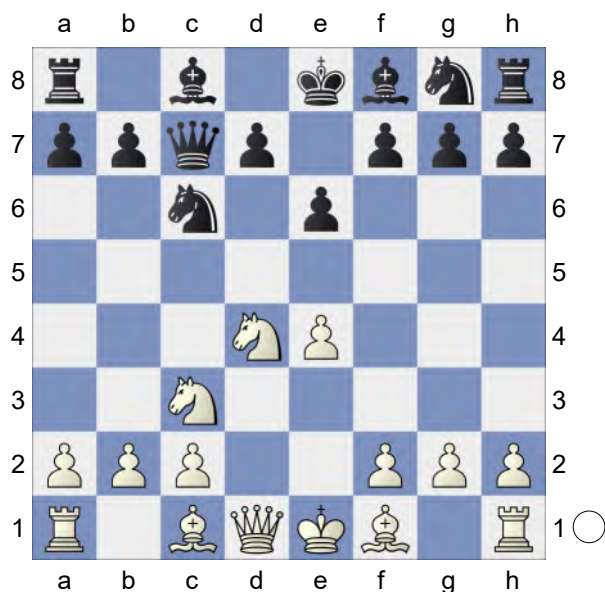
[Ward, Stephen]

B48

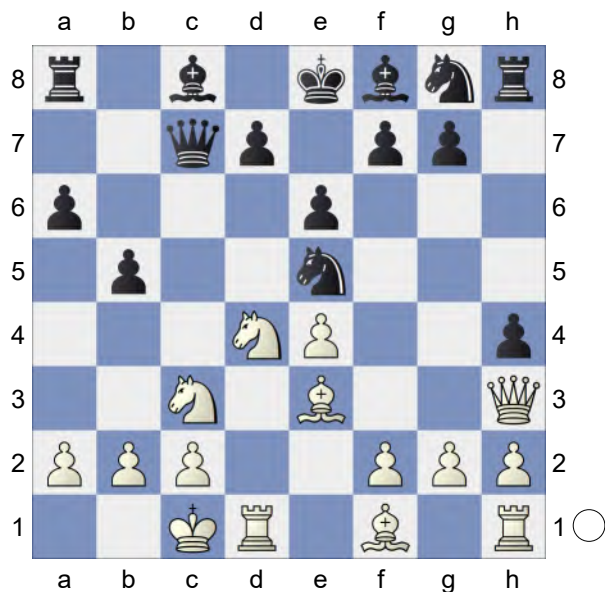
2675

2352

Forcing Moves Force Wins 1.e4 c5
 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3
 Qc7

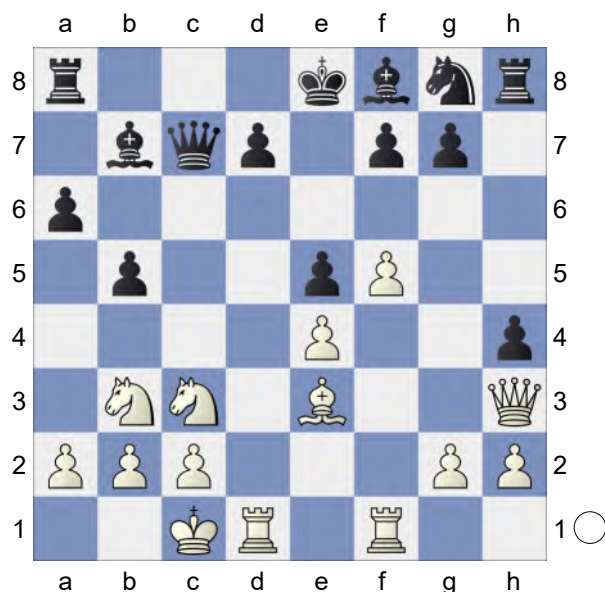


6.Be3 a6 7.Qf3 Ne5 8.Qg3 h5 9.0-0-0
 h4 10.Qh3 b5

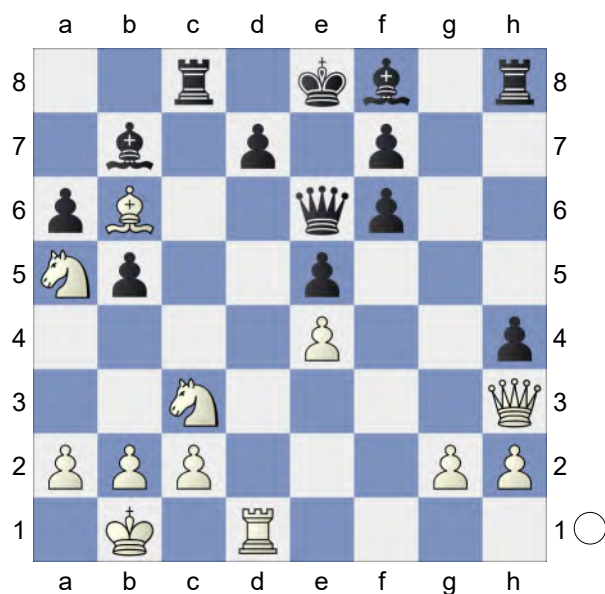


11.f4 Nc4 12.Bxc4 Qxc4 13.f5 Bb7

14.Rhf1 e5 15.Nb3 Qc7

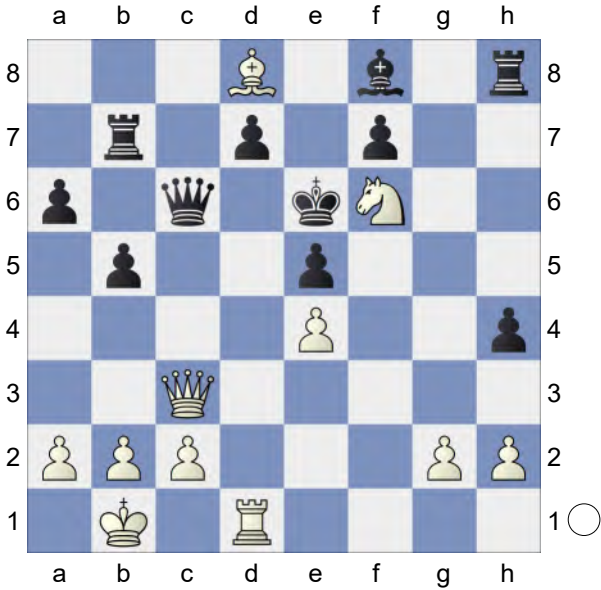


16.Kb1 Rc8 17.f6 Nxf6 18.Rxf6 gxf6
 19.Bb6 Qc6 20.Na5 Qe6

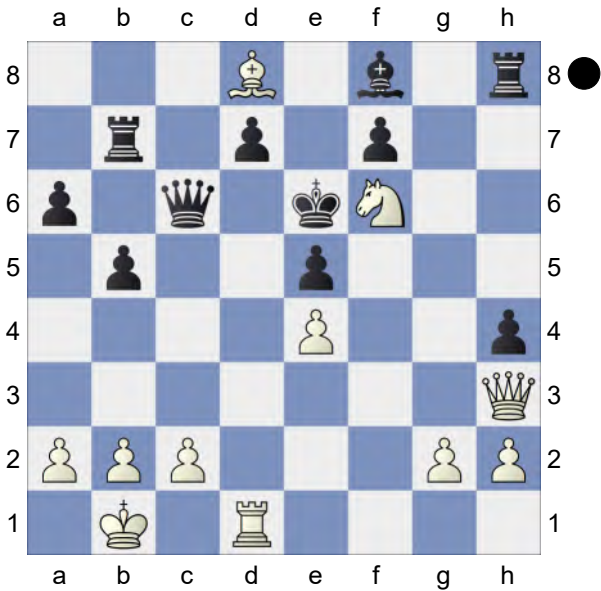


21.Nxb7 Rb8 22.Nd5 Rxb7 23.Qc3
 Qc6 24.Nxf6+ Ke7 25.Bd8+ Ke6

(Diagram)



26.Qh3#



1-0

468

□ Yermolinsky,Alex

■ Wei,Yi

North American op 23rd (6) 28.12.2013

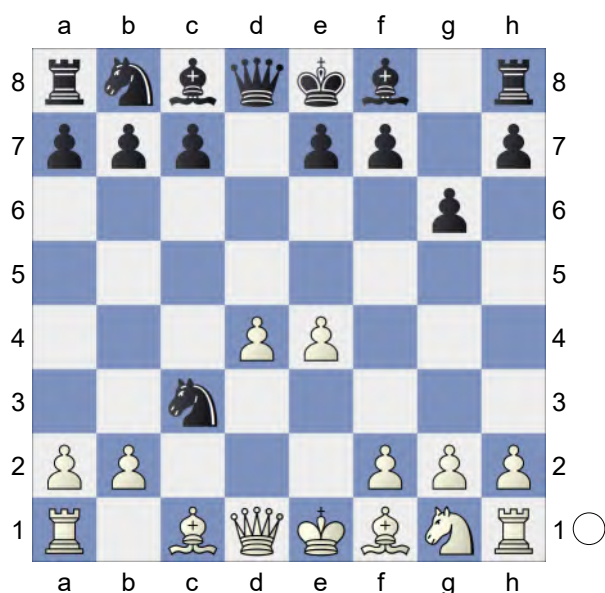
[Yermolinsky,A]

D85

2510

2604

1.d4 Yermolinsky,Alex Yermolinsky,Alex
 Yermolinsky,Alex Yermolinsky,Alex
 Yermolinsky,Alex Yermolinsky,Alex :
 'Yermolinsky,A' 1...Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3
 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3



6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Be3 c5 8.Nf3 Bg4

Shadows of a disheartening loss to Garry "the Great and Terrible" Kasparov I suffered in Wijk aan Zee 1999 began to hover over me as soon as this move was played. Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'Shadows of a disheartening loss to Garry "the Great and Terrible" Kasparov I suffered in Wijk aan Zee 1999 began to hover over me as soon as this move was played.' Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Shadows of a disheartening loss to Garry "the Great and Terrible" Kasparov I suffered in Wijk aan Zee 1999 began to hover over me as soon as this move was played.'

[Truth to tell, in that game Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'Truth to tell, in that game' Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Truth to tell, in that game' 8...Qa5 9.Qd2 Bg4 10.Rc1 was played, and whatever mess I got myself into later in that game has not been relevant since Kramnik found Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'was played, and whatever mess I got myself into later in that game has not been relevant since Kramnik found' Yermolinsky,Alex : 'was played, and whatever mess I got myself into later in that game has not been relevant since Kramnik found' (10.Rb1 a6 11.Rxb7 Bxf3 12.gxf3 Nc6 13.Bc4 playable for White and scored the all-important first victory in the London 2000 World Championship Match. Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'playable for White and scored the all-important first victory in the London 2000 World Championship Match.'" Yermolinsky,Alex : 'playable for White and scored the all-important first victory in the London 2000 World Championship Match.')]

9.Rc1 Bxf3 This automatic exchange didn't seem so automatic to GM Evdokimov, Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'This automatic exchange didn't seem so automatic to GM Evdokimov,' Yermolinsky,Alex : 'This automatic exchange didn't seem so automatic to GM Evdokimov,'

[who twice chose Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'who twice chose' Yermolinsky,Alex : 'who twice chose' 9...Qa5 10.Qb3 cxd4 the point being that Black will retain his bishop for defensive purposes. Yermolinsky,Alex

: 'Yermolinsky,A: 'the point being that Black will retain his bishop for defensive purposes.'" Yermolinsky, Alex : 'the point being that Black will retain his bishop for defensive p u r p o s e s . '11.Nxd4 was an interesting try to put a different spin on it. Evdokimov defended with Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'was an interesting try to put a different spin on it. Evdokimov defended with" Yermolinsky,Alex : 'was an interesting try to put a different spin on it. Evdokimov defended with' Bc8 (The Keeper of All Things Gruenfeld, Peter Svidler, preferred to keep the queens on and went back Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'The Keeper of All Things Gruenfeld, Peter Svidler, preferred to keep the queens on and went back" Yermolinsky,Alex : 'The Keeper of All Things Gruenfeld, Peter Svidler, preferred to keep the queens on and went back' 11...Qc7 to survive a tactical battle against Khairullin Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'to survive a tactical battle against Khairullin" Yermolinsky, Alex : 'to survive a tactical battle against Khairullin') 12.Qb5+ Qxb5 13.Nxb5 Na6 giving his fearsome opponent Alexander Khalifman a free pawn on a7. Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'giving his fearsome opponent Alexander Khalifman a free pawn on a7.'" Yermolinsky,Alex : 'giving his fearsome opponent Alexander Khalifman a free pawn on a7.']

10.gxf3 Qa5

[10...cxd4 is a bit of a concession, since the white rook occupies the c-

file. Nonetheless, the critical position is reached after Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'is a bit of a concession, since the white rook occupies the c-file. Nonetheless, the critical position is reached after" Yermolinsky,Alex : 'is a bit of a concession, since the white rook occupies the c-file. Nonetheless, the critical position is reached after' 11.cxd4 0-0 12.d5 Nd7 White finds himself at a fork on the road. I'd give a thought to the simple Yermolinsky, Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'White finds himself at a fork on the road. I'd give a thought to the simple" Yermolinsky, Alex : 'White finds himself at a fork on the road.' Yermolinsky,Alex : 'I'd give a thought to the simple'

A)_____ According to Yogi Berra, he must take it! Therefore, Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'According to Yogi Berra, he must take it! Therefore,'" Yermolinsky, Alex : 'According to Yogi Berra, he must take it! Therefore,' 13.Bh3!? was successfully employed by Caruana against Areschenko in 2011. There followed Yermolinsky, Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'was successfully employed by Caruana against Areschenko in 2011. There followed" Yermolinsky,Alex : 'was successfully employed by Caruana against Areschenko in 2011. There followed' Kh8 14.f4 f5 15.e5 g5 Not Fabiano! He went all-out. Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'Not Fabiano! He went all-out.'" Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Not Fabiano! He went all-out.'

A1)_____ Cooler heads would prefer Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,

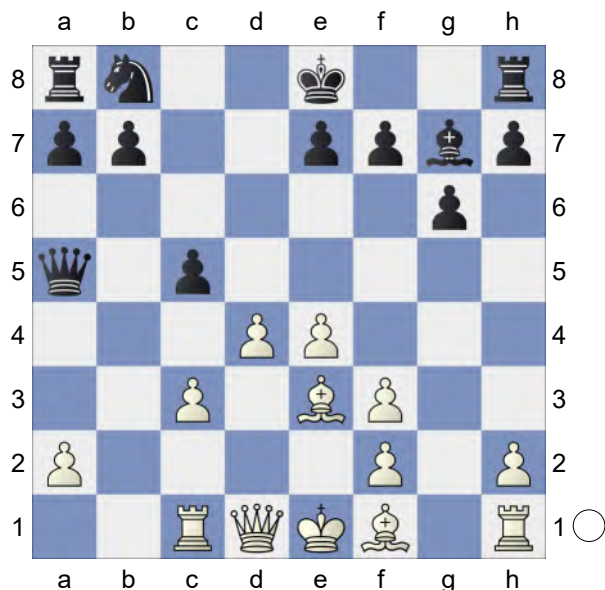
A: 'Cooler heads would prefer'
 Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Cooler heads
 w o u l d p r e f e r ' 16.e6
 but the position after Yermolinsky,
 Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'but the
 position after" Yermolinsky,Alex :
 'but the position after' Nb6
 isn't that clear. Yermolinsky,Alex
 : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'isn't that clear.
 " Yermolinsky,Alex : 'isn't that
 clear.' (not Yermolinsky,Alex :
 'Yermolinsky,A: 'not" Yermolinsky,
 Alex : 'not' 16...gxf4 17.Bxf4 Nf6
 18.Bg2 Rc8 19.Rxc8 Qxc8
 20.0-0 Rd8 21.Qb3±)
 Say, White goes Yermolinsky,
 Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'Say,
 White goes" Yermolinsky,Alex :
 'Say, White goes' 17.Bg2
 then Yermolinsky,Alex :
 'Yermolinsky,A: 'then'
 Yermolinsky,Alex : 'then' gxf4
 18.Bxf4 Rc8 Now Black is ready
 to recapture on c8 with the knight,
 continuing to d6. Else,
 Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,
 A: 'Now Black is ready to
 recapture on c8 with the knight,
 continuing to d6. Else,'
 Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Now Black is
 ready to recapture on c8 with the
 knight, continuing to d6. Else,'
 19.0-0 Rxc1 20.Bxc1 Nc8
 21.Qb3 Nd6 leads to the same
 thing. Yermolinsky,Alex :
 'Yermolinsky,A: 'leads to the
 same thing." Yermolinsky,Alex :
 'leads to the same thing.';
A2) 16.Rg1?! Very inspired play.
 Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,
 A: 'Very inspired play.'
 Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Very inspired
 play.' 16...gxf4 17.Rxg7 Kxg7

18.Bxf4 Kh8 19.Kf1 Rc8
 20.Rxc8 Qxc8 21.Qd4
 and here Yermolinsky,Alex :
 'Yermolinsky,A: 'and here'
 Yermolinsky,Alex : 'and here'
 Qc2 seemed sufficient to give
 Black the edge. Yermolinsky,Alex
 : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'seemed
 sufficient to give Black the edge.
 " Yermolinsky,Alex : 'seemed
 sufficient to give Black the edge.
 ';

B) _____ The problem with the droll
 Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A:
 'The problem with the droll'
 Yermolinsky,Alex : 'The problem
 with the droll' 13.Bg2
 was underlined in Duda-Wei Yi,
 2013 Yermolinsky,Alex :
 'Yermolinsky,A: 'was underlined in
 Duda-Wei Yi, 2013" Yermolinsky,
 Alex : 'was underlined in Duda-Wei
 Yi, 2013' Qa5+ 14.Qd2 Qa6
 15.Qe2 Qa5+ 16.Qd2
 Draw agreed. Yermolinsky,Alex :
 'Yermolinsky,A: 'Draw agreed.'
 Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Draw agreed.';

C) 13.Be2 _____ White intends to
 concentrate his efforts on the
 Queenside, which is more in the
 spirit of things. Yermolinsky,Alex :
 'Yermolinsky,A: 'White intends to
 concentrate his efforts on the
 Queenside, which is more in the
 spirit of things." Yermolinsky,Alex
 : 'White intends to concentrate his
 efforts on the Queenside, which is
 more in the spirit of things.']

(Diagram)



The young Chinese is trying to trick me into transposing into the Kasparov disaster line. Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'The young Chinese is trying to trick me into transposing into the Kasparov disaster line.'" Yermolinsky, Alex : 'The young Chinese is trying to trick me into transposing into the Kasparov disaster line.' **11.Qb3!** Some difference, eh? Now White will take it to a favorable endgame - the key strategy of the entire line. Yermolinsky, Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'Some difference, eh? Now White will take it to a favorable endgame - the key strategy of the entire line.'" Yermolinsky, Alex : 'Some difference, eh? Now White will take it to a favorable endgame - the key strategy of the entire line.' **11...0-0 12.Qb5!**

[12.d5 Nd7 13.Be2 Rab8 14.f4 b5 is the kind of a mess Black has to be happy with. Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'is the kind of a mess Black has to be happy with.'" Yermolinsky,Alex : 'is the kind of a mess Black has to be happy with.']

12...Qxb5 13.Bxb5 a6 14.Be2 Nd7
On the face of it this position has to be

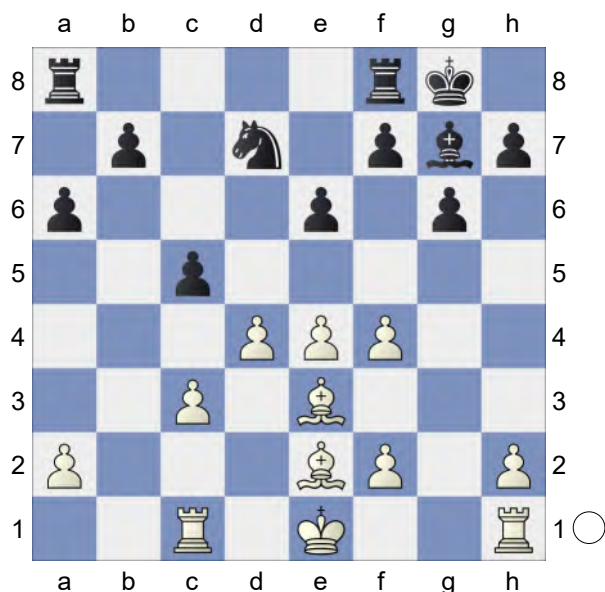
promising for White, but I wasn't able to do anything with it. Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'On the face of it this position has to be promising for White, but I wasn't able to do anything with it.'" Yermolinsky,Alex : 'On the face of it this position has to be promising for White, but I wasn't able to do anything with it.'

15.f4

[Perhaps, I should paid more attention to Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'Perhaps, I should paid more attention to' Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Perhaps, I should paid more attention to' **15.a4!?** Nb6 16.a5 Na4 17.Kd2 It seems risky for White to keep his king on the d-file, but Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'It seems risky for White to keep his king on the d-file, but' Yermolinsky,Alex : 'It seems risky for White to keep his king on the d-file, but' Rad8 (17...cxd4 18.cxd4 Rfd8 19.Rc4!/? b5 20.axb6 Nxb6 21.Rb4 is easy. Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'is easy.'" Yermolinsky, Alex : 'is easy.') 18.d5 f5 19.Kd3 e6 20.c4 maybe working for him. Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'maybe working for him.'" Yermolinsky, Alex : 'maybe working for him.']

15...e6

(Diagram)

**16.e5**

[It would be better to open the e2-square for the king right away: Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'It would be better to open the e2-square for the king right away:' Yermolinsky,Alex : 'It would be better to open the e2-square for the king right away:' 16.Bf3 Rac8 17.Ke2 Nb6 18.e5 cxd4 19.cxd4 Nd5±]

16...Rac8 Now White must connect his rooks in order to keep the c-file. Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'Now White must connect his rooks in order to keep the c-file.' Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Now White must connect his rooks in order to keep the c-file.' **17.0-0 Rc7 18.Rfd1 Nb6!** You can't stop that knight, you can only hope to contain it. Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'You can't stop that knight, you can only hope to contain it.' Yermolinsky,Alex : 'You can't stop that knight, you can only hope to contain it.' **19.Bf3?**

[Theoretically speaking, White's last hope to obtain something was Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'Theoretically speaking, White's last

hope to obtain something was'' Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Theoretically speaking, White's last hope to obtain something was' 19.dxc5 Na4 20.c4 Nxc5 21.Rb1±]

19...Nc4?! Suddenly Wei Yi gave me another, completely undeserved, chance. Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'Suddenly Wei Yi gave me another, completely undeserved, chance.' Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Suddenly Wei Yi gave me another, completely undeserved, chance.'

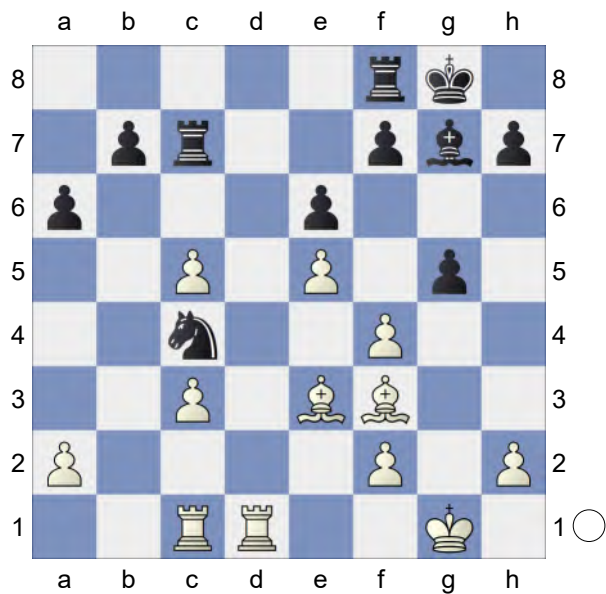
[19...cxd4 20.cxd4 Rfc8 equalizes on the spot. Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'equalizes on the spot.' Yermolinsky,Alex : 'equalizes on the spot.']

20.dxc5? ...and I failed to recognize it! Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: '... and I failed to recognize it!' Yermolinsky,Alex : '...and I failed to recognize it!'

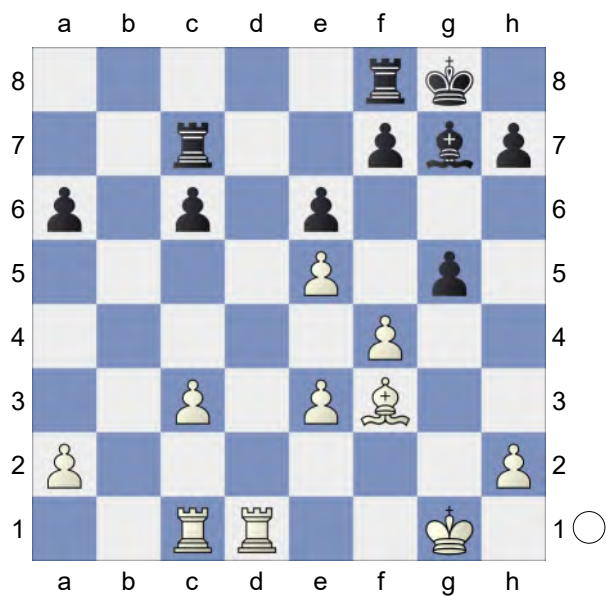
[20.d5! g5 (20...exd5 21.Bxd5 Nxe3 22.fxe3 b5 23.Bf3 Rb8 24.Rd6 Ra7 25.Rcd1 Bf8 26.Rd7±) 21.d6 Rd7 22.Bxc5 gxf4 23.Rb1 b6 24.Bc6 bxc5 25.Bxd7 Bxe5 26.Bc6 Nxd6 Black would have to work hard to save this ending. Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Yermolinsky,A: 'Black would have to work hard to save this ending.' Yermolinsky,Alex : 'Black would have to work hard to save this ending.']

20...g5

(Diagram)



21.c6 Nxe3 22.fxe3 bxc6



1/2-1/2

54

□ Karjakin, Sergey

■ Wei, Yi

Grand Prix (play off) (2.4)

[danie]

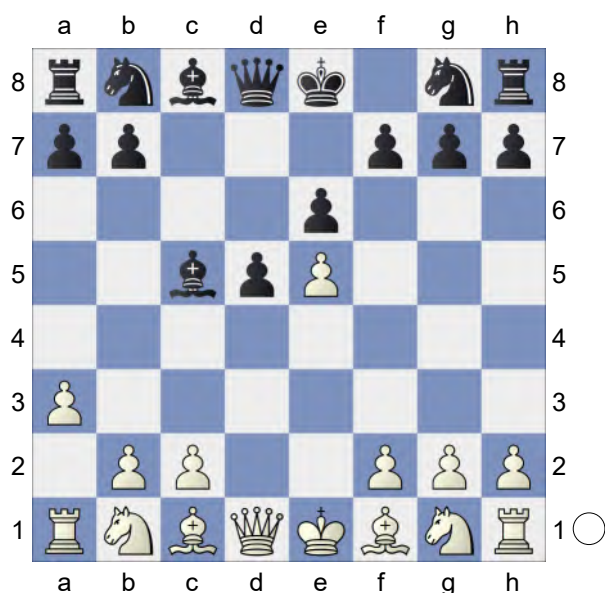
B12

2754

2725

16.12.2019

Yi Wei in another blitz game has a chance to carry out a similar sacrifice but doesn't take it. **1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 The Arkell-Khenkin variation. 4.dxc5 e6 5.a3 Bxc5**

**6.Qg4**

[6.b4 Bb6 7.Nf3 Ne7 8.Bd3]

6...Ne7 7.Bd3

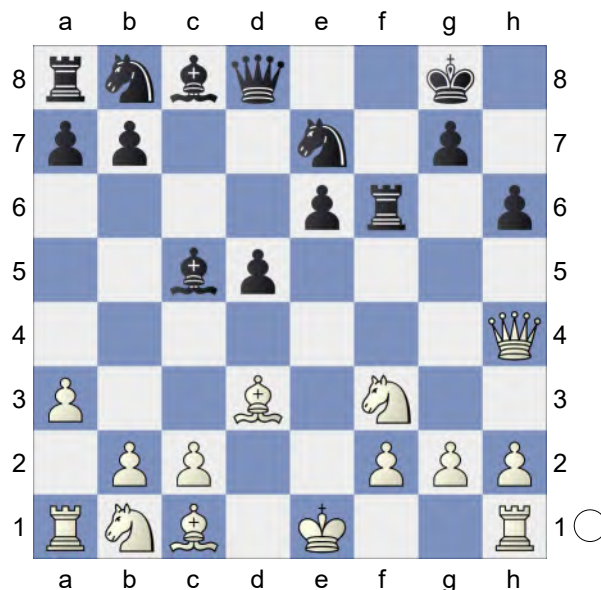
[7.b4 Bb6 8.Nf3 Ng6 9.Bd3 Nc6 10.Bb2]

7...0-0

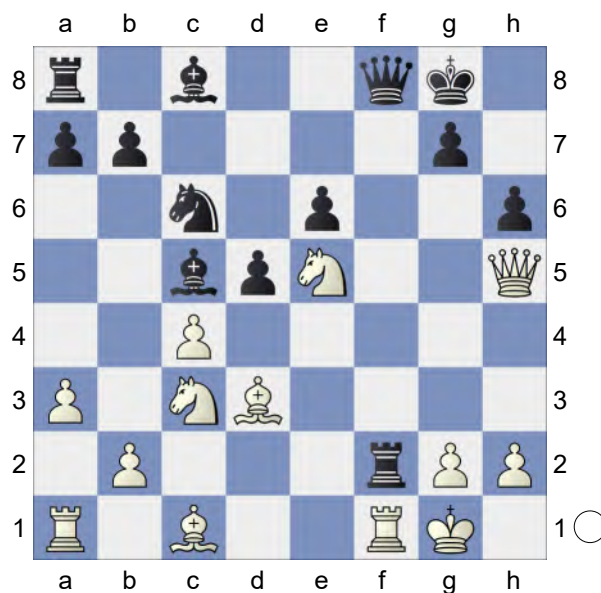
[7...Nd7]

8.Nf3 f5! 9.exf6 Rxf6 10.Qh4?[10.Qh5 g6 11.Qh4 *weakening the dark squares was better*]**10...h6**

(Diagram)

**11.0-0 Nbc6 12.c4 Qf8 13.Nc3 Ng6?**

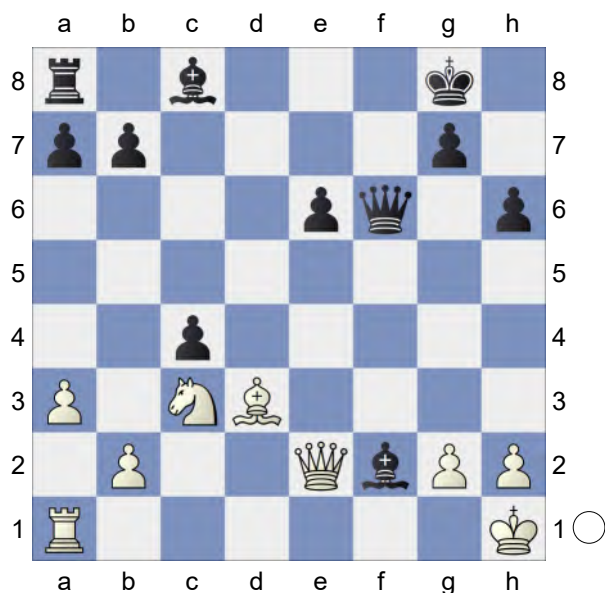
[13...Rxf3! *Brings back clear echoes of the Turner game. Black gets great compensation. I think if Yi Wei had more time to think he would have played this anyway, as it's clearly the right idea.* 14.gxf3 Ne5 15.Be2 Nxf3+ 16.Bxf3 Qxf3+]

14.Qh5 Nge5 15.Nxe5 Rxf2

16.Be3! *Karjakin defends well, as always.* **16...Bxe3 17.Rxf2 Bxf2+**

[17...Nxe5 18.Kh1 Bxf2 (18...Qxf2 19.Qe8+ Qf8 20.Bh7+ Kxh7

21.Qxf8) 19.Qxe5]
18.Kh1 Nxe5 19.Qxe5 Qf6 20.Qe2
 Now it's a crapshoot **20...dxc4**



21.Bc2 Qh4 22.Ne4 Bd4 23.Rd1 Bxb2

[23...Be5! 24.g3 Qe7 $\bar{f}$]
24.Nd6 e5?? Such terrible moves are common at blitz. Black weakens his light-squares

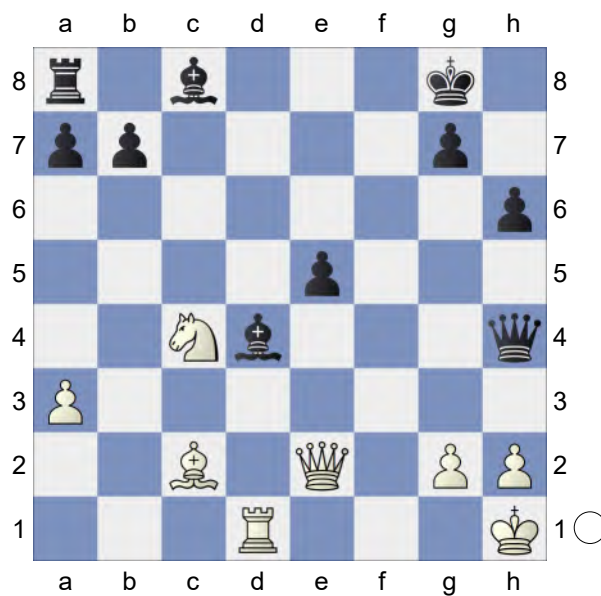
[24...Bd7 25.Nxc4 Bd4 26.Qd3 Rf8 $\bar{f}$]

25.Nxc4+-

[25.Be4 Be6 (25...Bd4 26.Qxc4+ with a mating attack) 26.Qxb2]

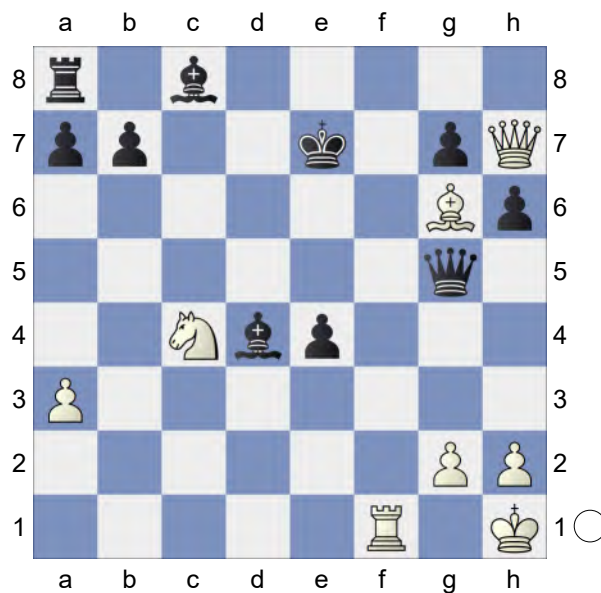
25...Bd4

(Diagram)



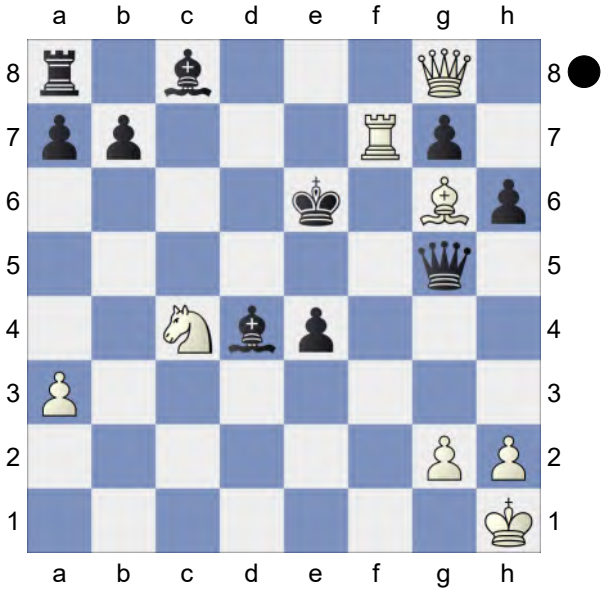
26.Qd3?

[26.Nxe5! Be6 27.Nf3]
26...Qf6 27.Qh7+ Kf7 28.Bd3 Ke7
 [28...Be6 29.Rf1 Bf2 30.Qe4+-]
29.Rf1 Qg5 30.Bg6 e4



31.Rf7+ Ke6 32.Qg8

(Diagram)



1-0

438

Michiels, Bart

Wei, Yi

77th Tata Steel GpB (11.3) 23.01.2015

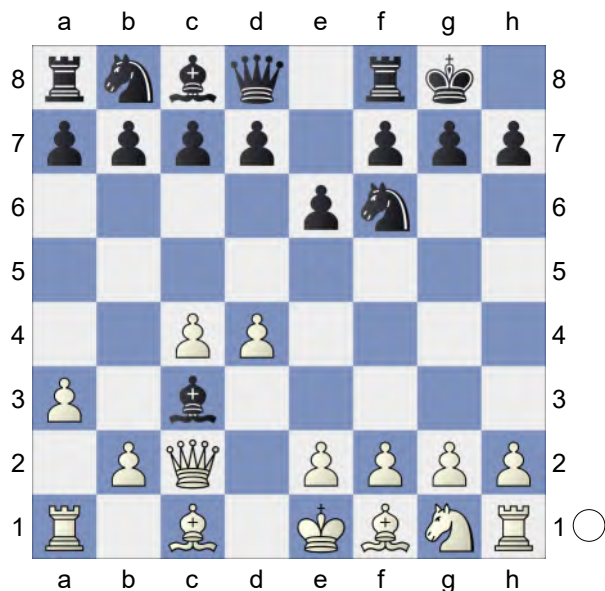
[I'Ami, Erwin]

E33

2563

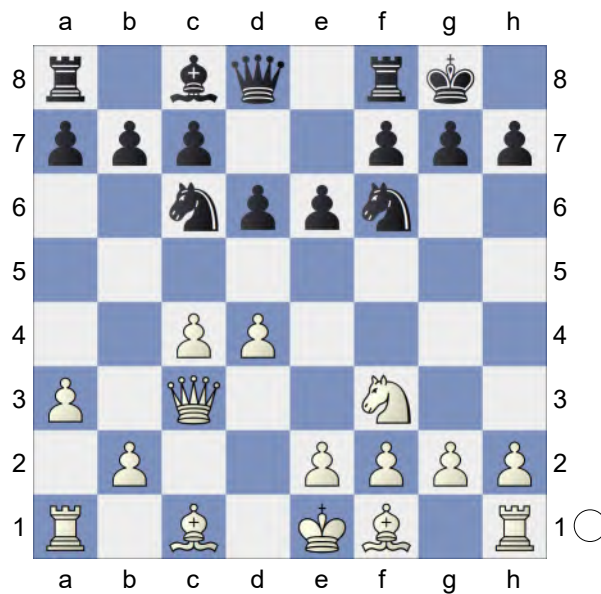
2675

As mentioned earlier, Navara initially ran away in the tournament standings, but by round 11 it was Wei Yi who had taken the lead. In the previous round he had disposed of yours truly in a matter of two hours. Painful indeed! In game 11 he continued his streak: **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 0-0 5.a3 Bxc3+**



6.Qxc3 d6 7.Nf3 Nc6 Diagram

(Diagram)



A slightly offbeat way of handling the 4. Qc2-Nimzo. I say "slightly," because countless top players from past and present have occasionally played this way. **8.b4 e5 9.dxe5 dxe5**

[Strangely enough this natural recapture is not the most popular move in this position. People have been toying with 9...Ne4!? 10.Qe3 f5 although I don't quite believe this after 11.Bb2 but perhaps.]

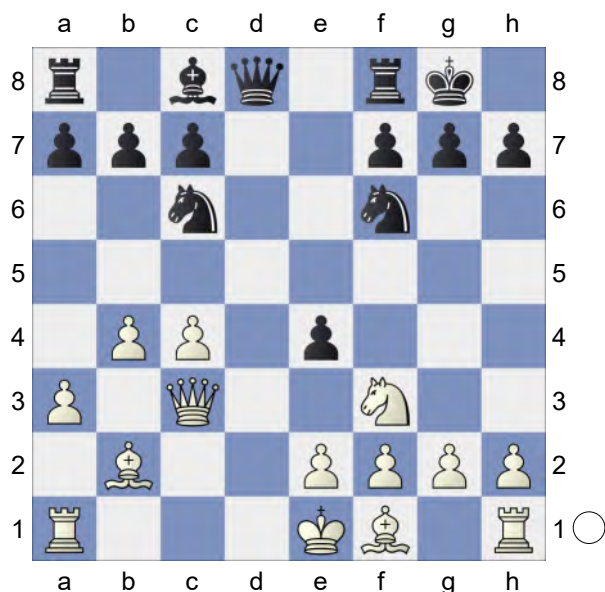
[9...Nxe5 10.Nxe5 dxe5 is interesting. It can't be unfavorable for Black to get the knights off.]

10.Bb2

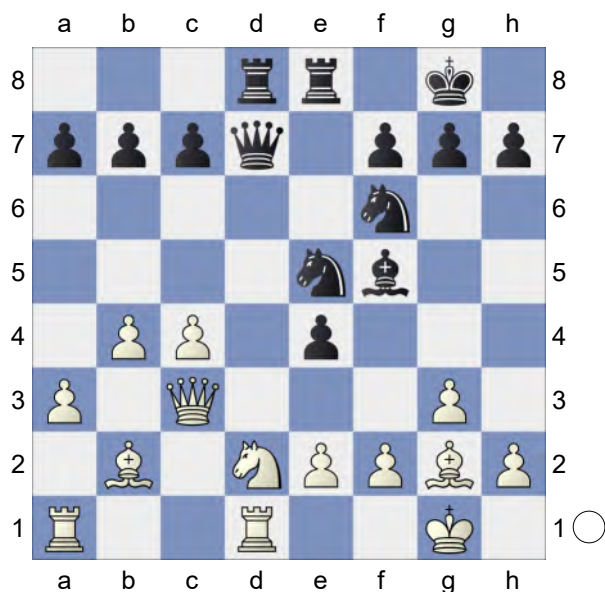
[10.Nxe5 Nxe5 11.Qxe5 Re8 is known to be pretty dangerous, for instance 12.Qb2 a5! 13.b5 Qd3! with the idea 14.e3 Qg6 and White can barely move.]

10...e4

(Diagram)



11.Nd2 Re8 12.g3 Bf5 13.Bg2
 I like how Michiels handled the opening. He has two bishops and is about to castle, while it's not entirely clear what Black has to show for it. **13...Ne5 14.0-0 Qd7 15.Rfd1 Rad8 Diagram**



16.Qb3?!

[16.Nf1! was a very instructive way to get a large advantage. After the further Qxd1 17.Rxd1 Rxd1 18.Qc2! Black is forced to retreat with Rdd8, and now 19.Ne3! Bg6 (19...Bc8 20.h3 gives White a large positional

advantage; this is an interesting case where two rooks are no match for the queen because White has the better minor pieces.) 20.Qa4! (20.h3 Nf3+! was the reason behind 19...Bg6.) 20...Nfg4 (20...a6 21.Qa5!) 21.Nxg4 Nxg4 22.h3 followed by Qxa7.]

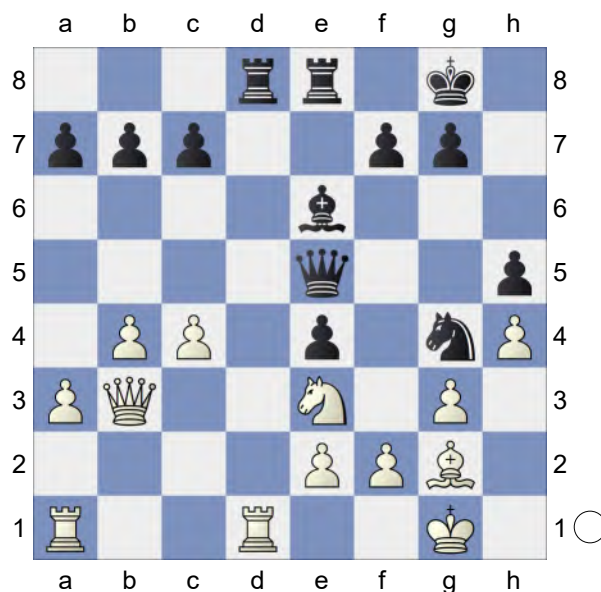
16...Qe6! 17.Bxe5?!

[17.Nf1!? was a good way to bail out; Qxc4 18.Qxc4 Nxc4 19.Bxf6 gxf6 20.Rdc1! despite being a pawn down, White should be able to hold due to numerous weaknesses in Black's camp.]

17...Qxe5 18.Nf1 Be6 19.Ne3 h5
 Black is very comfortable now and starts a little kingside demonstration. **20.h4?!**

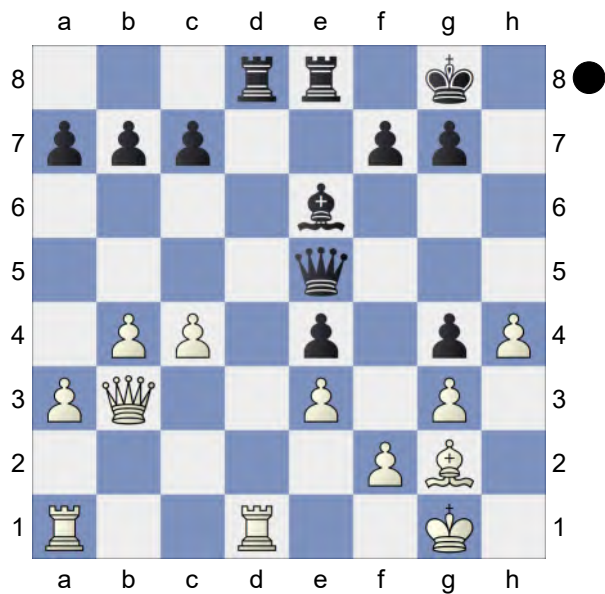
[The more restrained 20.h3 would have prevented Black's next move.]

20...Ng4!



21.Nxg4 hxg4 22.e3 Diagram

(Diagram)



Time is of the essence in chess. If White gets some of it in this position, he will exchange all the rooks, bring his bishop to e2 and all his problems will be solved. It will never happen in this game.

22...Rd3!

[22...b5?! 23.Bf1 bxc4 24.Bxc4 Rd3 25.Bxe6! (25.Qa2 Bxc4 26.Qxc4 Rxe3! 27.fxe3 Qxg3+ 28.Kf1 Re6! leads to a serious whooping of the white king.) 25...Rxb3 26.Bxb3 is much less convincing and most likely to end in a draw.]

23.Qc2

[The tactical point behind Black's previous move is 23.Rxd3 Bxc4!! 24.Qxc4 Qxa1+ followed by exd3. The intermediate capture on c4 was to ensure that White can't play 25.Rd1 here.]

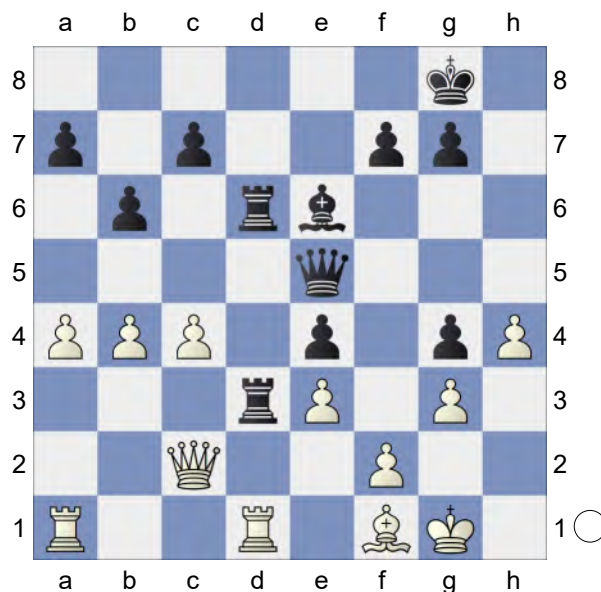
23...Red8 24.Bf1 R8d6

[24...b5 25.cxb5 Bb3 26.Bxd3 Bxc2 27.Bxc2 Rxd1+ 28.Rxd1 is similar to my comment on move 22. White should hold without any trouble. Wei Yi now starts to gradually improve his position.]

25.a4

[Note that 25.Bxd3 exd3 weakens the light squares too much. The combined strength of bishop and queen is likely to make use of that.]

25...b6

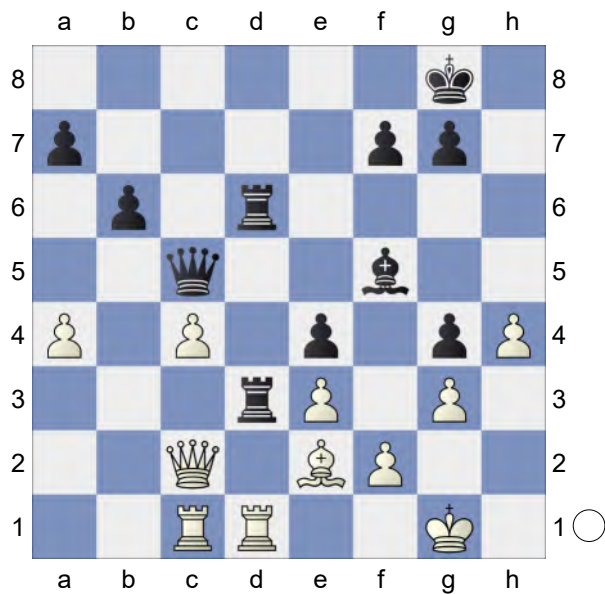


26.Rac1 Bf5 27.Be2 c5

[I like Wei Yi's approach of slowly improving his position. Here the engine shouts 27...Rxe3! 28.Rxd6 cxd6 29.fxe3 Qxg3+ 30.Kf1 Qxe3 with a winning advantage, and while that is certainly true – White is surprisingly helpless against Black's forces – it is not at all easy to see that from a human viewpoint. Furthermore, we have now invested a full rook. Why take such risks? For completeness sake: 31.Qc3 Qf4+ 32.Kg1 g3! with winning threats against the king.]

28.bxc5 Qxc5 Diagram

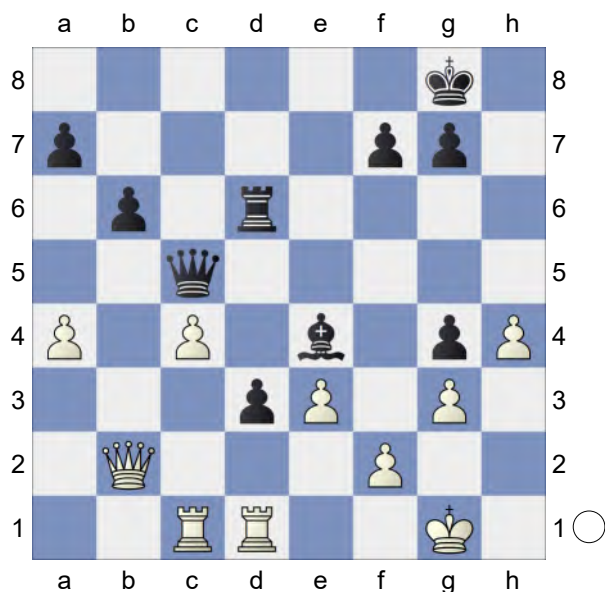
(Diagram)



29.Bxd3??

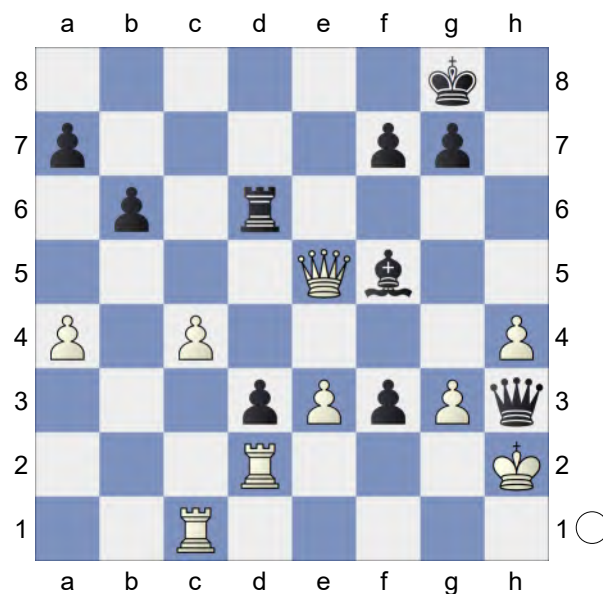
[It's difficult to live with such a rook inside your position, but White had to sit tight and await developments. After a waiting move like 29.Rb1 it's not at all easy to break White's position.]

29...exd3 30.Qb2 Be4

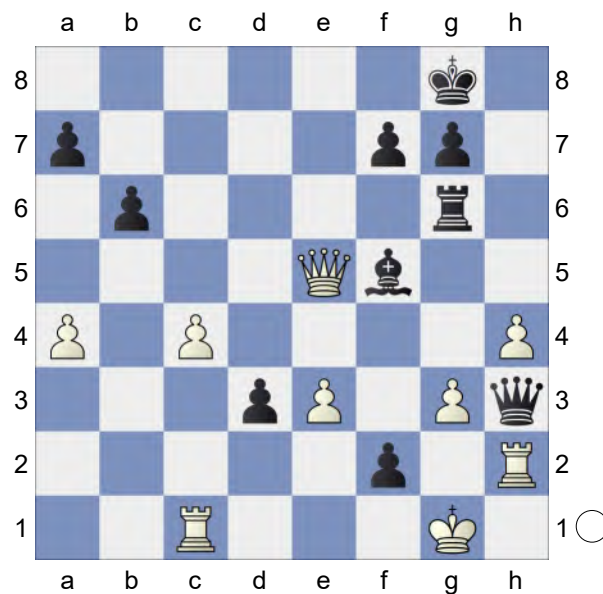


The joy Wei Yi must have felt when he placed his bishop on e4... a better case for the relative value of pieces is difficult to find! The rest is easy. **31.Rd2 Qf5 32.f4 gxf3 33.Qb5 Qg4 34.Kh2**

Bf5 35.Qe5 Qh3+



36.Kg1 Rg6 37.Rh2 f2+



White resigned. Mate will follow shortly. 0-1